

*The story of Ingrid B. Lacy ~
This extraordinary teacher inspired a middle
school's name*



1949, San Mateo High School, San Mateo, CA
Senior Ingrid Andersson
A.S. Pres. (spring)
A.G.S. Pres. (fall)
German Club
G.A.C. Pres.
G.P.A.L. Pres.

Written by Jean Bartlett, July, 2019
(A Pacifica Historical Society Project)

**LACY, INGRID B. ANDERSSON
(1931-1999)**

On March 16, 1967 in Pacifica, California, San Andreas Elementary School eighth grade teacher Mrs. Ingrid Lacy received the following evaluation from the school's principal, James Hough, for the 1966-1967 school year.

"Mrs. Lacy has very good rapport with her students and has demonstrated a great deal of tact and consideration in working with them. Her attitude and approach to teaching has allowed her to obtain the respect of her pupils. She is willing to spend time and effort to aid pupil adjustment to meet their social and emotional needs in the classroom. She is continually helping her students to evaluate themselves and their growth as a means to further growth.

Mrs. Lacy provides a great deal of flexibility and implementation in her teaching. To enrich the social studies and math program, the class purchased a share of Ford Motor Company stock. The class studied the stock market, investigated money and banking terms and procedures, and took a field trip to a Ford plant.

She has leadership responsibilities, as head teacher, and has performed these responsibilities very well. Beside the duties outlined in the A.R. for head teachers, Mrs. Lacy is advisor to the Student Council, Traffic Patrol, and School Service

Organization. Her opinions and constructive criticisms are greatly appreciated by me and other staff members. She has provided the necessary administrative assistance needed to maintain a smooth well organized school program.

Mrs. Lacy is a member of the Curriculum Council, 8th Grade Constitution Committee, San Andreas PTA (Parent Teacher Association), AAUW (American Association of University Women), Delta Kappa Gamma, Social Committee of LSEA (Laguna Salada Education Association), and has taken a summer course in advanced mathematics. She has worked with the upper grade girls on gymnastics and had the girls perform at a PTA meeting

Mrs. Lacy is certainly an asset to our staff and has the drive and dependability we need to make the total school program function well."

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Ingrid B. Lacy was as natural as a teacher as she had been as a student. Throughout her own school days she loved education, she loved being a part of things and she was willing to be the change that was needed.

"My sister had tremendous pride in being San Mateo High School's first female Student Body President," Ingrid's brother, Walfrid P.J. Andersson said in a July, 2019 interview. (The interview process with Ingrid's family and friends began in early July, 2019.)

"Her slogan was 'San Mateo needs a little change!' After she was elected, my parents opened their home and all of our neighbors came out. It was a big deal."

"Like my sister, I was born in Germany," Walfrid continued, "and in our family that was where the seed was planted in education. Education to us was as powerful as can be. Our mother was German-born and that was our influence, our candle and our opportunity. In my mother's childhood, like her parents, one learned three or four languages: French, maybe Italian, a Slavic language and High German. This kind of educational upbringing was taught to us even through the example of our mother's penmanship. It was perfect, straight on the line with nice rolling scripts. For our family, however, we all spoke English. We were not German Americans we were Americans."

"When my mother was growing up she was very involved in her school," Ingrid's son Mike Lacy said, "and she was very athletic. She played field hockey, baseball, ice hockey and she swam. Whatever was out there, she went into it. In high school, she was a certified lifeguard and taught swimming during the summer. She liked competing, she wanted the challenge and always, she wanted to help others."

"Even when she was a kid, she was a mover and a shaker," Ingrid's daughter Charlotte (Lacy) Jacobs said. "And she followed through. One of the things she lived and she taught us was to give back. She also taught us and I believe everyone she met to 'always do their best.'"

Longtime Pacifican Marv Morganti, who retired in 1980 from the Laguna Salada Union School District, now the Pacifica School District, as the District's Assistant Superintendent under Jim Brien, talked about his friend Ingrid.

"She was one of the most engaging teachers," Marv said. "She was positive and she was strong and she was kind. She could discipline kids with the greatest ease that you could imagine and as a teacher in the classroom, I think she was outstanding. She loved kids and it showed. She enjoyed them and she had a great personality. But you didn't fool around with Ingrid. She had her rules. She was so dynamic, and my God, she could really play the piano. I can't even count how many times at a party, if there was a piano, she could be talked into sitting down and playing – and we all absolutely loved it. But she didn't read a damn note. But if she knew the tune, or you hummed it, she could play it. Ingrid had a presence about her that not everyone has – whether it was in her classroom or on the schoolyard or at a party, Ingrid was there and you knew she was there!"

"She was also a very strong administrator," Marv continued. "She worked with Principal Clair McMahon at Westview School and they were such good friends. That was a tough school and she was Clair's right arm. This was in the early 1960s and they had a lot of kids with problems and there was a group of boys that were involved in a gang. Ingrid was Clair's acting assistant principal. She kept things together, including those boys and the staff."

"When I became assistant superintendent, she was assistant principal at Ortega. She served on all kinds of committees and just like from the start, she was always very sports oriented and was in fact, along with Don Beck, one of the big sports leaders in our district."

In the Laguna Salada Union School District (LSUSD), Pat Kennison worked in many capacities. She began as a kindergarten teacher, she became a principal, she worked as a curriculum consultant and she served as a director of specially funded projects. Like her friend Marv Morganti, she retired as Assistant Superintendent. Pat noted that she and Ingrid became great friends the moment they met.

"It was very easy to be friends with Ingrid," Pat said. "She was such a delightful person and she was just plain fun. She was a gracious hostess, she had a marvelous sense of humor and she loved to play piano. She could play anything."

"I think part of what made her such an excellent teacher was her own philosophy and her own personality," Pat continued, "because she was so positive and so open. But she was a tough lady. Kids did not get away with anything and if she saw something, she did something. She was a tough disciplinarian along with being very human and humane, and very understanding. She was so good with middle school kids and when they named Pacifica's new middle school after her in September of 1999, it was so deserved. Ingrid, just like her smile, was bigger than life."

* * *



Ingrid and her mother Charlotte, 1931, Breslau, Germany.

Ingrid Beate Andersson was born on January 6, 1931 to Charlotte (Mangelstorff) and Walfrid Wilhelm Andersson. She was born in Lower Silesia, Germany, in the city of Breslau. Breslau became the city of Wroclow, Poland following the Second World War.

Both of her parents were European born. Her father was from Sweden and her mother was from Breslau, and both immigrated separately to the United States in 1921. The couple met in New York City when Charlotte was working as the head cook for a wealthy family. One of Charlotte's and Walfrid's favorite things to do was to go out dancing in German Town at the old "Oom-Pah-Pah."

Charlotte and Walfrid married on June 26, 1926. Together they worked at several estates in New York, eventually accepting a job at an estate in Pennsylvania where the couple ran a staff of 27.

This was hard work and it was good work, especially during the Depression when jobs were so scarce. Pregnant with their first child, at some point in late 1930, Charlotte went to her family's home in Breslau to give birth to the couple's daughter Ingrid.

While Charlotte was gone, her husband ran the estate staff on his own. How long mother and daughter stayed together in Breslau is unknown, but eventually Charlotte had to return to her duties in Pennsylvania while her daughter remained with family in Breslau. Charlotte would bring Ingrid to the United States the moment it was possible.

"This is sacrifice," Walfrid said, "running an estate during the Depression, going over to Germany knowing that a war is coming, parting with your child because you must. Yet there wasn't an evening that my mother didn't say a prayer to thank God for her blessings. This toughness, resolve and thankfulness was passed down to my sister and me."

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On February 14, 1935, passengers sailing from Hamburg, Germany on the ship *New York* arrived in New York, NY. Two of the passengers on that ship's manifest were Breslau-born Ingrid Andersson and her mother Charlotte Andersson. Ingrid's age is listed as four. Then 35, Mrs. Andersson sailed with a U.S. passport dated October 30, 1934, and "Walfrid Andersson" is listed as their contact. At that point in time, Ingrid only spoke German, though she did learn English quite quickly and did not speak with an accent.

When the War ended in 1945, Mr. and Mrs. Andersson and their two children, Ingrid and Walfrid, moved to the Bay Area.

"In those early years my grandparents worked on large estates, which included four estates in San Mateo County: de Guigné, Tobin Clark, Parrott and Folger," Ingrid's son Mike said. "They also created haute cuisine at European style restaurants such as the Villa Chartier in San Mateo."



Ingrid, her brother Walfrid, and their parents, Walfrid and Charlotte, Wrightsville, Pennsylvania. Circa 1937.

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In 1947, Charlotte and Walfrid bought a home in the Hayward Park District of San Mateo and Ingrid attended San Mateo High School. Along with being the school's first female president, Ingrid's list of school activities also included: singing with the A Cappella Choir, playing numerous sports, playing in jazz band (on piano), serving as a member of the Girls Block SM Society and being in German Club. Her brother noted that though there was some German spoken at home, and Ingrid knew some prayers in German, the language the entire family spoke was English. However, by the time Ingrid finished high school, she could read, write and speak German quite well.



Charlotte, Walfrid, Ingrid and Walfrid at their home on 12th Avenue in San Mateo. Circa 1949.

Following high school, Ingrid headed off to San Jose State College, formerly San Jose State Teachers College. It was local and it had a strong teachers program which made it an excellent choice for Ingrid. It was there she earned her degree in Physical Education with a Political Science minor.

In Ingrid's final year of college, a young man knocked on her door. It was 1953 and Norm Lacy was home from the Korean War where he had served in the Marine Corps. He was attending San Jose State and, as he informed Ingrid, he had recently met her roommate and thought he would ask her out on a date. Ingrid informed him that her roommate wasn't home but she was and she would go out on a date with him.

"We went to this beer joint south of San Jose," Norm recalled. "It was a hangout for the kids at San Jose State. I remember being immediately impressed with her vibrancy. Ingrid was a very popular person. She always seemed to know just about everyone – well, she recognized everyone. 'I'm sorry I forgot your name!' she'd say. I met her at her sorority house where she had a bunch of friends. We went out on a couple of double dates and I fell for her. That was pretty much it."

The two San Jose State College graduates married on August 2, 1953.



The couple's photo ran in The Peninsula Bridal Album of the San Mateo Times on August 8, 1953. *"Norman Lacy, of San Jose, and Ingrid Andersson, of San Mateo, recited nuptial vows Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at Carmel's Church of the Wayfarer, the ceremony followed by a reception at the Pine Inn. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walfrid Andersson of Twelfth Avenue."*

"Not long after we married we went to South Texas," Norm said. "We were both beginning our careers and Ingrid was anxious to start teaching. As I recall it was a little slow for teaching in the Santa Clara Valley at that time. She did have one job offer in Northern California, in Fall River Mills, but that was kind of far away from where we lived." (Fall River Mills is in Shasta County and is about a five hour drive from San Jose.)

Norm, who would have an extraordinary career in law enforcement, got a job with the United States Border Patrol.

"My first assignment was McAllen, Texas. Ingrid began her teaching career

in San Juan (about a 17 minute drive) as a physical education instructor."

After school Ingrid organized numerous sporting activities and gave swimming lessons. In addition she taught night school to veterans under the G.I. Bill. The couple's son Norm Jr. was born in 1954 and their son Steve was born in 1955.

"We did make some social mistakes coming from California," Norm chuckled, recalling one in particular. "We would go to parties and if there was a piano, Ingrid would play all these old songs at random. At one of the parties someone said, 'You left this one out!' and they started humming what we knew as 'I've Been Working On The Railroad.' In Texas, while it's the same tune, they sing these words: 'The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You.' Well Ingrid and I were singing the 'Railroad' words and everyone else is standing at attention and singing 'The Eyes of Texas.' We learned and Ingrid made a lot of friends there."

In 1958, Norm accepted a transfer to Douglas, Arizona, a city rich with history that borders Mexico at Agua Prieta. The couple's third son, Mike, was born there. Ingrid taught both in Douglas and in the town of Bisbee, which is about 27 miles northwest of Douglas. In 1960, she accepted a teacher/principal position in Naco, Arizona. The school was within 100 yards of the United States-Mexico border and from the town's sister city of Naco, Sonora.

"Here she developed a great admiration for underprivileged children," Ingrid's children noted, "often recounting how some of her 'students' would actually sneak across the border each day just to attend a

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class in an American school. Her Arizona students were regular participants in local contests and parades, and some of her athletes competed in State and National competitions. In addition there was her work with cheerleaders and baton twirlers."

By 1962, it had been too many years away from her family in San Mateo, plus Ingrid and Norm had always wanted to come back home. Ingrid phoned friends and discovered there was a community on the coast that needed teachers. Incorporated in 1957, Pacifica was the consolidation of nine small coastal communities. Immediately Ingrid phoned Pacifica's School District, LSUSD. As it happened, she got on the phone with one of the District's principals, a fellow named Marv Morganti. "You're going to love it here," he told her. Completely encouraged, Ingrid accepted a position in the District and her husband followed with a job transfer to U.S. Customs in San Francisco. In 1962, the family not only moved to Pacifica, but their fourth child, Charlotte, named for her maternal grandmother, came into the world.

In 1963, Ingrid began working in the Laguna Salada School District as noted by the San Mateo Times on September 4.

LAGUNA SALADA SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLS 7,000

"...School Superintendent Frederick E. Lucas reports that the District will have approximately 200 classroom teachers. More than 60 of these will be new to the District."

The article goes on to introduce the names of all the new teachers and their school assignments, which includes those newly assigned to Vallemar School: "*Carolyn Garrett, Beth Hower, **Ingrid Lacy**, Laura Audino, Ann Gibson and Randi Kristiasen.*"



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Ingrid loved being a middle school teacher.

"I remember her saying that kids were always so appreciative at middle school age," her son Mike said. "So many of them were thinking about what is going to happen in high school. It's such unknown territory. My mom felt like she could have a good impact preparing them."

"Her commitment to her kids in the classroom was second to none," Ingrid's son Steve said. "I can't recall her ever calling in sick and I never heard her complain about her job. She would do what was needed to make sure her kids had a wonderful experience in school."

"She really connected with her students," Norm said. "She was a very strong disciplinarian but was able to do that and keep a friend. She could make a student realize that he or she was not just another kid on the block. She would find a quality in a student and capitalize on that quality. She could make kids who weren't feeling great about themselves work hard on something and turn them around. For instance, maybe a guy that was really able to pass a football. 'That's terrific,' she'd tell him and she meant it and then that kid felt better about himself."

As at work, so she was at home: vivacious, inclusive, educating and very present.



The Lacy family in 1963, clockwise from Ingrid: Norm Sr., Charlotte, Steve, Mike and Norm Jr.

"At home she was everything you would want in a mom," Steve said. "She always made sure to converse in the morning, prepare a quick breakfast and off we went. Then she would be back at 5:30 to prepare dinner and make sure to have family conversation at the dinner table. Her ability to balance family and work was phenomenal."

"We never got out of educating ourselves in some way," her son Mike laughed. "She had all of her children play musical instruments growing up. I played the trumpet, Charlotte played piano, Steve played violin and Norm played clarinet. Every year at Christmas we would have a talent show and each of her kids had to do a solo. We continued doing that when the grandkids came along. We did the talent shows right up until our mom passed away and all of our kids remember them."

The entire family still gets together at Christmas. Soloing in a talent show has since given way to playing games, but the food and the festivities remain right out of their childhood.

"Oh the food we had and still have," Ingrid's children concurred, "Stollen, rum cake, streuselkuchen and strudel!"

"We had German staples growing up and a number of Swedish treats," Mike said. "The latter included Swedish pancakes, Swedish meatballs and Glögg – this last one only during the holiday season – and the former included bratwurst, German bologna, liverwurst, pork chops, beets and lots of sauerkraut with mashed potatoes. Of course when you are a kid, lots of sauerkraut is not such a great thing and ketchup doesn't help much! There was also lots of butter for our bread. That's the German heritage: butter, beer, pretzels. Here, have a little more sugar on that one. That's not enough!"

Ingrid got into Christmas three months in advance.

"Maybe even a year before because of all the sales," Charlotte laughed.

Along with a brimming buffet on top of the table, beneath the buffet were tins of cookies and treats – dozens and dozens of different types of cookies, breads and chocolates from all parts of the world. But this wasn't the only annual tradition. There were the Fourth of July celebrations, the St. Patrick's Day dinners, the Cinco de Mayo festivities, and Ingrid would choose the color of the day to match the holiday.

In 1968, the family moved to a larger home in Park Pacifica.

"She loved to entertain," Charlotte said. "She played all the various celebratory songs on the piano and got everyone singing. It was a party. She had song sheets so everyone could sing along. There were summer BBQs, neighborhood block parties, and Friday night get-togethers. She loved to see her friends, her family and her children's friends have a good time."

Both Lacy parents made it a point to come to all their kids events, elementary school on up. That included Little League at White Field and Bobby Sox Softball at Cabrillo Elementary School.

In 1979, Ingrid and her colleague Don Beck helped formulate the After-School Sports Program for the District's seventh and eighth graders. Their pilot program featured competitive basketball, softball, flag football, volleyball and track. When Ingrid was inducted into the City of Pacifica's Sports Hall of Fame in 1993, she talked about the importance of giving students a physical and competitive outlet while providing valuable educational experiences as well.

"Basically," Ingrid said, "we just saw a real need to keep students active after hours. Kids need a place to go when they aren't in school and I think that's true now more than ever. But back then there was nothing and it was just something that really needed to be done."

Her children noted that their mom not only supported sports but she was a good sport with a leap-in-and-try-it attitude.

"We are playing baseball and she is trying to teach us how to hit the ball," Mike recalled with a smile. "She would get up, right next to you, with the bat in her hand. She'd say, 'C'mon, it's not that hard.' And she would smack the ball."

And she was all hands on deck on the home basketball court.



Ingrid and Norm Sr., with their children, l to r: Steve, Mike, Charlotte and Norm Jr.

"She would come out and we would play H-O-R-S-E," Mike said, "and she was not afraid to take us all on or take us on one-on-one – my brothers, me and our friends. She would play for an hour or so. Then she would leave and they'd say, 'Where'd she go?' And the next thing, she is bringing all this food out. She was feeding a team."

"When we were learning to water ski at Donner Lake, once my older brother Norm got up skiing, he turned to Mom and said, 'You're next!'" Steve laughed. "After a brief pause, Mom said, 'I can do this!' While technically she did get up her first attempt, it was not until her fifth try that she actually went on a long run. As she was getting into the boat, she was so tired and spent, but her eyes lit up when she looked at my dad, my brother and me and said, 'Was there any doubt?' I guarantee she would have tried 10 times had it been needed. She was such a gamer."

All four Lacy children went to Terra Nova High School and what they were enthused about, their folks were enthused about. Norm Jr. and Mike participated in football and wrestling, Steve played football and Charlotte took on leadership roles in high school.

"My mother was always very involved in her sons' football activities," Mike said, "and she helped start the Pacifica Pop Warner/Dolphins Football. She was also part of the original Booster Club at Terra Nova and along with my father and all the Boosters, led the effort for the stadium lights which were installed and first lit the field at Terra Nova in 1972."

On game days, the family woke up to their mom playing the Terra Nova Fight Song – same tune as "On Wisconsin."

"Every year on 'game day' mornings, my mom would be on the piano playing the Fight Song and it really fired us up," Mike noted. "Then after the game, there was always a 'Get-Together at the Lacys!' And my parents always put us to the test – not just their kids but those that came over. My dad would always ask, 'How did you do?' 'What was the score?' 'How many downs did you get?' Don't think you are just going to come over and suck down food and beverages! He wanted to know what happened. He wanted you to tell him about it. He wanted to make sure you were paying attention."

"In 1975 when I was a junior at Terra Nova," Mike continued, "the Terra Nova Tigers won the first Varsity Football Championship in school history. I've always given my mom some credit for that win and the enthusiasm she instilled in all of us, my brothers, myself and our teammates."

When Ingrid was inducted into Pacifica's Sports Hall of Fame, Tribune Sports Editor Mychael Urban noted that she was a "woman with boundless energy." He additionally wrote, "Along with being a teacher

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in the Laguna Salada Union School District for (at that point) 26 years, Ingrid played the dual role of coach and role model to thousands of Pacifica youngsters."

Urban went on to highlight a long list of Ingrid's valuable sports contributions, which along with those previously mentioned also included: directing the cheerleading unit at Ortega; leading the lunchtime intramural sports slate at Ortega which became the model for other schools in the area; introducing the Presidential Physical Fitness testing program in the LSUSD, for which she conducted a series of workshops in physical education for other Laguna Salada teachers; spending countless hours teaching and training students to participate in the track and field events of the Pacifica Junior Olympics program, which included helping the students develop positive attitudes and good sportsmanship; devoting more than 10 years to the Tigers Booster Club; and being active in the football and wrestling programs as well as spirit squads. Her family would also add, with the notation that this is still the short list, that Ingrid additionally taught parachute exercise classes, rhythmic gymnastics and dance classes – especially the Charleston – and was a lifelong member of CAPHERD, the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, where she conducted many workshops at state conferences.

Perhaps one of the immediate proofs of Ingrid's "sports legacy" was that her son Norm Jr. (1954-2010), a Terra Nova offensive lineman, received a full scholarship to the University of Southern California where he played on USC's junior varsity in 1972 and 1973, and was a member of "USC's 1975 and 1976 football teams after redshirting with the 1974 national championship Trojan squad." (From USC's News online.) Norm went on to coach football and in 2001, the Head Coach was named High School Football Coach of the Year.

The kids said their parents were a great match, and while their dad was quieter than their mom, he was attentive and very much there.

"Mom would call him a great father and a loving husband," Mike said. "He provided the world for his kids. We went camping every summer. We had the trail bikes, the motorcycles, and the ski boat with inner tubes. Every summer and every vacation was a fun-filled adventure."



Ingrid and Norm's home was open to so many. Instead of having teachers wait at school until Back to School Night started, the Lacys invited the teachers over. Then there was "Mrs. Lacy's Honor Roll." Students who made her Honor Roll were treated to various adventures that they still talk about. You might be brought to the Lacy home by bus and treated to the ice cream sundae of your dreams – with all the whip cream and toppings you could imagine. There were honor roll trips to the beach. In later years, she also led a number of 8th grade fundraisers that brought students to Hawaii. One year she brought students to Washington, D.C. (Throughout her Pacifica teaching career, Ingrid taught at: Westview, San Andreas, Ortega, Sanchez and Vallemar.)

"Those that knew my mom remember that she always wore her big, dark 'Hollywood' sunglasses at all the big events in a young person's life," Charlotte said. "She was so proud of her students, and her children, and her pride in what we all achieved made her very emotional. But we all knew how emotional she was – we knew why she was wearing those sunglasses! Many of her students called her

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'Mama Lace.' She was such a caring and generous teacher, and such a caring and generous mom. She truly brought out the best in all of us."

"Everyone knew that Ingrid got 'hooked' on her students right away," her husband said. "She certainly tried to involve the students in just about everything she did. Then she had these opportunities to escort kids on big trips to Hawaii and Washington, D.C. I went as well. Did I like it?" Norm laughed. "It's kind of a huge thing to escort kids and be responsible for them. But she liked it!"

On their own, Ingrid and Norm enjoyed a great deal of travel – throughout the United States, in Europe, the Caribbean and Mexico. She had a particular love for Hawaii. She loved meeting the people and learning about the history of the Islands. While her family noted that she enjoyed all kinds of music, "From Beethoven to jazz, Strauss through the classics, folk songs to opera," it was traditional Hawaiian music that held a special place in her heart.

Ingrid's career with the Laguna Salada Union School District spanned 31 years. Even after she officially retired from teaching, she supervised student teachers from San Francisco State on a part-time basis and continued to serve on the board of two educational foundations, the Laguna Salada Education Foundation and the Rob Schneider Music Foundation.



Ingrid leads the orchestra! Circa 1990.

"One of Ingrid's wonderful traits was that she had a sense of humor about herself," Ingrid's friend Pat Kennison said. "I think that was also one of her natural teaching attributes. I remember one time she came late to one of our AAUW (American Association of University Women) meetings. She looked at her shoes and broke out laughing because she was wearing one shoe from one pair of shoes and one from another pair. Apparently her shoes were in the closet in the room where her baby daughter was sleeping. So she went in and grabbed her shoes without turning the lights on and then headed to the meeting. I was president then and we all had a good laugh."

"My mom was always teaching and sharing her knowledge with all she met," Charlotte said. "She and my father are the ones who guided me to become the person I am today. My mom was my best friend. She would listen to me and she heard each word I said. She offered guidance when I needed it, help when I wanted it and consoled me when emotional issues arose. We would talk all the time. Oh, how I miss her daily calls. She deeply touched us all and will always be remembered by her family and friends."

"I made a good choice asking her out," Norm said. "It went all too fast."

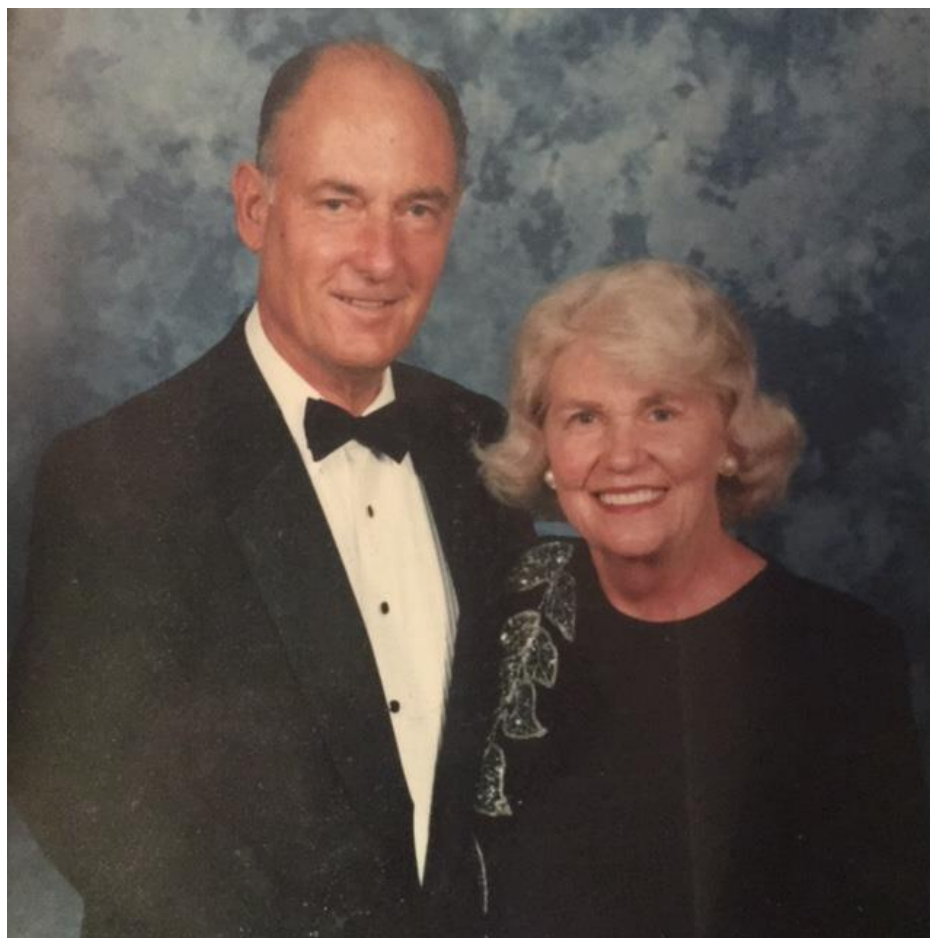
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Ingrid and Norm at home with their nine grandchildren. Circa 1994.



Ingrid and Norm, circa 1997.

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Ingrid Beate (Andersson) Lacy left this world on July 2, 1999. On September 15, 1999, the Trustees of the Laguna Salada Union School District unanimously named Pacifica's new middle school the Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School. Pacifica Tribune Education Correspondent Jane Northrop who reported on the matter wrote, *"There wasn't a dry eye in the house."*

Every member of the Board of Trustees got up and talked about how important Ingrid had been to the community of Pacifica. *"The highest honor is to name a school after someone who is exceptional about what they do,"* one Board member said. *"No school deserves better than to be named after Ingrid."*

Also among the crowd that came out to honor Ingrid were two of her fellow board members from the Laguna Salada Education Foundation (LSEF). They explained the function of the LSEF and highlighted Ingrid's 100 percent involvement.

"The LSEF funds grants for classroom projects, special assemblies or field trips, whatever a teacher wishes for a classroom enrichment activity. Sometimes it just pays for the basics – updated maps and dictionaries, for example, if needed."

"Ingrid had been on the LSEF Board since 1993," LSEF Treasurer Susan Stallard said. *"Ingrid had great vision for the whole district. She could see things from a global point of view. She set up the grant review committee and got educators together and made sure each grant was read by two of the educators. At our annual fundraising dinner, she would always take care of all the details. She was always encouraging us and keeping our spirits up. She had a great sense of humor."*

"Memorial donations for Ingrid have been coming in from all over Pacifica," Stallard went on to say, *"but also from Seattle, Georgia and Europe. A group of 30 retired educators made a donation. I think naming a middle school after her is wonderful."*

The president of LSEF, Jim Bauder, reiterated the sentiment of loss the entire community shares.

"I have mixed feelings because I know we're saying goodbye," he said. *"She challenged me and made me grow. She expected a lot of everybody, but no more than you could do. Having a middle school named after her means we are asking the students to grow and meet their highest potential and give as Ingrid Lacy has given to us."*

* * *

"My sister's hobbies were playing the piano, sports and people," Ingrid's brother said. *"She was a beacon of smiles, heart, soul and mind reaching out and connecting. People wanted to be near her. People remembered the times with her over the years, no matter where it was or who was involved in the memory. Since her death, people have told me about her drive, her wonderful gift of piano, her sports, her pride and her love for her family, her country and her community. Then there was her love of her profession and her students, as well as the love she had for her fellow teachers and all the teachers she had had in school that made such a difference in her life."*

"At her Celebration of Life, a local policeman came over to talk to me about my sister's influence on him," Walfrid continued. *"He told me he would always be eternally grateful to her. She turned his life around. Through her teaching influence, through her sports influence, she had gotten him on the right road of life. This is who my sister was."*

Along with being the proud wife of Norm Lacy, the dedicated mother of four children and nine grandchildren, and the devoted sister of a dear younger brother, Ingrid also left behind a legacy of three great grandchildren, to date, additional family here in the States and in Germany, numerous friends and a community that will never forget her.

Author: Jean Bartlett (www.bartlettbiographies.com)

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The story of Ingrid B. Lacy ~ This extraordinary teacher inspired a middle school's name (page 15)

In Ingrid's 1993 interview with Tribune Sports Editor Mychael Urban, Ingrid told Urban, *"If I could control the way people remember me, I would like them to recall a woman who gave a lot of enthusiasm, encouragement and love to kids."*

* * *

All of Ingrid's family and all of her friends have made it clear that there is just too much to say about this extraordinary woman who made such a difference in their lives. But a story her son Mike told, really offers a message to all from this boundless encourager.

"When I was growing up, it seemed Pacifica was always foggy. Sometimes in the summer, because of the fog, I would just be sitting around. And my mom would say, 'What are you going to do today?' And I would say, 'I don't know, it's foggy.' And she would say, 'Never judge the day by the weather. You make something out of this day.'"



Jean Bartlett photo



Jean Bartlett is a longtime Bay Area features writer: Pacifica Tribune, Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury, San Mateo Times, Portraits & Roots, Marin Independent Journal, Twin City Times, Ross Valley Reporter, Peninsula Progress, Coastal Connections, Contra Costa County Times, Bay Area Business Woman and Catholic San Francisco.

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