

CHS – Bio

Patsy Shelton – Hiker!



1955

My years at Central were enjoyable. I regret not taking full advantage of all that CHS had to offer academically. I was a daydreamer, especially in Mr. Vestal's chemistry class. I would raise my hand and ask something like which day we were having a test. Mr. Vestal would sigh and ask someone to please tell Patsy what he had just announced. On the other hand, my chemistry lab partner, Charles Smith seemed to be a pretty serious student. I'm sure he felt persecuted to have me for a lab partner, but, alas, in those days we were usually in alphabetical order. One day in lab as Charles diligently bent over the experiment the boy next to us carelessly tipped his Bunsen Burner towards him. Somehow Charles' thick burr haircut went up in smoke. Charles was unaware of this, as we frantically tried to make him understand. We helped him beat the fire out before it reached his scalp. I want Charles to know I am sincerely sorry that I laughed.

Nelda Sue (Baker) Brenton was my dear friend from grade school. I've also been pleased to get reacquainted with Marilyn (Miller) Gilmer via email in recent months. I met another good friend, Don Calvert, our senior year. Many people don't know that he and Don Davis were on the cutting edge of bringing about change at Central High School! They were probably the first boys to enroll in cooking class. I didn't really date anyone at Central. For several months I dated a boy who had graduated from "another" school and was a freshman in college.

After graduating from Central I attended Oklahoma Baptist University. Mr. Vestal would have been surprised, if not pleased that I was much more attentive in college chemistry class. I met my husband, Arnie, at OBU, and we were married in 1958. After Arnie graduated we attended seminary in Louisville, Kentucky where our two sons were born. Arnie's first pastorate after seminary was in Virginia where our daughter was born. From Virginia we moved to Yuma, Arizona, (Big culture shock). After a few years we moved to Phoenix where Arnie was pastor of the same church for twenty-two years.

(down for more)



Patsy with Daughter and Granddaughter

In 1972 when my youngest was in school, I completed my undergraduate degree in education. A couple of years later I received my masters from Arizona State University. I taught school for 23 years while we lived in the Phoenix area, and I never, ever seated children in alphabetical order!

In 1997 Arnie accepted a position as Director of Missions, and we moved to Prescott Valley, Arizona. We have enjoyed living here so much. We like to hike around the small lakes in the Prescott area. Sometimes we take the four-wheeler onto dirt roads in the Bradshaw Mountains to find an easy trail.

I have had more time to volunteer since we moved to Prescott Valley. Volunteering as Big Sisters school mentor was rewarding as well as serving as an ombudsman, visiting the elderly in care homes. I've also taken up oil painting, and I like to write. Occasionally I speak to a women's church group. A couple of years ago I wrote and illustrated a book for children titled *Meira the Shepherd Girl*. Lacking the patience to go through normal channels of submitting a manuscript, I paid to have it published. But you can find it on Barnes and Noble web site.

We have six grandchildren, five boys and one girl. They have been great fun and a blessing to have nearby. Our daughter and her family are in Cave Creek, Arizona; our oldest son and family are in Chandler, Arizona, and our middle son lives in Phoenix.

I have never attended a reunion before this one. I'm looking forward to it and hope to see some other daydreamers, etc. there. We should all celebrate the fact that we are still around after these 50 years have passed. Attending the reunion is a way of doing just that.



Patsy and Arnie.
with Arizona
Governor in 1992,
Patsy and Arnie
current

**See Ya at
the 50th
Patsy!**