

Elaine Heinlein

Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - April 27, 2008

1. Born in Atwood , Kansas in the dust bowl followed by hordes of grasshoppers. Days when migrants moved west with what they could pack into an old car.
2. Mother died when I was three weeks old. Legend has it, my father kidnapped me from my mother's family and placed me with foreign-born Czechoslovakian grandparents in the middle of the state of Kansas.
3. Had a half brother who was brought up by mother's family. Father forgot to come back until I was ten and I never lived with him.
4. Went to country school. Taught country school at 17.
- 5 Graduated from high school at 16. My best friend then was another Elaine. We parted - then she married and I pursued another course. Worked through high school in a drug store.
6. First job at the age of 12 was washing the ceilings and walls of an 8-room country farm house for 5 days at \$12.
7. Received a provisional teaching certificate after one year of college. Would teach and go back to summer school until I got my degree in elementary education in 5 summers and 2 complete years. Worked as a nurse's aide and at the soda fountain in the student union to supplement my income.
8. While teaching country school, my girl friend, who taught at another school about seven miles away, and I would make appointments to meet halfway to smoke after school Think it was Pall Malls then.
9. While in college, groups of us would occasionally go to a roadhouse (bar) and enjoy camaraderie.
10. In college was sent to the Dean of Women's office for standing on the front porch 4 minutes too long in bidding my boy friend " good night".
- 11 "I Lost My Heart in San Francisco". No, I lost my clothes in San Francisco.
12. Married at 24. Result- 3 wonderful children who shall always be one of my passions. 1 boy and 2 girls. Divorced 14 years later.
13. Taught school at Manhattan, Ks, while former husband got his E.E. at Kansas State University. His work took us to California.
14. Single for 3 years. Did many things I enjoyed. Was volunteer Singles Director for 2 1/2 years.
15. Three children married in 11 months, after which I went to China as a Christian Witness English teacher.
16. Rode about 10,000 miles on Chinese rails crossing southern China and northern China. Backpacking, with a Chinese card, sleeping in Chinese Hotels with 23 or so roommates. Washed clothes dripping between the beds
17. Slept on a straw bed with straw pillows in southern China. Unusual thing here. Pigs were being herded in the streets at 1:30 AM.
18. Taught English to a Moslem teacher in a yurt in Urumqui in northwestern China.
19. Rode a motorcycle sidecar flying around the comers on the island of Hainon island, off the coast of southern China.

20. Other adventures:

worked in an orphanage in Mexico with one of our classmates

Performed puppet plays on the story of Lazarus in a park in La Plata, Argentina.

Watched people go into a trance in a religious crusade.

21. Mission work for a month in Kenya and Tanzania. Arrival at midnight in a village celebrated with tea in a mud hut after we chased the chickens out of the entrance. Left Igoma, Tanzania, in the belly of a cargo plane after being hoisted up to a chute entry from a metal pallet lifted by a crane.

22. Met the kindest, sweetest man after vowing to friends I would never marry again. First date a kind of catastrophe. Married in 1999 in the arboretum.

23. Together we cruised Russia and the Scandinavian countries, Panama Canal, Alaska and rode on the Mississippi Queen. Toured cross-country twice in travel trailer and other short trips. Last trip we did was to Israel with Dr. Creasy.

24. Cruised to Antarctica via Argentina without Don to finish a goal of touching all 7 continents.

25. Not brought up as a Christian, though I pursued Jesus, beginning in college, noticing the light in the eyes of Christian kids. Joined a Methodist church in a little country town of Burdett, Ks. Learned more when I taught Sunday school to lower graders in a Methodist church in Anaheim. Arrived at the Crystal Cathedral in 1976. Still learning and learning in things I do and read. Practicing.

26. John Wayne tipped his hat to me.

27. Scripture: Proverbs 3: 5-6

28. Take every opportunity to learn, love people and be who you are

29. Retired after teaching 38 years in year 2003. Regret that I didn't finish my master's degree. Have many classes but never applied them to a MS.

31. Six grand children