



# Inside Hyde Park

June 2022

Volume 2, Issue 6

## Predestined Path

written by **Paul Wentz**, editor *Inside Hyde Park* and HP homeowner

**H**is hometown was located in the oil rich southern half of Illinois. His college major was mechanical engineering. His father was the executive vice president of the Illinois Oil and Gas Association. If that were not enough, his future appeared to have been predestined when Hyde Park homeowner Jim Pardee spotted a posted flyer in the Southern Illinois University engineering building. It informed students of the need for roustabouts, i.e., helpers, in the local oil fields. Needing a job or “something to do” as Jim put it, he spent the summers before his junior and senior years, learning to maintain and operate oil and gas production equipment. It was his first step on a path that would eventually lead to his own production company.

With his engineering degree and his oil field experience, Jim was now a prime candidate for his first career experience in the oil production business. His first job took him and his wife Pat (married 1970) to the Texaco oil fields south of New Orleans where he earned his way as an oil and gas production engineer. His primary duties took him to the wet bayou oil fields of Lafitte where he lived during the week. He spent weekends with his wife in their New Orleans apartment near Texaco Oil Production headquarters. For four years, Jim learned to maintain and improve oil and gas well production.



Pumping Unit

From New Orleans, Jim’s career path took him and Pat to the much drier country of Liberal, Kansas, just north of the Oklahoma state line. For the next four years, Jim used his experience and creativity to find ways to increase production in the hard rock oil country of his new worksite. Following his time in the tumbleweed country of Kansas, Jim completed his master’s degree in mechanical engineering and then moved on to Dallas, Texas. During his seven year tenure in Dallas, Jim worked for a number of oil production companies.

Adding it up, Jim and Pat had lived the rollercoaster oil business for about fifteen years by the time they decided to begin a new phase of their lives. Because of the cyclical nature of the price of oil, Jim and Pat had experienced the financial ups and downs of oil and gas production. In addition, Jim had spent those fifteen years explaining to oil and gas well operators how to improve their production.

In 1985, Jim and Pat moved to Tulsa. In 1987, the Pardee Production Company emerged. Starting with two low performing wells in the panhandle of Oklahoma, Jim used his expertise to improve the production of his own wells. Over time, Jim and Pat added another twenty-two existing wells, and production improvements followed.



With the improved price of oil and the improved production of their wells, Jim and Pat decided to sell their operation in 2008 and retire. Their predestined path now leads to more adventures with family and travel. **HP**

**The Pardee Family:**  
**Pat and Jim with their two sons, Ryan (far left) and Scott, with wives and children.**

## A Pickleball Hobo

written by **Paul Wentz**, editor *Inside Hyde Park* and HP homeowner

### Deborah's 2022 Schedule (more planned)

- 06/03 USSP National Indoor Championship  
Oklahoma City, OK
- 05/10 National Senior Games  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 04/23 Minto US Open Pickleball Championship  
Naples, FL
- 03/18 The Lisa Marek Memorial Money Ball  
Rockwall, TX
- 03/12 The Grapevine Indoor  
Grapevine, TX
- 02/01 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Venture Out All City  
Pickleball Tournament, Tucson, AZ
- 01/26 2022 Tucson Senior Olympic Festival, AZ



Deborah with some of her medals



Serving at the National Senior Games



Her latest Gold Medal  
USSP National Indoor Championship  
Mixed Doubles

**D**uring our interview, Hyde Park homeowner Deborah Robertson revealed that she is a pickleball hobo. In August of last year, Deborah decided she wanted to learn all she could to improve her game. "I went into it heavy," as she put it. She packed her bags and started participating in tournaments across the country. "I like playing tournaments because that little bit of extra pressure makes me play better."

Deborah had not heard of pickleball until she and her husband (George) moved to Hyde Park eight years ago. Without knowing the game, they began hitting the ball across the net. Since both Deborah and George had a sports background and an inclination to play, they loved the game. They found that there were others at Hyde Park who also enjoyed playing pickleball. Deborah and her husband would, for example, team up with Sandy and Pat Regan, for a game of doubles.

Deborah's husband passed away about four years ago. During their 31 years together, they raised three daughters in Tulsa. Currently, her kids live in Arkansas, Florida, and Oklahoma. In addition to her immediate family and her Hyde Park family, Deborah now has her nationwide pickleball family. She joins up with friends, who often live in different states, at tournament locations in various parts of the country.

Deborah's most recent tournament was the USSP National Indoor Championship held in Oklahoma City June 3 through June 5. She teamed up with Marta from Arkansas for her women's doubles match and with Lewis from Oklahoma for her mixed doubles. Deborah and Marta won silver, and she won gold with Lewis.

When playing a tournament match or simply practicing, Deborah likes to focus on one or two specific skills, such as the third shot drop, ball placement, staying back for the returned shot following a serve, moving forward to the kitchen, paddle placement, or dinking. In addition to tournaments, Deborah would also like to receive more one-on-one personal instruction.

Deborah has a passion for pickleball. She lights up when talking about the game, and the sport puts a smile on her face. She also loves to travel. The tournaments take her to locations nationwide. And she enjoys the pickleball players she meets and the players who team up with her.

This pickleball hobo still has several tournaments to play in 2022 and several more opportunities to join her pickleball family. The next events will take her to Texas, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

A hobo at heart! **HP**