

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DOMINION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

# THE DOMINION

JANUARY 2016



**WILDLIFE RESCUE & REHABILITATION**  
THE STORY BEHIND THE ORGANIZATION

**DOMINION DINES**  
PERRY'S STEAKHOUSE & GRILLE

**ART OF THE DOMINION**  
SEE THE AMAZING, ARTISTIC TALENTS OF RESIDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

*an unshakeable foundation*

A PUBLICATION OF:

**THE DOMINION**  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

**DOMINION**  
*Country Club*

# an unshakeable foundation

BY PEGGY SCHOOLEY

Sometimes it seems that romance, true romance, happens only in faraway places under moonlit skies, where your eyes are filled with the image of only one very special person. We can imagine that happening in 1969 on the Spanish island of Mallorca, where two beautiful young college students serendipitously plan on a summer abroad to become fluent in Spanish. That describes exactly how Art Burdick, a handsome young man from Marquette University, met Pam Hardee, a co-ed from the University of Texas at Austin. As they tell the story, that first love they found on that island shines brightly through their words in 2015. You are probably not surprised that neither of them spent much time learning Spanish.



Pam was raised in Athens, Texas; a daughter of an attorney, who was a former State Legislator while in Law School at the University of Texas. Upon returning to Athens, her father was elected District Attorney, and then District Judge. As Pam saw it, "Having a District Judge as a dad was pretty intimidating to my high school boyfriends!" She was raised in a Democratic, Methodist family of people centered and focused on helping their communities. Her great-uncle was US Senator Ralph Yarborough, and the Democratic perspective was her family's philosophy. Uncle Ralph was extremely influential as a US Senator, and instrumental in the legislation to create the National Cancer Institute.

Pam also states with a laugh "Being the daughter of a Judge in a small Texas town wasn't always easy! I had to be on my best behavior all the time!"

At this same time, Art Burdick was growing up in a suburb of Chicago. The eldest of five children, he had chosen to attend Marquette University. In the summer of 1969, he traveled to Europe with a group of fraternity brothers, on the pretext of earning six hours of language credit, thinking Mallorca would be a wonderful place to learn Spanish. However, as

they explained, "We met at the snack bar in the basement of the school on July 4th." The following day, Art asked Pam to go out, and the first date was on Pam's 20th birthday. Pam recalls how Art impressed her and her eight roommates when he arrived with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Art's response? "I knew from the very start that she was the girl for me!"

Pam continues "Art asked me to marry him seven days after we met" to which she replied "No way! I'm young and free, and plan to enjoy that for a long while!" Even with that refusal, Art and Pam exclaim they had a wonderful summer on that idyllic island and spent much time at the beach. Pam's relief was that "Thankfully, we both received six hours college credit!"

At summer's end, Art returned to Marquette, and Pam to Austin. Even that didn't last long. Art quickly came to Athens and met with the Hardee family who were concerned that

"ART ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM SEVEN DAYS AFTER WE MET"

Art was Catholic, a Yankee, and worst of all, a REPUBLICAN! Yet Art's charm - and Pam's obvious love - eventually overcame most objections they may have had. Art relays that his family - especially his younger brother and sister - thought Pam's "Hi y'all!" was hysterically funny, and they loved her from the very first meeting. Art transferred from Marquette to the University of Texas, where they graduated in 1971.

While at UT Austin, Art said "I realized I wanted to become a developer. I searched for opportunities in Austin, but couldn't find any." He expanded his search into the San Antonio area, with the rationale that it's close to Austin. "We'll get some experience, make some contacts, and return to Austin in a couple of years!"

Instead, they fell in love with the city of San Antonio and never considered relocating. Art was also blessed with a development job with Schaefer Homes. Soon after, John Schaefer commenced efforts to relocate The Dallas Chaparrals to San Antonio. Schaefer, along with Red McCombs and Angelo Drossos, succeeded in relocating the Dallas Chaparrals to San Antonio, and renamed the team the San Antonio Spurs. Art invested in the new team and was placed on the Board and Executive Committee due to the fact that "coming from Chicago & Milwaukee, I had attended more professional basketball games than all the San Antonio Spurs' owners combined!" It also helped that John Schaefer was the Chairman. "John placed me there", Art explained, "I was like a kid in a candy store. Well, this was a long time ago and the Spurs weren't what they are today."

Originally, Art was focused on the development side of the Schaefer business, but in 1973, he was asked to join into the building enterprise as well. The Schaefer-Burdick partnership was formed and later became the 3rd largest home builder in San Antonio. "At our peak in 1982, we became the 130th largest builder in the U.S., building 250 homes annually in San Antonio and 100 in El Paso. The late 1980s were extremely difficult in the building business. John Schaefer wanted to focus on tract building while Art saw more opportunity building homes for affluent buyers, and they ended their 17 year relationship in 1988.

While Art was busy with his development business, Pam developed her own career. She completed her BA at the University of Texas, and continued through her MA in Educational Psychology from UTSA. Pam, a Licensed Professional Counselor, was the college prep counselor at Antonian High School for three years. In 1984, Pam became a real estate broker, and managed upwards of 150 residential properties

in the San Antonio area. Pam also spent three years as an agent in The Dominion Sales Pavilion. Once Art began Burdick Custom Homes, Pam became the listing broker for their homes. Art stated "What really helped was that Pam already had established an amazing reputation in the marketplace, great contacts, and the ability to get our fledgling company quickly off the starting line." Using their separate skills, Art handled the land acquisitions, administrative duties, and financial details. Pam handled the marketing aspects of the firm, realtor relations, and design coordination. Pam stated "I remain the Burdick Custom Homes listing broker, but I am otherwise retired from the business."

She is not, however, retired from making a difference in her community. In these same years, Pam has been in the forefront of helping women in their careers. She was a member of the San Antonio Board of Realtors, as well as the Women's Council of Realtors, in which she was ultimately elected as their President. She was a member, and later President of The Dominion Women's Forum. In 2013, she was the President of the Cancer Therapy Research Center Council. Interestingly enough, Pam mentioned "the CTRC is one of only four National Cancer Institute designated centers in Texas - the very bill introduced by my Great-Uncle Ralph Yarborough!" Her CTRC commitment has been for three years, but Pam says it has brought her immense pleasure to be able to help eradicate cancer in any way she can. She stated that after her mother's death from complications of bladder cancer she hoped to "live long enough to make a significant contribution to the fight against cancer." Pam says with great pride "I have, I did, and I'm blessed." The passion started by Senator Yarborough, fortified by the loss of her mom to this terrible disease, led Pam to be able to make a difference with her own passion. The CTRC Council has just named Pam its Volunteer of the Year for 2015.

Continuing on with a more personal insight to their relationship, Art and Pam explain "Our passions diverge." Art loves to sail, scuba dive, and snow ski; and Pam really doesn't. Art states "Pam is a gourmet cook, and I like to eat!" She is also a voracious reader, belonging to three book clubs. All things work together for good. "We both love to travel, and in the last 12 months we have been to Europe twice, Argentina, and Asia." They also enjoy numerous trips to Seattle to visit their son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. Art and Pam also recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Just as proud as Pam is of her work with charitable and civic organizations, Art is equally proud that he was Chairman of the Building Committee for

# ART BURDICK: PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY



the Casa de Padres, a retirement home for priests, built under the auspices of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The Casa de Padres recently celebrated its 25th anniversary since the home opened, and Art is as proud of that today as he was then. The opportunity to make a difference for these priests has meant a lot to him. Art's lengthy resume (see sidebar) demonstrates that he has never slowed his focus on his industry, his community, and the organizations in our area that make real differences. Most recently, Art oversaw the building of the Burdick Community Center for Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives in Boerne. "I am very grateful for the numerous contributions made by our friends in The Dominion to help make this facility a reality."

When asked to describe how they selected The Dominion as home, Art relays "We planned to build a home in Oakwell Farms near Alamo Heights, until our friend Gene Canavan invited us to come to The Dominion 'just to look around.'" Art recalls the presentations and lot sales were occurring in an air conditioned tent, and there wasn't much to see other than beautiful grounds. He and Pam thought that while it "was a long way out of town and inconvenient, we really liked all of the people that we met who were purchasing lots and would become our neighbors." They selected a lot on the golf course and began building. The Burdicks stated "We are in our sixth home in The Dominion, and we plan to never leave our friends or our Dominion community."

"Our son, Brian, grew up here. He and his buddies attended the golf and tennis summer camps at The Club, and utilized the fairways as their playground." Brian attended Hobby and Clark prior to heading to UT Austin, and then joined Microsoft after college. He left Microsoft after 12 years, yet still resides in Seattle where he has his own "startup" company.

Art reflects that he was on the original Board of Directors for the Country Club, and that only he and John Peveto remain in The Dominion from that group. Art has also served on the Dominion Homeowners Association Board, and is currently on the Architectural Control Committee and the Development Committee. Pam served on the Board of Governors at The Country Club in the early 2000s.

Pam concluded with the perfect statement: "We've built more than 185 Burdick Custom Homes in our own Dominion neighborhood. We've done right by them, they are all our friends... we are TRULY blessed!" **D**

## PROFESSIONAL

- Began Real Estate/Building career in San Antonio in 1972
- Recognized nationally in 1980 as one of the "Outstanding Young Builders"
- Elected President of Greater San Antonio Builders Association - 1981
- Started Burdick Custom Homes in 1989
- Nominated for "America's Best Builders" Award - 1996
- Nominated for "The Lee Evans National Award for Management Excellence" - 1996
- Named "Builder of the Year" in 2011 by Greater S A Builders Association
- Has built over 2,200 new homes in 40 plus years of homebuilding
- Has developed over 1,250 residential lots

## CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Greater San Antonio Builders Association
- Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives Foundation
- Dominion Development Committee
- San Antonio Blood & Tissue Foundation

## FORMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Chairman of Board of Dominion Country Club
- Prudential Grand Champions Tennis Tournament
- Casa de Padres (Chairman of Building Committee)
- Northeast YMCA
- Texas Association of Builders
- National Association of Home Builders
- San Antonio Board of Realtors
- Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Spurs
- Community Title Company
- San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department
- San Antonio Economic Development Foundation
- Incarnate Word College
- Roy Maas Youth Alternatives
- UTSA Athletic Advisory Board

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

- Greater San Antonio Builders Association
- San Antonio Board of Realtors
- National Association of Home Builders
- Texas Association of Builders
- The Dominion Architectural Control Committee