

# Places We Have Lived

An autobiography extracted from Face Book posts submitted by Elva Lee (Materne) Smith

## **February 7, 2014**

On this date in 1945 I started on an amazing 47 yr. adventure with the love of my life. We were married after wed. night service in Calvary Baptist on Shattuck St. in Lake Charles,La.

## **February 8, 2014**

Continuing ! During that 47 yr. journey we were blessed with three wonderful children,Jeannie,Jackie and Becky. Two gave our three beautiful gran daughters,Joy,Jennifer and Jackee. Then they showered me with 8 precious great gran children.

Jason,Hannah,Walter,Caleb,Josiah,Ellie ,Lillyanna and Ginger and one due any day, another girl. How can one person be more Blessed? love

**February 10, 2014**

Places we have lived: It is late Aug. in '45 and we are back at MOM@DADs house in Fletcher.O.K. C.A. finally got a job in Walter,O.K. We rented a two bedroom house for 50\$ a month and C.A. started his job repairing radios and was paid 50\$ a week. He was paid the first two weeks . The 3rd week no check and C.A. would not ask for his money. At the end of the 4th.week he was given the 100\$ he was owed an was told he was not needed any more. His boss's wife's brother came home from the army and he got the job. So back to Dad's we went. At this time I found out we were going to be parents and was feeling great. In Sept. C.A. was hired by a company in Borger,Tx. doing electrical work at a plant. We lived in a 17ft. travel trailer which the Gov. had moved in for vets. to live in. The bath house was not too far from our place which worked out fine until it snowed. The stove had to be pumped for cooking to get the gas. In Dec. C.A. came home from work and asked if I wanted to go to La? He was told he had to climb a tall pole which was iced over so he deiced we would just leave.My parents was only too happy to have us home. We lived with then until the last of April when we rented a house next door to dad's house. The rent was 7\$ a month and no charge for the outhouse! While I was in the hospital having our baby they moved our belongings into the house. We are now into May 46. more later. love to all

**February 12, 2014**

Places we've lived: When we arrived in L.C. in dec.of 46 C.A. went to work with uncle Wille doing construction work which he enjoyed. That job ended and had to go to another town but C.A. did not want to leave so he went to work in the control tower at the Air Force base as a civilian worker. In May of 46 he rejoined the Air Force and stayed in L.C. All was good until he came home from work one day in Sept. and said we were moving to a house in Moss Bluff. It was a nice little house and we stayed there until May of 47 when he received orders to go a training school for six weeks so we moved back in with my parents. When C.A. came home in Aug. the base was closed so found out he was going a base in Mobile, Alabama. We moved in Sept. and rented a bedroom/with bath and kitchen in a complex for G.I.s. Across from this row of apts was another row like this one only they had taken two apts. cut a door between them rented them as a living room,a bedroom, two kitchens and two baths,so we moved again. We stayed there until he received orders to go to Germany to work the control tower during the Berlin Airlift. I was six months pregnant with a baby and was unable to travel so back to my parents house Jeannie and I lived until we were able to join him in Germany in Feb. of 48, by that time Jackie was born in .

join him

**February 14, 2014**

When C.A. came home in Sept. '51 he was stationed at a base in Smyrna, Tenn. We rented a house at Murfreesboro and lived there until he came home one day and said we were moving to a house in the country. It had a livingroom, kitchen, two bedrooms and bath. We were WAY out in the country. I was pregnant with our Becky at that time. In May he moved us to base housing in Smyrna. We had three bedrooms here. Beck was born June 26. We lived there until Feb. of '52 when C.A. was told he was being sent to Viet. war and he did not want to do that. He was able to leave the service at that time so when he was discharged we moved to Ok. City in Feb. of '53. We stayed with his brother Brunell and his wife until we found an apt. It was on the second floor with out side stairs. He had applied for a job at Tinker Air Force Base and the day he signed for the job he bought a house on Bowman Dr. in Midwest city where we lived until he returned from Alaska. He was on a year tour of duty and came home in Oct '57. Then we were in for moves three years in a row. Love to all.

## February 15, 2014

Places we have lived: Oct.'57: C.A. is home from Alaska and we are on our way to Scout A.F. base in Ill. We stayed in an apt. on the Base until we found a place to live which was in Trenton, Ill. It was a small town 30min. south of the base. Our house was in downtown, next to the bank and movie theater. Across the St. was a Confection store, which the children loved, the local Bar and the post office where we picked up our mail. There was no kindergarten so Becky was home with me all day. Jeannie and Jackie walked to school. even when it snowed. The house had a long porch on the side and the front door opened on the sidewalk. The rent was \$50 a month. One day C.A. decided he wanted to get out of town. He found this old house which we had to fix up. We were pulling off old wallpaper when he got orders to transfer to a Base in Biloxi, Miss. We moved Aug.'58. We found an old house In a small town west of Biloxi. It was a two bedroom house with a front porch and a screened in back porch. The washer@dryer were in the kitchen which also was the dinning room. A train track ran in front of the house. It took a few mos. till we no longer noticed the trains. The water had so much sulfur which we never got used to . The rent was \$50 a month. We lived there til Dec.'59. Love to all

**February 18, 2014**

Places we have lived: Here we are in Dec. '59 moving to Wichita Falls, Tx. where C.A. has been transferred to Sheppard A.F. Base. We rented a two bedroom house on Landon Lane across the street from a Baptist Church which we joined. We lived there for a few months when C.A. bought a new house in Glenwood on Longview. It was a Three bedroom, one bath and a garage. Later C.A. converted the garage into a bedroom for Jackie. We lived there until '63 when C.A. found another house in the same subdivision. They were building brick homes and the one he wanted backed up to a Country Club Golf Course. He promised me this would be our retirement home if we would buy this. We moved into the house in May when it was completed. C.A. retired from Air Force the 31st. of Dec, '63. He had a contract for one year to work on the base. When that year was up he worked repairing TVs. Then he got a job in another city working at a Satellite complex tracking satellites. In Oct. C.A. was hired for a job at Tinker A.F. Base in Midwest City, OK. We moved to a mobile home in M.W City in Oct '66. Then we bought a 3 bedroom, one bath, living room and the kitchen @ dining room together. We stayed there until '73. Love to all

**March 1, 2014**

Places we have lived: We are living in the house we bought in Dec.'66. While C.A. is working at Tinker he met a guy selling lots on Lake Eufaula. I had never heard of that place but we soon became owners of a lot full of trees, brush and lots of copperhead snakes. C.A. decided that is where we would live when he retired so we moved our travel trailer there and every weekend was spent clearing the lot. He decided he would retire in '73 so went shopping for a used mobile home. It was all set up, a well dug and a septic system in place when we moved in Aug. '73. C.A. had bought a pontoon boat before we moved. After we moved to the lake he sold our travel trailer thinking we would not be camping anymore. We had a wonderful group of friends there. C.A. was a Mason and also did electrical work so he stayed pretty busy. I did not find out until we moved that he did not like to fish. I worked a while in sewing factory. Every summer we would have granddaughters which we both enjoyed so very much. Then they became teenagers and went to work. C.A. decided we would travel so he went and bought a popup trailer which was quite an experience. On the first of March of '81 C.A. went to the Baptist hospital in O.K.C. to have some test done. He had a 4 bypass surgery, an artery in his neck to open it up and another test. We were in that hospital for 28 days before we could get back to the lake. We had a garden every spring so I did the garden myself since he was not able. I really enjoyed the gardening and the canning and freezing. In '83 C.A. decided he was ready to move into a travel trailer and do some traveling. We bought a 30ft. travel trailer and enjoyed living a gypsy life until '85 when we had to stop traveling because of his health. We stayed in the travel trailer until '87 when we bought a 14 by 55 ft' mobile home. We were living in Lawton where we were when we stopped traveling. We stayed in Lawton until we moved the mobile home up to O.K.C. in March of '89. We were in a mobile home park 44th. St. which we enjoyed. Loads of love.

**March 7, 2014**

Places we have lived: We are all settled in our new place in OKC. C.A. built a back porch on the trailer and put on a large front porch which he bought from a person in the park who was moving. In Jan. '90 a neighbor gave C.A. a puppy that was 5wks. He named him Skeeter because that was his nickname as a young boy. He put up a fence to keep Skeeter from getting hurt and we planted a nice garden. I had the yard as my play ground. I planted all kinds of flowers and so enjoyed seeing them grow. In Aug. of '92 C.A. decided he wanted a house. We went to MWCity and bought a house on Sandra Dr. The children moved us to the house in the middle of Aug. C.A was working so hard to get his Ham Radio set up. One day he was resting in the garage . I went to see how he was doing and he said he was the happiest he had ever been. We had been in the house 6wks. when I had to take him to the hospital. He had heart by-pass surgery. he came through the surgery but did not get out of ICU. Still miss him so! love