

Anita's Reflections

When I look back, I had a wonderful life in the best of times in our country. I was raised on a farm in Placerville with chickens, cattle, an orchard and garden with everything we needed.

At Lake Tahoe I learned to work at Oswald's Corner, doing everything from janitor to waitress. I loved swimming in the Lake and enjoyed school and all my friends.

At the Minden Inn, we also had to help with everything. My favorite job was waiting on all the special people who came to the dining room. I really enjoyed high school and my friends. Math and science were my favorite subjects.

Going to school in San Francisco was totally different and a shocking change for me. But it was a great experience to work in most of the departments at the White House. When I ended up in the Controller's office, I knew it was where I belonged.

Wayne had been in my life since high school as a friend. He came back into my life when he was stationed in San Francisco in the Army. We dated for a year before we married and moved to Reno.

I went to work for AGC from 1959-2013 doing finance and public relations. I really loved my job. I have to give lots of credit to Bill McNulty and Chuck Morrison, the accountants who taught me so much.

Wayne finished his time with the Air National Guard and we bought his mother's ranch at Topaz in 1968. Rhonda was a little girl and we wanted her to be raised in the country. Eleanor, Marilyn and Lauretta became my best friends. My mother, Nora and Don came often to help us and I always enjoyed their visits.

My foreign travels started with mom taking Nora and I to Europe in 1959 to meet our relatives and see where our family had come from. In 1988, I took Rhonda to connect her to our cousins. My last trip to Europe was in 2005, when I toured Poland with Joachim and Siegi.

Starting in the Topaz years, I traveled in the western United States and Canada. In the beginning, I went with mom, Anne and Rhonda until she went to college. Later I traveled with Inge and Rhonda, when she could get away. When Rhonda went to school in Florida, I had a chance to explore the southern USA. My favorite places were Victoria, Yosemite, Lake Powell and the Grand Canyon. Now I travel with Rhonda and Scott. Rhonda makes all the trip arrangements that I used to do.

Most of the twenty years at Steamboat were great. It was only hard at the end, when Wayne got so bad and had to be put in a home. It was a huge lifestyle change to move here to the Casitas. During my time at Steamboat, Nora lost Don and married Harry. It's great that Harry has a house in Truckee, so we get to see them a lot.

I really like my new home in the Casitas and I've made good new friends here: Susan and Mick, John and Jan, and Wanda. In recent years, I lost both Wayne and Inge, and also some of my other friends. The most important thing is Rhonda moved back to Reno, and she and Scott help me a lot.

In the end the main thing is we are content and happy, surrounded by relatives and friends.