

**80TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE  
TO  
HARRIET GOVE O'DAFFER**

**JULY 6TH, 2013**



# **80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tribute To Harriet Joan Gove O'Daffer**

**By - Phares O'Daffer, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**



*"Harriet Gove O'Daffer is an attractive lady about 5'2" tall, who gets a lot of compliments about the way she looks. She has a very pleasant demeanor, and is always friendly, thoughtful, caring, giving, and helpful. She gives a lot of her time to others, and is the person who you know will give you a call or send you a card in time of need, or when you are celebrating a success. She is a good leader, organizer and worker, and so is in demand as a volunteer on important boards and projects. Harriet is one of those solid people that you can always count on, and she has gained the utmost respect of her family and the people in her church and community. She loves her husband, her children and their spouses, and her grandchildren, and her joy about her family really shows. She is a very good wife, mother, and grandmother. She also enjoys life- her home, her friends, bridge, travel, tennis, golf, basketball, the symphony, Shakespeare, and other social activities."*

*—Written in 2001 by Phares O'Daffer*

## **Introduction**

When people who know Harriet think about her life, it brings different smiles to their faces. The first is just a plain happy smile, borne out of "I know *her*. She sure is a delightful lady!"

The second type of smile is a musing type smile, reflecting a person's thinking back about working with or being friends with Harriet, and the great respect they have for her.

The third smile is a thankful, appreciative smile -- one you can see on the faces of her children -- one that comes from memories of Harriet's helpfulness, devotion, and support in so many ways.

There are probably many other smiles, but the final one is my smile. It is one of pure joy, brought to full bloom by living with this wonderful lady woman for 58+ years, and smiling because of the myriad of joyful memories I have about my life with her.

In 1996, Harriet received the coveted "Women of Distinction" Award from the YWCA of McLean County, which recognizes the professional and personal achievements of area women. It may have been a surprise to Harriet that she received it, but it was no surprise to me, or to her friends and family. We had all known for a long time that Harriet was truly a woman of distinction.

In the following pages, I'd like to tell you some things about Harriet that you might not know, by sharing some of my memories.

I will purposely not strive for brevity, because I want to give you as complete a picture as I can of what Harriet has done in her life.

So take your time, read at your leisure, rest a while and come back-- but above all, read it all carefully.

You will be amazed, and, as I am, very proud of this remarkable woman.

## **High School and College**

Harriet's service as President of the Student Council her senior year at East Peoria High School was her first foray into a position of management and leadership, and was the precursor of many similar roles later in her life.



Harriet was a very successful student, ranking third academically in her class of 175 students at East Peoria High School. She later earned a BS and MS from Illinois State University with a grade point average among the top students.

While working on her Masters Degree, Harriet was required to write a thesis. Having an interest in teaching arithmetic, she did a study on how children learn key aspects of this subject. I recall that when writing mathematics textbooks for children many years later, I occasionally re-visited Harriet's study and found it useful.



I noticed early on at ISU that Harriet was highly respected by her classmates, and was often selected for positions of leadership in her organizations and residence halls.

Her sincerity and poise seemed to instill confidence and respect from others.

So it was no surprise that after she became a member of the Kappa Delta Epsilon, Honorary Education Sorority, she was elected President of that organization in 1954-55.

## **Teaching**

Immediately after graduating from ISU, Harriet taught fourth grade at Franklin School in Bloomington, IL, for two years. I know from talking with Dorothy Busby, her principal, and from visiting her classes, that she was a superb teacher. She just seemed to have a natural talent for it.

The second year Harriet had 38 students in her class. It didn't faze her. She just formed reading and math groups, and seemed to be everywhere at once.

Following her teaching stint, Harriet did substitute teaching while I was doing basic Army training. Our first child, Susan, was on the way, and Harriet was very excited to become a mother.

After Susan was born, Harriet moved from being a public school teacher to being a mother, and to being a community volunteer, extraordinaire.

## **Supporting Her Children**

It is difficult to truly convey the impact Harriet had as a mother, but I'll try to put it in perspective.

Harriet soon had major responsibility for young Sue and Sara, and later, Eric, and she did a wonderful job.

She took them to the doctor; she took them to school and church; she took them for recreation; she kept them clothed and healthy; she met their daily needs; and she gave them a whole lot of love and attention.

Harriet also instilled her own values-- the importance of family, of honesty, of concern for others, of doing the best job possible, etc. -- in them, and helped them develop a positive attitude and a healthy view of what life is all about.



I happen to believe that a child's early experiences with his or her mother and father play a major role in what the child becomes as an adult.

When I observe Sue, Sara, and Eric today, I see that family means a lot to them, that they value family communication, that they try to help people in need, and that they have a deep respect for others. I believe I see, in them, living positive testimony of Harriet's early parental influence.



**Sara, Eric, Harriet, Sue**



**Sara, Harriet, Eric, Sue**

Harriet was treasurer of the Playmates Nursery School that our children attended, and later became very active in the PTA's at their schools.

She was Co-President of the PTA's at Oakdale Elementary School, Chiddix Junior High School, and Normal Community High School. Harriet was honored as a Life Member in the PTA in 1977.

And on top of that, she served as a Room Mother, was a Great Books leader, served on the Teenage Liquor Commission, and was a Band Parents volunteer and chaperone.

Harriet's philosophy was that volunteering for these activities was a contribution she could make, not only to the schools, but also to the quality of her children's education and experiences.

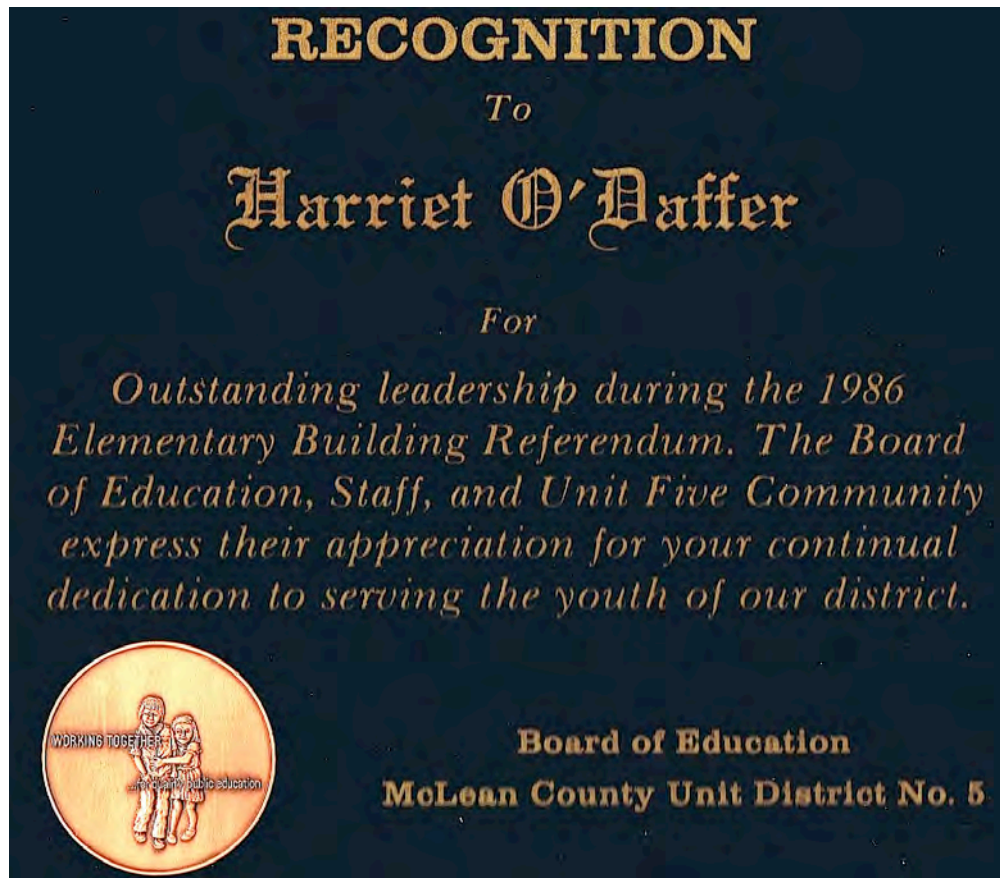
### **Volunteering in Education**

Harriet's volunteer activities in the schools did not stop with those activities that directly affected her kids.

She was deeply concerned and desirous that the educational experiences for all children in the Bloomington-Normal community were top-notch. And she put a lot of her time and energy for the next 20 years into helping make this happen.

To this end, Harriet broadened her local educational volunteer horizon and served as President of the Unit Five Advisory Council in 1974.

In 1975, she answered the call, and was Co-Chair of a major Unit 5 Building Referendum. Harriet did such a great job that she was asked again in 1986 to Co-Chair her second Unit 5 Building Referendum.



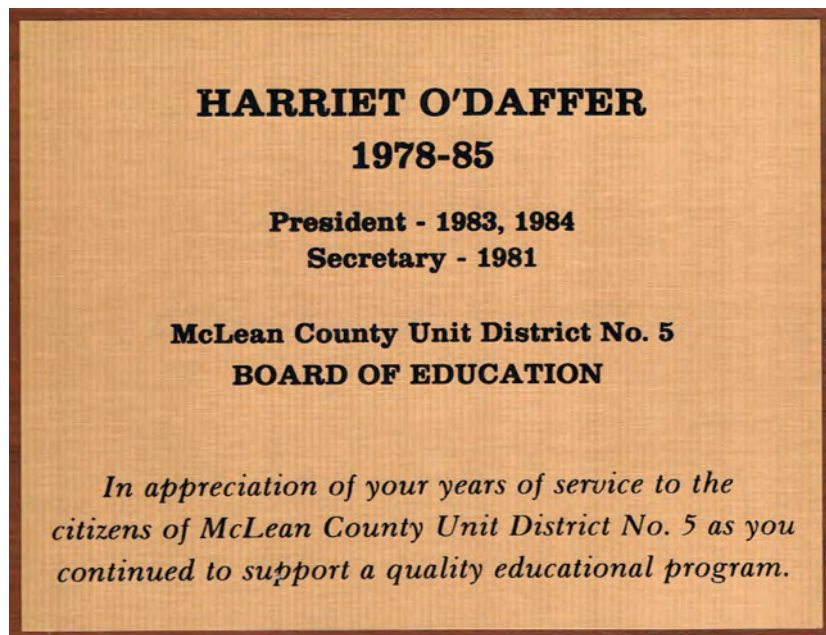
**Plaque Recognizing Harriet for Leading the 1986 Referendum Campaign**

Both of these referenda were very successful, and provided the money needed to support high quality facilities and programs in Harriet's beloved Unit 5.

In 1978, Harriet sprung the idea on me one evening that she felt she would like to run for election to the Unit 5 School Board. I admit to being surprised about this-- especially since she would be competing with a well-known man in the community who had just recently been elected. I thought her chances to be beat a popular incumbent were slim to none.

But Harriet, like several U.S. Presidents in their first run for the Presidency, felt that her time had come, and that "she had to do what she had to do," regardless of odds. This determined woman set up a super campaign organization, campaigned with intensity and skill, and was elected, going away!

She was later elected to a second term, and served from 1978-1985--serving as Secretary of the Board in 1981, and President of the Board from 1983,1984.



**Harriet's School Board Photo, 1981**

One evening during a particularly tumultuous time for the Board, Harriet received a call when we were in bed at 11:30 pm, from an angry Unit 5 constituent. He proceeded to lambast Harriet because she would not publically condemn the play, "The Bad Seed" that was being put on by Normal Community High School. Harriet listened, and listened, and listened.

Finally, as midnight came and went, Harriet interrupted the caller, quietly told him "You have your opinion, and I have mine. It is late at night, and this conversation has come to a close. Good night." Harriet was generally calm, gentle, and understanding--but she could be tough as nails if the situation demanded it.

Also, as one of only two women on the Board, Harriet successfully dealt with a group of entrenched "good old boys" who were considerably miffed that she had beaten their friend.

During her time on the Board, by all reports, she was an excellent board member. All of the Superintendents who served during her tenure on the board have personally told me that Harriet was a superb board member, who made significant contributions to quality schools.

## **Community Volunteering**

It is almost impossible to do justice to Harriet's other volunteer efforts. You would think that her involvement in education would take all of her time.

But any of her children who traipsed around with her during their formative years will tell you about Harriet doing solicitation for the American Cancer Society, Heart Association, Multiple Sclerosis, and others.

They will tell you about her serving as area chairperson for a 1967 Cancer Crusade State Health Survey drive, driving for HELP, being a Mobile Meals Volunteer, observing in the McLean County Juvenile Court as a League of Women Voters (member 1969-1992) volunteer, and even working for Habitat for Humanity.

She had this urge -- yes, even a feeling of obligation -- to help others. That was what she was all about in the 1970s, 1980's and 1990s.

## **Business Woman**

Given Harriet's managerial skills, I have always said that she should have been the CEO of a moderate sized corporation.

While never having done that, she did take a foray into business in 1976-1977 as a partner with six other women in a small business enterprise called CAMCO, which had an office near Shorty's Barbershop in Normal.

They did conference planning, and a host of other services for local organizations. Because the women got so heavily involved with other things (Harriet went on the School Board, another partner became mayor of Normal, etc.), the profitable company was disbanded, but they had great fun doing it.

## **Music and Theater Volunteer**

It is difficult, if not impossible to realize the scope of one person's life activities, and that is certainly true with Harriet. How in the world could one person do more than we have already described about Harriet's volunteer work? But in truth, we have just scratched the surface.

Harriet, perhaps unbeknown to even some of her friends, has always had a great love for music.

She sang in the a cappella choir in High School and College, and currently sings in her church choir. Harriet also greatly enjoys playing the piano.

Harriet was asked in 2007 to serve on a committee, chaired by a former director of the ISU Madrigals, to choose an ISU sesquicentennial song.



There were over 40 entries, and Harriet joined the committee one afternoon to sing all of them.

At the conclusion, as they left the building, the former Madrigal director commented to Harriet, "You have a beautiful voice."

I knew that already, since two weeks after I first met Harriet, I attended the Normal Methodist Church and was surprised to find that she was singing a solo that morning. Needless to say, that event caused me to be even more impressed by this confident young lady.

So, after leaving the School Board, in 1985, she spent the next ten years of her life helping improve the music climate in Bloomington-Normal.

She became a member of the Bloomington-Normal Symphony Guild Board in 1985, and was its treasurer for two years.

She Co-Chaired a Symphony of House Design fundraiser for the Guild in 1992, and helped on another fundraiser in 1995. Her fundraising efforts raised a significant amount of money, which greatly helped the developing Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

She served on the Illinois Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors in 1995, and again, for a short time, in 2009. Harriet was always anxious to support the symphony, and was instrumental in us sponsoring performances for the symphony in subsequent years.

### **Illinois Shakespeare Society Volunteer**

Harriet was also very interested in Shakespeare, and had a goal of helping bring excellent Shakespeare Theater to Bloomington-Normal.

She was an Illinois Shakespeare Society Board member from 1979-1995, and served as President of the Society from 1988-1990.

During her term as president, she pushed for adequate funding from the University for the annual Shakespeare Festival, championed a significant upgrade of the quality of actors who participated, and began the planning for a new theater.

But Harriet also bought Shakespeare closer to home. When our son Eric was around 12 years old, Harriet buttonholed him and, after some discussion and attempt at democracy, made it clear that he would be attending "As You Like It" on Friday evening. Eric went, but not without ample protest.

The upshot of this is that Eric became a Shakespeare fan at an early age, and continues to enjoy Shakespeare as an adult--thanks to Mom.

Harriet worked tirelessly on the campaign to build a new Shakespeare Theater, contacting her many acquaintances in the community. Her efforts were gratefully recognized when the theater was built in 1999-2000.

### **Baby Fold Volunteer**

You can't talk about Harriet's efforts in our community without talking about her involvement in and love for the Baby Fold -- a child support organization with a sterling reputation in the State of Illinois.

If you go with Harriet to a Baby Fold function, you will be amazed at the love and respect all those affiliated with The Baby Fold have for her. As people come up to greet her, you can tell by how she acts and what they say that they hold Harriet in high regard, and have great appreciation for her.

I think Dale Strassheim, current CEO of The Baby Fold, speaks for everyone associated with The Baby Fold over the years in his recent note to Harriet, "...you have blessed so many people and organizations in the community with your constant willingness to volunteer, your gracious words of wisdom, and the legacy you have given us all. We are honored to have the Baby Fold be so much a part of your life and history. As Chair of the Baby Fold Board you were instrumental in the development of The Baby Fold's first Strategic Plan! ... Your leadership was instrumental in where we are today!"

I think Harriet's contributions to this organization over the past 25 years may help explain why she is so revered, and why she was asked to serve as Honorary Member of The Baby Fold board.

She served nine years on the Baby Fold Board of Trustees, serving as Vice President 1991-1993, and President 1993-1995. She was an ex-officio member of the Board in 1995-1996. She served on and/or chaired many Baby Fold Committees during this time.

As a member of the Baby Fold Board, she Co-Chaired the Designer Committee for the Festival of Trees Fund Raiser in 1994 and 1995.

She was awarded the United Way Volunteer of the Year for The Baby Fold in 1994.

Harriet sees the good this organization does for children and has always adhered to their motto, "We never give up on a child."



**Baby Fold Volunteer of Year, 1994**

## Church Volunteer

Harriet's involvement in the First United Methodist Church of Normal further demonstrates the broad nature of her volunteer activities. Her service reads like a litany of what is going on in the church. She has done just about everything, and done it well. Here is a partial list.

- Co-Founder of the UMW Salad Luncheon, 1971
- President of the United Methodist Women, 1971-1972
- Council on Ministries Secretary, 1971-73
- Member of the Administrative Board, 1971-74 and 1986-89
- Sunday-School teacher, 1973-74
- Member of the Board of Trustees, 1973-76
- District Vice-President, United Methodist Women, 1974-75
- Staff Parish Relations Committee President, 1978-79
- Treasurer, United Methodist Women, 1984-87
- Vice President of Administrative Board, 1989
- Mercy Circle Co-Chair, 1987
- Member of the Building Committee, 1987-89
- Delegate to Annual Conference, 1993-1998
- Member of the Chancel Choir, 2011-2013

There are several stories about Harriet's church work, but I will tell just two.

When Harriet was President of the United Methodist Women organization at our church, a large group of Chinese Methodists requested use of our Fellowship Hall and kitchen for a dinner.

Harriet got the UMW to agree, arranged for it, and was there to help them when the Chinese Methodists' dinner evening came. With great deference, they bowed, and addressed her as "the chairman of the church." Winston Sewell, a wonderfully mischievous church member and good friend, never let this die. Often, when he would meet Harriet in the hall, he would stop, fold his hands, bow to her, and address her just as the Chinese had done.

On another occasion, Harriet was on the Board of Trustees, and let it be known in a meeting that the back entrance to our church, beside and just south of the garage, looked a bit unsightly.

I think she made her point pretty strongly, and when mild-mannered Harriet talked like that, people listened.

So the Trustees sprung into action, and made a mound at the said location, with some attractive plantings. Thereafter, many referred to this impeccably landscaped spot, affectionately and respectfully, as "Harriet's Hill."



When Harriet Received the Hall of Fame in Philanthropy Award from the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare in 2002, it was clear that much more than money was involved.

It was a result of many hours of her hard work, some described above, to better the community in which she lived.

## **Other Volunteering**

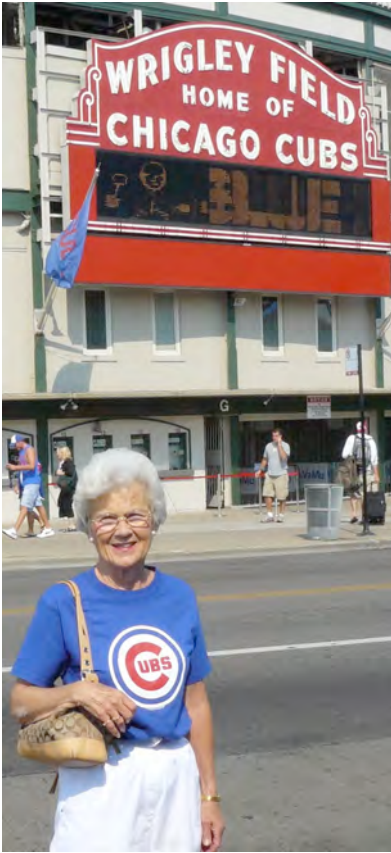
If all of this wasn't enough, Harriet found time for involvement in Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, 1986-88; Lake Bloomington Association Board of Directors 1992-94, serving as Co President, 1995; Friends of the Mennonite College of Nursing Steering Committee, 1995-1998; Friends of the Arts, Illinois State University, 1995; and the Normal Theater Fund Raiser for Renovation Committee, 1995.

And finally, leader that she is, Harriet was President of a couple of her cherished organizations: P.E.O President, 1987-89, and Normal History Club President, 1984.

Perhaps it is overkill to list so many of Harriet's volunteer activities, but I think to really know what a person has been doing with their life, you can't just gloss over the surface. And, as improbable as it seems, I'm sure that several things that Harriet was involved in have been left out, just because one does not remember everything.



## Harriet and Sports



I have always been amazed at-- and appreciative of-- Harriet's interest in sports of all kinds.

She loves to watch or listen to the Cubs games, and is a great fan- never turning down an opportunity to watch a game on TV, or go to Wrigley Field.

When we watch the Cubs games on TV, long after I have given up on the game because they are so far behind, Harriet sticks it out, observing in a positive voice that "they can come back and win!"

Recently, when they came back from a 4 run deficit against the Cincinnati Reds and won 5-4 in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning, she was grinning from ear to ear.

Harriet wrote a paper on the Chicago Cubs and presented it to her History Club in 2010. It got rave reviews -- especially from Cubs fans -- and the audience was pleasantly surprised when Harriet broke into a totally unplanned, impeccable rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" at the end of her talk.

To further illustrate her love of sports, when we were at an ISU football game recently (an event which, incidentally, was also the focus of one of our first dates), it started raining at halftime and the weather was pretty grim.

I asked Harriet at the end of the third quarter if she wanted to blow the joint, and she proceeded to inform me, in no uncertain terms, that she wanted to stick it out. We did, to the bitter end -- a testimony to her genuine interest in the game.

This persistence in sticking with an athletic event is not an isolated case. Recently, when we were following Phil Mickelson around at the Waste Management open in Phoenix, AZ, I noticed that I was feeling a bit tired.

And for good reason, since it was 92 degrees, we were carrying our chairs, coping with a gigantic crowd, and we had probably walked 3 miles.

Harriet again resisted all overtures to pack up and go home, and seemed to greatly enjoy sticking with Phil until his birdie on the 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Harriet and Granddaughter Jordan**

Harriet's love for tennis, and her famous lob, is legendary. For long periods in her life she played good quality tennis in a mixed doubles and in a women's group at Evergreen Racquet Club.



**Harriet Getting Ready to Smack it**

Harriet and Herm Harding played Evelyn Harding and I for many years. Harriet really enjoys playing mixed doubles.

She still plays on our summer vacations at Coons, and, if you aren't careful, she will still pass you down the line, or send that notorious lob just over your head, landing inches inside the baseline. Or if the lob looks like it might be a tad long, you can hear her shout "Come down, dummy."

And, of course, if the lob does occasionally go long, she will express her regret with "Oh pickles."

Harriet also really likes to play golf. We play a lot of "best ball" rounds, where we play together, and try to beat the course.

Harriet, the born putter, almost always makes a long (anywhere from 20 feet to 40 feet) putt or two during a given round.

If we happen to be playing with someone else, it usually takes them until about the 7<sup>th</sup> hole to remark or infer "She's a better putter than you are."

They don't get any argument from me.



**Grandson Will, Daughter Sara, Me, Harriet**



**Harriet Golfing with Grandson Wesley**

And finally, difficult as it is, I must admit that when I first met Harriet, she was a pretty good bowler, and beat me three consecutive games on our first bowling date. It was a while before we bowled again.



**Harriet and Eric Playing Ping Pong**

Recently at Coons, our summer vacation spot, Harriet's grandchildren were totally amazed at how well she, at age 79, played Ping-Pong. She was not only getting it back with precision, but was smashing several winners in the process.

All that, along with a lot of hiking, boating, and even playing softball in high school, underscore that Harriet has been active in sports all her life.

She sure doesn't look like a "jock," but don't count her out!

## **Other Interests and Activities**

Harriet loves to play games, and do crossword puzzles. Early in our marriage, we would have an ongoing Scrabble competition. We did not mess around, but had these serious battles, sometimes tallying the score to find that we had pretty much tied for the night.



It was never clear who the ultimate winner was during those years, but I can tell you that Harriet was far from a Scrabble pushover, and made my Scrabble life tough and exciting. We still play sometimes, and also do crossword puzzles together, enjoying every minute of it.

Harriet has always liked to play bridge. For a couple of years, we were part of a duplicate bridge group, and she could play with the best of them.

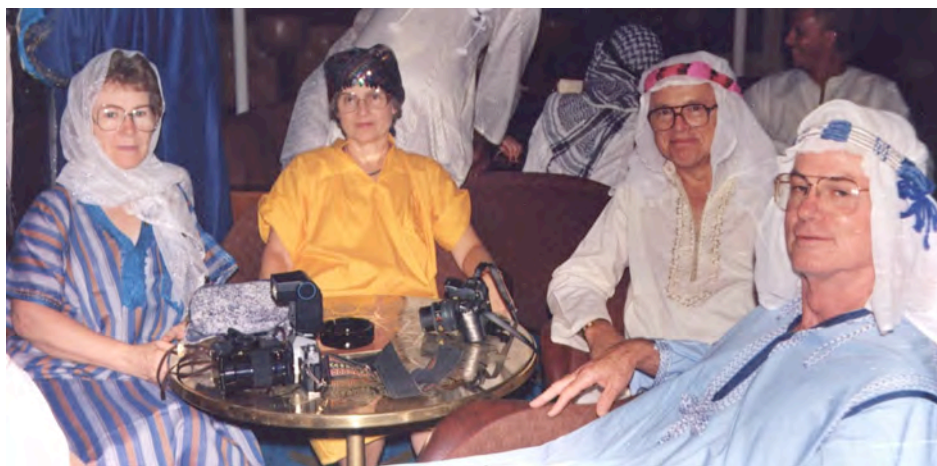
But we played for fun, and she cherished the Mathematics Department bridge group, our bridge group at the Lake, and the groups we have played with have included the Caisleys, Goves, and Hardings. A night at Coons when there was bridge played made her happy as a lark. It can also be said that she was never a shrinking violet when it came to bridge bidding and making a slam, and has probably won more than her share of bridge night prizes.



One of the wonderful satisfactions in Harriet's life is travel. From Don Ho in Hawaii calling her to the stage to sing and dance with him, to masquerading as an Egyptian on the Nile, to the award given her in India for being the most congenial and adaptable American at the conference, there are many Harriet travel stories.

She was always ready to travel, and enjoyed it to the fullest- cherishing both long and short travels with friends like the Braggs, Caisleys, Dosseys, Eggans, Goves, Glynn, Hardings, McDaniels, Greeleys, and Vanden Eyndens.

**Don Ho, Harriet, and an Unknown Escort, 1973**



**Suspicious Egyptians -- Evelyn Harding, Harriet, Phares, Herm Harding**



While our travel is more limited now, she will still agree to a trip, as when we went to Machu Picchu in 2008, when you least expect it.

While Harriet likes to travel, she has definite ideas about when to come home. After a max of around 18 days, Harriet, like the proverbial barn horse, is chomping at the bit to get home.

It isn't that she is bored with the trip, it is that she has this built in calendar that tells her she has been away from her beloved home long enough.

There is no doubt that Harriet dearly loves her children and their spouses. Below are the adult "girls" in Harriet's life.



**Daughter Sue, Daughter-in-Law Stacy, Daughter Sara, Harriet**

And here are her adult "boys."



**Harriet and Son-in-Law Richard**



**Son-in-Law Bruce and Harriet**



**Harriet and Son Eric**



**Harriet and Phares**

One of Harriet's most favorite times in life is when she can be with her family at our vacation spot in Wisconsin, Coons Franklin Lodge, in July each year. She relishes her moments there with her grandchildren.



**Harriet and Henry**



**Harriet's Grandchildren**  
**Lee, Jordan, Will, Dana, Henry, Wesley, Alison**





**Harriet and Will**



**Harriet and Lee**



**Harriet and Jordan**



**Harriet and Dana**



**Harriet and Wesley**



**Harriet and Alison**

Harriet has always greatly enjoyed her broader families, cooking Christmas dinners for several years for both the Gove and the O'Daffer family, and having wonderful times with her siblings as well as mine.



**My sister Wanda, Harriet, My sister Jane**



**Harriet, Sister Ellen, Brother Jack**

### **More About The Personal Side**

First, you would not be incorrect to describe Harriet as generally serious and practical. She is one who, when looking at a Far Side Cartoon, rather than laughing at the implied joke, might seriously ask, "What are those buffaloes doing in that living room?"

You can count the near swear words she ever said, even when totally frustrated, on a hand or two. Over the years, she took her many responsibilities very seriously, and made a serious effort to do things right.

But Harriet has also always known how to laugh and have fun. Through her life, I've often seen her get tickled, and laugh out loud.



**Harriet Totally Tickled**

Like the time we were eating egg salad sandwiches in the car at Hohokam Park before a Cubs spring training game, and I spilled a big glop on my shirt and on the car seat. When I said, "Oh drat, these may not have been the best choice of sandwiches," Harriet and Sue started giggling, and Harriet laughed and laughed, wiping tears from her eyes.



I've seen her kid around, and occasionally make jokes -- especially when our personal situation called for it. Not expecting her to make a joke makes it even funnier when she does.



For example, when things get a little testy between us, Harriet has been known to point to my eyes and ears, and say “rooster, hen” -- then point to my nose and finish by saying “pullet -- now which did I say this was?” She has her funny little things like this that let her sense of humor pop out.



**Two Clowns--Harriet and Dana**

Also, Miss Harriet can be found, when you least expect it, clowning around with a grandchild or two. They have found, over the years, that there is more to Grandma O than meets the eye.



**Super Sleuths--Ali and Harriet**



**Harriet and Henry (Jonathan)  
Drinking Sarsaparilla in Tucson**



**Will and Harriet Flying a Plane  
Somewhere Over Arizona**



**Harriet and Lee, a Charming Couple**

So, contrary to public image, Harriet is not always straight laced and pure.

For example, if you really listen carefully to her at an ISU Basketball game, you might hear her boo the referees, or holler, as she did recently when the ISU shot clock was dangerously running down, "Shoot the friggin' ball!" But her more risqué diversions could be accurately described as "few and far between."



Anyone who knows Harriet will tell you that she is a generous and caring person.

She was religious about writing to her kids in college! And she's the first one to write a really nice thank you note immediately after getting a gift or having someone do something nice for her!

At one long period during her life, she would write an encouraging card to everyone in our church who was having serious difficulty, or just a birthday or special anniversary. A lot of cards went out in her name. And if someone appeared to possibly need an ear, she would call and invite them to lunch to talk.

She once told me that she would like to be a "minister of visitation" for a church, and I know that she considered volunteering for that task in our church at one time. She would have done a great job!



Over the years, Harriet has always been willing to give to charitable, university, and community causes. She is a generous person, and finds a genuine joy in giving when there is a need.

Harriet is also a hard worker, and takes her responsibilities seriously. But she loves to relax and have fun too. Whether on Lake Bloomington, where we lived for many years, or at Coons Franklin Lodge, Harriet has always found time to relax, and enjoys it very much.



One of the things that makes Harriet such a jewel is that she is a kind, generous, independent spirit who loves life and it's opportunities. She has many bright facets, and we love them all.



## **A Wife and Companion**

My mother Ruby remembered getting a letter from Harriet after we were engaged to be married, saying she was going to make a good wife for Phares, and how happy she was.

This pretty well sums up the devotion, helpfulness, and positive attitude Harriet has been famous for throughout our marriage.

She has been a wonderful partner, and living with Harriet has made the past 58 years a delight and a joy. She has been and is the love of my life.

The photo on the left below is our wedding picture in 1955. The one on the right is a photo taken when Harriet modeled her wedding gown at our church in May 2013.

Obviously a lot of water has gone under the bridge from then to now, but what's amazing is that Harriet's wedding gown still fits perfectly!

I hope this 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tribute to Harriet will help you understand the life of this delightful woman, what makes her tick, and the contributions she has made.

So, congratulations to you, Harriet, on your 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!



**Harriet and Phares, January, 1955**



**Harriet and Phares, May, 2013**