



Where My Time Has Gone

By Jane Berberich

Growing up in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, a very Democratic town, I was never involved in politics. However, many years later I think everyone in the town knew I was unafraid to speak out on political issues. I was asked (from local groups to bank presidents) to give views on why you should vote. Many people there did not want to lose their vote so they always voted for the Democrat candidate, even though that was not always the best choice. I like to think that I changed their thinking a little as Arkansas soon elected a Republican governor and later a Republican lieutenant governor.

I married a military man in 1951, and quickly learned that you did not work in politics in the military. Would you believe I even quit voting? My involvement then was with the church and Officers Wives Club, where I later became president.

My claim to fame was decorating a float for the Memphis, Tennessee Christmas parade, assisted by the Junior Girl Scouts, an organization I was involved with, and also served as the 2nd Vice

President of Crowley Ridge Girl Scout Council. We won first place for this effort! I was later awarded the "the special service award for outstanding service" to the community.

We retired from service life in 1971 and moved to San Antonio, Texas. After years of entertaining my friends as they came to see HemisFair '68, we moved to Fort Worth, where I became involved in the Fort Worth Newcomers Club and later became the president of the 600 Member Club. Our speaker at one of the meetings was the county chairman of the Republican Party. He said the headquarters always needed volunteers, and as the outgoing president [of the Newcomers club, which meant I had time to work for the county, I volunteered.

I was soon asked to be a precinct chair, a position I still hold, although the precinct number has changed several times. I'd like to tell you how many precinct meetings I've attended, but I don't really know. Let's say I've missed very few since 1973. I always attend the Election Schools. Some ask "Why?" And my answer is, "Because I always learn something." Election laws change every year.

I then became a member of a Republican women's club and eventually became that club's president. I found the time, with three others, to start the Southwest Republican Club in 1973, too. The name was different then and it took in all of Tarrant County. Now we have many new clubs and all in different areas of the county. (There is no reason for someone to say "I never have the chance to meet a candidate" —join a club; they are always there.)

I served on the board of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, a 10,000-member organization. I attended many campaign schools and even taught a few. I became a political pollster. I've been to many National and State conventions, and yes, I'll be at the Straw Poll in Ft. Worth in September.

From 1973 to 1978 I spent a lot of time serving on the committee "Save the Scott Home," now known as Thistle Hill.

At the present time I'm treasurer of Tarrant County Republican Assembly, and a member of several Republican clubs.

I have been blessed with having two wonderful children. A daughter, Deborah, who's an intensive care charge nurse in Neonatology and lives in California; and a son, who's a captain with American Airlines and, fortunately for me, he lives close by in Granbury. I have four grandchildren from age 16 to 21. Perfect ages to stay up with the times of today.

Between helping candidates and keeping my precinct a strong Republican voting group, I served as both Temporary and Permanent Chairman of the Senate 12 Senatorial convention and served on the State Republican Executive Committee. Redistricting changed this precinct from Senate District 12 to Senate District 10, so I now look to our SREC committeewoman, Leslie Recine, and committeeman, Jim Borchert for information and guidance in SD10.

What a great team to know and work with.

Come volunteer with me—it certainly beats being bored.