

Getting to Know You

Published January 5, 2007

Harry Weddington



I am a rarity in Cary having been born and raised in North Carolina. I was born in Salisbury in 1935.

I joined the Air Force right after high school graduation in 1954 and after basic training went to electronics school at Keesler AFB. On completion of training I was assigned to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) and spent the next nine years working on weapons system such as the RF-84F recon fighter, B-47 strategic bomber, Snark ICBM and the Atlas-F intercontinental ballistic missile. During this time I managed to hit most of SAC's garden spots including Moses Lake, WA; Mountain Home, ID; Presque Isle, ME and Altus, OK.

Mary Ann and I were high school sweethearts so we were married in 1957 while I was stationed in WA and she was able to share the joys of these assignments. When my second hitch was up in 1964 we decided it was time to return to NC and civilian life.

We returned to Salisbury and I joined the IBM Greensboro branch office and got in on the ground floor of the revolutionary IBM 360 computer system. After thirteen years in Greensboro I transferred to RTP where I finished my 33-year IBM career. The two high points were

teaching computer operating systems in the IBM Education Center in Mexico City and a two-year assignment to the IBM Programming Laboratory in Rome, Italy. We had transferred a program there for future development and service in which I had the major part in the design and development. I retired in 1997.

Mary Ann and I have five children, four boys and one girl. Three of our sons have retired from the military, one Marine, one Navy/Marine, and one Coast Guard. In our immediate family we have 107 years active duty between our three sons, son-in-law (Air Force), daughter-in-law (Navy), daughter-in-law (Army), grandson (Marine) who has recently returned from a tour in Iraq, and myself.

In 1991 I achieved a lifetime dream of obtaining my private pilots license. I bought a 1966 Cessna in 1994 which I restored and still own. My chief hobbies are fly fishing and tying trout flies. Our sons and I get together at least twice each year for fishing trips in New Mexico and Colorado. Life is GREAT!

