

Peggy Meets Marsh

by
Peggy Link

It was the beginning of my sophomore year at the University of Colorado. I was studying at my desk overlooking the front door of the Sorority House where I lived when I heard a loud crash. A car had crashed into the front steps! I rushed down to see what had happened. As I got to the door the doorbell rang. We opened the door and two fellows who were quite drunk were standing there.

In those days the fraternities and the sororities had weekly “functions” as a way to get acquainted. The two guys from the car didn’t appear to be hurt, nor were they at all apologetic and to our amazement asked if they could speak with our Social Chairman. They stated they would like to arrange for a “Function”. We all thought this was all very amusing.

Functions were “get-togethers” between a fraternity and a sorority. They were 3.2 beer parties where a fraternity invited a sorority to join them at one of the local Boulder dance halls, Tulage’s or the Timberline Tavern or at their Fraternity House. These two fellows were not from the University of Colorado but from the Colorado School of Mines.

The car was removed with not much damage, to the car, the front door of the house, or the “Miners”. After a few days our Social Chairman announced that a day for the function with the MINE’S ATO’S had been arranged. But she was concerned that there didn’t seem to be much interest by our sorority sisters. MINES was about 30 minutes from Boulder over a narrow road with some dangerous switch backs. My sister eventually had a wreck on one of these.

At that time, the sororities had “hours”. At 10:00 PM all the doors to house were locked and to get in you had to ring the doorbell and report to the housemother. If you were late you were grounded and had to be home earlier, which was very hard on your social life. A sorority was expected to send enough girls to have a fun party, its reputation was judged by how much fun the two groups had together.

MINES only had one girl! No house mothers to enforce rules, and lots of young men, who may or may not be motivated to get us home on time. Our Social Chairman was determined we would make a good show of it.

It was a fun party and I was pleasantly surprised that the “Miners” were much more gentlemanly and appreciative of girls than the CU fraternity boys were. I

met a Mines student just back from Korea. James Marshall Link brought us home on time so when he phoned to ask me for a date a few days later I was free to go. When we hung up the phone it paid off like a slot machine! Golden was at that time a long distance call from Boulder, so I always had coins for the phone.

We were married at my family's home in Woodside CA overlooking the San Francisco Bay when we both graduated on June 13, 1959. Marsh had accepted a job with "Chiquita Banana" in Central America to access their land holdings for mineralization. At that time Castro & Che Guevara were rattling their guns and Chiquita knew they were going to have to divest themselves of some of their Central American land holdings. We honeymooned on a banana boat and spent the better part of the next two years in Panama and Costa Rica. I am thankful for the 53 wonderful years we spent together, our two wonderful children, two grandsons, and our lifetime of adventures together.