

Debbie Bourne

Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - September 18, 2011

Born in Lansing, MI in 1946

Mom - homemaker: sewed, gardened, raised 4 kids

Dad - choral conductor, music education administrator, pastor (later in life, so that was when I also became a PK)

Attended J.W. Sexton High School

Thespian interests began there: Laura in "The Glass Menagerie" (Still have a couple of the original glass pieces that were hand-blown just for the show by the father of one of the other actors in the play)

Nancy Twinkle in "Little Mary Sunshine"

Social Worker in "A Thousand Clowns" (learned how to tie a man's tie for this)

Had to do a fitness routine to the theme song from "Peter Gunn" - was that really the start of Jazzercise interest????

Took ballet and piano during those years. Sang in the high school choir and Madrigal group. Had most embarrassing moment when at a competition with the latter: were prepping to go on stage; without thinking, just hiked up my skirt to pull my blouse down - in front of the entire group. Got lots of good laughs.

Spent a summer as an apprentice at the Grand Ledge Playhouse. It was a 6-day-a-week job from 8 am to whenever the show was over in the evening. Would prep for the next week's show during the current week's run. Learned what "theater family" really meant during that time.

Attended Alma College for two years:

Was on the Snow Queen Court - never believed that would happen!!!

Got engaged to high school sweetheart, Craig WALKER; wisely figured out that was NOT going to work.

In the summer of 1967, was invited to Germany to be with Liesel, the exchange student that had lived with out family during my junior year in high school. Had to get rid of a German soldier who got a bit too frisky on the train to Hanover. This was before I had even gotten to Liesel. Gained lots of weight eating those pomme frites and amazing German desserts.

Before leaving on the trip, was invited by my high school drama coach (who had moved out here) to spend a week in CA checking out the theater scene. Stayed with a cousin - Mom said that was the only reason this trip was allowed!! Saw 8 shows in 7 days, including the original "Man of La Mancha" with Richard Kiley, when the LA Music Center was fairly new. Saw something in each theater there. Amazing!! Then drove back to MI in a Datsun 2000 Roadster - with a bulldog. (FYI - that's a two-seater car!)

During trip in Germany, I decided to move out here. Was working at the Laguna Playhouse on first night of arrival and volunteered there for 2 years, working as part of the production crew. Got bit by a monkey that was a part of one of the shows. Slept on the set a few times. Toni Tenille - before the Captain - played Sweet Charity when the show was done there. Also met political cartoonist Frank Interlandi and his brother Phil, who both acted in shows at the

playhouse. Had the chance to check out a few of Phil's rough drafts of the Playboy Queenie cartoon when earning some extra money as his house keeper.

A high school friend joined me as roommate and we had great fun together. Watermelon seed spitting contests in the middle of the apartment complex parking lot. I think she decided she preferred snow to earthquakes, so moved back to MI.

At the urging of my cousin, also joined the Anaheim Choraleers, directed by Sheldon Disrud, which is where I met my hubby. Entranced by the guy's singing. Had amazing musical experiences because of his being a part of the Roger Wagner Chorale. The men from the group were the chorus in "Paint Your Wagon". CTB won tickets to its premiere. Sat right behind the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. Loved being at as many rehearsals as I could get to, especially when they included the likes of Norman Triegle, Dave Brubeck, Zubin Mehta, and Giullini. Amazing!!

Craig's varied interest and desire to try lots of things got me involved in doing lots of things, too. Got so I could paint and clean a one bedroom apartment all by myself in one day. Was when Shawn was young, so just took her along. Got interested in nutrition; always liked exercising, so became Jazzercise student in 1981. Became instructor in 1984. Like to garden and do things around the house.

Jobs I've had:

Waitress at golf course snack shop

Summer job at print shop of the Lansing School District; helped make study books for the next school year.

Bank insurance department

Bank teller

Billing clerk at National Music Service

Self-employed

West Coast Fund Raising - whatever needed

Fun Stuff:

Part of the original soundtracks for both Glory of Christmas and Glory of Easter.

Performed in half-time show at the Big A for the Rams

Performed in a show with Olympic athletes at Dodger • Stadium'

Performed as part of a Disney parade, as well as in their Christmas Candlelight show

Did costumes for a costume company

Initially wanted to be a court reporter (steno) when I grew up.

Favorite color: yellow

Have taught Jazzercise for 25 years

Was the first born in the family

Would love to do a bicycle trip through New England

Yes, I have skinny dipped

Smoked for 2 weeks - yuck!

Got in trouble when a guy came to see me while I was babysitting

Raised as a Presbyterian