

Fond memories of growing up in Boone

By Sheri A. Lass

(Editor's note: Sheri Lass is a 1967 graduate of Boone High School.)

Frankly, I was both surprised and flattered when the *Boone News-Republican* asked if they could run a story about me. It makes you reflect on what you've done with your life and where you still want to go with it. They asked how growing up in Boone had influenced me, and that is probably the easiest part to write about.

I grew up thinking life was like "Leave It to Beaver" or "Happy Days." If I was once somewhat bitter



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about growing up with such a naive outlook, I'm certainly not anymore.

I remember all my teachers at Boone High School and I think they were great. There was more discipline then, but I think the teachers really cared. Hal Lyness was probably the hardest teacher I can remember and also the best. You knew he expected a lot, but he gave a lot and took an interest; so you tried to live up to his expectations. It is hard to believe that was over 20 years ago. My son, Travis, graduates from high school this year and my daughter, Trishelle, is grown with a little girl of her own, Jessica.

I was married while attending Boone Junior College. The first "real" job I had was working for Grabau Construction. Although Ray Grabau is gone, I still think about him often with both gratitude and admiration.

I was secretary for the Ogden School Board and then I moved to Okoboji, where I worked for the schools in Spirit Lake. Later I worked for a brokerage firm and the Chamber of Commerce in Arnolds Park. Throughout that time, I helped my ex-husband manage the bowling centers we owned. Eight years ago I moved to Phoenix, which opened the door to more opportunities, while at the same time, getting divorced forced me to become more independent and made it necessary to rely on only my own abilities to achieve.

I was hired by CompuSys, Inc. of Arizona to do the accounting and I gradually worked up to vice-president of the firm. Everything is done on computers, which was a whole new experience for me. Now I can't imagine working without one.

I am often asked what does a third-party trust fund administrator do, which involves a lengthy answer if I were to go into detail. Basically, we receive the contributions for benefits from the various contractors, maintain all records, process health and



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welfare claims and pension applications.

I really love my work. I deal with contractors, lawyers, bankers, auditors, investors, consultants, actuaries, insurance companies and best of all, hard-working people.

It is unfortunate that unions have so often been stereotyped derogatorily because of the actions of a few. This type of characterization certainly does not exemplify the people I work with. People get lost in big business and I feel that we need organized labor to insure fair labor practices and re-establish our belief in this country and our fellow man. I don't believe that everyone should be rich monetarily, but everyone deserves to live decently if he or she works hard.

In retrospect, I would have to say I was very lucky to grow up in Boone when I did.

Do you know of any Boone County graduates who have gone on to successful careers? Success doesn't necessarily mean monetary gain, but people who have made a difference. If so, send names and information of what they've done after high school to Jeannine Schaub, Boone News-Republican, Box 100, Boone, 50036. A photo would be appreciated.