

## Bill Purdy



I married Beverly Benson in 1960 (class of 1959), Bob Benson's sister. Our son Fred was born in 1961 and our daughter Sue in 1964. We have four grandchildren ranging in age from 13-19. Our oldest granddaughter is a sophomore at Penn State, our second granddaughter is a freshman at Aquinas College, and our two grandsons are in high school.

During the early years, I attended U of D, School of Engineering at night while working for a forging company in Detroit. I was hired as a draftsman, promoted to Plant Engineer, VP of Operations and finally President. The board of directors made the decision in 1988 to close that company and liquidate its assets. With the closing of that company, I made the decision to start my own Forging and Machining Company, which is Quality Steel Products. I started in a small rented office in Farmington Hills, MI with four employees pledging all of my assets. The company grew and in 1990 I purchased land in Milford Township and built my first building. In 1994 I purchased additional land and built the second building in the same Industrial Park. Today I employ 60 people and occupy 60,000 sf. We supply to the Automotive, Defense, Railroad, Conveyor and other miscellaneous industries. I would like to sell my business and retire, but every time I get close, I find a reason not to.

My activities have changed over the years from flying, racing formula cars, scuba diving, skiing, racket ball and tennis to a more sedate activity; golf. I have owned and piloted three airplanes, now the skies are safe again, Bill is on the ground.

In 1994, Bev and I designed and built our present home in Brighton, MI on Brighton Lake. Our initial plan was to build a 4,000 sf house, but by the time we finished it, it turned out to be 8,500 sf. We both take much pride in our home and dread the day that it will be too much for us to take care of and have to leave it .. "getting old sucks."

Eight years ago I was diagnosed with colon cancer, fortunately it was diagnosed early enough that it was successful and surgically removed without treatment. Three years ago I had both of my knees replaced, one was damaged due to a football injury from SHS, the other from playing racket ball, that operation was totally successful. Otherwise now I'm in good health.

Beverly and I vacation in Hawaii, island of Kauai, each February and have for the past 37 years. With the exception of two years when they had devastating hurricanes and the year of my cancer operation. We usually vacation in Europe in either September or October, we leave for France on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Well that's a thumbnail sketch of where life has taken me since the years we all knew one another, but I look forward to getting reacquainted at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in October.