



**BORN IN 1930, RON SCHMIDT WAS RAISED IN THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA. HE IS A THIRD-GENERATION AMERICAN WITH GERMAN AND ITALIAN FOREBEARS.**

**RON SAYS THAT HIS SUMMERS FROM AGES 8 TO 15 WERE IDYLIC; SPENT WITH HIS GRANDPARENTS ON A FARM IN HALF MOON BAY, FISHING AND HIKING, AS FREE AS A BIRD.**

**IN HIGH SCHOOL, HIS PASSION WAS MUSIC AND HE PLAYED CLARINET AND SAXOPHONE IN A BAND FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY DANCES.**

**RON MARRIED AT TWENTY AND HAD TWO CHILDREN, SUPPORTING HIS FAMILY AS A SHEET METAL WORKER.**

**IN 1956 HE CAME DOWN WITH POLIO. AFTER A YEAR IN THE HOSPITAL AND MOSTLY CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR, HIS OLD EMPLOYER GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATING AND FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS HE WORKED IN THAT FIELD, EVEN RUNNING HIS OWN BUSINESS.**

**IN 1976 CONSTRUCTION WORK SLOWED DOWN AND HE BEGAN INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE MANAGING HIS OWN PROPERTIES.**

**IN 1992, HE AND HIS WIFE DIVORCED AND HE BEGAN TRAVELLING IN HIS MOBILE HOME.**

**LONELY, HE REMEMBERED ONE OF HIS TENANTS, A TEACHER WHO HAD IMPRESSED HIM, SO HE ASKED HER OUT TO DINNER. AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE, THEY TRAVELLED TOGETHER COAST TO COAST AND INTO CANADA AND MEXICO.**

**RON AND JUDI MOVED TO ARROYO GRANDE A YEAR AGO AND ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL AT HOME.**

**AS FOR HIS BRIDGE EXPERIENCE, RON PLAYED HIS FIRST GAME AT THE AGE OF 74. HE HAD A WONDERFUL MENTOR, A MASTER PLAYER FROM EDMONTON, ALBERTA WHO WAS HIS PARTNER FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS.**

**RON NOW PLAYS IN THE NOVICE GROUP, MONDAYS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO AND THURSDAYS IN ARROYO GRANDE.**