

For this movie buff, his fortune was his family

Written by Jean Bartlett, March, 2017
(Written for the family of William Paul Lind)



LIND, WILLIAM P. (1948-2016)

Bill Lind coached San Mateo National Little League for many years and was a daily example of the League's requirements: "to provide the highest standard of positive coaching appropriate for each age group;" and to recognize that the SMNLL "is about creating winners, not necessarily reflected on the scoreboard, but from the baseball experience that creates a lifetime of memories." In 1996, when his sons were teens and his coaching days were coming to an end, Bill was recognized for his extraordinary dedication to the SMNLL and was the proud recipient of the Little League Service Award.

With his sons in high school, he still lent his volunteer skills to the league for several years. He helped prep the field for game days and become the unofficial Hillsdale "STATS GUY," keeping computer records of all the games. These volunteer years would provide the former coach with a special plaque of thanks. His wife Pat said it was ironic that he grew up to love and coach baseball, because he never really played it much as a kid.

William Paul Lind (Bill) was the son of Walter William Lind and Doris Alicia Higgenbotham. According to the 1940 United States Federal Census, Bill's dad was born in California on January 1,

1917, and his name at birth was Walter William Munck. That same Census notes that Walter, 23, was working at that time as a receiving clerk for a railway company and that Doris, 21, "took classified ads" for a local newspaper. The couple lived in an apartment on 17th Street in San Francisco and paid \$32.50 a month for rent.

Walter's parents were Danish, and early in his childhood, Walter and his family returned to Denmark for a time and then came back to the United States when he was 6. An old ship document has Walter traveling with his mother, Jørgine Marie (from Olsker Parish, Bornholm Island, Denmark), on the passenger line Hellig Olav out of Copenhagen in 1923. They arrived in New York City on June 12 and noted their next destination was Long Beach, California. Bill's last name at birth was also Munck. On June 30, 1955, the family changed their last name to Lind.

Bill's mom was born on February 6, 1919, at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. Raised in San Francisco, Doris graduated from Mission High School in 1936.

Bill was born at St. Joseph's Hospital, 355 Buena Vista Avenue East, San Francisco, on July 31, 1948 and his earliest photos were taken in front of his family's home on Nelson Avenue in Pacifica, California. As soon as it was time for kindergarten, Bill went to what was then called Pacific Manor Elementary, now Ocean Shore Elementary, on Oceana Boulevard in Pacifica, just a few blocks away from home. During his elementary school years at Pacific Manor, he became big brother to Lori Joyce Lind (Ziegler).

Bill loved the movies as far back as he could remember. He used to sneak out of bed at night to a spot behind the sofa where his parents were watching a movie. Eventually, he'd fall asleep and they'd carry him back to bed. Pacifica's movie theater, the Seavue, was built in the early 1950s, just in time for it to be a favorite hangout of Bill's. Sci-fi classics were a Saturday matinee staple and the best part was it was within a short walking distance from the Lind home.

When his parents divorced, Bill and Lori continued to live with their mom on Nelson Avenue. At some point after the divorce, Doris got a job at the Seavue. Doris met Earnest Winther at the theater and they married in 1964. In January of 1965, she sold their Pacifica home for \$18,950 (now worth \$650,000 plus), and the family moved to Hayward, California, about 35 miles east of Pacifica. Bill was a junior at Oceana High School in Pacifica then and he commuted from Hayward to school.

Bill played two sports at Oceana: swimming and basketball. He was a great swimmer from his earliest childhood days and at Oceana, he swam the 200m butterfly and 200m backstroke. He would medal in both. He also played basketball all four years of high school, a game he had played a lot in elementary school. He never played football. The coach told him he was too thin.

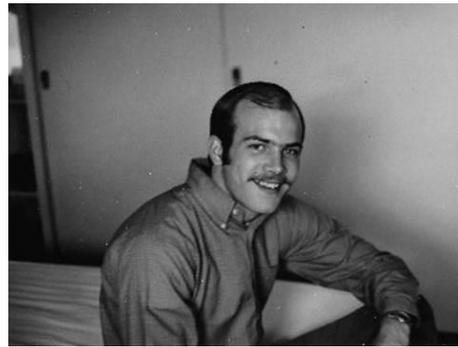
At the very end of junior year he met Patricia Daniels.

"I swooned all summer," Pat laughed. "We began dating as seniors."

Their first date, naturally, was a movie and the couple went to the Senior Ball together.

"We dated until the summer of 1966," Pat said. "Then I went away to work at a summer camp and we lost touch for a while. But we reconnected in 1968 and our relationship took off."

Both were students at the College of San Mateo at the time. Everything seemed perfect. The couple was head over heels and Bill was working his dream job as a projectionist with the International Association of Theater and Stage Employees (IATSE). Then Bill received his draft notice.



"He went to half a dozen Naval Recruiting Offices to try to get into the Navy instead of the Army. At the last office, in Fremont, he was accepted."

In the summer of 1968, Bill went to the United States Naval Training in San Diego, California. Following his graduation from basic training, he was assigned to Radioman School, also in San Diego, where he learned electronic theory and Morse code.

"Those were the days of \$26 PSA (Pacific Southwest Airlines) tickets," Pat recalled. "So we used to fly back and forth when he had time off."

At the end of Radioman School, Bill asked for a duty station in Europe. He was assigned to the Naval Communications Station in Yokosuka, Japan. It was late 1968 and Bill asked Pat to marry him and she said: "Yes." Their original plan was to marry at the American Embassy in Tokyo. In fact, the *Pacifica Tribune* ran the story: **"Patricia Daniels to wed in Tokyo."**

"The best laid plans," Pat laughed. "He was able to get leave after eight months in Japan and came home for four weeks in August of 1969."

Bill and Pat married on August 9, 1969 in the Naval Station Chapel on Treasure Island, San Francisco. It was a beautiful day. They honeymooned in Carmel, California, and then Bill returned to Japan and began sifting through the mound of paperwork to bring his wife to Yokosuka. In October of that year, Pat flew from San Francisco International Airport to Narita International Airport in Tokyo. She was all of 21 and was almost left behind at the flight's stopover in Anchorage, Alaska.

"We spent the next 18 months living another whole adventure."

During this time, Bill received orders to his new duty station, Nha Trang, located on the South Central Coast of Vietnam. He was to be an American Advisor to the South Vietnamese.

"It was toward the end of the war, when Americans were turning over war responsibilities to the locals."

Prior to his deployment, Bill was sent to Vietnamese Language School in Coronado, San Diego County.

"It was the summer of 1971. It was like a three month vacation at the most prime vacation spot ever. We lived on the beach every chance we could, right by Hotel del Coronado – *the setting for the 1959 Billy Wilder classic "Some Like It Hot"* – as if we could even afford to walk through their front door." (Located in the San Diego Bay and connected to the mainland by a tombolo called the Silver Strand, Coronado is just a bridge ride away from downtown San Diego. Also home to Naval Station North Island, the name Coronado translates to "crowned one," which truly befits this charmed wonderland.)

In September of 1971, Bill left from Travis Air Force Base for Saigon and Nha Trang. Bill spent nine months in-country. It was an extremely stressful time for his wife and family.

"He was in a relatively safe place," Pat recalled with a sigh all these decades later, "with only occasional shelling going on."

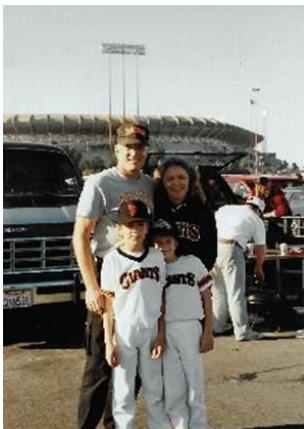


In the spring, the Radioman Second Class returned to Treasure Island and was honorably discharged. His four years of service had come to an end. Years later when the couple's son David served in the Navy on the USS Nimitz (CVN 68), an aircraft carrier, Bill would note with a laugh that he was never assigned a ship during his four years in the Navy. David served four out of six years at sea.

The couple settled in San Mateo after the Navy and Bill picked up his old job as a projectionist with IATSE. From 1972 until their first son was born in 1980, the couple spent time working, skiing, traveling – a cross country trip by car in 1972 – and going to the College of San Mateo. During that time, Pat entered nursing school and graduated in 1976.

In August of 1980, their son Christopher William Lind was born at Peninsula Hospital in Burlingame.

"Our lives were changed forever in the best way ever," Pat said. "Bill became an involved father right away. David came along in October of 1982. Because I worked nights and slept (ha! ha!) during the day, Bill would take the boys out of the house to the parks, the beach, and to Great America Amusement Park...when they were old enough. He would even meet up with my Mother's Group friends for play dates at the park. He was always involved with the boys. He had great love for them. When they got to Little League age, he volunteered to coach right from the start. For 10 years he coached many teams after splitting his time between two teams."



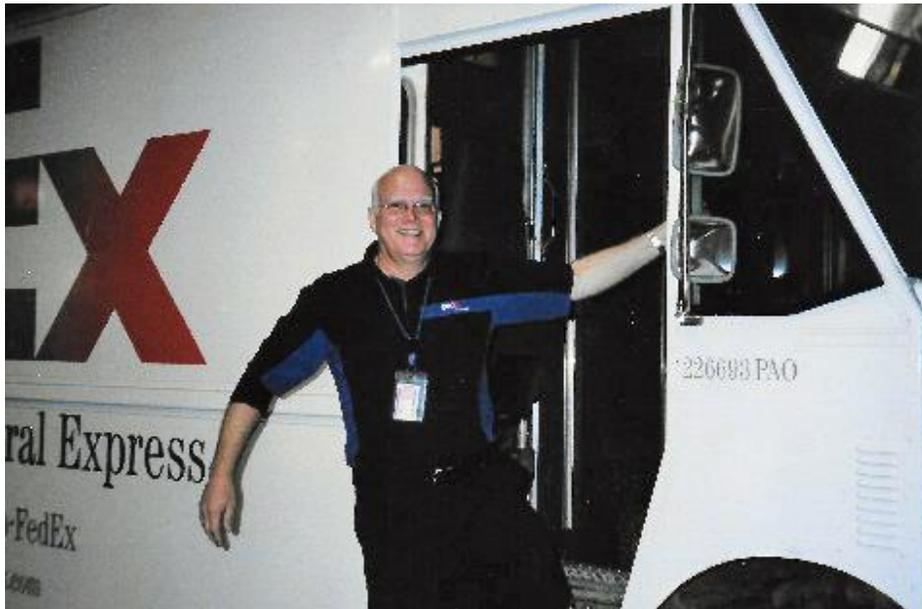
Bill, Pat, Chris and David.



Bill coaching Little League.

Bill worked at all of the movie theaters on the Peninsula and the drive-ins, most of the latter are gone now. By the late 1980s, he was working steadily at the Hillsdale Cinema where he remained until it closed in 2000.

"He was a lifelong movie buff," Pat said. "He loved action movies the most, but his top favorites were the old, old science fiction movies: 'Invaders From Mars,' 'The Thing,' 'The Fly,' 'The Day The Earth Stood Still,' really too many to name. I guess you could say he turned his love of movies into his life's work. He also loved to read sci-fi books."



Bill worked 29 years for the IATSE. When the changing theater industry closed out all the jobs for projectionists, Bill went to work for FedEx as a courier.

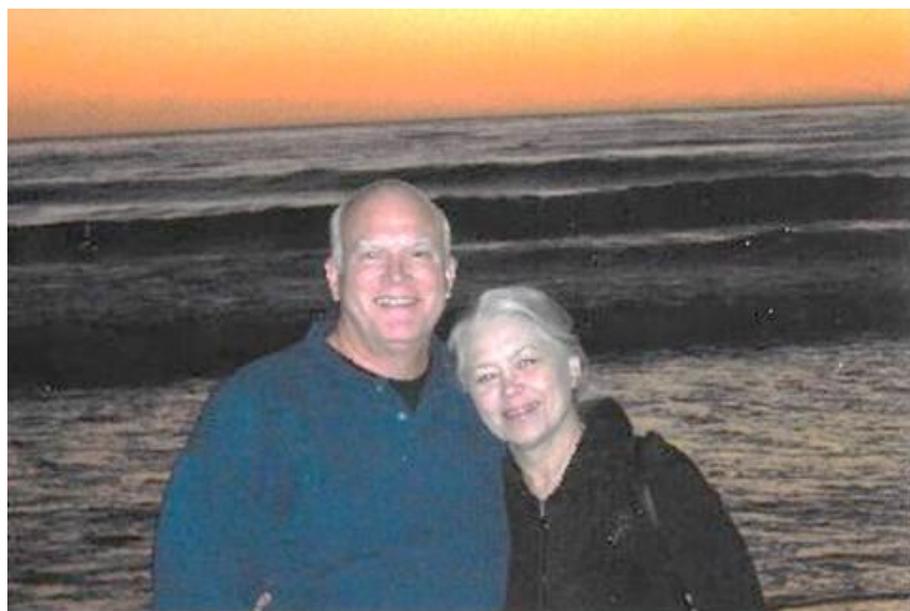
"If you didn't come to one of his movies at the Hillsdale Cinema, there's a good chance he delivered a package to your house if you lived between Redwood City and Palo Alto!"

Bill worked at FedEx from 2000 until he retired on his birthday, July 31, 2015.

"He was a very patient man," Pat noted, "which is why he did so well coaching! But he was patient in all aspects of life. He was loyal and loving in our marriage. He had a canny knack for electronics and picked up computer skills early in the game, which is what made him the "STATS GUY." He loved animals, especially dogs. We had dogs around the house for years. Our last dog, Sadie, was spotted on a delivery he made at Pets-In-Need and he went back to adopt her.

He was a quiet, low-key kind of guy with a wicked sense of humor. No fuss. He liked life to be simple and real. He was an avid baseball (San Francisco Giants) fan and a Golden State Warriors (basketball) fan from way back in the early 1960s. He had no cooking skills! He couldn't sing a note and he couldn't really dance but he would anyway!

He loved pop music and had an extensive library of songs. He could fix almost anything and had some carpentry skills and built various small projects around the house.



He was really just a clean living man. He followed the rules. He never did drugs. He was never a drinker. He wasn't ready to leave us but he accepted it."

Bill died on June 29, 2016, and a great gathering of his family and friends came to celebrate his life at the San Mateo Garden Center.

"We will never be the same as we were before this loss, but are forever so much better for having had something so great to lose."

~Leigh

