

Forks in the Road and My Travel Through Life

Chapter 16

Condensed Life Story

Born August 19, 1936 in a ranch house near Cambridge, Idaho to Charles and Doris (Edmunson) Hathhorn. His first home was the grandparent's ranch.

In 1939 his father herded sheep in the desert near Prosser, Washington and they lived in a tent in the sand dunes. His mother torched it to force a move. Then it was a job at the Rio Tinto Mine in Nevada and a new apartment.

The winter of 1941 they moved to the mine in Stibnite, Idaho. They lived in a wall tent in deep snow. It was tolerated as they would get a new house in the summer. They moved to the Ima Mine at Patterson, Idaho in 1945. Two houses where he lived are still there.

Growing up in Patterson was an adventure. Exploring the Pahsimeroi Valley in a Model A often resulted in long walks or rescue. He worked in the summer at the mine and his uncle's ranch near Weiser.

Grade school was in Stibnite and Patterson. The Patterson school had no electricity or water. The kids hauled water in milk cans on sleds or wagons. High school was 1950-54 in Salmon, Idaho. He boarded out and was in the Army National Guard. He took a freshman, LaRue Gibbs, to the senior prom in 1954, and a flame kindled between them.

Qualifying for the Korea GI Bill and the lure of pilot training influenced him to leave college and join the Air Force in October 1954. The Security Service (intelligence) exerted priority for Morse intercept training and top-secret duty overseas. He served 28 months at RAF Kirknewton, Scotland. Then 12 months at Samsun, Turkey on the Black Sea where he lived among the locals.

He was discharged in December 1958. The Ima mine closed in 1957 and his family moved to Guatemala. LaRue was working in California, and on his way to Guatemala he stopped to see her. The flame reignited and they were engaged when he left. He returned and they eloped Valentine's Day 1959. They had 3 children; Kathleen, Brian, and Julie and were married 65 years on their anniversary in 2024

Next was Weber College, graduating in 1961 in the last class of Weber's 2-year college era. He then landed a trainee computer job at the Lawrence Laboratory in Berkeley, California, and was later recruited by Thiokol in Utah. He worked nights, attended Utah State, and graduated in 1964. He majored in statistics as it had the schools only computer.

Thirty five years working with supercomputers in Berkeley, Las Vegas, Nevada; Livermore, California; Richland, Washington; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Geneva, Switzerland; Beaverton, Oregon, and back to Idaho Falls. After 14 years with computer companies, and tired of moving, he joined the INEL (now INL) in Idaho Falls.

Early retirement in 1995 and became the owner/operator of the DK Motel in Arco. A highlight was hosting two astronauts that walked on the moon. The motel sold in 2002 and they enjoyed RV life. Then a new home in Jerome County. Retirement activities were organizing reunions, working on his 1951 Kaiser in his new shop, Kaiser-Frazer meets, building websites, writing, and walks on the canyon rim. He tried a cruise in 2003 and was hooked for over 450 days cruising with 6 Equator crossings.

Liked camping, backpacking, skiing, mountain climbing, airplanes, learning to fly, computers, RV'ing, family gatherings, and travel.. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico was a favorite for over 30 years.

He was in Arco Rotary, Past President 2 times, a Paul Harris Fellow, and a member of Salmon Elks.

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