

Mel Harbert

Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - October 9, 2011

Melvin Stanley Harbert was born March 11, 1931 at the Community Hospital in Long Beach, California to parents Leonard and Alta Harbert. My younger sister, Velma, ia the only other member of our family.

I attended Peter H. Burnett Elementary, Hamilton Junior High, Polytechnic High, schools in Long Beach. Afterwards I attended Long Beach City Collage until I was called into the service of the United States Army in December of 1952 (too many years in a junior collage). I was selected to attend basic training and a 5 month specialty training school at San Louis Obispo, California.

I served in the United Nations Base Camp and Advance Camp in Korea during the Prisoner exchange, exchange of graves, peace talks, and the reparation of civilians.

Upon returning to Long Beach, I desired to work in the telephone industry and started with General Telephone Company in January of 1955. My more than 38 years working in the telephone industry ended in 1993 on my retirement. Positions worked: frameman, switchman, test board man, PBX installer, PABX installer, sales representative, engineering field man, network engineer, engineering supervisor, senior engineer, staff engineer, senior staff engineer, network engineering administrator, and network engineering section manager when retired. Evaluation and field trials of telephone systems was the most enjoyable part of my working life.

Member of The Independent Telephone Pioneer Association and served in all positions in the R. Parker Sullivan Club.

I have one daughter, Kelly Sheikh and four grand children: Joshua Andrew (8years), Sophie Grace(6 1/2), Savannah Grace (4) and Sarah Grace (2) that live in Laguna Hills.

Received 2 traffic tickets within fifteen minutes.

I tend to be a shy and quiet person.

Invented wire receptacle bag for frame ladders in central offices.

Goal of being an architect (graduated high school in 1948 with Kenneth S. Wing, Jr., whose father was an internationally known architect). Later worked on many projects with the Wing firm while in the Verizon engineering department.

Drew plans and participated in building family home at 3908 Elm Avenue, Long Beach in 1948.

Travel: Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, England, Scotland, Ireland, Israel, Canada, Italy, Croatia, France, Greece, Turkey, Germany, Albania,

University of Redlands - Bachelor of Arts - Industrial Management (1980)

Met Janice Krehbiel at a labor day party in 2006 held by a long time friends, Dan and Shirley Nelson.

Favorite foods: cooked and uncooked.

While waiting in the meal line at the United Nations Base camp, I noticed cases of frozen eggs had longer military life than I had.

Life at Base Camp was nice. All the Bob Hope shows started their tours at Base Camp before going to other locations in Korea.