



ILENE DAVIS JENIKINS -- 60 YEARS of LIFE SINCE 1961

Well, the High school and graduation from school years are over. Those who did enjoy most of those years were sad when it was over. As some of us prepared to take off our graduation gowns, we shed a few tears as the realization that this great time of life was over for us. Our friends would be going in different directions with different goals and new lives. When would we see them again?

Lucille Frazier and I spent the fall after graduation working at the Sun Valley lodge. We shared the adventure of seeing Vice President Nixon. He left a tip for us. I got the money and Lucille kept the note he wrote. There were other interesting people that came to the lodge and the rental homes that were on the Sun Valley Campus – Governor Smiley – for one.

January brought rooms mates and fun new times at Ricks college in Rexburg, Idaho (now BYU Idaho). After graduating from Ricks, I worked a year and then attended BYU in Provo, UT for a semester. After that time, I ended up in Lewiston, Idaho and worked at a 22 ammunition and Power Load facility for a couple of years. During this time, a return to school at the University of Idaho was important. Just before I finished my requirements for graduation, I decided to marry and graduation was put on hold.

My spouse and I had two lovely daughters and we moved several times or had adventures. Learning to make cans in Nampa, Mount Saint Helens ash removal from the water ways, Mining in Challis, and a great adventure with Exxon in Colombia South America. Montana was a last stop together as my husband decided to move on to another life.

Since life was to start anew, I tried the College of Southern Idaho and took care of my mom until she passed and my youngest daughter graduated from High School. But the University of Idaho was my goal to finish a degree in education. I Graduated in 1995 with a General Studies degree from the University of Idaho. While attending the University, I worked for Sodexo-Marriot in the catering department. After graduation I stayed on and worked there for 6 years as the Catering Assistant Manager. It was a fun job and the pay was not so great, but interesting people was worth it. Because of all the people I met, I soon realized people are “Just People” no matter where they are from.

I reacquainted with George Jenkins and we married in November 2000. Life has been good for me and George. I served with the Boy Scouts of America in the Cub scout program for about the last seventeen years and with the Boy Scouts in Scout camps for fifteen years. The best position I held at camp was Trading Post Manager and I loved every minute of it. While serving with the Boy Scouts, I received the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award. But nothing was as great as having fun with the kids and to see them grow and learn and the young people who worked in the Trading Post mature with skills to improve their lives. The COVID 19 put a stop to our camp adventure and will really be missed as our summer retreat. What will the next years bring???