



Ed Acton

Died: January 27, 2025

Ed was raised in the farming community of Morgan Hill, CA. In 1947 he enrolled at Stanford where he earned his B.S. in Chemistry. He accepted a position at Merck & Co. in New Jersey, 30 minutes by train from New York City where, on weekends, he enjoyed exploring its many cultural activities. After several years, he enrolled in the graduate program at MIT and was awarded his doctorate in Synthetic Organic Chemistry.

When Ed felt it was time to return to California, he found Stanford Research Institute was actively hiring lab staff to work on contracts from the National Cancer Institute for synthesis of potential new cancer drugs. This work at SRI led to 89 scientific papers and 18 patents. Ed left SRI in 1986 and went to the University of Texas where he was a tenured professor of medicinal chemistry. An opportunity arose for him to go to the National Cancer Institute in Maryland where he was in the extramural program in cancer drug development for over three years. He feels he was very fortunate to have been in the "right place at the right time" during his career.

Ed sang in two choirs at Stanford, at the Palo Alto Methodist Church and, currently, at the First Congregational Church. He has traveled with choirs as most of his outside interests and travels have been music-related. Ed, a bachelor, has no children but is quite close to his English cousins, often traveling with them.

3/17/2005