



The American Association for Nude Recreation – Western Region

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The Pioneers:

Biographies of Nudists Leaders Who Made a Difference

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RAY AND MILDRED CONNETT Founders of Glen Eden Sun Club (And Many Other Clubs)

Ray and Mildred (both born in 1915) were childhood sweethearts who married in 1933. Ray worked for the Vancouver, Canada, post office, retiring in 1957. But retirement only meant that they could spend more time at their nudist activities.

After Ray's return from WWII in 1939, the Connetts became charter members of the Van Tans. They founded the **Canadian Sunbathing Association** in 1947. Ray served as its national secretary for 5 years. When the CSA merged with the ASA in 1954, Ray began a **trusteeship with ASA** that lasted until 1973. He wrote a page in the CSA magazine called Sunny Trails. Mildred wrote the women's page under the name Mildred Harris. During this time, 15 local groups formed, thanks to the Connett's efforts. In 1952 they helped organize the **Sunny Trails** club.

Following Ray's retirement, the Connetts moved to southern California and became the managers of **Olive Dell Ranch**. In 1963 they founded **Glen Eden Sun Club** on 155 acres that Cliff Kennedy had discovered 10 miles south of Corona. Almost immediately they turned it over to the members to run as a cooperative club.

In 1976 Ray took over for a short period of time as **Executive Director of ASA**. Shortly after that he was inducted into the ASA Hall of Fame.

On April 17, 1997, Ray and Mildred both died in an apparent accident in the hot tub at their beloved Glen Eden. Club officials speculated that the two had fallen asleep and drowned in the hot tub.

The Ray and Mildred Connett Fund was established by AANR to receive gifts and bequests generated by the AANR Planned Giving Program. As strong financial supporters of AANR, it is fitting that this fund be established in their names.