

Susan Keiser Cook

Becomers Mystery Person of the week - November 5, 2006

I was born in Bloomington, Illinois in the heart of the corn belt. But I was a city girl. I wouldn't go out with farmers. Probably a dumb mistake, considering the value of farm property near the city in today's market

I was a Brownie, a Rainbow Girl, and a Girl Scout. I ran around with the same kids from grade school through high school.

In high school I won the Betty Crocker Home Maker of Tomorrow award.

During high school I belonged to a sorority.

I have two sisters and we are still in constant communication.

After high school I wanted to be a homemaker, but I went to work at a savings and loan and was a teller. I was robbed at gunpoint.

I left that job and took a position at an advertising agency.

Shortly afterward I decided to visit Southern California. What a culture shock, coming from a small town! (Bloomington is now a large city.) I drove down Ocean Blvd in Long Beach and decided I would live there someday. I permanently moved to Fullerton a few months later after experiencing another Illinois winter and no friends around anymore.

When I got off the train in Fullerton, I left my luggage on the train. That night my roommate took me to meet a young man in the apartment complex. After a lovely evening I asked him if he had any pajamas, I could borrow since -mine went down to San Diego on the train. He gave me a royal blue pair and after our marriage, I gave them back to him. (faded gray). He would become my lifelong soul mate.

I worked at large corporations as an executive secretary. After a few years we moved to Los Angeles and I helped my husband complete his college degree. We started our family of one son. We opened a business in Hollywood and moved to San Fernando Valley.

After about five years we moved to Rockford, Illinois and opened a business. During those thirteen years we had a wonderful life. I was the office manager at the business. We belonged to a country club, a national private restaurant club, built a new house, traveled and had a very successful business.

Then we decided to move back to Southern California- Our life fell apart. Bad decision? Who knows; but we discovered the Crystal Cathedral. My husband struggled with opening a new company. We did survive but it was a tough time. The Cathedral was a true blessing and a "God Thing". We have discovered new friends and a new direction. My husband now teaches at a local college. I spent years being involved at church as a Lead Elder and greeting visitors. I loved doing that volunteer work. I'm not as involved as I used to be with my church and travel, but I have had a wonderful life.