

# *A Love Story*



STEPHEN

1969

50

2019

YEARS

PATRICIA

Once upon a time, a girl and a boy met in Webster Groves High School. Her name was Pat. His name was Steve. On August 9, 1964, they went on their first date to a movie theater in Clayton, MO



and saw "What a Way to Go". Little did they know this would be the start of their "way to go".

Pat went off to the University of Kansas and Steve to the University of Missouri at Rolla.

During their long distance courtship, they fell in love.



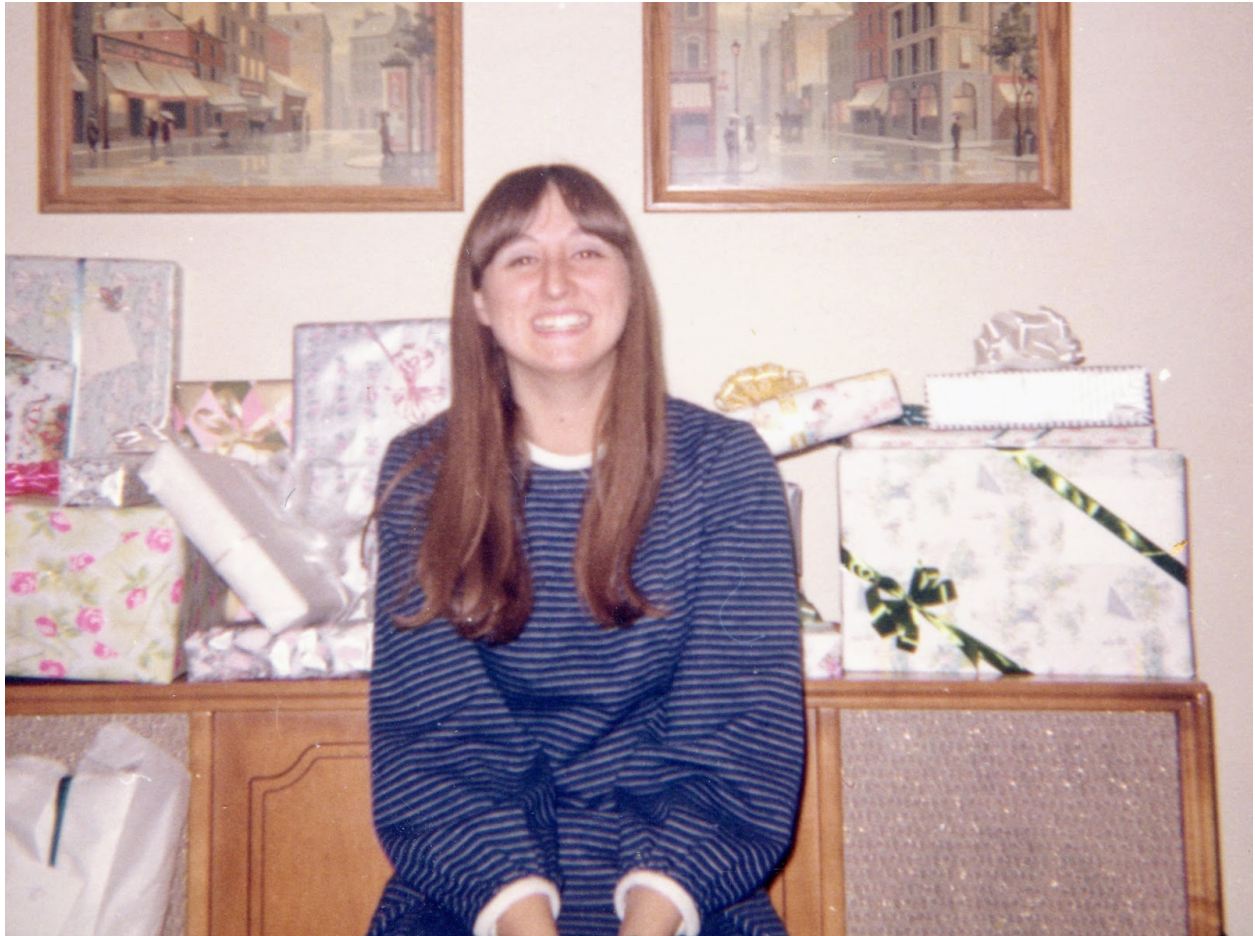
Pat graduated with a degree in child development.



Before Steve could graduate the following year, they decided to get married.



Pat was showered with gifts...



They were married January 18, 1969 during Steve's Senior year semester break at the First United Methodist Church of Webster Groves, where they had met in high school.









With a terrific reception and well wishers...



Steve even liked his mother-in-law.



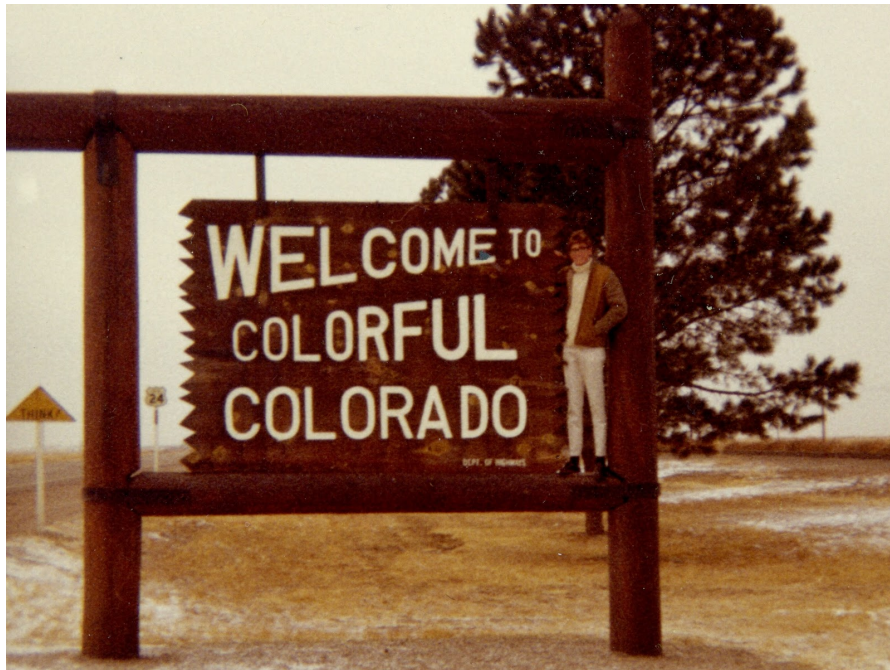
They snuck away unnoticed...



And departed that night on their honeymoon.



Headed to **Loveland**, CO...



And Breckenridge for snow fun.



Even when they left, the ski trails spelled **LOVE**:



Ahhh...

They returned home to Steve's 2nd floor apartment in Rolla, MO, recently "fixed up" for his new bride.



Living Room (with model)



Bedroom (with wedding gift handmade quilt)





Kitchen & bath (with new shelves)



And a one-month anniversary celebration.



They came back to Webster Groves for Easter.



Followed by Steve's graduation from "Rolla" in May



Then came the long drive to Steve's new job with IBM in Vermont. After riding Highway 8 across New York, Pat lay exhausted in the Howard Johnson motel in Burlington.



But not for long, as they headed out the first weekend to explore Vermont.



They found an apartment in Fort Ethan Allen  
*across the street* from where Steve was going to  
work.



Fully furnished (with same model, even)



Except for the addition of a bookcase Steve made with boards and concrete blocks.



They continued to explore Vermont, including climbing Camel's Hump on a whim,



Just after Steve got his new contacts...





Soon (Oct 14, 1969), came the first snow, and the ground was covered until Spring.



It didn't hurt that at Christmas there was a 4 foot dump of a storm. That's Vermont, they thought.



After putting up their first Christmas tree,



They returned to Webster to celebrate with family.





This [1969] year of firsts was followed by other firsts such as Pat's first garden (along the side of their apartment building).



And the first party they hosted...



The first climb up Mount Mansfield



Then a visit back to Steve's parents' house





Sailing on Lake Champlain



Getting a book signed by the actual Maria von Trapp at the Trapp Family Lodge



The first smooching selfie (way ahead of their time)



And the results of too much smooching (otherwise known as "koo koo stuff")



Steve had to go to Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI



And leave his sweetheart in Webster Groves at her parents' house.



But the Navy let Steve come home for a weekend to see his new "Cathy"



And later, after he graduated from OCS, to be at Cathy's christening.





Then the Navy sent them all to Port Hueneme, CA for Steve's Civil Engineer Corps training. Along the way, Cathy saw the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam, but doesn't remember them.



They almost got stranded in Death Valley when a flash flood struck and washed out the road. Steve guided their Chevy Vega around rocks and holes with only minimal damage to the car.



Once in California, they found an apartment, by the beach, of course.



When Steve wasn't busy playing a SeaBee,



They visited California sights like Universal Studios



## And Devil's Postpile National Memorial



And Sequoia National Park



Funny, Cathy doesn't recall any of these visits.

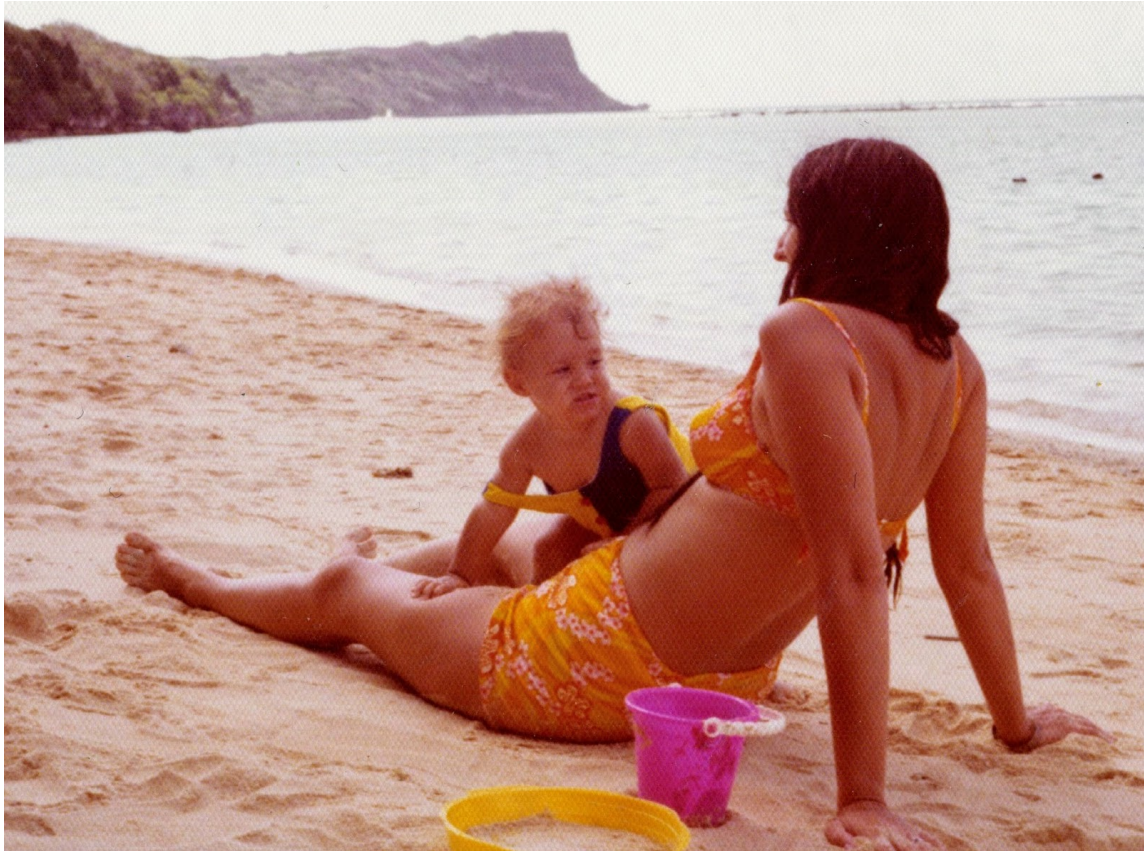
Then it was off to Guam.



They took up residence in Navy housing



And started enjoying the year-round tropical temps





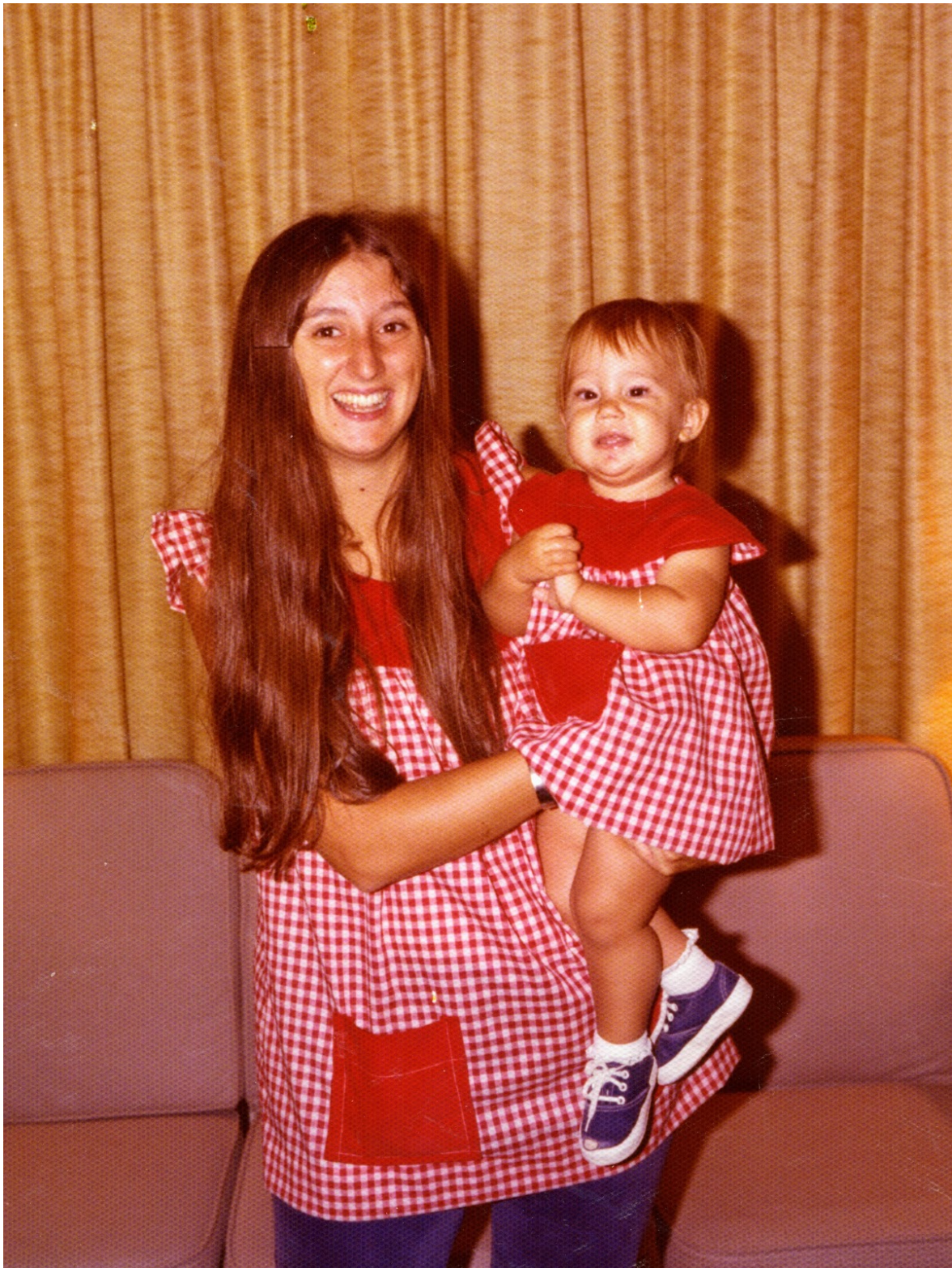
Wasn't long before Steve had his wisdom teeth taken out (and it appears Cathy did, too?)



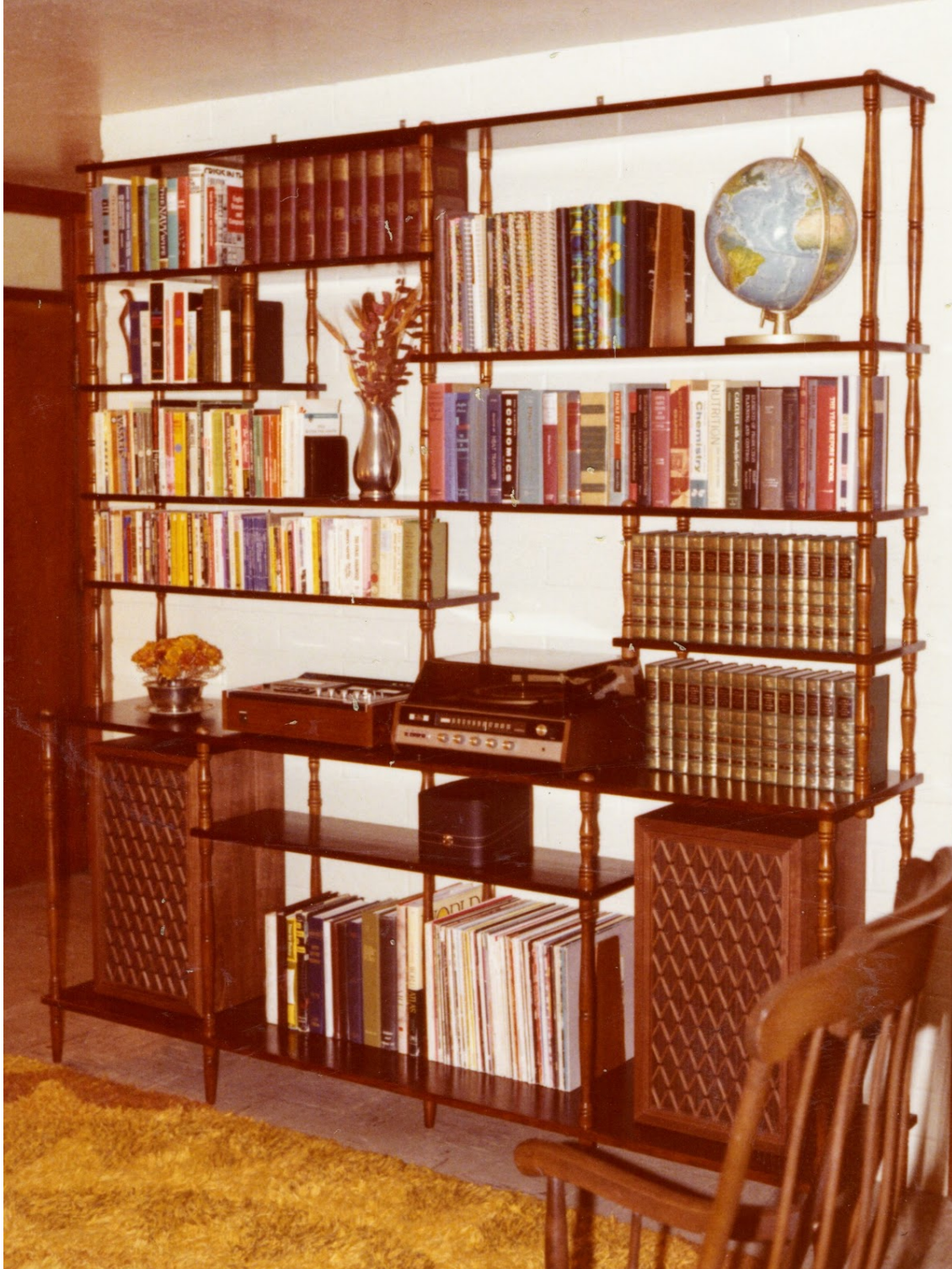
But that's okay because he got to dress as his favorite hero, the Lone Ranger, with trusted Tonto by his side.



Cathy grew to look more like her mom -- sometimes.



Steve kept busy with projects, one that included using the same boards from the Vermont bookcase to build a **bigger** bookcase.



Both Steve and Pat came to Christ on Guam; Steve at a Grady Wilson Crusade in May 1973.



Pat was baptized in the Pacific Ocean in Nov 1973.



Pat and Steve (waving) enjoy a waterfall with their good friends the Kneppers.



“Boonie” hikes were a popular Guam activity.

As was attending the annual CEC Ball



Navy benefits included an R&R trip to Bangkok. Here's Pat riding a camel with her friend Leda.



And standing by a solid gold Buddha...





In 1975, the Navy tour on Guam came to an end and the 3 flew home, with a stop in Hawaii.



Once back home in Vermont, they rented a house and prepared for a new arrival.



They bought an empty lot in a new development



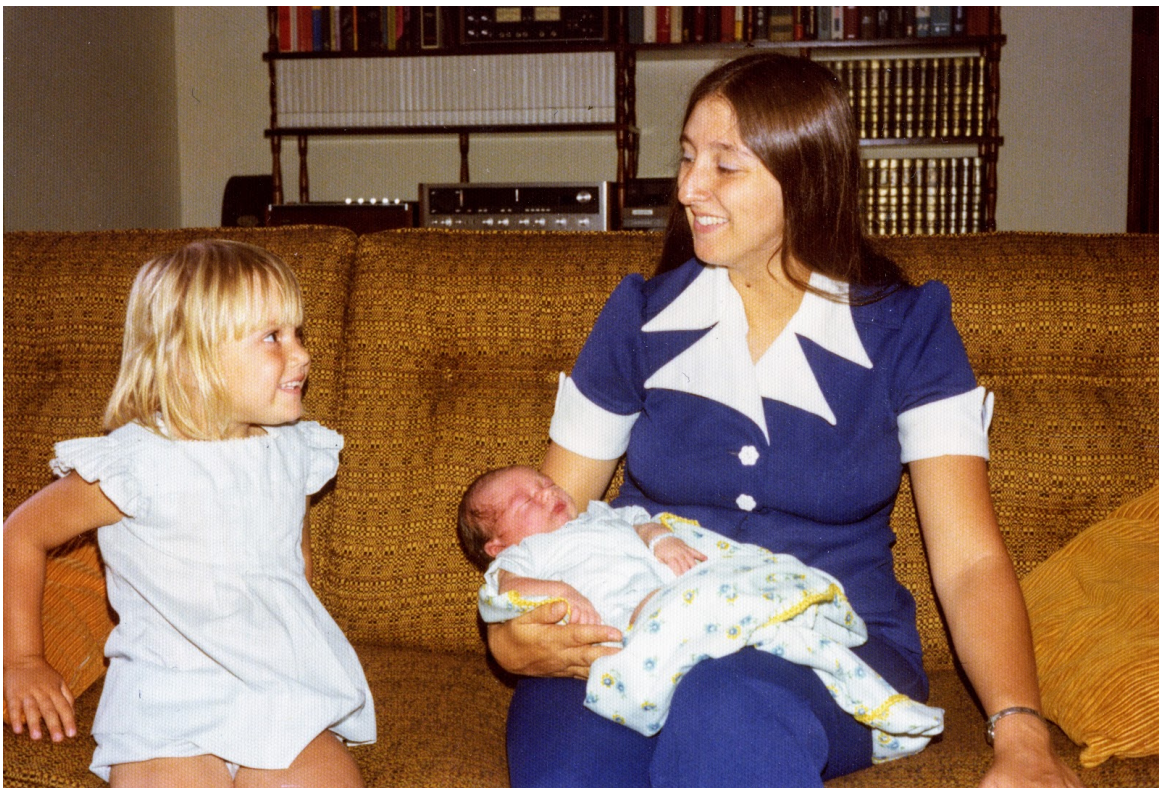
And built their new house just in time for Jeffrey.



They were both happy to have their new son.



Cathy was happy for a new brother as well.



Now they were 4!  
Jeff was christened later that year.



In June of 1976, Steve followed up his Guam conversion by being baptized in Lake Champlain.



In the summer of the US bicentennial year, they took a trip back to St Louis and returned home via the Smoky Mountains. No A/C. Just good kids.



Jeff's 1st birthday had to be a tailgate party.



Their first family camping trip was May 1977 with friends in Conway, New Hampshire.





Thanksgiving was shared with their "out-of-town" friends at Essex Alliance Church.



The winter of 1978 brought plenty snow.

Cathy watches Dad goof off in it.

(Note baby crib at top of hill used to haul wood in from the back yard.)



1978 also brought the first day of [pre]school for Jeff. (These "first day" photos by the front door became a tradition in the school years to follow.)



And the first day of first grade for Cathy.



In 1980, the family took a trip back Webster Groves to visit the high school where they met.



And on the way home, they stopped by Niagra Falls.



The next Spring in Vermont, it was time for “sugar on snow”.



And Steve's first long bike ride (through Smugglers Notch).



First Vermont B&B getaway in 1982 was [lucky] anniversary 13 spent at the Kedron Valley Inn



And stables -- for a sleigh ride.





Followed in March by a visit to New York City...



Camping continued as a family favorite activity.  
In Vermont (Woodford):



And Maine (Acadia)



It was back to school in the fall.



They had a dog, Toby, and later a cat, Abby.



1983 anniversary celebration at Mountain Top Inn



A photo in Fairfax shows how they're growing up.



In 1985, Steve rides his bike from Vermont to his parents' home in Missouri.



And Pat (God bless her) drives the kids to meet him.



Vacations in 1986 include a car trip to Disney.



And a bike trip (Steve & Pat) around the Lake.



Then, a Christmas photo:



The next year brings a family trip to Dallas.



And Steve bikes Skyline Drive!





August 1988, Cathy is baptized in Buckes Pond.



And Cathy and Jeff are now taller than Mom.



1989 was the 1st year of Outer Banks reunions.



Then Cathy heads off for her Senior year.



And is elected 1989 Homecoming Queen.



This 1990 obligatory Easter photo shows the men have outgrown the camera.



“Have I told you lately that I love you?”



Cathy graduates...



Then goes to Hawaii for the national homecoming queen pageant.



She lets her parents come to Hawaii, too.



Once back home, Pat gets a job in Boston driving Duck Boats. (Just kidding.)





Steve sings...



Steve rides...



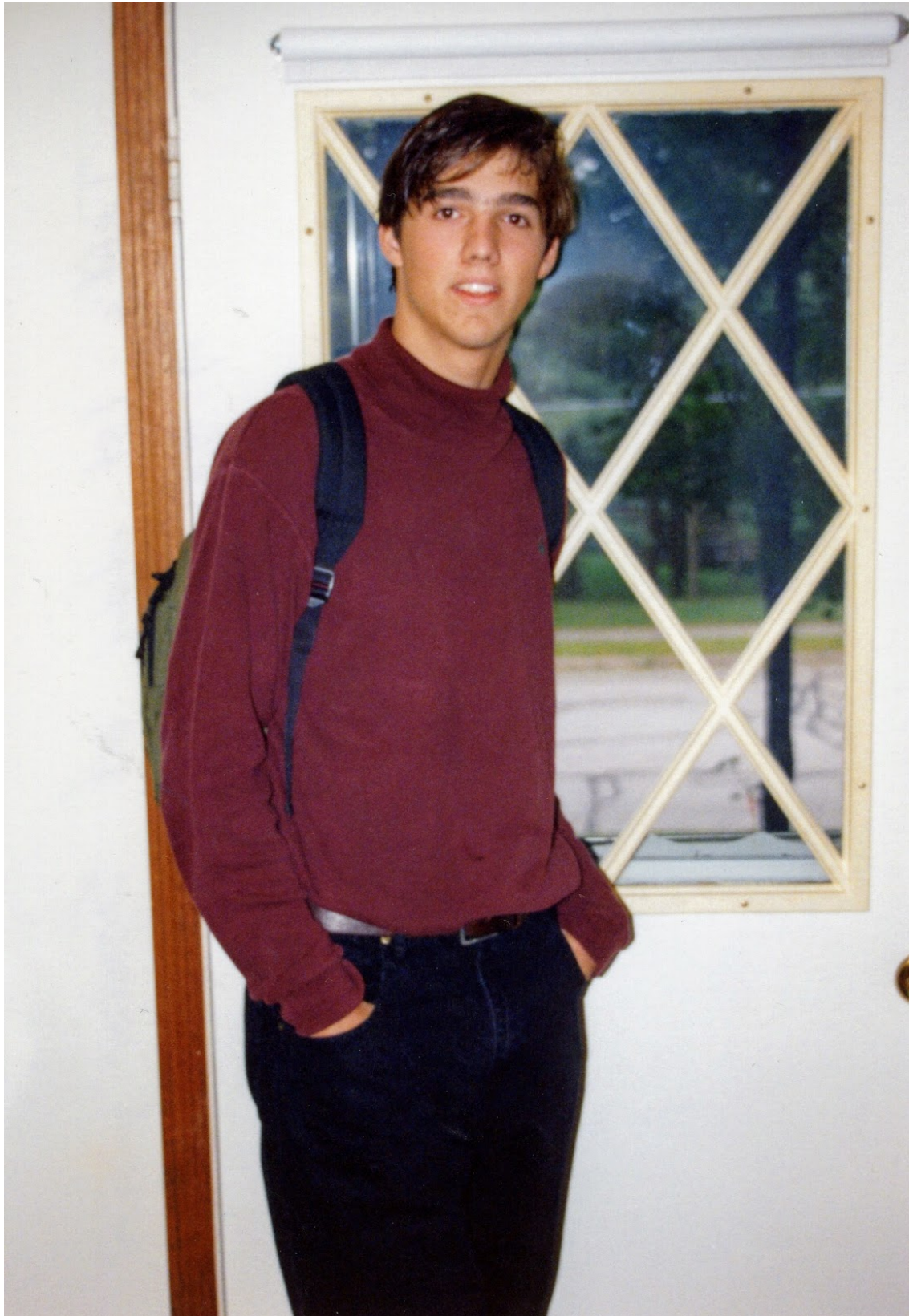
Cathy heads off to her freshman year at Gordon and introduces her parents to a boy she met.



By her junior year in 1992, things get serious.



Jeff heads off to his senior year in high school.



Singing and dancing his way through...



Steve dips his tires in the Pacific. Virginia or Bust!



Bust!



That's okay. Cathy organizes a celebration of the miles covered before the bust. Steve fights tears.



And that other guy keeps hanging around.



They celebrate Christmas (1993)





January 18, 1994, Cathy and Jeff organize a surprise 25th anniversary celebration.



Steve and Pat then head to a B&B in Chelsea, VT.



Cathy reaches 1000 points.



Jeff, now at Gordon, chooses among his admirers.



May 1994, Cathy graduates from Gordon.



July 1994, Steve celebrates 25 years with IBM.



Cathy and Eric announce their December wedding



As Steve and Pat were on their way to the 1994 Samuels Family Reunion in Outer Banks.



December 1994: Now they are 5!



And start spending more time together.



1996, riding the streets of Boston:



And Easter in Vermont:



Pat joins Steve on a business trip to Nashville.



Then in December, celebrates her 50th birthday!

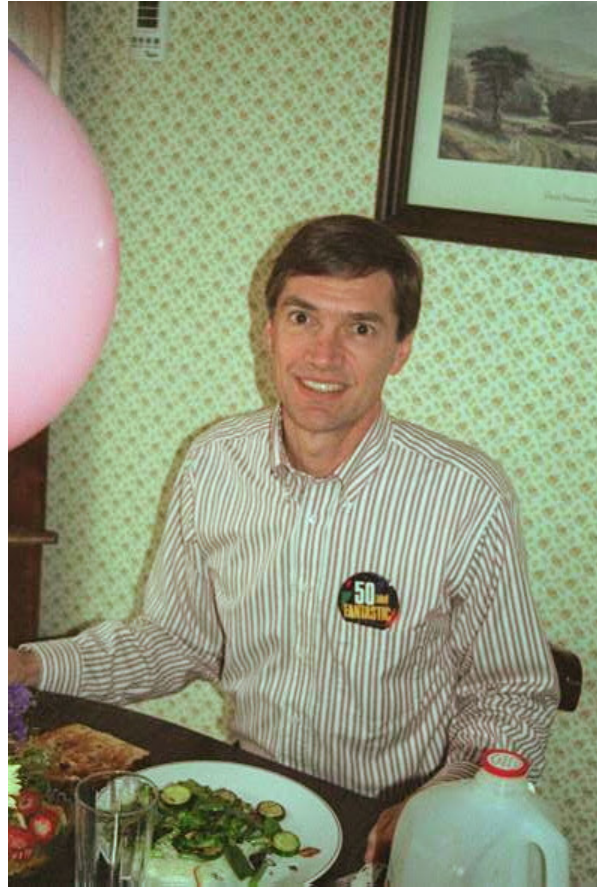


1997, Jeff brings Alison to Cathy's birthday party.





Not to be outdone by Pat, Steve turns 50 as well.



Then heads off to Oklahoma to complete the missing link of his cross-country bike trip.



1997 was also the year of the 3rd Samuels Family Reunion at the Outer Banks.



The 4 get together at Jeff's church in Boston.



Alison visits Burlington (and Jeff).



1998, Pat is overwhelmed by Steve's gift of her new porch, deck and gardens.



The lovers enjoy Thanksgiving in Danvers.



May 1999, Alison graduates from Gordon



And Jeff graduates from Boston Conservatory.



Somebody's coming and it's not Cathy.



June 19, 1999, Pat is officially renamed Nana (and Steve, Pop).



With Jonathan, now they are 6! (Well, somebody has to take the photo.)



The sweethearts ring in the new millenium.



And Pat, er Nana, goes and takes the Penguin Plunge in Lake Champlain.





Nana by her 2 loves:



And speaking of lovers...



Alison and Jeff announce a July 2000 wedding, and Alison is "showered".



Here they are back at Jeff's church.



Now they are 7! (Well, somebody has to...)



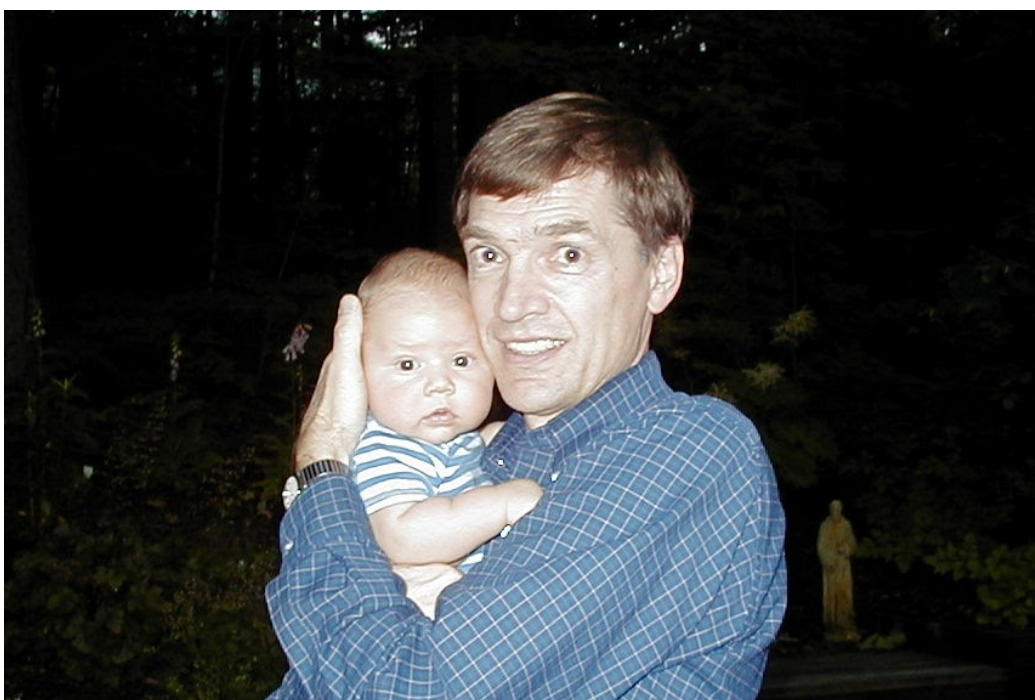
Spring of 2001, the lovers go to Paris!



Cathy and Eric have another announcement...



And April 15, 2001, Nana and Pop are happy to greet Cameron!



In 2001, now they are 8! At Thanksgiving...



And Christmas...



Nana and Pop had fun both with the grandsons



And without





They traveled the country showing them off,  
in Springfield, IL:



And Neosho, MO:



It wasn't long before Alison and Jeff had an announcement of their own.



January 29, 2003, welcome Otto!



Now they are 9!



The year passed quickly, while the boys grew.



But before year-end, Cathy had another idea...



Nana and Pop welcome Ethan, born December 11.



As did the other boys...



Nana and Pop stop to reflect on their journey through life. In love with each other and depending on God, they look forward to what the future brings.



Pop says he will love Nana forever!



Grandsons make the world go 'round...







In June 2005, Steve retires from IBM.



The family continues to grow up.



And Nana and Pop grow older, too. (Bummer.)  
Here's Nana on her 60th birthday:



And Pop on his:



Wasn't long before they celebrated their 40th anniversary in Bar Harbor.



Together forever.



2010 -- Look how this family has grown.









In 2013, Nana congratulates Pop on his retirement from Essex Alliance Church.



4th & last Samuels Family Reunion at Outer Banks



Easter 2014.



2014 -- Ready to try camping in style:



They celebrate the 50th anniversary of their first date:



World travelers...

Selfie at St Peter's Basilica, April 2015



At Rome coliseum



February 2016, baptized [again], but this time in the Jordan River



On the Mediterranean seashore



March 2016, Pop buys a house at Lake Frederick.



And it's time for the 4 to say goodbye to their Vermont home of 41 years.



On their way to Virginia, Nana and Pop say goodbye to Vermont on their last ferry crossing.



And arrive safely at their new home.



Their New England family wishes them well.





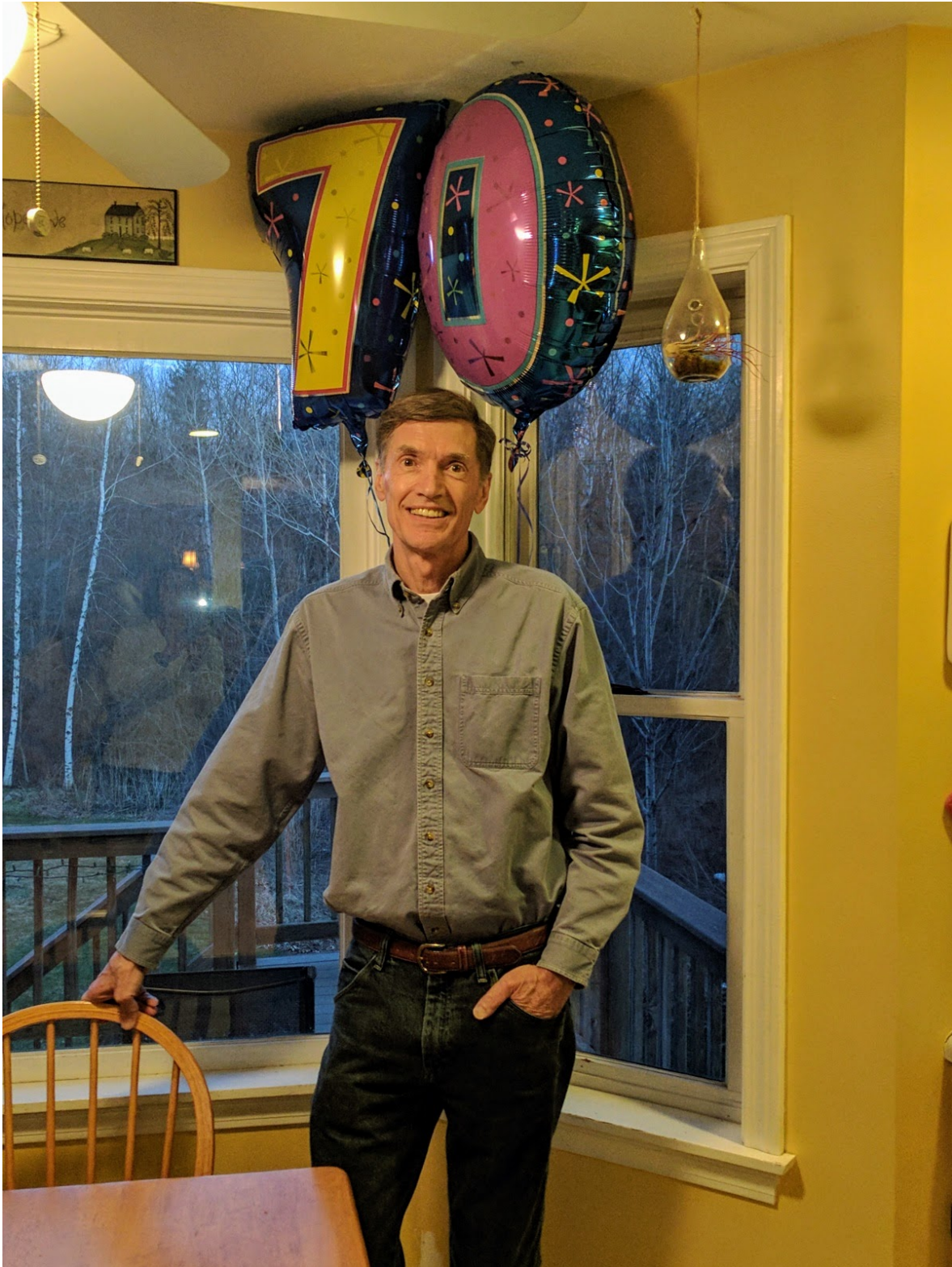
Nana celebrates her 70th birthday in Virginia



And in Vermont



And Pop has a 70th birthday party in New Hampshire.



As in Vermont, they love exploring their new state







They like visits with family, here...



Or visits with family, there...



And still enjoy other trips out of state, such as Key West, Mt Rushmore or the Badlands of ND.





But best of all is simply living life together.



*And they all lived happily ever after...*

