

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.



Hazel Clymer

Hazel was born in Santa Paula, California during the depression. Her family moved to Idaho for seven years then returned to Santa Paula graduating from Santa Paula High School in 1947. In 1948 she enrolled in the school of nursing at Los Angeles County General Hospital where she lived for 3 years taking classes and working toward gaining experience to pass the nursing board exams. In 1951 she started a new job as a public health nurse for the Oxnard School District. Then, in 1954 she married Don McHenry who was a navy man. She took a new job with the Los Angeles City Schools to be near her husband while he was attending Cal State Northridge. She stayed at this job for 10 years while living in Granada Hills

and Saugus. In 1968 they left their jobs in LA and moved to Ventura to buy a new home. At this time, they decided to take a mini break from their careers, pack up a VW camper van and head to Idaho, then east to Maine down the eastern seaboard to Georgia and Kentucky to visit family. After traveling for six months, Hazel started a new career as Head Start Health Coordinator for Ventura County. After her marriage ended to Don, Hazel married Frank Clymer in 1974 and spent 20 wonderful years together. Hazel retired after marrying Frank and blended their families where they have three grown children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Hazel first joined San Buenaventura Women's Club in 1983. Her high school classmate, Barbara Horn, encouraged her to come to a meeting and was her sponsor. Hazel was so impressed with the club, the sections and the members that she felt compelled to join. She was the Tea Chairman for several years. At that time, the club only served beverages and desserts at general meetings. She was the 'keeper of the silver urns' for the coffee and tea service and she arranged lovely floral arrangements. She served as the Membership Chair for 2-3 years. In the late 1990's she participated in a new group with a dozen members chaired by Joann Bowen called Prudent Investment Group, or 'PIG' for short. The group learned about financial platforms and invested in stocks or mutual funds. She said it is very rewarding participating in the club's various organized fundraising events and it is a wonderful way to get better acquainted with other members. Our club in turn makes a great contribution back to our members in the way of cultural and educational enrichment. She encourages new members and young women joining the club now to "Jump in and get active. Learn and share what you have to give." Finally, Hazel loves to quote from former SBWC president, Betty Perkins, "The more you can contribute...the more you get out of it."