

Betty Barnhart

Scarlet Oak Drive The Knolls

Betty is a delightful young lady of 98 who finds joy and laughter in everything she encounters. She is active and interested in a variety of activities

Betty and Edward "Barney" Barnhart were married in 1940, when she was 19, in the Clifton Presbyterian Church. They were married for 61 years. Betty was raised in the Oxford Presbyterian Church and raised her family in the church. Barney was a deacon in the church.

Barney and Betty were stationed in New Orleans during WWII for 3 years while Barney, who was a Master Sergeant, worked in the army transportation service. After living in New Orleans during the war years, they were happy to return with Oxford friends for a visit when Miami played the University of New Orleans in football.

When they returned to Oxford, Betty and Barney and some of their friends helped plan and build the Oxford Country Club and Golf Course. The men played golf one afternoon a week, while the ladies played golf on Thursday and had lunch at the club. This then led to their forming a Supper Club in Oxford.

The Supper Club was one of Betty's favorite memories. The Supper Club brought together young couples who were just starting out in their new careers in Oxford after the war. Eight couples used to get together for dinner on a regular basis. They included Fran and Bill Hawley, Betty June and Roy Reinhart, Betty and Barney themselves, Bonnie and Ralph Fey, Nancy and Carl Crell, Florence and Joe Wespiser, Phil and Marge Schriver and Jane and Ray Bourne. The members of the Supper Club did so much to build the business community of Oxford and Miami University. They were vital to the history of the town from 1948 to the 1980s.

Betty and Barney owned and operated the Barnhart Marathon Station in Oxford for 44 years. This was downtown where the LCN Bank is currently located.

Betty was born in Oxford and attended McGuffey school and then attended Hamilton High School. She spent one semester with her aunt in Tiffin as a Junior in high school. There she met Barney Barnhart and this changed her life.

She attended Willmington College in Willmington, Ohio. Barney went to Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. They were married in Clifton in 1940.

After sixty-one years of marriage, and after Barney died, Betty married “Bud” Hollis, a friend of the family and a grade-school teacher. A few years later, Bud died of a fall.

Betty and Barney had one daughter (Patricia) and 3 sons (William, Tucker and Scott).

Patricia was married to Bill Aubaugh with whom she had two sons: Zachary, of Washington DC, and Bill, of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Zachary works for the Department of Transportation in Washington. Bill learned to sail on his grandparent’s yacht on Lake Eire. Sailing became his favorite activity and ultimately his vocation. He now is captain of a 130-foot charter yacht, out of Cabo San Lucas.

Betty has two great-grandsons from Patricia’s son, Zachary and his wife Mara: Tucker and Will. After the death of her first husband, Patricia married Don Kaufman who taught Zoology and Environmental Science at Miami. They still live in Oxford.

Betty’s eldest son, William graduated from Miami, became a chemist and lives in California. He had one daughter, Amy, who had two daughters who live in New Jersey.

Her second son, Tucker attended Culver Military Academy and graduated from Brown University with a degree in Geophysics. Unfortunately, Tucker died of cancer at age 50.

Scott, her third son, still lives in Oxford. He took over the family business and when that was sold, worked for Audi Racing. He is an expert mechanic, as was his father, and restores old cars. Betty now has a 1951 Plymouth in her garage waiting restoration.

Scott’s older son, Brandon, works for Astra Zenica and also lives in Oxford. Scott’s younger son, Dylan, also lives in Oxford and works for Miami University.

Betty has been a member of the Oxford Presbyterian Church since she was a child. She also managed a Cub Scout troop for 3 years.

Betty and Barney liked sailing and often went to the Caribbean during February when they could get away from the garage. They kept a sailboat on Lake Erie for twenty-three years and used to live on the boat when they went up every other week.

Betty and Barney Barnhart, and the members of their Supper Club, were very important to the development of Oxford and the Oxford Presbyterian Church. They stimulated the development of downtown, helped build the Country Club and made Oxford a better place to live.