

# Pastor, neighbor, sailor, dies at 81

The Rev. Wilfred H. Hodgkin, well known in town not only for his work in the church, but for 60 years of service in the Sea Scouts and 47 years serving the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, died Nov. 14 at age 81.

Hodgkin was born in Berkeley on March 13 in 1919. He and his wife, Ann Barratt Hall Hodgkin, met in junior high school.

"In those days, girls and boys had separate classes, and it wasn't until he sat behind me in homeroom that we noticed each other," she said. "He shot paper wads at me, sometimes with notes in them."

The romance grew into a going-steady relationship, but fell by the wayside in ninth grade, and they broke up. It wasn't until they became juniors at the University of California at Berkeley that they reunited.

"We became engaged while studying together for mid-terms," Hodgkin said, "while I was reading Dickens' 'Great Expectations.'"

They were married at St. Mark's Church in Berkeley, with Wilfred Hodgkin's father, an Episcopalian priest, and his uncle, a bishop of the Episcopalian Diocese of California, officiating at the wedding.

In 1943, he graduated from an accelerated university program. The speed was the result of World War II, which had Hodgkin in uniform the day he accepted his diploma. In his other hand were his orders from the U. S. Army, which sent him to the Philippines, where he served with the 1st Philippine Infantry Regiment until 1946. He earned a Bronze Star with clusters.

After returning from overseas, Hodgkin came home and attended seminary school. He graduated from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in 1949, was ordained Episcopal deacon and priest, and the couple moved to Morro Bay, where he founded St. Peter's Church.

"It was a former Army chapel," Ann Hodgkin said, "and it needed to be moved 13 miles to where we had been moved to a parcel with the bungalow we lived in."

"There were two-lane roads, and Wilfred had to apply some ideas he did not learn in seminary school."

Sometimes the building was bigger than the winding road, she said, and special accommodations had to be made to get the church to its destination.

The mover, who was familiar with the area and its residents, suggested putting a bottle of whiskey on the sheriff's car as a means of helping

the sheriff not notice when the moving church went on detours.



Wilfred H. Hodgkin, B.D., D.D.

It worked.

Hodgkin applied the same strategy when roofers were hammering away on the top of the building. He grouped the men into two teams and promised a bottle of whiskey to whichever team finished its side first.

The roof went up very quickly, Ann Hodgkin said.

The couple moved closer to their beginnings in 1952, when Hodgkin became rector of St. Paul's in Walnut Creek. The rector's work was cut out for him. The church needed more classrooms and a new parish hall. He applied his fund-raising skills and his experience with contractors until the additions were finished.

"In 1960, when he was called to become rector of Christ Church in Alameda, he was thrilled," Ann Hodgkin said. "No more construction; he could finally devote himself to just people and programs."

His first day was July 4, 1960. The church burned down the day after Christmas the same year.

"He was the right man to be there for this tragedy," Ann Hodgkin said. "He had the experience to start rebuilding."

He was rector at the church until 1984, after which he remained very active in the church community, including service as Archdeacon for the Diocese of California, Historiographer of the Episcopal Diocese of California, nine years on the Diocesan Council, and trustee of Grace Cathedral and CDSF.

The Hodgkins had one daughter and three sons. The family took reg-

ular trips to Tahoe to hike and camp and also enjoyed boating in the Bay.

Hodgkin was awarded the St. George's medal from the Presiding Bishop of the United States for his work with the Sea Scouts since age 14, and he and his wife jointly received a U.S. Coast Guard citation for saving 10 lives.

The couple were boating in the Bay between Alcatraz and Aquatic Park on New Year's Day when a group of swimmers got caught in a strong current pulling them toward the Golden Gate. The swimmers had varying degrees of hypothermia, and the Hodgkins had radioed the Coast Guard to have ambulances waiting for them when they got to shore.

"It was a good day's work," she said.

The couple were active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Wilfred Hodgkin has served as a division captain.

Wilfred III, Hodgkin's eldest son, described his father as a patient man.

"He was slow to anger, but he was firm," he said. "And he had a sense of humor. He loved puns."

In 1958, the whole family drove to New York, boarded the Queen Mary, and shoved off for England, after Wilfred Hodgkin was invited to represent the Episcopalian Church at a function held in Canterbury.

He leaves behind Ann Barratt Hall Hodgkin, daughter Elsbeth Hopkinson, sons Wilfred III, Barratt and Donald Hodgkin, grandchildren Philip and Rebecca Hopkinson and Jonathan Hodgkin and sister Elizabeth Price.

Hodgkin was past president of Alameda Council B.S.A. and received the Silver Beaver Award. He was also past president of the Rotary Club of Alameda and of the Alameda City Planning Commission. He was a member of Alameda Lodge No. 1015 B.P.O. Elks and the Encinal Yacht Club.

Family and friends are invited to attend funeral services on Monday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the School for Deacons, 2451 Ridge Road #114, Berkeley, CA 94707, or to the local charity of your choice. Interment private at Sunset View Cemetery. For further information, please call 865-3755.