

“Dedicated to the memory of
Mabel Pennock.”

In life's path there are times that certain individuals make a lasting impression on us. For me, at 8 years of age, one such person was Mabel Pennock. She was the “neighborhood piano teacher in Stockton.” This lovely lady introduced me to reading music with the old Michael Aaron Piano Course that is still published today. She was cheery, encouraging, kind, and patient – so patient. Mrs. Pennock also introduced me to, as I recall, March Militaire by Schubert, Around the World in 80 Days, and chord progressions I still use today in the hymn “The Old Rugged Cross.” She was my first piano teacher, in 1960. I bicycled to her home for piano lessons every week for several years. I loved going to lessons. My first piano recital was at the State Hospital in the area. She even introduced me to the world of playing the organ.



Jump forward ... in '63 our family relocated near Grass Valley and over time I lost contact with Mrs. Pennock. At one time – probably in the '90's I drove to her home and it was gone! Evidently there had been a fire and I had no way of locating her.

With the advent of the Internet, I tried several times to search for Mrs. Pennock, but with no success. But I kept trying, then one day last year, while browsing a page of Stockton history, I typed in her name and there she was! Named in an obituary for her son! The article stated that Mabel was deceased, but also that there was a daughter, Lynette. A few queries on Facebook later, I located Mabel's daughter, Lynette Martin, and made contact. Lynette posted a photograph of her mom, and once I saw the photo on Facebook, I was once again connected with my teacher. Quite a moment — after 54 or so years.

Dear Mabel Pennock was a great teacher. She had passed in 1984. She was humorous, loved parrots, and had a huge fish tank in her home. Impressions I shall never forget. Thank you, Mabel Pennock, for teaching me piano. I hope you are proud of me.