

## **Don Henderson**

I was born in Stillwater Oklahoma but since I moved to Washington when I was 6 months old, I consider myself a Washington native. My father came to Washington and worked in the apple orchards in Eastern Washington, he was a pomologist--which means he was an apples specialist. He later worked for many years as a grounds maintenance manager for the Edmonds School district.

In my school days I remember one time riding a horse when I was 12 years old. I let the reins go slack thinking the horse was headed in the right direction; instead, he took a detour under a clothesline. I was left in a heap on the ground with the saddle and the pulled-down clothesline while the horse headed his own way.

Some of my happiest memories are of the many boating trips I took with the Sea Explorers. I particularly enjoyed boating to the San Juan Islands and that explains my love of the islands to this day. I also was on the debate team in High School. I graduated from Meadowdale High School.

My wife, Linda, also graduated from Meadowdale but we didn't meet until we were students at the University of Washington. She was sitting on the library steps and I discovered she was hungry. I took her to my apartment and fed her tuna casserole and that was the beginning point of a 42 year love affair! We were married in 1970. I graduated with a degree in Psychology but that was in the time that Seattle had 19.8% unemployment so I headed off to Denver. Here I worked as an accounting clerk and eventually became branch accountant for International Harvester in Cheyenne, WY. Seeing the need for more training, I went back to school and received MBA in finance and accounting.

I received my CPA certification and chose to work in corporate accounting. I was first Controller for Ace Tank Co, a manufacturer of steel storage tanks and then as Controller for Adams News Co, Inc., a wholesale distributor of magazines and books where I was employed for 19 years. I was promoted to Vice President of Accounting & Information Systems and had a Controller and an IT Manager reporting to me. I next was a IT Project Manager for the Upline Group running

the Data Center upgrade project for Snohomish County PUD and supervising the Year 2000 project for AT&T wireless. I currently have my own part-time computer consulting firm, Browns Bay Consulting.

My wife and I have 2 children, Kristine and David and they each have 2 children-- So I am the proud grandpa (aka Boppa) to 4 grandchildren.

I became a Rotarian in October, 2002 and will serve as club president beginning July, 2010