

BOB HARRIS - BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, but moved to Brigham City, Utah, prior to my first birthday. My parents, Blanche and Bill Harris, started an ice cream business in Brigham City in 1937, and it is still in operation. During my early years, I worked in the business doing odd jobs and serving customers. This enabled me to earn spending money and buy a few clothes. Also, my grandfather owned a ranch in southeastern Idaho, and I spent my summers working on the ranch--milking cows, taking care of chickens (they now have over a million chickens located on three ranches) and doing other related things. This experience shaped my life and was instrumental in keeping me active in the Church.

After graduation from high school, I enlisted in the Navy and was a corpsman and dental assistant serving with the Marine Corps most of the time. During my tour of duty, I participated in the testing of the largest atomic bomb ever set off in the continental United States. Several hundred other Marines and I were in a trenches about three miles away when it was detonated. Immediately, we were trucked into ground zero, and I still remember looking up from under that big mushroom-shaped cloud and thinking what a powerful force it was. The only decontamination given to the troops was to brush us off with a broom. My job was to test the film badges of the troops, and the film badges indicated that we were all overexposed to radiation. I blame my receding hairline on that experience.

Shana (my wife) and I were high school sweethearts and were married just prior to my joining the Navy. We recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We have six children (4 sons and 2 daughters). All have graduated from college or university and four of the six have served missions. We also have nineteen beautiful grandchildren. Shana's Patriarchal Blessing said that she would have fine children, and that has proved to be true. They are all very loving parents, contributing members to society and to the Church. We are grateful to them for the fine example they set.

After being released from the service, I attended and graduated from Utah State University with a Master's Degree in Engineering. After I graduated from Utah State, we moved to Loveland, Colorado, where we lived for thirty plus years. Loveland was built around a large lake, and we raised our family on that lake. Water skiing was something that everyone in the family (and friends as well) loved, and we had a great time together. When we first moved to Loveland, there was a very close-knit group of about fifty active members. It was very exciting that when we left, they had just made a Loveland Stake.

I spent the majority of my career working for Hewlett-Packard in Colorado--retiring in 1999. Shana and I moved to St. George in September, 2001. Since we have been in St. George, I have been an Adjunct Professor in the Math Department at Dixie State College teaching Pre-Calculus and Business Math. We have just finished a year-long mission primarily acting as tour guides for the historic sites in the area. It was great to have an opportunity to learn about the history of this area.

I am enjoying the SUP organization-especially your friendship.