

JILL ELAM HOPPER

After graduation I worked for a short time at Sands Dorsey Drug as a Soda Jerk, as they were called then. Then I went to work at the telephone company.

During this time I met Richard Hopper through his sister, who lived next door to us. I married Richard in 1959. I gave birth to Ricky in 1960, David, who is now 45, in 1961 and Phillip, who is now 44, in 1963. Ricky passed away at age 27. He was Downs Syndrome. He gave so much love to all of us. He had over 100 words in sign, because he didn't have the speech advantage. David is working with doctors in Santa Fe and Albuquerque in Radiation. He has his Masters Degree. Phillip oversees all the Little Anita's restaurants in Albuquerque and a few other cities. He plans to manage and open a new store in the Petroglyph area. I am very proud of my sons.

I have four grandchildren, three boys, David, Kevin, Nathan and one girl, Candice. I have a great-grandson Julian who will be three in May.

During my life I have moved from Tucumcari to Truth or Consequences, NM in 1970 because of my husband's mail truck delivery. From there we moved to Albuquerque, NM in 1971 where I still live.

I worked for Blake's Lota Burger from 1985 to 1994 as a manager in several stores for nine years.

During this time Ricky passed away in 1987. Richard followed him two years later from extended illness.

I went to work for St. Joseph's Hospital in 1994, starting in the cafeteria and within a year I went to work as Supervisor for Housekeeping where I worked for almost ten years. I retired in 2004 because of my knees. Too many years on concrete took their toll.

I take care of my great grandson and he keeps me young. I went for a balloon ride at 55 during the Balloon Fiesta. If you've never been, I recommend it. It was wonderful!

My mother passed away in 2004 and my father in 2006. You possibly remember my mom, Flo, who worked at Sands Dorsey Drug and Dad worked for Waterfield's Chevron on the corner of Third and 66 as a mechanic. I'm sure he worked on your parent's cars.

My life is full and I'm enjoying it as much as possible. I will have another grandchild in late March or early April. I am looking forward to it being here.

I found out in late August of 2006 that I have a broken lumbar vertebrae, which will not heal because of the way it is broken, so I have to be careful of what I do.

I go to see my brother Jack and family who still live in Tucumcari. They live next door from where my parents lived. I have a sister, Phyllis.

I often think of the kids I went to school with and wonder what they are doing. I reminisce of the good times, parties, football and basketball games and even of the teachers. I hope the choir can get together and do a song. We were **the best!!**

I look forward to seeing all my classmates and teachers. I will miss those who have gone to a better place. They were a part of my life and they will not be forgotten.

BEST CLASS OF "57"

Jill Elam Hopper