

Deanna Baldwin

Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - September 25, 2011

Born in Newark, Ohio in 1947

Four sisters and one brother. Six kids in family and two set of twins. The two younger sister's are twins, and two older siblings (sister and brother) are ten months apart - our family came in sets of two's. Brother is the oldest (poor guy!!) I, along with twin, Chris, are middle children.

Family moved to California in 1956 and settled in Orange Park Acres area near Irvine Park. Went to school in Orange and graduated in first graduating class at Loara H.S. in Anaheim in 1965.

I attended two years of college at Bob Jones Univ. in Greenville, S.C., where I met my husband, Jim, in Sociology Class. I later attended Nurses school where I learned the art of giving great back rubs using warm soothing lotion. Instead of getting my RN, I got my MRS. Jim swept me off my feet and proposed in the "Hay Loft"!! We married in 1968 in his home church in Madison, Ohio, and have now been happily married 42 great years!!

We've lived in 5 states: Ohio, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and California. Favorite is California. Hate Florida: Too many big nasty bugs, alligators, and heat and humidity!!

Moved to Riverside in 1979 and have attended the Crystal Cathedral for 31 years! We've seen many pastors come and go and made lots of friends. Have attended several adult classes, but our favorite is the Becomers class with Jim Kok as teacher and pastor!!

Most embarrassing moment - While shopping in local grocery store, I mistakenly grabbed a man's arm (thinking he was Jim) and said, "Come on honey let's go home"!!!! You should have seen the look on his face!!!

Travels - Scotland, England, and Italy, plus a large part of our beautiful USA. Parents loved to drive across the country, so have traveled the old Route 66 around 90 times!! They loved to get in the car and just take off across county. Stayed in the famous Wig Wam Motel and seen all the Burma Shave signs numerous times. Met lots of people along the way. This was in the late 50s and early 60s. My dad would pick up hitch hikers. Once he gave a man a ride who opened a carrying case to show off a full collection of guns. That ended any further hitchhikers!

Awards received - Won sewing contest and received 1st prize of a new Pfaff sewing machine. Modeled the winning dress on local TV show in Raleigh, N.C.

Famous people I've met - Fess Parker signed autograph at Disney Land along with others from Mickey Mouse club. Also met Jesse Helms when he was a news anchor on local TV station in Raleigh, N.C. in late 60s. Good looking fellow in those days???

Jail - Visited the Ghost Town jail at Knotts Berry Farm and invited by the then "Sad Eyed Joe" to enter and sit on his lap! I declined!

Professional experience - Worked in Medical Insurance for 25 years as a medical claims examiner. A church secretary for a short time and had an embroidery business for eight years. Now retired.

Favorite movie - Witness. I loved seeing the Amish people in a real setting. Harrison Ford wasn't too bad either!!

What's on my "bucket list" - to live to the age of 90, happily and in good reasonable health. Bob Hope and George Bums are good examples and my heros.

My philosophy to live by is:

1. Don't take yourself too seriously or too lightly.
2. Don't ruin today by fretting about tomorrow or rehashing yesterday.
3. What is important in life is our relationship with God, family, and friends first; then don't worry about the rest.
4. Giving love is more important than how much we give or how much we get in life.

Favorite scripture - I have many favorite scriptures, but one I really love is - Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

People I would love to have dinner with: Barbara Bush (America's MOM), Maria Shriver, and Diane Sawyer. These are all very amazing and accomplished women!!

Hobbies: Sewing and quilting!! My addiction is fabric!!