



After graduation from Globe High School, I went to Arizona State College (not yet University) at Tempe. I received a B.A. in Education in June 1962.

After graduation, my hope was to teach in California. As fate would have it, that did not happen. I was offered a job in Mesa, Arizona, which I accepted and taught third grade at Hawthorne School. This was definitely "interesting" time in America as it was during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. In addition to teaching academic skills, we also taught about "Duck and Cover" and teachers were taught civil defense procedures in case of nuclear attack. (I would later learn about real fear when 9/11 happened in 2001!)

In 1964 I moved to Denver and taught first grade for three years at Smith School. In my free time I learned to ski, and of course, fell in love with the Rockies!

In 1966 a friend and I traveled to the East Coast. I had never been further East than Fort Worth, Texas; and she had never been further East than Goodland, Kansas. We traveled in my 1964 Beetle to Philadelphia, Washington D. C., Princeton, New York City, Cape Cod and then headed back to Denver. We both said that it had been an interesting trip, and we had enjoyed visiting these place, but both agreed neither one of us would ever like to live there!

Well, life sometimes plays tricks on us, and the very next year I came to Maplewood, New Jersey to teach first grade at Clinton School. It was here that I met my husband (to-be) Dick Lerner. (And my friend who had traveled East with me ended up living right outside Washington D. C.!)

I returned to Arizona and taught third grade in Central School in Casa Grande. At the end of the first semester, I got married, and we moved to San Francisco. When I married Dick, I became the stepmother of Pam, age 14 and Tory, age 12. Instant family! However, they lived in New Jersey with their mother. In September, 1969 I began teaching first grade at McClaren School in San Francisco.

In August, 1970 we returned to New York and eventually New Jersey and back to Maplewood where I taught sixth grade at Clinton School.

In November, 1971 we had a new daughter, Joanna. I was a stay-at-home mom until October, 1975 when I returned to Clinton School to teach kindergarten while a teacher was on maternity leave.

Well, the rest is history as "they" say....I taught kindergarten at Clinton School until I retired in June, 2005.

I have been fortunate to have lived in wonderful places and along the way, children have touched my heart and taught me many things. A child once asked me how I could be "Mrs. Lerner" if I was the teacher? Little did he know that I was the real "learner" in each class I taught! I would guess that approximately 1,500 children have been in my classes over the years. My first class at Hawthorne School would now be about 55 years old!

We have made wonderful friends everywhere we have lived, and we feel blessed to have them.

Our family has grown up and grown in numbers. Pam and her husband Rick live in Bellevue, Washington. Their son, our oldest grandson (age 20) is a sophomore at Chapman University in California.

Tory and her husband Tom live in Scottsdale and have two children, Hana (18) who is taking classes at Scottsdale Community College, and Ben (15) who is a sophomore at Desert Mountain High School.

Our daughter, Joanna, is divorced and the mother of two, Nicholas (age 8 soon to be 9) and Cameryn (age 7). They live in Frederick, Maryland.

It has been difficult to condense 50 years of my life into a somewhat short, readable piece. I feel that my life has been quite ordinary except that with family and friends we have had extraordinary times! Good times, bad times, sad times, happy times ..all of those events that make up a life.