

June 1999

LARRY AND BEPIE LEACH

SEVENTY YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, LARRY WAS BORN IN WICHITA KANSAS AND 68 YEARS

AGO THIS MONTH BEPIE WAS BORN IN BEVERWYK, HOLLAND. AT THE AGE OF 14 LARRY MOVED TO PINE RIVER WISCONSIN AFTER HIS FOLKS HAD PURCHASED THE OLD FAMILY FARM, WHERE HE WAS INTRODUCED TO MILKING COWS, FEEDING PIGS AND CHICKENS AND

CATCHING TROUT IN THEIR OWN TROUT STREAM ON THE FARM.

DURING THIS TIME 1943 HOLLAND WAS UNDER GERMAN OCCUPATION .

AND BEPIE WAS GOING TO SCHOOL.

HER FATHER DIED AND HER FAMILY WAS TRYING TO MAKE IT THROUGH

THE WAR, WITHOUT ELECTRICITY AND OTHER HARDSHIPS UNDER THE

OCCUPATION. . AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN HOLLAND

AND WORKING FOR THE DUTCH RAILROAD BEPIE'S MOTHER BROUGHT

HER 4 CHILDREN TO THE UNITED STATES TO HER UNCLE'S HOUSE

ON HEGAN LANE. BEPIE THEN AGAIN GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

IN CHICO.

IN 1945 LARRY AND HIS FOLKS MOVED TO KENT, WASHINGTON, WHERE HE COMPLETED

HIGH SCHOOL AND JOINED THE NAVAL AIR CORPS, WENT TO 1 YEAR OF COLLEGE AT

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY AT BELLINGHAM WASHINGTON. HE WAS

DISCHARGED FROM THE NAVAL AIR CORPS AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SWORN INTO THE

REGULAR NAVY AS HE WANTED TO BECOME A RADIOMAN. AFTER SERVING 39 MONTHS

IN THE PACIFIC ON A SUB CHASER, 35 MONTHS WITHOUT A DAY IN THE UNITED STATES

BUT SEEING SUCH EXOTIC PLACES AS KUNJALINE, THE MARSHALLS, THE MARIANAS,

GUAM. JOHNSTON ISLAND, MIDWAY AND OTHER DOTS OF LAND IN THE PACIFIC. HE WAS

DISCHARGED AND MOVED TO SANTA ROSA CALIFORNIA

DURING THIS TIME BEPIE JOINED THE WORK FORCE AT TRACY REALTY CO. IN CHICO OF

WHICH ONE OF HER JOBS WAS WRITING SPEECHES FOR SENATOR PAUL BYRNE. SHE

RECEIVED HER REAL ESTATE BROKERS LICENSE IN 1952. LARRY RECEIVED HIS REAL

ESTATE LICENSE IN 1954 AND GRADUATED FROM CHICO STATE COLLEGE IN 1957.

HE WENT INTO THE REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL AND BROKERAGE BUSINESS IN HIS OWN OFFICE "THE LAND MAN" IN OROVILLE. HE WORKED AT THIS FOR 13 YEARS AND THEN JOINED THE BUTTE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AS A DEPUTY ASSESSOR IN 1971.

PRIOR TO THIS HE MARRIED AND HAD 5 CHILDREN AND WAS THEN DIVORCED.

BEPPIE WAS MARRIED IN 1956 AND ADOPTED TWO CHILDREN AND WAS WIDOWED IN 1964.

LARRY AND BEPPIE MET IN 1971, WAS MARRIED, AND LARRY MOVED TO DURHAM.

IN 1987 LARRY RETIRED AS THE COUNTY ASSESSOR. BEPPIE CONTINUED IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS FROM 1971 TO THIS DATE AS A BROKER IN HER OWN OFFICE IN DURHAM, KNOWN AS TOWNE REALTY CO.

LARRY FARMED UNTIL RECENTLY, SPENDS TIME AT THE SHERIFFS OFFICE, WORKS IN HIS WOOD SHOP, YARD AND DRINKS COFFEE AT THE DELI WITH HIS FRIENDS.

BOTH TRAVE EXTENSIVELY, GO TO THEIR CABIN AT LAKE ALMANOR. OF RECENT A HIGHLIGHT OF THEIRS WAS TAKING 4 OF THEIR CHILDREN, THEIR SPOUSES, SIX GRANDCHILDREN AND THREE GREATGRANDCHILDREN TO HAWAII LAST DECEMBER A PICTURE OF ALL OF THEM IS WITH THE PICTURES.

THEY JOINED GOOD SAM'S IN 1991 AND HAVE ENJOYED THE COMRADESHIP EVER SINCE.