

Family & Pet Friends

Dad died in 1976, Mom died in 1982, my sister Carole died in 1998 after a 3-yr battle with lung cancer (neither she nor her husband smoked). They have 2 sons and 2 granddaughters. My brother Jack lives in Garland TX, is married, has a son and a daughter: Chris lives in Riley, KS, is married to Nancy Byrd and has one son and 3 grandchildren. My sister Dinah lives in Garland, TX is married and has 3 sons and 3 grandchildren, plus Wayne's family so we have lots of great family.

Pets like family: Over the years, we've had 5 Beagles—all female, Gussie, Skippy, Brandy, Fergie & our new puppy Sassy & 4 cats, Pete, Sammy, Kelly & Callie. We got our first big dog Kate (black Lab mix) when we moved to the country, she died in 2005. We rescued our big dog Cassie in Dec 2005 (Shepherd mix). Our Fergie died in Feb. 2007 and we got our new Beagle puppy Sassy 4-21-07.



Sandra (Sandy) J. (Backman) NELSON

Spouse: Wayne

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Proudest Achievements

- Being a loving wife and a good friend.
- Visiting elderly friends in nursing homes and in their homes.
- Organizing a Shepherding Group at Central Lutheran Church in Dallas.
- Working as Controller & Office Mgr. for Gage Homes. Set up filing and accounting procedures that allowed the Company to grow and prosper.
- Also set up new computer accounting systems at Gage and at Dallas & Tyler churches we attended.
- Being an involved member of Four Mile Lutheran Church
- Being blessed with wonderful friends and family

1950s Pop Culture

Favorite songs in HS: Anything by Elvis

Favorite '50s songs now: Most of them

Favorite singers in HS: Elvis

Favorite '50s singers now: Most of them

Favorite movies in HS: Don't remember—I just liked them all

Career / Post High School Education

Career: Accounting Controller, Gage Homes, Inc. – Retired

I worked from 1960 to 1968 in Manhattan for Grace Business Service. We moved to Dallas in 1968 and I worked for Computer Business Service until December 31, 1981. After that I worked 18 years for Gage Homes Inc. a major Dallas homebuilder, until I retired in December of 1999.

Post HS Education: Kansas State University; Stephen's Ministry – Care and concern training

Hobbies / Interests / Sports / Church

Sports: Watching football & basketball

Hobbies & Interests: Reading & yard work

Church: Involved member of the Four Mile Lutheran Church—Chairman of Altar Guild; Member of Property Committee; and WELCA treasurer now, past Secretary

MHS Memories

Most of my memories THAT I CAN REMEMBER are good but I find my memory is not so good these days. My best memories are those from the Senior Dinner to the end of the school year. Wayne took me to the Senior Dinner (after some prompting from some of his buddies) and it was the beginning of 49 great years together. Thanks Guys.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Town Memories</u></p> <p>Slumber parties, Charco's Drive-In, going to the movies in town and to drive-in movies. Watching parades, baseball in the park, concerts in the park, and swimming, (The City Park was great.) Going to Pillsbury Crossing, dances at Teen Town and school dances. In our senior year, we also went a few times to the Rainbow Club and the Skyline Club. Obviously, we didn't have to show ID.</p> <p>One of the things I remember about my senior year that was a great experience was a trip in April 1958 to Washington DC & New York City. It was sponsored by the KS Council on World Affairs. It was for Junior or Senior High School students. Believe it or not, the cost was \$125, which included railway fare, food, hotel rooms, insurance, guides, etc. Some of the highlights of the trip were the White House, Washington Monument, Lincoln & Jefferson Memorials, changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Smithsonian Institute, & Mount Vernon; then in NY: the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, and we got to go to a Broadway show starring Anthony Perkins and had dinner at Julia Childs' restaurant. That was a trip that I never forgot except that I am embarrassed to say that I don't remember who else from Manhattan High went on that trip.</p> <p>Remember the Music Store on Poyntz downtown. They sold records and you could go into a booth and listen to the record before you bought it. I worked there for the school work program, or whatever it was called, and I saved my money to buy my first Hi-fi (on layaway) so I could play 33s instead of just 45s, I wish I still had those 45s.</p> <p>I loved the movies and got a job at the State Theater. I think it paid .50¢ per hour, then I moved over to the Coed Theater (a nicer place to work); I got a raise to 75¢ per hour.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sandy (Backman) NELSON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memories (continued)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MHS Memories</u> (continued)</p> <p>I never had the self confidence to try out for cheerleader or to run for office and I didn't think I was smart enough to be on the debate team or the newspaper staff. I could not carry a tune or read music so band, chorus and orchestra were out for me. I think I had a few minor parts in some plays but that could have been in Junior High.</p> <p>I loved to play basketball and was on a girls' team one time, but that may have been In grade school. I did love to cheer the teams on and had a loud voice so I enjoyed the pep squad. Of course, some of the best times were High School football and basketball games in town and out of town and we had great Pep rallies. We often went to Scheu's Café after the games. They had great French fries.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MHS Memories</u> (continued)</p> <p>I remember one weekend studying for a Biology test and I was memorizing the answers to questions I had written on flash cards and was having trouble staying awake, so I drove to the gas station store and bought 4 Cherry Mashers and 2 Hershey bars and went home and ate them all, one right after the other. I was wide awake after that and I aced the test on Monday.</p> <p>I thought the teachers were great except for two that I will not mention by name. One gave me the only C that I ever received in High School and kept me off the Honor Roll in my Senior Year. I was very upset and I have never forgotten that either.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Travel</p> <p>We moved from Manhattan to Dallas in 1968. Wayne had just gotten home from serving in the Navy Seabees in Viet Nam and we needed a change. Our first few vacations were to CO. After 1968, most were back & forth to KS to visit family & friends and we also went on lots of golfing trips to different resorts in the USA and once to the Bahamas for a week of golf and fun. Our trip to HI with friends to play golf was not very successful as Wayne got food poisoning the day we left and was sick almost the entire trip. We had been to HI before when Wayne was on RR from Viet Nam which was a much better trip, In 1994 we started building our home in Ben Wheeler and our traveling was put on hold for the most part.</p>