

Mary Lane



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I started summer session classes at Texas Western College immediately after graduation from Burges, and received a B.S. in Elementary Education degree in January, 1967 from UTEP. (I tease my husband that I graduated from a “university” while he graduated 7 months earlier from a “college”)

Jim White and I were married in May, 1964. We lived in the married student housing on campus until he graduated in 1966. Jimmy started working at White Sands Missile Range, and we moved into our first house in Northeast El Paso close to the White Sands highway. Our house payment was \$88 and we didn’t know if we would be able to make it! At the end of 1968, we were transferred to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama – our first “foreign” assignment! Our daughter, Debbie, was born there in 1969, but we got her back to Texas as soon as we could! Not happy working as a civil servant and wanting to return to El Paso, Jimmy sent his resume to El Paso Natural Gas Company. He was offered a job as a geophysicist, but in Amarillo not El Paso. When he told me about the job, I asked if Amarillo was in Texas. He said “Yes”, and I said “Okay, let’s go!”

We lived in Amarillo for 18 years, and loved it! Michael, our son, was born there in 1971. When Michael started kindergarten, I began teaching in a private pre-school. I went to West Texas State College (now West Texas A&M) night and summer classes to get my kindergarten certification. I taught Kindergarten in Amarillo ISD until we were transferred to Dallas with Maxus Energy Company.

We moved to Flower Mound, north of Dallas, in 1988. I taught Kindergarten in Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, until Jimmy was told that his job would be in Jakarta, Indonesia. So, we leased our house, sold our cars, put all of our furniture in storage, and began our second foreign assignment. Debbie was married and Michael was in college at that time. Leaving our family behind and going half way around the world to a third world country was not easy for me. But it was certainly a new adventure!

Not much changed for Jimmy. He still went to work every day with other Maxus people that he knew from Dallas, exploring for natural gas as he always had. The transition was a little different for me. I didn’t have a teaching job. I didn’t have housework or cooking to do – we had a housekeeper/cook for that. There was no yard work to do – we had a gardener for that. We had a car, but were not encouraged to drive – we had a driver for that. But, there was shopping, and mahjong, and shopping, and American Club meetings, and shopping, and trips to Singapore or the Maxus island, and shopping, etc. A very different lifestyle than I was used to! But, we got to see some very interesting places and meet some very nice people, and all in all, it was a great experience.



Our next move was to the Houston area, but only for a year. I taught Pre-K in Spring ISD that year, and Jimmy ended up on a consulting job back in Dallas. He came home to Spring on week-ends. He was hired on permanently after a year, and we moved back to Flower Mound, back to our house, where we still live today – at least for half of the year. I taught another couple of years at a private school in Farmer’s Branch, and then, tired of moving from place to place and school to school, I retired from teaching. I continued to work with children, but in the Church environment. I taught PreK and Kindergarten Sunday School classes, and wrote the curriculum for the Children’s Church program at our Church for 12 years.

Jimmy retired the first time in 1999. We bought a 5th wheel trailer and did some traveling around the western U.S. mostly. Retirement didn’t take that time,

and Jimmy went back to work at a consulting job in Oklahoma City. Again, he commuted back home on the week-ends. He was eventually hired permanently. I did not move to Oklahoma with him, however, because my mother was ill and I needed to help take care of her here in Lewisville. So, for eight years, Jimmy worked in Oklahoma during the week, drove back to Texas on Friday evening, and returned to Oklahoma on Monday morning. He finally retired again in 2009, and this time it took!

Our children both live in Colorado now – Michael and his wife Jennifer in Durango, and Debbie and her husband Adrian and our 6 grandchildren in Littleton. So, two years ago, we bought a summer place in Vallecito, Colorado, at a cool altitude of 7700 feet. It's about an hour's drive from Durango. We spend about 5 months in the mountains during the summer and fall, and winter and spring in Flower Mound. It's the perfect place to avoid the terrible Texas heat!

We came back from cool Colorado early this year so we can come to the reunion. I am looking forward to seeing my ol' (not old!) classmates from 1963!



Michael's Wedding - August 2012