



James William (Bill) Clague, M.D.

1922-2006

I've known Bill for over 25 years as a surgeon and as a man of many talents. A man with a wonderful sense of humor, always on the move, and with boundless energy. He frequently discussed his early years which included living and attending school in Shanghai, China. On returning to the United States he attended Stanford, where he obtained a B.Sc. in Mathematics and played outfield for the Stanford baseball team. He also attended medical school at Stanford, and served in the military during the Korean War. Upon his discharge he completed his surgical residency and became Board Certified in General Surgery. He joined Norm Christensen and Joseph Walsh in Eureka, bringing Martha, his wife, and his family to permanently reside and practice in the area. He was a member of many medical associations, and served as Chief of the Medical Staff of the Eureka General Hospital. I first met him while I was working in the Emergency Department of the General, and knew that whenever I had a patient needing surgery that he would be there in about 30 seconds and have them on their way to the OR. He loved surgery, joking with his colleagues, fishing and bragging about it, golfing (but needed his green jacket and plaid pants), camping with his family and friends and going home to be with Martha, not necessarily in that order. He would break whatever he was doing to say, "I got to get home to my little bed bunny" and he would zoom out the door. Bill retired in 1989, and traveled for several years with Martha and Tenzing (his cat) in their RV. Bill led a full and exciting life, always going at great speed to wherever he was headed. He contributed years of excellent surgical care to the community and I believe loved every minute of it. He provided great surgical skill along with a fun-loving and caring heart and will be missed by many old friends. We will not see another "Bill."

By Joan F.C. Davies, M.D.