



CHS – Bio

Janelle Jennings

California Girl



1955

My life in Tulsa ended with my junior year—the summer before my senior year we moved to Downey, CA. Needless to say, I wasn't too happy and gave my parents a pretty hard time. I hated it as long as I could, but California was good to me—the beach, mountains and people were really nice. So, even though I was enrolled at OU, I decided to stay.

I went to USC, became a Delta Gamma and had a great time in college. I majored in Business (one of three women in the Business School!), graduated and went on to get my Masters in Education. I taught high school for a year, lived at home, saved every cent I earned and took the trip of a lifetime—around the world in 80 days! Five friends and I left the day after school was out and returned the day before it started. We had a private tour—saw the wonders of the world by day and the nightlife with our guides by night! (I rode all over Hong Kong on the back of a motorcycle!)

So much for the excitement—I moved to the beach, got married, taught school off and on, had one wonderful daughter and lived a good life for the next 25 years. More excitement—my father died, I got a divorce, and started a new job within 6 months. I lived for a year in Long Beach, but needed to support myself and put my daughter through college, so I moved to Palm Desert—it was much cheaper. I commuted an hour and a half each way 4 days a week to work in my father's company as Asst. Controller, Office Manager, etc., until I could retire.

Palm Desert was good to me—I bought a house on the golf course, played in a golf tournament the day after I moved in and met my future husband! We had a great life until he became ill with Emphysema. In the meantime my Mother had a stroke which affected her speech, so she came to live with us. I worked part time in the Education Department at The Living Desert (a zoo and botanical garden) and played nursemaid until my Mother, Husband and best friend in the desert died within a year and a half!

Luckily I had my daughter, her husband and two grandsons (four and six) to keep me busy! They live in Long Beach—he is in construction management

and she is a part-time School Psychologist. I began going every other week to take care of the boys for a day or two and see my old friends.

That was almost five years ago! Now I have the tough life of taking care of my grandsons when it suits me (Tricia is now a teacher's aid in Special Ed., coaching swim team and teaching private swim lessons), playing golf, volunteering at the Living Desert, and doing whatever I choose. Not too exciting, but not too bad!

CHS GIRLS GONE WILD – 1955 STYLE



ABOVE: L-R Marcia Keegan, Jennis Schuman, Barbara Young, Susan Harris, Kathy Courtney, Sharon Northrip, Bea Klopfenstein, Suzy Baldwin, Betsy Martin, Janelle Jennings, Carolyn Eubanks, Susan Freeman, Nancy Darling, Judy Irons, Cheryl Johnson, Kay Swarner.