

Jan Petereit

Becomer's Mystery Person of the week - April 26, 2009

1935 Born in Settle, WA, and 6 months later moved to Alameda, CA.

1937 Moved to West Los Angeles.

1940 Started dance lesson at the same studio as Shirley Temple.

1941 Dancing career included tap dancing on the radio-went to the radio station to record the program.

1941 Moved across the street into a "GE Home of the Future." All the neighbors helped us move by carrying things across the street.

1942 Started attending the Congregational Church, mother was a Sunday school teacher.

1943 Took a train trip from Los Angeles to Paynesville, MN with my dad. My mom was a Rosie Riveter - she stayed home with my brother. I remember this as one of my favorite childhood memories.

1944 Memorized the Gettysburg Address, and my teacher made me go to every classroom in the school and recite it.

1945 I started Brownie and Girl Scout years. One year I sold more Girl Scout cookies than any other scout in Los Angeles and got to go to a special luncheon honoring the top sellers. They didn't know I usually ate one cookie out of each box before I sold it. No wonder they changed the packaging. (Some customers only got 39 cookies?).

1946 I guess I liked to ring doorbells. My brother had a paper route, and he hated to collect, so I did that and got to keep the tips.

1947 I also used to go door to door and collect playing cards that people didn't want or were willing to part with. I had a great collection.

1947 In Junior High I started my musical adventure. I signed up for orchestra and wanted to play clarinet. The teacher ran out of clarinets and handed me an oboe which I played for nine years in concert bands and orchestras and marching bands. I loved it. Four times a year in Jr. High we chartered a bus and went to the dress rehearsals of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

1947 The highlight of my Jr. High years was belonging to the Brentwood Youth Club. We had dances every Sat night and made many trips to Catalina Island aboard the Avalon or the Catalina boats - danced all the way over and all the way back to live music.

1948 I must have really loved Jr. High because at the end of the ninth grade I got an award for never missing a class in three years!

1948 I loved high school. I was active in after school sports, student government, orchestra, marching band and MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) because they had the best teen group going.

1949 One of the highlights was getting to play in the orchestra when Liz Taylor came to graduate. She had to get her degree from a real high school. She had always gone to school on the MGM lot. She was gorgeous!

1950 My dad was transferred to the San Francisco Bay Area. I was a Junior and I thought my life was over, but I survived! I got active in the marching band and French Club and sports.

1951 My brother gave me his 1931 Model A Ford Victoria, which he had driven up from LA when we moved. When my mom and I drove out the driveway to make the trip to the Bay Area, Jack had the car in pieces and was putting it back together. All the way up my mom thought the he had broken

down on the road, but when we got to San Mateo, he was in the Motel coffee shop waiting for us!

1952 Graduated from high school and got my first job - spur of the moment - starting the next day. I was the cashier in the San Francisco Airport coffee shop. My dad was away on a business trip and when he flew home he came in for a cup of coffee before going home, and there I was in the cashier cage! What a surprise for both of us. I kept that job for two years plus, three summers and weekends, while I was going to Jr. College.

1953 In Jr. College I was active in Student Govt. I was elected "Rally Commissioner" and was in charge of all school rallies including the annual bonfire rally, bus transportation to the games, and the card section. The good part was getting to ride to and from the games with the football team and the cheerleaders. One of those cheerleaders became my boyfriend and we did a Charleston routine at a traveling talent show which was given at all the Jr. Colleges in our football district

1953 I was taking a piano class and met Pete there. I invited him to a house party at my house, and when he arrived he discovered he was the only guy there who hadn't come with a girl. I used to be so sneaky!

1954 My third year of College was at San Jose State where I roomed with two other girlfriends. Pete was away in the Air Force, and when he came back into the area we broke up. (We have always referred to this as a "dear John" in person).

1954 I got a scholarship to go to the University of California San Francisco to get a degree in Physical Therapy. My dad was so proud he cried, the only time I ever saw my dad in tears.

1956 My first job was with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, and they sent my best friend and me to Chicago to work in a polio epidemic. We had just taken the first Salk vaccine at home and the next one we took in Chicago. We worked there for four months, and I bought a new car and we drove home to California.

1957 I married the dental student I had been dating at UCSF, and the marriage lasted 22 years and gave me three wonderful daughters.

1968 My husband and I ran into Pete and his wife at a Giant's ball game. We exchanged addresses and sent Christmas cards for the next 12 years.

1969-1980 I was busy with raising three girls, being a Scout leader, roller skating at the local rink and being active in a Jr. Women's Club. I also was the supervisor of a very large Physical Therapy Dept at the Redwood Medical Clinic in Redwood City.

1980 I left my husband on Sept 20

1980 Pete left his wife on Sept 20

Both these events were completely unknown by the other person. I swear?

In March of 1981 Pete moved to the Bay Area. We bought a little mobile home in King's Beach, at Lake Tahoe, and started skiing and boating every other weekend. We joined a Yacht Club in the Bay Area and bought a 31 ft. pilot house motor sailer which we sailed on San Francisco Bay. One year I was social chairman, and they awarded me the trophy of "Woman of the Year" for throwing 12 great parties.

1989 We had a wonderful adventure - part of a crew of 14 to bring the flag ship of Hornblower Dining Yachts from the shipyard in Pascagula, MS to San Diego - a 21 day trip through the Panama Canal.

1995 We bought a trawler (big, slow boat) which we berthed in Puget Sound and spent many summers on the boat. We sold it in 2006 - another happy day, ha!

1997 Moved south to watch over my mother and discovered the Crystal Cathedral in the process.

1998 Got active in the Care and Kindness Conference (volunteers, table decor and aprons, etc)

2000 Got married after 20 years together.

2000-2005 Lots of great trips here and abroad.

2005 Went to Africa with Bruce Wilkinson's "Dream for Africa" to plant gardens.

2006 Went to Australia to participate in a Care and Kindness Conference (added 2 weeks in New Zealand)

2007 Got active in 50 Plus Luncheons doing table decorations.

2007 Becomers cruise to Midway and Hawaiian Islands

2007 Cruised from Quebec to Florida

2008 Spent 14 weeks in Europe on a trip which we arranged all by ourselves using timeshares (mostly) and a Eurail pass. This trip included two weeks up the Rhine River.

2009 Traveled on the beautiful Mariner of the Seas from Florida to California around Cape Horn. The highlight of the 47 days was visiting the Christ of the Andes in Rio de Janiero.

2009 That's my life so far. Who knows what the future holds!