

BALBOA ISLAND ICONS . Doris Lee, Coldwell Banker

I'm so sorry to say the Island just lost a wonderful Icon; Bill Etienne; One of the many who migrated here from San Marino: 1st as a Summer Vacationer, then an Island owner. As a tribute, here is my 2008 article.

Bill and Pat Etienne, native Californian's, personify the exodus! They met on vacation here in the 40's, through mutual relatives; she was only 14, & he, 19. Her first impression was "handsome, but square"! His= I tried to be a gentleman, but, Holy Smoke, what a brat"! Pat admitted his label was warranted when she and another giggling girl took him out in a boat and purposefully tried to maneuver it so he would fall overboard. Instead, they ran into a sandbar & the task of extracting it fell upon Bill!

4 years later, after she attended Anokia School for Girls in Pasadena And he attended a Military School in New Mexico, he asked her for a date(@ his Mother's prompting) They went to see "Ken Murray's Blackout" a popular Hollywood show then. The next night he proposed, asking shall we marry this weekend or next? Their wedding was so small, they compensated by a big 60th Anniversary party on a catered boat.

While Pat attended USC to become an Occupational Therapist and Bill served in the Merchant Marine as a Marine Engineer 1st in World WarII then the Korean War their time together was limited & at times eventful! Once Bill took her aboard a ship and left her in a states room while he went to the Engine Room. They didn't realize the boat left port and Pat had to get off at the next port by descending a straight up ladder, hung on the side of the ship; high heels, dress and all...

Typically, they owned a home in San Marino,, raised two children, skied, vacationed on Balboa Island and eventually acquired a beach house on Sapphire in 1954...which they still enjoy with family, friends= boating, playing cards/ games & Pat pursues her hobby of water color painting.

Pat has adopted many rescue dogs to use as Therapy for Shut-ins. The current. one is a lovable Cocker Spaniel "Boomer", part of the family who sat on my feet in this interview. Little wonder the Island became a great place with people like the Etienne's becoming a part of it.

For more information please feel free to call or e-mail me:

STORIES THE SUMMER PEOPLE MISSED -

We have had some interesting stories this past winter—ones, that if you were not here on the Island or in Newport Beach—you probably would have missed.

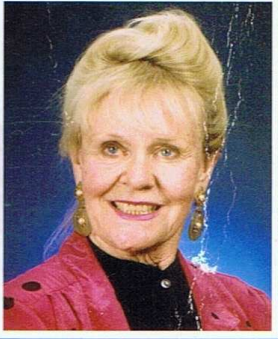


1. **The Ferry Accident.** On January 13 I got a call from **Tom Stanton, Computer whiz Extraordinaire** that someone had pushed a van with a family off the Ferry—into the Bay. Inside were 4 people—dad, mom, son and daughter. Immediately upon hitting the water a boat with Skip Staats pulled up to the sinking car and the son, daughter and dad climbed out. Mom got out last—and she was the only one who got even a little damp—her tennis shoes were wet.! See:<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/01/surfer-helps-pull-family-from-van-that-plunged-off-balboa-ferry.html> The person hurt the most was the driver of the car that pushed them in the bay—she was very very embarrassed because that is her trip to work every day. So much for autopilot!
2. **The Raccoons**—a continuing saga. Once again Tom Stanton took this picture early in the am, as he returned



to his car. The lumps with tiny white dots that look like plants in the middle of the wall are just a family of local raccoons—the white dots are their eyes. These guys are knocking over trash cans, absconding

with local cats and in general causing mischief on Balboa Island. Please put the lids on your trash cans—and make sure you buy cans with lids that latch in place! And keep your precious kitties in at night!



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THE ISLAND'S NEWEST ANGEL

Faith Bowlus is the newest angel watching over Balboa Island. After living on the same lot for 67 years, Faith succumbed to heart disease on Monday, April 23rd, 2012. She is survived by her daughter Sandra and her sons Eric and Jon. Faith was a very bright and well-loved resident on Balboa Island and her cheerful smile, graceful acceptance of others and positive outlook on life in general have touched and inspired many people.

Faith was also a great lover of nature and the ever-present beauty of the Island and its environs was a source of great inspiration and joy for Faith for all the years she lived on the same lot in the 300 block of Collins Avenue.

The lot was originally purchased by Don Bowlus' Father, Glen Bowlus in 1923. Glen trailered an old house down from Pasadena, a common practice in the mid-twenties, and created a summer retreat where he, his wife Marie and his two boys Don and Bob, would spend the entire summer from the day after school let out, until the day before school began.

After the Second World War, Don purchased the house from his father as a new father himself, and started his family with Faith in that old beach shack. Neither my brother nor I remember much about that old house but our sister remembers some of the funny features. Two that were the most memorable created lasting legacies, even when the beach house was finally torn down in 1964, when a new, much larger and more modern house went up in its place.

The first was the pine tree that Don planted, in what was then the front yard, as a sapling in a 5 gallon can. That tree ended up staying put and became a fixture *inside* the new house. The architect opted to build the house around the tree, so the whole time we were growing up, we got to brag that we had a tree growing through our house and out the roof. It was quite a conversation piece and one that has been covered before in this newsletter.

The second was the fireplace chimney which Don had built by hand to keep the old beach shack warm during the winter months now that his family was living there full time. He added beautiful stones and a conch shell to the cement as he framed the chimney and built it up. Gordon Glass, the architect on the new home project, said it was a piece of free-standing sculpture and needed to stay. He incorporated it into the house, but it faces into the patio now because that is where the beach house used to be, so it confuses the heck out of Santa.

Growing up on Balboa Island in the 50's 60's and 70's was quite a privilege and we are also very aware of just how special it is to have maintained continuous family ownership of a single property on the Island for 88 years. Faith could often be found working on her garden in the front yard, and she loved to walk and meet with the many people who shared her passion for Island life.

Living on the Island inspired some great writings, for which Faith was well known, in addition to her wonderful works of photographic art. Below is a beautiful piece she wrote in 1996 shortly after Don died.

A Soothing Companion, today's rain
It replenishes

Liquid Amber leaf, a fluid red
Poised with grace on filament of fern
My garden's Christmas ornament

Mauve clouds
In a pale blue drapery
Called sky

I have just had one of those short-lived glimpses
Of early morning lighting
That permeates the soul
And reminds one
Of what a minute particle
Within the whole of things
We are,
And of what a tremendous gift
It is,
To be alive on this earth
In order to be witness to
A vision of an entirety
More vast
Than ever we can
Hope to comprehend

Faith Bowlus 1925 – 2012



Contributed in loving memory by Jon on behalf of our family