

Interview with Judy Murray, Irish Beach Water District bookkeeper, former office manager, former Director, etc., etc.

By Ken Weston



Judy with her great granddaughter, Amaris Rose.

I recently sat down with Judy Murray to learn about her 20+ years with the Irish Beach Water District, serving in various roles or combinations of roles, including Director, Treasurer, and bookkeeper. Her lengthy service here is the culmination of a lifetime of public service in accounting and bookkeeping roles.

She graduated from Fresno State University in 1968 with a degree in Accounting. While serving Napa County in the late 90s, she read an ad in the San Francisco Chronicle about a house in Irish Beach. She made the trip and bought the house promptly. She relocated to the coast in 2001, having accepted an accounting position with Point Arena School District.

She recalled her first direct involvement with the Irish Beach Water District was running an election in or about 2003. The district needed a treasurer, and she had the skills. She was sworn in by the County Board of Supervisors and served as a Director until 2017. At times, she was Treasurer, and at other times the bookkeeper. She also served as an office manager, and as I listened to her story, I couldn't help but feel that if the water district had needed some other business expertise, she would have gladly provided it. When she hesitated to specify a singular top achievement in her 20 years of service to Irish Beach Water District, I sensed that her most satisfying times appeared to be related more to the “who” than the “what.”

The people she served with is a virtual Who's Who of Irish Beach Water District history: Frame, Whitaker, Poling, Jassowski, Harley, Heinzer, Ellison, Terry, Acker, Rogers, DeVaul, Cong, Fromwiller, Sackman, Emrick, and Dial. Indeed, as she formulated her answer, she lauded the teams' respect, fellowship, and accomplishments more than any task or project.

Her lengthy list of projects, challenges, and accomplishments made clear she felt directly involved in the teamwork that secured the district's future through her professional skills and flexibility. A somber pride in her sense of ethics shone through.

She beamed as she spoke about her son and daughter, her six grandchildren and her great granddaughter. She mirthfully quipped that “old accountants never die; they just lose their balance.” But she has hers yet and is happy to serve.

Thanks Judy.