



CHS - Bio

Mary Jane Crosslin loves Tulsa Baseball

1955



I was born in Tulsa and have never lived anywhere else my entire 67 years. It has been a “wonderful life” in Tulsa, living close to my parents, and the rest of my extended family in Oklahoma. I was never a very popular person at Central, but I enjoyed it and had lots of friends and good times during those years. I had actually lived in the Will Rogers School District most of my life until my parents built a new home around 41st and Harvard. I started to Central and then Edison HS was built, but I stayed at Central.

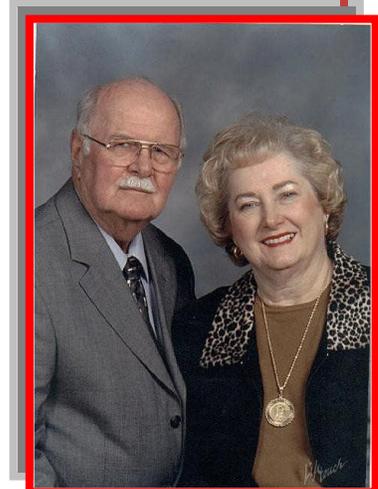
I can't say I remember my best moments at Central, except my history classes because I loved history and still do. My boyfriend was at Will Rogers! Most of my junior high and grade school friends were at Will Rogers, also. My worst moments at Central were swimming in the pool during gym class! It was an awful place I thought, and I still don't swim well.

As I said, I dated a boy from Will Rogers and married him after attending University of Tulsa. He was at OU.

I attended TU for two years and was so in love that I married and never finished my college education. I have regretted that all these years. At TU, I enjoyed being in Kappa Delta Sorority loved the TU football games and other activities and have always rooted for every TU sports team as well as OU and OSU. We went to all the games for years.

I was married for 26 years before being divorced. I have three wonderful and successful children and five loving grandchildren, and will have a new grandson in September. I met my present husband **Harold Butler** at my church and share his two sons and three grandchildren. We get to visit our children in Texas and Arizona often and have two living here in Tulsa.

I have been able to travel, thank goodness, since I never moved away from Tulsa. It was great to visit Europe, Egypt, Israel and Jordan, China and Mongolia. (Ten members of family and friends traveled together to attend my missionary nephew's wedding in the capital of Mongolia about 5 years ago.) I have visited Hawaii several times because I have family there. I was never in California, but close, until last year. Our first trip to Alaska is in August, and a trip back to Italy will be next year.



Down for more

Most of my 50 years were spent working as a secretary or administrative assistant as well as raising my children. I worked for several large companies during my career, and finally retired from ONEOK (Oklahoma Natural Gas Company) in 1997. Immediately upon retiring, my husband and I went to South Dakota to work at Mount Rushmore. We worked there six months and had an exciting time. We had met a couple from Bartlesville when we were vacationing the first time in Yellowstone National Park. They convinced us to join other retirees volunteering or working in the National Park System. We traveled to every state close to South Dakota during that time. It was fun to live in the new dormitory there for the summer workers and volunteers. That experience convinced me that every state has something beautiful and interesting to see. We have visited every state in the US now except three, and we plan to see those soon.

One of my hobbies since high school has been collecting depression-era glass. My glass has been on display in the downtown Tulsa main library and at several glass shows here in Tulsa and Claremore. I am a member, and have been an officer in the Depression glass club here in Tulsa for many years. I also enjoyed Tole and Decorative painting and took painting lessons from Tulsa artists, and I was a member of the National Tole and Decorative Painters Society founded by 1956 Central graduate, Priscilla Hauser.

I have been a volunteer at Gilcrease Museum for 9 years and served as the Gillie librarian, chairman of the Association Office volunteers, and am now the chair of the Museum Shop volunteers. For eight years, I have volunteered more than 100 hours each year at the museum.

I am active in my retirement group from Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, ONGOERS, and I served as secretary, vice president, and president of the group.

My newest interest is the Sooner 95 Investment Club, which I am learning and enjoying very much.

We are very active in Christ United Methodist Church, and I worked two years as the head of the Senior Program at the church. I am on several boards at church and call on shut-ins in nursing homes and make hospital calls for the church. We are active members of the Lifters Sunday School Class and entertain them with a cookout every year at our house. My husband is known by our friends and family as a great cook! His barbecue is superb, and his steaks are the best! We have recently purchased a new home and look forward to moving from a two-story home to a single story! We will still have a great patio and yard for entertaining and his cookouts!

I will end by saying that my life has been a great one here in Tulsa. It was threatened when I was 50 years old because I suffered a major heart attack that wasn't discovered for 48 hours. Therefore, I have a lot of heart damage, but I recovered well. Unfortunately, I had a set back exactly one year later when I suffered a stroke! It was God's Grace that allowed me to recover without any lasting effects. I have been very thankful these last 17 years and continue to keep my weight and cholesterol low by exercising and having a happy outlook on life. I have enjoyed my "wonderful life" in Tulsa and wouldn't trade it for anything.