

# Ann Creager

## Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - May 11, 2008

I was born in Youngstown, Ohio and grew up there. My mother was a housewife and my father was a pharmacist. I am an only child but prayed to God for Him to send me a baby sister—finally got desperate and said a little brother would do if there were no girls available. However, God didn't grant me this wish. I even asked Santa Claus, who rarely failed to grant a reasonable request.

At age 10 I was dragged by a runaway horse. The horse got spooked and tried to throw me off. I had on tennis shoes which had no heels. As I fell off, my foot went through the stirrup and I got caught by the ankle. All I can remember is seeing legs as he pulled me along. My foot finally came out and I was so scared. I wet my pants. My mother and other bystanders thought I was seriously hurt because I would not get up. I was embarrassed because my pants were wet.

A dentist pulled my front tooth by mistake a few weeks before I was to start my freshman year in college. He was a specialty dentist and was supposed to do a root canal but somehow the directions from my regular dentist and this guy got mixed up! Luckily my regular dentist was able to put in a replacement tooth before I left for school.

I graduated from high school in Boardman, Ohio, and went on to college at Ohio Wesleyan University. I played varsity basketball in high school and in college, belonged to Pi Beta Phi sorority in college, and was the sponsor for the men's ROTC drill team. In addition to the book learning in college, I also learned to smoke cigarettes. (Quit smoking November 19, 1975). I graduated with a degree in elementary education.

I wanted to teach in either Cleveland or Columbus, Ohio, but fell in a snow bank on the way back to the dorm after an interview with a young, handsome, tanned interviewer from Garden Grove, California. (I had gone to this interview only for practice with interviews before the "good" Cleveland interviews came up!) All I could think of on the long, cold walk back to the dorm were those pictures of schools with palm trees and apartments with SWIMMING POOLS. So, I signed the contract, put it in the mail and then called my parents!

My roommate, two friends and I went from Ohio to Fort Lauderdale, Florida over Easter break during senior year of college. ("Where the boys are")!

I went to Denmark with former boyfriend to celebrate his parent's 50th anniversary. (Stayed with his married sister who spoke only Danish.) My present husband, Bruce, dog sat my dog while I was gone.

Another boyfriend (from college days) and his new wife spent a weekend with us while on their honeymoon.

Toured a funeral home with a friend and her boyfriend late at night (he worked there part time). I didn't sleep well for weeks after that!

I am geographically dyslexic. I have NO sense of direction, so I get lost a lot. Have been known to head for Fullerton and end up in Long Beach. My husband has to write all directions out using left and right. I don't do north and south. Then the directions have to be rewritten so I can get back home!

I have been in jail several times. Once in high school our civics class took a field trip that included the city jail. I have been to jail with the Becomers group, and I volunteer with the Orange Police Department and report to the Police department every Friday.

I taught school in Garden Grove, fourth grade, both in the regular classroom and in the gifted program. Did not enjoy teaching in the gifted program so went back to the regular classroom.

Met my husband on a blind computer date in 1996 and we were married by Rev. Harold Leestma in

1968 at Garden Grove Community Church. My boss, Jeanne Delp, was my maid of honor and my school principal, Velma West, baked and decorated our wedding cake.

During "The Glory of Christmas", I got interested in camels and started collecting them (not live ones). I now have a collection of about 150 stuffed and other kinds of camels.

We moved to Orange in 1969 after deciding to buy a house at the unheard of price of \$34,900! We just prayed we could make that house payment of \$129 a month if I stopped working!

We adopted our daughter, Lynn, as a newborn in 1971 and adopted our son, Ronnie, at 3 months, in 1974. We have lived in the same house for 39 years. We enjoy traveling and cruising. We now have two dogs for "kids".