

Meet Claudette Perier



I'm a fifth generation Californian, and why my grandmother left L.A. for France, married my grandfather, and came back to L.A. without him but with her two sons (one my father, Claude), I will never understand. That's how I ended up with this impossible name.

I was born in Hollywood, CA, and grew up in the San Gabriel Valley. After hopping from school to school trying to decide what I was going to teach and at what level, I finally graduated after five years

with a business degree. I went to work for Linus Pauling at the California Institute of Technology until he left, and then at L.A. County General Hospital. I finally decided I wanted to teach in junior college and that meant getting an MBA, which I got from USC.

I moved to Massachusetts, to begin my teaching career; Boston is where I met my husband. He worked for Arthur Anderson, but wanted to get into private accounting.

We moved to Tucson when there was the gas shortage. The company he was working for closed down, and we moved to the San Fernando Valley. I continued teaching at night at two junior

colleges, until I realized I wasn't going to get a full-time job. Instead, I became a tennis bum. When my husband decided to retire, we moved back to Tucson. We divorced in 1995.

I'm a perpetual student and have taken courses in plain geometry, architectural rendering, drafting, potting, interior design, floristry, wood turning, upholstery and other subjects. I love to travel and my great-aunts had traveled to over 100 countries. I would go to their houses and look at the shrunken heads and all the other goodies they had brought home.

My life's ambition was to visit 100 countries myself. I've managed to get to 80+ but now that dream has had to fade. The most incredible trip I took was a trek through Irian Jaya in Papua New Guinea. We had porters to carry our things, and since I didn't want to get my shoes wet, they would carry me across streams. It was hard to believe these wonderful people were head hunters just a few decades before.

My other outstanding trip was to Russia in 1971. I had such a wonderful time that I went back in 1972 for a month.

I played Scrabble for years, through the mail. I ended up putting the two dictionaries, Webster's Third and Scrabble, into a 64-k computer. I estimated five years for the project, but it took three. The words were anagrammed; how I wish I could have sold that sucker.

After my divorce I took up beading and mah jongg (which I taught) at an adult education facility. Then I decided I wanted more brain exercise and took up bridge about 6 years ago with our wonderful Barbara. I was hooked and my house became a wreck. I became a Director so I could protect myself from all the players' rules that were out of whack. I adore bridge and love Adobe. I miss seeing everyone immensely.

Added November 2020