

Ed Peoples

My life didn't evolve in a straight line. I was born a third generation Petalumen and raised with an older sister and an older step brother and step-sister. I graduated from PHS in 1953. My wife graduated in 1952. We knew each other, but didn't date until after graduation, and then it quickly became serious, and we married the following year. I had always worked part time as far back as I can remember, and getting a permanent job was an easy adjustment. I drove truck for five years after our marriage. First for Roy Jameson & Son for three years and then for PBM for two. We had two sons born two years apart, owned our own 2-bedroom house, on which we paid \$50 per month. All was well, except I decided that I wanted a different job future. I quit my job, we sold our house, and I enrolled at SRJC. We lived on campus in housing created after WW2 to accommodate returning vets. Rent was \$40, including utilities I drove a school bus before and after the local junior and senior high school for \$160 a month, and worked swing shift as a bus boy at the restaurant in the Flamingo Hotel during the summer. A film company was making Pollyanna at the time and most of the stars stayed at the hotel. I enjoyed doing room service.

After graduation, we moved to Seattle, Washington where I quickly found a job as a meat cutter for Tradewell Stores and entered and completed the butcher apprentice program. I took evening classes at the University. I had been in the Naval Reserve since high school and was never called up. My eight-year commitment ended here, and I received an honorable discharge. After about a year in Washington, the damp weather created health problems for one of our sons, and we had to move to a dryer climate. We moved to Sacramento, where I planned to continue in my butcher's trade and attend Sacramento State part time. However, the butcher's union there would not recognize any of my work time or apprenticeship from Washington. I needed a job, but I wasn't going to start over as a butcher. I had had a real estate sales license since I was eighteen but hadn't use it. I took a job with Christopherson and Spickard Realty, but real estate was in one of its bad times. After about three months, I took a salaried job with Local Loan Company, one of the several consumer finance companies in the area. I worked there for three years, eventually becoming the assistant manager and collection manager for the south Sacramento office.

From time to time, the job required me to facilitate collection of bad debts, locate skips, and repossess collateral, usually cars. I was thinking about quitting twice, but each time I did we had another child and I received a monthly raise with each child. However, the negative aspect of that job tainted the work and a future in that field didn't look very appealing.

After three years, I quit my job and enrolled in day classes at Sacramento State, then began looking for a job. I took a job working the swing shift and the county juvenile hall, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I had almost completed school when the opportunity arose to take the county Probation Officer I exam. I passed and moved upstairs, as it was called, because that department was upstairs from the Hall. I worked as a deputy probation officer for three years; about eighteen months supervising a case of approximately 90 juveniles, and about eighteen months doing court investigations and recommendation to the court what disposition would be best suited to the juvenile

rehabilitation, or whatever. I graduated from Sacramento State with a BA in Social Science.

As much as I enjoyed my work, it was not Sonoma County. We made trips of Petaluma as often as we could. On one such trip, I called on a friend who lived in Santa Rosa and who had lived next to us on the SRJC campus. Ironically, he was working for the Sonoma County Probation Department and said that they were hiring. I quickly applied, interviewed and was hired to work in the adult division of the probation department. There were no openings in the juvenile division. I soon came to be thankful of that. We sold our home in Sacramento and moved back to Petaluma. I immediately took over a caseload of 230 adult probationers. I did that for about a year, then switched to an investigative unit and did the investigation and prepared presentence reports for the court. It was a great job. We were back in Petaluma, and all was well. Also, I had been attending Sonoma State University part time for three years and graduated with a Master's in History. Seemingly, out of the blue, I had an offer to teach at San Jose State College in the Administration of Justice Department and help develop their probation/corrections program. I came home and asked my wife how she would like moving to San Jose, and she replied, "You've got to be kidding."

So, we sold our home in Petaluma and moved to San Jose and bought a new home in the newly south valley area. We bought a new 4-bedroom house for \$32,500, with monthly payments of \$135 and we wondered how we would ever make those payments. I was hired at the Assistant Professor level for the annual salary of \$10,500 which was probably as much as I was earning as a truck driver nine or ten years earlier. We settled in and enjoyed the life. My wife went on to school in her spare time and obtained a teaching credential and started teaching in one of the local elementary schools. As part of my agreement when hired, I had to obtain a doctorate degree. I had to go part time and the only degree program I could find was at USC with a major in public administration/ criminal justice. I began commuting from San Jose to LA and taking Saturday course. It was not long, however, when the University built two satellite campuses, one in Washington D.C. and one in Sacramento. I began attending the Sacramento campus, taking several extended hour classes that began on Friday morning and ended on Monday afternoon. I arranged my teaching schedule to accommodate those times. I finished the course work in 1975, completed the qualifying exams, and moved on to complete a dissertation, which I finally completed in 1983. I was tenured after four years and promoted to Associate Professor the following year, and then appointed department chair the following year. At about that time, (mid-1970s) the college hired Dr. John Bunzel as president, and the school changed its name from State College to California State University at San Jose. The focus of the University changed from teaching as its primary purpose to publish or perish. Just when I was beginning to feel negative about working there, an ad flyer turned up in the campus mail showing that the Administration of Justice Department of SRJC was hiring. I applied, was interviewed, and started the next leg teaching at SRJC and living in Petaluma. My wife got a job teaching at Dunham Elementary School in the Roblar area at the same school that my dad and his ten brothers and sisters had attended as children. I taught at SRJC for nineteen years, and retired when the college offered twenty-four of our senior teachers a great retirement package. It was a wonderful time teaching at the JC but I was ready to move on.

During my years of teaching, I wrote four textbooks in the field of juvenile procedures, criminal procedures, and correctional practices and procedures. My wife and I had them printed and then sold directly under the name of Meadow Crest Publishing to various community colleges in California. Those books have been selling continually now for over thirty years. Another book titled Basic Criminal Procedures was published for several years by Prentice Hall. I took back the copyright on that and we now sell it ourselves. For the past five years or so, all our printing has been done by Amazon KDP. We buy from them at a very reasonable price and resell them to bookstores. Also, students may buy them directly from Amazon, which has worked well during Covid zoom learning. Over the last ten years, I wrote and added four novels which are currently available on Amazon. Also, while teaching at JC, I worked several summers for the probation department doing investigations.

After retirement from the JC, I worked for myself in various capacities: a year or more doing house appraisals and risk analysis for various insurance companies; a year and a half as a clinical hypnotist for the firm, Positive Changes; and from 2006 to 2014, I worked for myself as a notary signing agent, which means I was a certified notary public, with an additional certification as a signing agent. I would receive loan packages, usually Refi's from various lenders or title companies around the country and would attend to the signing with the borrowers at their home, office, or wherever. I then wrote a training manual explaining that process, and it has continued to sell very well on Amazon. I think it is also used in notary signing agent classes.

Both during my teaching years and into retirement, I have also worked off and on for myself as a private investigator, and at times as a real estate broker. I also had a small photo processing shop in a portion of my home, developing and processing black and white film for the town's camera and photo stores. This included product ad photography for selected companies. As a free-lance photographer, with CHP certified press credentials, I did a lot of scene photography for the Argus-Courier, the Marin Independent Journal, and on occasion, the Press Democrat.

When I grow up and decide what I want to do in life, I think I'll play piano in the lounge piano bar at the Flamingo Hotel.