

## Susan (Hoffman) Venable – August 2014

Fifty years—a half century—is a long time to account for! After going to CSC/UNC and Aims Jr. College, my husband Stan and I were married the end of August 1969 (and are celebrating our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year). We both worked at Security Abstract Co. (title insurance) in Greeley. Our daughter Christina (“Chrissy”) was born in 1970. Stan was transferred up to Aspen (Pitkin Title Insurance Co.) in 1971, and we spent the next 5 years there (enjoying skiing, hiking, Jeeping, etc.). I was “Deputy Venable” in the Pitkin County Sheriff’s Office a couple of years (as a “matron” and doing secretarial work), then transferred “upstairs” to the Assessor’s Office (in the court house) as a receptionist until Stan was transferred to Stewart Title in Fort Collins in 1976, changing jobs the week before the Big Thompson Flood of ‘76. Our move was definitely “Divine guidance,” since my folks lost half of their house and really needed our help (and our Jeep) after the flood. I worked for an insurance adjuster in Fort Collins, was a substitute teacher’s aide, worked for my brother at his cash register company, and finally got a job in Financial Aid at CSU in June of 1981 doing scholarships for over 22 years. Stan continued to work for various title insurance companies, was transferred to downtown Denver (commuting from Ft. Collins with a van pool for over 13 years), and got really tired of the drive. Our daughter Chrissy, who has been living in Golden for almost 13 years, told us to come and check out some model homes that Genesee Homes (whom she worked for at that time as a custom designer) was building north of Golden. We took a “tour,” decided to build our present home, and moved into it in June of 2004. I applied for only two jobs (never heard back from CU), had just one interview (more “Divine guidance”) at Colorado School of Mines early September 2003, then had a weekend “off” before I started working in the Geophysics Dept. later in September. I worked as an administrative assistant for a research professor until I retired, meeting people from all over the world, which was thoroughly fascinating.

I retired the end of May 2010, and Stan retired in November of 2011. Our daughter (who is now the custom change manager for Remington Homes, Denver area) has kept us “busy” with the grandkids since we’ve retired, picking them up from school two to three days a week and taking them to gymnastics—and “summer duty,” as well. We’ve been blessed with two incredible grandkids, Carter (14 in Sept.), and Katie (11 in Aug.). It’s so great to live close enough to help out, be able to go to the kids’ gymnastics meets in the fall, winter, and spring, and go to their school programs. We also enjoy camping with Chrissy, her husband Justin (who works as a project manager for new commercial construction around the State with G. H. Phipps Construction), and the grandkids a few times each summer (taking our canoe or kayak along, and they also take their two kayaks), hiking, exploring, bicycling, gardening, and traveling when we get a chance.

In December of 2002 I had a bout with uterine cancer, and I had a bowel resection done in May of 2004. It’s an unexplainable blessing to be given a second and third lease on life, so much to thank our precious Savior Jesus for and so much to live for each day. Each of us wonders how we’ll be remembered. There’s so much we’d like to express to one another—those we care so much about—with the time the Lord still allows us. Life

seems much shorter now, our days are “numbered.” How wonderful to spend the remaining ones with Jesus by one’s side, with eternity in view. May His light shine on each of you, bless you, and draw you to Him (the only true Light and Hope) in all the darkness that’s in the world. My most important goal: to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:7).

### **Loveland/LHS Memories:**

After we moved to Loveland from Sutton, Nebraska, in 1952 I went to “Stinkin’ Lincoln” first through fourth grades. It’s always strange when they tear down a school and it’s not there anymore to go back and see. Mrs. Marcella Sullivan was our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Big Thompson Elementary and later became our home and family teacher in high school. Mr. Walt Speece (Marji’s dad) was our bus driver up the canyon and later taught math (was my geometry teacher) in high school. It was fun being in the Loveland Pet & Doll Parade with my doll buggy when I was 6 or 7—and then the Rag Day Parade in high school with my horse. Going to \$.25 movies at the Rialto while Mom did her shopping was a great past time. AND, you could even stay to see the same thing again—without being booted out. Before we moved up the Big Thompson Canyon 11 miles from Loveland the summer of 1956, we lived in town on north Cleveland close to the cemetery. It was great to ride my bicycle clear down to the municipal swimming pool on the south end of town and spend lots of summer afternoons there.

The devastation after the September 2013 Big Thompson flood was quite shocking to see (again), and it was particularly upsetting to see the area where my folks’ cabin still remains and the Cedar Cove area to the west. After my folks both passed away, my brother and I and our families considered keeping their cabin that had been in the family 48 years, but we decided to sell it in 2004 and are so relieved that we did. Going through all of that a second time would’ve really been tough, and our hearts go out to all of those who have suffered such tremendous loss and hardship—especially those who endured it a second time. We know, though, that the Lord can restore the canyon’s beauty once again, just as He did after the ’76 flood.

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at our reunion in September!