

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

ESSAY CONTEST

ADULT EDUCATION

2013

Mrs. Rosalinda G. Oneto
1143 Paula Dr.
Campbell, CA 95008-1726
1(408) 379-8379
<rosalinda@oneto.us>
Campbell Adult Education
Ann Thompson
annthomp@sbcglobal.net

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Essay Contest

Adult Education

2013

**WORLD STAGE OLYMPIC COACH CHRIS CARVER
AND HER CABANA CLUB BEGINNING**

**Mrs. Rosalinda G. Oneto
Campbell Adult Education
Ann Thompson**

An Account

of
the

CLOVERDALE AND CAMPBELL
DOLPHINETTES
and
Coach Chris Carver

to accompany

California Pioneers Writing Contest:

*WORLD STAGE OLYMPIC COACH CHRIS CARVER
AND HER CABANA CLUB BEGINNING*

by

Rosalinda G. Oneto

February 2013

to be in the permanent collection of the California Room at
San Jose State College Public Library

Prologue

In my research regarding Coach Chris Carver, I found an entry on Wikipedia that inferred that Coach Carver had had no experience participating in synchronized swimming when she became head coach of the Santa Clara Aquamaids. *In 1984 Chris Carver was appointed Head Coach. Even with no history of participating in the actual sport, her innovative choreography and great attention to detail is what makes the Aquamaids national champions. She has received the Coach of the Year Award every year for the past fourteen years.* {en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Clara_Aquamaids}

With this essay *World Stage Olympic Coach Chris Carver and her Cabana Club Beginning*, we can see that that is far from the truth. Miss Carver was introduced to synchronized swimming when she was in junior high in Palo Alto by her swim club coach during the 1950s when the sport was just beginning. And she did participate in competitions for a while, according to Miss Carver. At that time, athlete and movie star Esther Williams was making water extravaganzas movies that made her Chris' idol. Her water shows were an inspiration to Chris later on at Cloverdale.

Additionally, Mrs. Carver went to work for the Aquamaids in 1980 part-time, teaching the nine/ten year-olds, four years before she became Head Coach. But the year before, (1979), she had just retired from coaching after twelve consecutive years (summers) with the Cloverdale Dolphinettes of her neighborhood cabana club. With them, she had developed a program from a beginning cast of eleven girls to a cast of forty-five. They had produced water shows each summer such as the *Months of the Year*, *Broadway Musicals*, *Pinocchio*, *Peter Pan*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Holiday Heritage*, *Say it with Music*, *Spirit of America* (1976), *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*."

Coach Carver also associated the Dolphinettes with the International Academy of Aquatic Arts and took her girls to their festivals in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in May 1978 and Chicago in April 1979 where her girls performed to top honors both years. This Academy promotes synchronized swimming as an artistic sport rather than a competitive one.

This essay and album shows the legacy of Coach Chris Carver and her aquatic artistic talent that she developed at Cloverdale with the Dolphinettes and the membership, and which she was highly qualified to continue with into a lifelong love and career with the Santa Clara Aquamaids.

the Pump Room.)

“ But he didn’t give us what we wanted, a straight pool. He put in an odd shaped pool which was not adequate for competitions. Nevertheless, it was quite useful. This was in 1961. Bob Warren quickly went to work on the surrounding grounds, designing and building a double brick bar-b-cue pit and an area for picnic tables. Dick worked with him on it and they also mobilized some of the other men,” Judy concluded. From the very beginning, Cloverdale Cabana Club members made the place their own.

At that time, Campbell was a small country town surrounded on the north and east by homes of big city San Jose. To the south was Los Gatos and to the west was Saratoga. Its population was 13,000.

Nestled at the end of Radford Avenue, which extend south from West Latimer Road, little Cloverdale Cabana was well established by the time my family and I came in November of 1973. We were in the cul-de-sac on Paula Drive just one block up from the club. Campbell’s population had grown to over 23,000 by then.

At first we couldn’t locate the club once we heard of it. Our realtor hadn’t pointed it out to us. There was no big sign in front. The six-foot fence and large bushes along the outside of the fence hid the building quite well. And the gate door was always closed, so you couldn’t see the pool. It did have a small sign on the door which couldn’t be read from the street. Ah, but once we located it,

Cloverdale Cabana Club became a significant focal point of our lives. It already was for the neighborhood, we soon found out.

For twelve years now, Cloverdale was well established by the residents who were paid members. It had a Board of Directors, a president, vice-president, a secretary, treasurer, gatekeepers, custodians, and lifeguards. It complied with the rules of the state regarding neighborhood pools, especially regarding safety. It was affiliated with Mission Valley Oaks Aquatic League because it was able to provide a swim team for competition.

The school systems in Campbell area were highly regarded, so the area was populated with families with more than one child. Just on Paula Drive and Michelle Drive around its corner, there were close to twenty children! Not all belonged to the club, but it was time when there was an abundance of children. You will be able to see this in the photos of the synchronized swim team of the water shows they presented each summer.

The impact this little cabana club had on my family and the neighborhood has been significant in the years of our lives. We were glad to be able to afford the membership fee which at the time was around \$200.00 and be part of this active community. Its value can be measured in many ways. I can relate how the community came together many a time, and how the club's activities were utilized to create lasting life strengths and positive memories for its members, especially the

children. “Oh yes,” says Mrs. Wesendunk. “Strong bonds were formed here that exist to this day. And Chris Carver had a lot to do with that.”

Chris Carver is now on the world stage of synchronize swimming and Olympic competition, but her first stage was at our little corner of the world at Cloverdale. Then her stage was the green grass lawn and the cement walkway of the odd shaped pool. It was where she began what became a life-long career of teaching synchronized swimming, although she did not start out to make it so.

It just so happened that when she and her family became Cloverdale members, in 1968, the President at that time, Dennis Killen, knew of her musical background. She also had a love of swimming which had started in Junior High in Palo Alto. It was then that a coach had introduced her to synchronized swimming, and she did compete in that sport for a while. This was in the 1950’s when the sport was in its infancy. It was getting a big boost from the swimming star Esther Williams and her swimming extravaganza movies. She became Chris’ idol. “I wanted to be Esther Williams,” she recalls. “It was when I had stars in my eyes.”

Her greatest thrill in life has been meeting Miss Williams and becoming friends with her. Miss Williams retired from movies but still kept a business interest in the sport and was a commentator for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.²

Because her musical training was with the violin, Chris Carver’s background involved classical music. She played with The Palo Alto Sinfonia and California

Youth Symphony. She also had a love of history and received her degree from San Jose State in that subject.

The president, Mr. Killen, suggested she teach the little girls some basic skills of synchronize swimming. This was in 1968. She started with eleven little girls. She realized she could combine her two passions, beautiful music and swimming and make lovely routines to teach the girls as they were learning their basics. Just like in Esther Williams movies. "I was very influenced by the movies. They propelled me to do more and more," Chris Carver said as I interviewed her.

But Chris was very emphatic about being inspired by Cloverdale's people. With them she learned how a community comes together to rally around a common goal. All the awards and success she has had since she left Cloverdale, she owes to the Cloverdale members, the children as well as the parents, she says. All she learned with them during those twelve years when she taught their girls is what she has relied on with the Aquamaids.

The Cloverdale group enthusiastically rallied around each new project and each new show with such creativity. They had so much talent which always amazed her. They had no egos; they just wanted the show to be good. Dick Wesendunk would spend hours and hours and hours editing the music. Joan Smurthwaite and Ann Jeffery and their sewing committee always busy making the costumes. Barbara Gallman, who was the heart and soul of the program because she believed it was

for the good of the kids, spent hours working on the narrations of each show. There was Bob Hansen, an imposing figure at 6ft 4in with a white goatee who made a perfect Uncle Sam and who loved acting and reciting. It was all a community effort. She had the support of those parents and together they kept on year after year, producing a water ballet show at the end of each season.

She taught eleven young girls, but she did include some of the boys for awhile. They usually were the brothers that hung around. Recalls Mrs. Wesendunk, "Oh yes, she included the little boys, too. She would have those little boys working the routines. And they loved her for it. They adored her! Even my Dave donned black tights for her."

Every year Chris would chose a theme or popular musical or movie which would be their goal during the practices. Consequently, it was a very busy group and very busy summers. They named their team the Cloverdale Dolphinettes because the other busy swimming program, the swim team, was called the Cloverdale Dolphins. Being a Dolphinette was not easy. The girls had to have the stamina to practice two hours five mornings a week, and were expected to support the team in other ways to make the water shows a success. That might include raising funds, selling tickets, making props, or making costumes. Some of them were swim team members also and swam for the Dolphins on Saturday mornings.

As the team grew in numbers through the twelve years Chris was at Clover

dale, the older girls would help teach the younger ones. The boys were still included in those first productions. The first shows they had were simple performances. The early productions were *The Holidays*, *Pinocchio*, *Peter Pan*, and *It's An Art* where all the arts were highlighted: poetry, opera, painting, singing, dancing and ceramics.

The summer water ballet program grew and grew. By the time they performed *The Wizard of Oz* in 1972, there were 53 children between the ages of nine and sixteen. The show was dedicated to Mr. Ron Carver, Chris' husband who was from Kansas.³ Like the movie, it included a *Dorothy* and a *Toto*, who was a cute little dog named *Susie*. Although it had selections from the original movie, the script was written by Mrs. Carver and some of the older girls. First performed on August 19th, it was repeated on September 16th when Mrs. Carver invited their "friendly rivals" of the swim team competitions: Los Ranchitos, and Killarney Farms, and Forest Park to Cloverdale's pool.⁴

Mrs. Carver continued her summer volunteer work with the team in 1973 and together the club presented "*Around the World in 80 days*," the sixth annual show. A reader from Almaden commented to a newspaper how unheralded this group of youngsters and teen-agers were, having no publicity and no pay. She was impressed with the excellent costumes and professional setting. She noted that over 600 attended, and that one performance was set aside for senior citizens.⁵

She must have missed seeing the pictures that were printed in a local newspaper announcing the three day August event at Cloverdale. For this production there were forty-seven youngsters, ages two to sixteen. The article noted that: “this year, in addition to the performers, dozens of helpers have been busy since June preparing for the annual performance. An Indian princess, exotic Siamese dancers, and Spanish señoritas are a few of the performers to be seen Friday. Admission is 50 cents and tickets are available at the gate.”⁶

My family and I missed out on these early shows. We moved into the neighborhood in November of 1973. *Holiday Heritage* in 1974, was the first production we saw. It had routines with songs associated with the holidays that are in our American heritage.

In 1975, the end of season show was *Say it with Music* with routines of songs from Broadway stage productions.

In 1976, the bicentennial year, Chris’s selection, of course, had a patriotic theme. *Spirit of America* had routines of songs about the development of our country. I remember this show. There was a much red, white, and blue in the costumes. And of course, there had to be an Uncle Sam. Mr. Bob Hansen at 6ft 4in with a white goatee fit the bill. He didn’t swim, he just roamed about, and also did a recitation, according to Mrs. Carver.

It was the last water ballet performed at Cloverdale. Forty-two team mem-

bers performed in twenty spirited routines in honor of our nation's 200th birthday celebration. The annual water show had grown into a full-fledged production with specially designed costumes and banks of theatrical lighting. Previous evening shows had been illuminated by hand-held movie spotlights.

In 1977, the water show was *Once Upon A Stage* which had an aquatic interpretation of *Sleeping Beauty*. It was performed at the Campbell High School pool because by now the Cloverdale pool was inadequate for their spectacular shows and the Dolphinettes had come under the sponsorship of Campbell Community Services. Both Chris and the parents of the team believed the successful program should be made available to the wider segment of the community. With Campbell Community Services and the Campbell High School District co-operating, the program was opened to the public and ten new families joined the Dolphinettes.⁷

It was at this time that our ten year old daughter, Christine, decided to join. So we were one of the new families. We became totally involved with *Once Upon A Stage* the tenth annual water show on August 19, 20, 21. I remember making a flyer or poster for the fundraiser Mexican dinner, and selling tickets for it.

The first part of the show had nine routines. Christine was in the section covering Movies, the Miraculous Medium, in the *Winnie the Pooh* routine. She was a rabbit. The other two numbers were *Charlie Chaplin* and *That's Entertainment*. The second part of the show was the aquatic interpretation of "*The*

Sleeping Beauty.” She was one of the six Ballroom Girls who did their routine to the music of “Waltz of the Swans” and which came to be an unforgettable experience for all.

For that routine, the six girls were bedecked with different colored gowns of tulle which had a wire petticoat underneath with tiny lights lit all around. The Dads had learned how to solder those tiny lights in a certain way in order not to cause harm, Chris Carver told me, as we recalled this routine. The girls had to stand in garbage cans with the tulle and wired petticoat over the cans, which were on a platform attached to huge tractor inner tubes. Being full of air, these inner tubes floated. But they had to be guided. Here was where the younger boys were included in the show. Each tube was guided by those boys, out of sight in the water. Since the shows were at night, the boys were not too detectable. To the strains of the music, they moved those girls to the proper places in the routine.

If this sounds precarious, you are right. However, there was only one accident of a girl turned over into the pool, when one of the little guys got a little rambunctious one night. I don’t remember if the show stopped, but the girl was all right. It wasn’t our Christine who ended up in the water. Christine remembers that they wore crowns with small lights lit and in one hand carried a crochet rose which matched the dress. They looked surreal but it was a spectacular and lovely scene. Very memorable.

In early 1978, the Dolphinettes spent their time preparing for their performance at the International Academy of Aquatic Arts Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa which was held in April. Besides their practices and school, they worked hard raising funds for the trip. They raised over \$3,000 through a swim-a-rama, a taco dinner, a garage sale, and collecting aluminum cans and newspapers. Fourteen members went but all 35 of her girls were there in spirit, said Chris. There were three sets of sisters who went to Des Moines: Melinda and Leslie Horning; Susan and Ann Hart; and Jackie and Marla Turley.

They did our city, state, and country proud, coming home with the top honors. They outscored older girls, as the other state entrants were college age and there was a team from Canada also. They were the only representatives from California. The girls' ages ranged from ten to nineteen. They captured two excellent ratings and one good rating, supposedly the highest ratings given to first year participants.

But one of the Dolphinettes, Sue Wesendunk, 19, said it best when she commented that "the most wonderful award we won was not the two triple A's for our routines, but the one given Chris for being the coach who contributed the most to the festival." ⁸

Yes, Chris Carver was awarded the coveted Joyce Malone Award as the most outstanding advisor of the Year. This award was dear to Chris because Mrs.

Malone was famous as an aquatic arts advocate and had been an inspiration to her. Mrs. Carver said Mrs. Malone was head of the women's physical education department at San Jose State, her alma mater.

Yet, Chris was more impressed by the high ratings her girls received and by the great poise with which they conducted themselves at the festival. This festival has a long history. It is held yearly in the U.S. or Canada by the International Academy of Aquatic Art which was founded in 1955 by several pioneers of synchronized swimming. One of those was Mrs. Beulah Gundling and her husband, Henry, who wanted to make sure that synchronized swimming maintained its artistic aspects. Beulah Gundling is considered the founder of synchronized swimming and she was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.⁹ Hence, the trip to Cedar Rapids for the Festival. Mrs. Carver had affiliated the Dolphinettes with the Academy located there.

In 1979, the water ballet was a production called *Pure Imagination* which featured a spectacular aquatic adaptation of *The Nutcracker*, which is a favorite of Chris' and which she had wanted to do for a long time. It was her farewell effort with the Dolphinettes, as she was retiring from coaching after the show.

She was the show's director; Barbara Gallman was the narrator; the scenery was done by Joyce Mann, Cathy Meyers, and Lorraine Sneed; the lighting was by P. Jay Vierra; and costume design by Joan Smurthwaite.

The Executive Board was President, Theresa Fennern; Vice President ,

Pam Shea; Treasurer, JoAnn Snider; Secretary, Mitcie Gardner; Directors were Lupe Roberts and Joan Smurthwaite. I guess the Board was the backbone of the whole process of producing a show each summer, assisting Chris with the whole program.

Pure Imagination was held at the Campbell High School pool on Thursday night through from Sunday, June 28, 29, 30, and July 1st. The tickets were a \$2.50 donation and it was free for children under age six. By this time the Dolphinettes numbered forty-five. Chris had two assistants, Sue Boese and Roxanne Herrick.

It was being a very busy year for the team. In April they had been invited to perform at the University of California at Davis during the campus' annual picnic days. Eight senior members went and performed three shows that weekend.. They had been invited by Mary Jeffrey who was a former Dolphinette and was now coaching the UC-Davis synchronized swim team. They presented a program called "*Splash Into The Past.*" Choreographers of the routines were Mary Jeffrey and her team, and also Mrs. Carver.¹⁰

Then on May 23-26, the team attended the International Aquatic Arts Festival for a second time. It was a trip to Chicago for 23 girls and seven parents. They had raised the \$6,000 needed with a fund raiser swim-a-thon and bake sales. Once again they came home with top honors against teams of seven states and England and Canada. Both Christine and I were able to go on this trip. Exciting!

Now, in *Pure Imagination*, they performed the three top IAAA numbers: *Shall We Dance*, *Clara's Enchanted Visit*, and *The Battle*. Act I Scene three *Snowflake Fairies* had won the AAA Award in 1978 in Cedar Rapids. //

Christine performed as one of the mice in *The Battle*, and a ladybug in *Waltz of the Flowers*, and in *Pink Panther* in the Prologue of *Pure Imagination*. Also, in *Clara's Enchanted Visit* she was one of the *Chinese Tea*. Those shows as a Dolphinettes were quite an experience for Christine. She loved the swimming and was a good swimmer and great participant. We were very proud of her. She says she still remembers what her coach, Sue Boese used to say to encourage the girls: "Can't" never did anything!" It has guided her all her life. Maybe that is why she has tried tandem skydiving once, surfing, and now sailing lessons.

The Nutcracker, as the Dolphinettes performed it, was a great achievement for Chris and all the team, all of Cloverdale Cabana Club. I remember it well. It was my favorite. One unforgettable episode of the story was the Christmas tree scene. I remember feeling like a child and wanting to clap my hands as I saw that tree get bigger and bigger and taller and taller against the gym wall adjacent to the pool. It was made of canvas painted green with touches of white for snow. Apparently, ropes had been attached at certain points on the sides. As the tree was supposed to grow, the ropes on both side were pulled. The tree rose and rose and looked gigantic on that gym wall. Very majestic.

In front of the wall was the concrete walkway of the pool area which served as the stage. *The Nutcracker* story of Clara and her family at Christmas was performed there. It was an elegant ballroom scene. All the characters were dressed in the beautiful costumes which the sewing committee had created or procured.

At the festivities, Clara receives a beautiful nutcracker from Dr. Drosselmeyer; the party ends, and Clara goes to bed. Her dreams are the musical numbers which the swimmers perform in synchronized formations. In their costumed swimwear the Dolphinettes first did a short dance routine on the stage for each of the numbers and then jumped into the pool to finish the musical pieces.

Another memorable time of the performance is the finale, *Waltz of the Flowers*, which came after the *Pas de Deux* danced by the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince. Picture a lovely lady with a sunbonnet, very tall, floating along on the water with her hooped gown of several yards round about her, with its hem at the edge of the water. She smiles as she beckons out her Flowers, Roses, Chrysanthemums, and Marigolds. They come out, along with their Ladybugs, Frogs, Butterflies, and with Tommy Tomato Worm. They are all hiding under her dress and pulling her along! They come out to do their routines as the proper piece of music signifies them, and they stay in a specific location as the others come out to do theirs. They stay in their positions in the water and the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince come onto the stage to do their final bow. It is the Finale and

they are all in the water. Our Christine is one of the Ladybugs.

For the major roles, Chris Carver, invited outside help as guest performers. She liked to do this to give the shows some class and to be inspiration for her girls. The Sugar Plum Fairy was Cathy Gillaspie, who had a professional career in dance, was National Ballroom Champion in 1975 and 1976, and was a former Miss Colorado.

Chris invited Richard Grim back to dance for the Dolphinettes. He had performed in our production of *Sleeping Beauty* in 1977. He had been active as dancer, singer, and actor since 1965. He came to dance The Nutcracker Prince role.

The role of Clara was performed by the team's own Char Lindstrom, who had been a Dolphinettes for six years. She had been in a mime group locally while in high school and still performed in the community. She hoped to study mime in France at the Marcel Marceau Mime School where she had been accepted.

P. Jay Vierra (Dr. Drosselmeyer, the magician) started taking part in Dolphinettes productions in 1970 in the area of acting, lighting, and sound. He had just graduated from Campbell High School and hoped to attend SJSU to major in theatre arts.

A special guest was the remarkable nine-year-old Samantha Steiner who was the Dancing Doll. She was from the Benny Smith Academy of Dance , a Juniorette, who had been studying dance and baton since the age of three. She

had won state and national titles since 1976. She had a long list of accomplishments in dance with baton performances. She was the Juvenile Miss California of Baton Twirling for 1979 and was going to represent the state at the national pageant. // Samantha was our across-the-street neighbor and our Marguerite's pal. Her mother, Janet Steiner, a baton twirling champion herself, taught gymnastics for a time at Cloverdale's clubhouse.

Now, most of you have probably seen *The Nutcracker* on many a stage "on dry land" we might say. But to see it "in the water" with synchronized swimming formations in synch with its beautiful music----well that's unique. That's spectacular. You can almost call it awesome, as you see, in the evening lights, the swimmers in magnificent costumes doing unique formations to the strains of the beautiful music. It takes a certain kind of talent to envision the formations in the mind's eye. Chris Carver had that talent. She was the creator, choreographer, the director of all those elements that had to come together to become something beautiful. Cloverdale and the Dolphinettes lost a great artist and a very dear friend, when she retired after *The Nutcracker*, but she gave them a Grand Finale.

Chris didn't set out to make synchronized swimming her life's career; but the twelve years she was with the Cloverdale members and The Dolphinettes were the compelling force for just that outcome. *The Nutcracker* show ended in June

1979 and she took her leave. But when the Santa Clara Aquamaids came calling the next year, 1980, she said *yes* to part-time work with them. Several of her Dolphinettes followed her there, including our daughter, Christine, who stayed with Chris only two more years. Chris coached the nine/ten year olds two days a week.

Four years later, Chris Carver was made the Aquamaids' fourth Head Coach and has been there ever since. " I can't believe I have been with the Aquamaids almost thirty-three years!" she says. She plans to retire but not completely because next year is the Aquamaids fiftieth anniversary. One can only imagine what spectacular program that will be. They certainly need the creative talents Chris has demonstrated all these forty-five years in the sport. She truly has made synchronized swimming her life's career after all!

The same year she became Head Coach for the Aquamaids was the year the Olympic Committee finally allowed synchronized swimming to be an Olympic sport. Also, it was the year she became part of the National Coaching Staff as the Head Coach of the U.S.National Team. Her success with the sport, guiding the young athletes, young ladies, to be champions in this sport of grace and beauty, athletic skill and stamina, and musical interpretation and dramatic flair, has been remarkable.

Her Aquamaids have won fifteen national titles and many titles in international

competitions. She has placed over twenty athletes on Olympic teams, more than any other club in the United States. She has been National Coach of the Year fourteen times and is now in several Halls of Fame including the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.¹²

Chris Carver has coached three Olympic teams: Atlanta in 1996; Sydney in 2000; and Athens in 2004. Her greatest achievement was in Atlanta as Coach of the only gold medals won by a USA synchronized swim team. It meant so much to her because four of the lovely athletes were like her own daughters. They were from the original nine-year-old Aquamaids whom she had coached in 1984! She¹³ been their teacher for sixteen years! What perseverance and dedication to the sport on all their parts. An indelible moment for Chris.

In the 2000 Sydney Olympics, they were surpassed by Russia, Japan, and Canada, coming in fourth in Duet and fifth in Team.

In Athens in 2004, Chris coached the Olympic team to a win for the USA of the Bronze medals in both Duet and Team.¹⁴

Not all of Chris' work with the Aquamaids are the competitions. She also produces shows like she used to do at Cloverdale. She combined the National Team with a live orchestra for three of her *Classical Splash* productions. For the French production of *Sirella*, she was head choreographer. For Sea World she did choreography in 1984. She has also assisted in several national commercials.

Her reputation as a world renown synchronized swim coach and innovative

choreographer is well established. Her successes are in the record books now. To recall that she started with eleven little girls in an obscure corner of a suburban neighborhood cabana! Creative genius always grows and spreads, I say. You have to feed it, though. Cloverdale Cabana Club and the Dolphinettes laid the groundwork and the Aquamaids of Santa Clara have provided the fertile ground for Chris Carver to continue impacting swimmers with her talent. There she has created with that community another success story. The Santa Clara Aquamaids are now a hub for training for synchronized swimming for national, international, and Olympics competition. Athletes from all over the world seek them because with her assistants, there are all levels of training there. She has friends all over the world, and that is the best part, according to Chris. She has made the Aquamaids the most decorated teams in the world, and helped the National Team of ten able to sport Olympic Gold medals in 1996 while the USA national anthem played.

And it is a source of great pride for Cloverdale members to say they had her first. Chris Carver started in our little neighborhood cabana, Cloverdale Cabana Club with our Dolphinettes, in our little corner of the world.

FOOTNOTES

1. Wendy Woods, Campbell City Offices
2. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esther_Williams
3. From the Wizard of Oz program in Chris Carver's album
4. From the Cloverdale Swim Club news article from the album
5. An article from an Almaden newspaper on Helene Schick's observation of the performance of *Around the World in 80 Days* in Chris' album
6. An article in Chris Carver's album from local newspaper name not given
7. From program of *Pure Imagination* from album
8. From article by Faye Boquist, *WEST* section of *The San Jose Mercury News*, May 2, 1978 From album
9. Beulah Gundling, en.wikipedia.org
10. Brochure in Chris' album *Splash Into the Past*
11. From *Pure Imagination* program
12. www.aquamaids.org, Coaches' Bio
13. Ann Lencioni's story in the *SARATOGA NEWS*, Dec. 19, 1997. c.Metro
Also at mytown.mercurynews.com/archives/saratoganews/...Coverstory.htm
14. en.wikipedia.org/...List_of_olympic_medalists_in_synchronized_swimming

Acknowledgments

Once again Cloverdale Cabana Club members rallied around a common goal. Unexpectedly. But when I explained that I wanted to tell the story about Cloverdale Cabana Club and Chris Carver and the Dolphinettes so that it could go into the archives of the California Room at San Jose State, they didn't hesitate to share what they knew.

My heartfelt thanks first and foremost to Mrs. Chris Carver for her graciousness in granting me an interview amid her busy schedule and for giving me permission to do the story. Importantly, too, for trusting me with three of her albums of the Dolphinettes' shows. They were most helpful because she had it all there: the newspaper clippings, the programs as well as the photos of the aquatic shows.

Heartfelt thanks also to Bob and Sally Hansen for help beyond my expectation: 8x10 enlargements of four of the early water ballet shows. Wow! The photos are a big boost to the story. I just wondered if they had any pictures, and look what they did! Also, I'm grateful for all the phone numbers of the old members who could help with information. I thank them also for the interview and answering all my questions.

Heartfelt thanks to so many who helped answer my inquiries either by phone or in person: long-time residents, Judy Wesendunk and Ann Jeffery; former Dolphinettes Char Lindstrom Lehman and Christine Oneto; JoAnn Snider, Dolphinettes Mom and Board member; Wendy Wood, Campbell City Clerk; and the two Campbell reference librarians; and Mr. Noe Longoria, current Cloverdale Cabana Board president.

Last but not least, heartfelt thanks to Ann Thompson, my Memoirs Class teacher and to the whole class for their corrections, suggestions, and encouragement.