

INSPIRED
BY

TRADITION



WHY WE GIVE

In 1952, SUU was called Branch Agricultural College, and boasted 453 students. Gas cost 20 cents a gallon, and SUU alumni **Don ('52) and Renee Milne ('54)** were just beginning to talk about their future together.

A lot has changed since then. SUU has grown to more than 7,000 students, and gas has reached record highs. Through it all, Don and Renee have remained committed to the SUU tradition as they witness dramatic change all around them.

In SUU's early days, a young Renee learned to love the institution to which her music

professor father, **Roy Halversen**, dedicated his life.

Halversen worked at SUU for 42 years, and helped establish the school's renowned music program.

"I would go out with dad and wander around the school," Renee remembers. "I just loved being there."

That tradition of music continues in Renee's life. Her piano is the first thing to catch the eye when entering the Milnes' Sandy, Utah, home. A stately organ rests on the opposite wall, and her violin isn't far. It's the music room, and it is well-stocked. Pointing to three miniature portraits, Renee explains, "Those were from my father's office. The three B's: Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms."

Don beams just as much as Renee as the two look into the music room. He smiles and says, "My favorite thing is to hear [my family] singing."

The couple's mutual love for music prompts the Milnes to donate to the Roy and Maude Halversen Scholarship. Not only does the scholarship honor Renee's parents, but it also honors the continuing tradition of music at SUU.

Says Renee, "I always loved the college."

The Halverson Scholarship ensures that the experiences Renee valued as an SUU student endure for other student musicians.

Although Renee is known for her musical talent, Don has a musical past as well, and



credits this interest for meeting his wife. The two were in orchestra together during their high school years, and then again at SUU. Although Don remembers meeting Renee then, she remembers a much earlier encounter.

“I knew him before he knew me,” she comments softly. Don was a diver, and she recalls meeting him at the swimming pool before their orchestra days. “I liked the looks of him, you know,” she says coyly. “And his physique and all that.”

After finishing an associate’s degree at SUU, Don transferred to the University of Utah to complete a bachelor’s degree in engineering. Two years younger, Renee finished an associate’s degree in education, and then moved to Salt Lake City, where the couple married.

Those days were different, Don remembers. “No one had any money. I didn’t know one family with two cars,” he says. “We were poor, but we had what we needed. We really were happy.”

Although the two did not have a car when they first married, they both are quick to respond that they really didn’t know any better. At the time, bus fare was only ten cents in Salt Lake City.

Both Don and Renee worked while attending school. At one point, Don took 21 credits and worked 42 hours a week to pay for their education. Renee worked for Western Union Telegraph, a job she loved. Soon, though, they moved to Southern California, where Don finished a master’s degree in civil engineering.

There, he eventually became Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Public Works. His responsibilities included overseeing as many as 1,600 employees.

Growing up in Cedar City, Don never thought he would rise to

positions of such influence, and sees himself as the same person now as when he and Renee didn’t own a car. The thrift they learned during the wake of the Great Depression has allowed the Milnes to be content with whatever they had.

“I ALWAYS LOVED THE COLLEGE”

Renee Milne

With two children, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two more on the way, Don and Renee stay busy.

Despite being retired, the two still maintain full-time schedules between work in the garden, at their church, with family or in the home office. Don even walks six miles every day, retaining the trim physique Renee first admired almost 60 years ago. In fact, the

only time they watch TV is at 10 p.m., when daughter **Michelle King** anchors the news on KUTV.

Don also spent 28 years in the Air Force Reserve. While on active duty, he and Renee lived in London for two-and-a-half years. A framed map of London’s Tube system hangs on a wall near the entrance to the basement. Besides representing fond memories, it also instilled in them a love for travel. In the basement, a section of the wall is covered with designer plates from various places they have visited, including Australia, Scandinavia and Western Europe. The couple also served an 18-month mission to Ireland for the LDS Church.

Through it all, the Milnes have not forgotten their early days at SUU. Posing for a picture, Renee suggests that Don go look for the trumpet he used to play. “I looked and I couldn’t find it,” an empty-handed Don says.

“Donald!” exclaims Renee. She shrugs her shoulders and smiles, acknowledging that although Don’s enthusiasm for playing music has dimmed with age, his love for it has not. Says Renee, “We couldn’t do without music.”

