

Ruth and Irv. Merrifield

Ruth was born in San Francisco on Oct. 28, 1930, the 7th. of nine children. She grew up in a big old house on a steep hill, doing all the things city kids did: playing in the back yard with her brothers and sisters, trips to the beach, Golden Gate park etc. She attended Catholic grammar school and then Immaculate Conception Academy, graduating in 1948. Ruth then spent a year and a half as a secretary at Columbia Protek-o-site in the city. Then marriage .

Irv. is a Durham native, born on the 27th. of January, 1926, on the family dairy. He attended school in Durham and graduated in 1943. After spending time in the Seminary he transferred to the University of California. It was then that he met Ruth, 5 days after her 15th. birthday, a high school sophomore, and the sparks flew. Ruth's mother after they decided to marry, made it very clear that eighteen was far too young to marry. So they decided to get their marriage license on Ruth's nineteenth birthday and they were married the next day at St. Anthony's church in San Francisco.

Their marriage produced six children, three girls in Butte Co. and three boys in Glenn Co. After the youngest entered school, Ruth began her career with J.C. Penneys which lasted twenty years. Irv. by then was manager of Diamond International building materials store in Orland, a stop on the way to a 36 year career with them, retiring in 1986. The Merrifields now have 13 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren with another on the way.

Ruth and Irv. love to spend vacations at Eagle Lake with their extended family, fishing, hiking swimming and all things associated with a lake. They have also joined the Durham Good Sams and really enjoy traveling with the group. Other interests include their Catholic church, Knights of Columbus [55 yrs.] Exchange Club [45 yrs.] Orland Chamber of Commerce, Orland Volunteer Fire Dept., Ruth has also been a member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority for 40 years, but most of all their children: Caren, 58, Jodi, 56, Beth, 53, Mike, 51, Patrick, 47, Tim, 43, are the light of their lives

