



**PAT AND PETE AVOTINS WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN SEPTEMBER.**

**THEY BOTH GREW UP IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND WERE MARRIED AFTER FINISHING COLLEGE.**

**WHILE THEY WERE ON MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS IN GERMANY AND THAILAND THREE CHILDREN WERE BORN AND LATER, WHILE PAT RAISED THEM, PETE COMPLETED HIS ENGINEERING STUDIES AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY.**

**PAT IS A REGISTERED NURSE AND PETE HAS A GRADUATE DEGREE IN METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING.**

**AFTER COMPLETING HIS STUDIES, PETE'S JOB AS A MANAGER OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TOOK HIM TO MINING OPERATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD. PAT JOINED HIM FOR ONE EXTENDED ASSIGNMENT IN AUSTRALIA. IN 2002 THEY RETIRED, AND WERE FORTUNATE TO FIND THEIR HOME IN PISMO BEACH. THEY HAVE SEVEN GRANDCHILDREN AND A CAT NAMED SASHA.**

**THEIR BRIDGE ADVENTURES STARTED EARLY ON, WITH EVENINGS SPENT PLAYING CARD GAMES WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.**

**THEY DID MAKE ONE TRY AT DUPLICATE BRIDGE ABOUT 30 YEARS AGO THAT ENDED IN DISASTER, BUT..... ..... A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO THEY MADE A SECOND ATTEMPT AND THIS TIME THINGS WENT BETTER. PEOPLE AT THE BRIDGE CLUBS IN SLO, AG AND MERRILL GARDENS HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL AS THE AVOTINS IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THEY CALL "THIS CHALLENGING AND HUMBLING GAME."**