

Burt Weichenthal Update

January 2015

Soon after my retirement on July 31, 2000, Phyllis and I moved to Granite Bay, CA to be near our daughter and her husband, Susan and Jerry Oliaro, so we could watch our two grandchildren grow up. We attended many school and sports events along the way. Blake graduated cum laude in Mechanical Engineering last May from the University of San Diego. He was a defensive end in football there, and was named to the 2013 Capital One Academic All-America Division 1 First Team (along with Spencer Long from UNL). Tessa is a sophomore at Chapman University, near Los Angeles and Disneyland. She is an environmental science major, on the lacrosse team, and a Student Ambassador for the University.

When I retired, I had been working with agronomists David Baltensperger and Ken Vogel, as well as Jim Krall at the University of Wyoming Research and Extension Center at Torrington. We studied productivity and nutritive contents of annual forages in the high plains region. I collected multi-year samples for lab analyses in Lincoln. Some results were not yet available when I was ready to move. I made a few trips back after I left to work on data summaries. Eventually, a paper was published in the *Professional Animal Scientist* with the title of "Case Study: Nutrient Values of Spring and Summer Annual Forages in a Single Cut Harvest." This effort was a good transition for me into retirement.

For our home, we chose a quiet lane (dead-end road) with lots of oak trees, some pine trees, and a pond located on our three acres. Ashby Lane is in a sub-division zoned for similar-sized units, so it has a feel of country living, though we are not far from lots of people and traffic. There are granite boulders above and below ground, which is good because this adds stability to the ground; no earthquakes have been recorded here. However, this is bad if trees and shrubs are to be planted because a spade will often hit underground boulders or decomposed granite so that another location must be selected. The "Bay" in Granite Bay refers to the bay on the Folsom Reservoir behind Folsom Dam and Folsom Prison, near where we live.

We live east of Sacramento, where the Sierra Foothills begin and about 40 miles east of Davis, CA. Phyllis and I stay busy with the care of our home and property, with family activities, and with musical events. I sing in two barbershop choruses, and serve as president of one and treasurer of the other. I am in a quartet to deliver orders for Singing Valentines. Phyllis retired from about sixty years as a church organist and fulfilled a long-held desire to compose a symphony. She also orchestrated it. On March 13, 2014, it was performed by the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra at the Robert Mondavi Center for Performing Arts as a student project. We often go there to hear symphony orchestras from around the world. Good music is good for the soul!

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