



# Harry H. Hicks

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019



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DIAMOND HEAD MORTUARY  
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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 9
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 11



## Harry H. Hicks

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019

# H

arry H. Hicks 1920-2019 R I P

POLO has lost another member of America's Greatest Generation

Harry died on 28 June 2019 in San Miguel..... Harry touched many lives.

Harry was a strong two goal poloist at the Menlo Polo Club for many years, founder of Condominium project at Santa Barbara polo Club and a big supporter of polo everywhere. Was a close friend with the Royal Polo family in Johor Malaysia where he was knighted there. Once owned a small country in Africa ... really . Harry served a member of OSS during WW II. Harry final last days were spent in San Miguel Mexico

Harry and his wife Dede have been living in San Miguel Mexico  
no services planned to date

He will be buried next to his polo son Roland Hicks at the Golden Gate Cemetery near SFO ( Roland Hicks USN Viet War ...born 1945 died 2007)  
more info later please pray for Harry

(September 27, 1920) and date of death (June 28, 2019) ~ Harry Hicks ~ Y. B. Dato Harry H. Hicks, S.P.M.J. (Sri Paduka Mahkota Johor)

Harry H. Hicks was born in Oakland, California on September 27, 1920 in his Grandmother Adella Fischer's house at 449 East 59th Street. He is the son of Henry & May Hicks. Harry's father, Harry Sr., was orphaned early in life, had only a 3rd grade education, was credited with helping hundreds of men in their business careers, rose to the Vice-Presidency of New York Life



## Obituary

**Harry H. Hicks**

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019

Insurance Company and was both a friend and trusted advisor to President Herbert Hoover. He instilled in his son the ideals of independence and integrity.

By nine years of age, Harry was a “Packer & Guide,” leading groups on horseback & pack mules through the passes of the High Sierras in California. At eleven, at the request of local school principals, he gave lectures in area schools on his extensive nature collections (from wildlife to insects and minerals). As an early teen he joined the Sea Scouts, traveling the Bay and Coastal waters of California. At 15 he left a note on the dining room table announcing that he and a friend “have gone to Mexico and will write,” later to admit that they’d “been gone longer than expected.” That followed with another trip to Mexico the next year with “Joe the Bug”, a well-known entomologist. Many of the rare insects they collected on this trip became valued additions to the California Academy of Sciences collections. At one point in the trip Harry became quite ill, probably a brain fever, walking delirious in the jungle at night and collapsing, to be found, nursed, brought back to health by a tribe of Indigenous Indians and left where they found him on a trail four days later. Joe the Bug was packing up to leave as he thought Harry had died. This did not please Harry, but not as much as if he had suffered the reverse.

After a short move to Michigan with his Mother and Father, and graduating from Gross Point High School, in 1939 Harry entered and then graduated from Stanford University in 1943. Being a little short in necessities while in school, and aware that his father had told him that he would supply the pick (education) and Harry would have to supply the shovel, he telegraphed: “Dear Dad, How sad; Thanksgiving misgivings, would you miss giving? Kiss giving, Harry.” The reply was “Dear Son, You are on your own. Affectionately, Dad.” Harry had seven jobs by that weekend, and by graduation ran the catering and Coke concessions for all events on the Stanford campus. This was the beginning of his very successful business career. Later, when Harry became an investor, he made a point of assisting start-up companies and entrepreneurs in socially oriented companies.

During World War II, Harry was one of six pilots (out of approximately 600) asked to volunteer for extremely hazardous missions and projects. As part of the assignment, Harry became a “Brodie Pilot” attached to the War College in Washington D.C. under the O.S S., and was highly trained to fly a plane in ways that were contrary to normal patterns but essential for their missions. This secret mission was to fly to the Japanese coast with small LST planes equipped with first television cameras to direct the fleets fire. All pilots were told if they lived seven minutes they



## Obituary

**Harry H. Hicks**

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019

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would have done their duty. However the mission never happened due to the atomic bombs dropped on Japan, ending the war.

Cecilia and Harry at dedication ceremony Santa Barbara Polo fields with deed

Photo of ground breaking ceremony of Santa Barbara Polo fields condo project with Roland Hicks

Harry has survived two plane crashes, one during WWII. In one instance, while flying over the mountains, he landed a plane that was on fire on a 45 degree incline, skimming a rising slope (as there was no flat land) until the plane stalled. After impact at about 35 mph, and after saving the lives of his three passengers with his skillful piloting, Harry pulled the one injured passenger to safety (while he himself was hurt) just before the plane exploded.

Harry had one child, Roland, just before the War, with his first wife Beatrice, a beautiful French Moroccan ballerina. Harry later married his wife of 37 years, Cecilia Bergeda. They met while at the "Gaeties," Stanford's Annual Big Game stage performance and show, where they danced a "fancy ballroom dance number" together. The couple married in 1951, living first in Menlo Park before designing and building a remarkable home in Portola Valley's Westridge area. Cecilia, was an outstandingly talented, beautiful and intelligent woman, majored in drama and graduated from Stanford in 1944. She then moved to Los Angeles, where she became a director at the Pasadena Playhouse, and gave play readings and produced staged productions for worthy causes. She worked in various capacities from directing to story selection for Universal Studios and other major studios. At one time, in order to get background for a movie on the newspaper business, she took a job as a copy girl at the Los Angeles Times and within one week was made their night editor, which she enjoyed for several months, until the studios demanded she return.

Mr. Hicks and his partner purchased Peninsula Lumber Co., where he invented a double-sided, redwood fence without knots (very popular with sub-divisions) that allowed neighbors to share the costs, called the "H" fence. His businesses grew to include full landscaping services, installation of swimming pools and ultimately to the creation of subdivisions and major developments in the state. He later established and served as President and Chairman of the Board for a number of construction and development companies in California.



## Obituary

**Harry H. Hicks**

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019

One of his firms, Associated Contractors, developed The Cove, a waterfront apartment complex with boat docks near Tiburon, which won many honors including major national awards. Harry even brought the Emperor of Japan's gardener over to design a portion of The Cove's gardens. Another firm, the Olympia Company, built a number of developments in the Monterey Area, which received many accolades. In each community which Mr. Hicks developed projects, he received letters from Mayors and community leaders thanking him for his creative designs and environmentally sensitive projects.

For example, he would imagine living in each apartment during the design process of the complexes (and actually stayed in some of the units in order to verify his concepts) in order to make sure that his designs would be "great places to call home" for the people that would live in them in the future. In Pacific Grove, he built a complex around the large rocks and trees to accommodate the Monarch Butterfly's migration, to assist the butterflies and to connect people with nature. This was before it was "required." For Harry, it was just the right thing to do. Harry was one of the first "green" builders in California! He also built the last Frank Lloyd Wright/Aaron Green house built while Frank was alive, designed for Harry's Mother and Father, in Oakland. It still stands and is called "The Hicks House."

Mr. Hicks was an avid polo player, and he designed and built the development that saved the Santa Barbara Polo Fields for Polo which has catered to teams from all over the world. His contribution and deeds were based upon making polo available to all, regardless of resources. Mr. Hicks played polo across the globe and was based at Menlo Circus Club in Atherton as well as the field in Santa Barbara. Harry played with teams that continued to win many tournaments until he retired from Polo shortly after his 75th (!) birthday.

Mr. Hicks enjoyed traveling the world and, while in the Far East, he became acquainted with a number of royal families, and in particular with the previous King of Malaysia, the Sultan of Johor and his family. The Sultan's father requested that the U.S. government grant the rare privilege to Mr. Hicks to accept a title from a foreign country. This was approved, and the title of Dato was given to Harry. Cecilia therefore was called Datin (somewhat similar to Lord and Lady) and later the title to his current wife Dede. The Sultan, Harry, and Cecilia became warm friends of the Sultan and his family and often visited them in Malaysia and entertained them at their Westridge home in Portola Valley. The current Sultan, whose grandfather had bequeathed Harry's title, made his first visit outside the country to the Westridge home, where he enjoyed the "hidden



## Obituary

**Harry H. Hicks**

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019

room” Harry had designed, making turkey sandwiches at midnight, and driving a very expensive car into the top of a tree; something of a rarity for the young prince!

Harry was invited and accepted membership in the renowned Explorers Club, an international professional society for explorers and field scientists worldwide. He traveled the world to remote jungles, and to outlying places and peoples that were rapidly changing and/or disappearing.

While there, he indulged his interest and collected things cultural, historical and artistic. His discoveries often illuminated previously unknown or unconnected parts of history. In fact, one discovery literally changed the history books by two thousand years, a Vedic Aryan head. His paper on this discovery was initially published by the prestigious “Journal of Indio European Studies” and there after written up in a number of languages, books and articles in the world. He has accepted various requests to lecture at symposiums of scholars on this subject.

The great British historian and mythologist, Geoffrey Ash, in the Preface to his book “Dawn Behind the Dawn” wrote, “...Then a decade ago, things began to happen. Mr. Harry Hicks of Menlo Park, California, introduced me to a strange art object he had acquired in India. If this was as old as it appeared to be, it suggested a radical new insight into a certain ancient society, an insight that could bring some order into the mass of facts I had previously found so confusing ... this book is the result.”

Harry Hicks’ distinguished ancestors include Richard, Earl of Cornwall, who was elected King of the Romans in 1256 and King of the Germans and the Holy Roman Empire in 1257. He died in 1272. His first son, Henry Ricks (Richard’s son), called Henry Hicks, was the 1st. Henry Ricks was immortalized by Dante and was murdered in 1271 while at his prayers within a church at Viterbrin upon his return from the Holy Land, by Guy de Montefort in revenge for the death of his father (the second Simon). So Richard’s second son, Edmund, became Earl of Cornwall. He died without issue (children), and King Edward the 1st “was found next to him in blood” and was found his heir. It was stated that Richard and his sons Henry (Harry is Henry Hicks the III) and Edmund were “Princes of blood Royal of England” and “Have diverse arms.”

Mr. Hicks and Cecilia served on the boards of the Westridge Company and the Hicks Foundation for Cultural Preservation (P.O. Box 111, Menlo Park, CA 94026). After years as big game hunters with over 14 Trophies in Roland Ward’s Book of World Records, due to their great knowledge of and affection for all wildlife, and along with other similarly inclined hunters, they became



## Obituary

**Harry H. Hicks**

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019

instrumental in the formation of Wildlife Conservation International. This organization later evolved into the African Wildlife Foundation, one of the largest conservation foundations operating in Africa. They jointly played an active role on the African Wildlife Board for over 30 years. Harry also owned much of Elkhorn Slough, which he sold to fellow friend and board member David Packard in 1984. David always told Harry it was his favorite piece of land in the world, and his daughter now manages the property with an environmental focus and awareness.

Harry Hicks has two grandchildren Kristina and Roland Hicks, Jr. To his great sorrow, his adored companion, Cecilia, passed away September 8, 1998, and his son, Roland Arthur Hicks, died January 24, 2007. He has shared his life for the past 17 years with his adoring wife Dede Whiteside. So with Harry's three wives: Bebe, Cece, and Dede, he was often kidded that he was working his way through the alphabet.

After 63 broken bones (from two plane crashes and over 55 years of Polo) he remained to the end a man of great vigor, with an independent creativeness. He cherished his life in The Explorers Club, and was extremely fond of his home Chapter. the Northern California Chapter. He and his wife worked on his last project to investigate an ancient library in the Middle East in 2013.

At 98 his curiosity and love of life returned him to Mexico this year from Langley, Washington. Up to the last he was visiting polo matches, swimming, reading from his great library and attending classical concerts.

He always felt his greatest treasures were those he loved and was loved by.

Harry died June 28th peacefully in the arms of his wife the moment his lips were moistened with water from the Dalai Lama.

What a life.

Harry working with noted artist Steve Whyte on forensically correct bust of Alexander the Great

Harry with Redwood League Megan planting 1000 trees in honor of his old pal and neighbor Bill Kane (Sunset Magazine)



# Tribute Wall

**Harry H. Hicks**

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019



**Tim Monahan** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We all loved Harry..Cecelia tooAn anonymous nine goaler

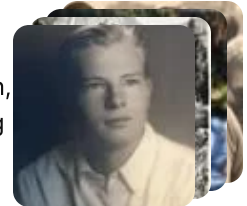


October 14 at 7:20 AM



**Dede Whiteside** shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Thank you dear friends for the beautiful tribute on the 100th day of Harry's birth, September 27, 2019 at Golden Gate National Cemetery. The military salute, flag ceremony, flyby and thoughtful eulogies from Robert Schmieder (Explorers Club), Starr Potts (Family), Patrick Brent (Polo) and Peterson Conway (Godson and for friends) when all heartfelt and touching. The Explorers Dinner that evening was beautifully highlighted by a presentation from Harry's colleagues Robert and Dru Anderson in part about their work together and attended by many of Harry and my dear friends. Thank you all for being there to celebrate such a full, curious and happy life.To our beloved Harry who will live forever in our hearts.



October 9 at 11:44 AM



**Mike** February 14 at 2:36 PM

So missed by so many and the 2 of you such a contribution to the worldSending Love and LightMike Assum



**Rachitha Dayaratne** December 1 at 7:46 PM

Hi DedeWe are saddened to hear about your loss, our deepest sympathiesRachi and Family



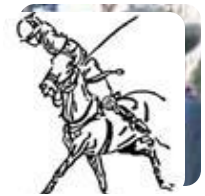
## Tribute Wall

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**Patrick** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Glamour, style, danger and speed...Harry H. Hicks 1920 - 2019 R I P POLO has lost another member of America's Greatest Generation Not sure the origin of colorful words.... was Harry why PPP because Harry told great stories of all real life and all true... PPP All the way from owning the country in Africa to being knighted and make royalty my the sultan of Johore.....some type of a sultan in the Johor. ...Harry served a member of OSS during WW II..... Harry saved the SBA polo club and built the condominiums there....Harry lived life to the fullest This incorrigible identifies with Harry from the get go... the because I too didn't was not born to wealth yet became very much serious and active polo player at the highest levels following in Harry's footsteps.....First met Harry in Atherton at the Menlo circus club where he was reactivating his polo career... Harry had secured a a new string of polo mounts.....one of his best best was an Arab in one of his photos here...Harry was disconcerted that he had been dropped from a two goal handicap which put him in the top 4% of the polo-world Lowered one goal which only made them in the top 15% but Harry was concerned so every Friday and Sunday Roland his son came out with a video camera recording evidence for the United States Paul associations handicap committee Well serendipitously a few months later I became governor Polo Association selecting the handicap chairman .....we basically skipped all the videos and retuned Harry to his two goaler status Harry had some near side back shots that were superior to just about anybody in the club.... he was always smiling happy .....always a gentleman both on the field and off the field... If being a gentleman in this rough - tough polo world was the only one only epitaph of one of veterans received ..we would be envious of Harry Hicks More recent times can you quite apparent that Harry met PPP and married a charming, attractive and intelligent woman to share the fourth quarter his life .... have told all that with Delores.....Harry married UP Let not forget Harry unique humor...we can chat about Huey Gooley later we will always remember Harry .....like to share a reflection from my past it's appropriate today When I was just 10 years old .....experienced the first first death in my family... my grandfather died and it was a devastating we were very close ... still remember at the funeral parlor how cold my grandfather's hands were when I touched them last night That night after the cemetery, my grandmother took me to a window in her small apt in Chicago and said: Patrick look up at the stars all those stars in the sky are really holes in the sky were people that we have lost are up there looking out for us and watching over us. One of those stars one of the larger ones is your grandfather and he's looking out for you and me. Patrick remember that and Patrick never... disappoint him ...never Dato Harry is up there in the bright California sky and one of the brightest stars and he is looking out for you and all of us now all of you ..... Look into my eyes... let Us ....never NEVER let him down P T 29 Mahalo nui Dede ... for including me in this special salute to Harry Hicks my friend and a real POLO gentleman

October 9 at 11:44 AM



**Dede Whiteside** February 12 at 3:18 PM

Dear Patrick, Harry loved you deeply; so did Cecilia. I think those stars shine toward you tonight with a hello from our beloved Harry. I send you my love and respect. ~ Dede

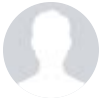


Tim Monahan shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 14 at 7:20 AM

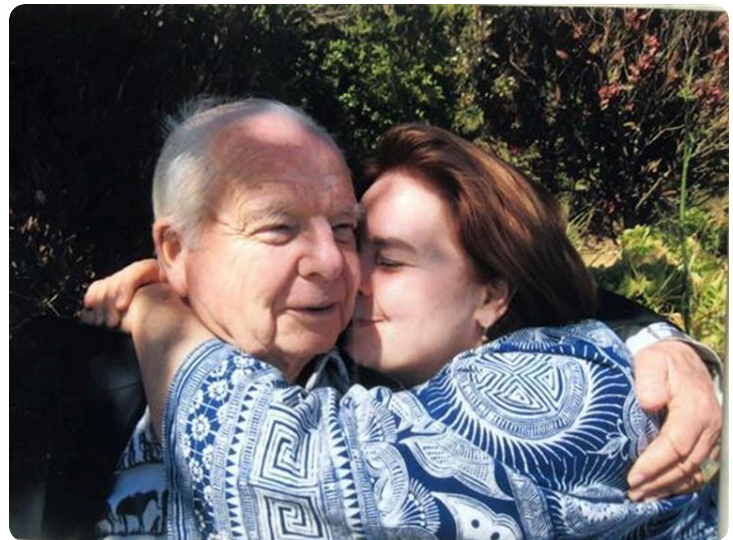
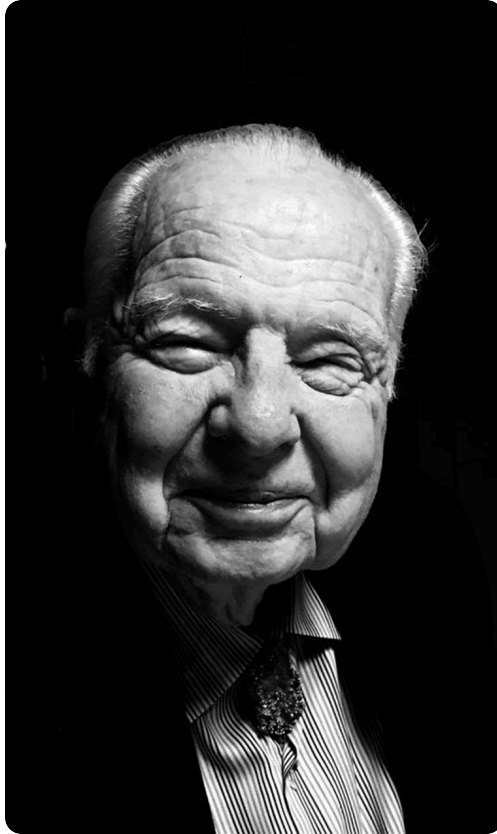


Harry had it all....



Dede Whiteside shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 11 at 12:32 PM

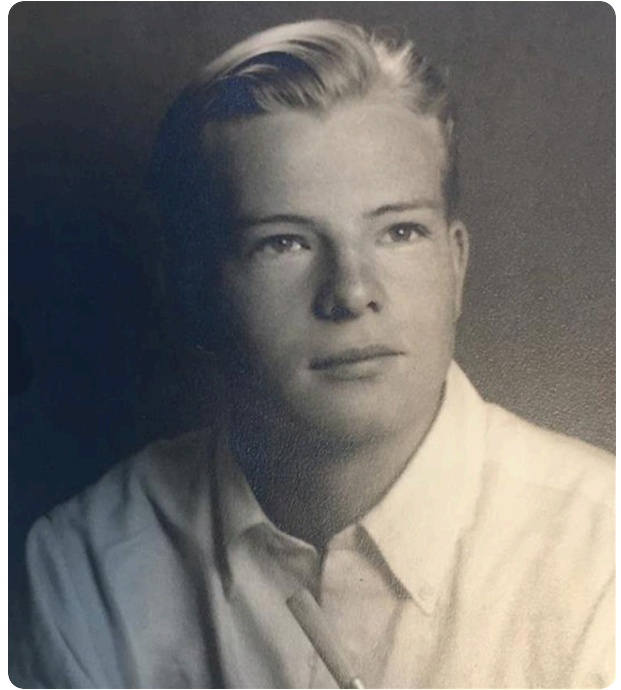




**Media**

**Harry H. Hicks**

SEP 20, 1920 - JUN 28, 2019



Patrick shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 9 at 11:44 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Harry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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