

Pet Friends
Jo Anne and her dog
Cortez

Note: Jo Anne chose a narrative form of bio, much of which appears on these two pages in her own words



JoAnne MURPHY
Spouse: n/a
3116 Virginia Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80907-5636
(719) 632-1126
broncojam@earthlink.net

Career / Post High School Education

Post HS Education: After graduation, I enrolled in the Jane C. Stormont School of Nursing, Topeka. I spent 3 years of inhaling and exhaling how to take care of the most important person in a hospital: the patient. We received a fine education while caring for patients. I have been very grateful to have had that experience. The relationships I made there have continued to the present. I graduated September 1, 1961.

Career: After passing the State boards, I worked as an RN for 2 years at Stormont-Vail Hospital's Surgical Ward. Mrs. Inskip, a practical nurse who had assisted my mother when I was born and also assisted my aunt a week later when Marilyn Hedman, Don Noyes' wife, was born, was a patient there.

I moved to Colorado Springs in 1963 to be near my family and started working at Penrose Hospital. Initially, I floated on 6 floors on the evening shift on on both Medical and Surgical units. Later I was assigned one floor. One evening I had the delightful surprise on being at the nurse's station, directly in front of the elevators, when the doors opened and Alicia Cordova walked out. I discovered she was a nurse in Denver. What a lift to my day!

After vacationing in Europe, I worked in the ICU at Penrose. There I became friends with a nurse who belonged to a nondenominational religious group called the Navigators. I quit so I could attend their training program in NE. Later, I worked in a small psychiatric hospital, finally returning to Penrose Hosp. I was eventually reassigned to out sister hospital across the city. I retired in March 2003. I say retired with tongue in cheek.



Hobbies & Interests

I enjoy reading, gardening, yoga, watercolor painting, all sorts of music, and traveling. I also visit friends and do some support as a nurse (unofficially)

Travel

While my stepfather, Bob McHenry, mother Verla, and my then one-year-old brother Rob lived in Geissen, **Germany**, I visited and traveled Europe: **Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden** (my mother was Swedish), and So. Bavaria, Berlin & other parts of Germany. I saw East Berlin in 1966 before the Wall went down. It helped me understand the Berlin Airlift. I also saw my first opera in Berlin. I have vacationed in CA and was in the Navigator Training Program in NE.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Family</u></p> <p>When I moved to Colorado Springs to be close to my family, I lived with my mother and stepfather. My mother was in her late 40s and thought she was finished with her family after having my two brothers, Gary and Keith, followed by me. But God had a different idea. When she discovered she was pregnant, I was 24 years old. It was a strange situation. Previously, Mother had given birth in a rather midwife environment in Manhattan. However, my mother had this baby at Ft. Carson Hospital. Because of her age, she had to be induced. I explained what she could anticipate. My youngest brother, Rob McHenry, was born without incident on March 18, 1964.</p> <p>Soon after the birth of my brother, my stepfather was transferred to Geissen, Germany. My mother and Rob would join him later. Except for the family's being in California mother was "Rosy the Riveter" making airplanes during WWII, she had not been out of KS. She and a year-old toddler flew to NYC, caught a ship there, and sailed to a foreign country. What a woman and heroine to me!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jo Anne MURPHY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memories (continued)</p>
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A Personal Epiphany

Upon returning from Europe and resuming work at Penrose Hosp, I realized through a number of events that I needed to evaluate my life a little. Through another Jo Ann who came to work the unit one evening, I met other people and started to do some Bible studies. I had thought I was a Christian because I went to church and tried to be a nice person. I wasn't.



I attended a weekend retreat to Estes Park with a nondenominational group call the Navigators. I prayed before the services that many people would become Christians that night because it seemed to make Jo Ann Ray so happy. Little did I know I was praying for me. I prayed that night, "Lord, you know I have made a mess of my life. Here is my life if you want it. I don't understand everything I heard tonight, but here it is."

I did understand that I had made an important decision. I was 27 years old. I felt a huge burden had lifted off my shoulders. The stars out that night were the most beautiful stars I had ever seen. I began to share my experience with others. I kept talking about before and after that day. Before—After! Before—After! I knew there was a change, but I did not understand until I read John 3, where Nicodemus asks Jesus how a person could be "born again." The lights came on; I had experienced that. It has made all the difference in my life. Do you want to know what real life is about? Be daring enough to be honest with God.

Soon after the experience that summer, I quit my position at Penrose and went to an 8-week Navigator Training Program in NE. I thought it would be like church camp; I was surprised. It had been described as the Christian Marines. My father had been a Marine—I spaced that part out. It gave me a foundation for getting my walk with the Lord Jesus on the right track. Afterwards, when I went to work in a small psychiatric hospital, I felt I could have been working in another country on the mission field. I saw so many answers to prayer and learned much about life. I knew I was in special training from the Lord. Now I am very busy with my church, which as a special blessing for me is right across the street from my house. My life is very full.

