



Lives Lived: Harry Fondiller

September 29, 2009

Harry Fondiller died Sept. 13 in Fremont. He was 87.

A service was held September 17.

He was born December 23, 1921, in New York City, to Louis and Elizabeth Fondiller. He was the second-youngest of seven.

He attended Public School 82, Commerce High School and City College of New York, where he graduated with a degree in business. He enlisted in the military in 1941.

He married Rosalyn Kautz on Jan. 9, 1943.

Mr. Fondiller was called to active duty in mid-1943 and served with the 12th Air Force in North Africa and Italy. He was honorably discharged in December 1945 with the rank of warrant officer.

During the war, he met Gerry Dodge, receiving a call in early 1946 to join him to run a sawmill in California. They left for Nevada City on Mother's Day 1946, with Rosalyn's mom wailing that she'll never see her daughter again because "the Indians would get her." Mr. Fondiller bought a 1937 Ford for the trip, and they made it to Nevada City a week later.

They started up the G.N. Dodge Lumber Company in 1946 on a site near North Columbia. He was in the lumber business until 1959.

While in Nevada City, he met Noel Porter, Dave Packard and Vin Litton, who influenced his decision to move to Palo Alto and start a small electronics company.

He moved the family to Palo Alto in May 1959. He started Royco Instruments, which became a world leader in particle monitoring equipment for clean rooms. He took physics classes at Stanford University for two years to understand the technology and became an expert in the field.

He and Rosalyn traveled to Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Canada, South America and Africa on both business and for pleasure over the years.

Mr. Fondiller was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a member of E. Clampus Vitus, and served on the school board.

He is survived by his wife, Rosalyn of Fremont; sons Michael of Nevada City and Timothy of Bend, Ore.; sisters Annabelle Nemser and Edith Kaufmann of Long Island; grandchildren Matthew of Los Gatos, and Rachel, Nicholas and Daniel of Bend, Ore.; great-grandchildren Brodie of Los Gatos, and Abigail and Benjamin of Bend, Ore.; and many nieces and nephews.

