

Jan Neugebauer



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Like so many others, I have trouble realizing that it's been 50 years since we were all beginning our adult lives and leaving our childhoods behind. Mine's been a great ride and it is rewarding to read others' bios to find that they've also fared well. The hard part

is learning of the loss of so many. Writing this will be difficult for me; as I think back on a life that I wouldn't trade, it all seems so uninspired and mundane!

After saying good-bye to Burges and five years of love and acceptance, I entered Texas Western College with the hopes of being an architect. As it happened, in 1963 the engineering department was not ready for a 5' nothing female student within its ranks and I didn't last long! TWC was definitely a preparation for the real world!

Long story short, I received a BA in English and an elementary teaching certificate, which I'm now hearing pegged me as a mediocre student! I also met and married the father of my two sons. In January of 1966 I began teaching first grade. One classroom or another would be my home for the next 30+ years. One of the highlights of my career, once my boys were grown, was a niche I found working in our teachers' association. I spent several rewarding years working at different levels of TSTA, but by 1998 I was totally burned out on education in all forms and retired. With my TSTA work, I had many occasions to familiarize myself with the Texas Hill Country and had decided that I wanted to retire here.

I met my husband Roger in 1992 and we moved to Marble Falls as soon as school was out in 1998. God willing, we will die here. It's beautiful! The people in our little town move more slowly than in larger cities and we feel really at home here. Never one to be idle, I've stayed busy with various things.

At first I tried substitute teaching but couldn't see the point in getting involved with the education mess again. I began working and volunteering at the beautiful Marble Falls Library and in our neighborhood. I'm actually

a librarian wanna be and still enjoy my work there. Up until two years ago, we had a space in antique malls and sold antiques and collectibles. For the last five years, I have worked with a friend doing Estate Sales. (My two sons have often accused me of being happiest when I'm playing with someones cast off junk and I really don't seem to get too far away from it.)

Roger and I take every opportunity to travel and have been pretty much all over the western US. Now we're working our way east little by little. We keep our fingers crossed that we live long enough to do it all! Traveling the US has allowed us to more fully appreciate the beauty of our country and warmth of Americans everywhere and it offers opportunities to visit old friends, make new friends and stay in touch with family.

I had a couple of "false starts" in the marriage department, but Roger and I will celebrate 18 years this fall. I have two wonderful sons and four grandchildren. (With Roger's eight, we stay fairly busy....12 grandchildren take a lot of attention!) We see kids and grands when we can and love it when we do. It's friends and family, traveling, and hobbies that keep us busy most of the time.

I think that the faculty at Burges deserves credit for helping us to begin successful lives. They were tough, supportive, and had high expectations for us. Unfortunately these words come a little late, but are nonetheless heartfelt. I think we were fortunate to have grown up when we did. The world seems to be less kind, less simple than it was in El Paso in the 50s and 60s and I'm glad to have such satisfying memories. It often worries me that the world is a much more hostile place for our grandchildren.

I'll miss seeing you all in September, but will be thinking of you. I know you'll have a wonderful time and I hate to miss all the fun. Have a drink for me. CHEERS FOR THE BURGESS CLASS OF '63!!!





