Patsy Pillers Lain Aug. 2009

Burton and I fell in love the summer after graduating from AHS and were married 4 years later. During that time, he attended Arizona State University and I went to Amarillo College. We both transferred to NTSU to be together but he decided to serve his country in the Navy and I continued my education. After graduating in 1963, we were married and immediately moved to California where he still owed the Navy some time. I began teaching Physical Education in Anaheim and he became a Group Counselor at a county school for juvenile offenders while finishing his Bachelor's degree at Cal State Fullerton. I attended Long Beach State to gain a minor in English. We were blessed with two children, Gaylene and Jonathan, and I discontinued full time teaching. Burton became a Parole Agent for the state, and I substitute taught for many years while pursuing other interests and hobbies, like golf and charitable ventures.

Our first house was on Alamo Street in Anaheim to help us feel closer to Texas, I guess. After both children were born, we moved to Irvine, California, which was not yet incorporated as a city. Since then, it has been rated by the FBI, again, this year as the Safest City in America.

I was working part-time at a tech center for school districts which provided financial reporting, curriculum development and proficiency tests required for graduation. It was during that time that Burton passed away suddenly with a heart attack. I was offered the position of Operations Manager and began full time work again. I became more and more involved in computer operations which I never dreamed as a remote possibility when I was going to school. I even went back to school to learn more about networking and computer repair. Unfortunately, my knees were starting to be a problem and I needed to take a job which allowed me to sit rather than stand. So, I took a job in Customer Service for a women's fashion company. After there 2 years, I had bi-lateral knee replacement. Since this company decided to move to Oregon a couple years later, I moved on to a better one where I work now.

The most travel I have done was a month in Indonesia, visiting my sister Lyn who was teaching in Sumatra. We met in Singapore, traveled to Bangkok, Chang Mai, Penang, and back to Sumatra. Then, we went to Jakarta, Jo Jakarta, and finally, Bali before returning home. Part of the trip included a boat ride on the largest volcanic lake in the world, spending the night on an island named Avalon in the middle of the lake. There was a pineapple growing in the yard, and we burned mosquito repellant while sleeping. I purchased two batik paintings depicting a native man and woman while shopping in Bali.

I know I should be considering retirement, but I enjoy my job with co-workers ranging in ages from the 20's to the 70's. My company makes sports shoes and attire, realizing a 20% increase in revenue this past fiscal year, despite the economic down-turn. I also like where I live which allows just enough gardening and access to saline pools for water aerobics year-round. My daughter is married and lives in Huntington Beach and my sister lives in Laguna Beach so that we have easy contact. My sister and I go to movies quite often and an occasional play. We are planning to attend the annual Art Festival and Pageant of the Masters in Laguna this Monday evening. Hope to see many of you at the reunion!