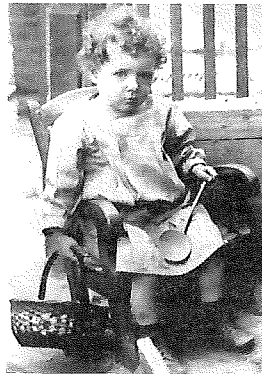


Silver Fox of the Month

The Dutch Masters have nothing on our Silver Fox of the Month, Margaret (Greet Smeets) Stommel. She has five brothers and a son who are artists, as was her husband, Frank, who passed on in 2007. A sister also works in tapestries. Their works are prominently displayed throughout Margaret's house, and a visit requires that you see the gallery.



Age 2

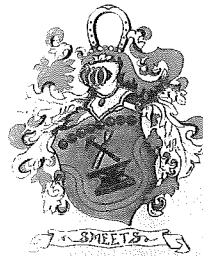


Age 10 with Dries



Nurse

Margaret (born in Ottersum, Holland, number seven with eight brothers and two sisters) met Frank (born in Amsterdam) through his sister, who attended Home Economics School with her. They were married at De Sint Jan Church in Van's Hertogenbosch on August 8, 1945. Their three sons (Paul, Bob, and Peter) were born in Amsterdam, while their three daughters (Angelique, Josine, and Miriam) were born in Beek-Ubbergen. All were born at home.



Smeets Family Crest

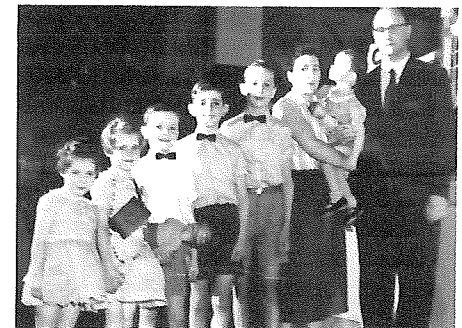


House in Holland

The Stommels, dreading the thought of their children growing up and moving away from them, decided to emigrate the family to the U.S. in 1956. The National Catholic Welfare Conference, which had promised them a job and housing, failed to come through, and they had to live in a hotel for ten days before renting a one-bedroom house complete with cockroaches for \$80 a month in San Diego. Larger houses were unavailable because no one wanted to rent to such a large family.



Frank, Greet, & Josee

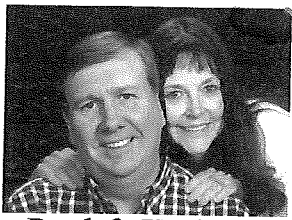


Coming to America  
Josine, Angelique, Peter, Bob,  
Paul, Greet, Miriam, & Frank

Frank worked at several different jobs before moving to Fresno with the help of a friend, Father Zegward. Trained in textiles, he eventually became manager of the decorating department at Sears, Fresno. He had to retire with total



Miriam, Josine, Angelique, Peter,  
Bob, Paul, Greet, & Frank



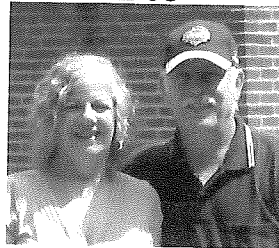
Paul & Kathleen



Jane & Bob



Peter & Susan



Angelique & Don



Mike & Josine



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Merenti Medal



Camille & Miriam

disability in 1976 because of back injuries suffered while digging foundations for houses in an earlier job. Meanwhile, Margaret worked as a nurse at St. Agnes Hospital for fifteen years, retiring when Frank did.

Margaret has ten grandchildren: eight girls (Shelley, Vicki, Melissa, Jennifer, Sarah, Hayley, Alicia, and Kristin), and two boys (Todd and Chad), and nineteen great-grandchildren, with one more due early next year.

The dream of keeping their family together is almost realized as they are all in the same country. However, Peter now lives in Idaho.

In addition to their travels in Holland and the U.S., the Stommels have been to Belgium, Germany, England, Austria, Hungary, Spain, Italy, and Czechoslovakia, as well as Canada and Mexico. Margaret is also a frequent traveler with Silver Foxes.

Margaret's hobbies include knitting, traveling, listening to classical music, and working jig-saw puzzles.

Daily Mass attendees Frank and Margaret were presented with the Benemerenti Medal (instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832 and conferred on those who have exhibited long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and community) in 1999. It has the word *benemerenti* (to a well deserving person) on its face.

Silver Foxes are very blessed to have Margaret in our midst.



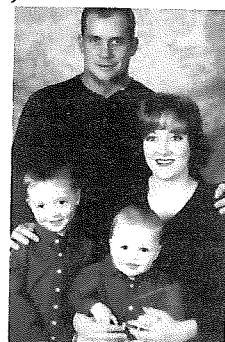
Shelley, Vicki, Melissa, Jennifer, & Sarah



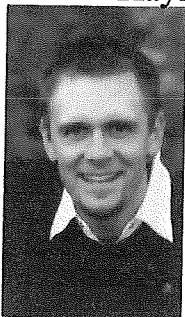
Hayley



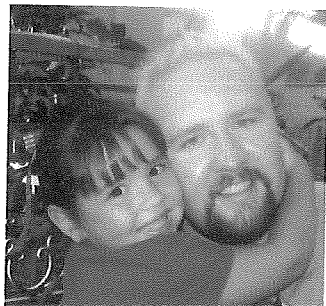
Gabriel & Alicia



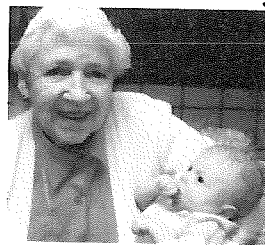
Kent, Kristin,  
Paul & Zachary



Todd



Sydney & Chad



Greet & Robbin