

ROUNDS, Lorna and Phil

Patti and Kim Bergh

(Lorna's father) was killed in the First World War when Lorna was a toddler. Her mother then married a railroader (Howsen), and so Lorna, with her sister and brother lived in a number of places throughout the west. Later in her youth she landed in Naramata and has lived there ever since.

Philip Rounds is the older of the two, born 5 days earlier, December 1, 1915. Phil was born on the beach near to what is now the breakwater. A lantern was put out on the beach to guide the doctor from Summerland to support the birth. The Sicamous sternwheeler mistook it for a navigation light and actually ran aground in the process . . . to no particular damage apparently.

Phil's mom, Ruth Rounds (nee Chambers), was trained as a teacher in Michigan. She came to Naramata as one of the first settlers and never actually used her teacher's training as it wasn't recognized as such, but she worked for the local school board. She married Howard Rounds and early on Phil arrived. A significant scandal (ensued) in those days, (when) Ruth and Howard were divorced. Young Phil became the man of the house and eventually took over the orchard duties. Getting up at 4 in the morning to feed and groom the horses to work on 3 far flung orchards in the Naramata area was the order of most long days.

Being an orchardist was a good life but not always a lucrative one; Phil taking on outside and additional activities to supplement the family income. He and others like Bill June worked off the orchard helping to put in the gas line above Naramata. They couldn't afford antifreeze for the old vehicle and tell stories of finding ways to keep liquid in the radiator during bitterly cold and long days. Phil also had the first custom spray operation in the area. Spraying became necessary with the arrival of the codling moth shortly after everyone started orcharding. Here again Phil worked long hours spraying orchards throughout the area, him driving the tractor, while two shifts of men sprayed the trees with lead arsenic, no masks, no shirts, arriving home covered in toxic chemicals from head to toe.

Phil could be referred to as a Renaissance man given that he tended to get interested in certain things, immerse himself in them and after a while move on to the next thing or period. One of the significant periods was the water skiing period. He had somehow been exposed to the sight of waterskiing and thought it would be a good thing to start a business in Naramata providing water skiing to visitors. Visualize the day they were testing out the first attempts with Spike (Lorna) the water skier. They took down a wire clothesline and fashioned a handle and stuck Spike in a pair of skis (perhaps home fashioned as well). Phil figured it looked like fun, and Lorna had the bruises to prove it. All the while, always the sport, Spike smiled through the bruises, somehow

convincing everyone they should try it. And try it they did. We still can't figure out how Phil managed to operate a ski business and an orchard business at the same time. Phil moved through other periods with equal zeal . . . the ceramic period, the wine period, the snowmobile period (they could tell you about the time Phil thought Spike was on behind him only to see her pass him on the back of another machine), the family skiing weekends (get them to tell you about the t-bar rides at Apex and the steaks from the meat shop in Kelowna), the dieting period, the Salmon fishing period (most expensive fish in the world), the trucking period (they weren't all good experiences), the health challenges period, the European trip period, the Dodge van/Camping period, the roses period, to mention a few. The most recent period is the Museum period.

Spike supported and moved with Phil through all these experiences. Where Phil was also active in the community, helping with the establishment of Manitou Park, starting Red Cross swimming in about 1951 (John Kitson was the Red Cross Director of the day from Summerland). Ria Pederson was one of the first, if not the first instructors. Phil, ever an eye for the good looking lady, undoubtedly hired attractive instructors to teach the kids. He was also involved with the first competitive swim club along with Mrs. Coates.

Lorna has always been active in the community. She was a charter member of the Naramata Choir and sang in the choir for over 20 years. She was wardrobe mistress for elaborate early productions. Every costume came out of Lorna's basement, mostly made by Lorna, and in the case of the men's costumes, all of them made by Lorna. She was cub leader (with Mary Lamb), and even today will recall the experience fondly reflecting upon those now much older citizens and some of their early shenanigans as cubs. Always active with the United Church Women, Lorna has attended church regularly, no doubt putting in a prayer or two for Phil. One very busy Christmas eve, Phil on this rare occasion of having to do a chore in the kitchen, was heard to say in a rather gruff tone, "Spike goes to church, and the house goes to hell." Perhaps truer words were never spoken. Lorna has always made sewing a part of her life and shared her enthusiasm with those around her. She was instrumental in starting a quilting group, supervised the development of the beautiful Heritage Quilt that is the template for most of the promotional and fund raising activities of today's museum. She has been a volunteer at the Art Gallery of the South Okanagan.

Lorna and Phil's most passionate current activity is the museum. Spike was the force behind getting the drive for the museum started and Phil supported her enthusiasm from the get go . . . spending many an hour gathering stories to share with others and documenting Naramata's past. Visitors to the museum get the benefit of Lorna's smile and superior organization skills when they visit the museum. When they visit and Phil is on duty, the pictures come to life with real stories of how it once was.

Throughout all this they managed to raise two kids, Gene and Patti, added to their life to bring joy, challenges, and grand children to the mix.

Phil and Lorna were married in May of 1939, the date in May is not really clear, 'cause such details are unimportant to them. They value things more important, each other, friends, family and their community. Hard to know if all this is correct and lots is undoubtedly missing . . .