

## Mozelle Sawyer Bell

My mother, Mozelle Bennett Sawyer, was a professional violinist. I started very young on an 1/8 size violin that Rudolph Wurlitzer sent when I was born because my mother and her pupils at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music had been good customers. While she was on the faculty she studied with Eugene Ysaye for two years, then had a career in New York before she returned to Traverse City, Michigan, and married the city engineer, Charles Sawyer.

I loved playing orchestra and chamber music at Interlochen, near Traverse City, for five summers. Then some other campers and I followed Howard Hanson, an annual guest conductor, to the Eastman School of Music. I intended to go back the next year, but my Traverse City friends convinced me to transfer to Michigan State. I was concertmistress of the orchestra my sophomore year. When Howard Hanson was in Detroit to address a convention of music educators, our orchestra played Hanson's "Romantic Symphony," with the Interlochen theme, for them, and Hanson conducted. Painful bursitis in my shoulder convinced me to give up a music major. I graduated with a major in Spanish and minors in music and English.

Then I got married and moved to Minnesota. I enjoyed playing in the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra. When our children were in college, I got a master's in Spanish at the University of Minnesota. Honeywell transferred my husband to Florida, and I taught adult education Spanish in St. Petersburg. In 1994, I joined the Tampa Bay Symphony, and I've been a music librarian and have written program notes and publicity. I go back to Interlochen every August for the Adult Chamber Music Camp, playing string quartets and piano trios for a week. It's fun to play with Alice Karosas, a cellist in the Tampa Bay Symphony.