

RICHARD AND BETTE HANEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Bette was born Oct. 8, 1920, in King City, Calif. When Bette was 3 months old, the family relocated to Coos Bay, where, in 1928, Mr. Knox was killed in an accident at the Coos Bay Lumber Company. Bette and her sister, Dorothy, were then raised by their mother. Bette graduated from Marshfield High School in 1938, and went to Portland with her good friend, Eleanor “Biff” Knutson, to attend Emanuel School of Nursing. She graduated from Emanuel in 1942.

On a date arranged by mutual friends, Bette met Richard “Dick” Hanen at a party in Lakeside, and the two “danced the night away and fell in love,” as they told family over the years. After Dick went into the U.S. Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bette decided to enlist.

“I had a restlessness, a little free spirit in my soul,” she would say about enlisting in the U.S. Army as a flight nurse. In April 1944, 1st Lt. Bette Hanen was among a contingent of soldiers and medical personnel in the 804th Medical Air Evacuation Squadron of the 54th Troop Carrier Wing that landed in Leyte, the Philippines. She worked there and on Okinawa, evacuating wounded soldiers in C-47 air ambulances. As World War II was winding down, Bette was sent to Japan to evacuate U.S. prisoners of war. For her service, Bette would be awarded the Patriot Medallion of Honor and Remembrance in 2010.

Bette returned to Coos Bay in December 1945. Dick got home from his service a few months later and the two were married in June 1946. Bette continued to work as a nurse, with Drs. Simpkin and Peacock and for Dr. John Keizer, and she helped Dick run the family business, Coos Bay Stationery. Dick and Bette were partners in that business, as they were in everything they did for the rest of their lives. When they retired, they spent winters in the desert, where the two played golf, which was an important part of their lives. In the summer and fall, they lived in

their favorite place on earth, Agness, where they passed the days fly fishing on the Rogue River, gardening and often simply sitting on the point overlooking the river with each other. They took great joy in their life and were dedicated to each other.



Dick Hanen graduated from Marshfield with the class of 1939, which was the last class to graduate from the East Branch before the main building was completed. In 1938, Mr. Hanen and his friends: Dick Davis and Sonny Brown started the first golf team at Marshfield. He won the 1939 State High School Golf Championship and had a very successful collegiate golf career at the University of Oregon. Mr. Hanen played tournament golf for many years, participating twice in the National Amateur Tournament, once with a finish in the quarter finals. He has been a lifelong resident of Coos Bay and retired after being a successful, local business owner for 30 years. He enjoyed the game

of golf, and his family has sponsored this golf scholarship because of his interest in high school sports.