



1955

CHS - Bio

Marilyn Miller - Scuba Diver



Life has been an adventure since birth. When I look back, I'm grateful to have lived during this period of our county's growth. We were allowed to roam, breath fresh air, explore and experience life to its fullest.

By 8 months I had experienced my second perm and I assumed I (like my mother) would own a beauty salon (Note the Tulsa World Picture). Mom's ideas were different. She enrolled me in preschool, speech, ballet, piano, voice, horseback and tennis lessons.

Three of my favorite teachers at Central were Mr. McCray, Mr. Schlenker and Mr. Vestal. Does anyone know who set off the sulfur bomb that caused the school to be evacuated and ruined the beautiful NW 3rd floor hardwoods? Remember the cafeteria's delicious cinnamon rolls and bean chowder? Mmmmm!

As a junior, I pre-enrolled in Stephens College to further my artistic dreams. The summer of graduation, I went to the Lazy Ray Guest Ranch (Al Capone's hangout when things were too "hot" in the north) for the summer and decided ranching was a love.

Upon returning to Tulsa my college plans had changed. With just two weeks to enroll, I tested and entered TU. Bridge was my major and summers I was a camp counselor. At the end of two years I couldn't decide on a major, so I went to work. Later I married Bill Oden and moved to Florida. My first job interview landed a position with 7 engineers at Lockheed Missiles and Space Division at Cape Canaveral...seemed they needed a fourth for bridge.

My husband was an A&P Aircraft Mechanic and Pilot and we moved often. Employment with ARA Services at Stapleton International and Bauer's Catering gave me experience working with crowds of 2,000 or small private parties in and around Denver. We often flew with our four children and I felt I should begin to fly in case of an emergency. Girl Scouting was another interest and developed into many wonderful camping experiences like a 14 day camping trip to Yellowstone National Park. When the children attended school fulltime, I began working for Dow Chemical at the Rocky Flats Plant. Since then, I continue to be tested checking to see if I "glow" in the dark.

In 1976 we returned to Tulsa and I completed my Cosmetology License.
(DOWN FOR MORE)



In the 80's I served as Justice Court Clerk in Ronan, Montana and later with the Lake County Commissioners in Polson, Montana. In 1981 I was divorced. In 1983 a friend asked me to attend a Cursillo. This life changing experience gave me the tools, knowledge and foundation to strengthen my Christian journey. Shortly after, I received word that Mother was very ill and I moved back to Tulsa.

At a church activity I met Jim Gilmer (our classmate Carol Gilmer's brother). Curious about my Walk to Emmaus activities he joined. Later we married and worked as a team in Emmaus and later Torch. (Torch is an offshoot from Emmaus that works with troubled youth like those at Rader and Tulsa Boys Home.)

Traveling is a great joy. Scuba diving has been a wonderful relaxing sport. As Master Divers, Jim and I completed our EMT certification to compliment our off shore diving. Later, I completed my Associates plus 64 college hours. An interest in floral design led to my completion of 120 classroom hours followed by part-time employment with Stems.

While working at Tulsa Technology Center, I found an interest in belonging to local, state, and national groups, often serving as an officer and planning company events.

Daughter, Mary Louise Oden, works for Tulsa World, is a rescuer of animals and was recently nominated for the Jefferson Award. Son, Neal, is a retired Alaskan logger and operates Oden Concrete, Inc., in Polson, Montana. Allen and his two sons live in Montana. He owns an earth moving company and works in Antarctica off season. Christopher has a son and a daughter on the way. As a Lt. Commander (Navy), he is certified in both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft and flies a MH 53 Helicopter out of Corpus Christi, Texas.

My interests include: Church, family activities, volunteer work, travel, camping, hiking, fishing and horseback riding. crafts, and craft classes, metal detecting, exploring, researching, gardening, cooking, canning, reading and working on the 50th reunion. **SEE YA IN SEPTEMBER!**



Marilyn drinking a "Super Tanker" Coke at a typical reunion meeting
She went to the Ladies Room often.