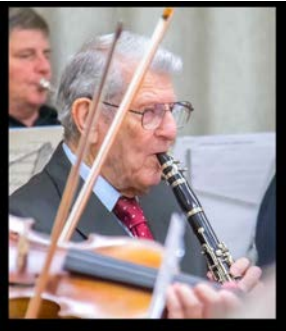


Phil Stephens - In Memoriam 1921 - 2023



Philip Stephens was born on November 16, 1921. He attended Oakland public schools, and played clarinet in the high school band. He then attended Santa Clara University where he earned a degree in electrical engineering. After graduation, he moved east to work for General Electric Company, then returned to the Bay Area where he was employed as the vice president in charge of production at a small steel fabrication company. After college, Phil married and — together with his wife, Frances — raised five children.



Phil's activities outside of work included tennis, piano, hiking, backpacking, gardening, and maintaining and fixing things. Having grown up in the time of the Great Depression, he possessed a keen appreciation for the value of people and resources, and his penchant for maintaining, reusing, repairing and inventing things continued throughout his entire life.



In retirement, Phil returned to playing the clarinet, as well as taking up a variety of other avocations including photography and darkroom film development, weaving (built his own loom), studying Spanish, and fashioning/repairing/constructing things for others. He even studied the horn for a time, and researched the possibility of building a violin. He repaired his clarinet countless times over the years, and also modified it to accommodate an injury to his left hand sustained in his twenties. Phil played clarinet for many, many years in a variety of musical groups, most especially the Castro Valley Community Band and the Oakland Community Orchestra. He most definitely appreciated the camaraderie and good will of all the participants with whom he had the privilege to perform. He continued with these groups well into his 97th year, then withdrew to pursue other less strenuous activities.

He remained active and relatively independent until the weeks preceding his peaceful death at the age of 101.