



DAN and ROSALIND MC NAIR

Many years ago, on August 20 in Didsbury, Alberta, Canada, Daniel Syms McNair was welcomed into the world. Almost two years later, On July 20, Rosalind Taylor was born in Stigler, Oklahoma. Dan's parents, who had homesteaded in Alberta, returned to the United States and settled in Durham. He was three years old. Rosalind's folks left Oklahoma and moved to Sacramento when she was five.

On a visit to Durham to visit family and friends, Rosalind met Dan who lived across the road from where her family was visiting as all the kids in the neighborhood were playing "Hide and Seek". She was seven, he was nine. It was love at first sight for both of them. In July of 1931, Rosalind's family moved to Durham, and the stormy romance that had begun the year before continued through grade school and high school. Dan was Rosalind's first date, and many battles and some years later, he was her last one.

During their high school years, Dan was President of his class, Block D, Student Body Vice President and then President. Rosalind graduated as a life member of CSF and as valedictorian of her class. After high school, Dan attended a National Defense Machinist school. In October of 1940, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Rosalind attended the Golden Empire College of Commerce. Their On again, Off again romance culminated when they were married in April, 1942, in the little adobe church in Durham. They were married in the Chapel as the main sanctuary was not yet completed. Records show they were the first couple married in the Adobe Church. They lived first in Salinas where Dan was stationed. Dan was sent to Louisiana, then on to Mississippi. Rosalind joined him there on their first anniversary. In Salinas, Rosalind worked as a legal secretary. Dan spent a total of five years in the Air Force thanks to WW II, two years of which he spent in the South Pacific. Many hundreds of letters were exchanged. Rosalind returned to Durham and worked as a bookkeeper and a legal secretary for PCA..

In October of 1945, Dan came home to the USA, and was finally discharged. He had served as Chief Armorer of his Squadron, and was discharged as a Master Sergeant. He bought into the family dairy herd and they were dairy people for the next 18 years. During that time, their two daughters, Margaret and Marilyn were born.

They were active in Community affairs and in the Durham EUB Church. Dan served as Chairman of the Durham Mutual Water Board. He was Chairman of the Butte County Dairymen's Association.

Dan played Softball on the local town team and built boats. From the boating came water skiing and water sports.

Rosalind was active in teaching Sunday School, Choir, and was Northern Advisor to the Youth Fellowship of California. She was active in Junior Women's Club as President of the Durham Club the year the club won second place in the state in the Build a Better Community project. She served as District President and established the club newsletter called the "District Dagnet." She also served on the State Board and was cited as National Junior Clubwoman of the month.

In ¹⁹⁶³, Jean and Mel Langerwerf bought the entire dairy herd, and a year later, McNairs bought their first almond orchard located on Hegan Lane. After the first harvest, Dan designed and built his first McNair Harvester. The efficiency and performance of this machine launched us into the manufacturing of them. When we sold the business to the Gould Corporation of New York, there were McNair Nut Harvesters in Oregon, Washington, Canada, New Mexico, Texas and Georgia, and one in Australia and one in Israel. McNair Nut Harvesters are still being made at Weiss McNair Manufacturing and are still painted blue. (That color was chosen because we got a terrific buy on some blue machinery paint.)

Dan and Rosalind worked three years for Gould's and then retired. This change has allowed free time to travel, which we have thoroughly enjoyed.

We joined Durham Good Sams in ¹⁹⁷⁸ and have held the offices of President and Secretary, Vice President, Wagonmaster and Trail Boss several times.

Hobbies have included building things (Dan), sports, motorcycling, all water sports, snowmobiling (Rosalind's favorite) boating, travelling and spending time with our grand children and family.

In March, 1994, we moved to Chico. Rosalind handled this very nicely. The day they started moving, she went to the hospital, but she is getting accustomed to being in Chico and is involved in the Partner's Reading program at Emma Wilson school.

However, they both cherish their Durham roots, and go back "home" to buy postage stamps, for example. We thoroughly enjoy the wonderful people and great fellowship of the Durham Good Sam Group.