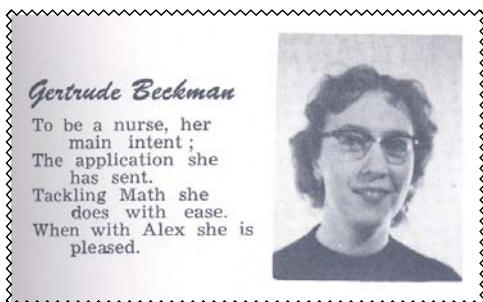


Gertrude (Gert)
Beckman (Kashuba)

remembers well the fellow with the green truck who picked her up after school. His name was Alex Kashuba. She has been married to him now for 48 years.



Their marriage and solid home life has produced five delightful children. One amazing thing about them is that four of them live within minutes of their parents in Vernon and the fifth lives only an hour away in Kamloops.

Nine of her ten grandchildren are close by, while the oldest grandson is married and living in Arlington, Texas. Gert feels privileged to have her wonderful family around her.

She is involved in an After School Kids Club at church and loving it. Gert and Alex Kashuba feel truly blessed in life, living as they do in the sun-drenched Okanagan so close to family.



Gordon Wirth has lived 50 years since he graduated from Vernon Senior High School. He has looked down from the top of the world in Nepal but lives in Saanich on Vancouver Island. He has seen his body get older and his head become wiser:

Gordon Wirth

Here's a lad who's very
wary
Of the girls; he will
not marry.
A pilot's life appeals
to Wirth.
In Physics problems he
finds mirth.



My name is Gordon Wirth,
I am a jack of many trades
and a passionate traveller.
I have accomplished nothing of significance
during my lifetime.
I lived my life as I chose and did
what I liked when I chose to.
I was bound by few restraints and no fences.
One could say I did it my way.
But things are no longer what they were before,
The things which I have done, I can do no more.



Grace Kreutzer (McNabb)

taught Home Ec in McBride where she met and married a roving forest ranger. They eventually settled in the beautiful Pine Pass area in the foothills of the Majestic Rocky Mountains to raise their three children.



To understand their love of the little town of Chetwynd, you should know that Grace and Bob spent several years in Prince George and an entire summer in a wilderness setting so complete and unique that no one else will ever see it again. Findlay Forks was accessible only via a 100-mile trip by river boat.

To get there today, you need a submarine. This area is under 300 feet of water in the Williston Lake created by the Bennett Dam on the Peace River.



For a number of years while Bob was busy in forestry, Grace taught Home Ec. Then they both changed careers and went into the hardware business together. Between teaching, working in the forest, and establishing their hardware business, they raised three children to love life and do work.

After making the hardware store a going concern Grace and Bob retired. Early retirement lasted only two years. Then they challenged themselves again by starting a lumber yard.

Their most successful addition was establishing a water bottling plant. Operating a water store was so rewarding that they recently closed out the lumber yard after 20 years but kept the water plant.

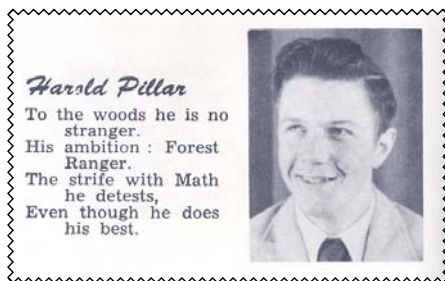


So if you're driving along the Highway 97 toward Dawson Creek after visiting the Bennett Dam, you'll pass through Chetwynd. If you don't blink, you'll see a "**Valley Pure Water**" sign where you can pick up some sparkling mountain water. [This is what is called *market placement* and is worth something – like a bottle of Valley Pure water!]

Grace and Bob McNabb are slowly retiring as their son takes over the business. They are enjoying their golden years in northern British Columbia where trees turn to gold in the fall and grandchildren blossom in

the spring. **Harold Pillar** always wanted to be a forest ranger. He became so good at being a silviculturist that he was honoured with the "Tree of Life Award" from the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

Harry started off timber cruising but found his notch with the Greater Victoria Water District. For 35 years he laid out logging areas, drew road layouts, managed water sheds, oversaw fire protection, and managed the district's nurseries.



Harold Pillar

To the woods he is no
stranger.
His ambition : Forest
Ranger.
The strife with Math
he detests,
Even though he does
his best.



He travelled over most of our majestic province and knew Vancouver Island like the back of his hand. [Before or after it started wrinkling?]

He married Myrna in 1971 and they have two children, Scott and Rhonda.

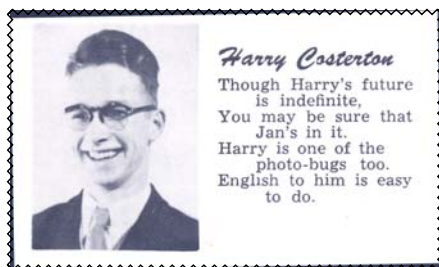
Some of his regular visitors to his forested acreage in Victoria have a faster response time than he does so the does get to nibble flowers.



When he wants something to respond faster than deer, Harry races sports cars. When he needs to relax after a fast race, he golfs. When he tires of golfing, he takes off for Jamaica, Hawaii, Palm Springs or, like he once did, cruise from Florida via the Panama Canal to Vancouver.

One thing that never tires him is enjoying his four grandchildren, Nick, Danielle, Lindsay and James.

Harry Costerton, a provincial public speaking gold award winner in 1954, went on to become a distinguished orator. First he had to do some serious learning at UBC.



To get help, he selected Jean McClounie from the class of 1960 to be his diligent wife.

After UBC, Harry attended Anglican Theological College. He was so bright it took him only three years to neutralize the five years of secular indoctrination he got at UBC.

Being appointed a deacon began 37 years of Harry being a clergy-person while Jean was a Laboratory Technologist. Actually, most of the time, Harry was a clergyman and, only recently, society transformed him into a clergy-person whereas Jean always

remained a minister's wife. [Ed: "Times are a changin". Who knows how soon a minister's wife will become a minister's person?]

After a year as a deacon, Harry was made a priest. I don't know exactly what that all entails but, what the heck, to be safe, I had better not use any questionable language in this section.

I guess the next step is sainthood. There must be a category of sainthood for a spouse of a priest. Right, Jean?

Jean and Harry are justifiably proud of Heather and Barbara. Barb and her husband Peter have returned their parents dedication by giving them two bright grandchildren, Michael and Daniel.



Harry and Jean's residences look like the table of contents of a travel book:

Portland, Edmonton, Invermere, Grand Forks, Quesnel, Chemainus, Lake Cowichan and finally Parksville.



Their priorities have now changed. The three S's in order, **S**upernatural, **S**pouse and **S**cions that were their guiding precepts while their children were maturing, have become the four G's: **G**od, **G**olf, **G**ardening and **G**randchildren.

Helen Sasges (Donovan)

heard a knock on her apartment door during Summer School in the 1950's. She had gone to Normal School and was now studying for her teaching certificate at UBC. The visitor was a school superintendent and he offered her a teaching position in his district! Was Helen good or what?!

Helen Sasges

Helen in future years
to be
Able to nurse
perfectly.
Junior basketball her
interest did catch.
And few her playing
were able to
match.



Ray thought so too when he met her in a church youth group when Helen started teaching in Surrey, which she had accepted prior to the superintendent's visit. They married in 1959 and



have four beautiful children who have lived in Kamloops, Chetwynd, Fort St. John, and Savona, since Ray moved around as he was required to do as a truck driver and heavy duty mechanic before settling in Vernon where all children graduated from Vernon High School. Helen considers Vernon the most beautiful place in the province, especially

around their cabin on Okanagan Lake where their children and seven grandchildren love to congregate and enjoy their grandmother's baking. There they hear about the time her grandmother was teaching in a community with 250 children and a library with only three hundred titles which she increased to three thousand titles by the time she left ten years later. Whew! She's had a busy life!



Helmut Fandrich, PhD, PEng, took a long time to get educated. He had three degrees before UBC gave him a doctorate in 1970 so he would leave. Luckily, his four children were smarter.



Son Martin got a PhD (in Mechanical Engineering like his father) from Cambridge University after only a bachelor's degree. Heidi went directly from second year university into a four-year optometry program so her first degree was Doctor of Optometry. Dan was smart enough to go directly into computer engineering after getting a bachelor's degree. Rena graduated from Stanford University (like her father) and was given an all-expense paid five years to work on a PhD.

So you see, Helmut was just smart enough to marry an intelligent, beautiful wife (a teacher and now a long-serving school trustee) so their kids would have good genes and grow up in an environment where education is highly valued.



Helmut and Gerda have seen many parts of the world at a rate of three new countries every two years for the 40 years they have been married. For the last 26 years, they have come home to a solar-heated house they designed in Abbotsford.

Helmut's first job was testing gas turbines. His second job was as a research engineer for a chain saw manufacturer, who then paid for his graduate studies. From then on he's never had a regular job.

His puttering around got him a dozen or so patents dealing with disc brakes, free piston engines, automatic lubricators and silviculture machines. His aerial cone harvesters, used with helicopters, have revolutionized the tree-seed collecting industry and now his aerial desailers are denuding trees all around clear-cuts . . .

Yup, but still he's not quite smart enough to quit.



Hilda Ketterer (Webster) has had a varied but interesting life. Her world was still small when she worked for the Royal Bank of Canada in Vernon but greatly expanded in 1957 after she married. Promotions took her to Vancouver where she worked in three branches of the Royal Bank.

Hilda had a big home to manage and **five fine** children to raise. [I couldn't quite make out if Hilda had written ***fine*** or ***five*** so to be safe, I've used both words. *]

She washed many, many diapers until they wore out. She became so efficient that, starting in 1977, she had time to work in the retail business. The housewife found the experience away from diapers fresh and enjoyable. Already being fast, diligent, and experienced, she soon worked her way up to manager. [I didn't say the kids were still in diapers. I used the words *away from* as in time, not space.]

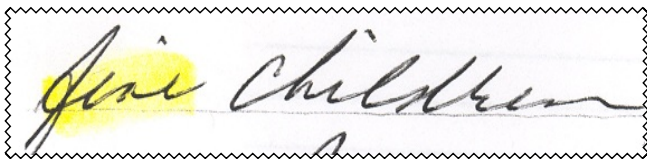
It's no wonder that her children became very successful themselves. All five have university degrees and two have gone on to graduate studies. Something that contributed greatly to their success is the pride that Hilda has in them.

Hilda has met many wonderful people during her stays in the East Kootenays, West Kootenays, Richmond and Duncan as well as in Vancouver. Now living in Vernon, she looks back on experiences with people and family with pleasure.

*[If you think this is an excuse for my poor eyesight, look for yourself.]



Acting on Shirley Rivett's suggestion, I've enlarged Hilda's neat writing.]



Jack Dale and Francis Smigol probably have most of us beat for having had diverse work in adventurous places. No one else did engineering surveying, built a new house, got a Commercial Pilot's licence, took an Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Licence and worked in the arctic for Pan Arctic Oils before he turned 35.



Jack Dale

Jack, our bright and dark-haired boy,
Finds being with Fran
a perfect joy.
Classes leave Jack in a daze.
He loves them all (or so he says).

If that wasn't enough, Jack and Fran bought a four-place Cherokee 180 to tootle around the country out of Calgary.

Jack easily gave up flight engineering in the arctic for living in the tropics when Fran got a contract to teach in Australia.



He got his aircraft maintenance licence for Australia and then, for a couple of years, maintained large helicopters for an oil drilling program in Papua, New Guinea.

Jack and Fran Dale came back to live in B.C. and, for several years, Jack flew all over the world for Kaiser Resources Air Transport. He was still only 45 when Air Queensland in Cairns, Australia, made him Chief Inspector of Aircraft Engineering.

When the airline was sold in 1987, Jack became Airworthiness Inspector with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia. His mode of transport to work became more down-to-earth and safer – bicycling. During the last eight years, he has cycled 15,000 km.

For two decades, Jack tooted up a storm on his trombone with the Barrier Reef Jazz Band and for one decade with the Cairns Concert Band.

For 45 years, through all these varied activities and adventures, one thing has remained constant in his life: His love for his “perfect joy – Fran.”



Janet Glena (Mills) spent 46 years in offices, adding titles to her job descriptions as she went along. Janet started as a secretary for Kelly Douglas in Vernon in 1956, continued as secretary/bookkeeper for Armstrong IPE, and ended as secretary/bookkeeper/accountant at City Furniture in Prince George. In between (1965-1980) she helped run the town of Armstrong. Well, not exactly run but as Assistant City Clerk she knew what was going on.

She also knew where to be and how to get there fast. At 40, Janet bought herself a motorcycle. Not a Honda 1000cc like Barry McGill but it must have had an engine and maybe even a hand clutch. Janet put on her easy rider outfit and hit the pavement all the way from Armstrong to Vernon. Well, maybe she went further and maybe she had a V-4 Harley-Davidson but she didn't tell me.



Who said you can't grow a garden in Prince George? [I didn't. I just said that you can buy beans in a Save-On-Foods store in Prince George just as easily as you can in Vernon.]

Janet has always had time to spend with her three children and five grandchildren. Since 2002 she's had more time for cooking, knitting, reading, curling, bowling and just enjoying sun and flowers on her patio in Prince George.



Jeanne Bickert (Rodrigue)

danced her heart out and sang her life through. She was pretty serious for a year after graduation when she was a creative writer at Radio Station CJIB and filled in on air when there was a spot for her creative talents.

Then she fell in love with a wonderful man in Kamloops. When Lory swept her off her feet she started dancing and when her three children brought her down, she started singing.

It is surprising what competition will do. Once she had babies crying, Jeanne took up singing as a serious hobby. Crying soon stopped but Jeanne became so good at selectively tuning in to the voices around her, she formed a quartet, sang in several excellent choruses, performed in musical plays on stage, and sang on centre stage by herself.

She did not quite sing her heart out as Jeanne also worked part time at CFJC radio and for a year at CFJC television.

Jeanne never missed a note even when the family moved to Vancouver Island after 23 years where she hosted an interview show on local TV, performed in on-stage musicals, joined a Chorale and sang in a vocal jazz choir.



Jeanne Bickert
Teen Town holds
Jeanne's interest,
you know,
As you've probably
heard on the radio.
We wonder what per-
son in another
town
Causes her always to
travel around.



She kept right in tune after a move to the Lower Mainland as she found an excellent performance group where she could sing her heart out for 18 years.

Jeanne finally skipped a beat when she and Lory Rodrigue moved back to Kamloops and bought a motor home. Howling along the pavement to places such as Fredericton or Baja or Fairbanks or throwing up gravel along the roads to Whitehorse or Fort Simpson sporadically drowned out her voice.

Nevertheless, she still sings a little here and there, like when she's at home with her three grandchildren and families, or as a snowbird in Arizona, when she is cooling off in the shower.

Jean Ferguson (Wetherill)

never thought she'd be teaching in Vancouver, Toronto, Melbourne and New Guinea when she married an Australian bridge-building Civil Engineer in 1958. Neither did she expect to be bringing her two Australian sons to Canada as a 30-year-old widow.



Always motivated by creative challenges, Jean modelled her young-mother-homemaker image into the pages of Eaton's Catalogue. Then a Melbourne firm featured her to promote the Canadian accent to Australian TV viewers.

On returning to Canada, Jean's contagious smile and pleasing personality launched her into a new career. In Calgary, she became the first female Sales Agent in Western Canada for Allstate Insurance.

These charming characteristics also appealed to a young widower from Vernon. In 1969 Jean became the blissful mother of four "boom, bust, and echo" children in a blended family.

She worked beside singer Gordon Lightfoot in a Toronto bank before others realized he could sing, and she met Jill St. John and Dale Robertson, but it may

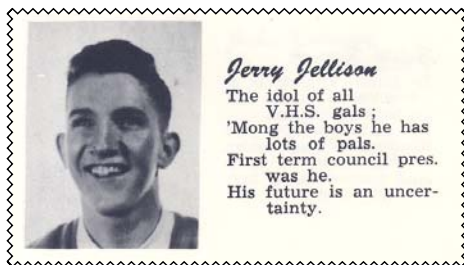
be her stage dramatization of Robert Service's poem, "The Cremation of Sam McGee," to Sam McGee's daughter, that will be the last thing she forgets.



Barbershop singing, ballroom dancing, downhill skiing, and fixed wing flying may be singular accomplishments for someone trained as a classroom teacher but it is being the grandmother of eight that brings her most joy.

Her life is still filled with vibrant windows of opportunity where she can serve, lead, and during Toastmasters in Vernon, talk her head off for three minutes!

Jerry Jellison's base for moving up the corporate ladder was earning a BA in Psychology and English from UBC, and in 1959 marrying Phyllis Popowich from the class of 1958, and then joining The Bay in Vancouver as a Management Trainee.



After each transfer, Jerry and Phyllis created a legacy. As Personnel Assistant in Vancouver in 1960, they had a daughter, Corrine. As Assistant Personnel Manager in Winnipeg in 1963, they had another daughter, Cheryl. As Personnel and Operations Manager in Victoria in 1965, they had a third daughter Charlene. As Regional Human Resources (HR) Manager for Manitoba and Saskatchewan in Winnipeg, they had . . . well, Phyllis now had a say in the matter - promotions yes, children, no.

A few more promotions and the former president of the student council at Vernon Senior High School was Regional Development Manager, The Bay, Western Region, Calgary. He was successful in business, but also mourned the loss of his wife after 40 years of matrimonial support.

Jerry retired after 43 years with The Bay to start a company in Calgary offering services in human resource management, writing and editing. Check it out at <www.jjwordsmith.com>.

On our exciting graduation day 50 years ago, Jerry Jellison, as Class Valedictorian, closed his remarks with a look forward. Of course, the future was a little murky.

As the truth is now clearer, Jerry is looking for speaking opportunities to talk and write about us, the exciting Class of '55. Why? The idea of weaving a story about the real life accomplishments of the very talented members of the class is very appealing and needs to be done! The "HR Guy" within him demands it!!



Jim Gordon was raising 35 head of his own cattle while we were cramming for finals. He placed second in Canada in 4-H beef judging competition while we were in Grade 13. Jim was already an apprenticed heavy duty mechanic when many of us were still in nurses training or at university.



Jim and his supportive wife Donna have been in every fire hall in BC except in Fort Nelson working with Hub Fire Engines in Abbotsford. He started a training school for native reserve fire fighters, a preventive Maintenance Program for BC fire trucks, and a pump operators school for BC Fire Departments.

At Christmas time, he's busy with his Santa's outfit bringing festive cheer to his son Stewart and many clubs, organizations and business Christmas parties.



Jim is a man of superlatives. He was President of Pacific Coast Curling Association and the longest serving executive member of curling clubs in BC – 43 years. For 40 years he has attended nearly every World Curling Championships in such countries as Sweden, Scotland, the US, and in Canadian cities such as Winnipeg, Brandon, Moncton, Victoria and Hamilton. He has the largest collection of curling club pins in B.C. – 7000 of them. In 2000, Sport BC presented him with the President's Award for Curling.

For 40 years until she died in 2001, Donna was a nurse, an encouraging wife and mother to their two boys. Bobbie died at 19 but Stewart follows his father in being superlative. He has won the best tied fly in BC four times.



Jim has a split locality – he spends half his time in Abbotsford and half his time on a Westside beach on Okanagan Lake. He enjoys the best of two worlds.

Joan Genovy (Gideon) married Colin, in 1961, the day after Christmas and was still on a 9 month 'honeymoon', when she became a "Merry Widow [her own words]." But what an active widow she was.



She finished off a BEd degree, started teaching in school rooms in North Vancouver in 1965 and quickly progressed to lecture halls at SFU, UVic and UBC while on leave from the school district. The highlight of her illustrious university teaching career was being Resident Faculty Associate for SFU at the Teacher Education Centre in Chilliwack.

Joan had such outstanding credentials, internationally, in working with children's education and credit for 7 years university that she was selected as candidate, President-Elect, Association for Childhood Education International, a 12,000 member organization in 70 countries. (Wow! If the students in her tap-dancing, baton-twirling and ballroom dancing classes only knew how renowned their teacher would become, they would brag.)

Already in high school, Joan took cheerleaders from the Vernon Canadians hockey team to form the first Vernon Drill Team. In Creston she formed two teams of Creston Majorettes, ages 2 - 5 and 6-12. These teams went on parade in the Creston Blossom Festival and in Spring Revues.

While teaching in Creston on an EC Certificate (1957-63), Joan attended concerts, and with a group would go to Calgary for opera performances. When she moved to the lower mainland as a new widow, she immersed herself in opera, symphony and plays.

Being stimulated by other cultures, Joan visited all countries in Western Europe as well as Yugoslavia, and East and West Berlin in 1965. Subsequently she visited Algiers, Greece, Marmaris (Turkey), the Canary Islands (Spain), Hawaii, and major cities all over the USA

Her interest in Spanish culture was so intense that she studied Spanish several summers at the Berlitz International School of Languages in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Knowing Spanish made trips to Mexico more enjoyable.

She actively participated in a great variety of recreational activities with emphasis on tennis, badminton, downhill skiing, ballroom dancing, and aquacise.

The call of the family home in Vernon has brought Joan from the coast to the North Okanagan about 250 times since she graduated from Grade 13.



Joanne Braun (Murdoch)

became a registered nurse after completing her training at Royal Columbia Hospital in New Westminster. She married Bob Murdoch and together they headed east to find work and nice places to live. When they got as far across our vast and spacious land as they could, they turned around.



When Joanne was 43, she wanted to fly aeroplanes like her husband did. [For the great-grandchildren reading this, an aeroplane is a heavier-than-air flying machine that gave us an unnerving thrill when we first rode in one.]

The basic instructions she learned were simple: *If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller. That is, unless you keep pulling the stick all the way back, then they get bigger again.*

Joanne got her private pilot's license in 1980.

Two daughters stayed in Calgary when Joanne and Bob Murdoch retired to Kelowna many years ago – like in 1991 when most of the rest of us were still struggling with mortgage payments or worrying about how we could ever give up our enjoyable jobs when we were forced to retire.

On one trip to Hawaii, Joanne and Bob with their daughters Brenda and Shelly had their pictures taken soon after they landed. [Judging by the expression on their faces, do you think they are glad to be on the ground?]



Joelanne Lockheed
(Stanford) has a blank page.
I'm sure she must have lived
somewhere and grew old and
slow like the rest of us.



[If Joelanne is concerned about her age, she should keep in mind that doctors agree that birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live!]

[I thought you'd want to see what happens to cones that are collected aerially. The tree will be around long after we stop having birthdays.]



John Desimone is one of those reliable workers that is the backbone of a good organization. He quit school at the end of Grade 10 to work for Finning Tractor in Vancouver, a distributor for Caterpillar Tractors. He worked in Hudson's Hope, Prince George, Kamloops, Cranbrook, Dawson Creek, and Vernon but always for Finning.

Finning operating philosophy was that parts and repair services must always be available and John fit right in with that philosophy for 38 years.

While residing in Prince George in the 1980's he was chairman of the Prince George District Forestry Exhibition and chairman of the Fraser-Fort George Regional Park and Recreation Commission.

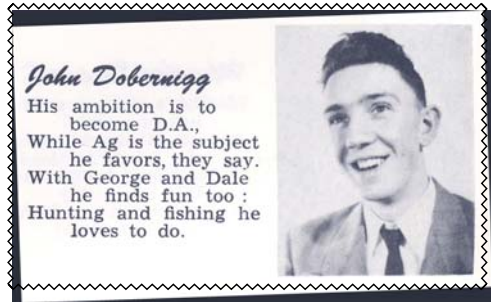
John knew what to do after he married Shirley in 1990 – retire. He also knew what to do when the honeymoon was over – get out to work and build two homes at Rivershore Estates and Golf Links in Kamloops where he was President of the Strata Council.

John's daughter Dana lives in Victoria and his son Dave lives in Prince George. More recently he acquired stepdaughter Denise in Maple Ridge, stepdaughter Leanna in Prince George, and stepson Cory in Ladysmith. The five children are all old enough to give him grandchildren – three of them, in fact.

John and Shirley Desimone hope to move to Vernon soon. Maybe he's already sold his new house beside the Thompson River and moved to Vernon to enjoy the pleasures of living in the Okanagan, maybe even beside BX Creek.



John Dobernigg had a broad range of knowledge about farming when he was still in high school. In fact he was one of three top young farmers in the province when he competed in the Future Farmers of Canada provincial convention in 1954. He won the bronze award in the grand aggregate judging competition held in Chilliwack.



Nevertheless, it took working inside offices to make him really appreciate working in harmony with nature outdoors. After graduation John worked at the Royal Bank, first in Vernon and then in Oliver and Prince Rupert. It took him only two years indoors to find out how much of life he was missing by not working outside in the sunshine.



He returned to the family orchard in BX District in Vernon. It wasn't long before he bought some of the surrounding orchards to start his own very successful orchard business.

For the human contact it brought, John worked part time in the Men's Wear Department of Hudson's Bay.

A reward for marrying Priscilla in 1975 is being blessed with three sons. David is married and in the process of taking over the orchard. Philip has passed all requirements to join the RCMP. Michael is working at a local car dealership.



John is still working full time and enjoys the independent lifestyle and outdoor work in the orchard. He doesn't see any reason why he should ever retire. [If only we all were that pleased with our life's work!]

John Lane knew how to make a million dollars in the forest products industry but not how to keep it when his wife parted company.



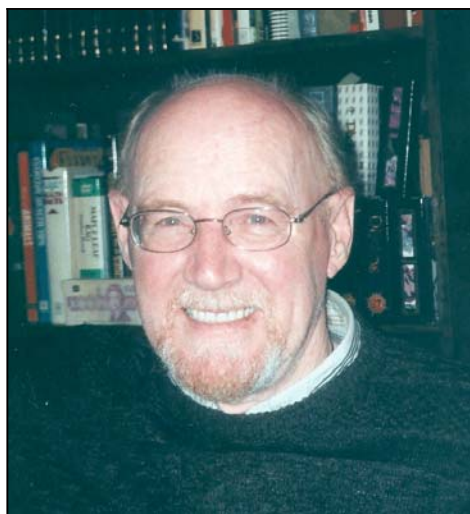
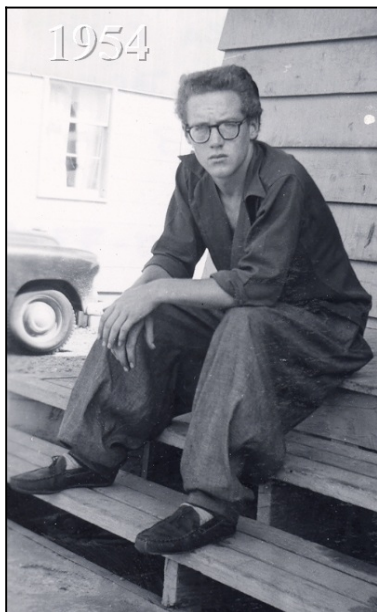
As a teenager John must have already known something about flying to keep his “two-wheeled” car upright.

John spent his early years in the RCAF and later as a “bush” pilot in Northern BC. His marriage with four children, his short stint at being a millionaire and his divorce all contributed to him returning to fly, only this time “overseas”. When he came back to Canada several years later, he settled in Montreal, Quebec. After learning French, he decided there was a future for him as a writer – producing a novel and several books of poetry, including one for children.

Before his pen could dry up, he owned the only French/English children's bookstore in Montreal. From there – with his love of books – he became an antiquarian bookseller.

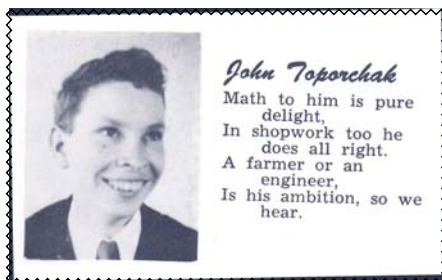
He is more or less retired now and lives in Vernon with a younger French lady named Claudine who, John told me, more or less puts up with him.

He spends most of his time now on the ground, still pursuing books and doing sculpture and ceramic art works in the North Okanagan.



John Toporchak didn't

know how much of a farmer he was until he tried being a mechanic for a dozen years after taking Mechanics and Welding at the Chicago Vocational School in Edmonton.



Already in 1954, John had such a dexterity in handling tractors that he won the bronze award in province-wide student tractor rodeo competition.

There's an empowering woman behind every successful man. For John it's Deanna, whom he married in 1962. She supported John when he wanted to quit a good-paying job and to go into full-time farming. Since then the only time John has looked back was to see how straight the furrow was.

Along with one son, John farms a large acreage north of Vernon – the former L&A Ranch. He is successful because he is a steward of the land. He wants to leave the land in as good a state or better than when he took over.

John's interpersonal abilities helped him get elected as a Municipal Councilor and Regional District Rep. He shows his compassionate side as a director of several charitable organizations including Knights of Columbus.



John and Deanna have taught their two sons and two daughters the value of stewardship, compassion and farming. Their children, in turn, have given them something to be proud of – seven active grandchildren.

Deanna is John's helpmate around the farm, in the kitchen, and on the Class of 55 Reunion committee.

Joyce Arnold (Hanik) went to UBC to be educated as a teacher. Once she had a BEd. degree and established herself as a competent teacher at West Vernon Elementary School, she married Walter Hanik and they moved north.

In Prince George Joyce taught school. Nevertheless she always had time to stimulate their only child to become the smartest student in the province.



Two of the many trips mother and daughter took together were to Carmel, California in 1992 and Stockholm, Sweden, with Die Meistersinger Children's Choir.



Joyce and Walter are very proud of their high-achieving daughter, who was in a recent Ironman competition (swim 4km, bike 180km, and run 42km). She is now on Team Canada heading for Triathlete competitions in Denmark.

Joyce Arnold

Horses and postcards
her hobbies are,
From Art she never
wanders far.
A future in teaching
her ambition is.
At Math you should
see her—what a
whiz!



Graduation



Heather Hanik
(D.V.M.)

Heather received her degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (with distinction) from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, at convocation ceremonies on May 27th, 2004.

Heather graduated with a Bachelor of Science (combined honours in Chemistry and Biochemistry) in 2000, from U.B.C.

In 1996 Heather graduated from D.P. Todd Secondary School, with the distinction of having the highest provincial scholarship examination score.

Heather will commence Graduate Studies at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in September 2004.

444875

Joye Sengotta (Raber) was smart and stayed in the Okanagan. Others had to move back to enjoy the lifestyle and fantastic environment that Joye and her husband Howard have enjoyed for more than 49 years.

The one place we have the most influence is in the lives of our children. Joye had her priorities right so their five children had the best upbringing there is -- the loving support of strict parents. A reward is having all 11 wonderful grandchildren living close by in the Okanagan.

Joye is also one of the four from our graduating class who are privileged to have great-grandchildren.

While raising five of her own children, Joye extended her positive influence to other children through babysitting (now generically called daycare) and sewing at home for Okanagan Cabin Crafts. Recently she has extended her talents into making paper embroidery. If you are very lucky, you may get a greeting card created by Joye's originaive mind and produced by her artistic hands.

Joye's favourite place is on their spectacular lot on Shuswap Lake. Park the motorhome and family and friends gather. It can't get much better, except maybe if they had a cabin on the beach.



Joye and Howard Raber have been to many places in the western states and to countries many air-miles away. They can compare their beach lot on Shuswap Lake to beaches in Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico and Hawaii.

Later this year, Joye and Howard hope to travel across Canada to see more of the best country in the world. Then they will return home to the best place in Canada – Vernon.

Judy Nash (Beal) has helped mushroom the population of Prince George. It started in 1962 when Judy and Don Beal moved to the northern urban centre after they married. To make it a city in the 50's, you'd have to add in all the pulp mills. Today it's bustling city of 77,000.



Judy obtained her RN and worked as a surgical nurse at Prince George Hospital for nearly 20 years.

Judy and Don raised their two sons and two daughters in the northern British Columbia town and now their children are all raising the kids close by. Four grandchildren live within whiffs of Grandma Beal's fresh apple pies.

Delicious apples come from Vernon, of course, picked when the Beals go to the Nash family cottage at Mabel Lake.

For the last few years, since retirement, Judy and Don Beal have returned to the Okanagan three times a year to enjoy the brilliant sunshine and delectable fruit.



June Husband (Chisholm)

got more than she bargained for when she took to the beginner ski slopes in the Laurentians after moving to Montreal in 1958, to join the Bank of Nova Scotia. She met Gus Chisholm, who is now a Vice President of CIBC Wood Gundy in Halifax. Then he was just an

athletic young man who held her up when she skied down the slopes but not when she walked down the aisle in Vernon two years later.

June and Gus Chisholm had a son, Michael, in 1963 but waited until the year of Expo67 to create a centennial legacy, Pamela. Michael is an Industrial Engineer, married with two active children. Pam joined Social Services in Toronto after graduation from university. She recently returned to Halifax to join her father as a Financial Advisor.

June and family moved to Halifax the year after Expo67, transferred back to Montreal for a bit more French culture, and then, in 1975, settled back on the edge of Canada. June has since volunteered at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia for more than 30 years and is presently serving on the regional Victorian Order of Nurses board.



June Husband

June claims her first
love's Chemistry :
Teen Town when her
time is free.
Summer is her favorite
time,
For swimming then is
just fine.



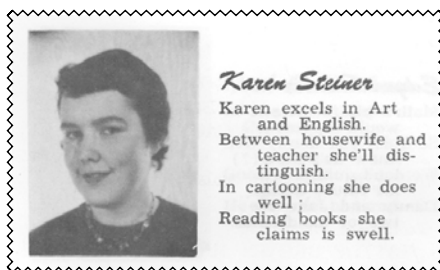
In their country home on the Bay of Fundy lobsters are so plentiful they crawl all over the counter just waiting for Gus, Pam and June to make them into delectable morsels.

June and Gus have travelled the world. They've been to Britain, France and the Far East. They explored Australia and New Zealand, relaxed in Hawaii and, last summer, had mind-expanding experiences in Russia...



Karen Steiner (Ulrich)

responded from Prince George with a tranquil card featuring a lazy boat on a serene lake on which she wrote ". . . how good to still be alive!"



Karen goes on to say that unfortunately her church is having their annual District Assembly in Prince George "at that very time, so we are unable to go . . . How I hope the reunion is a great success!"

Karen has had her share of misfortunes but has come out with a smile on her face and more than a twinge of optimism in her note.

Karen became a teacher as we all thought she would. She married and moved north. There they became good friends with a commercial pilot, Joe Ulrich, and his wife and did many wonderful things together.

Then Joe's wife, Karen's best friend, died and the circle of friendship was broken. Soon afterwards cancer stealthily invaded the body of Karen's husband and there too it would not be subdued with any treatment.

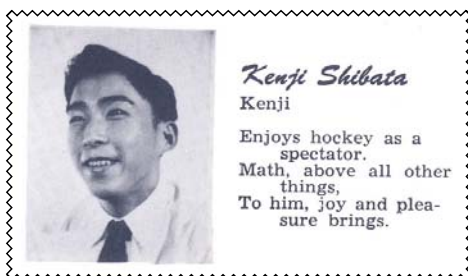
Karen was alone in the big world. Not for long. During their tragedies, Joe and Karen discovered the help of their faith, their church and each other. Soon they were no longer alone. Karen's regret is that Joe got her past her *Best Before Date!*

Now after being married for six years and after two flights to Cuba, Karen is helping Joe, a 16,000-hour bush pilot, build an aeroplane in their basement. Karen is "Rosie, the Riveter". Once "Bush Caddy" is finally completed this summer, thrills should start all over.

How good to be alive!



Kenji Shibata enjoyed
math in high school.



[Some of us had pleasure in math throughout life. Most of us had more artistic sources of happiness.

Once we were like young spruce cones maturing in the warm summer rain.
Now pleasures are in reminiscing and generalizing.

Things worth doing well
have form and simple function,
bring pleasure.

In the end,
things are still mud,
will crumble,
become dust,
be here no more.



In the middle of unbearable irritations,
unfathomable frustrations
hope buds,
glimmers,
bursts forth in new values,
new appreciations,
surprising pleasures.
Life happens again.]

Loretta Blower (Lewis, Pineault) found a technique, late in life, to see some of the most spectacular bays in the world in a most picturesque way. She married a lighthouse keeper, Percy Pineault, and would fly on weekends by helicopter from Victoria along BC's rugged coast to his lighthouse.



After those delightful trips became too boring, Loretta and Percy retired from the Coast Guard to travel further afield. In order to be closer to everywhere, they moved to southern Alberta. [Isn't the centre of Canada somewhere around Baker Lake, NWT?!]



From their home base on the prairies they travel to such popular places as Vernon where, twice a year, Loretta hangs out with three of her girlfriends at Gloria Smith's cabin on Okanagan Lake for "sunshine, laughter, wine and the latest news." Once a year, Loretta skis Silver Star for a week with 30 of her former Coast Guard co-workers.



In between, she visited Scotland, Ireland, England, Hawaii and the western part of North America.



That's now. How about then? Loretta married Roy Lewis shortly after she had graduated from VHS with distinction (i.e., passed all grade 12 exams). They raised three loveable children into wholesome adults who produced five adorable grandchildren.

The family lived in Vernon for five years and then moved to Victoria.

Loretta worked 18 years for Royal Roads Military College and five years for the Coast Guard.

Her idyllic 40-year marriage to Roy ended with his massive heart attack. A few years later, Percy lit up Loretta's lighthouse and it's been shining ever since.



Loretta Urbetis (Martens) was thrilled to be chosen May Queen in 1952 and be assisted by classmates Evina Pulas and Shirley McTaggart. Another thrill was getting Barbara Ann Scott's autograph, Canada's Sweetheart Olympic Gold skater in 1948.

Loretta and her friend Anne Firman took off for Vancouver during Easter in Grade 12. Loretta got a job operating juke boxes in the old Birks Building. Patrons from nearby restaurants and night clubs would call, Loretta would answer and then play their requests to be piped to their particular location once the client deposited the required coins. At the end of her graveyard shift, she would sleep on the beach at English Bay to wait for Anne to finish her shift.

The next summer Loretta took a job as a waitress in remote Namoh. It was so isolated that she flew by ever smaller planes until one dropped her off on some inlet. It was a scary two months until the 19 year-old was picked up and brought back to civilization at the end of her contract.

Next she worked in restaurants in beautiful Banff and then in Calgary, where she married Hank Martens in 1959. They started moving across Canada as Hank set up restaurants for Zellers. Carl and Monica were born in Kitchener in the 60's.



In Fredericton, they opened their own restaurant that has now been going for 34 years. Their children have been running it since

Hank's death in 1989.

Loretta enjoys line dancing, cross country skiing, and five grandchildren (Riley, Amy, Katie, Lynnie, Jacob). She's still living as good a life as can be expected in New Brunswick.



L Lydia Price (Cumming) has seen the world and experienced the breadth of our diversified country and loved it. She started off by taking elementary school training at University of Victoria and thanks to what she learned from Home Ec teachers



Anderson and Clarke, Lydia went on to teach Home Economics for seven years in Prince George, Kamloops and Ft. Nelson. In 1964 Tony Cumming swept the teacher off her feet. When she finally came back to earth in Kamloops 15 years later with two children, they had lived in Chilliwack, BC, Calgary, AB, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Germany, where their children were born.

Experiences that are even more exciting were in store when Tony was posted to Israel. Suddenly Lydia's Sunday School stories became alive and experiences more intense as they toured Israel for a month.

In Kamloops, she went from teaching children to selling clothes, to fitting shoes, to managing a card store for 15 years. Tony retired from the Armed Forces in 1985, and crafted tools at University College of the Cariboo.

Their capable daughter, Wendy, an administrative assistant for Investors Group, lives nearby in her own home with her dog, Buddy. Their son, Michael, an electrical engineer for General Dynamics, lives in Calgary. Lydia's mother, 94, lives in Vernon. With great kids, solid genes and good health, Lydia figures she'll still have many summers to enjoy golf and many winters to cheer for the Kamloops Blazers hockey team. [If they lose once too often, she could consider golfing in Arizona during the winter.]



In 2003 Lydia and Tony Cumming took three months to drive across Canada. The country was so huge and beautiful that she wondered why anyone would want to go anywhere else. [Has she thought of a camel trek across the Sahara?]

In volunteering for the Red Cross and at the Community Policing Office, Lydia experiences not the concern of exceeding speed limits but the thrill of contributing beyond expectations.

Marge Ursulak (Marshall) quit after Grade 11 because her help was needed at home, worked in Dellview Hospital for two years and then married athletic Ron Marshall.

Their children came quite soon and each of them married early and soon had their own children. Because they were born so close together, all of Marge's seven grandchildren are within four years of each other – between 21 and 25. Luckily for grandma Marge, they are all clustered around Nanaimo.

Their oldest child became a pharmaceutical technician in a Victoria hospital. Another daughter became an accomplished credit union clerk, a third became a successful real estate agent and their only son became a journeyman carpenter with a House Inspection certificate.

In the 60's Marge pitched a mighty hand in city ball teams, as well as being "signed up in Edmonton." Then in Nanaimo on a "Coffee Club" team she became a home run batter after becoming a grandmother.

Marge considers herself fortunate to have been able to stay home to raise her four children. After her youngest entered high school, Marge decided to go back to school herself. She had always loved kids so she took a "paid exercise" job in Nanaimo schools. She worked diligently and joyfully at her janitorial job for 16 years.



Ron taught in Nanaimo for so many years that he could retire when he was 55. The effort he put into being an exemplary teacher he now puts into his new job – golf – working with an 8 handicap.

A very traumatic experience occurred in an Edmonton crosswalk in the winter of 1998. As a lingering consequence of being hit by a drunk driver, Marge suffered re-occurring headaches. That all changed quite suddenly after five years due to another accident. She fell, and when she recovered, she found that her headaches gone. [Boy, if that could be made into a medical procedure. . .]



Marguerite Griffiths

(Marge Miller) started her military career as Medical Assistant in the Air force in 1955. It immediately took her to a NATO base in Germany, where it ended rather abruptly. Even though she had attended the same parades in Vernon as Dale Miller, she first met him at Baden Soellingen. They married in 1957. A year later, when Vincent was born, Marge became a full time homemaker.



When they came back for a three-year stint in northern Alberta, they had another son, Colin, to take along.

While stationed in Cold Lake, Marge taught tap dancing and baton twirling, which became a hit once they returned to Baden Soellingen. Her Majorette Corps was very popular in German parades and fests as the German public had never seen baton twirling before.

The final transfer to Edmonton was a letdown. The nine years in Germany were very enjoyable as they lived in romantic German towns and Marge associated with great German friends such as members of the German Woman's Club. Edmonton wasn't a very romantic town.

Marge took night courses in Accounting and Business Administration at a technology institute (NAIT) while working part-time as salesclerk for Woodward's and then for Canadian Wildlife service.

In 1980 she became Regional Manager of Operations and Maintenance for Transport Canada, being responsible for 17 airports in NWT, BC, Yukon and Alberta.

She retired after 17 years to a carefree, fun-filled vagabond life. Dale and Marge sold their house, bought a truck and fifth-wheel trailer, and hit the highways.

Four years later they finally unhooked the trailer to drink local Vernon wine, enjoy five grandchildren, use cameras, and study structured-travel books.



Marnie Beveridge

(Anderson) replied from Cranbrook in British Columbia that "There is a sense Life is good – there is always more to do, see, hear, taste and feel." An illness like a serious heart attack can open up one's senses to vividly appreciate every day.



Marnie Beveridge
Marnie, as you all do
know,
Is always running to
and fro.
The Annual she found
was a hectic rush ;
But she thinks school is
really plush.

Marnie's husband recovered from his 1988 heart attack and is now on the Board of Governors of the Shriners Hospital for Children in Spokane. For nine years Marnie and Fred Anderson have had wonderful experiences helping children and making special friends as they travel for the Shiners and volunteer with other charitable groups.....

Marnie eventually got a BEd degree but started her 26 year-long teaching career in Cranbrook after only a year at Normal School in Victoria. In 1959 Fred, working for BC Tel, made sure she never left the Kootenays.



Marnie and Fred raised their children Perri and Bob in the Purcell Mountains, but their offspring are now living in less picturesque surroundings. Perri is executive assistant to V.P. for Horizon Project for Canadian Natural Resources Ltd in Calgary. Bob, a project director for Telus, is living in Surrey and married to Janice. Marnie and Fred are priming their darling grandson Matthew with the basics of a wonderful life.

Marian Barr (Gergely)

knows what beauty is and how to enhance it. She worked in the beauty/spa industry for over 30 years. For twelve of those years her job took her around Canada and the USA. Now she can choose between Prince George, California or China when she wants to leave Richmond to visit her children.



After being divorced for five years Marian married an incredible and very supportive man in 1985. Ted Gergely is a retired school administrator and music teacher, plays in two musical groups and has his own big band. When music and supporting Marian's endeavours doesn't keep him busy enough, Ted golfs.

Marian may have had two step children in addition to three of her own but her children have restricted themselves to two children each.

Marian's son Scott is Manager of a Scotiabank in Prince George and his wife Chris is an official in another bank. Their daughter Kate has just finished second year university and their son Sam is just starting elementary school.

Marian's younger son and his wife Donna are both teachers. Brian is not an ordinary high school music teacher in Rancho Cucamongo but one of the best in Southern California.

Last year he was named Teacher of the Year. Their child Dane is studying at a Sacramento university and their child Alyse is in Grade 10.

Marian's daughter Corri works for a Surrey bank and her husband Rob works for Coca Cola. Their teenage children, Nick and Natalya, are still in school.

Ted's daughter Dana and her family live in Abbotsford. Ted's son Steve lives and teaches in China. It's a small world.



Mary-Lou Brown (Blair, Plowe) has leaped gigantic chasms and stood on colossal pinnacles. From starting life in Bog's End, an Irish colony in Leroy, Saskatchewan, to planning a major fashion show event, Mary-Lou has much to share in life.

When she remarried a wonderful man, she brought in three children and when Fred remarried a charming woman, he brought in three children. Her blended marriage to Fred and their nine grandchildren are other successes.

Before she could realize her dream to become a cosmetologist, she did a stint working for Safeway, Royal Bank, Dr. Eby, Dellview Hospital and Williams Lake Hospital. It was a pivotal event in 1955 that spurred her on to start greater things. No, no, it wasn't graduation!

She looks back on her thirty year career in the beauty and art related fields to the impetus that being Miss Vernon in 1955 gave her. The last of her many business-type salons was Londoner Salon and Spa in Chase which she owned and operated for 11 years as an cosmetologist and esthetician.

Mary-Lou became a Jan Larkin Fashion Consultant. She learned retailing first hand through her Mary Lou Ladies Wear in Williams Lake. She widened her horizons by taking many courses in merchandising, marketing, budgeting and business management. She got a degree in Interior Decorating and just two years ago received her Provincial Instructors Diploma from Thompson Rivers University.

She's still active in a home business, offering her expertise in Image Enhancement through seminars, event planning and courses.

Now she has a burning desire to act on her truest dream – to write about the defining moments in her life and possibly illustrate them with her own art. If her accomplishments in life are an indication, "From Bogs' End to Beauty Queen" should be a best seller.



Mary Sterling (Creighton) entered nurses training in Victoria. Upon graduation in 1959, she went to work in California, Hawaii and Australia. [I'm sure she said it was to work].



Sterl came back to G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre and specialized in Infection Control and Occupational Health. After 20 years she retired and moved to Victoria.

In 1995, as soon as she was free of nursing schedules, Mary decided to tie herself down to married life again, with Colin Creighton.



Mary remained involved with her nursing alumnus and church activities. In 2003 she wore her 44-year-old nursing grad uniform as President of Alumnae Association of The Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing.



Maureen Carswell (Beardsley) was wrong once. As a charming 15-year-old during Vernon's 60th year as a city celebrations, she got a job at a food concession stand. Working with her was a brash young man. Seeing how diligently she worked, Dave told Maureen that he was going to marry her. "Over my dead body," Maureen replied.

While we were writing our finals in Grade 12, Maureen and Les were doing other things – like having a honeymoon. In March of this year Maureen and Les (aka Dave) celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They have had 50 wonderful years together – living, travelling and raising three children who have all grown into fine citizens. Now they have three delightful grandchildren.

Maureen, the second of our classmates to marry, has already received Golden Wedding wishes from our prime minister.

Now in retirement in Ladysmith on Vancouver Island, Les has become a fine potter and Maureen became a fine potterer. As she putters around in her back-yard garden and greenhouse, or merrily collects the eggs from the little chicken house where her "six girls" have laid them, she realizes life has been good.



As the sun goes down or more likely, clouds settle in, Maureen takes out her miniatures for doll houses that she works on, or her family history book that she keeps updating.

"Life has been a ball!" she says.

Miyoko Chiba (Croken)

doesn't like living out of a suitcase but for the final two years of her teaching career, she was given a fancy van and asked to drive all over the colourful Interior. Her job was to evaluate student nurses.



Every three weeks she would take a round trip from Prince George to Williams Lake, McBride, Quesnel, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Burns Lake, Smithers, Kitimat, Mackenzie, and Prince Rupert. On one of those trips, a young buck wanted to hitch a ride with her but he didn't notice the back door was closed. The deer got an awful headache over the attempted car invasion.

Miyoko started as a nurse in Vernon, where she soon was a head nurse in pediatrics, medicine, surgery, maternity, and recovery at some time or other. She never was head nurse of the morgue.

In 1967 she took a Unit Administration course at UBC so she could teach practical nursing at the BC Vocational School (now the College of New Caledonia) in Prince George. Then tragedy struck. Her new husband died of a heart attack.

Miyoko faced the setback and changed her career. Once she had completed her studies at UBC and UWW in Bellingham, she transferred into teaching the diploma program at the college. She continued teaching RN's at the College for 31 years while living in Prince George..



Then a ruling came down from on high that college teachers must have advanced degrees. Miyoko was asked to obtain a Master's degree. "(In) no way at my age was I heading back to school," she said. "My brain would not take all the book learning." So in 1998 the College of New Caledonia lost an excellent nursing instructor when Miyoko retired.

Miyoko is not much of a traveller but she has visited Japan, Hawaii and Mexico. She prefers to play golf, bowl and care for her garden.

Nellie Fandrich (Thompson)

opted for early retirement in 1997 after being employed for 32 years with the BC public service as administrative secretary, residing with husband and children in Vernon, Oliver, Grand Forks, and, lastly for 25 years, in Kamloops.

In 1989, she returned part-time to the halls of higher learning and now holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (UBC '98), a Fine Arts Diploma (UCC '99), and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (UCC '02)

Nellie has been blest with three children and three grandchildren -- Mark, lawyer in Vancouver; Kevin, musician with the Malaysian

Philharmonic Orchestra

in Kuala Lumpur; and Karen, recruiter for a clinical research firm in Victoria, who, with husband Steven Jorgensen, physiotherapist, has three active redheaded children (five-year-old Ethan, three-year-old Claire, and one-year-old Rachel).

In 2002, a move to Victoria brought the family closer together. Whether Nellie is spending time with the grandchildren, creating fine handcrafts and needlework, travelling the world, attending musical performances, researching genealogy, being involved in church activities -- including a mission to Africa teaching local women sewing skills -- or by simply appreciating the beauty of the Pacific Coast, she is enjoying retirement.

Five decades have passed since graduation from Vernon High School, and God has been good throughout the years to this "typing lass who a secretary will become ..."[Ed: There was no need to touch a word of my sister's writing!]



Nellie Fandrich
Another typing lass is
she
And also good at
stenography.
A secretary she will
become
'Cause book keeping
to her is fun.



Norman Hubner can be forgiven for leaving Vernon because he moved to California. For the last 31 years he's been living in Lodi, where he worked for General Mills. Seven years ago he retired and the fish in the Feather River have been scared ever since.

He's been married to Lauan Flemmer Hubner for 44 years, and they are looking forward to many more happy years together. They have a son Chris, a nine-year-old granddaughter Hannah, and lots and lots of fishing gear.

Every year Norman and Lauan visit his two brothers, three sisters and lots of other relatives in Vernon.

Since retiring, they have enjoyed travelling. Some of the trips have been with their motor home. Others trips were on cruise boats with family, but most of the trips have been by car to the Feather River near Sacramento.



Norman derives great pleasure from fishing for salmon in California or for halibut in Alaska.

Lauan and Norman Hubner enjoy attending gospel music concerts with family and friends. That has been a pleasure for many years and should be for many years to come.

