

Introduction of Wes and Elizabeth Walls

By Evie Hutton



Wes started life on a farm near Yale, Oklahoma. His father was a minister, so about every three years the family moved and the three children would be off to make new friends in Oklahoma and then Nebraska.

Elizabeth was born in San Antonio, Texas, in a parsonage, which her military family was renting. Her family remained there through elementary school since her father, in the Judge Advocate General's office, had more longevity in his assignments.

Following her middle schooling in Honolulu and high school in Omaha, Elizabeth was off to junior college (Free Methodist related) in Kansas, where she met Wes. Both went on to their denomination's four year college in Greenville, Illinois. Elizabeth missed her family, so chose to attend her senior year in Hawaii. But Wes' letters kept the romance going. A request for their daughter's hand in marriage, via mail, was accepted, but her family was unable to attend their 1937 wedding in Iowa.

Wes had majored in religion and was ordained in 1938. He had a three year pastorate in Iowa while studying for an advanced degree in Christian Education. Then, with their first son, they transferred to Seattle Pacific College (SPC) in Seattle. Wes taught part-time while studying for his master's degree. In 1941, with World War II underway, he volunteered as a chaplain in the U. S. Army, where he served with the 11th Airborne Division in the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan. After his return from service, he resumed teaching at SPC while doing graduate work at the University of Washington. Another separation occurred when Wes was recalled to active duty for the Korean War. He served with the 19th Engineer Group. Upon release from service he returned to Seattle Pacific University (formerly SPC), where he taught political science. He retired in 1981. During his teaching career, he had a two year break when he served as Dean of Academic Affairs at Spring Arbor College in Spring Arbor, Michigan.

Most of Elizabeth's energy was devoted to rearing their four children, the last one 7 years after the others. She did a lot of sewing for the children and herself. She devoted a good deal of time to volunteering -- Blue Birds, Campfire Girls, Christian Youth Crusades and the Cancer Society. She worked in their First Free Methodist Church library for 25 years.

It wasn't all work and no play. For 20 years this couple enjoyed recreational vehicle travels, frequently traveling with 3 other couples in carefully planned tours. For 12 years they led church conference caravans, sometimes totaling 20+ vehicles. They and another couple would preview their treks, leaving no detail to chance. Oh, the reading Wes did in preparation for each trip! Another dimension to travel was 10 winters spent at a Mesa, Arizona, resort, where they went to Mexico to assist in the building of a conference center for their denomination. They are currently anticipating a plane flight (courtesy of a son) to that area, in order to see changes that have been made there lately.

They have been adventurous in worldwide travels, which included 10 consecutive weeks of train travel in Europe. They arranged to be at Oberammergau for the 350th production of the Passion Play in 1984. Do take time to find out what specific areas their treks included.

Now that they have settled at Cristwood, they are walking on clouds currently, since their first great grandchild was recently born. It is fun having adventuresome people in our midst, sharing their zest for life. **Wes and Elizabeth, we welcome you!**

The editor of the monthly paper, Cristwood Courier, gave us enough copies of this item about us to give to each of our children.