



NORTH ALABAMA BRIDGE NEWSLETTER



MEET JUNE HOELZLE



I was born in a thatched roof palapa in Borneo...just kidding...I was really born in St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville,TN. My family moved to Germany after WWII where my parents developed a true fondness for the country and the German people. My older brother recalls many details of our early life, but unfortunately, I remember nothing of those years. We celebrated my fourth birthday in New York harbor the day we returned to the State -- with a new baby sister! My dad shipped off to Korea and the rest of us settled into our new life in Ft. Hood,TX.

After my dad’s medical discharge from the Army in 1953 we settled in Tyler, TX, where I spent the remainder of my formative years.

The first three of what my mother dubbed “My Higher Education” years were spent at a small school in Arkansas. In the infinite wisdom of a 21-year-old student, I changed majors and transferred to Stephen F. Austin State College In Nacogdoches, TX, where I did earn a B.S. in Medical Technology in 1971 -- with the most electives ever!

After my internship at The Methodist Hospital in Houston I moved around a bit working in many varied laboratory situations as well as odd hours and rotations: large and small hospitals, clinics, a doctor’s office, QC and research, and finally, very large reference laboratories. My career wrapped up in Dallas where I was working for Quest Diagnostics -- which bought GSK’s laboratory division -- which had gone through several mutations after buying Upjohn’s Laboratory Procedures in the late 70’s. I was working for Lab Procedures in Atlanta when I was introduced to the game of bridge.

Like most people I began playing social bridge with friends and coworkers -- in my case it was fellow lab cohorts and managers. My interest in the game was lifted to a new level when I read that Omar Sharif was an aficionado of a game called “duplicate” bridge. In an homage to Mr. Sharif I adopted his name for my BBO handle -- mjsharif.

After I transferred from Atlanta to the Philadelphia area I continued playing social bridge, not realizing duplicate bridge was available for everyone to play.

I was working on my Master’s Degree at West Chester University when I bought a townhouse, married Eric, and subsequently moved to Texas to be closer to my family. While in Dallas I had a roughly 20-year hiatus from bridge. When Eric was transferred to Huntsville I retired and became reacquainted with the world of Bridge. Rose Albert and I took lessons from Bill Young at the Huntsville Bridge Club. After taking Easybridge lessons from Ralph Boles and playing at the Canebrake clubhouse in Athens, I met my long-time partner, Janet Hart, and began playing in a small group dedicated to playing better bridge -- both social AND duplicate -- and as we all know -- duplicate won the toss up!

JUNE MAKES LIFE MASTER!

Congratulations to our newest Life Master **June Hoelzle**. **June** earned most of the remaining points she needed in Gatlinburg, and then finished up requirements with online play. Her partners in crime, **Janet Hart**, **Joella McManus**, and **Dianna Norman**, brought her a trophy and wine to celebrate at the Tuesday afternoon game the end of April.

