

Jim Baldwin

Becomers Mystery Person of the week - October 28, 2007

Roots:

Born in Cleveland Ohio

Distant cousin to Elias (Lucky) Baldwin, namesake for Baldwin Park, founder of Santa Anita Race Track. Original owner of ranch that is now the LA Arboretum, Lucky was a compulsive gambler

Hobbies; Joys:

Deanna

The beauty of nature

Hiking

Exploring (especially tropical rainforests)

Gardening

Classical music; trumpet lessons starting 3rd grade

Drawing, painting

Art, architecture, landscaping

On the move:

Via ocean liner moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at 4 years old

Memorable experiences

Saved by 8-year sister from a leopard-like cat (probably a serval) that entered the house; tried to enter my room while I slept - a long story

Encountered a nest of fire ants; the worst was that to address the problem my father stripped me naked (publicly) and hosed me down

Shredded a neighbor's laundry hanging on the line with a found pair of scissors (the evil side of 5 years old)

Moved back to Ohio at 5 years old

Moved to Vieques (a 5 by 20 mile Caribbean Island next to Puerto Rico) at 12 years old

Memorable experiences:

Took sixth grade in a school where only Spanish was spoken; 7 and 8th grade by correspondence course

Lived in a house on the beach with a nearby 16th century Spanish fort -interesting place to play

Spent the summer at a children's summer camp on putatively the world's most beautiful beach in St. John (Virgin Island) in 1958, well before it was developed for tourism

On a return trip from Vieques to Florida was held under house arrest in Haiti as a possible subversive during a revolution on that island (our little private plane would have run out of gas had we not landed there, regardless).

Moved back to Ohio

Memorable experiences:

High school; tried to recover social skills and tolerance of snow after living on a Caribbean island!

Loved science and art

Education years:

A slow learner (24 years to get through school)

Kindergarten -1 year

Primary and high school - 12 years

Bachelor Degree in biology and chemistry; lots of Bible classes - Christian School - 4 years

MS and PhD in plant pathology and botany - NC State Univ.- 2 years+ 3 years

Postdoctorate in genetics - 1 year

Postdoctorate in plant pathology - 1 year

Romance:

Discovered positive traits in girls about age 13 o After first date with Deanna announced to roommates that I would someday marry her

Proposed in a barn; ahem, in the hayloft of a barn!

Currently in the process of living happily ever after

Professional:

Into worms —because they're beautiful

Was 30 years old before I had my first REAL job

One year college teaching job in Tennessee

Two years teaching and research with Florida Department of Agriculture in Gainesville

Moved to Univ. of CA in 1978; primarily a research faculty position, some administrative responsibilities

Publications

Associate Editor for *Journal of Nematology*

Authored or coauthored about 120 journal and book publications — absolutely no best sellers!!!!

Journals with my recent publications include:

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London

Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution

Journal of Morphology

Journal of Comparative Neurology

Consulting jobs

US National Science Foundation

US Department of Agriculture

United Nations International Seabed Authority (Jamaica)

Other government agencies via

China

Russia

Costa Rica (InBio biodiversity organization)

Brazil

Moldova

England (Natural History Museum of London)

Honors

A cup-holding member of Becomers

Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Fellow and (former) President, International Society of Nematologists

Silver medal for promoting international science, Moldovan Academy of Sciences

Summing it up:

"Amazing grace"