

Selby Batty – July 2014

Life has brought interesting twists and turns since we graduated from LHS HALF A CENTURY ago. I met the love of my life, Linda, in my senior year at CSU. It took me a while to convince her that I was the love of her life, but I got it done. We have been married since 1969, have two grown sons and two incredible grandchildren. Our elder son, Aaron is a professor at Keio University in Japan. He is married to Sonoko Kasagi and working on his PhD at the University of Lancaster in Lancaster, UK. I taught him that the world is a small place. I doubt that he will return to the US until he retires. I guess he believed me. Our younger son, Gavin, lives in Sterling and is taking over our insurance adjusting business from Linda and me. Sadly, he is divorced and his kids, our only grandchildren, live in Los Angeles. Julie is doing a good job as a single mom and the kids are thriving; but I don't get nearly enough grandpa time.

The least athletic guy in the class of 64 (that would be me) went through Army Officers Candidate School at Ft Benning, GA and served as an Infantry officer. I was commissioned in November 1969, married five days later, and Linda and I were discharged in 1971. Officers' wives were in the Army as fully as their husbands, so one always says "we" when referring to that service time. Being in, was easier than getting out. We were not treated well as most of our generation knows. I served 13 months in the DMZ of Korea rather than Viet Nam. At 5'6" 128lbs, and not even needing to shave yet, I had to be Army through and through to maintain control and bring my guys home safe and sound.

When I got home, I took a job as an insurance adjuster with General Adjustment Bureau. I guess that an English major who knows how to plan military maneuvers is the winning combination for that job. It stuck anyway. I now own Frontier Adjusters of Sterling (a franchise independent adjusting company). I still hang around, but my son doesn't give me much work anymore. It has been an interesting career and met our needs well. Linda, my wife, manages the office and finances, so she is the real boss. Gavin and I just drive around talking to people and looking at broken stuff.

The real passion of my life is Jesus. I grew up in church and was fairly serious about it, but drifted away. When I returned in my thirties I did so with a deep commitment and passion. Linda and I have been on short term missions several times in central Europe. We have friends who planted a Vineyard Church in Vienna Austria, and we traveled there to help in their church and with outreaches to Czechoslovakia before the dissolution in 1993, and later to Czech Republic and Slovakia. We had other friends who served refugees in Hungary and got to spend some time in Budapest. I was in England with a conference team for a couple of weeks and saw where my family came from. I am thankful to my great grandfather for emigrating. We have many friends in Europe as a result of our time there.

In May of this year I had the honor of acting as a Guardian for an Honor Flight and took WWII and Korean War vets to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials. It was a touching time and a healing time for me on many fronts. It was especially poignant to assist the

WWII guys. They were all in their 80's at a minimum and the eldest was 97. It takes a huge team to honor these guys but the response was utterly amazing.

The most recent adventure, and perhaps the most frightening, was being a cabin leader for 7 middle school boys at a week-long church camp. I usually have no difficulty ignoring the fact that I am now 68 years old, but the prospect of a week with those high energy, pre-pubescent boys was daunting. I not only survived, but had a ball. I did manage a nap every afternoon while they were swimming, boating, etc. So, as long as I get my nap, I am good to go.

Upcoming plans include a week of canoe camping in the Boundary Waters (Minnesota) and Quetico Park (Ontario, CA). I think that this will be my fourteenth trip. The LHS reunion is only a couple of weeks after I get back. We are hoping to take the new Dreamliner flight direct from Denver to Narita Japan to see Aaron and Sonoko in the spring. We have not been to Japan since their wedding. It is a high population density country; and I like wilderness, so it is a challenge. It is an amazing place for this country boy, beautiful, crowded, exotic and very polite.

For those who are in Christ, all things are about him and for him. Everything is an opportunity to bring light into the darkness. I am in Christ and He is in me. That was entirely His choice and his doing. Fortunately, Jesus is much less discriminating than I am. Some days I can hardly stand having to live with me. I guess that shows what kind of stuff Linda is made of too, doesn't it? I only have permission to preach at Logan County Jail, so I will leave it there. God Bless. Selby