



## Linda McGinness McKinley

After graduating I attended ASU at Flagstaff. Of course it wasn't ASU yet, but it did become a University later. It was a fun time and I graduated in 1962 with a BS in Education.

I went to California where I taught school in Buena Park for two years. My roommate, Liz Mundel, and I decided to go up north, so we went to Monterey to teach and had a great year, but decided we didn't like the weather so we returned to Southern California and I taught in Anaheim for two years before I married Jon McKinley after he got back from Vietnam.

We were married in June and then we moved to Redondo Beach since it was near Northrup School of Technology where Jon got his degree in Electronic Engineering. Then we moved to New Mexico, Las Cruces. Jon had a job at White Sands Testing Range. I quit teaching in 1970 and we started a family. We had Jason Lee in 1971 and were all settled when a job in the Marshall Islands came up and we decided to take it.

We went to Kawjalain, Marshall Islands in February 1972. That is 2,000 miles south of Hawaii. We were to be there for three years, but they disbanded the project so we came back in 1974 when I was pregnant with Jon William, who was born in July 1974.

Then we decided with another couple to buy a pecan farm in Tularosa, New Mexico. So we became farmers for many years. I started teaching again in 1978 and taught in Tularosa until I retired in 2004. We built a house five miles from Tularosa on high way 70 on the way to Ruidoso. As we began to build it ourselves it took a few years and we finally turned it over to a contractor.

They say the best way to ruin a marriage is to build a house. Well a few years after we I moved in Jon decided he didn't want to be married to me anymore. He had found someone else. So we divorced in 1991.

I stayed in Tularosa and they moved to Las Cruces. The boys both finished college. Jason went to New Mexico State University in Albuquerque and Jon William went to New Mexico State at Las Cruces. I am very proud of both of them. They are very good to me and they are doing great. I have three grandchildren; Sterling 12, Ashlyn 8, and Cassidy 3.



They live in Albuquerque and that is only three hours away, so I see them quite often and they visit Ruidoso a lot. I moved to Ruidoso in 2001 before I retired to get all set up so that I was all set when I retired. I belong to a Country Club and play golf a lot. I work for a store in town every now and then. I paint and play cards and really stay a little too busy, but I am very happy and content.

I really enjoyed seeing everyone at the reunion. I hope we don't wait too long to have another.