

CAROLE ELAINE (NELSON) CAMMAROTA

(Written text and photographs provided by William John Krause II and Elaine 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 (front left) photographed with Karen Rae Nelson (front left). Second row left to right: unknown, Rockwood Lee Nelson, and William John Krause II. Third row left to right: Robert Allen Nelson, Mary Ann Christine Nelson, and unknown. Florence Ione Nelson is standing in back. Napa, California. Date: 1945. (Photograph courtesy of William John Krause II).



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



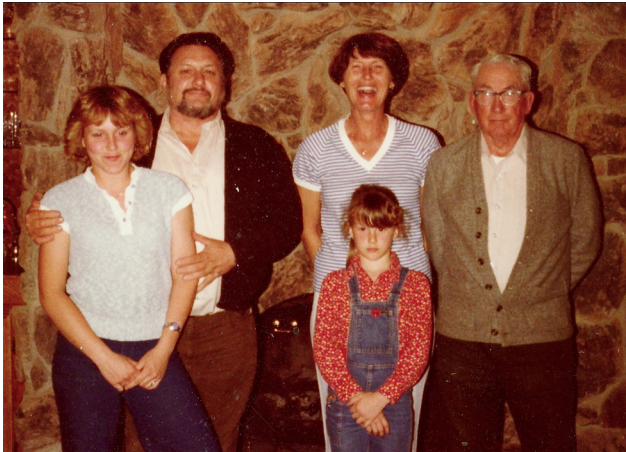
A photograph of Carole Elaine Nelson (left) with her sister, Mary Ann Christine Nelson. Date: unknown. (Photograph courtesy of William John Krause II).



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) Cammarota (second from right) standing next to her father, Victor Christ Nelson, at far right. Also shown are George Peter Cammarota and Carol's two daughters, Elaina Jeannette Cammarota (left) and Catherine Carole Cammarota. Place: Carole and George Cammarota's home located at Vineyard Lane in Napa, California. Date: 1978. (Photograph courtesy of William John Krause II).



Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota (second in back from right) and relatives. Back row from left to right are: Victor Christ Nelson, George Peter Cammarota, Carole, and Hazel Ruby (Nelson) Krause. In front from left to right are: Lorraine Marion (Nelson) Bain, Anne Mathilda (Nelson) Stull, and Catherine Carole Cammarota. Glasgow, Montana. Date: 1981. (Photograph courtesy of William John Krause II).

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

NELSON TURNS TO PITCHING AND BECOMES STAR

Last year, 1953, found Carole pitching in spots for the Rockets, playing second fiddle to another great pitcher, Joan Alsop of the Rockets, who was very good.

Carole will never forget the end of the '53 season. Alsop was hurt as the season's crucial game to decide the winner of the Pacific Coast League approached, leaving the rookie, Nelson, to face the brunt of the three-time winner, the Orange Lionettes, but the rookie did it, putting her team into the state tournament to try and qualify for the World Tournament to be held in Canada. Once again the iron-nerved Miss pulled it off getting her team to the world's tournament.

In that tournament it was only proper that it should wind up with the two top teams, Fresno and Orange, battling each other for the title and as it should, when teams of this caliber meet, it took three games to decide which would wear the crown. In the end, after each team had beaten the other once the Fresno manager, Bernice Amaral, called on the amazing rookie, Nelson, to pull it out of the fire, and all Carole did was hurl a four-hit, six strikeout, shutout at the Lionettes to triumph 2 to 0 and endear herself to the hearts of Fresno fans forever.

In winning, Carole did two notable things. First she stopped the bid of the Lionettes who were after their fourth consecutive world crown, and secondly, to do it she beat Orange chucker Bertha Ragan, who was and still is recognized as one of the outstanding pitchers of all time. Wonder what that makes Carole, then,

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.

REPEATS FEAT IN '54 SEASON

1954 was another good year. Rookie no longer, Carole was called upon to do the lion's share of the hurling and records show just two losses on her record for the whole of the '54 season.

In the middle of the season the Rockets were in fifth place but then put on a spurt that saw them come into the last week of play just one game behind, yes you guessed it, the Orange Lionettes. This time there was no dilly-dallying. The Lionettes needed only one win of a two game schedule to claim the league pennant but they never got it. The rookie of '53 faced them in both contests and won the first 1 to 0 in 13 innings and humbled them in the crucial second game 2 to 1 in 10 innings.

So sure were the Lionettes of winning at least their needed one game that beautiful championship trophies were bought prior to the playoffs. I guess now they're using them for flower pots.

Most of you know the rest. Orange was awarded the World Tournament this year and it must have hurt more than ever when the Fresno Rockets swept through six games without a defeat, including a 2 to 0 defeat of Orange.

Naturally Carole Nelson, no longer the rookie, but now the meal ticket of the Fresno club, was the poison. Facing the great Bertha Ragan once again she spun a two-hit 2 to 0 defeat over the hapless Lionettes to win the World's Championship for the second consecutive year. Four times Carole has faced the mighty Lionettes and their superb Bertha Ragan now, and four times has she emerged the winner. 'Nuff said.

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.

SPEAKING OF NICKNAMES, we've noticed one for Napa's ace softball "pitcherette", Carole Nelson in the recent issue of Balls & Strikes, the official publication of the Amateur Softball Association.

As the story goes, "Dubbed 'Preacher' by her mates, perhaps because of her height and her serious countenance on the mound, Carole wrapped up the final game and the title (in World Tournament play) in a great four-hit pitching job."

Carole picked up her softball experience with the late Shamrocks of Ernie Collicutt and was a star hurler for the Fresno Rockets in the World Championship Tourney last year.

The article continues, "She is a 19-year-old miss who strides from her 5-foot 10-inch height with a windmill-style delivery. She throws a 'heavy' ball with lots of speed and 'stuff' and has been steadily improving in the control department. Her main weakness has been in the fielding of her position, but constant practice throughout last season showed results in tournament play.

"The Rockets still kid her about her first game in the '53 Tournament in Toronto. The opponent was the Buena Park Lynx, for whom the Fresno club has a healthy respect. Carole's eyes just about left her head with every pitch during the first few innngs—she suddenly realized that 'this is IT', the National Tournament, and the knowledge was almost overwhelming. Catcher Betty Schlegal says she never saw such big eyes coming at her in her life!"

It's now a matter of history how the Rockets went on to capture the World's Championship with a good deal of their strength based on Carole's 3-0 pitching record in the tourney.

We're glad to see that she has received recognition from Balls & Strikes which is circulated throughout every state and 34 foreign countries.

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.

A DREAM COME TRUE: En route to Toronto, Canada, are three Naps—Carole Nelson, Ernie Collicutt, and Jim Hartley.

Carole is going as the number one pitcher for the Fresno Rockets girls' softball team, winners of the California softball crown, who will represent this state in the World's Championship Tournament, September 7-12.

Collicutt, Miss Nelson's first coach (she formerly played for the Napa Shamrocks), will go along as assistant coach of the Rockets—an honor richly deserved by the man who has done much to promote softball in our city.

Hartley will make the trip to get cussed out by irate female softballers. He will be one of the umpires.

So to this trio, we extend the best of luck. May Carole pitch nothing but victories, may Ernie enjoy his coaching job, and may the players take kindly to Hartley's decisions.

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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.

Carole Leads Fresno To National Honors

She's done it again!
Carole Nelson, Napa's claim to fame in female softball circles, pitched the Fresno Rockets to their second straight World's Championship, last night, with a 1-0 victory over the tough Orange Lionettes and veteran hurler Bertha Ragan.

Giving up only two runs in the six tournament games she worked, Carole was the leading hurler on the Fresno squad. In recognition of her fine mound work, she was named to the All-America team along with shortstop Kay Rich.



CAROLE NELSON . . . Napa's pride and joy, led Fresno Rockets to their second world softball title at Orange.

LOOK WIN
e went on to win the 20-2-1 marathon and their world championship, but has felt that except for inning collision at home



Carol Nelson Hugs World Softball Title Trophy
She pitched Fresno, Cal., to victory in the final.

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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Winning pitcher, Carol Nelson, left, and Yvonne Clausen centre-fielder, were happy Saturday night despite the rain and chilly winds, as their Fresno Rockets captured the CNE-Tely Women's World Softball tournament, putting an end to Orange Lionettes' three-year grip on the title.

Rockets sure all the time they'd take Orange's title

TORONTO, Can.—Before the first pitch in the tournament the form chart indicated that the Fresno Betsy Ross Rockets would be the team to beat for the championship.

As Ernie Collicutt, assistant coach and good-will ambassador of the Rockets stated, "We're not afraid of the Lionettes and will take them when the time comes. We've beaten them four out of five in league play."

And in winning the world crown the Rockets defeated Orange two out of three. But it was close all the way. Fresno won 2-0, in a regular bracket affair, lost the first final, 1-0, then won the decider, 2-0.

Collicutt insists the Rockets would have won the title last year, too, if the girls hadn't been KO'd by flu bugs during tournament play.

West Allis, Wis., G. and W. Construction made it to the tournament by defeating the Peoria Dieselettes, Region winners for the last eight years. The Wisconsin girls did all right, too. They won their opener, 4-1, over Bremerton, Northwest powerhouse, then lost to a pair of toughies, Denver, by 6-4, and Toronto's Garten's by 3-1. It was a very creditable showing.

Bertha Ragan, Orange's pitching ace whose work in the tournament convinced the few skeptics left that she's one of the leading pitchers of all time, came to Toronto with a career record of 102



LEFT TO RIGHT . . . Kay Rich—All-American short stop; Carole Nelson, pitcher; Ernie Collicutt, Bernice Amaral, Fresno Manager.

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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Former Area Resident Top Pitcher

By Courier Correspondent

TAMPICO — A former Valley county resident, Carole Nelson, recently hurled a shutout victory for her softball team, the Fresno, Calif., Rockets at a tournament in Toronto, Ont., to give her team the woman's world championship.

Clippings from California newspapers have been received by relatives here telling of the feminine hurler's talents on the mound. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Nelson, who lived in the county, and are now residents of Napa, Calif. Her mother is the former Elaine Bronstad. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Bronstad of Napa, former residents, and also of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Nelson of Tampico.

Carole hurled a shutout, 2-0, victory over the 1952 champion Orange Lionettes of California to win the title at Toronto. She was acclaimed the top rookie of the world contest.

Previously, she had pitched a three-hit ball game for the Rockets when they took the California state title, 12-0, from the Marchants of Oakland.

BULLETIN!

Carole Nelson, ace Napa softball hurler, pitched the Fresno Rockets to a 1-0 victory over the world champion Orange Lionettes last night

Miss Nelson, a former Napa Shamrock, outpitched All-American Bertha Ragan with a two-hit masterpiece.



DREAM COME TRUE—Napa's Carol Nelson's dreams of softball pitching stardom have come true. Last weekend the tall Napa girl scored two victories over the world champion Orange Lionettes while playing for the Fresno Rockets in Fresno. Saturday night Carol threw a two-hitter to drop the Lionettes 2-1, and then Sunday night took over in the sixth inning and won a twelve-inning thriller, 3-2, in the Pacific Coast Women's Softball League. Shown above is Miss Nelson's former coach, Ernie Collicutt receiving the ball with which Miss Nelson won Saturday night. With Miss Nelson and Collicutt are Kay Rich, All-American shortstop, left, and Bernice Amaral, Rocket manager, right.

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.

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

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CAROLE NELSON, former star softball hurler for the Napa Shamrocks girls' nine, is really making a name for herself down Fresno way.
 Playing for the Fresno Rockets, Carole has lost only one ball game this season—that on an unearned run.
 Among her string of victories, she holds decisions over the Phoenix Ramblers and the **WORLD'S CHAMPION** Orange Lionettes!
 That's doing pretty good for her first season in softball's "big time"!!
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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.

Napa's Carole Nelson Pitches Fresno Team To World Crown

Napa's Carole Nelson hurled a shutout victory over the 1952 World Champion Orange Lionettes of California to win the World Crown for the Fresno Rockets, 2-0, Saturday night at the Canadian Tournament.

Claimed the top rookie of the World contest, Carole had complete control of the game at all times. Both teams played errorless ball.

In the first contest, with Joan Alsop hurling, the Lionettes took the game 1-0 in 10 innings of ball, again both teams going the route without an error.

Both contests were played on a wet field with over 8000 fans on hand.

Each member of the Rockets team was awarded a 21-jewel Bulova wrist watch and a scrolled plaque.

The Rockets team headed home by auto with two contests slated to be played en route. Final game of the season will be played in Salt Lake City.

Following that contest, the team will drive directly to the Nelson residence on Shurtleff avenue, where an all-out celebration will be waiting for the new World's Champions.

Ernie Collicutt, Rocket coach, and Jim Hartley, Napa's World umpire, who was injured early in tournament play, entrained for home yesterday.

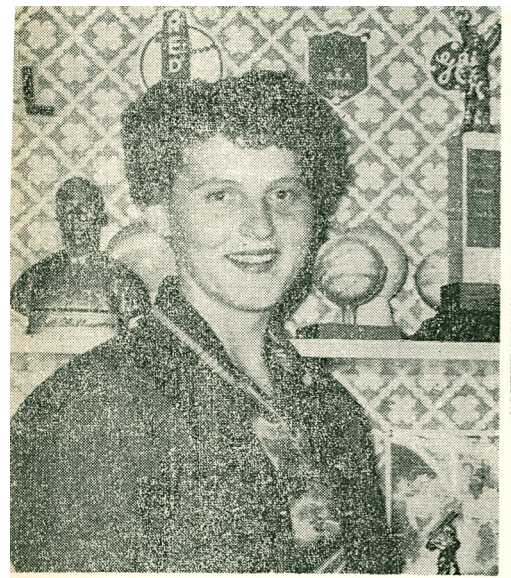
In a wire to The Register, Collicutt said, "I am the happiest man in Canada, I saw a dream come true. Will arrive in Napa Wednesday or Thursday."

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.



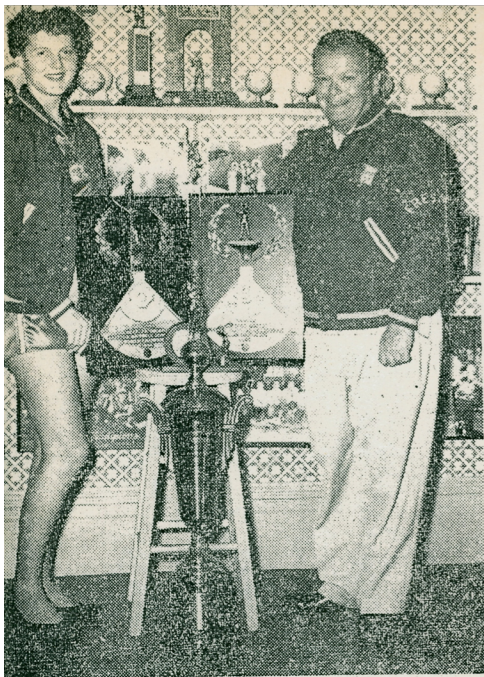
VICTORY MARCH . . . parade of the Fresno Rockets upon their homecoming to Fresno winning the Women's Softball Championships in Toronto, Canada, recently, Carole Nelson, pitcher for the team, her mother, Mrs. Victor C. Nelson and Ernie Collicutt, who has figured prominently in her career, were joyful participants. Carole appears here the third from the left, Nelson is seated in one of the convertibles and Collicutt stands beside it.

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.



INGS FAME TO NAPA . . . Carole Nelson, who, this past season, repeated her feat of 1953 and pitched the Fresno Rockets a world's championship in girls' softball. Miss Nelson has deposed to her star status from a beginning in 1948 when she is an outfielder on the old Napa Shamrocks. She is now recognized as one of the leading exponents of the softball game for men. Reports credit her with being the only Napa girl to achieve place on a championship softball team.

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.



"All-American"

For the second year in a row Carole Nelson, former chucker 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 Collicutt, who accompanied the Rockets to the tourney this year, as well as to the 1953 tournament at Toronto, the team has been invited to make a trip to Australia next May and Collicutt said that efforts are being made to arrange for the journey.

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

AMERICAN . . . Carole Nelson, former member of the Napa Rockets and now star pitcher with the world champion Fresno, has just been named "All American" in the field of girls' softball. Shown with Carole is Ernie Collicutt who had a hand in pitching her the stellar pitcher that she is.

NAPA SUNDAY JOURNAL

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.

NAMED TO WOMEN'S "ALL-AMERICAN" TEAM

As a reward for her stellar pitching over the '54 season, Carole was named on the "All American" Womens Softball team, as well as making the "All-Star" team, selected at the World's Tournament.

The governor of California, Goodwin Knight, has composed a Citation of Congratulations to each member of the Fresno Club. The certificates are in Ernie Collicutt's office at the present time, pending delivery to the girls.

What next? Naturally it's up to Carole. At the present time she is attending Chico State College. Her original plans were to attend Fresno State, but as a few of her Napa friends attend Chico she chose to go there and rightfully so.

If she chooses to return to Fresno for the '55 season, a good job as a bookkeeper for Leach Motors, sponsors of the Rockets, awaits her.

Something even better is in the offing. Ernie has been asked by the powers that be in Fresno to take charge of arranging a trip to Australia for the Rockets in May. Ernie says that the trip depends on whether or not the members of the Rockets, all but three of whom are teachers or students, can get away from their every day chores. If they can, there is a very good chance that the trip will materialize.

We are given to understand that there are those among us who are bitter at Ernie Collicutt for Carole's landing in Fresno and playing for the Rockets. These people seem to think that Carole should have stayed here and brought glory to Napa instead. Let's go back to 1952.

NAPA SPONSOR LACKING FOR STELLAR SOFTBALL TEAM

When the Shamrocks were disbanded in '52 Collicutt offered to turn the team over to anyone interested in sponsoring it. No takers. At that time there WAS NOT another independent girls' team in Napa. There was the Girls' League but most of the Shamrocks were over the age limit. Carole's plans had always been to go to Fresno State some day, so it was inevitable that her wanderings should take her down there, just as it was inevitable that once down there things would work out as they have. Fresno has never regretted and we doubt that Carole has, and we don't blame her.


It is inconceivable to think that Carole would have enjoyed the same success had she remained in Napa as she did in Fresno. The recent women's tournament held here should have been proof enough of the wide gap in ability. Oh, we don't say that Napa could never have a championship club but we believe that it would take a few years to build with the team sticking together and playing as a unit. All this time Carole or any other top pitcher, would be pitching her heart out against competition such as teams in the Pacific Coast Girls' League provide now, and for what?

PLANS FOR NEXT SEASON STILL INDEFINITE

Like we said before, as far as we know right now Carole's plans for ball next season are not yet made. A.S.A. rules say that a player must play wherever her summer employment is. As we said before, Carole has a good job with the sponsor of the Rockets and the job is waiting for her if she chooses to go back, and we hope she does.

As the Rough Rider team did in men's softball so did Carole Nelson do in women's softball, and by that we mean help put Napa on the map, because we sincerely doubt that many people in the Fresno and Orange area ever heard of our town, until that she goes on and on and some day wears the crown as the greatest woman pitcher of all time, and she can do it, too.

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.



Carole Nelson Night

OPENING
NAPA GIRLS' SOFTBALL LEAGUE
Sponsored by Napa Recreation Commission
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1954
KIWANIS PARK, NAPA, CALIFORNIA

Leno Caffo
I participated in this Opening Night.

Carole Nelson holding World's Championship Trophy, in which she pitched the winning game for the Fresno Rockets, held at Toronto, Canada in 1953.

GUESTS PARTICIPATING IN THE OPENING NIGHT CEREMONIES — MAYOR JOE GRECO, WASH MANNERING, GLENN DUBOSE, ANDY DAGLIA, RAY CAVAGNARO, LENO CAFFO, CHARLES HARNEY, JOHN NEMES, PAUL ACQUARO.

OFFICERS, MANAGERS AND COACHES—1954 GIRLS' SOFTBALL LEAGUE: PRESIDENT—CHARLES BURGELIN; SECRETARY—NELL FRISCH.

THE NAPA SHAMROCKS were the 1948-49-50 League Champions, sponsored by the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 753, and also sponsors of these Certificates.

1951 CHAMPIONS The Nativettes Managed by Linzie Kramer F. Sanza	1952 CHAMPIONS The Druidettes Managed by Bob Lacze Mr. Degi	1953 CHAMPIONS Craigie Motors Managed by Lefty Waggoner Harry Domezio	St. John's Managed by Bob Moulton F. Garrett	Cliff's Chicks Managed by Martin Beeler	St. Helena Bob Cats Managed by Bob Booker
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ERNIE COLLICUTT was the founder of Girls' Leagues in 1948, and managed the Napa Shamrocks. Ernie also started Carole Nelson on her way to become the winning pitcher in the Pacific Coast Championship; State Championship, and the Girls' World Championships held at Toronto, Canada in 1953.

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

Executive Department
State of California


It is a pleasure to extend hearty congratulations to the young ladies of the Fresno Rockets upon their winning the National Women's Amateur Softball Association championship.

Because of our vigorous and vibrant heritage, Californians have always taken great pride in their outstanding athletes. The growing interest which is being taken by girls and women in team sports is contributing materially to our State's reputation as the home of champions.

Women's amateur softball - like many other forms of competitive athletics - provides much enjoyment to spectators and participants alike. Beyond that, such activities are extremely valuable in developing high standards of fair play, courage, determination to win, and physical well-being.

The victory of the Fresno Rockets in the tournament at Orange is impressive, indeed, when the capability of their opponents is taken into consideration. I am happy to have this opportunity to extend greetings and best wishes for the future to the members of the team, their manager, trainers and sponsors.

Goodwin J. Knight
Goodwin J. Knight
Governor of California



WORLD'S CHAMPIONS
1954
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA
FRESNO ROCKETS
SPONSORED BY
LEACH MOTORS, FRESNO

TO: *Carole Nelson*
TEAM MEMBER

A letter of proclamation to Carole Elaine Nelson from 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).

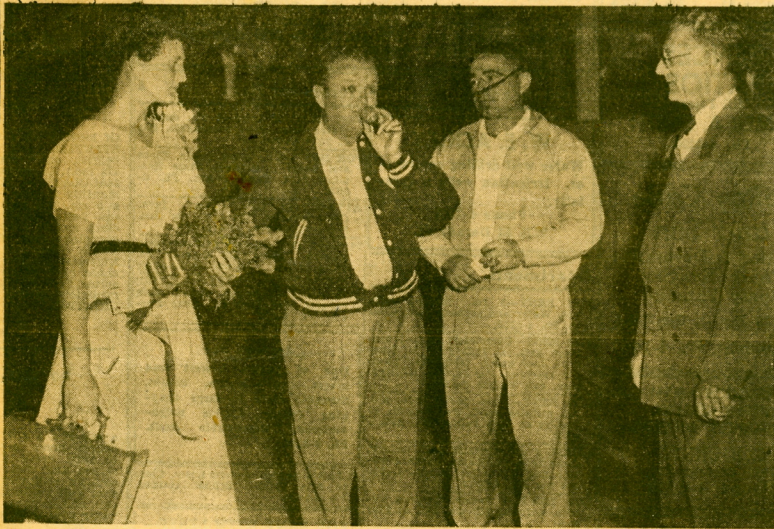


Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson (center) being presented with a trophy after a Championship victory. Her coach, Ernie Collicutt, is standing at the microphone. The player to the left is unidentified. Napa, California. Date: Thought to be 1953. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

Napa Register Sports

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1953.

PAGE NINE.



QUEEN OF THE BALL—Just before the Merchant, Chapel Oaks contest last night, former Napa Shamrock star, Carole Nelson, who recently pitched the Fresno Rockets to the state title, was introduced to the fans. After Mayor Warner presented her with a bouquet of roses, her former coach Ernie Collicutt gave her a traveling case. It came at a good time for Carole Nelson is on her way to the World Softball Tourney in Toronto, Canada. Left to right, are Carole Nelson, Ernie Collicutt, Jim Alonzi and Mayor Warner. (Register Photo)



Carole Nelson holding World's Championship Trophy, in which she pitched the winning game for the Fresno Rockets, held at Toronto, Canada in 1953.

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 holding the World Championship Softball Trophy in Toronto, Canada, after the 1953 World Softball Tournament. Carole pitched the winning game. (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).

Hacienda Fresno Rockets



WORLD CHAMPIONS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL
1953 - 1954

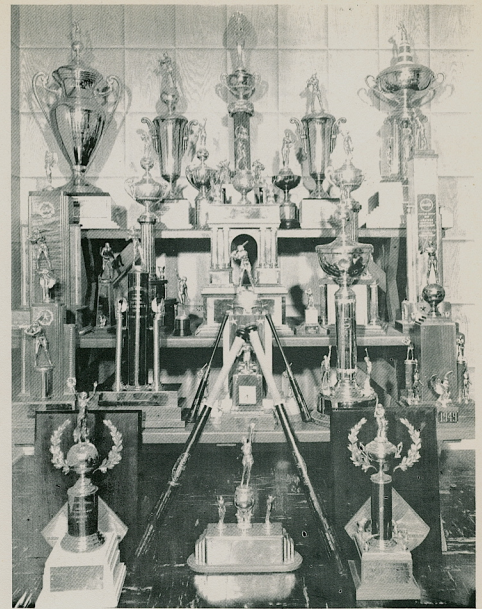
FRONT ROW — LEFT TO RIGHT:
Gloria May, 1st base; Vera Miller, pitcher; Terry Urrutia, 2nd base; Rose Pitman, 3rd base; Bernice Amaral, manager; Pat Richman, left field; Kay Rich, shortstop; Rita Ramirez, outfield; Margo Loschke, infield.

BACK ROW — LEFT TO RIGHT:
Dutch Chandler, business manager; Tommy Slappey, pitcher; Betty Schlegal, catcher; Jean Contel, catcher; R. E. Wilson, President Hacienda Motels; Warren Bayley, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer; Barbara Prather, right field; Carole Nelson, pitcher; Yvonne Anderson, centerfield; Ernie Collicutt, public relations. (In center) Jo Ann Chandler, 1st grd.

Hacienda Fresno Rockets are sponsored by the Hacienda Motels which are located in Fresno, Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, Reno and Las Vegas.

A photograph of the World Champions Women's softball team (1953-1954). Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson is standing in the back row third from the right. Date: 1954. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

TROPHY ROOM OF THE HACIENDA FRESNO ROCKETS



Above trophies were won from 1946 to the present date.

NORTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CHAMPIONS 1946-1953

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC COAST WOMEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1953-1954

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

Fresno keeps title, handcuffs Orange in final for sweep

ORANGE, Calif.—Just as they predicted they would Fresno's hustling Rockets successfully defended their Amateur Softball Association World championship in a thrill-packed Tournament here by bowling over six consecutive opponents without suffering a setback.

The Rockets, piloted by Bernice Amaral, sponsored by Leach Motors and sparred by shortstop Kay Rich, who was named the Tournament's Most Valuable Player, clinaxed the march to the second crown by tumbling the host once-defeated Orange Lionettes, 2-0, in the final behind 19-year-old Carole Nelson's splendid two-hit hurling.

It was the same Nelson who last year also subdued the Lionettes then three-time champions and seeking their fourth title in a row, to carry the Rockets to the World throne. Oddly enough, Nelson defeated the Lionettes last year and again here in Orange by the same score, 2-0. Last year, however, she turned the trick in the second final when defeat meant elimination. This year it was in the first final.

THE LIONETTES had little chance in the face of Carole's superb pitching and the run the Rockets scored in the first inning off Bertha Ragan, who early in the tournament had chalked up a perfect no-hitter, was enough to take the cake. The Rockets picked up an insurance run in the seventh.

Nelson racked up five strikeouts, compared to seven for Ragan and walked only one while the Orange star issued two passes.

THE ROCKETS WASTED no time breaking into the scoring column. With one out Terry Urrutia singled to left and was sacrificed by Rose Pittman. Rich then smashed a single into center to drive in the run. Fresno almost had another run in the same frame. Jean Contel followed Rich's sock by drawing a walk then Barbara Prather hit to deep center but Kay was thrown out at the plate.

The Rockets gathered their superfluous run in the final frame with the help of a two-base error on Contel's loft. Prather's single brought in the marker.

THIS SECOND triumph for Fresno made it five times in a row the ASA Women's World title has been captured by a California team. Orange having won in 1950, '51 and '52. It was also the seventh consecutive time the championship has been taken by a member of the Pacific Coast Women's Softball League. The Phoenix, Ariz. Ramblers won in 1948 and 1949.

The Rockets are the seventh



CAROLE NELSON
Hurls shutout in final

WORLD TOURNAMENT history bears out the fact the Rockets have gradually matured into a "Tournament team," one that has that little extra nerve and effort physically and mentally when the going is the toughest.

In 1946, their first year of organization, the Rockets placed eighth in national ranking. In 1947, they were seventh with one victory in three starts. They were fourth in '48, fifth in '49. Injuries prevented them from participating in 1950 but the next year they went to the final before being eliminated in 29 innings by Orange. In 1952, Fresno battled to a second place record-wise and third rank finish and last season they moved right up on top of the pack.

THE ROCKETS gave their PCL fellow members fair notice that they would win the ASA championship as they romped to the league crown. Ironically enough, the PCL season finished about the same as the World Tournament. Fresno won the pennant with a 29-11 record and Orange was second with 22-10. Phoenix came in fourth, behind Portland, which didn't make it to the World games. And Buena Park was fifth in the PCL.

FINAL SHOWDOWN		FRESNO		ORANGE	
Anderson	2-0	Starr	1-0	3-0	0-0
Brennan	2-0	Misko	2-0	2-0	0-0
Rich	2-0	Kanzer	2-0	3-0	0-0
Contel	2-0	Combs	2-0	3-0	0-0
Prather	2-0	Slappey	2-0	3-0	0-0
Johnson	1-0	Dixon	2-0	1-0	0-0
May	1-0	Morrer	1-0	1-0	0-0
Nelson	2-0	Jordan	2-0	1-0	0-0
		Stiles	2-0	1-0	0-0
		Walters	2-0	1-0	0-0
		Totals	24-21-4	22-21-3	
		ASBINED for Misko in 6th.	100	000	1-2
		FRESNO	100	000	1-2
		ORANGE	000	000	0-0

Lionettes win in 14th to eliminate Phoenix

The Lionettes had to come out of the losers' bracket for their futile challenge against the Rockets, who earlier had turned them back by a 4-0 score. The Lionettes made

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

An article published September 24, 1954, in Newark, New Jersey, about Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson hurling a shutout in the final game of the Amateur Softball World Championship. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

THANK YOU

Dear Sport Fans and Supporters:
I wish to take this time to thank the Napa Journal for their fine co-operation and publicity they have given me in the past years on all my sport activities.

I only wish that Lois Powell could be here to share in all the honors of Carole Nelson's success. In 1948 Lois Powell had a group of young Napa girls playing ball named "The Midgets". Lois needed help so asked me if I would give her some assistance. Lois is now a Wave stationed at the Great Lakes Training Center and has been playing professional ball there this season.

After much hard work with Lois and the team we then started to grow and became the R.V.A. Veteranettes in 1949. From then on to the Napa Shamrocks in 1950-51-52. After three successful years as the Shamrocks we were forced to disband because of financial problems as a traveling team.

After disbanding three of the players from the Shamrocks went on to other teams—Dorothy Hotsenpiller and Karen Dudley joined the Marchants team in Oakland and Carole Nelson went to the Fresno Rockets—one of the finest ball clubs any place in the Nation.

The Rockets have a fine manager in Bernice Amaral and a good business manager Dutch Chandler. The Rockets also have one of the best women softball players in the world—short stop Kay Rich, All American for the past four years.

When the Fresno Rockets went to Toronto Canada this month to compete in the World's Tournament they invited me to go along as coach. I realize and know the Rockets did not need me or my help but it certainly makes one feel grateful they would think of me and show their appreciation by giving me an opportunity to see Carole Nelson pitch in a world's tournament.

Everybody in Napa County is proud of Carole Nelson and she more than deserves any and all credit given her.

At this time I wish to mention the following names as those who helped Carole and the Shamrocks along on the way to success—Maggie Devers who did a fine job of catching Carole—Ray Lawler, Eddie Gonsalves, George Porter, Wilbur Staples, Jim Flannery, Bruno Passini, Ray Cavagnaro, Freddie Borman, Bobbie Dukes, Jim Tackett, Bill Anderson, Bibbie Stevens, Jack Coakley, Fred Gruening, Bill Kroplin, Charles Harney, The General Wards, Glenn DuBose, Napa Recreation Commission, Chick Gordon, The Rough Riders, Vances Inn, Andy Daglia, Yates and Cochrae, Lantow and Moore, Napa College Student Body, Napa Optimist Club, John Nemes, A. S. A. District Commissioner, George Fimby, Ethel Geisler, Shamrocks Team Mother, Al Adamo, members of the Culinary Workers Local 753, members Napa Merchants and all managers of the Girls League. Special thanks to my dear wife for giving me so much time away from home to work on these activities.

I hope Carole Nelson will be an inspiration to all girls interested in softball and that the Girls League will be bigger and better than ever in 1954.

The managers and heads of the girls league have put in many long hours and hard work to keep this League going. Here's hoping everybody in Napa will give them their full support.

There are many, many others who should be thanked for their help but are too numerous to mention at this time.

ERNIE COLLICUTT
(The happiest man in the world for helping to start a CHAMPION on her way)

Thanks to all the parents for giving us such a fine group of girls to work with.

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).

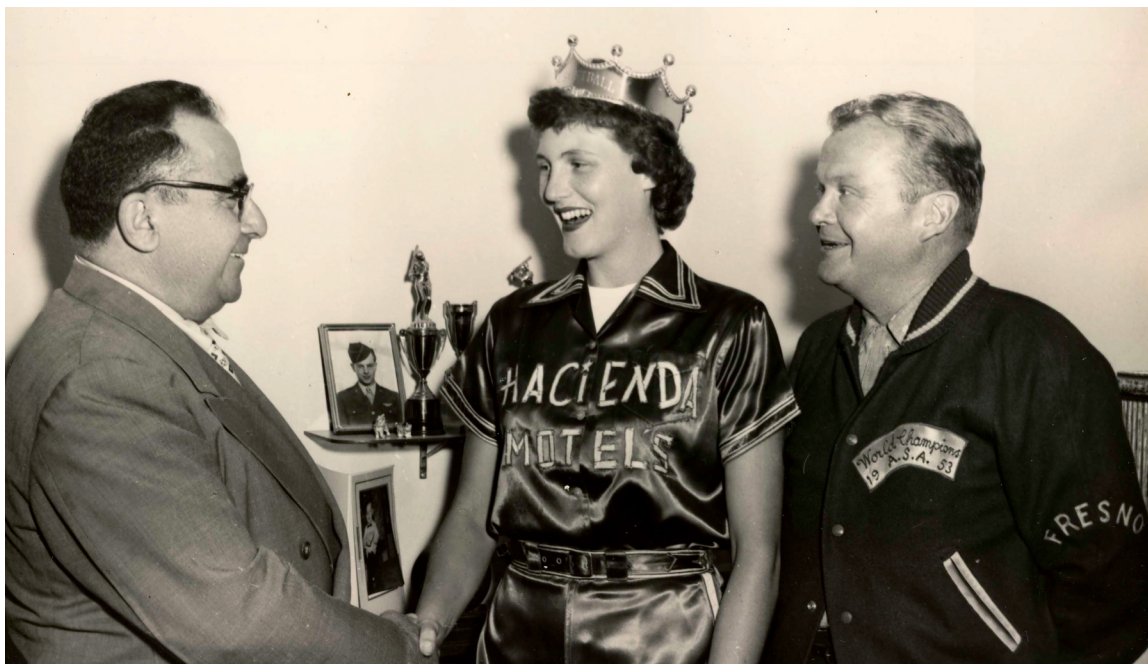


CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

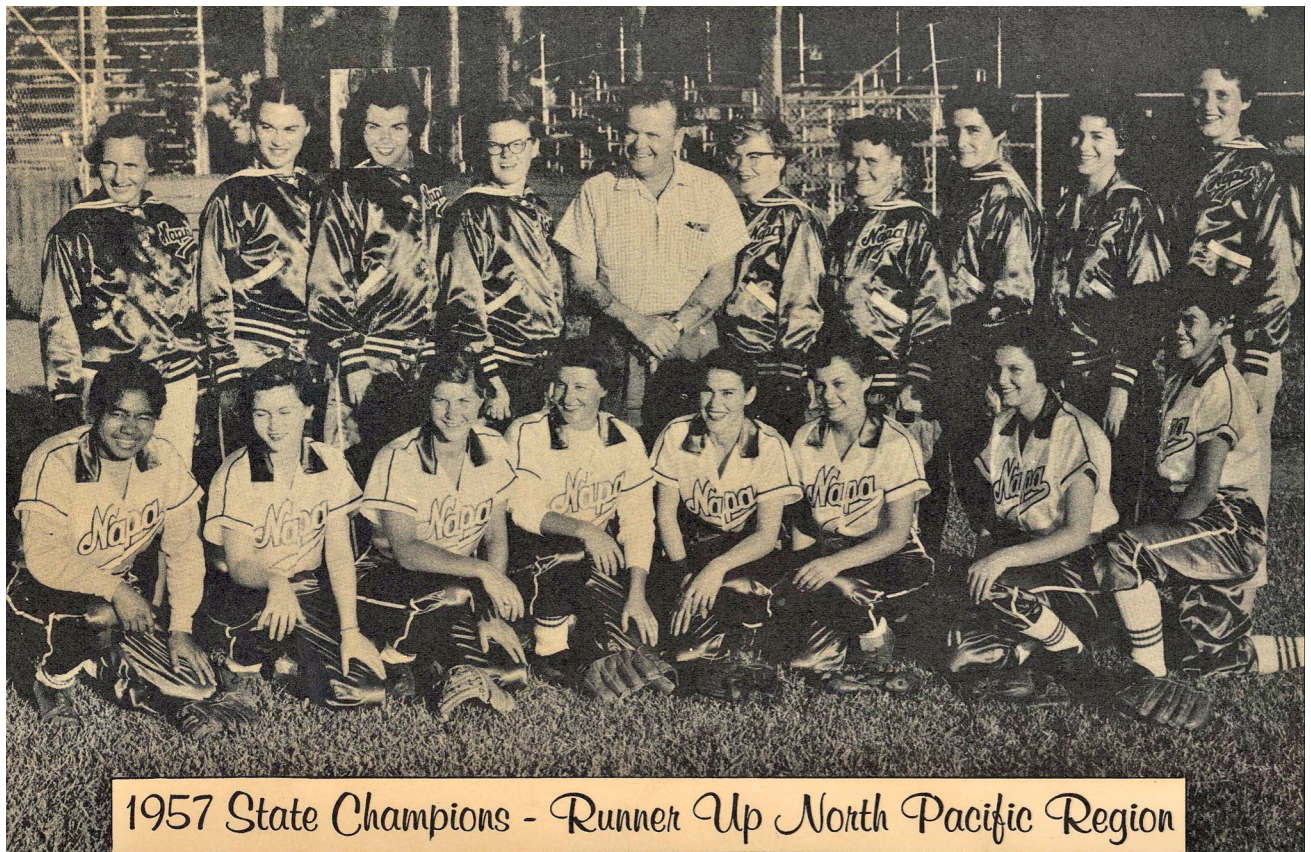
A photograph of Carole Elaine Nelson the original of which is clearly marked "Chamber of Commerce Clearwater, Florida" on the front bottom, left hand corner. On the back is a type written statement that says MISS SOFTBALL 1955, Carole Nelson, Hacienda Rockets, Fresno, California, ALL WORLD PITCHER - 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).



Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson (center) working with her teammates on the 1958 The Napa Independent Girls Softball Team with regard to pitching style. Napa, California. Date: 1958. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).



Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson (center) working with her teammates on the 1958 Napa Independent Girls Softball Team with regard to pitching style. Napa, California. Date: 1958. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).



Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson (back row, first from right) photographed with her teammates on the 1958 Napa Independent Girls Softball Team. Napa, California. Date: 1958. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

No. California and Nevada Softball Championships

1958

WOMEN'S NORTH PACIFIC STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16

WOMEN'S NORTH PACIFIC REGIONAL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

Sponsored by the Northern California Softball Association



HAWES PARK

REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA

Pitcher Carole Elaine Nelson featured on the cover of the 1958 Women's North Pacific Regional Softball Championships Program. (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, ass't. mgr. Bottom row: (left to right) Bobbie Burnsed, bat girl; Joanne Haus, Maggie Devers, Irene Obera, 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 EZETTIE
 Recalling thrilling memories of the 1950s and early 1960s 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, 1976. But Ernie's widow, Stella, who had come down from her new residence place at Anderson, in Shasta 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 overwhelmed by the accolades that would have been showered upon him.

The Shamrocks girls had come up through the ranks after playing with the Midgets and Stornetta Maids. Under the tutelage of Lois Powell they advanced to play with the Independents before they were ready for such strong competition as they would face under the management of Ernie Collicutt. Miss Nelson, invited to pitch for the Fresno Rockets in 1954, won the world's championship for the San Joaquin Valley city.

Manager Collicutt set his goals high and spent long hours preparing to meet the strongest competition and his dedicated efforts paid off well. In 1955 at Toronto, Canada, Miss Nelson triumphed over



Champion Shamrock girls softball team members as they appeared when they started out as the Midgets and Stornetta Maids. From left to right, back row—Eddie Gonsalves, Clara Mordido,

Lois Powell, June Evenson, Sue Lord, Geneva Cooper, Dorothy Hotsenpiller, Lorrain Del Re, Carole Nelson Cammarota, George Porter; front row—Maggie Devers, Joan Viava Collins, Karen

Dudley, Ernie Collicutt, mgr., Janel Geisler, Emma Pendergrass Rossi, Jerry Bonfiglio Nalley, and Nancy Gressinger, with Teresa Biava and Carol Waggoner in the very front.

Bertha Regan, then recognized as the top pitcher in all girls' softball competition. Miss Regan was described as the counterpart of Bob Feller, hardball pitcher of speedball fame. Miss Nelson, who now is the wife of George Cammarota, Napa High School teacher, stated Saturday that a regional tourney held at Grass Valley in 1957 when she pitched the Shamrocks to a runner-up spot gave her one of her greatest thrills.

One who came in for special praise Saturday was Bruno Passini, retired local businessman, who served as Manager Collicutt's right hand man and assistant coach. Bruno, a fine catcher, had the remarkable record of having played on 16 champion Vallejo softball teams and 6 more championship Napa teams after he moved here from Vallejo. Dave Beronio, Vallejo sports writer, would often say "If you want to win a championship get Bruno Passini for your

catcher." Ernie Collicutt was head of the bartenders' and waitresses' union here and when he was not busy coaching the Shamrocks he was often busy raising money to finance trips to tournaments in other cities or for other team expenses. His close friend, Bruno Passini, assisted in all these efforts.

One of the highlights for the Shamrock players occurred March 21, 1951, 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 Abruzzi, Beringer's manager, who hosted the large group at a

(Continued on Page 14)

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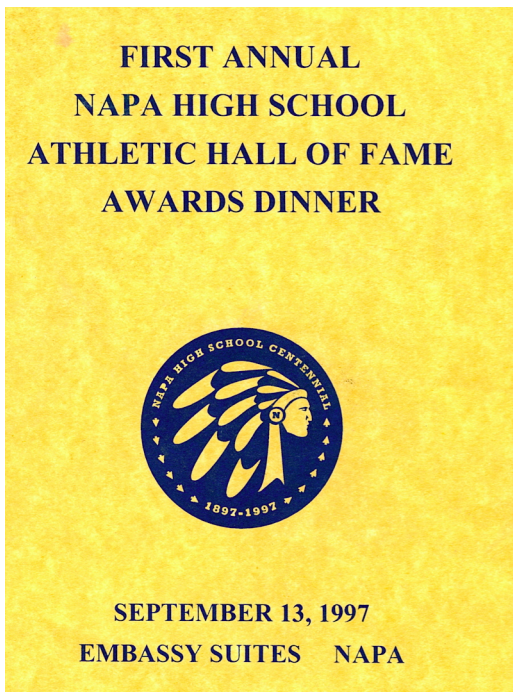
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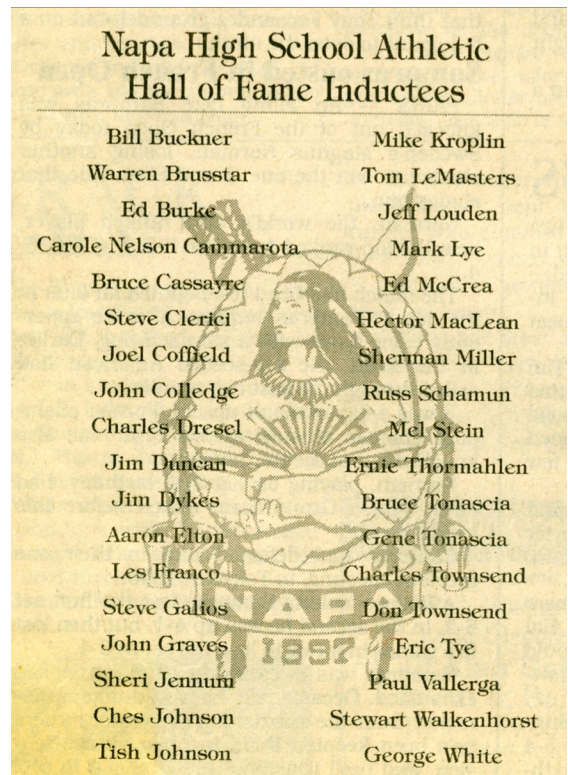
Bridal Registry

SILVERWARE • CRYSTAL • DINNERWARE
 GOURMET COOKWARE
 Be Sure To Register Your Selections

An article published in The Napa Register on Saturday, March 28, 1981, page 13A, about the history of Carole Elaine Nelson and the Champion Shamrock girls softball team. Carole Nelson is standing in the back row second from the right. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).



A copy of the cover of 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).

CAROLE NELSON CAMMORATA
1952

Carole Nelson is selected into a special category in the Napa High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

She didn't excel in interscholastic competition while in high school for the basic reason that there was no such competition for women at that time.

She did become involved in softball while in school, and after graduation joined the Fresno Rockets softball team and proceeded to pitch them to three consecutive world championships and earned All American honors in the process.

After winning in 1953, Fresno defended its title in 1954, highlighted by Carole's pitching. She allowed only 2 runs in 6 complete games and captured the crown with a 1-0 shut out victory over Bertha Ragan and the Orange Lionettes, the host team of the tournament.

Carole Nelson and the Fresno team won again in 1955 for their third straight national title.

Newspaper articles called Carole, "Napa's pride and joy", "Napa's claim to fame", and "Napa's own".

It is that kind of positive recognition that Carole brought to the community and the school that earned her the support of the Selection Committee and a rightful place in the Napa High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

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).



Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota holding her plaque following her induction into the Napa High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Napa, California. Date: September 13, 1997. (Courtesy of Elaina Jeanette Cammarota).

George Cammarota

VALLEJO - George Peter Cammarota, a football coach at Ridgeview, Silverado, Napa High School and Napa College campuses for more than 30 years, died Tuesday at Kaiser Foundation Hospital. He was 65.

Mr. Cammarota was born in Berkeley on April 15, 1927, to George and Kathleen (Lally) Cammarota. He was raised and educated in Oakland.

From 1945 to 1947, he served in the U.S. Army.

Following his discharge, Mr. Cammarota came to Napa where he attended Napa Junior College and played football. He continued



GEORGE CAMMAROTA

his education and received his teaching credential from San Francisco State College.

Mr. Cammarota returned to Napa in 1953 and began teaching at Ridgeview and coaching football. He transferred to Silverado Junior High School when it opened in 1958 and nine years later he transferred to Napa High School. At that time, he stopped teaching physical education and became the head of the history department where he remained until retiring in 1989.

Mr. Cammarota then took an administrative position to develop and plan special projects for the school district.

He married Carole Nelson in 1958. Mr. Cammarota was an adult advisor for A.F.S. at Napa High School and a member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Yountville.

He was a former member of the Native Sons of the Golden West,

the Napa Jaycees and the Sons of Italy.

Mr. Cammarota is survived by his wife, Carole of Napa; one son, David; three daughters, Mary June, Elaine J. and Cathie; two sisters, Mary J. Gregg of Castro Valley and Eileen Twitty of Napa; a brother, Jack of Pittsburg; and one granddaughter.

Friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Apollinaris Catholic Church, 3700 Lassen St., with the Rev. Father Michael Cleary as celebrant. Interment will be at Tulocay Cemetery. Visitation at the chapel of Richard Pierce Funeral Home, 1660 Silverado Trail, will be today until 8 p.m. and on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the George Cammarota Memorial

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.

Cammarota had big impact on football

NOTES AND QUOTES FOR A THURSDAY in the Napa Valley:

■ The late George Cammarota was remembered as an outstanding football coach and teacher by his longtime colleague, former Napa High and Napa Valley College head coach Keith Orr.

"He did an outstanding job," said Orr. "He had the ability to be real cool on the field and keep things in perspective overall. He didn't let things upset him."

Cammarota, a longtime coach and teacher in the Napa Valley Unified School District, died Tuesday. He was 65.

Cammarota was defensive coordinator and also coached the offensive backs when Orr was head coach at Napa High, Napa Valley College and with the Napa Valley Bears of the California Football League.

He also coached at Ridgeview and Silverado junior high schools.

"He did an outstanding job in all areas," said Orr. "He did an outstanding job with all the young men he worked with. He enjoyed working with young people. And the kids really related well to him."

Cammarota also worked under former Napa High head coaches Bob Covey and Pete Rivers.

"When it came to defense, he was one of those guys who had a real mind," Orr said. "He would look at the talent and tell you what we could play and what we couldn't play. He made you look really good."

One game that stands out in Orr's mind came against Montgomery when the Indians were a member of the North Bay League. Orr said Cammarota designed a scheme to stop Montgomery's Mel Gray, who would later go on to star in the NFL.

"He set up the defense against Montgomery, which was one of the first teams to run the Run and Shoot, and Steve Clerici virtually shut him (Gray) down," said Orr. "They (Montgomery) didn't think we could do it."

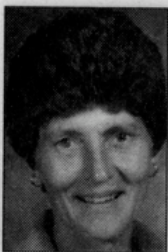
"George had an impact on a lot of Napa High students. He'll be sorely missed."

■ Napa High School graduate

Carole Cammarota

NAPA

Carole Elaine Cammarota (maiden name Nelson) passed away quietly in her sleep at her home in Napa on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2001.



Cammarota

Carole was born July 20, 1934, in Glasgow, Montana, where she lived until

she moved to Napa with her family at the age of 6.

She graduated from Napa High School in 1952. During her teenage years, Carole played softball on "the midgets" which was the first organized softball team for girls in Napa. "The Midgets" became the "Shamrocks" but disbanded after a few years.

Carole went on to play for the Fresno Rockets where she pitched them three consecutive world championships and earned All American honors and Miss Softball of 1955 in the process.

Her coach Ernie Collicutt was quoted saying, "I'm the happiest man in the world for helping to start a CHAMPION on her way."

In 1997, she was entered into the Napa High School Athletic Hall of Fame. She is the only athlete in the Hall of Fame who did not compete in the interscholastic competition in high school for the basic reason that there was no such competition for women at that time.

Carole was a student teacher in 1954. She attended Chico State University and received her bachelor's degree in physical education in 1958. She returned to Napa to teach at the Ridgeview Junior High School where she met her husband George.

For 30 years, Carole was a favorite P. E. teacher at both Ridgeview and Silverado Junior High Schools. She also worked from 1987 — 1997 for the U.S. government at Mare Island and was well liked and admired by her colleagues.

George Cammarota and Carole Nelson were married Feb. 14, 1958, and were married 34 years until George's death in 1992. They had four children. Carole was a generous and loving wife, mother and grandmother.

She was a very active member of the community for years, giving of herself in so many ways. Carole's love for music kept her active in the Napa Symphony where she played the cello (she also enjoyed playing the ukulele.) Because of her positive outlook on life she was highly thought of by anyone who knew her. She enjoyed life, living it to the fullest, even in her last days.

Carole is survived by a son and his wife; David and Sue Cammarota of Sacramento; three daughters, Mary Cammarota of Yountville, Elaina Oakley of Sacramento, Cathe Cammarota of Napa; three grandchildren, Kelsey Baker of Yountville, Lauren Cammarota and Griffin Cammarota of Sacramento; two sisters and their husbands, Karen and Ted Allen of Napa and Florence and John Teverbaugh of Walnut Creek, and two brothers and their wives, Robert and Lily Nelson of Folsom, and Rocky and Dee Dee Nelson of Napa. Carole was preceded in death by her husband George.

Friends are invited to attend a memorial service where we will celebrate the life and legacy of Carole Elaine Cammarota, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30, 2001, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3521 Linda Vista Ave., Napa, Pastor Mike Schmidt officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in the of Cammarota Memorial Fund, Napa Valley College, 2277 Napa-Vallejo Highway, Napa, 94558.

Arrangements are under the direction of Richard Pierce Funeral Service, 1660 Silverado Trail, Napa.

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

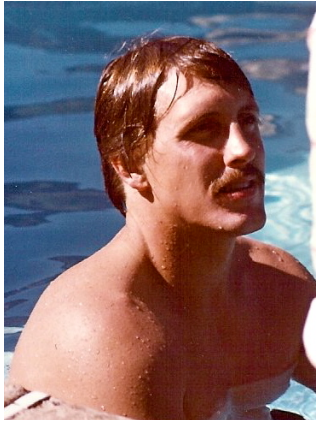
Tulocay Cemetery
Napa, California

The memorial bulletin of Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota. August 30, 2001, Napa, California. (Courtesy of Karen Rae (Nelson) Allen).

The obituary of Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota published in the Napa Register in August, 2001. (Courtesy of Karen Rae (Nelson) Allen).

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.



David George Cammarota photographed swimming in a California pool. Date: unknown. (Courtesy of Robin Renae Nelson).

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

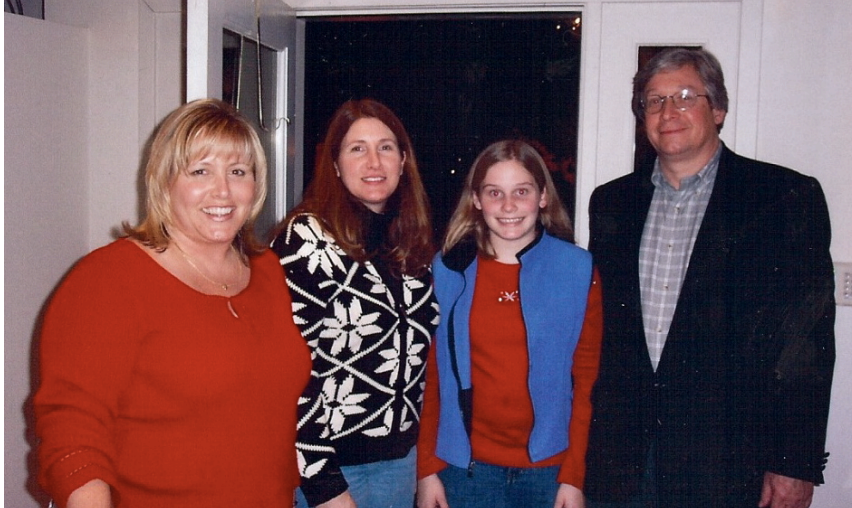
(Written text provided by William John Krause II). **Mary June Cammarota** was born on March 24, 1962, in Napa, California, and was the daughter of George Peter and Carole Elaine (Nelson) Cammarota. Mary June Cammarota had a daughter, **Kelsey Baker**, born on ????? in Napa, California.

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.



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).