

Derek Walters

Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - August 27, 2011

Most embarrassing moment: Could be now???

1st kiss: Sharon, in junior high school, behind the school bus garage at a football game.

Worst trouble? Was arrested with a German, a Frenchman and a Canadian for speeding in Mexico City.

Childhood, teen and adult romances? A few...

Hobbies: Working out, reading, dancing, played clarinet, studies languages, worked on cars as a youth. Wanted to be "An adventurer" when I grew up.

Favorite pastime: working out, reading, studying languages

Travels: Europe, So East Asia, So America, Mexico, Canada, many parts of the US. Lived in Ohio, Mexico City, Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Phoenix, AZ, Las Vegas, NV, CA

Disappointments? Would have liked to have studied in Russia.

Pet peeves? Traffic

Greatest fear? To be driving along the freeway and end up in eternity

Greatest accomplishment? 26 yrs. of sobriety.

Words or philosophies to live by? "Just do it!" Learned to drive at 14? How? Dad

Famous or well known people you have been around? Had drinks with James Haggerty, Ronald Reagan, Gov. Connally, Lester Maddox

Goals when young, middle age and future? Be in a triathlon, be an extra in the movies.

Schooling - Jesuit high school in Cleveland (St. Ignatius), Ohio State, University of the Americas in Mexico City, AZ State in Tempe

Favorite scripture:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things"

Professional experience: Taught for over 35 years, some of it in "Continuation School", junior high, elementary.

Other jobs: deputy sheriff, auto factory, newspaper printing room, bartender, manager of a college nightclub. Avis car rental at Harry Truman Airport (St. Thomas, Virgin Islands), Merchant Marines on the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean, interpreter and translator for the Gemini Space capsule in Mexico City, night desk manager at the Reef Hotel in Waikiki.

First job - picking up golf balls at a driving range.

Second job - sold doormats door-to-door

Experiences: Living on an island in the Pacific (Virgin Gorda) in a tent. Waking up with a huge cow sniffing my face.

Was in the Merchant Marine and traveled to So. East Asia on a Victory ship carrying bombs to Vietnam.

Jail? Worked as a deputy sheriff; was in jail in Mexico prison- carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous

Court appearances? Sued 2 lawyers

One thing no one knows about you? Attended modeling school, trained to be an Arthur Murray Dance Instructor

Talents? Can speak a few words in a lot of languages. Fluent in Spanish. Currently studying Indonesian and the Arabic alphabet

Ever done something you told yourself you wouldn't do? Eat buffets, get married again.

Christian history? At one time, thought to become a Jesuit. Mom told me to get a girlfriend. After many years away from the church and Christianity, had an "awakening" and started exploring different religions. Started attending CC about 30 years ago with son who enjoyed seeing the cameras, the orchestra, etc. Joined CC in 1996.

Family? Born in Cleveland, Ohio, oldest of 3 with 2 younger sisters.

Favorite books? On the Road. Books by Norman Vincent Peale and Dr. Schuller.

Favorite movie? The Meaning of Life, Groundhog Day

What do you do when bored? Watch Youtube, go for a walk, workout

Shy? Somewhat

Outgoing? Somewhat

No tattoos or piercings. Just surgery scars!

Bucket list: Travel to Moscow, Sweden, run a marathon, be in a movie

Smoked cigarettes at 15 with parents' permission. Everyone in the family smoked - even the dog!

Acted on a dare? Street racing as a youth

Dangerous thing ever done? Worked as an "illegal" in Mexico.

Skinny dipped in parents' pool often.

Snuck out of the house as a kid or teen? Snuck "in", not "out".

Favorite family experiences when raising children? Hiked the Grand Canyon, visited the Pyramids in Mexico City.

Worst "fright"? Had a bear looking in the camper window.

Favorite school subject - Latin

Street raced? Yes

Hot cars: TR-3 FiatX19

Been an extra in foreign movies: "State of Siege" in Chile

Been on the news talking about the Cathedral.

Article in the newspaper about working out at many 24 Hr. Fitnesses, (with Doreen) we've now worked out in over 81 different clubs - also Gold's Gym, LA Fitness, Bally's and Frog's Gym.

Was inspired by On the Road to hitchhike to Mexico, even though I only knew a few words of Spanish. Liked Mexico City so much I went to university there majoring in International Relations with a minor in Spanish.

Lived in a rooming house with the "senoras".

Lived in a tent on Virgin Gorda and built a bar on the island. "The Baths"

Worked in construction while in high school and college.

Met bride at CC Singles. Was confirmed bachelor, said "Never getting married again!"

Engaged as a birthday surprise in Phoenix on bride's 50th birthday.

Married in a backyard wedding by Dr. Ken Leetsma

Grandfather of 2 granddaughters who live in Las Vegas which gives us a good excuse to visit there several times a year.

Has been onstage (Tibbie's with Becomers), the Wild West Dinner Theatre, and UCI during a dance number. (Was pulled up onstage all 3 times.)

Am a cancer survivor.