

# **A PILGRIMAGE**



## **AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY** **of** **SAMUEL WILLIAM BLISS**

## Preface

This is a description about the life's pilgrimage of Samuel William Bliss. The accomplishments in my life have been what God has planned for me. It is He not me that deserves all of the credit for the happiness and help that I have provided others during my life on this earth.

I have dedicated this biography to Maggie my wife, my daughter Laura and her family and my son Drake and Barb. I sincerely thank my brothers and their families and Maggie's family who have helped me along life's path. In addition, many thanks of appreciation go to the other people who have given assistance and touched my life in so many ways on this Pilgrimage that began through the Grace of God and my parents on February 23, 1927.

The contents of this autobiography are somewhat arranged along the years of my life and the locations that I and my family have enjoyed as we traveled around in America, Canada and Scotland. Each year and each new location brought new experiences and yes, challenges. However, in looking back over the years, I feel that for the most part my life has been happy and the relationship between me, my family and others has been filled with much love.



On July 1, 2007 Maggie and I joined the First Presbyterian Church in Lake Placid, Florida. During this ceremony, we rededicated our lives to be eternally faithful to God and Jesus. The image to the left is the great Seal of the AR Presbyterian Church.

We have continued our church membership and growing in Christian ways as we more clearly understand what God and Jesus have done for us. I am who I am through the grace of God. In addition, more importantly, whatever I have accomplished has been because of God's grace, His spirit in my heart and soul and His plan for my life here on earth. I pray that I will live my life in the way that God and Jesus wants me to spend all my days on this earth, and will always live by the Ten Commandments and the word of God. Pastor Ray Cameron during one of his sermons in September 2012 challenged the members of our church to read the entire Bible in one year and to pray for other countries of the world. He also introduced us to the writing of David Platt and further recommended that we read his publications.

The publications are:

### **Taking Back your Faith from the American Dream**

**Radical**

**By David Platt 2010**

**New York Times Best Seller**

**Unleashing the People of God for the Purpose of God**

**A Radical Idea**

**By David Platt 2012**

Maggie and I accepted Pastor Ray’s challenge of being Radical in our worship of God and have dedicated ourselves to not only reading the three Radical publications but to expand our daily worship session to pray for other countries.

In our daily morning worship sessions we read the “Daily Bread” and “Upper Room” booklets. Each of these booklets provides us with daily Biblical citations so that at the end of a full year we will have read completely through the Bible.

Maggie and I will continue to attend our church worshipping God and following Jesus’ teaching throughout the days and years of our life on this earth.

And for the readers, I have one last parting wish:

***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God and the fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit, be with you.  
2 Corinthians Chapter 13: Verse 14.***

**Samuel William Bliss**

## Table of Contents

<b>Major Headings</b>	<b>Page</b>
Preface .....	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
Introduction .....	1
Oklahoma a Brief History (From the History of Oklahoma).....	1
Grandfathers Bliss and Haines.....	2
Grandfather Haines .....	2
My Father and Family.....	3
Mother and Her Family and My Birth.....	4
Early Growing Years .....	5
A Big Move for the Family .....	7
The War Years - World War II.....	8
Back to Civilian Life.....	10
Four Brothers and Wives .....	12
My First Marriage 1949.....	12
Employment 1951-1952 .....	13
My Children 1958-1960.....	15
Educational Administrative Positions.....	15
University Careers .....	19
Family Moved to Arizona and a Divorce .....	25
A New Marriage June 16, 1973 .....	26
Maggie’s Introduction to Flagstaff .....	27
Arizona Homes .....	28
Recreation in Arizona .....	30
Hunting in Arizona .....	33
Black Bear and Mountain Lion Hunts .....	34
Desert Big Horn Sheep Hunt .....	35
Elk Hunts .....	36
Mule and Whitetail Deer hunts .....	38
Pronghorn Antelope Hunts .....	39
Merriam Wild Turkey Hunts .....	39
Dove Hunts .....	40
Fishing in Arizona Lakes and Mexico .....	40
Continuation of Work at NAU and Consulting Activities.....	41
Our Children’s Education .....	42
Tenth Wedding Anniversary in Hawaii .....	43
Bliss Family Reunion June 1985 Owasso, Oklahoma.....	44

Laura and Michael Spaan Marriage.....	44
Business Ownership.....	45
Our Family Dogs .....	46
Bliss Family Reunion June 1988 Flagstaff, Arizona .....	46
Drake’s MBA.....	46
Maggie Becomes an American Citizen 1993.....	47
Bliss Family Reunion June 27-30, 1996 Cloud Croft, New Mexico.....	48
Drake and Barb Move to Cape Coral, Florida 1997.....	48
Osceola County School District Consulting 1998.....	49
Scotland Trip with Kayla 1999.....	51
Bliss Brothers Meet for Bob’s 60th Birthday 2000.....	52
Move to Oak Creek Village, Arizona 2000 .....	52
Continuation of Consulting Activities 1999-2002.....	53
EduTech Corporation and LODI .....	53
Software Technology, Inc.....	53
Mesa Unified School District .....	54
Mingus Union High District .....	54
Yavapai County Education Service Agency.....	55
Education Conferences 2002 .....	55
Visiting and Traveling 2002 .....	55
Great Trip to Alaska Year 2003.....	56
My Brother Clyde’s Funeral 2003 .....	56
Move to Lake Placid and Home Construction 2003-2004 .....	57
Family Visits and Hurricanes 2004-2005 .....	58
Year 2006 and 2007 Brought New Activities.....	59
Other 2007 Trips.....	62
Maggie’s Trip 2007 to Visit Relatives in Aberdeen, Scotland.....	63
Avon U. S. Air Force Range Hunting 2007.....	63
A Busy Year 2008.....	64
Maggie President Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc. 2008.....	65
The Year 2008 was a banner celebration year.....	65
Alaska Fishing 2009 .....	68
A Festival and Trips 2010.....	69
Many Wonderful Experiences in the 2011 .....	70
A Wonderful Year of 2012 .....	72
Cousin Aileen Chapman .....	72
Our Alaska Trip of 2012.....	73
Many New Experiences during Year 2013.....	74
WW II D-Day Trip .....	75
Wedding Anniversary Number 40 for Maggie and Me.....	76
Alaska Trip of 2013 .....	77
Ian Grimmer (Maggie’s Brother) and Son’s Visit 2013.....	78
Christmas at our Home in Lake Placid 2013 .....	80

Life in the Year 2014..... 81  
Birthday Number 87, February 23, 2014..... 82  
Church and Small Group Activities..... 82  
Drake and Barb Visits..... 82  
Annual Birthdays..... 82  
Annual Alaska Visit in 2014..... 83  
Thanksgiving November 2014..... 84  
Christmas at our Home 2014 ..... 84  
Ushering in the New Year 2015 ..... 85  
Celebrating with Family and Friends..... 86  
Placid Lakes Home and Property Association..... 86  
Our 42<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration ..... 86  
Maggie’s Scotland Trip - April 23, 2015 to May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ..... 87  
Dinner at Ian’s Home..... 87  
Annual Trip to Alaska July 7, 2015..... 87  
The Annual Brisket Party in Alaska July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ..... 88  
Maggie’s Birthday Party and Thanksgiving at our Home in Lake Placid..... 88  
Christmas at our Home 2015 ..... 88  
Activities for Year 2016 ..... 89  
Table of content for Appendixes ..... 89

## **A PILGRIMAGE THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SAMUEL WILLIAM BLISS**

### **Introduction**

The contents of this document present the life and events of Samuel William Bliss from birth to the date in the footer of this document. As such it represents my memory, historical documents and my thoughts at the time of this writing. I have tried to be as accurate as possible in remembering events and people however one's memory tends to fade over the years. I have tried to record things as I remember them. Additionally, other materials will be presented that have relevance to my pilgrimage. This document will be updated periodically to reflect the continuance of my life.

The purpose of this autobiography is to provide information about the life of Samuel William Bliss that may be valuable and interesting to the members of my family, friends and other persons. The content will be presented in a chronological order with some variations if necessary to further explain the situation at that particular time.

In this autobiography the term "author" may be used to refer to the person that it is about. Should errors or omissions occur the document will be revised accordingly for they are solely my oversight.

I begin with a brief history about the State of Oklahoma. This will give readers a brief insight of the environment that I was born in and lived in during my early childhood.

### **Oklahoma a Brief History (From the History of Oklahoma)**

Oklahoma's recorded history began in 1541 when the Spanish explorer Coronado ventured through the area on his quest for the "Lost City of Gold." The land that would eventually be known as Oklahoma was part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Beginning in the 1820s, the five civilized Indian tribes from southeastern United States were relocated to Indian Territory over numerous routes, the most famous being the Cherokee "Trail of Tears." Forced off their ancestral lands by states and the federal government, the tribes suffered great hardships during the rigorous trips west.

The survivors eventually recovered from the dislocation through hard work and communal support. Gradually, new institutions and cultural adaptations emerged and began a period of rapid development sometimes called the "Golden Age" of Indian Territory.

Following the destruction of the Civil War, Oklahoma became a part of the booming cattle industry, ushering in the era of the cowboy. Western expansion reached the territory in the late 1800s, sparking a controversy over the fate of the land.

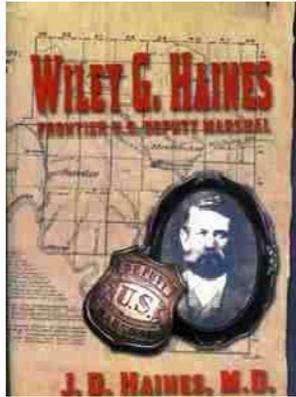
Treaties enacted after the Civil War by the U.S. government forced the tribes to give up their communal lands and accept individual property allotments to make way for expansion.

There was talk of using the Indian Territory for settlement by African Americans emancipated from slavery. However, the government relented to pressure, much of it coming from a group known as "Boomers," who wanted the oil rich lands opened to non-Indian settlement. The government decided to open the western parts of the territory to settlers by holding six land runs between 1889 and 1895. Settlers came from across the nation and even other countries like Scotland, England, Poland, Germany, Ireland and Slavic nations to stake their claims.

African Americans, some who were former slaves of white persons and Indians, took part in the runs or accepted their allotments as tribal members. In the years that followed, black pioneers founded and settled entire communities in or near Arcadia, Boley, Langston, and Taft, Oklahoma.

On November 16, 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state. Statehood had become a sure thing, in part due to a discovery which made Oklahoma the "place to go to strike it rich" -- oil. People came from all parts of the world to seek their fortunes in Oklahoma's teeming oil fields. Cities like Tulsa, Ponca City, Bartlesville, and Oklahoma City flourished. Oil is what brought my father to Hominy in Osage County, Oklahoma.

## Grandfathers Bliss and Haines



My Great Grandfather was Samuel Williams Bliss I, a Methodist minister of Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas. He was born about 1813 (one report had his birthday on July 1825) at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (the son of Nathaniel Bliss and Hannah Williams of Norwich, Connecticut and Warren County, Ohio). Grandfather Bliss II was born on July 12, 1852 or 1851 in Darke County, Ohio and died March 1900. Grandfather was married September 23, 1878 to Avarilla E. Jessup who was born February 5, 1856 in Spencer County, Ohio.

## Grandfather Haines

My other grandfather Wiley G. Haines was considered one of the most successful criminal officers in Oklahoma during the late 1800's and early 1900's. He was born in Monroe County Missouri on October 7, 1860. His ancestors came to America on the ship "Amity" from England in 1680. Wiley G. Haines at age 18 years joined a cattle drive from Oklahoma to the territory of Arizona in 1878. He worked in the mining camps and cattle ranches while in the territory.

While in Arizona he had considerable experience with the Apache Indians. On April 22, 1889 he made the journey to Oklahoma and settled in Oklahoma City. He later became a U. S. Deputy Marshal in Oklahoma and sheriff of the Osage Indian Reservation near Hominy, Oklahoma. Marshall Haines learned to speak Osage and served for 28 years in this regions of Oklahoma. Much more information about Wiley can be found in the following:

The Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and New York published a History of the State of Oklahoma in 1909 that contains an article about Wiley on pages 397 and 398. Several other publications have been written about Wiley G. Haines.

His grandson J. D. Haines, M. D., published a book titled “Wiley G. Haines Frontier U. S. Deputy Marshal” by Eakin Press, a division of Sunbelt Media, Inc., P. O. Drawer 90159, Austin, TX 787090159. Copyright 2002.

***Note: The Haines family genealogy can be accessed by contacting Dr. J. D. Haines, 1018 Stoneridge Dr., Stillwater, OK 74074. Also, my brother Dr. Robert Bliss, 1482 N. Ramah Drive, Pueblo West, Colorado 81007 may be helpful in tracing the Haines family genealogy. Additionally, the Bliss Family genealogy can be further researched by contacting Aaron Tyler Bliss, “The Bliss Family in America”, P. O. Box 1941, Midland, Michigan 48640. Telephone numbers: office (517) 631-6040 and home (517) 631-4669.***

***I have a Bliss Family genealogy book and draft pages dated March 9, 1981 and pictures of my father on file in our office. The Bliss families were colonists, pioneers and settlers. My last communication with Aaron Tyler Bliss related to the “The Bliss Family in America was during April 1981 just prior to the publishing in fall 1982.***

A Web page on the Internet: <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/NC-LOSTCOLONY/2004-07/1089000679> provided me with the following information about the early years of the Bliss family.

The settlement of New England began with the voyage of the Mayflower and the arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock in what is now Massachusetts on November 11, 1620. The future of New England was not however fully secured until Governor John Winthrop led his fleet of well-provisioned pioneers into Boston Bay in 1630.

England was riven by political and religious dissension in those years. There was also widespread economic hardship and thousands began to cross the seas in search of a new and better life. About the year 1638 three Bliss families immigrated to Boston. The story of these three pioneer families and their many American descendants is told in the 'Genealogy of the Bliss's Family in America' published privately by Aaron Tyler Bliss in 1982. It is highly recommended that all American Bliss family history researchers consult the above publication if possible.

## **My Father and Family**



One widespread and completely erroneous idea about the English roots of Thomas Bliss of Hartford, Connecticut should be laid to rest. The false genealogy is becoming ever more widely spread by the power of the Internet and the trust still placed in the veracity of a hired researcher in Victorian times. Belstone, Indiana, County of Devon was never the hometown of Thomas Bliss or any other Bliss. All genealogies based on Bliss's at Belstone are mistaken.

My father was born on August 1, 1890 in Omaha, Nebraska and died September 5, 1948 at St. Elmo, Illinois and was 58 years of age. He was a cable tool oil well

driller and sometimes was known as a “wildcatter” because he was involved in the initial drilling and exploration for oil. Mother and Father were married in Pawhuska, Oklahoma on November 9, 1923. As recorded on my birth certificate, my father was Sam Bliss and my mother was Mary Bliss both of the white race. My father was 37 years of age and my mother was 31 years old at the time of my birth. The birth was recorded as being legitimate. The birth time was recorded as being alive at 9:30 p. m. I weighed eight and one half pounds.

A local physician J. J. Fraley tended to my birth. At the time of my birth, the number of children born to my parents was three. This left two brothers living. Louise Mary Bliss the first child borne on August 26, 1924 to my parents. She died four days after birth. The other living child at the time of my birth was an older brother named Clyde Wiley Bliss who was born on August 25, 1925. After me my parents had two more children Paul David, born March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1929, and Robert Eugene, born June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1940. My brothers and I were the 12<sup>th</sup> generation of Bliss'.



The 1969 photo to the left shows the four brothers with their wives. Robert and Sharon, Clyde and Lou, Barbara and Sam and Dorothy and Paul. Clyde Wiley died in Owasso, Oklahoma on February 23, 2003 at the age of 78. Paul David died February 18, 2012 at the age of 83 in Lubbock Texas.

Our Dad served in the U. S. Army Infantry overseas in Europe during World War I. My father had two sisters Alva Jessup, Mella or Mellie and one brother James Frederick. Interestingly my grandfather Samuel Williams Bliss was also a cable tool oil well driller, near Freeport, Wood County, Ohio. I know very little about my father’s child hood years. Perhaps he learned how to drill for oil from his father back in Ohio. Additionally, I do not know how or when my father came to Oklahoma or how he got into the activity of drilling for oil on the Osage Indian Reservation near Hominy, Oklahoma.

## Mother and Her Family and My Birth



My mother, Mary Narcissa Helen Haines was born Jan 17, 1896 in Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma. She was a teacher in a rural area known as Broken Arrow, Oklahoma near Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mother died at the age of 73 on February 5, 1969 in a hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She entered the hospital in Tulsa to have a spleen operation. During the operation the doctors found that she had terminal cancer. Her heart stopped during the operation, and although they were able to revive her, she passed away a few days later.



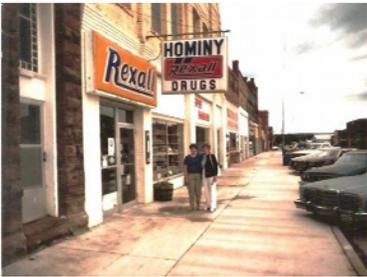
In her early years Mother taught in a one-room school and performed all the other duties to keep it clean and warm in the winter. She stayed with a rancher and rode a horse to and from the school. The students she taught were in grades one through eight. The major subjects were English, writing and mathematics. This photograph is my mother in her later years. After marriage she became a homemaker during her life in Hominy, Oklahoma. My mother was the third child of Wiley G. Haines and his wife Sarah E. (Tapp) Haines. Both of my parents are buried in the cemetery at St. Elmo, IL.

The Oklahoma State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma issued my original birth certificate. The date of birth was February 23, 1927 and the name on the original birth record was William Bliss. The birthplace was in the city of Hominy, Oklahoma, County of Osage. Actually the birth was in a small frame home next to the Haines family ranch home.

William Bliss, my legal name was changed on the Certificate of Birth to Samuel Wms. Bliss. Apparently my father and mother had a disagreement about my name.

Later, I had the name changed to Samuel William Bliss on June 4, 1954 due to many official records using Samuel William Bliss and none using William Bliss or Samuel Wms Bliss.

## Early Growing Years



There is a lack of memory about the early years as a baby and the preschool years. During the elementary school years there is a remembrance of growing up among the Osage Indians in Hominy, Oklahoma. Fred Morse Lookout Jr. about the same age was a friend of mine. Fred was the son of an Osage Chief during my early growing years. Fred and I had lots of fun running around in the Osage Hills.



Life was both exciting and a challenge for me, my brothers and cousins living in close proximity to the Wiley G. Haines family (my mother's father) and my many aunts, uncles and cousins. During the summer we were allowed to visit our cousins that lived out of town on some of the oil leases near Sand Springs, Oklahoma. On these visits my brothers and I would go swimming or fishing in the ponds around my uncle's home. During these years Oklahoma was very dry. Some called it the "Big Dust Bowl". The photograph to the left is the Haines family home where my grandfather and grandmother lived for many years.

We had lots of ranch and school experiences both good and some not so good. My father gave me the nickname of "Snooper" because I so inquisitive and would get into different things. I suffered through this nickname and was happy that it faded away as I grew older. My early years were happy and without fear even though this was during the great depression. Although our family lived modestly through the depression, I have no memory of being without food, clothing or shelter.

Clyde, Paul and I walked to elementary school in Hominy along the railroad tracks from our home to the school building even though our parents told us not to walk the railroad tracks to school. One thing stands out regarding our parents care for us was the daily dose of Cod Liver Oil. Usually we were given white soda crackers with the Cod Liver Oil.

Another interesting thing we noticed was that the soda crackers had 13 small holes in each cracker. And so do the soda crackers of present time. We carried paper sack lunches provided by my mother. The

teachers at the school changed me from being a left-handed person to doing schoolwork with my right hand. I remember enjoying school and my friends.

The first grade teacher gave us jellybeans for each word spelled correctly when we held up our hand to be called upon to spell the word. Unfortunately, I got too eager to spell the words and sometimes stood up and waved my hand to get attention.

This was not liked by the teacher and usually I had to go stand in a corner of the classroom for the spelling time. The school principal and teacher decided with my parent's approval to skip me from first grade to second grade.

During the summer when we were not in school we had to help our father with the large vegetable garden he always planted. He planted potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, beans, onions, radishes and lettuce. Our job was to keep the garden free of weeds and to water when needed.

I collected various animals and at one time had a "zoo" that I charged a penny or two to come into our garage to view them. However, my mother would not let me bring the skunks to our home. And on one occasion I was sprayed by a skunk that kept me out of school for a week and resulted in being scrubbed with soap, tomato juice and other stuff to eliminate the odor. I like staying home and playing with our dog Spot.

Our family had chickens and cows that we had to take care of. Doing the outside chores was not to my liking especially hand milking the cows. The milking of our cows was a challenge since we had to get all of the milk that contained the cream for making butter. Also, we had to watch out for the cow's tail that was whipped around to hit us. On occasion our parents would allow us to sell a chicken and some eggs so we could have a little spending money. We used the money to buy toys at the five and dime store in Hominy. These toys were usually made in Japan.

Sometimes we were allowed to attend Saturday afternoon movies that were brought to Hominy usually once or twice a month. These were mostly cowboy movies with Hop-A-Long Cassidy, Gene Autry and Ken Maynard and some were about Flash Gordon's adventures in a space ship. Popcorn was five cents a bag and the movie was 10 cents. My brothers and I really looked forward to the Saturday movies.

When not in school, we played spike the top, mumble peg with knives, marble games, yo-yo and flew kites when it was windy. We built a wagon and cleared a path down one of the hills near our home so we could race down the hill. Another one of our adventures was to go fishing for crawdads in some of the cattle water ponds around the ranch. We used long willow sticks for fishing poles with string that was tied to a strip of bacon attached to a weight. The crawdads would cling to the bacon as we took them out of the water. We peeled the tail off the crawdads and cooked them in skillet with bacon over an open fire. The small tails were white and tasted good to us. To us it was like a very small lobster tail. Sometimes our uncles would shoot a ten-gauge shotgun at coyotes when they would come near home to get at the chickens. My two brothers and I had lots of fun and exciting times growing up in the Hominy area.

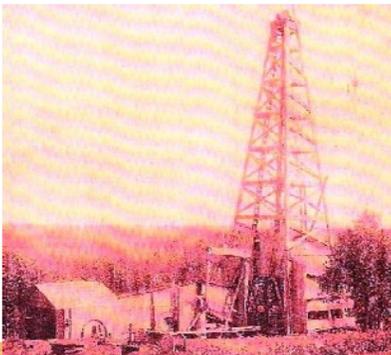
## A Big Move for the Family



During the fall of 1938 my father and mother moved the family from Hominy, Oklahoma to St. Elmo, Illinois a distance of over 400 miles on Route 66. The reason for moving was for my father to pursue oil well drilling in the area around St. Elmo, Illinois. This was the first time that my brothers and I had gone anywhere outside of the area around Hominy, Oklahoma. My father took us to Illinois in a 1938 Chevrolet sedan that cost a little more than \$750.00. The trip was exciting and the highlight of the travel was crossing the big Mississippi river at St. Louis, Missouri. I had never seen such a sight as the bridge and river.

We first settled in a small town called Brownsville in Illinois. However, we soon moved to St. Elmo, Illinois a short distance east. I attended the seventh grade of school at St. Elmo.

During the seventh and eighth grades, I made many new friends and one person I met was Virgil Forest and his son Eugene. They introduced me to hunting and fishing in the area around St. Elmo. We hunted ducks, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons and trapped muskrats and mink.



We sold the hides to a local buyer and used the money to buy shells, traps and other hunting items. Also, we picked mushrooms, berries, black walnuts and pecans that were growing wild in the area and sold them. I hunted bullfrogs in the ponds and lake near St. Elmo. I sold the frog legs to the Busy Bee restaurant in town for fifty cents a pair. My favorite gun was a Remington pump 22 rifle. In addition, I worked at odd jobs that included yard care that earned me ten cents per day. My other job was setting bowling pins at the local alley. I was fired from this job. The owner of the bowling alley in St. Elmo claimed that I was responsible for a strike to earn more money for each line of bowling. I went on to other jobs such as delivering newspapers for the local newspaper, St. Elmo Banner.

During this period my father continued his contracting work in the oil fields around St. Elmo. The oil boom brought in oil scouts, promoters, drillers, rough necks, roustabouts, gamblers and all types of small businesses. There were new cafes, grocery stores, machine shops, flophouses and welding shops to serve the people involved in drilling wells and production of oil. On Main Street there were several taverns, a pool hall, some honky-tonks and several bawdy houses in the downtown area. The top photograph is a wooden oil-drilling derrick and the bottom shows my Dad on the right of a drilling rig floor.

My brothers Clyde, Paul and I were not allowed to go through the town on the way to school and back home because of the unsavory and dangerous environment. On one occasion after school on the way home Clyde and I decided to go through the main street area. We saw a large crowd in the middle of the main street and in order to see what was going on we got down on our hands and knees to watch. Some women were fighting and the men were cheering them on. Our dad and mother were worried because we were not at home on time.

Dad soon found us and took us home for punishment. We received a hard lesson and did not go through town again. An oil refinery was built on the east side of the town that burned down during our stay in St. Elmo. When the oil boom was over many oil people left for other boomtowns. The oil boom ended and St. Elmo, recovered, though was changed forever. It soon became a decent place to live.

Our family increased with the birth of another brother on June 5, 1940. I can remember my father-carrying mother to the car from our home to take her to the hospital. My new brother was named Robert Eugene Bliss. The photograph is of a young Robert with father and mother outside of our home in St. Elmo, Illinois. Note the 1938 Chevrolet in the background.

I tolerated the subjects of English, mathematics, history and somehow managed to receive acceptable grades that would lead to a diploma from high school. During the four years of high school, I participated in various sports sponsored by the school. Basketball was one of the sports that I played.

It was during my high school days that America entered World War II with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Shortly after the bombing Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

My father's work in the oil field was of high importance to the nation's war effort. He was able to continue drilling and servicing wells for the refineries to supply oil and gas that was needed at home and the war effort. Clyde and I began assisting my father in his oil field work during our high school years. My brother Paul was not quite old enough to work for father.

Once I got a driver's license I was able to acquire an old Dodge 1919 touring car which I fixed up and sold. My next car was a 1932 Ford Model A that I did not drive very much because of a tire shortage and gas rationing that only allowed me four gallons per week. I painted the Ford Model gray and put a saying on each front door that said, "Girls who smoke throw their butts in the rear". My mother did not like it and had me remove the words. I learned a lot about what makes a car motor run. Later, I found a 1932 Pontiac four door car that had eight cylinders all in one line with each other. I gave the Pontiac to my brother Paul after the U. S. Army drafted me.

## **The War Years - World War II**

My brother Clyde was two years older than I when he joined the Marine Corps and went to war in the South Pacific with the First Marine Division. My brother Paul joined the U. S Air Force and was assigned to the Strategic Air Command during the Korean War, and my youngest brother Robert enlisted in the Navy in 1959. He served in the U.S Navy for almost 23 years including serving during the Viet Nam War.

I completed my high school years by graduating from the twelfth grade on May 23, 1944. During my senior of high school I completed materials to enlist into an air force program for pilots and later I tried to enlist in the U. S. Navy. Neither branch of service would take me due to a color deficiency in my eyes. This was a big disappointment to me since I had not been aware of a color problem.



This left me subject to the draft and the Army Infantry. On May 1, 1945 I was drafted into the U. S. Army Air Corp. I was officially inducted into the Army at Ft. Sheridan near Chicago, Illinois. My Armed Forces serial number is 46018841. I was sent to Ft. McClellan Alabama for basic training.

Other soldiers and I were being trained for the invasion of Japan. However, the atomic bombing of Japan ended the Pacific war. I was made a squad leader and did some boxing for exercise while in training at Ft. McClellan. During basic training we did a lot of marching. In addition, we learned how to shoot with various rifles and other types of war weapons. I was awarded the Expert Rifle Badge during basic training. This picture was taken in 1945 at some time during basic training at Ft. Ft. McClellan while on a weekend leave to Birmingham, Alabama.



I finished basic training and was given a seven-day leave to go and visit with my family in St. Elmo. My orders were to report to a replacement depot in Manhattan, Kansas for shipment overseas to the European Theater of Operation.

In the replacement depot I was with of a group of soldiers that were sent by train to New York Harbor and then by troop ship to La Havre, France. The date of departure for France was November 18, 1945. The Statute of Liberty was one of the last things we saw as the ship left the harbor. The troop ship was an adventure for me since I had never been on such a large ship in any ocean. Again, the trip from America was quite exciting and I did not get seasick.

I explored the entire ship from top to bottom with another person from Pennsylvania. Soldiers were not allowed to do this type of exploring on the top deck. However, we were never caught but there were many close escapes as we wandered around the ship. We even climbed one of the ships masts to reach the crows nest. Our troop ship landed at the Port of La Havre, France after about ten days traveling on the Atlantic Ocean.

After arriving in La Havre our group received information relating to where we were going. We boarded an Army truck that would take us to a troop replacement depot called Camp Paul Mall. Later we found out that there were many replacement camps and each was named after a cigarette. These were Camp Lucky Strike, Camp Camel and so on. At Camp Pall Mall, I was billeted in a tent that had four Army cots. Soon three other soldiers joined me in the tent.

We were required to report to a mail center in the early morning of each day and to listen for our name and Army serial number. Upon hearing our name there would be a packet that contained our orders for a

regular Army assignment. During my stay at Camp Paul Mall I had nothing to do except to participate in exercise, eat and sleep. The weather was cold and wet.

The food at the mess tent was the usual Army type chow with plenty of hot coffee. When we had free time we would play cards and read some of the old magazines that were left around by others. About three weeks later I received orders to report to the Third Army Headquarters. Transportation was provided by truck to this assignment. The Expert Infantryman Badge got me labeled as a sniper but the war was over and I did not have any assignments.

I was sent to a medical school in France and then was transferred to a medical unit to serve under Captain David Wisdom MD. There were 13 persons in this medical unit. Each person had a specific medical assignment. We were responsible for taking care of the health needs of a civilian censorship group. These multilingual people reviewed all the mail going in and out of the European Theater of Operations following the end of World War II. The group was disbanded about six months after I arrived and I was sent to another medical assignment.

Later, I was transferred as a Medical Technician Fifth Grade to the 571st Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division Medical Detachment of the Seventh Army. During my overseas service I was able to travel to many places in Germany, Switzerland and France. I was fortunate to attend the American University at Biarritz, France and took several courses that appear on my undergraduate transcript.

Also, I was a member of the University basketball team that traveled widely in France to play French teams. After finishing the six months of course work at the American University I went back to the Battalion.

I served in the European Theater of Operations and received an Expert Infantryman Badge and a Victory Medal Army of Occupation Germany with the Third and Seventh Army. In early November I was sent to Bremerhaven, Germany to board a troop ship that would take me back to the United States. On November 13, 1946, I received an Honorable Discharge at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. The military service was a time of maturing from a high school boy to a young man with many valuable learning experiences.

## **Back to Civilian Life**



After returning to St. Elmo I began working again in the oil fields with my father. I continued hunting and fishing activities when not working. My brothers and I helped him on his oilrig as roustabouts. I usually worked the graveyard shift that was from midnight to eight the next morning. Also, I joined a baseball team and a fast pitch softball team sponsored by the Haslett Lumber Yard. I was a catcher for the teams and played in left field. Our softball team played in many tournaments around the state and won quite a number of them.

Later, I worked in a gasoline production plant for the Carter Oil Company that was a division of the Standard Oil Company. My job was classified as a Painter's Helper. I would scrape the rust and grime of

the plant's buildings and high cranking towers and help the painter with safety harness, paint mixing, etc. Fortunately, I did not mind working on the high cranking towers and the pay was higher than most groundwork. While at the plant we could get some gasoline for our personal use. This enabled me to drive cars I acquired while in St. Elmo. Soon this access to gasoline was stopped.

During one of our painting sessions we were spraying the high towers with silver paint. We did not notice that the wind direction changed and our paint blew over the parking lot that led to many cars being repainted. The bosses were quite unhappy about this oversight. I soon decided that painting was not what I wanted to do for a future job.



Bill Johnson one of my St. Elmo friends stopped by our home early one afternoon in August 1948. He was going to enroll in Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. He asked if I would like to go along with him and enroll in the university. After a conversation with my dad and mother, I packed a few things in a pillowcase and went to Charleston with Bill to register for the fall semester of 1948.

My parents helped me with some money but told me that I would have to find work to earn money in order to stay in the university. My farther suggested that he would like for me to study accounting related to managing a small business. He thought this would be helpful to his oil field business when I finished school. Upon entering the university I applied for and received financial assistance from the U. S. government through the G. I. Bill of Rights. The G. I. Bill program provided tuition and some help with textbooks, supplies and \$75.00 a month living expenses.

The university advisors enrolled me in a two-year business education program. Later I changed the twoyear business program to a major in secondary education that after four years resulted in a Bachelor of Science in Education from Eastern Illinois University.

I decided one afternoon to watch the university football team practice. The coach noticed me and asked me to see him after practice. I had never played football but soon I was practicing with the team as a tackle and full back. I was given an athletic scholarship and my job was to keep the basketball bleachers clean.

I had a lot to learn about playing football since I had not played football in high school. In addition to the scholarship, I was employed in the elementary school cafeteria that was managed by one of my professors. This helped with my finances and earned me free meals.

The Sigma Tau fraternity invited me to become a member because of being on the football team. Following the induction into this fraternity I moved into their housing. The fraternity had purchased a home that had a large number of bedrooms. The fraternity had an initiation procedure that is for new members. I went through the initiation but did not like the procedures and later found out that they generally excused veterans from their initiation.

However, I soon got disgusted with the fraternity rules and regulations. This lead Bill and me to move into a small apartment in Charleston while attending the university. We shared the living expenses and

Bill had a car that made the getting around much easier. Bill also would take me along when going back home to St. Elmo. Also, I would hitch hike to and from home when Bill wasn't going home.

In the spring I was invited by the baseball coach to try out for the university baseball team. I made the team and played catcher. The football coach was also the boxing coach and I joined the university boxing team. Later the boxing team was disbanded due to the termination of the program in colleges and universities. I boxed in the Golden Glove Program as an independent for two seasons.

## Four Brothers and Wives



While at home from the university my father passed away unexpectedly in his sleep from heart failure on September 5, 1948. We buried our father in the St. Elmo cemetery. This was a major unhappy event in the lives of our family that brought about many life changes. My brothers and I decided to keep the oil contracting business operating but soon found that we did not have the experience and reputation essential to acquire drilling contracts.

The four brothers and wives presented in this picture. They are listed from left to right and are Robert and Sharon, Clyde and Lou, Barbara and Sam followed by Dorothy and Paul.

We sold the business assets and used the money to pay off the debts. Following the sale I and my brothers provided care for our mother who wanted to move back to Hominy, Oklahoma. She wanted to live near the Haines family home. We were able to help her move into house adjacent to the original Haines family home. Following the placement of our mother in Hominy we four brothers separated to follow our own life path. Clyde went to work for American Airlines in Tulsa, Oklahoma and eventually retired from American Airlines.

I continued attending the university and changed from the original two-year business program to a four year Bachelor of Science in Education. Paul entered Oklahoma A & M, and after completing his studies, received his Bachelor Degree in Petroleum Engineering. He began work in the oil fields for Gulf Oil Company in Farmington, New Mexico and later moved to Hobbs, New Mexico. He worked for a company that serviced the oil wells. Later he established his own business. Robert my youngest brother continued his US Navy career and eventually retired after almost 23 years from the U. S. Navy. Robert became a Baptist pastor after retiring from the Navy eventually earning his Doctorate in Theology.

## My First Marriage 1949

In November 1949 I married Barbara A. Miller whose home was in Decatur, Illinois. Randal Haslett from St. Elmo, Illinois was our best man. The wedding was not elaborate and took place in Decatur and was attended by our friends and Barbara's family. Barbara was a student at Eastern Illinois State College majoring in elementary education. As noted previously, I had first registered for a two-year program in business. Following my father's death, I changed to a four-year degree with a major in secondary education.

During our marriage we lived in the veterans married student housing. Both Barbara and I graduated at the same time and received our diplomas in the ceremonial presentation on June 1, 1951. After graduation we began searching for employment where we both could work in education.

## **Employment 1951-1952**

After graduation from Eastern Illinois University Barbara and I moved to Altamont, Illinois a short distance from St. Elmo. My first job was in the oil business with Carter Oil Company as a personnel trainee with offices in the oil field near St. Elmo. This company had a policy that required each new employee to learn all about the oil production business. I was assigned to work on a rod-pulling unit that was the lowest and dirtiest position in the oil field.

Since I had experience with my father's business, I felt that job was not appropriate. I resigned after several months before I was to be fired for refusing to drive an oil field rod pulling unit truck out of its garage that was not in my job responsibilities.

The next job was with Commercial Credit Corporation in Springfield, Illinois as a Unit Credit Manager. Barbara continued teaching in the elementary school in Altamont, Illinois. We had planned to move to Springfield. However, again this business job and requirements did not suit me. The manager of the office asked me to change some of my inventory flooring reports relating to other businesses that used the credit to finance their operations.

This meant that I could be held responsible for issuing false information. I suspected that the office manger had something illegal going on with these businesses. With two unsuccessful experiences in the business world I decided to look elsewhere for employment.

One of my former university professors notified me that a business teaching position was open in the Salem Community High District in Salem, Illinois. I sent my application to Superintendent B. E. Gum in October 1952.

Soon I was offered a teaching position in the high school of the Salem Community High School District. Salem was a small mostly farming town in south central Illinois.



The photo shows me standing in the high school classroom where I had begun teaching students business subjects. This classroom is on the second floor of the high school building. Salem is the county seat of Marion County and was at an earlier time a very active oil field town.

My wife Barbara and I moved to Salem in November 1952. During the spring of 1953 I was asked to assist with the coaching of the football team and to start a baseball program for the high school. Later, Barbara was able to obtain an elementary teaching position in Salem.

We had to build a baseball diamond for the High School District. The community provided a lot of help and building materials for the construction of the baseball field. In addition, I worked as the Director of Recreation Programs in Salem during the summers. Also, I coached an American Legion baseball team that played other American Legion teams from around the southern part of Illinois.

This ball diamond is still in use by the District. The 1956 baseball team was an outstanding group of players. Jerry Mercer our best pitcher on the team pitched four no hit no run baseball games in a row and then pitched one more no hit no run game during his senior year. There were many outstanding players on the team, and we were able to win many trophies for the school district.

After graduating from high school Jerry signed a contract to pitch with the Kansas City major league team. Our teams had many great players that helped us to win many ball games.

We rented a house in Salem for a short period of time. Barbara and I purchased a large corner lot and had a home built at the address of 900 West Main Street, Salem, Illinois. The exterior of this home was brick and had three bedrooms, living room, family room with fireplace and one bath.

We had a patio in the back for outdoor living. I embedded a large tubular steel pole with an antenna on it in concrete outside of our home to receive TV programs from St. Louis, Missouri.



In this photo Laura, Maggie and I are standing in front of the home that was built by Barbara and me in Salem. Laura was on a trip to Chicago and came down to be with us when Maggie and I were attending Salem reunion for classmates of the 1956 graduating class. . The yard was landscaped by me with trees, shrubs, flowers and grass. A bird dog house and pen are in the back yard. Later swing sets and other play equipment was built for the children. Salem was a great place for our children's early years.

While teaching and coaching I initiated planning to start a credit union with the approval of the Superintendent and Board of Education for the employees of at Salem Community High District. The office of the credit union was on the second floor across the hall from a room where I taught classes.

My credit union saving passbook was number one and Barbara' saving book was number two. During my tenure at Salem Community High District I was responsible for the credit union's operation. The credit union has continued in operation serving the employees of Community High School and Elementary School Districts.

My interest in hunting and fishing continued during the years in Salem, Illinois. In 1957 the Illinois Game and Fish Department opened the first deer season since the turn of the century. Zeke Fry, a friend and I applied for and received a whitetail deer tag for a hunt unit in southern Illinois.

We were successful in this first hunt and continued to hunt when we were able to receive hunting tags for deer. Also, I started hunting Bob White quail in the fields around Salem and other southern Illinois areas.

Usually I went hunting with friends who worked for the school district. I raised and trained English Setter bird dogs who were a great help in locating the coveys of quail.

It was during my teaching and coaching years at Salem High School that I began to work on a Master's Degree in Education Degree off-campus sponsored by the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana Illinois. I attended courses offered locally during the fall and spring semesters.

During the summer sessions I attended the University in Champaign/Urbana, Illinois. My main interest was to obtain a degree that would allow me to apply for administrative positions in education. I completed the Master of Education degree during August 1960.

## My Children 1958-1960

After nine years of marriage on August 8, 1958 a baby girl was born to us in Salem, Illinois. The birth took place in the Salem Hospital a short distance from our home. Laura Lee Bliss our first child was a healthy baby. Two years later we had another child, Drake Alan Bliss who was born in Salem on August 13, 1960. Like Laura, Drake was healthy baby boy.



This picture was taken in 1961. Laura was three years old and Drake was two years old. Our two children entered their first school at the kindergarten level and progressed through the elementary years in Salem.

During the early growing years of our children's we read books to them. Later as they progressed through school we helped with their lessons. Our children continued their education in Salem and in the schools of cities that we moved to as I accepted new positions in education.

We were very proud of the good grades that both children earned in the elementary and high schools that they attended. Also, they got along well with other students all through the early school years.

## Educational Administrative Positions

In the fall of 1961, I applied for and received a Comptroller's position in the Decatur School District in Decatur, Illinois. Lester Grant was the Superintendent of the school district. The Comptroller position responsibilities were to manage the financial and business operations of the District. Also, I served as the Board of Education's Secretary/Treasurer.



While in Decatur we had a home built in a residential housing area north of Decatur. Decatur is a medium sized city in the central part of Illinois.

The area around Decatur was agricultural and there were several large businesses. Some of the larger businesses are A. E. Staley a large soybean processor, Caterpillar Tractor Company a leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment. Barbara's father was as a tool and die cutter for

Wabash Railroad before he retired. We purchased a home north of Decatur to live in while I worked at the Decatur School District. The address was 1063 West main Street, Decatur, Illinois. This home had a full basement, three bedrooms, a family room, and two baths and was located on a large double-wide lot.

Soon after I was employed one of my major responsibilities was to implement a computerized business and student management system to replace the old outdated mechanical system currently in use by the District. A five-year implementation plan was developed with the assistance of an internal group of interested persons in the school district and persons from the International Business Corporation. The computer center hardware installed was from IBM.

The IBM hardware utilized punched cards as originally developed by Herman Hollerith that were commonly called IBM punched cards. Initially we used the IBM 1620 computer that was later replaced by the IBM 1401 and the 1710 computer. Also, some of our management system applications such as the student-scheduling program was processed on IBM's 7090, a large mainframe computer in Chicago, Illinois.

All personnel in the business office were provided training and additional employees were added to the District's Computer Center. IBM personnel and the District's programming staff developed computer programs for the operation of the financial accounting and student management systems. While in Decatur I was able to attend the state and international technology meetings. I made many presentations to other employees of the District to help them understand the District's computer system and software.

The initial five-year implementation plan was accomplished in three years. Additional computer applications were developed, such as the District's payroll system, the first District-Wide Student Census and a library system. The Illinois State Department of Education, Division of Vocational Education became interested in our computer applications and requested that the District operate a training program for adults.

A vocational program for training adults to work in a computer center was implemented utilizing the District's Computer Center hardware and facilities. The District received funding from the Division of Vocational Education to operate the training program.

This grant funding helped pay the cost of our computer center. While working in the Decatur School District I began a new administrative program called the Advanced Certificate in Education at the University of Illinois. This was an off-campus and summer school degree program that was one year above the Master of Education degree. I completed the Advanced Certificate in Education in June 1965.

The Data Processing Division of the Illinois State Department of Education requested that I assist them with the installation of new IBM computer systems and student data systems.

A pilot project was developed for the communication of student data between the Decatur School District through its Computer Center and the Data Processing Division of the Illinois State Department of Education.

Specifically, the pilot project required the electronic transmission of student attendance data and school lunch data over telephone lines. The project became known as the Teleprocessing of Student Information. IBM advertised and promoted the Decatur School District Computer Center throughout the nation. The

District hosted many visitations by education personnel from other districts in Illinois and other states. The Superintendent and I provided a number of presentations at various state and national meetings. I became a regular presenter at IBM's many training locations for educators.

During this period of time I was involved with a few other persons in the creation of the Illinois Educational Data Systems Association. Later the National Educational Data Systems Association was organized that included many state associations from across the nation. I joined the Illinois Association of Business Officials and the International Association of Business Officials while in Decatur.

The computer industry was well on its way to assisting people in the business and educational world. The United States government's Office of Education in Washington, D. C. joined in the expansion of technology and created a number of programs and publications to promote the effort of states.

***Note: The following content is provided to provide background information that led to my next position change.***

On October 4, 1957 the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik I. The world's first satellite was about the size of a basketball that weighed only 183 pounds. It took about 98 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path. The Sputnik I launch ushered in many new political, military, technological, and scientific developments. Even though the Sputnik launch was a single event, it marked the start of the space age and space race between the United States and Russia. The world changed dramatically with the Sputnik launch and its orbit of the earth. Sputnik was a huge technical achievement for Russia and it caught the world's attention and the American political leader's off-guard.

President J. F. Kennedy and the United States Congress and educational leaders recognized the great need to vastly expand and improve America's education system especially the science and mathematic programs. These leaders believed that nation's security was threatened by the space advances of Russia.

Several research studies were conducted to determine how to proceed to strengthen our nation's education program. These studies led to the development of the Elementary and Secondary School Act. The Elementary and Secondary School Act, designed by U. S. Commissioner of Education Francis Keppel, was passed on April 9, 1965, less than three months after it was introduced to Congress. This legislation constituted the most important educational component of the 'War on Poverty' launched by President Lyndon B. Johnson. In addition, this Act had a Title V component that provided funding to strengthen state departments of education. Title V of the Elementary and Secondary School Act provided for grant funding to state departments of education to strengthen and expand their operations. While working in the Illinois Department of Education, I became acquainted with Dr. Ralph Van Dusseldorp, an Associate Superintendent of the Iowa Department of Education and Professor of Educational Administration at the University of Iowa.

Ralph and I met several times to discuss Title V of the Elementary and Secondary School Act. These discussions lead us to believe that we should write a proposal seeking grant funding for a group of midwestern states that would focus on the development of a comprehensive information system. Following many meetings we finally obtained approvals from 13 mid-western state government officials and their 13 state departments of education to submit a proposal.

The proposal was finalized by Ralph and myself and submitted to the U. S. Office of Education, Administrators in Title V of the Elementary and Secondary School Act. Soon we were requested to meet with them to discuss the details and funding of our proposal.

Final approval of our proposal was given and the proposal became a Project with the title of: “The Midwestern States Educational Information Project (MSEIP)”.

MEISP was to be located in the offices of the Iowa Department of Education, Des Moines, Iowa. Ralph was the interim director with the task of immediately hiring a full-time director. Administration in the Iowa Department of Education conducted a multi-state search for a director and Ralph had requested that I apply for the position. The review and selection committee in the Iowa Department of Education recommended that I become the Director of MSEIP.

I accepted the position and moved the family to Urbandale, Iowa a suburb of Des Moines during the summer of 1966. Our home address was 8413 Winston Street, Urbandale, Iowa a suburb of Des Moines. Laura and Drake enjoyed Iowa and learned to ride bicycles and chase butterflies and fireflies during our stay in Iowa. We took many trips to other scenic locations in Iowa. During the winter snows we would ride on a long wooden toboggan down the hills in the country around our home. Our children entered the school district of Urbandale and made themselves at home in their new school. My wife was able to obtain an elementary teaching position in the Urbandale School District. Both children adapted well to their new location. Des Moines and Urbandale are typical mid-western cities. Urbandale is a smaller community west of Des Moines. There were many corn and soybean farms in the area. The rich soil that was brought in by the glaciers of the ice age is black, deep and yields great crops.

The Departments of Education in the MSEIP were from the following states: Colorado, Kansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. MSEIP with the assistance of the persons in these 13 state departments of education and Project staff developed an integrated educational information system as planned in the proposal. Other consultant personnel were employed from time to time to assist in the developmental activities from universities and local school districts. The U. S. department of Education loaned a number of their staff to help with the development. MSEIP was an integrated educational information system designed so that it could be used by state departments of education and local school systems in the state. The MSEIP system was programmed to operate on an IBM 360 Model 25 but could be installed on other large mainframe computer systems.

Other state departments of education around the U. S. were highly interested and so were the provincial departments of education in Canada. I traveled to many other states and Canadian provinces to inform and promote the use of MSEIP system in their educational programs.

During the developmental years of MSEIP, I began to work on a doctorate in educational administration at Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa. I encouraged Jim Mitchell, Assistant Director of MSEIP to enroll in the doctoral program. We both graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Educational Administration on August 23, 1968.

The Chairman of my doctoral committee was Professor Dr. Richard Manatt. My mother traveled from Hominy, Oklahoma to be in the audience to watch her son graduate that August day in Ames, Iowa. It was wonderful having her at this graduation. I continued work on the multi-state project until December 1968.

Dr. James Mitchell, Associate Director of MSEIP became Project Director when I resigned to assume a position as an Assistant Director of Education Research and Assistant Professor of Educational Administration at Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, Illinois during early 1969. The documentation for MSEIP was published in June of 1969. Dr. Dale Kaiser, Director of the research center promoted my application and was helpful in my move to Southern Illinois University.

During our stay in Iowa, I hunted white-tailed deer, quail and pheasants. As a student in the doctoral program at Iowa State University I became acquainted with several university faculty members and administrators. An Associate Superintendent at the Iowa State Department of Education Walt Edgren took me and other friends fishing for Walleye at his cabin in northern Minnesota during the opening of the season in May 1967.

## **University Careers**

I had been recruited by Southern Illinois University to accept a position as an Assistant Director of Educational Research Center and Assistant Professor of Educational Administration. Our family moved to a home in Carterville, Illinois that was a short distance from the university. I worked with Dr. Dale Kaiser.

Dale's family and our family became friends during our stay in Carterville. Our home address was Box 128 R. R. #2, Carterville, Illinois. And again Barbara found employment in the Carterville Elementary School District.

Two of the attractions near our home were Crab Orchard National Game Refuge and Crab Orchard Lake. The refuge was home to a large number of migratory ducks and geese. Fishing and hunting for quail and migratory ducks and geese was practically in our backyard. Also, Dale Kaiser and I were able to go white-tailed deer hunting in southern Illinois. My daughter Laura and son Drake joined me on fishing trips to the adjacent lakes in southern Illinois. When time allowed Laura and Drake traveled with me to fish Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley just outside of Paducah, Kentucky.

Another trip that we took was to the Grand Old Opera in Nashville, Tennessee. Southern Illinois has many hard woods that turn golden and red in the fall of the year.

We visited Giant City recreation area and enjoyed the camping that we did during the years we were in Carterville.

The work at the university was interesting because we were out in the field working with local school district administrators and personnel of the Illinois State Department of Education. However, during April of the spring quarter in 1970 the University was closed due to undergraduate student riots. All students were sent home and the University was closed. I decided that my future at the university was going to be difficult when it opened in the fall of 1970 and began looking elsewhere for another university position.

Dr. Mervin Deever, Director of the Research Center at Arizona State University attended a technology seminar that I conducted in late 1969 at Southern Illinois University. In the spring of 1970 Dr. Deever invited me to be a guest speaker at Arizona State University at the dedication of their new Ira Payne Education facility. I gave a short presentation about my work with MSEIP in Des Moines and my work in the Research Center of Southern Illinois University.

I presented information related to how technology was going to impact and change educational institutions in the future. During the ceremony I was invited to the luncheon and seating was arranged so that I was next to Dr. J. Lawrence Walkup, President of Northern Arizona University (NAU). On my right was the governor of Arizona, the Honorable Jack Williams.

Dr. Walkup and I had an interesting conversation at lunch that ended with an invitation to visit him at NAU. I accepted his offer and traveled to Flagstaff for the visit. He introduced me to a number of university administrators and faculty. Shortly before NAU Dr. Walkup said he would contact me about a position at the university later in the spring. Upon arriving back home in Illinois, I discussed the position offer with my family. In late April I received a telegram from Dr. Walkup offered me a position at NAU. He requested a response to his offer as soon as possible.

The position was to develop a research and development center, chair a committee to assist him in the development of an education doctorate program within the university and to teach in the graduate school of educational administration. I would be awarded the rank of Associate Professor when I joined the faculty at NAU.

I had explored other positions prior to the offer from Dr. Walkup at Northern Arizona University. One position I was interested in was a Vice President of Planning and Development at the University of Georgia in Athens Georgia. I traveled to Athens to be interviewed for the position but did not like the area. The other position was an Assistant Director of Research.

After arriving back in Carbondale, we discussed the three positions. Barbara and I had a considerable amount of discussion related to these three different positions. We decided that I should accept the position offered to me at Northern Arizona University.

I sent a letter accepting Dr. Walkup's offer for a position at NAU. He wanted me to be on site during early August 1970 and agreed to pay my moving expenses. The position at NAU was basically the same as discussed with Dr. Walkup in the spring of 1970.



During early August 1970, I moved to Flagstaff, Arizona by myself to begin working at NAU. My wife did not want to leave her teaching position in Carbondale, Illinois and our children stayed with her during 1970-1971. I rented a small house in Mountainair that is an unincorporated residential area south of Flagstaff to live because it was not a large city. The picture is NAU Old Main, one of the oldest buildings on campus.

Also, the Flagstaff School District instructional program was highly rated and there were many outdoor recreation opportunities in the entire State of Arizona. Overall it appeared to be a good place for our children.

The position's responsibilities were to create a Research and Development Center with me as the Director. I was appointed by Dr. Walkup as the chair of a committee to assist him in the development of a doctoral program in the College of Education. Also, I was to teach educational administration courses within the College of Education at NAU. Dr. Walkup gave me the rank of Associate Professor which was included in the employment agreement. The picture is the front of the College of Education.

The doctoral development committee was to have five members including myself, however Dr. Walkup only appointed two other persons to assist in the assignment. The other persons appointed to the committee were Dr. Jack Rambow from the Curriculum and Instruction Department and Dr. Joe Liggett, from the Department of Psychology.

We began our development on the structure of the doctoral program in early September 1970 with the goal of having our recommendations to Dr. Walkup by December 1970. Dr. Walkup wanted to obtain acceptance within NAU faculty and administrators and then the Arizona Board of Regents so the recruitment of graduate students could begin in the fall of 1971. This schedule was accomplished and the initial group of five doctoral students began their program of studies in September 1971. Each doctoral student was assigned a Chairperson and four other faculty members for their two year in resident program on the campus of NAU.

The first graduating doctoral class was held in May 1973. During fall 1972 and spring 1973 new candidates for the doctoral program were interviewed and admitted or rejected. This basic recruitment procedure was repeated in the following years and is still on going. NAU's doctoral program was evaluated and given approval at the end of its fifth year of operation by The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation for colleges and universities.

Following this approval NAU began a field-based program of courses as an important component of the doctoral program. Graduate students would achieve their residency by attending two summer courses at NAU. The on campus doctoral program was continued as planned throughout each year.

Additionally, a doctoral program of studies was offered at Point Loma University at Point Loma, California. Faculty of NAU's doctoral program traveled to the field based sites in Arizona and to Point Loma. This NAU Point Loma program was discontinued later. However, NAU began a field based doctoral studies program in several state locations. Later field based programs were provided for students seeking course work in the masters degree program.

Dr. Walkup surprised me at an annual Christmas program by announcing that I was to be promoted to a full professor and given full tenure following the first five years of work at NAU. During my 19 years at NAU I was the chairperson or member of doctoral committees for a large number of graduate students. Some of the students that I assisted through the doctoral program at NAU are as follows:

Dr. Thomas L. McCraley – Tom became the superintendent of several school districts in Arizona. He was chosen the Arizona Superintendent of the Year and third runner-up as Superintendent of the American Association of School Superintendents for the United States.

Dr. David Mosow –David entered the NAU doctoral program from an educational position in southern Arizona. Following graduation he assumed a position at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. Later he acquired a position with a university in southern Alabama. However, Dave soon decided to start his own software company in Mobile, Alabama. Under his management Software Technology, Inc. became one of the largest educational management businesses in America.

Dr. Richard Terbush - He was chosen the Arizona Superintendent of the Year by his colleagues. Dick served as the superintendent of two school districts in Arizona.

Dr. James Carruthers – Jim was the President of Arizona Western University in Yuma, Arizona when he started the doctoral degree program. He continued to work at Arizona Western University after graduation. Following his retirement from Arizona Western University, Jim was elected to the Arizona legislature.

Dr. Robert Donofrio – He became the superintendent of the Murphy Elementary School District in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Alejandra Perez - He became superintendent of the Roosevelt Elementary School District in Phoenix, Arizona. Alex was the first Hispanic to receive a doctorate in school administration from NAU.

Dr. William Fortune – Bill was an Assistant Superintendent for Financial Affairs in the Edmunds School District. He was the first student to receive a doctorate from the State of Washington.

Dr. Perry Hill – Completed his doctorate and assumed the superintendent at Glendale School District in Glendale, Arizona. Perry was very active in many training operations of the Arizona School Superintendent Association.

Dr. Martha Clark – She held several administrative positions in Arizona school districts. In addition, she was the first black woman to receive a doctorate from NAU.

Dr. Ronald Holman – Ron was the Superintendent of the Bering Strait School District in Unalakleet, Alaska when he entered the doctoral program at NAU. Following graduation he returned to the Bering Strait School District as the district's Superintendent. Later, he became the Director of a Wellness Project for the American Association of School Administrators.

Dr. John Bush – a San Carlos Apache Indian was the first Native American to receive a doctorate from NAU. He served his tribe as Superintendent of the San Carlos Apache School District in Arizona.

Dr. Frank Galas – He began his doctoral study while an Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and then became the superintendent for the Dysart School District, Dysart, Arizona. Frank later became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Administration at NAU.

Dr. Porter Troutman – Entered the doctoral program and upon graduating he assumed a professorial position in school administration at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

During the 19 years at NAU, I assisted many other students in their research as they studied for their doctorate in educational administration.

*Note: The NAU field based program was not popular with the other two state universities. Administrators at these universities were able to convince the Board of Regents to restrict the sites where courses could be offered in the State of Arizona. NAU administration was able to gradually expand the field based program and while doing so began to offer on-line course over the Internet. Currently NAU offers 15 undergraduate and 10 graduate programs on-line and is developing more. NAU officials have estimated an on-line enrollment exceeding 30,000 students in approximately five years with a scheduled offering of about 700 new educational courses throughout the state.*

The Research and Development Center (RDC) began operation in the fall of 1971. As Director I was responsible for obtaining grant funding from many sources such as the federal government, state and national foundations to assist faculty to do research and students to study in the undergraduate and graduate degree programs of NAU.

In addition, the RDC was responsible for the development of programs to involve the statewide education associations and the administrative personnel of school districts. For example, I enabled RDC to obtain a project grant from the U. S. Department of Education to provide a teacher training program for the Navajo and Hopi students. The Teacher Corps Project lasted for many years and assisted a large number of Navajo and Hopi students to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in education.

The project grant brought over 13 million dollars to NAU through the operation of the Teacher Corps Project. RDC had the contract management for the Teacher Corps Project and Roger Wilson, a Navajo Indian, and Milo Kalectaca, a Hopi Indian were co-directors of the Project.

Another example of the various activities of RDC was to sponsor workshops and seminars for school district administrators and teachers. Also, for a number of years the RDC sponsored an annual statewide conference for the Arizona Association of School Business Officials at NAU in Flagstaff.

My other responsibility was to teach part-time in the College of Education at the Graduate School level. I taught Research Design, Introduction to Research, School Business Management and computer technology courses in the fall, spring and summer sessions. Through grant funding I was able to establish the first computer center laboratory in the College of Education. On December 31, 1985, Dr. J. Lawrence Walkup presented me with a handwritten letter stating how pleased he was with my work at NAU. While at NAU I assisted two national education associations to provide training programs for their membership. The two associations were Association of School Business Officials International and the American Association of School Superintendents. The Board of Directors of the Association of School Business Officials International approved my plan to develop a Continuing Education Program for its membership at their annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. This Continuing Education Program provided workshops and seminars in the United States and Canada.

The education program was initially managed through the Center for Research and Development at NAU. Later the International Association of School Business Officials assumed the operations out of its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois and then moved to Reston, Virginia. Charles Foster was the Executive Director of the Association of School Business Officials International in the late 1960's.

I was able to obtain the assistance of two presenters who had national recognition in the field of educational administration and government and business.



Dr. William H. Curtis, former president of the American Association of School Superintendents, and Mr. Peter Pyhrr, author of the first national publication for implementing Zero Base Budgeting in business and

government. Peter was employed by Governor Jimmy Carter, and later President of the United States, to install Zero Base Budgeting in Georgia governmental divisions and later in the U. S. Government Departments.



The second association that I assisted to begin an education-training program for its members was the American Association of School Superintendents with administrative offices in Arlington, Virginia. I was a grant-writing consultant assisting Dr. Stephen J. Knezevich, and Dr. William H. Curtis to write a Ford

Foundation Grant to start a National Academy for School Executives (NASE) that would be operated by the American Association of School Superintendents.

NASE's education program sponsored three to five day seminars that included a wide range of administrative topics of current interest to school administrators throughout the United States and Canada. I became an instructor for the first seminar in Reno, Nevada with Dr. Curtis and Dr. Knezevich.

The Association of School Business Officials International, with Dr. Curtis' assistance, received a grant from the United States Office of Education to develop a model for an Educational Resources Management System. Dr. Curtis, the Project Director, employed me to provide consultant assistance and writing for the Educational Resources Management System Project. Dr. Charles Foster was the Executive Director. The main office was in Chicago, Illinois for all of the writers and consultants involved in the publication. Periodically Dr. Foster would hold meetings in Chicago and also were in the US government's Office of Education in Washington, D. C. Many notable persons contributed to the Project from throughout America.

I worked with the following persons: Dr. James Waters, Executive Director of the California Advisory Group on PPBS, Dr. Levine, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Dr. John Gott, Superintendent of, North Thurston, Washington, Dr. James Colmery, Deputy Director, CEMREL, Inc., Dr. Creta Sabine, Arizona Association of School Business Officials, Phoenix, Arizona, Miss Sue Haggart, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California, Dr. George Brain, Dean, College of Education, Washington State University, Dr. Robert Gilchrist, Professor of Education, International University, San Diego, California, Mr. Troy Earhart, PPBE Manager for the Dade County School District, Miami, Florida.

There were eight pilot school districts in the Project. These were: Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada, Douglas County School District, Castle Rock, Colorado, Memphis City School, Memphis, Tennessee, Mesa Public Schools, Mesa, Arizona, Milwaukee Public School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, Maryland and Peoria Public Schools, Peoria, Illinois and Westport Public Schools, Westport, Connecticut. The Educational Resources Management System publication was copyrighted in 1971 and made available to educators throughout the nation. As writer and consultant for the Project I traveled with Dr. Curtis quite extensively to various meetings throughout the United States and Canada.

During the operation of the Educational Resources Management System Project Dr. Curtis and I had received many encouraging comments from practicing school administrators to develop a more definitive model for the management of educational institutions. Following the close of the Project, Dr. Curtis and I began to discuss the need for a model of an educational management system that would be useful for school administrators as they began the implementation of their own management system.

We began to develop our ideas and soon had a draft design of the management system model we wanted to publish in our book. During the 1970s and early 1980s Bill and I and met many times at his home in New Hampshire. He would also travel to Arizona to continue the writing of the management system model. Maggie traveled with me on these trips to New Hampshire. In fact, we were at their home watching the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Dianne Spencer in 1981 on the Curtis' television.

We had titled the book The Educational Resource Allocation-Utilization System. We completed the first copy available for publication in 1981. After some discussion Bill and I decided to convert the book to an Adobe pdf format and put the entire book on the Internet with a publishing company called FatBrain.

A short time later this company was bought by Barnes and Noble who shut down the Internet publishing business know as FatBrain. I submitted the book manuscript to some other publishing companies. These companies had policies in place that gave me little financial incentive to publish with them. The royalty amounts were too low. Therefore Bill and I did not seek other publishers.

## **Family Moved to Arizona and a Divorce**



My wife Barbara and our two children moved to Arizona during the late summer of 1971. We purchased a home in Kachina Village, a residential area just south of Flagstaff. Our home address was on 40 Toho Trail that was about six miles south of Flagstaff. The picture is the San Francisco Peaks eight miles north of Flagstaff.

During early January 1972 Barbara announced that she was leaving me and the children. She then told us that she had met with a lawyer in Flagstaff to start divorce procedures. Immediately following her announcement Barbara left me and the children.

She did not give us any information about where she going. Later, I engaged Joe Babbitt, a Flagstaff lawyer, to represent me in the divorce. Joe was a descendent of the five Babbitt brothers who were an early pioneer family that had moved to Flagstaff. The two lawyers handled the divorce, and I received legal custody of the children in March 23, 1973. Laura was in the eighth grade and Drake was in the fifth grade of the Flagstaff Public School System. My children and I continued living at 40 Toho Trail. The divorce had no effect on my work at NAU. In addition to my responsibilities at NAU, I had several consultant activities elsewhere outside of Arizona.

My children soon accepted the fact that we had each other and that I had become single parent. I was concerned that my work at the university and consultancies would influence their schoolwork and living situation in Flagstaff. However, we were able to get along without too many difficulties.

One of my technology consultant activities was with the Calgary Public School System in Alberta, Canada. The work consisted of assisting administration to install an educational management system on their mainframe computer system. At the conclusion of this contract I arranged for a dinner celebration at the Canadian Pacific Hotel on November 7, 1972 for the persons and wives that I had been working with. Don Burnley who worked in the Technology Department had his wife bring along a friend to meet me and enjoy the dinner at this famous hotel.

### **A New Marriage June 16, 1973**



It was at this dinner that I met Margaret McIntosh Grimmer (She requested that I use the name Maggie). Maggie was born on November 21, 1941 in Aberdeen, Scotland. She was in the process of immigrating to Canada and was working at the Calgary General Hospital. Little did I know that this one dinner with Maggie would bring about a wonderful change in the life of me and my children.

Both Maggie and I enjoyed the dinner meeting and we agreed to meet later during this trip to Calgary. I extended my stay in Calgary for a few days so that Maggie and I could become better acquainted.

We decided to start dating in order to learn more about each other. We talked many times over the telephone and met in Calgary several other times while I was doing consulting work for the Alberta Department of Education. It was through these visits that we were able to acquire a high level of love and respect for each other. In January 1973 Maggie traveled to Flagstaff to be with me and the children. It was during the trip to Flagstaff that I proposed that we get married. Maggie and I jointly agreed that we would get married in Calgary.

However, this was not possible due to the new immigration laws following the Vietnam war. Also, the Federal immigration persons in the Phoenix, Arizona office had given me wrong information and wrong forms. When Drake and I were traveling to Calgary to be with Maggie we had to go through immigration at the border of the United States and Canada. It was at this border entry that I was told that we had been given incorrect immigration forms and also that Maggie would have to stay at least six months or more in Canada before she could come to Flagstaff.

This immigration situation led us to decide that we should be married in Flagstaff on June 16, 1973. We packed all of Maggie's things and shipped them by a commercial truck to Flagstaff. A few days later Maggie, Drake and I drove back to Flagstaff. We were married on June 16, 1973 at the Flagstaff Presbyterian Church.

My friend Hal Byfield served the best man and his wife Anne served as the maid-of-honor. My brother Paul (Skip) Bliss filled in for Maggie's father who was unable to travel to Flagstaff for the wedding from Aberdeen Scotland. The marriage date coincided with a consulting assignment in Anchorage, Alaska.

I previously agreed to conduct an educational management seminar for the National Academy of School Executives of the American Association of School Administrators. Following this one-week seminar we traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii for an extended honeymoon. We had a special triangle trip on Western Airlines that allowed us to go to Alaska and Hawaii and back to Phoenix, Arizona for an additional 25 dollars. This 1973 Alaska trip was the first of many other trips to Alaska that is be described later in this document.

## **Maggie's Introduction to Flagstaff**

The City of Flagstaff was quite new and different for Maggie. She had never lived in a city as small as Flagstaff. The marriage ceremony was entirely different, new people, different customs, two teenage children, a new school system and a university environment to cope with created a difficult adjustment period of time for Maggie.

Laura was 15 and Drake was 13 at the time of our marriage. However, Maggie soon adapted to her new environment. An additional concern for Maggie was the outdoor activities around Flagstaff that were very much part of life for myself, Laura and Drake. Drake and I were involved in the hunting for big game around Flagstaff. Also, fishing and boating around the lakes in Arizona, especially Lake Powell near Page, Arizona.

Maggie was introduced to the faculty wives of NAU after arriving in Flagstaff. The faculty wives made her feel quite welcome and part of the university family. Soon Maggie began to feel as if she belonged. Maggie adapted very well to Laura and Drake and soon had our family functioning smoothly. She had quite a task keeping up with two teenage children. When we got married Laura was in the tenth grade and Drake was in the seventh grade.



Maggie's father Frederick Grimmer traveled from Aberdeen to visit with us during September 1973. We met Frederick at the Los Angeles airport and stopped by Las Vegas for a few hours and then on to Flagstaff. We thoroughly enjoyed having Maggie's father with us. He helped Drake and me in the construction of kayak that we

had started a few weeks before he arrived. Later during his visit we traveled to Page Arizona to go fishing on Lake Powell. We had good time fishing and Frederick caught some of the Lake Powell fish. The photograph is Frederick and second wife Alice. Larry and Kathleen McAllister (Maggie's sister) and their two children (Yvonne and Elaine) visited with us during April 1979.

We drove our visitors around the many features of Flagstaff. This included the San Francisco Mountains with the highest peak at 12,620 feet, an extinct volcano called the Sunset Carter, and the Grand Canyon. Larry and Kathleen McAllister and the children took a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon. The helicopter had a glass bottom so Kathleen and Larry could look down through it as they flew over the Grand Canyon.

Maggie's brother Ian visited with us in December 1976 and later in 1989. Drake and Ian became good friends. We took Ian 1976 to visit the Phoenix and Scottsdale areas.



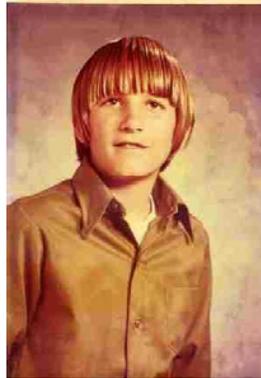
One of the places was an early western area of old Scottsdale. We spent some time in the Rawhide Saloon and gambling palace. Ian won thousands of dollars gambling. They were paper dollars so went from riches to rags. Maggie is with Ian at the airport. We introduced Ian to the environment around Flagstaff. Maggie's two aunts May and Elizabeth visited with us two times. Elaine and Yvonne with some friends traveled to our home for a short visit. There were other visitors over the years we were in Flagstaff. We took Maggie's relatives to the Grand Canyon while they were visiting us in Flagstaff. Maggie's family photographs are in the Appendices.

## Arizona Homes



My first home was a rental cabin in a small community south of Flagstaff known as Mountaineer. The cabin was rented to me by a person who lived in Phoenix and had built it as a summer home. I lived in this cabin from August 1970 until Barbara moved to Flagstaff. When Barbara came to Flagstaff we bought a home located at 40 Toho Trail, Kachina Village. The home is a ranch type home with a basement that suited our family quite well. There was plenty of snow in the early 1970s. We had a large wooden deck on the backside of our home.

Soon Laura and Drake were feeding the large Albert's squirrels that were residents of ponderosa pine trees in our backyard.



However, our home was about six miles south of Flagstaff and required quite a bit of traveling back and forth to Flagstaff by us to transport Laura and Drake to school and other activities. Also, during the winter months it would snow that added to the travel to Flagstaff. Interstate 17 was under construction and this added to the travel difficulties. The Kachina Village Home Association members elected me to be their President during the time we were living in Kachina Village.



We would meet each month to discuss Association issues and how to improve the Village. Laura and Drake attended the Flagstaff Public School District. The two photos are from their high school days.

During his high school years, Drake played football. On August 1, 1973 following the second summer school session at NAU we moved from 40 Toho Trail, Kachina Village to 504 North James, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001. We had help with the move from graduate students and several faculty friends. The house that we moved into had some interesting construction features. The home was designed by a Mormon family. They had designed as part of the garage a pantry that would hold a lot of food items, water and other necessities related to survival for a long period of time.

Also, the entire house was wired utilizing a low voltage system. There were switches in each room and a master panel in the master bedroom that controlled all lights outside and inside the house.

Later this created a problem when some of the relays began failing. Suddenly our bedroom lights and some other lights would light up in the night. During this time period I had been doing some consulting with the Alberta Department of Education.

One of the persons I worked with was Collins Meek. Collins visited with us in Flagstaff and helped fix all of the faulty relays. We had to change the faulty relays that were in the attic of the home with new relays that I had purchased before Collins arrived for his visit. This home at 504 North James served us well but I made a remark that every new wife should have a new home built to her specifications.



Maggie liked that idea and so we bought a lot in a new sub-division called Continental County Club. There were a number of homes in this subdivision that was east of Flagstaff. Continental County Club facilities included a large clubhouse with a restaurant, a golf course, tennis courts and walking areas. We entered into a contract with a homebuilder in

Flagstaff to have a home built to Maggie's specifications. The new home was completed and we moved in during early July 1979. Our address was 5155 East Blue Jay Lane, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001. The lot we built our home on was over half of an acre and is located on a cul-de-sac. The house had 3,300 square feet of living area. The home was two levels, two and on half baths, a two and half wide car garage, sun room on the back, a large eight by 10 foot tub Jacuzzi room, two fireplaces (one in the living room the other in the great room). The living room fireplace had a heat insert and was ventilated to the outside air.

The fireplace facing rock is petrified wood and volcanic rock with a mantle and sitting area the entire width of the west living room wall. Our home lot had many large ponderosa pines surrounding the house. The home pictures are the front and back views. More home pictures are included in the Appendix.

Flagstaff, Arizona is 7, 329 feet above sea level. And yes, it does snow each winter in Flagstaff and creates a winter wonderland. Flagstaff experienced slightly over 200 inches of snow in 1973 the year that Maggie and I were married.

## **Recreation in Arizona**

Flagstaff is surrounded by the Coconino National Forest; to the west is the Kaibab National Forest, and to the south is the Sitgreaves National Forest. These three forests encompass millions of acres of land that range from approximately 3,500 feet to over 12,633 feet high. Hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing, camping are some of the many recreational activities allowed in these national forests.

The State of Arizona, through the Arizona Game and Fish Department, manages the wildlife in all of the national forest areas of the state. There are 10 big game species in Arizona. Just eight miles north of Flagstaff, the San Francisco Mountains provides many opportunities for recreation.

In the San Francisco Mountains there are five distinct peaks with Humphreys Peak being the tallest rising to a height of 12,643 feet.

The Arizona Snow Bowl provides ski lifts in the winter and sightseeing in the summer. Laura and Drake learned to ski on these mountains. Just north of Flagstaff is the Grand Canyon with all of its wonders. Laura worked at the north rim of the Grand Canyon and at the end of one summer she and some friends hiked down the north rim across the Colorado River Bridge and up the south rim. The three photographs were taken before Maggie joined us in Flagstaff.

Drake and I backpacked into the canyon during his high school days. On one of these backpacking trips we went down the old Grandview Trail that was the easterly trail and traveled to west the Hermit Trail before climbing out of the canyon. The river is flowing through the inner gorge about 900 feet below the

lower plateau that is about one mile below the top rim of the Canyon. We prepared for a five-day trip and hiked from the east beginning of the Canyon. We then followed the Tonto Rim Trail west end to the last trail out-called the Hermit Trail.



We camped along the Tonto Rim Trail for five days. We hiked down to the inner gorge of the Colorado River for a short swim. The river water usually is around 45 to 50 degrees so we did not stay in too long. Later Drake went on several river rafting trips down the rapids of the Colorado River. The picture of Drake is standing at the edge of the Colorado River at the very bottom of the Grand Canyon. The three photographs were taken before Maggie joined us in Flagstaff.

Drake applied for a private river rafting trip and finally after 15 years was granted a permit. During August 2002 he took Laura and Kayla, John Gray, Paul Gaither, Tom Hair and several others on a 10-day trip rafting down the Colorado in the Grand Canyon. At the end of the trip Maggie and I met them in Flagstaff. Drake went back to Cape Coral. Laura and Kayla went to our home in Oak Creek Village for a week's visit. About 120 miles north of Flagstaff is Page, Arizona and Lake Powell. This large body of water was made possible by building the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River.

Lake Powell was a favorite boating and fishing place for Maggie, Laura, Drake and me to visit. Both Laura and Drake water-skied in many areas of this lake. Drake and I especially enjoyed fishing for bass, crappie, channel catfish and blue gill in Lake Powell. During Laura's high school years, I would take her and several girls friends in August for a birthday celebration water skiing on Lake Powell. Laura would take her friends skiing while I fished for bass in the Lake. Drake and I fished in lakes around Flagstaff and the state.

Some of the lakes were: Upper and Lower Lake Mary, Ashurst Lake, Roosevelt Lake, Marshall Lake, Lake Mead and Lake Havasu. Drake and I were fishing in Marshall Lake and somehow turned our canoe over and had to recover our fishing gear from the bottom of the lake.

I still have a two-dollar bill that was submerged in Marshall Lake. While living in Arizona Maggie, Laura, Drake and I traveled to see and experience many of the scenic and interesting places throughout the state. The photograph is the entrance to the Bright Angle Lodge on the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Arizona has many national monuments and historic places that we found time to visit. We visited the following: Prescott that once was the capital of Arizona, Phoenix the state capital, Tombstone, Tucson, London Bridge, Yuma and many other cities and towns in Arizona.

Some of the National Monuments are: (1) Meteor Crater that was created by an enormous nickel-iron meteorite crashing into the earth at 43,000 miles per hour, (2) Walnut Canyon National Monument ruins of Indian cliff dwellings used by the Sinagua people who farmed in a 400 deep canyon inside the city limits of Flagstaff, (3) Tuzigoot National Monument a communal dwelling dating to A. D. 1300, Montezuma Castle south of Flagstaff, and (4) Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument a few miles

north of Flagstaff that last erupted in 1065-1065 that formed a 1,000 foot tall cinder cone and left a billion tons of lava and ash spread over the countryside.



During the early 1970s Drake and Laura climbed Sunset Crater and received a certificate for their climbing to the top and back down. A few years later the National park Service stopped allowing people to climb Sunset Crater due to excessive eroding of the cinder sides. Another national monument is Wupatki National Monument just a few miles north of Flagstaff that has a many very old Indian Pueblos. The largest is Wupatki Pueblo (Hopi for 'big house') that is a 3-story native stone building that was once home to 300 people.

One year we received a special invitation by Milo Kalecetta a Hopi Indian to attend the Hopi Indian Snake Dance held at Second Mesa in a small community called Shungopovi. It was August and quite hot during this time of year. We sat with the Kalecetta family on the roof of a Hopi home to watch the three generations of Indians dance in the plaza.

The dancers circled around with rattlesnakes in their mouths celebrating what they believe to be the saving of their tribe by a large rattlesnake that brought rain to their area after long drought many years ago. This snake dance is sacred religious ceremony that is an annual event and only a few white persons are invited to attend. We were not allowed to take pictures. The meaning of Shungopovi is 'Spring that has Reeds Growing in It'. This Sacred reed is called Soo Ngoo Hu, which forms the raft needed for Passage to the Next World. The Navajo Indians are the largest Indian tribe with the largest reservation in America. They refer to themselves as the Navajo Nation and their tribal headquarters is in Window Rock, Arizona. They have their own tribal government fashioned somewhat after our federal government with a president, a court system and a legislature.

During my tenure at NAU I had the responsibility of a Teacher Corps contract that operated under a large grant from the federal government that required the training of Navajo and Hopi students to become teachers on these reservations.

Under the contract terms of the grant we were required to have a co-directorship where one director would be a Navajo and the other a Hopi. Roger Wilson was the Navajo Director. Milo Kalecetta was the Hopi Director. Roger and Milo had no administrative difficulties in managing the Project.

During our stay in Arizona we experienced a lot of wood cutting each summer that was essential to keep our two fireplaces burning in order to furnish heat for our home. Maggie, Drake and I would go out into the national forest surrounding Flagstaff and cut ponderosa pine, oak, juniper and aspen trees for our fireplaces. Another activity was to cut a Christmas tree for our home in the national forest. The first time we took Maggie out for a Christmas tree was quite an adventure since she had never been able to do this before. She had to have a perfect tree and that took a lot of tree looking but finally she found one that suited her. Drake and I cut it down and had to resize it to fit in our family room at home.

## Hunting in Arizona



In 1971, I became quite interested in the big game opportunities provided in the hunting areas of the State of Arizona. I had become acquainted with two persons who were also involved in hunting big game species of Arizona. One person who became a close friend of Maggie and me was a big game license guide Otis Baker. When I first met Otis he had 15 bear and mountain lions dogs that were trained to track and tree these two types of big game animals. The other person I met was Hal Byfield who also was a hunter of big game. Hal and I enjoyed hunting together over the years.

Maggie had to learn all about cooking wild game and soon became a very accomplished chef. Her requirement was that the game had to be field dressed, butchered and packaged prior to turning it over to her for cooking. The one game animal that never turned out very good after cooking was the Javina.

The 10 big game animals in Arizona are Elk, Mule Deer, Antelope, Black Bear, Mountain Lion, Turkey, Javelin (wild pig), Buffalo, Big Horn Sheep and Coors Deer. In addition, there were Bob Cats, Dove, Quail, Blue Grouse, Bandtail Pigeons and migrating wildfowl that could be hunted.

Over the years in Flagstaff I hunted all of the game except the Buffalo. I had some of the game animals mounted and hung on a wall in our home. However, I personally did not choose to harvest a bear or mountain lion since I had become involved with Otis in his guiding activities.

Also, I chose not to hunt Buffalo since it seemed to be too much like shooting cows in the field. Usually, the guides from the Game and Fish Department pointed out the Buffalo that they want you to harvest. The Game and Fish Department maintained two herds of Buffalo in Arizona. One herd was just East of Flagstaff about 50 miles and the other herd was north in the House Rock Valley close to the east side of the Grand Canyon. Some of my hunting friends did harvest a Buffalo. The license fees were quite high in comparison to other big game fees for residents of Arizona.

*Note: I will describe a few of the more interesting hunts that will include my son Drake and other friends that I helped guide over the years Following these descriptions I will return to describing the many other things that have happened to me and my family.*

## Black Bear and Mountain Lion Hunts

Otis and I hunted Black Bear and Mountain Lion (Cougar) for his clients. He would collect a guiding fee for each one of the animals we could tree or run into a rocky cave or pile of rocks for his clients. Initially our method for finding bears and Cougars was to stack a bunch of cow bones and other meat scraps that we got from the local butcher shops in likely places in the National Forests where we thought bears and lions were located.



The San Francisco Peaks Mountains and Mormon Mountain areas were our usual sites for baiting bears or Cougars. We would stack large rocks on the bait and wait for the bears or lions to locate the bait. Every few days we would check the bait for bears or Cougars that might have come. When we found that a bear or Cougar was eating the bait we would go out before dawn in the morning with the dogs and put them on the animal scent. Sometimes it became quite a chase that would usually end with the animal treed. The client would then join us for the harvesting of the animal. Later, the baiting of animals was prohibited by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. We were still able to locate the bear or Cougar with the dog's tracks in the snow or other sign in the forest areas.



When I first moved to Flagstaff most of the game animals could be hunted by simply buying a hunting license and a big game tag. This hunting license procedure changed to buying a license and applying for a big game tag. Applications for a big game tag were drawn on a random basis and tag fees varied with each type of game animal. Some years I would get some game tags and other years I would not. During the last four years 1999-2003 just before we moved to Florida I had not drawn any game tags.

During Christmas Eve day 1979 Otis came by our home for Drake and me in the early morning with four of his mountain lion dogs. We traveled west out of Flagstaff on Interstate 40 to Parks and turned south to Volunteer Canyon that was part of Sycamore Canyon wilderness area. There was about three-inches of snow on the ground, and while we were driving along we ran across some mountain lion tracks. Otis stopped and let the dogs out on the trail and soon we heard them baying. We went to the tree where the dogs were baying and saw a large male mountain lion part of the way up the tree. After giving Drake and me the chain leashes for two dogs each, Otis went towards the tree with the lion. The lion come down part of the way and jumped out of the tree in front of Otis. He pulled out his pistol and shot the ground in front of the lion and it ran past him between Drake and me. The dogs were jumping up and down and pulling Drake and me along until we got the lease unsnapped. Two dogs went after the male lion and the other two started trailing another female lion that we did not see but had been in the same tree. The second lion went down in the deep part of Sycamore Canyon and was treed by the two dogs. There was no path for us to follow down so we scrambled over boulders to get down to the dogs. We could look at the female lion in a small tree from a slide area that was within 10 to 15 yards from the lion. We took a

number of pictures with our cameras. Then the work began of getting ourselves and the dogs out of the canyon. It was much more difficult going up to get out and the dogs had to be lifted over the boulders. The weather was cold around 18 degrees and the sweat was running down my hair in the back and freezing in icicles. We finally reached the top of the canyon. Otis, Drake and I collected the four dogs and we made it home in time for the Christmas Eve dinner that Maggie had prepared for Otis and his wife.

### **Desert Big Horn Sheep Hunt**

During the drawing for big game permits in 1982, I was extremely pleased to draw a Desert Big Horn Sheep permit in Unit 15 C that is west of Kingman, Arizona along the Colorado River. The hunt time period was for five days at the beginning of December.



The Game and Fish Department requires each person who has been drawn to hunt the Desert Big Horn Sheep to attend a one-day training session in Phoenix, Arizona. The main purpose of the training session is to help the hunter harvest a legal Desert Big Horn Sheep that must be a Ram. The Ram must have a horn curl of 30 inches or more. Horns with less curl are not legal and ewes are not legal. Usually there are fewer than 50 to 80 permits available in the hunt drawing that has 20 to 30 thousand applications.



Otis, my hunting friend had not drawn a permit in over 30 years of trying. In addition, if the hunter harvests a Desert Big Horn Sheep he or she will no longer be eligible to apply for a hunt. Thus, it is a once in a lifetime harvest. In preparation for this hunt I purchased a pre-owned Terry House Trailer that Maggie prepared for the hunting trip to western Arizona. Hal Byfield and I scouted the hunt area a few weeks ahead of the start date for the hunt. We did not see any legal rams.

Another person whom I had met through a university colleague introduced me to Max Deering. Max was the Administrator Principal of the Chloride/Dolan Springs School District located in western Arizona. Maggie and I made an appointment to meet with Max. The meeting went quite well in that Max allowed us to park the trailer in his yard and connect to his electrical outlet for the days of the hunt. Max introduced us to rancher Bill Hamilton and his son Craig whose Quail Ranch encompassed the hunt area. It was a large multi-section cattle ranch that was managed by Bill, Craig and other ranch hands with a ramada of 80 horses. Bill Craig was a national champion roper and the president of the National Cattle Roping Association. Craig agreed to guide me on the hunt and he scouted the hunt area and found several sheep but not legal rams. On the first day of the hunt,

Craig and I left the ranch at 5:00 a.m. in a pickup truck pulling a horse trailer with two of the roping horses. We traveled to where Craig thought we might be able to see some legal rams.

We rode the horses into the mountain area going up and down canyons. And then we would leave the horses and go on foot to use our binoculars to scan the high peaks. We did not see any rams the first, second and third day. On the fourth day, Craig took us to another high mountain area and we again went on foot since the direction we went was too steep for horses. Craig and I had to separate at the top on one canyon in order to scout each side. After about one hour I saw two large rams in front of where Craig was going. I was able to get Craig's attention and went back around to his side to join him. We stayed on the downhill side of where I had marked the rams. When we got to the location and looked over the ridge through some scrub bushes there were no rams.

We dropped back down and moved forward and took another look over the top of the ridge and there were the rams. I harvested one of the legal rams. It was five years old and had a magnificent set of horns that was more than a 30-inch curl. It was now late afternoon and soon it would get dark. Craig and I managed to go down the mountain where we were able to field dress and section the ram. Craig went around the mountain canyon to the truck, loaded the horses and drove back around to reach me and the ram. We had to carry the ram about one mile to where the truck was parked.

We did not have radios to call the ranch where Maggie and Max were waiting with Bill and others. Bill and Max decided to drive out to the general area when it had gotten to be about 9:00 p. m. We met them on the road home and when we returned there was a great celebration. The next day we took the ram to the Game and Fish Department check station and the Desert Big Horn Sheep was registered.

The Desert Big Horn Sheep is very good eating and I had the hide tanned. In addition, I had the ram mounted and it remained with Maggie and me until we moved to Florida. We had no wall to hang the ram and so I sold it to Cabela's who have it on display in one of the new stores.

## Elk Hunts



I hunted elk many times with Drake, Otis and a number of hunting friends over the years whenever we had drawn a tag. Drake was a very good hunter and I really enjoyed our hunting together.

Drake, Otis and I were returning to Flagstaff late one evening and we ran across three cow elk. I did not get to shoot but Drake was able to harvest one of the three. Another time we were hunting Drake was able to track some elk and harvest one several miles from where we had parked the truck. Another time I was hunting east of Flagstaff and walked up on three elk two were cows and one was a large bull. I shot the bull and then had to field dress and get the large animal in the back of our pickup truck. Fortunately, another hunter came along and helped me load the elk. This elk had a large five-point set of antlers. I had the elk shoulder mounted, and it was displayed in our family room for many years. Our hunting friends who had drawn tags for elk would utilize our home many times over the years as a hunting lodge. One of

the times Maggie took care of 11 hunters including Drake and myself. Maggie would always have food available for lunch and dinner. All available space in the home was utilized and sleeping bags were everywhere some in the living room, all bedrooms and family room. The hunters would fix their own breakfast around five o'clock each morning, and then we would head out to the hunting areas. All of the hunters had their four-wheel drive pickup trucks fully equipped to survive the cold winter weather during the elk seasons. Drake and I would hunt when we had tags and if we had no tags we would guide the hunters. On another elk hunt I helped the daughter of my friend Tom McCraley to harvest her bull elk. She had an elk tag for Unit 6 which encompasses the Mormon Mountain area. Tom had purchased a new rifle for her to use on this hunt. It was a Browning semiautomatic 300 magnum. Tia McCraley and I made several trips to shooting areas to help her learn how to shoot from different positions and get acquainted with the big game rifle.

I had done some early scouting in her hunt area and knew where some elk were feeding and watering. This area was near the northeast side of Mormon Mountain that is over 10,000 feet. The first day of the hunt Tia, Tom and I walked to the area where she was to hunt. Tom did not have an elk tag so he stayed back some distance from Tia.

I also had a bull elk permit so I went to an adjacent place not too far from where they were located. However, the expected elk did not travel in the area we were hunting. We hunted the rest of the Friday without any success. We went to the same area early Saturday morning. This time the elk did show and Tia harvested a fine two point bull elk. She and her dad helped to field dress and skin out the elk. We took the dressed elk to a local business for butchering, packaging and freezing to suit their eating needs.

I still had an unfilled elk tag so on Sunday I went back out south of town somewhat away from where we had been the day before. I had not been able to find any elk during most of the day. However, I thought of a location where I could get a hunting blind built in a dead fall of old limbs on the ground to wait for elk to come out in a field near sundown. About an hour before sundown a large group of cow elk completely surrounded me in the ground blind. Soon some more cow elk joined the first group

I had cows all around me and close enough to see their eyes and here them munching grass. This was quite strange since I thought they could in no way help but smell me. I sat very still and counted at least 22 cow elk around me. Then I heard some leaves being pushed around in the timber behind me. I looked over my left shoulder and saw a large three point bull elk. I turned and harvested this elk, field dressed, skinned and delivered it to the butcher.

I had two friends from Phoenix who had drawn bull elk tags for Unit 6 and they had asked me to help them with their hunt. Dr. Alex Perez was the Superintendent of the Roosevelt District in Phoenix and his son-in-law Tom were the hunters. We went out early Friday morning to a place in the north end of Mormon Lake about 24 miles south of Flagstaff. I drove them to a location near to the hunt area. We got out of the truck and walked through a stand of Ponderosa pine trees.

It was just beginning to get daylight and out in this field stood eight elk feeding on the grass. There were three bulls in the group and the rest were cows. They were only about 150 yards away from us. One bull had a five-point set of antlers, another bull had a set of three point antlers and the other bull had a spike set of antlers. A spike bull has only one antler on each side of this head. Alex was to shoot the five-point

bull and Tom the three-point bull. Alex and Tom had not been able to hit any of the larger elk. Tom was able to shoot the small spike elk. I tried to get Alex around to the front of the elk that were running out of the field but could not catch up with them. We took the spike elk into Flagstaff to be packaged and went to our home for lunch. Later that afternoon, I took Alex and Tom back out elk hunting and found another small group that included a three-point bull. Again, Alex missed this bull. I thought there must be something wrong with his gun sights so I gave him my gun. Well that three-point bull decided for some reason to circle around and Alex was able to harvest him. We field dressed this elk in the dark using the headlights of my truck and took the elk to the butcher in Flagstaff for packaging and freezing. We considered it a successful hunt since they had harvested two bull elk on the opening day of the elk season.

Another elk hunt did not turn out as I had planned. In 1973 Maggie applied for an elk tag and was successful. We had started preparing for this hunt by going out in the field to practice shooting and exercised to get in shape for the hunt.

I took her out early the first morning of the hunt. There was a light snow on the ground and we soon found some fresh elk tracks to follow. Maggie had to carry the rifle since she had the tag. It soon became apparent that we could not walk as fast as the elk that were ahead of us.

Also, the rifle was too heavy for her to carry for long periods of time. She and I went back to the truck and that ended the elk hunting for Maggie. There were many other elk hunts with Drake, Otis and other hunters. Our photograph albums are full of the elk pictures and elk hunts.

## Mule and Whitetail Deer Hunts



Mule Deer is another big game animal that I hunted over the years and was successful in many hunts. One year I had a broken right leg and had drawn a Mule Deer tag that allowed me to harvest a buck with antlers.

Since I was using crutches to get around it was up to Maggie to take me out on Friday the opening day. I had not missed an opening day hunting Mule Deer for 13 years.

She drove me into the hunt area that I wanted to hunt and I went out on the crutches and set down for most of the morning. No Mule Deer buck came along and I went home with Maggie. The next morning Drake took me hunting up on the south side of the San Francisco Peaks Mountain.

While with Drake I was able to harvest a Mule Deer that had antlers with three points on each side. Drake and I field dressed the deer and brought it home for butchering, packaging storing in our freezer.

Bob Cascaddan, our friend in Orlando, Florida, invited Drake and me to hunt whitetail deer on his hunt club in southern Georgia. Drake and I traveled to Georgia from our home in Arizona and later after we moved to Florida we joined them in a new lease for white tail deer hunts.

We had to adjust to hunting from tree stands and ground blinds. Bob, Mike Mekdeci and Mike Lait were owners of this hunting lease in Georgia. In addition to whitetail deer we could hunt wild boar and turkeys.

## **Pronghorn Antelope Hunts**

I hunted pronghorn antelope when I received a hunting tag permit. My first antelope tag was during 1973 my third year in Arizona the hunt area was Unit 7. Maggie and I scouted for antelope in Unit 7 that is north of the San Francisco Peaks Mountains. I harvested a pronghorn antelope and had it mounted for our family room wall.

Three years later I drew another antelope tag and hunted with Drake in Unit 10 that is located west and north of Seligman, Arizona about 67 miles west of Flagstaff. Again, I harvested an antelope and did not draw another antelope over the years in Arizona. I guided Dick and Scott Terbush on two successful antelope hunts. The Antelope herd in Arizona has been steadily declining.

This is primarily due to the dry weather and coyote predation of young Antelope. The Arizona Game and Fish Department have been introducing Antelope from some other states that have an abundance of Antelope.

## **Merriam Wild Turkey Hunts**

The first big game tag, when I was eligible as a resident of Arizona, was the Merriam Wild Turkey. Otis and I hunted together in Unit 6 A that is southeast of Flagstaff. We both harvested our turkey during this hunt in fall 1983 I had drawn another turkey tag and Maggie and I hunted in Unit 7 north of the San Francisco Peaks Mountains.



I harvested a turkey just after dawn on the first day. I suggested that we go home after returning to our trailer that was parked in the forest. However, Maggie, who had spent several days getting the trailer ready for the five-day hunt told me that we staying over the weekend.

On that weekend, the Espil ranchers were completing their annual fall roundup of their cattle. Yvette Espil was the office manager of the Research and Development Center and had invited Maggie and me to the Saturday evening cookout.

We had a great time with the Espil family and returned home on Sunday. Otis Baker and I hunted turkeys in Arizona many times and were usually successful since he did most of the calling.

There were fall turkey and spring turkey hunts in the national forests in and around Flagstaff. Each year the Arizona Game and Fish Department used a lottery to select the hunters for the Merriam Wild Turkey. We were allowed two in possession but only one kill per day. Otis and I would scout the hunt areas where we had permits to hunt. We especially looked for trees that had signs indicating that turkeys were using them to roost over-night.

## **Dove Hunts**

In Arizona and elsewhere the White Wing and Morning Dove are classified as migratory game birds. Yuma, Arizona was once the dove hunting capital of the United States. In the early years there were thousands of doves feeding and flying around the fields in Yuma. For many years I hunted doves with Drake, Tom McCraley, his son and daughter and other hunters. Tom lived in Yuma for 17 or more years and Maggie and I stayed in their home.

We would harvest the doves clean them and prepare them for a dinner. Tom and his wife Totsy hosted many wild game dinners during the Christmas and New Year vacation. Those of us who hunted and fished supplied other types of wild game.

Tom would cook the meat in his large pit and we would barbeque dove, turkey, deer, elk, goose, black bear and other game species. Everyone had a great time enjoying the conversation and food. Hunting in Arizona was very good in the early years.

However, as the population of Arizona increased the Game and Fish Department began to operate a lottery type drawing for many of the big game species. There were many years that I was not able to draw a big game tag.

## **Fishing in Arizona Lakes and Mexico**

Our deep freezer and second refrigerator were often loaded with packaged frozen wild animal meat, Alaska salmon and halibut and local trout, bass and crappie. We began fishing Lake Powell in the early 1970's. Lake Powell was created by damming of the Colorado River just out side Page, Arizona. The lake is 180 miles long and has many canyons.

The Escalante River in Utah the San Juan River in Colorado are major contributories of Lake Powell. In addition, a group of my fishing friends would travel to Mexico to fish for bass, crappie, catfish and perch. Drake would go along on many of these Mexico fishing trips.

## **Continuation of Work at NAU and Consulting Activities**

During the 1970s I continued to work at NAU as Director of the Educational Research and Development Center. However, in 1979 Dr. Walkup, President of NAU retired and Dr. Eugene Hughes became the president. Prior to Dr. Hughes becoming president, he requested that I assist him to increase his knowledge of computers and technology that would be valuable for his application. We met on many afternoons prior to his interview for the position.

The Arizona Board of Regents appointed Dr. Hughes to the presidency of NAU. Soon after Dr. Hughes became president, he eliminated the College of Education and created the Center for Excellence in Education. In addition, he closed the Educational Research and Development Center and he established two new departments. Dr. David Williams applied for the Directorship of the Center for Excellence in Education and was appointed to the position. He was the former Superintendent of the Flagstaff Unified School District. Dr. Williams and I discussed a leadership roll for me in the Center for Excellence in Education at NAU.

However, I declined and returned to a full teaching load in the Educational Leadership Department. This change in responsibilities at NAU provided me with time to teach, conduct research, publish articles and consult with various education agencies. Dr. Hughes continued the expansion of NAU's field based program for graduate students. I taught research and educational administration courses in the field based sites of the state during the 1980s.

In the early 1980's, I was employed as a consultant by the School District of Orange County, Florida to assist them to install a program budgeting system. Dr. Jim Shott was the Superintendent during my consultancy. Dr. William Curtis and I worked as consultants with Dr. Robert Cascaddan, Deputy Superintendent of Administration.

The district management system was titled "The Educational Planning and Resource Management System. Later I assisted Dr. Cascaddan with the reorganization of the Management Information System Department.

There were many other consultant positions over the years. I submitted my retirement request to the University and officially retired from NAU in May 1989. I continued to consult other organizations and will discuss them later. A full list of the consultant activities are presented in my Professional Vita in the Appendices.

## Our Children's Education



Laura and Drake entered kindergarten school in the Elementary School in Salem, Illinois. Drake's entry in kindergarten was one year later than he could have started because of his birthday being so late in the calendar year.

When we moved to Decatur, Illinois and later to Urbandale, Iowa, they enrolled in the appropriate grade level. As noted earlier Laura and Drake enrolled in the Flagstaff Public Schools.

Laura entered Flagstaff Junior High School in grade eight and Drake enrolled in Kinsey Elementary School in grade five. Both children advanced through the Flagstaff Public School System at the end of each school year.

Laura graduated from Flagstaff High School in May 1976 and Drake graduated in May 1979. During their education in the Flagstaff Public Schools, Laura and Drake were excellent students. Laura in Junior High School excelled in music; however, she did not continue her music in high school.

Drake excelled in his studies and in the athletic program of high school. In addition, Drake learned a lot about cars and repairing them from the Auto Shop class at the high school.

After graduating from high school, Laura entered NAU and accomplished two years of study. During her time at the NAU, she worked at part-time jobs one of which was at the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Following her two years at NAU, she entered the University of Utah and graduated after four years of study.

During her studies at the University of Utah, she worked at the ski area in Park City, Utah and Marie Calendars restaurant in Salt Lake City, Utah. Laura graduated from the University of Utah in May 1982. She received a degree in journalism and telecommunication and worked after graduation at one of the Salt Lake City TV stations.

Following her graduation and while working as an intern at a Salt Lake City TV station, she applied for and received a position at Channel 13 in Anchorage, Alaska during the spring of 1983. Maggie and I helped Laura move to Anchorage and start her work as a reporter for Channel 13.

During the early 1980s, I was engaged in many consulting activities in Alaska. I was able to schedule a consulting trip in Alaska so I could meet Laura in Anchorage to help get her settled in her new position at the TV station.

Following high school graduation Drake selected the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona to begin course work toward a four year degree. Drake was not pleased with the University of Arizona course schedule and other student study arrangements. Following the fall semester 1979 at the University of Arizona he enrolled in NAU. He enjoyed the academic work of a university and graduated with a degree in Computer Science from the College of Engineering at NAU in 1983.

During his University work he assisted me in processing doctoral research information on the mainframe computer center of the NAU. Following Drake's graduation he began working in our computer businesses.

Drake worked in our business and had the title as Vice President of Precision Computer Systems. This division of S. W. Bliss and Associates provided contract programming for customers, in addition he and his staff performed training and installation of computer networks.

Maggie and I gave Drake and his friend Paul Gaither a one-month trip to Alaska using the Wien Airline Passport Ticket in July 1983. He met Laura in Anchorage and traveled with Paul throughout the state. I met them in Anchorage and the three of us traveled to Unalakleet, Alaska where I had a consulting contract.

We had one week of fishing catching silver salmon and King Salmon in the Unalakleet River. I continued working for the Bering Straits School District. Drake and Paul continued their exploration of Alaska using the Wien Airline Passport Tickets.

They traveled the entire state of Alaska and camped in many scenic and salmon fishing areas. While working as a consultant in Alaska I had many occasions to visit with Laura.

She would take me around the Anchorage area and elsewhere. One place we went was the old historic Bird House beside Bird Creek. The location was down the Seward highway. Also, we traveled down to look at Portage Glacier. Sometime later Laura told me that the Bird House had burned down. More about Alaska visits and fishing is included in the Appendices.

## **Tenth Wedding Anniversary in Hawaii**



In 1983 Maggie and I traveled to Hawaii to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. We were joined by two of our friends Tom McCraley and wife Totsy who were married on the same day and year. We stayed on the island of Maui and traveled around the island taking in the sights.

During the stay Tom and I chartered a tuna-fishing trip. We caught some small tuna that was cleaned by the Captain of the boat. Maggie and Totsy tried to cook the tuna. However none of us could stand the taste and it was thrown in the garbage. The weather was splendid the beaches were great.

When we were on our way back home we went to the island of Oahu and checked in a local hotel. Next we decided to do some sight-seeing and the women wanted to shop in the many stores around the island. We had heard about the "Big Blow Hole" on the island. We observed the waves crashing in the rocks and the geyser it created. On the way back to the car I jumped off a small retainer wall around the parking lot and broke my right leg socket. This was one day before we were scheduled to leave for home. They took me to the Straub hospital downtown in Honolulu. Dr. Albert Kong rebuilt the lower socket using part of a bone in my left leg during five hours of surgery. He also put a stainless steel plate and four screws and two pins in the joint to hold everything in place. We traveled home one week later where I began the chore of getting over the broken leg.

## **Bliss Family Reunion June 1985 Owasso, Oklahoma**

My brother Clyde and his wife Lou sponsored a Bliss Family Reunion at their home in Owasso, Oklahoma. Owasso is north of Tulsa and not too far from Hominy where Clyde, Paul, and I were born. In attendance was: Clyde, Lou and their daughter Sandy; Sam, Maggie and his son Drake; Paul, Dorothy (Dot) and their son Brad; Robert, Sharon and their sons Michael and Paul. Also in attendance were many members of the Haines family from Hominy, Oklahoma.

During the reunion we had a great time discussing the growing years of the Bliss brothers. In addition, Clyde and Lou presented many photographs and other memorabilia relating to the brothers that they had acquired from our mother. The food and beverages were outstanding.

## **Laura and Michael Spaan Marriage**



Laura met Michael Spaan, the U. S. Attorney for the State of Alaska, while on a reporting assignment for the TV station where she was employed. They began dating and soon arranged to be married. Laura and Michael were married on March 22, 1986 at the Rabbit Creek Lodge on the south side of Anchorage, Alaska. Maggie assisted Laura with the wedding planning. Drake, Maggie and I attended the wedding and had a great time visiting in Alaska. On April 1, 1987 Mike and Laura became parents of a wonderful baby girl who they named Kayla Robin Samantha Spaan. Maggie arrived in Anchorage April 3, 1987 the day Laura came home from the hospital with Kayla. Mike and Laura resigned their jobs and began a one-year road trip of the “lower 48” in May of 1989.

Maggie and I met them in Phoenix and assisted in the preparation of their road trip. We gave them our Terry Trailer that was pulled by their panel van. They took our Terry trailer for a 35,000-mile journey around the “lower 48 states”.

We met them in Center Harbor, New Hampshire at a friend’s home. Their travels took them to the Florida Keys. I met them in Orlando, Florida on their way back from the Keys. I was working as a consultant for the School district of Orange County, Florida with administrative offices in Orlando. They then traveled back to Flagstaff because of the impending birth of their second child. After arriving back in Flagstaff on May 4, 1990 in Flagstaff, Arizona they celebrated the arrival of a son who they named Tyler Derek Augustus Spaan. Soon after Tyler was born, they journeyed back to Anchorage with Kayla and Tyler.

## Business Ownership

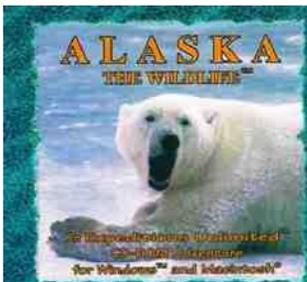


While working at NAU we bought a computer retail business in Flagstaff, Arizona in May 1984. We named the business Computer Room Technologies, and it became a subsidiary division of S. W. Bliss and Associates, Inc. This corporation was owned by me, Maggie and Drake. I was the President, Maggie the Secretary and Treasurer and Drake the Vice President. Initially, Computer Room Technologies was located in a retail site on South Milton Road in Flagstaff. Drake assisted us to develop another subsidiary of S. W. Bliss and Associates, Inc. that was named Precision Computer Systems.

Drake served as its Vice President and had the responsibilities of computer programming, training and technical support. Drake employed other systems engineers from time to time to work in this programming and training division. Maggie, Drake and I operated these businesses for two years at the Milton road address in Flagstaff.

We were assisted by a number of employees over the 13 years. In early 1986 we purchased a corner lot on West Riordan Road and constructed a company building that would accommodate the operational and management activities of S. W. Bliss and Associates, Inc., Computer Room Technologies and Precision Computer Systems. The building was completed in September 1986 and we moved our businesses into the building that was much larger and constructed specifically to house our three operations. Our three businesses prospered in our new location on Riordan Road, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Computer Room Technologies became a sales and distributor for Apple Computer, Inc. products in 1984. We offered the entire Macintosh line of Apple Computers. We became a strong Apple Education dealer throughout the state of Arizona. Operations of these three businesses included selling a full line of computers and software for Hewlett Packard, Microsoft Corporation and Apple Computer, Inc. operation systems, monitors, internal and external hard disks, printers, and related products.



During 1996-1997 Drake and Laura along with Maggie and I created a compact disk (CD) about the wild life in the State of Alaska. We titled the CD “Alaska The Wildlife”. The CD contained photographs of Alaska’ Wildlife along with documentation, slides, Alaska information and videos. We marketed and sold the CD from 1997 to 2004. Drake created a Web site that provided a was marketing presentation. This CD was sold in the United States and promoted as an educational and entertainment program. We had anticipated that this CD would be the first of a series that would be titled “An Expeditions Unlimited: a CD-Rom for Windows and Macintosh”. We created a manual for teachers to

use with the CD in their classrooms that would help students learn about the State of Alaska and its wild life. Alaska The Wildlife CD sales initially were good but the CD did not sell up to our expectations. However, we continued to market the CD until sales did not warrant further production.

In addition, we became authorized to sell and install many types of network products that included servers, routers, hubs and cable and the appropriate of connections. Our staff installed many wide and local area networks for our customers. Drake and our staff attended many national and state educational conferences where we set up a large display booth for presenting our products and services for the attendees.

## Our Family Dogs



It seems that I always have been a dog owner. Spot a terrier was my first dog in Oklahoma, in Illinois I owned two English Setters and Labrador Retrievers that helped me hunt quail, pheasants, ducks and geese. In Arizona Maggie and I owned Shelia an English Setter, Coconino an Airedale and AZTX that was a mix of Austrian Sheppard and Rottweiler. AZTX named for his Dad “Bear” that was born in Arizona and Texas because Bear fathered him in Texas.



Bear was Drake’s dog for many years. One of Drake’s friends brought AZTX to us on an airplane from Texas while he was a tiny puppy.

AZTX lived for 15 plus years and died in our home in Oak Creek Village. I have no dogs in Florida although we take of Drake and Barb’s dog Abby from time to time.

## Bliss Family Reunion June 1988 Flagstaff, Arizona

The Bliss brothers and their families were hosted by Sam and Maggie to another family reunion during June 1988 at their home in Flagstaff, Arizona. In attendance were: Clyde and Lou, Paul and Dorothy with son Brad and daughter Paula, Robert and Sharon with sons Paul, Michael and daughter Wendy, our daughter Laura and granddaughter Kayla.

Our granddaughter was 15 months old at the time of this reunion. Kayla was a joy to all attendees. Maggie provided an abundance of food and refreshments for everyone. They appreciated her many different types of food and deserts. My brother Robert was given the honor of preaching at First Baptist Church in Flagstaff. All who attended the reunion went to the church to hear our brother. He is a wonderful preacher. We toured around Flagstaff and the outlying area. Our guests visited the university and other Flagstaff tourist sites in the area.

## Drake’s MBA

In 1989 Drake applied for and was admitted to the Masters in Business Administration at the University of Texas in Austin. This was the Business Executive Program that had two years of learning activities. We supported his study and Drake established an office in Austin for Precision Computer Systems. He completed the program of studies receiving honors in August 1992.

Maggie and I attended Drake's graduation ceremonies in Austin. Following his graduation he moved Precision Computer Systems to an office on University Drive in Phoenix, Arizona. Also, he purchased a home in south Phoenix in a new subdivision called Ahuatukee. Drake continued to provide management for our businesses in Flagstaff.

### **Maggie Becomes an American Citizen 1993**

Maggie had obtained a Naturalization status dating back to the time of our marriage on June 16, 1973. Following 21 years of marriage Maggie began the process of becoming an American citizen. Her decision to becoming a citizen of America was due in part to the existing inheritance tax laws of Britain and America. Also, she could not vote and stand for jury duty.



Maggie completed the four page application for citizenship on April 25, 1993. She then sent the form to the U, S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization office in Phoenix, Arizona on April 26 1993. She began studying and preparing for a 100 question test that was part of the citizenship requirement. She had to wait for the U, S. Department of Justice in Phoenix to send her notice when she would go to the immigration interview and the answering of the test questions. Finally on January 15, 1994 the notice arrived telling her to report to the Naturalization and Citizenship Branch of the U, S. Department of Justice at 8:40 A. M. Maggie was called to go into the interview and I settled down to study a large book on programming a Web Site. I had hardly got though the Table of Contents when Maggie was ushered out of the interview. She was told by the interviewing government employee that she had successfully met all of the requirements for becoming a citizen of the United States of America. She did not have to take the 100 question test. All she was asked to do was to tell the person the answer to three questions. The questions that she answered successfully were: Who is the current president of the United States? Where does he live? And what are the three main branches of the Federal Government? I hugged her and was so pleased that she was now an American citizen. She could now vote and would have to stand for jury duty. She was told that sometime soon she would receive notice to come to the U, S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization office in Phoenix, Arizona take part in the ceremony of receiving her citizenship status. The notice for the ceremony arrived informing her to be at the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization office in Phoenix, Arizona on February 18, 1994.



We immediately sent this date and time to our daughter Laura and family in Alaska inviting them to be at the ceremony. We also informed our son Drake of the date and time. Laura and our grandson son Tyler and Drake attended the swearing in ceremony.

The entire ceremony was conducted by a Judge of the Federal Government and the presentations were elegant and quite meaningful to all persons receiving their citizenship status. There were U. S. flags everywhere and the oath of citizenship was given to all. The Judge conferring citizenship personally shook the hand of each person receiving citizenship.

### **Bliss Family Reunion June 27-30, 1996 Cloud Croft, New Mexico**

In June 1996 we had another family reunion in Cloud Croft, New Mexico. This reunion had been planned by Paul David Bliss as the host since he lived in Hobbs, New Mexico. The location was high in the mountains of Cloud Croft. In attendance were: Paul, my brother, his son Brad and wife Geraldine; my brother Clyde, his wife Lou and their daughter Sandy; Sam, Maggie, Drake, Barb and daughter Laura with husband Michael Spaan, Kayla and Tyler from Anchorage, Alaska; Robert, Sharon and son Paul, daughter Wendy and her husband Steve Messing and their children, Mark and Ruth..

Our group traveled to Ruidoso, NM and visited the Mescalero Apache Indian Casino, shopping stores in the area, the Roswell Museum and Art Center, the International UFO Museum and Research Center where we learned about the Extra Terrestrial Unidentified Flying Objects.

In addition, we visited the Alien from outer space center presentations in Roswell. Next, we visited the Space Center in Alamogordo, NM. The location for the reunion could not have been better.

### **Drake and Barb Move to Cape Coral, Florida 1997**

Drake had met Barb LaFara while at a Singles Club in Ahwatukee. She was employed by Intel Corporation in south Phoenix. Later Barb moved in with him at his Ahwatukee home. Drake's home in Ahwatukee had a large outdoor swimming pool.

While in Ahwatukee they began searching for a new location where they would have access to boating and sailing. Their searches finally lead them to Cape Coral, Florida where they purchased a home on a salt-water canal close to the Gulf of Mexico.

In early August 1997 Drake and Barb had their personal belongings loaded in a large moving van and prepared to drive to Cape Coral. The trip from Phoenix to Florida was over 2,200 miles and would take four or five days. Maggie and I had traveled to their home in Phoenix to assist with the final packing and to wish them well on the trip. However, not all of their furnishings could be loaded in the moving van. Their Chevrolet truck was used to tow the loaded U-Haul trailer to their home.



Maggie, Barb and Drake jointly volunteered me to drive to Florida since Barb had no experience in driving a truck with a trailer. Maggie and Barb went shopping to buy additional clothes and other trip items for me since we had planned for a one night stay with them prior to their leaving.

On the trip the U-Haul trailer had two flat tires that we had fixed along the way. We experienced rain and stops along the way due to other auto accidents. I stayed with them a few days in Cape Coral to assist with the unpacking. Drake and Barb had agreed to take care of flying me back to Arizona in late August 1997. I flew out of the Tampa International Airport to Phoenix where Maggie met me.

### **Osceola County School District Consulting 1998**

During early November 1997, Dr. Thomas McCraley, Superintendent of the Osceola County School District telephoned me to discuss a research study of the Information Systems Department. The administrative offices of the District are in Kissimmee, Florida. This study was authorized by Dr. McCraley's Governing Board of Education. I flew to Orlando, Florida and was met by Dr. McCraley.

He introduced me to the Governing Board of Education and his administrative staff and provided me with an overview of the school district. I presented a draft document that outlined how I would conduct the study.

The research document was presented to the Board of Education that approved the study. I spent several weeks in late November and early December 1997 interviewing personnel and gathering information relating to the operations of the Information Systems Department of the District. I prepared a report of my study findings while in Flagstaff and sent the document to Dr. McCraley. He presented the report contents to the Governing Board of Education.

In December 1997, I received a telephone call from Dr. McCraley in which he told me that the Governing Board of Education had studied the report and liked the recommendations. In addition, the Governing Board of Education wanted me to become the Interim Director of the Information Systems Department so I could implement the report recommendations.

I discussed the position with Maggie and agreed to become the Interim Director of the Information Systems Department with a starting date in January 1998. Maggie and I packed our car and drove to Kissimmee, Florida. The trip to Florida was exciting and enjoyable. We made the journey in a little over five days.

Dr. McCraley allowed me to move into his home in St. Cloud, Florida. I shared the cost of meals and would pay rent. St. Cloud was about 10 miles east of Kissimmee. This was a welcome arrangement since we could share each other's thoughts while driving back and forth to work.

I became acquainted with many individuals in the central office and in the schools of the District during the implementation of the recommendations in the research report.

In addition, there were a number of other duties assigned to me as the Interim Director. One assignment was to assist the District to employ a permanent Director. A full-time permanent Director was employed in June 1998.

I had excellent support from the Superintendent and members of the Governing Board of Education. I worked directly with Mr. Blaine Muse, Deputy Superintendent who later became the Superintendent following the early resignation of Dr. McCraley in late 1998.

Ms. DeAnne Sylvester, Office Manager of the Information Systems Department was of considerable help to me while working in the District. Mrs. Wilma James who was the Executive Secretary to the Superintendent provided me lots of great support.

During the year Maggie traveled from Flagstaff to Kissimmee once each month. During her February visit to celebrate my birthday a storm with three tornadoes went through the Kissimmee area. We had no damage in the St. Cloud area but many homes and businesses were torn apart around Kissimmee. The District had no electrical power except that from a large generator power by diesel.

At the end of the first six months in 1998 Maggie and I moved back to Flagstaff. We enjoyed the long drive from Kissimmee back home in Flagstaff. I was employed as a consultant by the District to continue work with Blaine to get the District ready for the year 2000. The work at the Osceola County School District was intensive but quite rewarding.



During my work as the Interim Director I had prepared a report on the problems that the District must resolve in order to be ready for the year 2000. I traveled from Flagstaff to the District several times during the last six months of 1998 to provide consultant services to the District. In June 1998, Maggie and I bought a time-share apartment in Lihue on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. Two of our friends, Tom and Totsy McCraley and Steve and Linda Farrar had also bought time-shares in the same location.



On June 13, 1998 Maggie and I along with the McCraley's, the Farrar's celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary while in Kauai. We were all married on June 13, 1973 in different locations. We communicate with each other and celebrate the same date of our anniversary. Several years later Maggie and I sold our time-share.

## Scotland Trip with Kayla 1999

In 1999 Maggie and I were invited to attend Elaine McAllister's wedding in Aberdeen, Scotland. Elaine is the daughter of Maggie's sister Kathleen McAllister and is married to Lawrence McAllister who lives in Aberdeen. We obtained acceptance from them to bring our granddaughter Kayla Spaan along on the wedding trip.

In addition, Kayla's parents Michael and Laura gave us their permission for her to go on the trip. Kayla arrived in Phoenix at Sky Harbor Airport on June 6, 1998 where we met her and drove to our home in Flagstaff. The wedding was June 12, 1999.

We had made reservations on British Air to fly from Phoenix to Aberdeen with a change of planes in London. We left on June 8 for our flight to Aberdeen. We had scheduled the trip for three weeks and needed every day.

While in Aberdeen we were able to stay with Maggie's sister as a home base for our touring around Scotland.



The wedding reception was at the famous Marcliffe Hotel and was the high light of the trip. Kayla was recognized as traveling the longest distance to attend. The reception dinner and dance soon had Kayla dancing with the Scots. There were many persons at the wedding all in Kilts and everyone had a great time until the late evening. In addition, of course there was a Piper greeting guests coming to the wedding. Kayla had a great time at the Aberdeen Beach Amusement Arcade with its rides and we (Kayla and I) even went swimming in the large in-door pool.

We also visited the Maritime Museum and seaport that had special interest to Maggie since her father had been a commercial angler on the North Sea for many years. This was a very interesting visit because there were scale models of many exhibits. Our visit to Scotland included many places, Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Castle and the British Royal yacht Britannia and Balmoral Castle where the Queen vacations. We traveled to the Isle of Sky and Ian's home and the City of Plocton for dinner. Then on to tour London in a double-decker bus that allowed us to get off and on at various places of interest. The Tower of London had special interest to Kayla. We then traveled back to Phoenix where Kayla boarded a plane back to Anchorage to join her family.

## Bliss Brothers Meet for Bob's 60th Birthday 2000



We traveled to El Cajon, California during June 2000 to be with my three brothers, their families and to celebrate Bob's 60th birthday. We enjoyed visiting with each other and being reacquainted with all of the families. In addition, joining in the many activities that Bob and Sharon had planned. We stayed with friends of Clyde and Lou Bliss at their home in El Cajon, California. Bob preached at his church in El Cajon. The four on the left are Clyde, Sam, Paul and Bob.

## Move to Oak Creek Village, Arizona 2000



Maggie and I had decided to sell our home on 5155 East Blue Jay Lane, Flagstaff, Arizona early in 1999. The home finally sold on September 10, 2000. We moved Oak to Creek Village into a rental home on 60 Sugarloaf Road, during September 4, 2000. Our mailing address was 60 Sugarloaf Road, Sedona, Arizona 86351. This rental home was built by a former dean of NAU. Dr. Charles Fauset was the dean when I first started to work at the NAU. The home was much smaller than our Flagstaff home so many of our belongings were stored in Laraway Secure Storage in Camp Verde, Arizona.

During March 4-9, 2000 Drake and I with several friends traveled to Lake Novillo, Mexico to participate in our own Bass tournament. We caught a lot of Bass and other fish that were brought back home. Drake and I joined the bass fishing team several times for our tournaments in Mexico.

In June 2000, we went to Las Vegas to visit with Mike, Laura, Kayla and Tyler. Mike's brother, Tom, was married during our visit in Las Vegas. Las Vegas was exciting for Kayla and Tyler who spent lots of time on the many rides. However, there were no big jackpot winners. This photo is of Mike in the back, a friend, Kayla, Tyler and Laura. The wedding was just spectacular and everyone had a great time toasting the bride and groom.

Paul and his grandson Landon visited us in Oak Creek village for a few days in June 2000. Landon's baseball team was playing in a tournament in the Phoenix area. We also enjoyed having another brother; Bob, his wife Sharon and my Aunt Thelma (who was 92 years old) visited us in early October 2002. They lived in El Cajon, California.

We had a great time showing them some Indian ruins and Fort Verde in Camp Verde, Arizona. Bob and Sharon and Aunt Thelma returned to El Cajon. Aunt Thelma lived out the remainder of her life in El Cajon, CA with Bob and Sharon.

## **Continuation of Consulting Activities 1999-2002**

Soon I began working again for several educational organizations. One position was with a corporation that had offices in Oak Creek Village, Arizona. Oak Creek Village is a small town eight miles south of Sedona, Arizona. Sedona is noted for its large red rock formations and its unique galleries and shops.

A scenic drive from Sedona follows the beautiful Oak Creek Canyon up to Flagstaff. The more noted rock structures in the Sedona are: Cathedral Rock, Coffee Pot Rock and Bell Rock. Our rental home was within sight of Bell Rock.

The various consultancies are presented in the following narrative. One place that Maggie and visiting friends enjoyed going was Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village, a 30-year-old collection of Spanish-style buildings, shops restaurants that remind one of a Mexican hamlet.

### **EduTech Corporation and LODI**

In late 1999 and extending to 2001, I worked with John Scarbrough, President of EduTech Corporation. John and two other partners started another corporation that was licensed in Nevada. The name of this entity was LODI Corporation. The name LODI stood for Learning On Demand Interactive.

The corporate offices were located in Oak Creek village, Arizona that was about six miles south of Sedona, Arizona. My primary responsibility was to help develop a Business Plan for LODI that could be used to secure venture capital. I worked with Nick Farley at LODI who now lives in Savanna, Georgia. Nick and I along with our wives became good friends. John was not able to secure venture capital that had been promised and so LODI died an unfunded demise.

After John could not find funding, Nick and I acquired full rights to LODI. We then began to pursue funding in ordered to purchase a comprehensive set of instructional programs that had been developed by Dr. Richard Manatt, Director of the Research Department at Iowa State University. These instructional programs were designed to be used by K-12 educational agencies. With modification these instructional programs could be used over the Internet by students.

We did find limited funding and offered a \$15,000.00 down payment. However, another company was bidding for these instructional programs. Iowa State University returned our \$15,000.0 and sold them to the company from North Carolina. Nick and I could not continue promoting LODI after losing the program content.

### **Software Technology, Inc.**

During mid-2001 I accepted another consulting job with Software Technology, Inc. (STI) with corporate offices in Mobile, Alabama. One of the owners was Dr. David Mosow who had received his doctorate from NAU. The company was involved in the selling and implementation of administrative software in

school districts throughout the United States. STI had received a contract to install the software in all school districts in the State of Kentucky.

Initially my position required me to contact school administrators in Arizona, Florida and New Mexico to inform them about the STI's software. I traveled extensively in Arizona, Florida and western Mexico in marketing activities to introduce district administrators to STI administrative programs.

On many of these trips I was assisted by other sales staff from STI. One person who helped me was Bill Anglin who lived in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Bill and I become close friends and still keep in touch with each other. I also assisted Dr. Mosow to evaluate a school district business management program. He later purchased the software and included the program in the firm for sale. I traveled to promote STI's software management systems and made appointments with school administrators. I ended this consulting contract when STI was purchased by a California business group in a hostile take over of the company in December 2002. The new officers of STI were not the kind of persons I would work with because of their management style and personalities.

### **Mesa Unified School District**

I was employed by the Mesa Unified School District to perform a study of the Information Systems Department on January 10, 2002. Mesa Unified School District is the largest school district in Arizona.

The Study included a review and analysis of the IS Department's current and planned future operations. This included obtaining many District IS Department documents and interviewing appropriate District personnel.

The Study included interviewing appropriate district personnel, analyzing documents and the physical offices of the IS Department. I prepared an Executive Overview report that was a summary of the Study. The Executive Overview was followed by a detailed report of the Study assessment results that included major sections relating to the scope of the Study.

The major purpose of the Study Report was to present information for the Superintendent and other District administrative officials that would assist in the planning and decision-making related to the effective and efficient use of computer technology in the District. I met with the Superintendent on April 19, 2002 to discuss and deliver the Study Report. Following the Study Report, the District implemented almost all of the recommendations.

### **Mingus Union High District**

On January 19, 2002 I began working as a consultant for Mingus Union High District located in Cottonwood, Arizona. This position required me to be on site three days each week. I drove from Oak Creek Village to Cottonwood which was about 20 miles one way.

My responsibilities were to assist with the technology program and to write proposals for grants from the federal and state governments and other organizations. The grants are administered through the Arizona Department of Education.

The largest and most difficult program grant for Mingus Union High District was the No Child Left Behind Act that congress and President Bush signed into law in January 2002. The No Child Left Behind Act continues in operation by all school districts in the United States. There were and still are many issues with the No Child Left Behind Act. The Democratic Congress may change many of the requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act in their 2007 session. The position with Mingus Union High District was enjoyable because of the people I worked with during the consultant contract. I resigned from this consultancy on April 15, 2004.

### **Yavapai County Education Service Agency**

I began another job helping two regional service centers develop proposals for contracting with school districts to implement technology-utilizing funds from the federal government. Houston, Texas Region IV and Yavapai County Education Service Agency in Arizona merged to form a single organization. I worked with the Yavapai County Education Service Agency from January 15, 2003-March 8, 2004.

My primary contact was Donna Michaels who was employed by Yavapai Count Education Department and lived in Camp Verde, Arizona. School districts in Arizona could purchase services and products through Yavapai County Education Service Agency at a large discount. The Yavapai County Education office is located in Prescott, Arizona.

### **Education Conferences 2002**

Maggie and I attended a number of educational conferences. Examples of these were:

- AASBA Annual Spring Conference Bullhead City and Laughlin, Nevada March 28-30, 2002
- AASBA Annual Summer Conference Tucson, Arizona El Conquistador Resort June 16-18, 2002
- ASA Annual Conference Prescott, Arizona October 27-29, 2002
- STI Annual Member's Point Clear, Alabama Conference December 4-7, 2002

Over the years we attended many conferences during my tenure at NAU as I worked as a consultant for various educational organizations. Also, while working at NAU, we attended many annual conferences of the American Association of School Superintendents and the International Association of School Business Officials.

These conferences were located in various cities some of which were: Atlantic City, New Jersey, Baltimore, Maryland, Montréal, Canada, Las Vegas, Nevada, New Orleans, Louisiana, Orlando, Florida, San Diego, Phoenix, Arizona, Denver Colorado and San Francisco, California.

### **Visiting and Traveling 2002**

Maggie and I traveled to Florida January 16-25, 2002 to visit with Drake and Barb. While staying with them Drake took me fishing with Ester Smith in Captiva for Red fish at a resort association along Red Fish Pass. We enjoyed our visit and returned home to Flagstaff.

Christmas December 25, 2002 Maggie and I traveled to Vancouver, Canada and to visit with our friends

Rhonda and Richard Underwood at their home located in Sooke on Victoria Island. Then we were joined by Mike, Laura, Kayla and Tyler on December 26th to visit with them during the tournament and celebrate New Year's Eve in Vancouver.

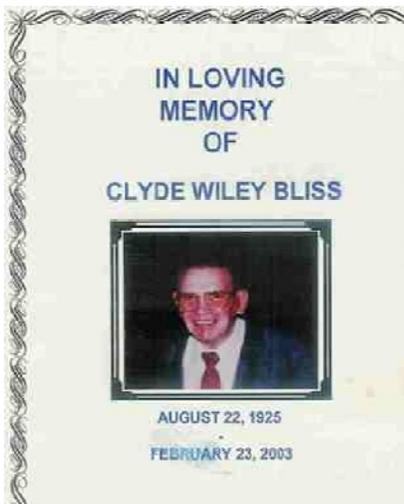
Tyler's hockey team participated in a hockey tournament while we were in Vancouver, Canada. Although Tyler's team did not win many games the many places we visited in Vancouver was well worth the trip.

### **Great Trip to Alaska Year 2003**



Maggie, Drake and I traveled by air to Alaska to visit with our family who lived in Alaska. This Alaska trip was one of many that we would take over the years. On 12 of these Alaska trips Drake and I and other friends would fish with Captain Ralph Darbyshire on his Boat Moonlitter I and then later II. The charter was for six nights and five days fishing for salmon, halibut and other fish on Prince William Sound. We always had great fishing trips and caught lots of salmon, Ling Cod, rockfish and halibut. During August 2003 Drake, Laura, Kayla and other friends took a Grand Canyon river trip. Drake applied for a private river trip approval and received the acceptance 12 years later. There were several of Drake's high school teammates on the trip.

### **My Brother Clyde's Funeral 2003**



Maggie and I were in Cape Coral, Florida in February visiting with Drake and Barb when we received information that Clyde had died on February 23, 2003 of natural causes at his home in Owasso, Oklahoma. Clyde was 77 years, 6 months and 1 day old at the time of his death. Maggie and I had to cancel our airplane tickets from Florida to Arizona and make reservations on another airline from Florida to Texas for the funeral. My brothers, wives and children along with other friends gathered to attend the funeral in the western panhandle of Texas. Clyde was buried in Castro County Cemetery Dimmit, Texas that is in Northwest Texas. Dr. Robert E. Bliss, my youngest brother, an ordained preacher of the Baptist faith delivered the final message. Clyde and wife Lou had made burial site arrangements several years in advance for both of them. The funeral was a celebration of Clyde's life and remembering all of the good years we had together while he was living.

Our friends, Tom, Totsy, Tim and Tia McCraley invited Maggie and I to spend Thanksgiving 2003 with them in their new home north of Prescott, Arizona. We had great food and a good time visiting with the McCraley family.

## Move to Lake Placid and Home Construction 2003-2004

We had visited many places in Florida over the years and decided to settle in Lake Placid as a place we wanted to live. Maggie and I visited Lake Placid to look for a home in November 2003. Following one week of looking at the few homes that were for sale we were unable to find a home that met our living criteria. Finally, Drake suggested that we should build and was a great help in the selection of a building lot.



We purchased a lot owned by Greg Foster, owner of GSF Enterprises, Inc. located in an area called Placid Lakes that is a deeded community. Placid Lakes is a short distance west of Lake Placid. Drake helped us immensely through the initial lot purchase, selection of the house plan and provided guidance related to the exterior and interior of the house. The lot is on a fresh water canal that provides access to one of the larger lakes near Lake Placid named “Lake June In The Winter” (commonly called Lake June). Initially, the home was to be finished around the end of March 2004.



Based on this finish date we planned to leave our home in Oak Creek Village to move in the newly constructed home in Placid Lakes in early April. However, we had to change the move in date to April 30, 2004 due to a change in the completion date. Maggie and Brenda Foster (Greg Foster’s wife) had many conversations during the construction period. Drake traveled to our home site to help us make sure that the home construction was done correctly.

I resigned my consultant position with Mingus Union High School District on April 15, 2004. Just prior to leaving Mingus Union High School District we donated the Buick and international truck to Mingus Union High School District. Maggie and I purchased a Kia Mini-Van for traveling to Lake Placid.



We had contracted with Mayflower Moving Company and did a lot of packing weeks in advance in preparation for the move to Placid Lakes. The movers loaded our belongings on April 21-22, 2004.

After the movers had everything packed in the Mayflower truck we drove to our home in Placid Lakes. We began our trip on April 24, 2004 at our home in Oak Creek Village and traveled south on Arizona State Route 79 to Interstate 17 to Phoenix that became Interstate 10. Traveling east on Interstate 10 took us through New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and into northern Florida. Next we turned south on Interstate 75 to junction with Florida State Highway 27. Highway 27 south took us to Lake Placid. After arriving in Lake Placid we journeyed to home at 147 Citrus Road NE in Placid Lakes. The 2,200 plus miles was eventful, exciting and somewhat tiring. We had to stop because of a big sand storm in western New Mexico that closed Interstate 10 for three hours.

Then we stopped in Houston, Texas for a short visit with my brother Paul and his son Brad and wife Geraldine and their family. After leaving Houston we had to drive through a large thunderstorm. In addition, we experienced a second thunderstorm, and lightning in Louisiana. We arrived on April 29, 2004 and waited for the moving truck to arrive. On April 30, 2004 the moving truck arrived and unloaded all 351 boxes and other major household items in our new home.

We spent the next six months unloading boxes and moving into our new home. Pictures of our family and many others were added to the walls. Maggie did her interior design work inside to make our new house a home. We had ordered a number of appliances that were installed in our new home. In addition we had the office set up with our computers. Later, we had counters and file draws added for storage.

Then I began to work in the yard planting flower and shrubs. Maggie and I designed the yard and flower settings so that flowers and shrubs would bloom during the year. I contracted to have a boat dock and lift constructed on the canal in our back yard for the pontoon boat that we had bought. Drake was a great help in getting us settled in the new home.

He gave us a flagpole for flying the American flag along with a light that he and I placed in our front yard. We soon became acquainted with our neighbors along our street. Seldon and Nancy Bailey live next to our home on the west side. James Vail and his wife live just to our east. James plants a garden of vegetable and shares with us. Hardy and Melody Moody live just across the street. Soon we were going visiting with each other and I have enjoyed fishing with these new friends.

### **Family Visits and Hurricanes 2004-2005**

We began to have family and guests visiting us in 2004 and 2005. Tom and Totsy visited during October 15-16, 2004. Maggie traveled to Aberdeen, Scotland to visit with her sister and brother during October 2004. During April 2005, Brothers Paul, Robert and his wife Sharon, met us in Lake Placid. Then all of us traveled to Key West, Florida. Bob and Sharon's daughter Wendy and her husband, Steve, met us in Key West.

Robert was invited to attend Preacher Wright's 45th year reunion in the Baptist Church he founded. Bob spoke in the Sunday School hour to the congregation. A few days later my brother Paul came back with us to our home and visited with us on April 7-9, 2005. After he left, a few days later Robert and Sharon left Key West and arrived to spend April 14-16, 2005 as they traveled back to their home in West Pueblo West, Colorado.

Little did we know what was ahead of us in 2004 and 2005 regarding hurricanes in central Florida. Maggie had been very clear that she would not live on the east or west coast of Florida. She thought that by living in Lake Placid we would not be bothered too much by hurricanes.

People told us that a hurricane had not come into the Lake Placid area for more than 40 some years. In 2004 the Atlantic Basin experienced 15 tropical storms and 9 hurricanes. The estimated cost of these storms in 2004 was over \$42 billion, the most costly hurricane season ever in U. S. history to-date.

The first hurricane to come in our direction was on August 13, 2004. It was named Charley and traveled along the west Gulf Coast into the Charlotte Harbor area and continued east through the middle part of



Morris Stevens was left handed pitcher. He won a number of games for us during the four years that Jerry and Morris were pitching. The team catcher was a young player by the name of Gary Pratt.

Walt Kirk, a former basketball coach at Salem High School and I had a great time remembering our coaching days at Salem. Walt played for the University of Illinois basketball team and helped the University to play in the finals of the annual tournament. I taught business subjects and many of the 1956 class were in my classes. During the time of the reunion, Laura and Mike were on a trip to Chicago, Illinois attending a U. S. Attorney annual meeting. Laura and a girl friend drove to Salem to be with us at the reunion.

Laura, Maggie and I visited the baseball field, my first classroom and the home we lived in near the hospital in Salem. We met the wife of the person that had purchased our home from us when we moved to Decatur, Illinois. Other travels during 2006 included the following trips. Tom McCraley and Jim Carruthers joined Drake and me on a fishing trip to Prince William Sound, Alaska. While in Anchorage Drake and I visited with the Spaan family.



Maggie and I traveled to Anchorage to attend Michael Spaan's swearing in ceremony to become a Superior Court judge during January 15, 2007. During this visit we were able to watch Tyler's West High School hockey team play in several tournament games. Kayla took us on a tour of the ice sculptures in the Anchorage City Square.

Drake invited me to go along with his friend Glenn Foutty on fishing and sightseeing trip to the Bahamas Islands in April 24-28, 2006. We also traveled to Key West with Drake and Glen in 2006 for more fishing in the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean.



While in Anchorage, we were invited by Laura to go along with her to the Native American Culture Center to watch the new governor of Alaska receive many gifts from the Chiefs and elders of native tribes of Alaska. Governor Palin is receiving a gift from Chief Marie Smith of the Eyak Indian Tribe.

Maggie and friends in Placid Lakes gave me a surprise birthday party at our home to celebrate my 80th on February 23, 2007. Drake, Barb and Maggie collaborated in secrecy while planning the party.

There was plenty of food, drink and conversation by all. The birthday party was a wonderful celebration of love and respect.

During May 2007 Drake and Glenn invited me to go on a trip to Marathon Key, Florida. Glenn already had his sport fishing boat in a harbor slip. We spent three wonderful and exciting days fishing on Glenn's boat off shore in the Atlantic Gulf Stream. Later, we went back to Marathon Key for a second off shore fishing trip. I enjoy off shore fishing with Drake and his friends. I even got used to the sea and did not get seasick either trip. The Florida Keys have great offshore fishing and recreation opportunities.



Maggie and I had started attending the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church during the spring of 2006 and found the people friendly and pleasant to be with during Sunday mornings. We continued our church attendance throughout 2006. Later we began to attend the adult Sunday school classes during fall 2006. These classes met each Sunday from 8:40 a. m. to 10:00 a. m. The first class titled C.L.A.S.S. 101 and is all about "Discovering Church Membership".



The official seal of the Associate Reformed Church displayed to the left.

The classes are 101 through 105 and are designed to help the attendees to more fully understand the major aspects of Christianity as practiced by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Each class is designed to last around a fall or spring semester. Maggie and I completed C.L.A.S.S. 101, 102, 103 and 104 by the end of 2007. The great seal of the AR Presbyterian Church.. Maggie and I were accepted into the communicant membership of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lake Placid on July 1, 2007. On this date we both reaffirmed our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord Saviour.

In addition, we joined a Small Study Group made up of several church persons to study the Bible and the previous Sunday's sermon. Our Small Study Group meets each Wednesday evening from 7:00 p. m. to 9:00 p. m. in one of the member's home.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lake Placid was founded in 1926. We continued regular attendance at our Church each week and have continued to do so over the years. We participate in many events and meetings that are sponsored by our church. Maggie and I have helped our church financially and with the Spiritual Gifts that God has given us.

Our church started a campaign to construct a new and larger facility for the Glorification of God. We joined and are participating in this great program. Maggie has become well known to the members of our church through her culinary and management skills. She has been in charge of the kitchen for many programs. Our Senior Pastor is Ray Cameron and Associate Pastor is Drew Severance.

One of the gifts that Pastor Ray and his wife received was a trip to Scotland. Maggie helped the membership of the church to plan and organize this Scotland trip. Maggie provided leadership for the celebration and made two presentations to the membership. She and her sister and brother in Scotland met with and hosted Pastor Ray and his family on their tour of Scotland. Following his trip to Scotland Pastor Ray gave a special presentation with a video of his family's trip.

## Other 2007 Trips



Our next major trip was back to Anchorage, Alaska. This visit with our Alaska family began on July 17, 2007 and we returned home on August 9, 2007.

During this visit I was able to do some Halibut and Silver Salmon fishing. I chartered a one-day Halibut fishing trip out of Whittier on Prince William Sound.

The Captain took us out to his fishing areas and I caught two Halibut (the limit per day). Each Halibut weighed around 65 pounds. Upon returning to Anchorage Maggie and I vacuumed packed and froze the Halibut fillets.

I chartered a Silver Salmon fishing trip north of Anchorage on the Deshka River. Maggie traveled with me on August 5 and we stayed in a cabin at Deshka Landing. We got quite a surprise when we registered and entered the cabin. There was no heat, no bathroom facilities and very little space. We had to go outside to the lodge that was about 50 yards away for food and bathroom facilities. Fishing was good on the river and I returned with a limit of three silver salmon that we took back to Anchorage. The Deshka River is a clear water river that both King and Silver Salmon go up to their spawn areas. The Deshka flows in to the Susitna River that goes into Cook Inlet north and west of Anchorage. While traveling on the Susitna we could see Mt. Denali in the distance.

Denali (The High One) is the Athabascan Native word for North America's highest peak. Denali is part of the Alaska Range. Mount McKinley was named after William McKinley, a nominee for president, by a Princeton graduate and gold prospector, William Dickey. Denali has a summit elevation of 20, 320 feet above sea level. Dickey was one of many of prospectors seeking gold in the 1896 Cook Inlet stampede.

Another highlight of this Anchorage trip was the party that Mike and Laura gave to celebrate his being appointed as a Superior Court Judge. In addition, we celebrated Laura's birthday in early August. Maggie has acquired a reputation in Anchorage of being a gourmet cook.

She planned the dinner around five large BBQ beef briskets. Everyone had a great time and really enjoyed the food and visiting with friends at this celebration party.

## **Maggie's Trip 2007 to Visit Relatives in Aberdeen, Scotland**

During October 4-15, 2007 Maggie traveled to Aberdeen, Scotland to visit with her family I took her to the Orlando International Airport for her departure and met her at the Miami International Airport when she returned. She had a great visit but I was happy to have her back in our home. The trip was long and without rest on the plane. Also, the change of the time zones is difficult to handle.

## **Avon U. S. Air Force Range Hunting 2007**



Drake and I were lucky to obtain a hunting permit on the Avon U. S. Air Force Range that is north of my home in Lake Placid about 35 miles. The Avon U. S. Air Force Range is 106, 110 acres of mixed forest and rangeland that is partially in Highlands and Polk County, Florida.

Approximately 82,000 acres is open to public access for hiking, hunting, and fishing and camping. Our permit allows us to camp, fish and hunt deer and the wild Osceola Turkey.

We also caught channel catfish that we cooked for our dinner. Hunting and fishing with Drake was a real joy for me. He likes to hunt and fish and does a lot of the heavy work around camp. We were staying in his travel trailer in a camp ground close to the hunting areas. The land is quite beautiful with the big pine trees and grassland. We had a great time being together on this hunting range. Drake drove his car since it could navigate the many roads that are not paved. There were many hunters roaming around. During the mid-day we would go back to the trailer for rest and food.

Drake and Barb drove up from Cape Coral to be with us during this time. Mike and Laura arrived on November 5 and stayed until November 8. Drake and Barb arrived on November 5 and left on November 8. Kayla arrived on November 5 and stayed with us until December 31, 2007.



We had an early Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings for everyone. Later we drove Kayla to Orlando on December 31 to stay with them during New Years day. On January 3, 2008 they traveled by air to Anchorage. Kayla now age of 20 completed four years of study at the University of Alaska, Anchorage Campus. We really enjoyed having Kayla with us during November and December 2007.

Kayla and friends after several months of planning and conditioning on their bicycles in and around Anchorage left for the lower forty-eight states on July 1, 2007. They traveled down the Alaskan Highway through British Columbia and on into Seattle, Washington and on to Portland, Oregon. This was a distance of over 2,100 miles. Maggie and I heard from her as she traveled along the way. We were very proud and pleased that they made the long and difficult trip without any major mishaps.

While staying with us Kayla would bike around our area in Lake Placid often cycling around 12 to 14 miles just to stay in shape. Kayla attended First Presbyterian Church with us during her stay. Just before Christmas Kayla, senior Pastor Ray Cameron and I delivered a large box of Christmas food and packages to a family in south Lake Placid.

Kayla and Ray had a great visit talking about our church and other interesting things. We celebrated Christmas with Drake, Barb, Ben and Kayla. After Christmas 2007 we helped Kayla and Ben get ready to go back to Anchorage. Maggie, Kayla and I drove to Orlando to stay in a time-share reserved for all of us. We celebrated New Year 2008 with Ben and Kayla with dinner at a Chinese restaurant.

On January 2, 2008 Maggie and I said our goodbyes to Ben and Kayla and drove back to our home in Placid Lakes. Ben and Kayla left Orlando on January 3, 2008 traveling by air to Anchorage. It was a great joy having Kayla with us for two months at Christmas time.

## **A Busy Year 2008**

The month of January 2008 was lonely without Kayla. It was during this period of time that Maggie and I began planning our next trip to Alaska. The departure was scheduled for April 30, 2008 and the return date was June 24, 2008. Tom McCraley and Richard Terbush our friends from Arizona visited us during February 2008.

We talked about the many fishing and hunting trips we had together while Maggie and I were in Arizona. We toured them around our area and took them on a scenic boat ride on Lake June that is accessible from our backyard canal dock that leads into Lake June.

Lake June is over 3,504 acres of clear freshwater with a white sandy bottom. The deepest part of the Lake is 35 feet. We fish for bass, crappie (called Specks in Florida) and several species of perch in Lake June and avoid the alligators.

Drake and I went Turkey hunting in February on the Avon Park Air Force Bombing Range about 40 miles north of our home in Lake Placid. Later in the fall of 2008 we went deer and hog hunting on the Range. The only game we harvested was a Florida Boar Hog. We hunted from a ground blind and ladder stand.

I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Placid Lakes Home and Property Owners Association, Inc. at the Membership annual meeting on February 25, 2008. Later in March the Board of Directors chose me to be their President. The Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to making life in Placid Lake a great place to live.

August Tobler, a local realtor, purchased a large track of land west of Lake Placid and developed it as a subdivision during the late 1960s. The subdivision was titled as the Placid Lakes Subdivision. He had a vision of large community of people living in the area that is about four miles west of Lake Placid. The subdivision has 8,514 platted lots. Currently the subdivision has approximately about 1,800 homes.



Highlands County assumed ownership and management of the Placid Lakes Subdivision during 1979. Property in the subdivision is subject to a non-Ad Valorem tax of \$20.00 dollars for each property owned. These non-Ad Valorem tax dollars support the Placid Lakes Special District under the authority of the Highlands County Commissioners to provide many essential services for the subdivision. The land developer August Tobler organized the Placid Lakes Home and Property Owners Association, Inc. in 1967. The Association is a not-for-profit under the State of Florida Corporation laws.

The Association dues are voluntary and are \$25.00 each year. The Association's meetings are held in the Town Hall building.

### **Maggie President Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc. 2008**

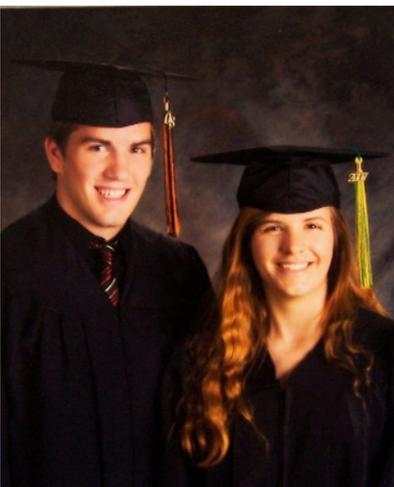


The membership of the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc. elected Maggie to be their president in April 2008. The Co-op is a nonprofit organization that began operation in during 1992. The members sell their art and crafts products in their store located at 132 Interlake Boulevard, in Lake Placid.

The Cooperative Board has regular meetings during the course of the year. Now there are two presidents in our household with Maggie as the President of the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative here in Lake Placid. She is well known in the Lake Placid region. Her tenure as president will end in April 2009. However, Maggie plans to remain on the Board of Directors.

Because of these elections our life took on a new and very busy set of activities. Board of Directors meetings and general membership meetings occur periodically. Both organizations require a lot of our time and effort. The Placid Lakes Home and Property Owners Association, Inc. Board of Directors meet each month and the General membership meets four times a year.

### **The Year 2008 was a Banner Celebration Year**



Maggie and I traveled to Anchorage on April 30, 2008 and returned on June 24, 2008. Our visit was for approximately two months. Superior Court Judge Michael Spaan has continued his work on the bench in Anchorage. One of her more recent DVD productions is Titled "Bloom Town" The Secrets of the Stunning Flower Gardens of Anchorage, Alaska.

During our visit in Anchorage we celebrated Kayla's 21st birthday and graduation from the University of Alaska Anchorage Campus, Tyler's 18th birthday and graduation from West High School, our 35th wedding anniversary and Laura's 50th birthday.

Laura requested that we get a family photo while we were together on this trip. In addition, we had graduation photos made for Kayla and Tyler. Our next trip was to travel north from Anchorage to one of the more famous gold mining areas called Hatcher's Pass. Robert L. Hatcher established the first (lode) gold claim located in Willow Creek Valley in September 1906, shortly after other stakes would be claimed.

Lode mining is the mining of a mineral deposit in solid rock. Robert Hatcher discovered gold (lode) deposits in quartz veins embedded throughout the granite in the Alaska Talkeetna Mountains. The heavy snow in May prevented us from going on up to the Independence Mine Historical Park in Hatcher's pass.



We did get to photograph a young Moose on the way and had picnic lunch along the beginning of the Susitna River high up in the Talkeetna Mountains. We had the good fortune to have Kayla at home who took us many places around Anchorage and Alaska. Kayla took Maggie and me to Seward in early May where I reserved a charter to go Halibut fishing later at the end of May.

We wanted to explore Exit Glacier but the snow in May had blocked the road to the Glacier. On May 28th Maggie and I went back to Seward so I could go Halibut fishing the next day. Maggie stayed in a Seward Hotel and shopped around until I returned. Everyone on the charter boat caught their limit of Halibut. We tried again to reach Exit Glacier but got to only as far as the Tourist Center.



Maggie and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary on June 16 by traveling to the small fishing and tourist community of Talkeetna about 120 miles north of Anchorage. This small town serves as headquarters for Mt. McKinley (Mt. Denali) climbing expeditions.

Talkeetna is at the confluence of three wild rivers the Susitna, Chulitna and Talkeetna that makes it a very busy center for outdoor enthusiasts, King and Silver Salmon fishing and tourists.

We had lunch and Maggie visited some of the tourist shops. I did not do any fishing this time. Drake and I have fished for Silver Salmon out of Talkeetna in the past years. The summers in Talkeetna are busy with tourists and people going fishing. The winter weather in Talkeetna is snowy and cold.

During this trip to Alaska we were invited by one of Mike Spaan's friends Mike Kennan to visit and stay in his cabin across Kachemak Bay from Homer, Alaska. We took the Jakolof Ferry across Kachemak Bay to an old Russian fishing and fur trade town call Seldova, Alaska. The distance from Homer to Seldova was about 19 miles.



The Captain of the ferry required all of us to wear life jackets. Maggie, Kayla and Tyler are all suited and ready for the journey. However, Maggie was not too thrilled to be on such a small boat in the large Kachemak Bay. While traveling we saw whales, porpoises and sea otters.

During this trip Mike took us Salmon fishing, clam digging and shopping in Seldova. Maggie and Kayla spent an afternoon shopping in down town Seldova. We returned home to celebrate our son Drake's birthday on August 13.

The year 2009 was a great year for us. During early February 2009 the Board of Directors elected me to serve as their President. I continued to serve as the President of the Placid lakes Home and Property Owners Association.

She continued as the President of the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative here in Lake Placid. She has become well known in the Lake Placid region. Maggie and I have continued to attend, worship and participate in the activities of our church here in Placid Lakes. Maggie, Kayla and I are standing outside of our church. We go to church each Sunday and have continued to meet with our small group each Wednesday to discuss the previous sermon by our Pater Ray Cameron.

Also, Maggie is now the master chef and planner for most of the food events. In addition, Kayla goes to church with us when she is visiting here in Lake Placid. On February 23, 2009, I celebrated my 82 birthday.

Maggie gave me a wonderful birthday present. She had painted an oil painting of a Mule Deer. Drake and Barb came to our home to celebrate for my birthday. Drake and Barb have visited with us, and we have visited with them at their Cape Coral home during the year.

During this year they completed their new home here in Placid Lakes that is on our street at 159 Citrus Road NE. Maggie and Barb served a very tasty birthday dinner. They now stay in their new home and we go visit in their home, and they come to ours.

On May 6, 2009 I was inducted in the early morning Rotary Club of Lake Placid, Florida. A long time Rotary member Hal Morris sponsored my membership. We meet at a local restaurant beginning at 6:44 am and usually end the meeting around 7: 40 am. At each meeting we have a guest speaker that is from the area. Our Rotary Club provides a number of events to raise money for the many charities we support locally and nationally. The Rotary Internationally Rotary International is an international is a service club whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Drake and Barb are continuing their real estate and Internet activities. Marketing real estate is quite a challenge, as you no doubt know.

## Alaska Fishing 2009

Maggie and I visited our Anchorage family during July 8 to August 10. We then toured the city with Kayla who had an art studio and vegetable garden during the summer months. Kayla invited us to stay with her in Girdwood, Alaska that is about 45 miles south of Anchorage.

She taught an art class to young students for one week in Girdwood. Girdwood is a ski and summer resort. The Alyeska Resort is known for its great winter recreation and the flowers in the summer.



While in Anchorage I went Halibut and silver salmon fishing. Laura's friend Paul Olson took us fishing out of Seward, Alaska. We had a great fishing day and all five of us on Paul's boat caught our limit of silvers.

We had them cleaned by a woman upon returning to the marina. I enjoyed fishing once again with my daughter who caught the largest silver.

The next fishing trip was Halibut fishing out of Whittier marina. The day was wet and chilly but I caught two Halibut. One was around 40 pounds and the other was around 138 pounds.

While in Anchorage we celebrated Laura's birthday. In addition Mike and Laura had the annual dinner party for their friends. Maggie was the resident chef. She cooked and served seven large beef briskets. The guests included friends, judges and lawyers.

The city of Seward named after William H. Seward who at the time of the purchase was the Secretary of State in the federal government. In addition, he was primary responsible for the purchase of Alaska in March 30, 1867. The cost was 7.2 million dollars or about 1.9 cents per acre, quite a buy. My daughter Laura produced a DVD titled "Bloom Town". The DVD describes the secrets of the stunning and beautiful flower gardens and baskets that are on display in the city of Anchorage, Alaska. Her description is "Tag along with the Municipal Gardeners as they work their magic from the greenhouse to the ground." Kayla arrived at the Miami International Airport November 6, 2009. Maggie was returning this same date from her trip to Scotland. Kayla and I met Maggie at the Airport. Kayla and I visited a working cattle ranch owned by our friend Richard Karlson. On November 3, 2009 Maggie and I traveled south to visit the Seminole Tribe's Museum that is located on the Big Cypress Indian Reservation. They provide an excellent story of their history in the museum. The Seminole Tribe of Florida Museum collects, preserves, protects and interprets Seminole culture and history inspiring an appreciation and understanding of the Seminole people for all who visit.

Maggie, Kayla and I visited with Drake and Barb at their home in Cape Coral just before Kayla had to fly back to Anchorage. My son Drake and friends bought a truck and converted it to an all-electric car. The truck runs completely by battery power. The batteries are charged by plugging into a regular home electric socket.

The electric charging cord is inside the bed and can be pulled out and returned to its housing. Drake gave Kayla ride in his electric truck. The batteries are located below the bed of the truck.

Another major trip this year was a visit to brother Paul's home in Hobbs, New Mexico. This trip was a surprise birthday party that was planned by his son Brad and wife Geraldine. In addition, it was a complete surprise. The three brothers, L to R —Sam, Paul and Robert. Maggie and I flew to Denver and was met by my brother Robert and Kayla who had been staying with Paul in Hobbs. Brother Robert lives in Pueblo West., Colorado.

## A Festival and Trips 2010

During 2010, I continued to serve as the President of the Placid Lakes Home and Property Owners Association. The Board of Directors meets 11 times during the year and the membership meets four times each year.



The Board members are very active and are doing many things to maintain the beauty of our subdivision and value of our homes. In addition, I represented the Association at the monthly meeting of the Highlands County Association of Home Owners.

The photo is of Barb, Drake and their dog Abby walking in the Caladium festival. Maggie worked at the Caladium Co-op and I helped in the Rotary food booth. The Caladium festival began 19 years ago and is held during August of each year.

We continue to attend, worship and participate in the activities of our church here in Placid Lakes. Maggie has become the master chef and planner for many of the food events. The photo was taken outside of our church. Kayla our granddaughter attended church with us many times during her frequent trip to visit with us.

Pastor Ray celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary on June 30, 2010 as our Pastor. During this time, he has devoted his career to serving our church family. Pastor Ray has always been very proud of his Scottish heritage, and this would be the perfect gift to give to him in recognition of his service to all of us. On Sunday November 14th the church members gave a special Thanksgiving service.

Maggie has served her term as President of the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative here in Lake Placid. Her tenure as president ended in April 2010. However, Maggie will remain on the Board of Directors.

Maggie received a gift of one dozen red roses for being the Co-Chair of a celebration honoring Pastor Ray Cameron's 25 years of service. Over 312 persons attended this celebration. Maggie spoke in the Scots dialect to the congregation in the sanctuary and again at the dinner. Members of the church are giving Ray and his wife a trip to Scotland. Maggie's sister Kathleen and Brother Ian were hosts for the

Camerons. Pastor Ray was invited by Ian to preach in a church on the west coast of Scotland the area where Maggie's brother lives.

Drake and I fished from this pier which is located in a state park near Sebastian, Florida. Sorry to say the fish were not biting the day we were on the pier.

Drake and Barb entertained us at their home in Cape Coral, Florida during the Fourth of July. We had a grand time watching the Cape Coral fireworks on the evening of the Fourth.

I have continued to participate in the Lake Placid Rotary Club. We are a breakfast club and meet Wednesday morning at 6:45 a. m. We have several fund raising events. We sell soda pop, chicken burgers and hamburgers at the Caladium festival. Our club supports many local and worldwide humanitarian projects.



During July 2010 we traveled to Anchorage, Alaska to visit with our daughter Laura, husband Mike and grandchildren Kayla and Tyler. Our annual trip to Anchorage began on July 14<sup>th</sup>, and we returned on August 10th. While in Alaska we were privileged to be a guest of the Eyak Indian celebration of a Totem Pole carving and raising in their exhibit at the AK Native Heritage Center. We were with Laura and Kayla the entire day and really enjoyed all of the ceremonies. Again this year I went Halibut fishing and later fished for Silver Salmon out of Homer, Alaska. Maggie and Kayla stayed in Homer while I fished for two days. Maggie traveled back to Anchorage

by a small airplane. Kayla and I drove back along with three dogs. During the trip we celebrated Laura's birthday. The photo was taken at Gwennie's Old Alaska Restaurant. They are famous for their breakfast. This is one of our favorite places to have breakfast. Usually we visit this restaurant the morning before traveling back to Florida. And of course, we ordered large plates full of great food.

Maggie's cousins Arnold and Muriel, Doug and Eileen visited from Aberdeen, Scotland. The weather was perfect low eighty's and no humidity. We enjoyed reminiscing about our younger days growing up in Aberdeen. They stayed with a few days and then travel pack home. We wanted to stay longer.

## **Many Experiences in the Year 2011**

My wife and I celebrated with a small glass of wine the arrival of Year 2011 by staying up past midnight. We thanked God for taking us through the past year and prayed that He would take care of us during the next year. January had the usual changing activities of a new year. We have survived another year with no hurricanes in our home area of Florida this year.

We are standing outside of our church in Lake Placid with Kayla our granddaughter from Alaska. She arrived for a visit with us on March 7 and traveled back to Anchorage on April 4, 2011

We have continued to attend, worship and participate in the activities of our Lake Placid church. Maggie has become the master chef and planner for the different events. We belong to a group of church friends that meet each Wednesday at 7:00 pm to discuss the content of pastor's sermon on the previous Sunday. We meet in the homes of the small group members.

Maggie has continued her painting using oils and has become quite a talented artist. Almost every Wednesday morning you will find her involved in producing a new oil painting at the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative. She was chosen "Artist of the month for December." In addition, she is the Treasurer of the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative. Note that Abby is sitting on Maggie's lap while she is painting. Our Thanksgiving dinner was a turkey and all of the trimmings. Barb, Sam and Drake are sitting at the table. Drake is the master turkey carver having done this for many years at our other Thanksgiving celebrations.

Maggie and I visited Drake and Barb who come to Placid Lakes several times during the year. Their home is on a large salt water canal very close to the Caloosahatchee River. This river flows between Cape Coral and Ft. Myers and empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

Mike, Laura, Kayla and Tyler Spaan our Alaska family, have continued to live in Anchorage. We traveled to Anchorage on August 16 and returned on September 6, 2011. Superior Court Judge Michael Spaan has continued his work on the bench in Anchorage.

Laura is continuing to assist the Eyak Indian Tribe to preserve the native culture and language. Thanks to Paul Olson who is a friend of Mike and Laura we were able to go Salmon fishing out of Seward, Alaska. As usual Laura caught a bigger Salmon than I did.

Following the salmon fishing in Seward we traveled to Homer, Alaska to visit with Kayla and for me to charter a Halibut fishing trip. I am the third person from the right wearing a ball cap. Our charter took us far out beyond Kachemak Bay among the islands in the Pacific Ocean. The weather was sunny and the fishing was great. We caught Halibut, Rock fish, sharks and some large manta rays. There were whales and porpoises around us. We stayed at a Bed and Breakfast that Kayla and Laura had selected for our three day stay in Homer. Laura stayed with Kayla in her home. Kayla served all of us a fine dinner in her home.

Kayla took us to the Homer Farmers Market where she and some of her art students had a booth. Laura also enjoyed the market even though the day was somewhat rainy. While in Homer Maggie and I visited the Pratt Museum that had many interesting exhibits about the Alaska fish, animals, islands and ocean.

In Anchorage we visited the Alaska Public Lands Information Center that is in a federal building. This is a new exhibit is about the natural history of Alaska. As well as information about camping in the bush, wildlife and fishing in the state of Alaska. Maps are available about federal land for persons who wish to establish a home in Alaska. Tyler and Maggie standing on the back porch of Mike and Laura's home.

I have continued to participate in the Lake Placid Rotary Club. We do our usual projects for the year as mentioned before

## A Wonderful Year 2012

During the Year 2012 we had many wonderful times, and celebrated with our extended family and friends at birthdays and holidays. Laura and her husband Mike Spaan visited us in February 22-24, 2012.

They helped Drake (my son) and Barb celebrate my birthday on February 23, 2012. February was also a sad time for the Bliss family. My younger brother Paul David “Skip” Bliss went to his Lord on February 18, 2012. Paul lived in Hobbs, New Mexico. He and his wife (Dorothy A. Sanders) had two children. Paula who lived in Hobbs and Brad who lives in Houston Texas. ‘Skip’ worked in the oil fields of Hobbs for many years. A memorial was held in the Taylor Memorial Baptist Church in Hobbs, New Mexico. Our younger brother Robert preached the home-going message.

Paul graduated from high school in St. Elmo, Illinois. He married Dorothy in Ft. Morgan, Colorado in 1958. He served his county in the United Air Force in the early 1950's as a tail gunner in a B-29 assigned to the US Strategic Air Command. Paul committed his life to the Lord and was a long time member of the Gideon's International in Hobbs. He dearly loved his family and devoted his life to taking care of them.

## Cousin Aileen Bliss Chapman

Maggie and I first met Aileen during 1974 in Flagstaff, Arizona when she was on a road trip visiting Bliss relatives across America. She retired in 1967 from teaching music in the St. Petersburg, Florida Pinellas School District.



While teaching music in the school district she founded the Pinellas Youth Symphony in 1958 that continues to in existence. We had little communication with Aileen until we moved to Lake Placid, FL. However, we always included Aileen in our annual Christmas letters over the years. In early 2008 Aileen called us by telephone and asked us to come to visit with her in the Westminster Shores Health Center in St. Petersburg. This first visit became a monthly visit with Aileen over the years of 2008-2012. Aileen authored a book about her life that is titled “Compartments The Story of My Life”. She gave Maggie and me copy of her book. Also, she sent a copy to Robert Bliss, Lou Bliss, and other Bliss relatives. This photo was taken on February

12, 2012 while having lunch with Aileen. Included on the front row are Woody (nephew) and wife Fi Fi . Aileen and Sam, Maggie and Wilma Hoff, a long time friend and helper. Tyler Spaan our grandson traveled to St. Petersburg with us to visit with Aileen. He and Aileen really enjoyed taking to each other. Tyler visited with us in Lake Placid during August 2011.

On September 19, 2012 my cousin Aileen Bliss Chapman went to her Lord. She lived in St. Petersburg, Florida and was 104 years young. We attended her celebration of life on October 20, 2012 in the Lakewood Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg.

During Kayla's visit we spent time at the Gulf Beach and stayed with Drake and Barb in their home on Manasota Key. Drake and Barb built a new home on Manasota Key near the Gulf of Mexico. The building is on pilings since it is so close to the Gulf.

The living area is a large three bedroom home. They put in an elevator for the very young and disabled. We have continued to attend and take part in the activities of our Lake Placid church.

Maggie has continued to be the master chef and planner for the many church events. We belong to a Small Group of church members that meet each Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We discuss the Sunday sermon and questions that are given to us by our pastors.

After the meeting is over the host person serves a dessert. In addition, Maggie is still involved in the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative. She has expanded her oil art to produce hand painted silk ties for men and silk scarves for women. In addition, she is now the Secretary of the Cooperative.

I still serve the Placid Lakes Association as the president on the Board of Directors. Also, I have continued my membership in the Lake Placid Rotary Club.

## **Our Alaska Trip 2012**

We traveled to Anchorage on July 11 and returned on August 11, 2012. While in Alaska we took a trip on a tourist boat around Portage Lake. We are standing on the top deck in front of Portage Glacier. Mike, Laura, Kayla and Tyler Spaan have continued to live in Alaska. Superior Court Judge Michael Spaan continues his work on the bench in Anchorage.



This photo taken at the Whittier Marina has Ralph Darbyshire standing by me. "Darby" is a fishing and hunting guide that took Drake and I and our friends fishing many times on Prince William Sound.

Mike and Laura took us to a favorite restaurant in Anchorage. Paul Olson a friend of Mike and Laura took us Salmon fishing out of Seward, Alaska. We traveled and fished far out on Resurrection Bay. Following salmon fishing in Seward we traveled to Homer, Alaska to visit with Kayla. I chartered a Halibut fishing trip that took us far out beyond Kachemak Bay in the Pacific Ocean. There were whales and porpoises around us.

While in Anchorage, Mike and Laura again celebrated our visit by having a brisket dinner party for their many friends. Maggie cooked 8 large briskets and a good time was had by all attendees. We celebrated Laura's birthday while in Anchorage on August 8. We celebrated Drake's birthday on August 13 in Drake's home in the Placid lakes Subdivision. Only two candles on this cake! Kayla arrived on November 6 to spend her vacation with us. She has many friends in the Caladium Coop and our church.

There have been no hurricanes for seven years in our area. The lack of summer rains caused extended drought that greatly reduced water levels in our lakes and canals. Recently there have been many rains and lakes are full. The year 2012 was a wonderful year with good health and lots of communication with our loving families in Scotland, Alaska, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Florida and Texas.

Archibold is research facility serving the sandy Lake Wales ridge. Kayla is looking at the map of the station during our visit. Kayla came back for a visit with us arriving on November 6 and left on December 2, 2012. We had lots of things for her do in our area. In addition she attends church and met with our Small Group each Wednesday. There are many people who really enjoy Kayla being with us. Maggie and Kayla enjoy cooking together and I reap the benefits of their great meals.

Kayla likes to take boat trips down the canal and out into Lake June. We fish and have picnics on these outings. Another one of her favorite trips is to go visit Richard Karlson's ranch. Richard's ranch is about 12 miles south of where we live in Placid Lakes near Venus, Florida. I am fortunate to have Richard as a friend. He lets me visit his cattle ranch frequently. I enjoy seeing the cattle, deer, turkey, feral hogs and the Fisheating Creek that is part of the ranch. Fisheating Creek is now a part of the historical sites in the State of Florida. The Creek runs east and eventually enters the big Okeechobee.



While Kayla was with us she helped to setup our Christmas Tree. This was a big help since it is a rather large tree and then there were 10 large boxes a of Christmas decorations and other items to be set up in our great room. While Kayla is with us she continues to ride a bicycle that Drake loans her during her stay with us. She travels around in the subdivision. Kayla keeps in shape by riding around 15 to 20 miles most days. Maggie and I are very blessed to have such a wonderful granddaughter. We look forward to her visits with us each year.

In addition, Drake and Barb visit each year during the holidays. Drake is a great turkey carver, and we look forward to exchanging gifts on birthdays, and major holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. During the year 2012 Drake and Barb arrived on December 22 to celebrate Christmas together. During these holidays we use the telephone to visit with our families in Alaska, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and overseas in Scotland.

### **Many New Experiences during Year 2013**

The Year 2013 went by with no major difficulties for us or our families in the United States and Scotland. Maggie and I stayed up to watch the New Year celebrations on the television. We had a small glass of wine to toast each other at the beginning of the New Year 2014. It did not take us too long to get in bed after the New Year celebrations.

As we have done in the past years we celebrated birthdays and holidays with our family and friends during the course of the Year 2013. Drake and Barb came to our home to help me and Maggie celebrate my birthday on February 23, 2013.

We have continued attending The First Presbyterian Church and take part in the activities during the year. Maggie has continued to be the master chef and planner for the many church events. We belong to a Small Group of church members that meet each Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

We discuss the Sunday sermon and questions that are given to us by our pastors. After the meeting is over the host person serves a dessert. Maggie has continued her activities of the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative.

Bob and B. J. Cascaddan our friends who live on the Suwannee River invited us to their grandson's Matthew's wedding near Orlando, Florida.

I have served the Placid Lakes Association as the president of the Board of Directors from February 2008 to September 2013. I resigned the position of President and become a member of the Board of Directors. My major activity now is to assist in the publication of the Association's quarterly newsletter.

The Lake Placid Rotary Club meets each week at a local restaurant. We sponsor many fund raising events charities. Kayla joins me in attending the Wednesday meetings of our Rotary club when she is in town.

In April 2013 Maggie and I traveled to be with Drake and Barb in their Manasota Key home. During this visit we were joined by Doug and Kim Winterbauer. Doug was a staff member in our business at Flagstaff, Arizona.

## WW II D-Day Trip



On Thursday June 6, 2013, Alban B. (Bud) Meccia displayed the American flag and a Ranger flag at Town Hall in the Placid Lakes Subdivision on the anniversary of the D-Day invasion at Normandy beach that helped end World War II. The flag-raising event bought back many memories for Alban (Bud) Meccia of Lake Placid.

Bud was a member of U. S. Army's Ranger Battalion, a lead unit in the D-Day invasion on Omaha Beach. The invasion began on June 6, 1944. Alban was assigned to E-Company of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, which had a mission to climb the cliffs on Omaha Beach and silence the many cannons and other German defenses on the Normandy beach.

Alban was wounded in the leg during this conflict. According to a web site for the Department of Defense, the D- Day invasion was a very costly one for the American and Allied troops, as well as German forces.

Note the poster of maps and information. The persons from right to left are: Mathias Hutzenlaub, Linda LaFort, Richard Trumble, Pete Theobald, Dave LeFort, Alban Meccia, Sam Bliss and Seldon Bailey. He said that the American flag had flown for a short period of time over the United States Capitol building in Washington D. C.

The American flag was flown on top of the Ranger Battalion and displayed at Town Hall on the 69th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Alban also displayed many maps of the German defenses and a large number of photographs related to the D-Day invasion. Alban was assigned to E-Company of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, which had a mission to climb the cliffs on Omaha Beach and silence the many cannons and other German defenses on the Normandy beach on D-Day.

## Wedding Anniversary Number 40 for Maggie and Me



Maggie and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with four other friends Tom and Totsy McCraley and Steve and Linda Farrar. We all were married on the same day and the same year. We usually celebrate together about every tenth year. Most of the time, we went to Hawaii for our anniversaries. However this year, 2013, we decided to go some other place. We agreed that this year we would go to the U. S. Virgin Islands. More specifically we chose the island of St. Johns. We rented a villa on St. Johns Island. Our friends Tom did most of the villa arranging for all of us.



He picked a villa that would accommodate all six of us. He made an excellent choice. Maggie and I booked air travel with Spirit Airlines that flies out of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and connects to St. Thomas.

We then took a ferry from St. Thomas to St. Johns that is about a 35 minute ride. Tom and Totsy were already in St. Johns and met us at the landing. Then we boarded the Jeep that Tom had rented and drove up the winding steep two lane road to the Ellison Villa.

The group photograph is of our friends at the lower level of the Villa. In this photograph, from left to right, are Tom, me, Maggie, Linda and Steve. We are standing by the Jeep on the left and we are at the bottom of the long steep driveway up to the Villa. We then had to climb up many steps to the lower or first level and then to the second level more steps whether the beach scene shows me with the snorkel gear on and our friends relaxing. On the day of our anniversary we went out for a fabulous dinner. Maggie paid \$12.00 dollars at the end of our meal for a small cup of coffee. There was one gas station and one grocery store on St. Johns Island.

We rented a four-wheel drive jeep to go exploring every day. The weather was warm and sunny. The villa was a three bedroom, three baths, with a great room. All bedrooms and the great room were air conditioned and all had TVs. St. Johns is a very rocky island with great beaches.

On this trip we toured the entire Island. There were many different things to see. At one time the Island had large sugar cane fields. We stopped several times for the ladies to purchase items from the many shops.

## Alaska Trip 2013



Our next journey was the annual trip to Anchorage to visit with our Alaska family. We left on July 10 and returned on August 9, 2013. Mike, Laura and Tyler Spaan have continued to live in Anchorage. Kayla now lives in Homer, Alaska. While in Anchorage we became reacquainted with my nephew Major Michael Bliss.

Mike assumed command of the 709th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at the Elmendorf Base on June 28, 2013 in Alaska. Mike took Maggie, Kayla and Dawn (Mike's wife) on a full day tour of the base. We were able to go inside and explore one of the large cargo aircraft.

While in Alaska Laura, Maggie and I traveled to Homer to visit with Kayla. We were invited to stay with a friend Vicki Rentmeester. Vicki had previously visited with us in Lake Placid.



Kayla was staying with Vicki, and we were invited to stay at Vicki's home that overlooked Kachemak Bay. Another reason we went to Homer was to go Halibut fishing on July 28. Homer is often called the Halibut Fishing Capital of the world.

I had a reservation on a charter boat to go Halibut fishing. This fishing charter was located on the "Home Spit" that is a large finger of land that juts out into Kachemak Bay. The Spit is where most of the fishing charters are located as well as other marine associated businesses. On the day of my charter Maggie had to get up early in the morning and take me to the dock area where my Halibut fishing boat was located. Many thanks to Maggie for her help in getting me there on time. Many years ago Drake and I went Halibut fishing off Homer on a charter boat named the Blue Fox, and this charter boat is still operating.

On this charter we went 80 miles out beyond Kachemak Bay in the Pacific Ocean. There were whales and porpoises around us. We caught our limit of Halibut which is now two the first day of fishing and four in possession.

While in Anchorage, Mike and Laura again celebrated our visit by having a brisket dinner party for their many friends. Laura is standing playing the accordion. Maggie cooked 8 large briskets and a good time was had by all attendees. We celebrated Laura's birthday on August 8 in Anchorage. When we arrived back home, we celebrated Drake's birthday on August 13, 2013.

### **Ian Grimmer (Maggie's brother) and Son's Visit 2013**

Ian's wife Heather and sons live in Balmacara which is in northern Scotland. Maggie and I had visited Ian's family in October 2011 when we were in Scotland.

On October 4, 2013 Ian (on the left) and his two sons Liam and Matthew arrived at the Sanford Airport from Scotland for a two week visit with us. Ian was invited by our pastors to preach a sermon at our church. His sermon was the hi-light of their visit and our congregation gave him a very big welcome.



Maggie and I, Drake and Barb traveled to the Orlando area so Ian and his sons could go to the Universal Studios and Wet and Wild. They were assisted by Drake and Barb who have a season pass to enjoy these areas. Next we took Ian and sons to visit the NASA Kennedy Space Center on the east coast.

They had a great time looking over all of the exhibits. One of the trips a friend from church Jeff and Teri Grooms invited them to tour a private wild life sanctuary owned by Jeff's father that is just north of Lake Placid. The next trip was arranged by our Pastor Ray Cameron. He picked up Ian and the boys and travel northwest to Crystal River on the west coast of the Gulf where they could swim in an area with the Mantles.

Our next visitor was Vicki Rentmeester, Kayla's friend who lives in Homer, Alaska. She arrived on November 5 and left on November 9 to visit a friend in Islamorada, Florida.

Kayla, our Granddaughter, arrived on November 13 to visit. She left on December 16. She has many friends at the Caladium Coop and our church. Kayla works in our home office using one of our computers while she is here. While staying with us she rides her bicycle around Placid Lakes Subdivision. Also, we

take our boat and go out touring frond Lake June. And, there are times that we will take lunch and go to one or more of the other lakes, Scrub Park, where there are picnic tables and walking trails.

Drake and Barb invited us to spend the Thanksgiving holiday at their home on Manasota Key. Doug and Kim Winterbauer joined us for Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all of the trimmings. Drake had the pleasure of carving the turkey.

Drake and Barb enjoyed the beaches while visiting the historic Boca Grande Lighthouse and Gasparilla Island. Drake had showed us how look for petrified shark's teeth along the beach where the waves come ashore. Guided by Drake and Barb we took for an excursion throughout the Gasparilla Island coast area. Also, we explored the Boca Grande.

There is an old lighthouse that tis open for people explore the different areas, and there isa store with postcards and historic maps showing the area as it was many years ago. Drake and Barb's home is short block from the west coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Their home is built on 12 foot pilings to protect it from waves that might come ashore in a high wind. They have steps to go up, and for lazy or disabled persons they have an elevator for entering their home.



While staying with Drake, we would go beach-combing. The beach is one of the more enjoyable ones in the area. We search for shells, shark's teeth and other items that may have washed ashore.

Drake and I have at times fished off shore. He has the tackle, rods and reels. Also, he keeps bait frozen in the home. We take an umbrella chair and wait for a bite. It is great to watch the sunsets from the shore. Another activity that Maggie, Drake and Barb engage in is putting a jigsaw puzzle together. Since I am color blind jigsaw puzzles are difficult. While staying with Drake and Barb, Maggie helps with the inside work, and I help with the yard work.

## Christmas at Our Home in Lake Placid 2013

Maggie and I invited Drake and Barb and also Doug and Kim to share Christmas with us at our home in Placid Lakes Subdivision. The Christmas tree had been stored in the shed. There are many Christmas boxes that need to be carried into our home. We set up the tree and all other Christmas items while Kayla was still with us. Maggie, Kayla and I set up the Christmas tree with ornaments and tinsel. Drake and Barb brought their presents and place them under and around the Christmas with our presents. On Christmas Eve we gather around and the great room and visit with each other. Drake and Barb's Abby dog gets her special treats along with our pre-dinner hors-deserves. Maggie and Barb had planned the Christmas dinner for all of us that consisted of fillet mignon steaks, many vegetables and other food. Also, Maggie has a British tradition of having Christmas "POPS".



These are placed around the table at everyone's plate area. They are round containers that are packed with treats and King Crown hats for wearing around the table while we have the meal. The POPS are opened by rapidly pulling on each end and as they come apart a loud "POP" sound. Then everyone shows the items that are in the Pops package and enjoys the specials treats and then put on the King Crown hats. We enjoy talking with our special guests Doug and Kim. On Christmas day we gather once again to open the presents that have been given to each other. Unwrapping presents is lots of fun to see what has been given to each other. Drake hands out the gifts to in a random fashion so that everyone can participate in the unwrapping. The unwrapping and boxes are then cleared away for the breakfast meal.

After Christmas, Maggie and I planned for our New Year eve activity. We did not want to go out any of the New Year's parties. Rather we stayed home and celebrated the coming of the New Year 2014 with some wine and kisses. And then off to bed.

## Life in the Year 2014

This year began with a very welcome visit from Joyce Lundberg. Joyce and Richard (Dick) are longtime friends from Flagstaff, Arizona.



They now live in Mancos, Colorado. Joyce received this trip as a gift from her husband. Both Dick and Joyce and their four sons visited with us many times while we lived in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Maggie and Joyce are relaxing on our Lanai in this photograph. Joyce arrived on January 2 and left on January 9, 2014. While staying with us, Maggie and I took Joyce to visit the Seminole Indian Reservation located in the Big Cypress Swamp.

We had lunch in the Billy Bowlegs restaurant. Also, we toured the many attractions while visiting the Seminole Reservation. Joyce took the tour along with Maggie through the Seminole Historic Visitors Center.

Another trip included the Hammock State Park just west of Sebring, Florida. This state park was one of the Civilian Conservation Corps projects. Joyce went boating with us on Lake June.

I have continued to be involved with the Placid Lakes Home and Property Owners Association, Inc. as a member of the Board of Directors. I assist with the newsletter, communication and provide information when asked.

In addition, I have continued to be involved in the Rotary Club of Lake Placid. My induction date was May 2009. I began the authorship of the Club's newsletter. This newsletter is published on a monthly basis. Michael Noel is the current president. My Rotary Club of Lake Placid (Club 4323) was Chartered on March 8, 1971.

We meet each Wednesday at the Holiday Inn Express 608 South Lakeview Road, Lake Placid, Florida. Members and visitors have available a breakfast meal. President Michael Noel calls the meeting to order at 6:44 A. M. We have 30 members that attend on a regular basis. Also, during the winter month's Rotary members from the northern states attend our club meetings on a regular basis.

## **Birthday Number 87, February 23, 2014**

My birthday began with lots of care and loving from a wonderful wife. The birthday cards with enclosed gifts were very special and welcome.



Drake and Barb and Abby joined in with the birthday celebration on this day. They made this a very special day in my life. There were lots of gifts and great meals.

The dinner was quite spectacular. Maggie's birthday cake was delicious with ice cream to top it off. Laura, Mike Kayla and Tyler called later in the afternoon to wish me a happy birthday. We opened presents from the family in Alaska and family in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The members of our Scotland family called to wish me a happy birthday. Maggie's sister Kathleen and husband Larry as well as brother Ian call to give birthday wishes.

## **Church and Small Group Activities**

Maggie and I have continued to worship at our church-The Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid (ARPC). We attend Sunday services and participate in many of the Church's activities. Maggie is now a Deaconess and will serve for three years. Also, we have continued to be members of a small group. Small groups meet during the Fall, Winter and Spring on Wednesdays of each week. There are no Small Group meeting during the summer months of June, July and August. Pastor Ray Cameron sends a Summary of his Sunday sermon and Associate Pastor Drew Severance sends a list of questions related to the sermon to aid our discussions each Wednesday. Our Small Group meet in the Town Hall building of the Placid Lakes Association.

## **Drake and Barb Visits**

When Drake and Barb are here for our birthdays they stay in their home that is just three houses to the East of where we live. Sometimes we will eat out at local restaurants and also have dinners at our homes. It is a real blessing to have them so close. Drake is a big help to us if repairs are needed. Also, he helps with technology issues that I may have with computers and software. He was a great help in rebuilding the entire software system on the HP Laptop.

## **Annual Birthdays**

We celebrate the birthdays of our Bliss family and Maggie's family in Scotland during the year. Maggie sends our birthday cards and we celebrate with telephones calls. Laura's birthday is August 8 and Drake's August 13.

## Annual Alaska Visit in 2014

Many thanks to Drake and Barb and with much gratitude for taking Maggie and me to the Fort Lauderdale airport and then meeting us on our return trip back home. Our trip this year began on July 2 and ended on July 29, 2014.

During this visit my brother Bob and his wife Sharon traveled to Anchorage to visit his son who is stationed at the Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. Maggie and I arrived in Anchorage at 1:26 AM. on July 3. Laura and Tyler met us at the airport. Tyler was a great help in handling our 6 heavy bags. Mike (Bob's son) is a Lieutenant Colonel at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Air and Army base in Anchorage, Alaska. In this photo, at left Mike, Laura, Sam, Bob and Mike are at the Spaan's home.



The Spaan family, Maggie and I welcomed many friends at the historic Brisket Party that has become an annual event. Mike and Dawn with the help of their daughters served all of us a big steak dinner at their home on the base.

We visited Kayla in Homer and stayed with friend Vickie Rentmeester. I went Halibut and salmon fishing. This fishing trip was a birthday gift from Drake. The Charter leaves very early in the morning and returns around 4:30 p. m.

The crew fillets the fish and takes them to the package company that freezes the catch. We then take packaged fish to Mike and Laura's home and keep them frozen until we fly out of Anchorage for the trip to our home.

Later Laura and Kayla went dip netting with the help of Tyler on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Only residents can Dip net for Sockeye Salmon. Kayla is the first person standing in the river with her dip net. The next fishing trip was a July 27 charter on Prince William Sound. This trip was a gift from Laura.

We caught our limit of Halibut and went back to Whittier Harbor and on to Laura's home.

Great fishing but the weather was cloudy with rain the whole day. Prince William Sound is my favorite area to fish for salmon and Halibut.

We store the frozen fish in Laura's large freezer that is in their garage. On the day of departing back to Florida we package for traveling with us on the airplane.

Maggie and I begin sorting and packing a few days ahead of the scheduled date to fly back to our home. This packing is skillfully accomplished by Maggie. We then weigh the bags to see that they do not exceed the 50 pounds. Also, we use the Laura's computer to print our boarding passes.

## **Thanksgiving November 2014**



We were hosts to Drake, Barb, Doug and Kim Winterbauer. In the early afternoon I took Doug, Kim and Drake for a ride in our pontoon boat out our canal into Lake June. The day was sunny and calm.

The dinner was prepared by Maggie, Barb and Kim. Drake is the master carver of the turkey. He has been doing the Thanksgiving turkey carving for many years. Maggie prepares the dining room table and sets up the warming trays adjacent to the table. We have appetizers before the main meal that are prepared by the ladies.

## **Christmas at our Home 2014**

During our Christmas celebration there are special napkins. We visit and enjoy telling each other about the events we each experienced during the 2014 year.

Kayla and I setup our Christmas tree. She is a great big help with the many things that are related to having wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. Soon after Kayla arrived at our home we began to set up the Christmas tree and also installed garlands and small Christmas trees with lights in front of our home.

Drake, Barb, Doug and Kim were with us this Christmas. Maggie, Barb and Kim prepared the Christmas dinner for us. During the early afternoon on December 24 Drake, Doug Kim and I took a ride in our pontoon boat into Lake June. The weather was warm and pleasant. On Christmas day we began to meet for an early morning snack and then Drake plays Santa Claus by giving each of us the presents that were under the tree and around the great room. Maggie, Barb and Kim provided the appetizers. Drake, Maggie, Barb and Kim work together to prepare our Christmas eve dinner that is spiral cut ham and all of the trimmings.



Drake and Maggie are looking at some of crab legs and lobster tails that are served for dinner. The king crab legs are a Christmas gift from our daughter Laura, husband Mike, and our grandchildren Kayla and Tyler in Alaska.

Kayla has many friends in our area and in our church. She rides Drake's bike around the Placid Lakes community to stay in shape. When Kayla is here we find a lot of things to do, such a picnic at Scrub Park just west of Lake June. She will go shopping with Maggie in Lake Placid or Sebring. I usually drive the two of them where ever they would like to go.

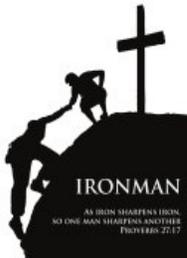
We take boat trips on Lake June, and Kayla has become a skilled boat Captain. The years have gone by so rapidly and now Year 2015 is upon us. Kayla is a great help in the yard. She helps me to do the weeding and trimming of the shrubbery around our home.

Our family and friends returned to their home. We drove Kayla to Fort Lauderdale to fly back to Anchorage and then she drove back to her home in Homer, Alaska. Drake and Barb returned to their home in Cape Coral, Florida. Doug and Kim returned to their home in Englewood on the west coast of Florida.

## Ushering In the New Year 2015

It was lonely for Maggie and me at New Year's since Thanksgiving and Christmas was so full of family and joy. On New Year's eve we stayed up to midnight to see the new year arrive, and we were in bed before 1:20 p.m. January 1, 2015. The Year 2015 as of this date has gone by with no major difficulties in the Bliss or Scotland families. We have continued attending The First Presbyterian Church and take part in the activities during the year. During January 2015 at the annual Congregational meeting Maggie was elected to join the Deacons Group. We belong to a Small Group of church members that meet each Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We discuss the Sunday sermon and questions that are given to us by our pastors.

## Ironman Ministers Dining In - January 10, 2015



6:00 Fellowship  
7:00 Call to Dinner Invocation  
Toasts Dinner  
2014 In Review  
Guest Speaker Pastor Steve Reynolds  
Ironman Challenge  
Closing Prayer

## **Celebrating with Family and Friends**

We continued to celebrate with our family and friends at birthdays and on holidays. Drake and Barb visited with us to celebrate my birthday on February 23, 2015.

## **Placid Lakes Home and Property Association**



I have continued to serve the Placid Lakes Association as a member of the Board of Directors from February 2008 to September 2013. I resigned the position of President. My major activity now is to assist in the publication of the Association's quarterly newsletter and to communicate with persons and organizations in this area.

During 2014 -2015 I have served on the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Lake Placid. We meet each Wednesday at the Holiday Inn Express 608 South Lakeview Road, Lake Placid, Florida. At each Wednesday's meeting we have program provided by a guest speaker. Members and visitors have available a breakfast meal.

We sponsor many fund raising events for obtaining money and gifts that we give to local, regional and national charities.

### **Our typical agenda is:**

- An Invocation
- The Pledge of Allegiance
- Songs (Rotary, Smile and others)
- Drawing (if you bought a ticket)
- Sergeant at Arms money collection for birthdays, anniversaries etc.
- Guest Speaker's presentation
- Ending with the Four Way test

## **Our 42<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

Maggie and I celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary on June 16, 2015. On this same date our Rotary club was celebrating the installation of a new president for the Year 2015-2016. The celebration was held at the Placid Lakes Country Club. We had a dual celebration and the members gave Maggie and I a special anniversary salute.

## **Maggie's Scotland Trip – April 23, 2015 to May 7th, 2015**

Maggie traveled to Scotland to celebrate her sister's (Kathleen) 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and Larry and Kathleen's Golden Wedding Anniversary. Maggie left April 23<sup>rd</sup> and returned May 7<sup>th</sup>. She left on British Air from Miami airport. Drake and Barb drove her there. Larry and Kathleen met her at the London airport and then they drove to Aberdeen. It was raining and very cold. She visited with her sister and Larry in Aberdeen and then later with Ian, her brother, who lives in Balmacara which is in the western part of Scotland.

Ian is retired and does some preaching in some of the churches in Scotland. He is also very skilled in woodworking and produces small wooden scale models of old Scottish fishing vessels. Their home in Balamacra has large frontal view of the ocean bay surrounding the Isle of Skye.

While in Aberdeen, Maggie and the family experienced a snow storm.

### **Dinner at Ian's Home**

Maggie took this photograph at Ian and Heather's house. The persons from left to right are: Heather, Matthew, Ian, Liam, and Liam's college friend. Ian was a teacher in the local high school.

## **Annual Trip to Alaska July 7, 2015**

Maggie and I began planning this trip with our daughter Laura early in the year 2015. Laura surprised us with plane tickets on Alaska Airlines. The trip was scheduled for us to leave from the Ft. Lauderdale Airport. Drake and Barb really helped by taking us to the airport. We arrived in Anchorage, Alaska about 1:30 A. M.

Laura had several things planned for us including a fishing trip for halibut with Captain Bob of Elby Charters in Ninilchik on the Kenai Peninsula. My brother Bob and his son Mike with his wife Dawn went with us. Four of us, Bob, Mike, Laura, and I went out on Captain Bob's boat, and we caught our limit of halibut. I did catch the biggest one, with help from Mike reeling it in. We had a great time. It was the first time Bob had ever been halibut fishing.

Laura had also arranged a fishing trip for July 18<sup>th</sup> with Captain Kevin Thurman on the Kenai River. We left from Bing's landing where Kevin docked his unique fishing boat. On this trip Laura and I fished for Rainbow Trout we also fly fished for Red Salmon. We had a very enjoyable day of fishing with Captain Kevin.

Laura had planned another trip for the both of us. She scheduled an airplane trip to a large glacier on Mount Denali. We left early in the morning and drove to the airport near Talkeetna which is about 80 miles north of Anchorage. At the airport we boarded an airplane with snow skis on the wheels and flew to the glacier. I was able to sit in the co-pilot's seat on the way to the glacier. The airplane service loaned us snow boots to wear while walking on the glacier. We stayed on the glacier for over an hour throwing iced and snow balls at each other. The day was sunny and warm. On the way back Laura was able to sit in the

co-pilot's seat and enjoy the scenic views. There were small lakes and some cabins near the lakes. We also could see the glacier drainages where it formed the beginning of the Susitna River Drainage.

### **The Annual Brisket Party in Alaska July 24, 2015**

Maggie and Laura planned for the annual brisket party which we held on July 24<sup>th</sup>. As usual it was big success and enjoyed by all who could attend. Kayla and Tyler helped Maggie with the preparations for the party. Laura had a musical group who kept things hopping on their deck. Food and beverages were great and everyone had a good time.

### **Maggie's Birthday Party and Thanksgiving at our Home in Lake Placid**

Maggie's birthday party was planned by Drake and Barb. Since Laura and Drake have August birthdays, we celebrate with them. Maggie received many birthday cards. Barb prepared a nice birthday cake including candles which Maggie had to blow out.

### **Christmas at our Home 2015**

This year we had a very blessed Christmas with all our family. Drake and Barb were here, Kayla arrived on December 15<sup>th</sup>, Mike, Laura, and Tyler arrived December 18<sup>th</sup>. This year was the first time ever all of our family was here with us in Florida.

Also our friends Doug and Kim were here with us for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinner. Maggie had all of her Christmas decorations in each room. When Kayla arrived the Christmas tree was in place ready for her to decorate for us. The photo is of Kayla standing in front of the fully decorated tree. The floor cloth and electric connections were ready for the testing of the lights. All lights were on and the tree was now ready for the Christmas gifts. Mike, Laura, Kayla and Tyler were staying with us in our home.

Drake, Barb, Doug and Kim stayed in Drake and Barb's home just down the street from us. In photo at top left are left to right: Front row – Tyler, Sam, Kayla Back row: Barb, Drake, Laura and Mike. Doug and Kim Winterbauer (our guests) were the picture takers. Soon the beverages and food were ready for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinners in our home. Maggie had done a lot of planning for the beverages, food and dinners. The opening of Christmas presents occurred on the morning of Christmas Day.

Following Christmas day Doug and Kim traveled back to their home on the west coast of Florida. Later that day Drake, Barb and Kayla went back to Drake and Barb's home in Cape Coral, Florida. Kayla went with Drake since she had a flight out of Ft. Myers to travel back to her home in Homer, Alaska. Mike, Laura and Tyler stayed with us until December 27<sup>th</sup>. They had a flight out of Miami to Anchorage, Alaska.

Christmas 2015 was a great celebration for Sam and Maggie, Drake, Barb and the Spaan family- Mike, Laura, Kayla and Tyler.

## **Activities for Year 2016**

Maggie and I decided not to stay up to usher in the New Year 2016. However, we did watch some celebrations on TV around the world and here in Florida. Both Maggie and I had the usual Appointments with our family doctors during January of this year.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> I celebrated another birthday, Number 89. Drake and Barb were here to help celebrate this birthday.

**And so ends the Autobiography of Samuel William Bliss. Sam passed away August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

## **Table of Contents for the APPENDICES**

**Note: These Appendices are not in sequential order by years. In fact, they are not in any order. They are presented for viewing and will represent only a small a number of the 1000s of photos we have taken over the years.**

**Appendix 1. Samuel William Bliss Family Photograph 1915**

**Appendix 2. Maggie's Family**

**Appendix 3. Our Home 5155 East Blue Jay Lane, Flagstaff, Arizona 1970**

**Appendix 4. Trips to Scotland Sam and Later with Maggie and Kayla in 1999**

**Appendix 5. Alaska Trips Over the Many Years**

**Appendix 6. Our Business 1984 – 1997**

**Appendix 7. World War II Honor Flight**

**Appendix 8. Assistance League of Flagstaff, Arizona**

## Appendix 1. Samuel William Bliss Family



**Photo Taken About 1915 in Ochelata, Oklahoma Left To Right**

**Top Row:**

Samuel Williams Bliss III (My Father), James Fredrick Bliss, William Jessup, Samuel W. Bliss II (My Grandfather)

**Second Row:**

Nella Bliss, Donald D. Bliss, Anna Lenore (De Wolf) Bliss, Effie Bliss, Mary (Wilson) Bliss

**Third Row:**

Roberta Eleanor Bliss, Lawrence Russell Bliss, Narcissa Barnett (Hamilton), Mildred Louise Bliss, Marjorie Allison Bliss

My father was born on August 1, 1890 in Omaha, Nebraska. He was 25 years old when this photo was taken. My mother, Mary Narcissa Helen Haines was born Jan 17, 1896 in Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma. Mother and Farther were married in Pawhuska, Oklahoma on November 9, 1923.

## Appendix 2. Maggie's Family



Maggie's parents at their wedding  
December 31, 1939



Maggie's mother, brother Ian,  
sister Kathleen and Maggie at a  
family wedding



Ian, Fred, Alice and Maggie, Aberdeen March  
1984



Maggie at age 3 and her mother

### Appendix 3, Our Home at 5155 East Blue Jay Lane, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001



In the tree cutting photograph Drake and I titled this “Maggie’s Perfect Christmas Tree”. She kept us looking and looking until she selected this particular tree. Note the red and white International pickup truck that we used for wood hauling, hunting and general hauling around the area.

This truck was a four-wheel drive with high sideboards. When we moved we donated the truck to the Automotive Shop of Mingus Union High School.

We were allowed to go into Coconino National Forest and select a Christmas tree. Later we had to apply for a tree-cutting permit and pay \$10 dollars for the privilege. Laura and Drake are at home in the family room at Christmas. Our family moved into this home on July 4, 1979 and lived there until we moved to Oak Creek Village, Arizona in 2002. In the tree cutting photograph Drake and I

In the driveway photograph we could look out and see Mount Elden in the lower right is located northeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. Mount Eden’s rocky slopes are a prominent feature and can be seen from almost any part of the city of Flagstaff, rising steeply to an elevation of 9,299 feet above sea level. The high mountains around had many Aspen groves with leaves that turned brilliant golden in the fall of the year.

### Appendix 4. Trips to Scotland-Sam and Later With Maggie and Kayla 1999

Maggie gave me the grand tour of Scotland. Fred let use his car and another new experience as I drove all four of us ton our travels of Scotland. Driving in Scotland where the steering wheel of the car is on the opposite then in the U. S. Also, you drive on the other side of the road. In the more rural areas roads are narrow and you have to do “lay byes” to let cars travel past you. Maggie packed a lot of heavy coats and sweaters since she expected cold windy and rainy weather (normal in Scotland). Well we had great sunny and “hot” days on the trip. Alice, Sam and Fred and Maggie. A wonderful trip for me. Fred traveled to the U. S. in the 1973 to visit with us. He helped to build a canoe in or garage. A later trip to Scotland to visit with Maggie’s family was special. Maggie’s niece Eileen McAllister was getting married to Martin Wiseman. Kayla our granddaughter was 12 years old and her parents had given us their permission for Kayla to go along with us. Needless to say Kayla was exceeding happy to join us on this trip.



## Appendix 5. Alaska Trips Over the Many Years

My trips to Alaska began in July 1973. Perhaps an explanation is in order here. Maggie and I were married June 16, 1973 and we had planned a honeymoon trip that included a week in Anchorage, Alaska and then some weeks in Hawaii.

I had agreed to a one-week seminar on management and technology with the American Association of Superintendents in Anchorage. As it turned out Western Airlines had a special ticket sale. You could fly from Phoenix, Arizona through Seattle, Washington to Anchorage and to Hawaii for an additional \$25.00 dollars. After the seminar we went on to Hawaii and back to Phoenix and home in Flagstaff, Arizona. In the photo Drake is fly fishing for Sockeye Salmon, commonly called Red Salmon.



During this time period Laura completed her college education. While working in TV station in Salt Lake City, Utah she received an invitation to apply for a position in an Anchorage, Alaska.

This further strengthened the connection to Alaska for Maggie and I to visit in Anchorage. During these visiting trip and consulting assignments I would make time to fish in the ocean, lakes and rivers of Alaska.

On many of these trips my son Drake would come along, he loved to fish so we had a great time together fishing with the local residents. The river is the Eshamy that flows out of

Eshamy Lake higher up stream. The river feeds into Eshamy Bay that is part of which is Prince William Sound. Drake is holding large basket of Prawns. Really great eating. Darby pulled them out of about 350 feet of water on the way to the fishing areas.



In  
the  
and  
the month of July.

my opinion fishing on Prince William Sound out of Whittier Harbor was the finest fishing in the great world of our Lord. We got connected with one of greatest fishing and hunting guides in Alaska. Captain Rolph Darbyshire of Anchorage. We would contact Darby schedule a fishing trip mostly during

He would meet us at Laura's home in his suburban, and we would travel the Whittier marina. We began to charter Darby usually in July, He would take us fishing on Prince William Sound for six night and five glorious days of fishing. We would fish for King, Silver salmon and Halibut.

The scenery and wild life was just spectacular. Eagles, Sea Outers, whales, dolphins were common sights. I have included some images of our fishing. Above Drake and I are holding two chinook Salmon commonly called King Salmon.

And another plus is that Darby was not only a great guide, he was a great cook and friend.

His salads were wonderful, and he served wild game such as Black Tailed deer, Caribou, Moose and salmon and Halibut with wine and of the other trimmings.

## Appendix 6. Our Business in Flagstaff 1984 –1997



During early 1984 we were asked by a person who was trying to start a computer sales and service business in Flagstaff. He had located the business in store that was in strip shopping center at the south end of main street in Flagstaff. Maggie and I discussed this business opportunity and also contacted representatives of Apple Computer Inc. in Phoenix.

I was still under contract to Northern Arizona University. We studied for several months the opportunity and the advantages and disadvantages of a technology business ownership. Our son Drake was enrolled in the College of Engineering studying to receive a degree Computer science degree. He helped us in our deliberations. We learned that Apple Computer Inc. was soon going to be delivering the first Apple Macintosh computer.



We also learned from Apple Computer Inc. that we could apply for a sales contract to market and installed Apple computers as an Education Dealer. We elected to go ahead with the purchase of the business and would pay a percent of our profit to the former owner. We stayed in the strip mall location for almost two years. And we sold the first Apple Macintosh computer system and all other Apple products as well as other technology products. However, the location in the strip mall was small and this limited our retail and education sales opportunities. the construction of our own business building. Soon we purchased a large lot adjacent to the University and began Maggie, Drake and I organized the business under SWB and Associates, Inc. The two divisions were Computer Room Technologies and Precision Computer Systems. I was President of the main Corporation, Maggie was a Vice President in charge of the Computer Room and Drake was Vice President of Precision Computer Systems. Maggie was the manager of Computer Room Technologies that included retail sales and service and repair. Drake was in charge of software programming, installation and network installation. Our business began a a small retail store. However, the changed very rapidly. We associated our business with several wholesale businesses in order to obtain

products at a discount and obtain quick delivery. Maggie, Drake and I operated the business until 1997. There were many changes in the field of technology that were impacting on our business. Also, Apple Computer decided to not renew all education dealers contracts. Many national wholesalers went out of business. Theses changes lead to the sale of our building and business.

## Appendix 7. World War II Honor Flight



The Rotary Clubs of Highlands and Desoto Counties sponsored the WW II Honor Flight. In early May 2012 I completed an application form requesting to be admitted to the WW II Honor Flight that was scheduled to leave on May 12, 2012. Our group met at Florida Hospital Lake Placid parking lot between 4:00 and 4:10AM. We carpooled to the Bert Harris, Jr. Ag-Civic Center at 27 and George Boulevard where we waited for the Annett buses arrive in parking lot by 4:30 A. M. We loaded and chose our seats for the day.



The buses must be at the Fort Myers Airport by 7:15 AM at the latest so we could get through security and have breakfast. Maggie, my wife drove me to the Bert Harris, Jr. Ag-Civic Center. The Air Tran Flight 1940 departed the Fort Myers International Airport 8:40 AM. We arrive at the Reagan National Airport 11:00 AM. After arriving at the airport we loaded on buses for trip to the WW II Memorial.

This was our first stop. We had a box lunch at the East Potomac Park – Hains Point. Then we traveled to the Iwo Jima Memorial; U. S. Navy Memorial and the U. S. Air Force Memorial.

There was lots of activity at the WW II Memorial. Each state in the U. S. had a large memorial. John (my guardian) and I were standing in front of the Florida memorial.

I went around to stand in front of the Illinois, Arizona and Iowa memorials. Our group was not the only group of veterans touring on this day. There were from other states and cities.

We toured the Arlington Cemetery. I had the opportunity to see the Audie Murphy stone. We watched the changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Captain of the Guards stood in front the group and made it very clear that we had to maintain complete silence during the changing of the guard.

Another very interesting visit was the Wall at the WW II Memorial. The Wall has 4,028 Gold Stars. Each Gold Star represents 10 soldiers who died serving our nation. The late afternoon had arrived very quickly and it was time to go back to the National airport for the trip back home. The Air Tran Flight 1943 departed the National Airport at 6:58 PM and arrived at the Ft. Myers International Airport at 9:29 PM. We then took the buses to the Ag-Civic Center at George Boulevard arriving around 12:15 AM. Maggie, met me at the Bert Harris, Jr. Ag-Civic Center and drove me to home.

## **Appendix 8. Assistance League of Flagstaff, Arizona**

Assistance League of Flagstaff (ALF) is a chapter of Assistance League, a National nonprofit organization that puts caring and commitment into action through community-based philanthropic programs. Our mission as an all volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is to improve the lives of the residents of Flagstaff, Arizona.

The Assistance League of Flagstaff was founded in 1978. Two women of Flagstaff, Letizia Boggs Roberts and Margaret McIntosh Bliss, were the imitators of starting an Assistance League in Flagstaff. Soon others joined the founding persons. Later the Assistance League of Flagstaff joined the state and National Assistance League.

On November 4, 1995 the Assistance League of Flagstaff conducted a President's Commemoration and dedicated the President's in memory of Letizia Boggs Roberts -better known as Ti.

In 2014 the members volunteered 18,324 hours and returned over \$200,000 back to the community, made possible through the proceeds of our Cedar Closet Thrift shop. Our mission is serving the disadvantaged of Flagstaff through our 10 philanthropic programs:

Operation School Bell®  
ABC

Assault Survivor Kits®

Thrift Shop Vouchers

Welcome Baskets to Sharon Manor

K.I.D.S./Safe Child

Hug-A-Bear

Homeless Help

Social Service Directory

Kiddie Closet

## **Appendix 9. Hunting Photographs**

The photographs in this Appendix will provide the reader with an overview of the outdoor activities that occupied or hours when not working.