

The Dennis and Pauline (Teeter) Erickson Family

Dennis and I were married on December 1, 1965 in the Logan LDS temple. We had our reception in Malta on December 9, the same day my Mom had her first open heart surgery, something we did not know about until it was too late to change. She went through another surgery 18 years later. We lived in Burley in my sister Tamara's basement apartment for 16 days. Dennis was drafted shortly after we were married and left Burley on December 16 1965 for Boise. He was sent to Ft. Polk, Louisiana for basic training. I moved home with mom and dad.

Dennis came home in February for a month leave before he was sent to Ft. Belvoir Virginia. He took engineering classes and became an instructor. Our first son was born while he was in Virginia. Dennis was home for a month and then sent to Thailand for a year. He was on the engineering team as a mechanic. In Thailand Dennis lived in a Hooch (house on stilts). Also while there he survived a battery explosion spraying his eyes and face with acid. He was told that he probably would lose most of his vision. After being bandaged for several days he could see great. In fact, he still has 20/20 vision. Of course he needs Wal-Mart magnifiers for reading and bright light, snow glare and night driving sometimes bother him. After his stay in Thailand he was home for a month again and we finally started a family life, of sorts, in Lawton Oklahoma at Ft. Sill. We lived off base in Lawton. We were eventually sent to Ft. Chaffee Arkansas on temporary duty and lived in Fort Smith Arkansas. We rented the bottom floor of a house with our landlord living in an upstairs apartment. Here Dennis enjoyed coon hunting with some local people he met. Our only daughter was born in September of 1968. Three days later we moved back to Lawton and put Dennis' mom, who had been visiting us, on the plane the next day. On December 18th Dennis was released from duty and we headed home with two children and a hound dog. After visiting all our families we setup house in Burley and Dennis went to work for Bunting Caterpillar. In 1969 we bought a small place in Heyburn. Dennis went to work for John Deere in 1970. In July of 1971 we had a big surprise when we became parents of twin boys. Since Dennis is known to be quite a story teller no one believed that we actually had twins - even his mother. She said "Dennis, I'm going to put your dad on the phone. You won't lie to him." The guys at his work even sent a guy to our house to make sure it was true.

In August of 1972 after the death of his grandfather, Dennis' dad asked us to return to Almo and help on the ranch. So we sold our house in Heyburn and moved to Almo. We rented a place in Almo until we could build a house south of Almo. We moved into our new home in August of 1973 and spent 10 years there raising our kids and cows and farming. The family enjoyed hunting, camping out, trapping and fishing.

In 1982 Jack decided to sell the farm south of Almo and Dennis wanted to buy the home place north of Almo (where we live today). It's a nice place, but I watch for rattlesnakes from May to October. Usually We get a lot of snow, but we have not had as much lately due to a drought.

We have enjoyed seeing our children grow-up, graduate, marry and some even marry again. We became grandparents on May 22 1988 with a grandson. This was followed has been followed by 11 more over the years. As of this writing we also have 2 step grandsons and a step great grandchild.

We have enjoyed pretty good health and won't complain - it could get worse. Dennis did survive a lightning strike on his horse on June 22 of 2002. We aren't sure what actually happened as he lost consciousness and a few days memory.

One of our greatest challenges was our fourth grandson who was born with alpha 1 anti-trypsin deficiency. This is a disease that attacks the liver or respiratory system. He received a liver transplant at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City. Our daughter was a donor so it was a double worry. All has gone well. He has had a couple of additional surgeries and is now 5 years old. He is going to have a surgery on January 11 2005 for another bowel blockage.

Dennis still enjoys hunting, trapping horses and ranching. I enjoy genealogy, embroidery, crocheting and quilting. We both enjoy grandkids, church callings and activities, being together and dancing.