

Shirley (Spence) Bohl



I know we've been out of high school for 50 years, but honestly I don't really know how that much time can pass so quickly.

After graduation I attended Olivet College for one year. I married Jack Higley in August 1958 and stayed in Olivet, MI for two years. I had my first baby in August 1959. We moved to Madison OH the summer of 1961 where Jack taught school. I then had four more children who were born in 1961, 1963, 1964, and 1968. I had my own nursery school and loved every minute of it. I was grateful to be a stay-at-home mom. I stayed in that role until three of the kids were in braces (teeth). Then I took on some part time jobs so I could have flexible hours and continue do the Mom thing like attend sporting events, horse shows, bake, etc.

My work career was very interesting. I worked at a local church for twenty years, taught swimming at our YMCA, was a lifeguard, wedding coordinator, secretary at an insurance office, and worked in the admissions office at Lake Erie College. I retired from all the jobs in 1992.

Madison, Ohio borders the south shore of Lake Erie, so my kids grew up knowing that lake just as I did spending all my formative years on its north shore in Canada. Some of the kids had sailboats and some of them had quarter horses. We all still love to be by water. My children are all adults now. Jo Ann, the eldest is 48, manages three municipal parks that border the lake, has her own horse farm, and two daughters. Sandy at 46 lives in Madison, has a daughter and a son, and is a Mary Kay director. Ken, 44 lives near Daytona Beach, has three children and is a ceramic tile installer. Deb is 43, lives in Ft. Lauderdale, and is a flight attendant for American Airlines. Mike, 39 lives in South Carolina, has a daughter and son and travels the Atlantic states with a roofing company. My mother at 90 lives in Miami and still enjoys relatively good health.

Some of you may remember my parent's cottage in Kingsville, Ontario. I would take all my little ones there to spend summers, just as I did while growing up. Canada was and is such a wonderful part of my life.

The farmhouse I grew up in on 10½ Mile was moved to Civic Center Drive in Southfield, was preserved, and now serves as city offices along with the old firehouse, and the Methodist church.

I was divorced in mid-1980 and continued to stay in Madison. Here comes the good part...I remarried on October 8, 1988 to the most wonderful man, Tom Bohl. Tom is a chemical engineer and was born and raised in Montana. We had known each other for ten years through our children's mutual school activities and our church. The wedding ceremony (we wrote our own vows) was a huge celebration with family (all six siblings and parents) and friends joining us.

Tom has two daughters. Diana, 47 lives in Montana and has two sons. Darla is 46, lives in North Carolina and has three sons.

Three of our 13 grandchildren are married and so far have given us 5 great grandchildren. It has been great fun to see this family grow.

Tom's work offers some travel opportunities. When convenient, I travel with him and so far have been to several great places in this country, Japan, and Hungary. We have a 5th-wheel RV and travel the US and Canada and have wintered in Florida and Arizona the past few years. Tom enjoys his work, but I'm hearing the "retirement" word more frequently...maybe this December.

Time has passed so quickly but I will always remember my classmates at SHS.

Shirley Spence Bohl
1717 Bathgate Rd.
Madison, OH 44057

Ph: 440-428-4053
Cell: 440-796-3475
e-mail: tbohl@alltel.net