

Bill and Benge Bachelor

Bill and Benge Bachelor have called Northridge their home since 1950. Bill graduated from Dixie H.S. in 1939 and Benge from Brookville in 1944. Bill served in the Marine Corps during WW II and again during the Korean conflict. He spent most of his working life as an insurance claims adjuster, retiring in 1983. After seeing their three children into school, Benge began substitute teaching at Northridge in 1959. At the same time she was working toward her degree in education at WSU, which she earned in 1971. She spent the next fifteen years teaching for the New Carlisle-Bethel school system, retiring in 1986. In the meantime, she earned a Master's Degree in Education with honors from WSU in 1976.

Bill and Benge were active in the Northridge schools and in the community while their three children made their way through the schools. Bill helped form the Northridge Amateur Athletic Association and served as their first president. He formed a boys' bowling league at Pastime Lanes and coached boys' baseball and girls' softball teams. Beginning in 1959 Bill served three terms on the Northridge Board of Education. He also served as Director of the Dayton Bowling Association and still bowls twice a week. The Dayton Claim Adjusters Association dedicated their directory in his honor in 1996.

Benge served as a den mother and room mother and was a member of the PTA. She formed a girls' bowling league at Pastime Lanes. She was a member of the Mothers' Athletic Association from 1959 to 1971 and served as their president for two years. While teaching at New Carlisle-Bethel, Benge belonged to the various professional teaching organizations. She was a building representative and was secretary of the local teachers association for two years.

Bill and Benge were married in 1944, while Bill was on military leave. They have three children, all of whom graduated from Northridge High School. Rick was born in 1945, Steve in 1948, and Toni in 1953. All three were active in sports and other activities, and all three were president of their class at one time or another. Rick is on the Celina city council; Steve lives in Butler Township; and Toni followed in her father's footsteps, in that she also served on the Board of Education. Her son Josh is an NHS graduate.

Bill's sister, Mae Lotterer, served as the Northridge Schools nurse for about thirty years, and Mae's three daughters are NHS graduates.