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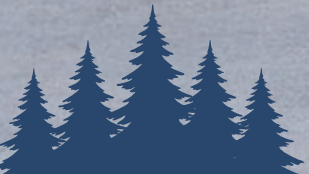
Hayden Lake

Neighbors



*Meet
Bill & Linda
Smith:*

**Celebrating 30 Years
in Forest Hills**



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Photography By Luba

An exclusive magazine serving the neighborhoods around one of the most beautiful lakes in North Idaho.



By Carly Agnew
Photography By Luba

Meet Bill & Linda Smith

Bill and Linda's love story began in 1975 at a Marie Callender's restaurant in Toluca Lake, California. It was there that Bill, having designed and contributed to the fixtures of many such establishments, would frequently stop by on his way home from work. Little did he know that one of these routine visits would lead to a chance encounter with Linda, setting the stage for a beautiful romance to unfold. Two years later, on July 22, 1978, they exchanged vows and embarked on their journey together.

The arrival of their two daughters, Summer and Chelsea, is etched in their hearts as favorite memories. From witnessing their daughters blossom into remarkable young women to embracing the joys of grandparenthood, Bill and Linda have treasured every moment spent together as a family.

Summer, their eldest daughter, is an Architect at Miller Stauffer & Associates in Coeur d'Alene. Her husband, Jason Oman, is an Electrical Engineer in Liberty Lake. Their second daughter, Chelsea, is a dedicated work-from-home mother whose husband, Sean Nokes, serves as a Captain/Paramedic with the Spokane Valley Fire Department. Bill and Linda are thrilled to have their daughters, sons-in-law and four grandchildren (Finnian, Lochlan, Brodie and Lexi) living just a few miles away. They feel blessed to be able to spend time with them often.

Bill was drafted into the Army in 1963. Following basic training, he was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where he underwent training in Airborne electronics. He developed skills in operating and repairing radar systems, primarily focusing on the sophisticated equipment of the Mohawk aircraft. This ignited a deep passion for aviation and Bill eventually purchased a Beechcraft Bonanza, which he took to the skies for nearly two decades.

After attending Cerritos College in Norwalk, Bill joined a company specializing in custom restaurant equipment. He assumed the role of Director of Design at Elster's, a division of the Hyatt Corporation, where he dedicated years to crafting innovative designs



and fixtures for restaurants all across the country, including a few here in North Idaho.

Bill and Linda's transition to Forest Hills marked the beginning of a new chapter. Their love for outdoor activities and desire to get out of California played a pivotal role in their decision to move.

Originally considering Colorado as their new home, plans changed when Bill's younger brother, who was his best friend and hunting/fishing buddy, passed away due to a heart condition.

Bill and Linda discovered North Idaho's captivating allure on a hunting trip with one of Bill's clients. Impressed by the rugged beauty and serene landscapes of the area, Bill's client purchased a ranch north of Priest River for retirement. He hired Bill to design a stunning log trophy room addition and oversee the remodeling of the existing house on the ranch.

Bill and Linda entertained the idea of relocating to the Gem State when this client offered them a five-acre parcel of land along the river. Tempting as the offer was, they ultimately declined when they discovered Forest Hills, the ideal blend of natural beauty, community, and serenity that resonated with their vision of home.

Their's being the third or fourth home built in the new neighborhood, Bill and Linda have now lived in Forest Hills for over thirty years. They say living in a gated community has its perks, including peaceful walks with their dog and the chance to get some exercise without dodging traffic.



A house designed by Bill Smith.



Since moving here, Bill has been self employed and designed dozens of homes, most of which are in Hayden Lake and Hayden communities. During that time, he's had the pleasure of serving as the architectural advisor for Hayden Lake Country Club Estates. Just recently, Bill took on another big project, redesigning a home for a couple of snowbirds.

Bill and Linda are proud owners of a special rescue dog named "Moose," a Chocolate Labrador/Husky who loves to run. To accommodate Moose's energetic nature, Bill used to take him on a leash beside his golf cart. He said, "It was the only way I could keep up with him." Reflecting on their changing pace of life, Bill humorously remarks, "We are now much older and have slowed down."

Linda has a passion for decorating and entertaining that extends beyond the Christmas season and enjoys infusing her home with festive touches throughout the year. Whether it's pastel hues and bunny rabbits for Easter or rich golds and deep reds for the fall, Linda delights in creating inviting atmospheres for gatherings with friends and family.

Bill has been a member of the Avondale Golf Club for nearly three decades and won several tournaments including Senior Low Gross Champion at the Coeur d' Alene Golf Club in 2016. With a passion for golf spanning six decades, Bill's love for the game remains unwavering. In addition to golf, Bill and Linda enjoy playing pickleball several times a week at Peak in Hayden.

Bill also loves wood carving. Over the years, he has meticulously carved numerous fireplace mantels and other wooden pieces including the Praying Hands doors for a local church and an etched-glass entry system with a carved bull elk on the door.

Recently, Linda embarked on an unforgettable adventure with seven of her friends—a photographic safari to Africa. Amidst breathtaking landscapes and majestic wildlife, she found herself captivated by the endearing sight of baby elephants. Getting the chance to bottle feed them at a sanctuary, Linda couldn't help but dream of bringing one home with her.

To commemorate her trip, Bill carved a stunning piece for Linda that he calls "The Journey." Describing this wood carving Bill said, "It features a bull elephant followed by the baby getting a gentle nudge and guidance from its mother."

Bill and Linda look forward to the years ahead where they eagerly anticipate watching their grandchildren flourish and creating new memories in the place they proudly call home.

As they reflect on their journey, Bill and Linda express gratitude to their neighbors for enriching their lives with friendship, support, and shared memories and they want to thank you for making their 30 years in Forest Hills so rewarding.

