

Amazing Women of SBWC

A glimpse of the women who contributed to our club's history...

This is a series of interviews chronicling the women of SBWC, a background of their lives and contributions to women's clubs. The SBWC board has chosen several members to interview and these narratives will be posted monthly in the Buena Briefs then archived on the club website.



Audrey Herbison

Audrey was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1923. She spent her formative years living on her grandparents' five-acre farm along with her mother. During the depression Audrey's mother became the bread-winner for the family and worked in manufacturing jobs or as a cook. Her mother's work ethic and resourcefulness made a lifetime impression on Audrey. In 1942 Audrey graduated from high school then worked in an office for a manufacturing company. At this time Audrey's mother had joined the Women's Army Corp (WACS) stationed in Santa Ana during World War II. Her mother requested that Audrey and her grandparents join her in California. After relocating to California, Audrey worked in the personnel department for a ship building company at Treasure Island in Wilmington, California. She moved to San Francisco and worked for the government in product inventory at Hunter's Point. In 1945 Audrey moved to Ventura where she

worked in inventory control in the Engineering Department at Port Hueneme. In 1963 she worked for the County of Ventura in the tax office, assessor's office and elections office before retiring in 1984. In 1947 Audrey married Loren Herbison, a navy man from Ventura. They were married for 52 years and had two sons, Roger and James, five grand children, seven great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and one more great-great grandchild on the way.

In 1952 Audrey along with 18 club members started the El Camino Women's Club. The club which began as a mother's group nicknamed 'a lot of chatter' transformed into a Women's Federated Club in 1953 committed to doing good things for the community. Audrey served as the club's first president from 1952-54, then as president in 1978-79, 1986-87 and 1997-99. From 1952-2007 she was very active in the club and served on the executive board or as a committee member. One of the club's memorable fundraisers was to install a mission bell at Ortega Adobe in Ventura where the bell remains today. The club disbanded in 2007 when it became difficult to fill board positions. Audrey's biggest challenge as a clubwoman was trying to keep El Camino Women's Club from disbanding. In 2007 Audrey became a member of San Buenaventura Women's Club. She was successful in transferring six other club members from El Camino Women's Club to San Buenaventura Women's Club. She served on SBWC's executive board as a Tierra Adorada District (TAD) representative, formed the Canasta Section, assisted with the coupon program for veterans in Afghanistan and Iraq, and helped to run the Fundough Fundraiser for six years. Some of her proudest moments as a clubwoman are "the friendships that were created and working together with talented women who came up with ideas worthy of accomplishing goals to help others."

Audrey is still a voracious lifetime reader. Her hobbies are cross-stitch and collecting miniature shoes which are on display at her home. She remains active in San Buenaventura Women's Club sections playing Bunco and Canasta, selling the opportunity draws at each general meeting, and helps with the bi-annual book sale fundraisers. In 2015 SBWC presented Audrey with a Life Member status. Her message to women joining the club now, "Be friendly, talk to everyone, don't be afraid to ask questions and to give of yourself, you will receive so much more in return."