

Tom Hawley

I was born in Waterford, N.Y. a long time ago. We lived on the banks of the Hudson River, 150 miles north of New York City. I grew up swimming in and Kayaking and skating on the Hudson. In High school I spent three years on the track and cross country teams.

We had a family friend who was related to several West Point Grads. She told me stories about their life at the academy that made me think it was a wonderful place, so it became my ambition to go there. However this didn't work, out so I joined the Marines after high school graduation. Since I was seventeen, they sent me home, after my physical, to get permission to join. I didn't get it. While I was growing up my mother told me many stories about the wonders of Seattle. She had gone there during the Seattle Yukon Exposition and attended the U.W. For 2 years. So I headed for Seattle and attended the U.W. While there I entered the Navy V-1 program for officers training. Later on I left school. Since I had agreed to enter the regular Navy if should drop out of the U V-1 program, I was immediately inducted. I ended up as a radioman gunner in the navy air corps. Just before shipping out I was given a chance to take entrance exams for the Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS.) While I was taking the exam in town, my squadron was flying the plane; it lost a wing and crashed killing all three crewmen, including my replacement. I spent the next nine months at prep school competing for Annapolis appointment, which I got but I flunked eye test. So I was unable to attend--Good by Annapolis.

I spent three years Renssaleer Polytechnique Institute but nothing seemed to suit me. Eventually I wound up as 1/2 owner of an old sawmill in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains where I met my wife to be. After telling her the same stories about Seattle my mother had told me she became enthused and finally said, "Let's go to Seattle".

After arriving here we started a family, one boy and three girls they are still a large part of our lives. We now have 4 grandchildren. I was in real estate for thirty-three years in Snohomish County. In my spare time I played a lot of tennis and some golf. I am now retired and enjoying Edmonds. I joined Rotary the summer of 2009, because I wanted some place in Edmonds that would help me contribute to the community.