

**Class of 1957 Fiftieth Reunion  
Tucumcari, NM  
August 2 - 4, 2007**

**Autobiographical Outline**

**Name:** Martha Baxter Coyle “Marty”

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**Married or Single:** Married (May 31, 1960)

**Spouse:** Robert C. Coyle “Bob”

Bob and I met at Texas Tech. Bob, an accounting major, was from Amarillo, and we met at the Presbyterian Student Center. While at Tech, he worked part-time for a CPA in Lubbock; after graduation, he went into the Army Reserve, where he trained as a medic. Following his active duty, he worked as an accountant for the City of San Antonio. When he became an auditor for the IRS, we moved to La Marque, just across the causeway from Galveston. He was later transferred to Houston, where we have lived for nearly 35 years. After his retirement from the IRS, he became a realtor, and enjoys meeting and helping people from all over the world find housing in Houston. Bob likes to sing; has sung with school and church choirs (still does), and enjoys operas and concerts.

**Children:** Robin Marie Floyd, 43, is an attorney with The Wood Group (petroleum services consortium based in Aberdeen, Scotland). She lives in Katy, TX, with her two cats, Bella and Goldie. She travels extensively in her job, and also for fun as often as she can. In addition to the law degree, she has an MA in History, so especially loves traveling in Europe and Scandinavia. She also teaches a history course at Cy-Fair College in Houston. She loves home decorating, is very “crafty” with paints, artificial flowers, jewelry making, and can wrap gift packages that Neiman-Marcus would envy.

Rob (Robert Andrew) is 39. He and wife Sandra Harvey live in Cypress, Texas (NW Houston), with their two children, Matthew Christopher (5 years) and Annika Grace (1 year), Sandra’s mother, two dogs and five cats. Rob earned a BA from Schreiner College (TX), MA from Marquette University (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), and did his doctoral work at Texas Tech. Sandra is a Baylor grad, and also did her doctoral work at Texas Tech. Rob and Sandra are both professors of history at Cy-Fair College, and very busy with other assignments, such as chairing committees, sponsoring student organizations, etc. Rob developed a community garden on campus, which is used for teaching, volunteer service, and community outreach. Each season it supplies hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables to a local food bank for distribution to the needy.

## **Well, what about Marty? Things I've done in the last 50 years that might surprise you . . .**

**Experience/Degree:** General Diploma, Cottey College for Women, Nevada, Mo. 1958; Bachelor of Science (major: Food and Nutrition), Texas Tech University, Lubbock, 1960. Completed a one-year U.S. Army Medical Service Dietetic Internship, then served three years in the U.S. Army Medical Specialty Corps (1<sup>st</sup> Lt.) at Brooke General Hospital, San Antonio. Also worked a year as a staff dietitian at the Methodist Hospital in San Antonio following the army service.

Life has been fun – never dull! I have been organist at three Presbyterian churches in Texas, a substitute teacher, wrote science exam questions for a major textbook publisher, and worked as a bookkeeper. My favorite job: 15 years as administrative assistant to the business administrator of one of Houston's largest Baptist churches. Among my duties, I especially enjoyed editing the weekly newsletter and a quarterly newsletter for The National Association of Church Business Administrators. Also very rewarding was my contact with the Korean, Hispanic, and Cambodian congregations of the church, and working with SMILE, a church program which helps men and women from all over the world who find themselves in Houston, either permanently or briefly, due to employment or medical treatment. In the program they learn or polish up their English, learn about American customs, and how to help their children attending American schools, which are usually quite different from the schools in their home countries.

However, some of the work I've enjoyed most has been unpaid, volunteer work: I am a birder, and volunteer with the Houston Audubon Society; I especially enjoy the days I work at the Audubon Sanctuaries on the Bolivar Peninsula of the TX coast during spring and fall migration. In addition to the thousands of birds, there are also thousands of birders from all over the world.

For the past several years I have been the corporate secretary and a board member of the non-profit Korima Foundation, which takes poverty-level, inner-city teens from Houston and San Antonio to the Big Bend area of Texas for one-week workshops – usually five or six workshops per year. I've loved the weeks I've spent in the wilds of West Texas with the students – it's like putting them on the moon, but during the week they learn they can survive without cell phones, TV, & shopping malls, and they actually enjoy it! During the week they learn a lot of Texas history and culture, geology, archaeology, and astronomy. They also are exposed to various occupations they didn't know about – game wardens, park rangers, U.S. Border Patrol agents, university professors, real cowmen and ranchers. . . the list goes on and on!

And finally, one of the most interesting, fun, and rewarding things I've done is bicycle! In the past forty years, I've seen a lot of the world from two wheels. I've cycled in England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, and I've seen most of Texas from a bike, as well as Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and North Carolina. In 1999 I joined a group of 27 ladies from all over the U.S., (ages 50-75). We bicycled 3135 miles -- from San Diego, CA to St. Augustine, FL -- a lovely, scary, exciting, exhausting, and altogether fantastic two-month experience I'll never forget! (Plus I ate everything in sight and still lost 27 pounds! Can't beat that for fun!) I don't know what new adventures the next few years will bring, but am convinced that it will be an interesting and exciting time, and I'm looking forward to it!

