CAROLE ELAINE (NELSON) CAMMAROTA

(Written text and photographs provided by William John Krause II and Elaina Jeanette (Cammarota) Oakley). Carole Elaine Nelson was born on July 20, 1934, in Glasgow, Montana and was the daughter of Victor Christ Nelson and Elaine Charlotte (Holmberg Bronstad) Nelson. Carole Nelson lived in Glasgow, Montana, until age 6 and then moved to Napa, California, with her family. Carole Elaine Nelson graduated from Napa High School in 1952. While in high school Carole was a very active student and was a member of the Associated Women Students, W.A.A. (Women's Athletic Association) and Upsilon Chi. When Carole Nelson was growing up in Napa she played softball on "the Midgets" which was the first organized softball team for girls in Napa, California. The "Midgets" became the "Shamrocks" but disbanded after a few years. Carole Elaine Nelson went on to play for the Fresno Rockets where Carole pitched them to consecutive world championships and earned All American honors and was selected Miss Softball of 1955. In 1997 Carole Elaine Nelson was inducted into the Napa High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Carole Nelson attended Chico State University and received a bachelor's degree in Physical Education in 1958. Carole returned to Napa, California, and was a favorite physical education teacher at both Ridgeview and Silverado Junior High Schools for over 30 years. Carole also worked for the United States Government at Mare Island from 1987 to 1997. Carole Elaine Nelson married George Peter Cammarota on February 14, 1958, in Napa, California. George Cammarota was born on April 15, 1927, in Berkeley, California, and was the son of George and Kathleen (Lally) Cammarota. George was raised and educated in Oakland, California. George Cammarota served in the United States Army from 1945 until 1947. Following his discharge from the service he traveled to Napa, California, where he attended Napa Junior College and played football. George continued his education at San Francisco State College where he received his teaching credentials. In 1953 George returned to Napa, California, at Ridgeview Junior High School and coaching football. He transferred to Silverado Junior High School when it opened in 1958 and nine years later transferred to Napa High School. At that time George stopped teaching physical education and became head of the History Department where he remained until his retirement in 1989. Following retirement George took an administrative position to plan and develop special projects for the school district. George Cammarota was a member of Arc Catholic Church in Yountville, California, and was a former member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Napa Jaycees, and the Sons of Italy. George Peter and Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota had four children: David George Cammarota born on December 10, 1959, in Napa, California; Mary June Cammarota born on March 24, 1962, in Napa, California; Elaina Jeanette Cammarota born on December 9, 1965 in Napa, California; Catherine Carole Cammarota born on October 5, 1971, in Napa, California.

Carole Nelson was a very active member of the Napa Community throughout her lifetime giving of herself in many ways. Carole had a love of music and played the cello with the Napa Symphony. Carole also enjoyed playing the ukulele. Carole enjoyed life and because of her positive outlook on life was highly thought of by members of the community in addition to others who met her. George Cammarota died Tuesday, April 21, 1992, at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital. He was 65 years of age. Interment was at the Tulocay Cemetery in Napa, California. Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota died at her home in Napa, California, on Thursday, August 23, 2001, due to complications of emphysema. Interment was at the Tulocay Cemetery in Napa, California.

Carole Elaine Nelson - senior photograph taken from the Napa High School year book. Date: 1952. (Courtesy of Pat Scutro Principal's Secretary / Office Manager, Napa High School).

A photograph of Carole Elaine Nelson (left) with her sister, Mary Ann Christine Nelson. Date: unknown. (Photograph courtesy of William John Krause II).

Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota (third from right) photographed with (from left to right): George Peter Cammarota, Hazel Ruby (Nelson) Krause, Victor Christ Nelson, Carole, Rockwood Lee Nelson, and Barbara (Grandrath) Nelson. The children in the back from left to right are: Catherine Carole Cammarota and Bradlee Allen Nelson. Place: Carole and George Cammarota's home located at Vineyard Lane in Napa, California. Date: Thought to be the mid-1980s. (Photograph courtesy of William John Krause II).
Carole Elaine Nelson (sitting at table third from the left) celebrating her sixteenth birthday with family and friends. Her mother, Elaine Charlotte (Holmberg Bronstad) Nelson, is to her left and Ernie Collicutt is sitting to her right. Sitting on the edge of the pool from left to right are her brother, Rockwood Lee Nelson, and sister, Karen Rae Nelson. Napa, California. Date: 1950. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

Carole Elaine Nelson (sitting at table third from the left) celebrating her sixteenth birthday with family and friends. Her mother, Elaine Charlotte (Holmberg Bronstad) Nelson, is to her left and Ernie Collicutt is sitting to her right. Sitting on the edge of the pool from left to right are her brother, Rockwood Lee Nelson, and sister, Karen Rae Nelson. Napa, California. Date: 1950. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).
A newspaper clipping from the Napa Register recording some of the details of Carole Elaine Nelson's softball career. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota). Date: early 1950s.

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A newspaper clipping from the Glasgow Courier, Glasgow, Montana. Date: early 1950s. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

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"All-American"

For the second year in a row Carole Nelson, former pitcher for the Napa Shamrocks, has pitched the Fresno Rockets to a World Championship in girls' softball. During the past week the California team took on the best of the teams throughout the country and managed to rebuff them without difficulty.

Miss Nelson, who entered Chico State College this week, pitched six tournament games during the Orange tourney, won all six of them and allowed only two runs to be scored against her. As the result of her feat she was named "All-American."

According to Ernie Colliutt, who accompanied the Rocketeers to the tourney this year, as well as to the 1933 tournament at Toronto, the team has been invited to make a trip to Australia next May and Colliutt said that efforts are being made to arrange the journey.

Another ex-Shamrock player who participated in the tournament was Dorothy Hatanopiller of the Marchants team, Berkeley.

A newspaper clipping from the Napa Register recording some of the details of Carole Elaine Nelson's softball career. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota). Date: unknown.

Napa Sunday Journal 81

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A poster advertising Carole Nelson Night held in Napa, California, on June 17, 1954. (Courtesy of Karen Rae (Nelson) Allen).

A letter of proclamation to Carole Elaine Nelson for the Governor of California, Goodwin J. Knight, following the 1954 World Championship. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).
A photograph of Carole Elaine Nelson with the Champion Shamrock girls softball team. Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson is standing in the back row second from the right. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson (center) being presented with a trophy after a Championship victory. Her coach, Ernie Collicutt, is standing at the microphone. The player to the left is unidentified. Napa, California. Date: Thought to be 1953. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).
An article published in the Napa Register on Friday, August 28, 1953, on page nine after Carole Elaine Nelson pitched the Fresno Rockets to the California state title. Mayor Warner presented her with a bouquet of roses, her former coach, Ernie Collicutt gave her a traveling case. Carole was about to leave for the World Softball Tournament held in Toronto, Canada. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).


Carole Elaine Nelson’s entry ticket into the World Championship Softball Tournament played in Toronto, Canada, during the 1953 season. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

A patch Carole Elaine Nelson received during the World Championship Softball Tournament played in Toronto, Canada, during the 1953 season. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

Trophy room of the Hacienda Fresno Rockets. Date: 1954. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).


An article written by coach Ernie Collicutt thanking Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson for her softball play and her success in the World Championships. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).
A photograph of Carole Elaine Nelson the original of which is clearly marked "Chamber of Commerce Clearwater, Florida" on the front bottom, left hand corner. On the back is a type written statement that says MISS SOFTBALL 1955, Carole Nelson, Hacienda Rockets, Fresno, California, ALL WORLD PITCHER - 1954. The team was known as the Fresno Rockets until Carole's final year when the Hacienda Motel of Fresno took over sponsorship. (Courtesy of Karen Rae (Nelson) Allen).

A photograph of pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson with coach Ernie Collicutt when she was selected Miss Softball for 1955. Date photograph was taken: 1955. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

A photograph of pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson being congratulated by the mayor of Napa after she was selected Miss Softball as coach Ernie Collicutt looks on. Photograph taken at the home of Victor Nelson in 1955. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).
A team photograph of the California 1957 State Champion Women's Softball Team that were also Runner Up in the North Pacific Region. Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson is standing in the back row first on the right. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).


A patch Carole Elaine Nelson received during Northern California Region Championship softball games during the 1958 season. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

The Napa Independents, 1958 Regional Champions of the Northern Pacific area. Back row: (left to right) Betty Blue, scorekeeper; Beverly Dahlgren, Myrt Baker, Barbara France, Carole Cammarota, Ernie Collicutt, manager; Kathie Corder, Jean Hallett, coach; Lois Powell, Barbara Coombs, asst. mgr. Bottom row: (left to right) Bobbie Burnsed, bat girl; Joanne Haus, Maggie Devers, Irene Obara, Pat Moulton, Bobbie Bertini, Barbara Courtney, Emma Pendergrass, Lorraine Goff, Carol Waggoner, Pattie Burnsed, equipment manager.

Members of the Napa Independents 1958 Region Championship Team of the Northern Pacific Area. Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota is in back row fifth from the left. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).
Looking into Napa’s past and present

By LOUIS KESTEER

Recalling thrilling memories of the 1930s and early 1940s when they were known as the Napa Shamrocks, one of the nation’s best girls softball team, whose pitcher Carole Nelson established an All America record, the former teammates and special guests held their first reunion in approximately 30 years last Saturday at Papa’s Pasta House on California Street. All the “girls” are married now and are mothers of grown children.

There was, however, one regrettable note that temporarily marred the happy get-together. The beloved man who was like a father to the girls and who served as their manager and coach was missing. Ernie Collicutt had died April 10, 1978. But Ernie’s widow, Stella, who had come down from her new residence place at Anderson, in Santa County, to attend the meeting, insisted that the party continue on a happy note as her late husband would have wanted. If Ernie could have attended he would have been overjoyed by the association that has been showered upon him.

Ernie Collicutt was a baseball and a girls softball coach. He first started coaching girls in 1934 when he was a young boy. He was a star pitcher and was named to the All-Star team several times.

The Napa Shamrocks were a team that was formed in 1934 by Ernie Collicutt. They were one of the best girls softball teams in the country, and they won several national championships.

The team had a lot of success in the 1930s and 1940s, and they were one of the teams that helped to establish girls softball as a sport.

One of the highlights of the Shamrock players occurred March 21, 1961, when they were guests along with the San Francisco Seals and Oakland Oaks baseball teams at Beringer’s Winery in St. Helena where they were greeted by Fred Alazzamini, Beringer’s manager, who hosted the large group at a (Continued on Page 16).
A copy of the biography in the program when Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota was inducted into the Napa High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Napa, California. Date: September 13, 1997. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

The list of inductees when Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota was inducted into the Napa High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Napa, California. Date: September 13, 1997. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

The obituary of George Peter Cammarota published in the Napa Register, Napa, California, in 1992.

An article about George Peter Cammarota and the impact he had on football in the Napa, California, area. Published in the Napa Register, Napa, California, 1992.
In Memory of

CAROLE ELAINE CAMMAROTA

Born
July 20, 1934
Glasgow, Montana

Passed Away
August 23, 2001
Napa, California

Memorial Service
4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 30, 2001
St. John’s Lutheran Church
Pastor Mike Schmidt, officiating

Private Interment
Tulocay Cemetery
Napa, California

DAVID GEORGE CAMMAROTA

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). David George Cammarota was born on December 10, 1959, in Napa, California, and was the son of George Peter and Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota. David George Cammarota married Sue ???? on ???? in Sacramento, California. They were married at a Lutheran Church in Sacramento, California, and the reception was held inside the State Capitol building. David George and Sue (?) Cammarota had two children: Lauren Taylor Cammarota born on May 2, 1992, in Sacramento, California, and Griffin Avery Cammarota born on August 3, 1994, in Sacramento, California.

LAUREN TAYLOR CAMMAROTA

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). Lauren Taylor Cammarota was born on May 2, 1992 in Sacramento, California, and was the daughter of David George and Sue (?) Cammarota.

GRIFFIN AVERY CAMMAROTA

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). Griffin Avery Cammarota was born on August 3, 1994 in Sacramento, California, and was the son of David George and Sue (?) Cammarota.

MARY JUNE CAMMAROTA

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). Mary June Cammarota was born on March 24, 1962, in Napa, California, and was the daughter of George Peter and Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota. Mary June Cammarota had a daughter, Kelsey Baker, born on ???? in Napa, California.

KELSEY BAKER

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). Kelsey Baker was born on ???? in Napa, California, and was the daughter of Mary June Cammarota.
ELAINA JEANETTE CAMMAROTA

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). Elaina Jeanette Cammarota was born on December 9, 1965, in Napa, California, and was the daughter of George Peter and Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota.

Catherine Carole Cammarota (Cathy) swimming in a pool near Napa, California. Date: early 1980s. (Courtesy of Robin Renae Nelson).

A photograph of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota (left), with her sister, Mary June Cammarota, and Mary's daughter, Kelsey Cammarota. The man at the right is unidentified. California. Date: unknown. (Courtesy of Robin Renae Nelson).

CATHERINE CAROLE CAMMAROTA

(Written text provided by William John Krause II). Catherine Carole Cammarota (Cathy) was born on October 5, 1971, in Napa, California, and was the daughter of George Peter and Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota.

Catherine Carole Cammarota (Cathy) swimming in a pool near Napa, California. Date: early 1980s. (Courtesy of Robin Renae Nelson).