



Shirley Blake
5/18/1930 to 12/12/2020

Shirley was born in Utah but grew up in Elko, Nevada, and graduated from high school there. At an early age, she started traveling by train with her mother. When she graduated from high school, they spent the summer traveling on 13 different rail lines across the US and Canada. When she graduated from the University of Utah with an English degree, she toured Europe with friends. She then taught high school English in Salt Lake City before moving to California.

Taking a year between studies in college, Shirley worked at an Army Ordnance Depot in Utah where she met Bill Blake, her future husband. He left for Army service in Japan, during which time Shirley moved to Palo Alto. Later Bill moved there and they were married in Carmel in 1956. Shirley then worked for SRI for five years in the physics department, and then at Ampex for another five years. The Blakes also lived in Weston, Connecticut; Erie, Pennsylvania; San Carlos, and Saratoga for 25 years before moving to SRC in 2005.

Through the years Bill and Shirley travelled a great deal to Europe, Asia, Australia and took the river trips of Europe, including Russia and the Yangtze. Shirley traveled alone around the world. Her most memorable trips were flying on the Concorde from Europe, riding the Orient Express across Russia and visiting China five times. Her interests have been golf, theater and reading. Bill developed Alzheimers and moved to Memory Care in 2012 and to the Health Care Center in 2013, where he is now and where Shirley spends part of every day with him.

Joined SRC: January 2005
Revised: January 2016