We attended a small country school which taught 1st to 8th grade. At that time, there was no kindergarten. I am still in touch with some long-time friends. In those days country schools would have track meets to compete against each other in various athletic games, and my best was winning a blue ribbon in shotput.

As we got older, we earned money by working on farms in the area doing such things as picking potatoes, weeding beans, shucking corn, and picking sweet cherries. The high school even had a two-week "spud vacation" in the fall so students could help harvest potatoes.

My first real job was working part-time for the City Attorney in Nampa, Idaho, then for some attorneys in Boise as well as the legal division of the Idaho State Highway Department. After getting married I moved to Chico where most of my husband's family lived. Again, I found myself as a legal secretary working for attorneys, then for the (contract) City Attorney, and then for the City of Chico. My occupations at the City included working in the Finance Office and the Police Department.

After I was appointed City Clerk in 1968, I conducted my first election in 1969 for both the Chico City council candidates and the Chico Unified School District board candidates. This was done by paper ballot with squares in which the voter placed an X beside the candidates of their choice. The polling places were located in schools, churches or other suitable locations. At the close of the polls, the precinct workers would then tabulate the votes and all ballots and legal documents were taken to the Butte County Clerk in Oroville. At this time, citizens had to be 21 years old to run for city council, but later the age was changed to 18.

My early City Council agendas were duplicated on a ditto machine using purple ink and rolling on a circular drum as the paper went through. As time progressed, the Xerox machine came along and revolutionized everything in the copying/duplicating process. I believe we were the first public agency in the County to have a "consent agenda" that contained several (judged to be routine) agenda items that could be adopted in one motion.

Other responsibilities included handling candidate nominations, filing economic interest forms, overseeing board and commission appointments, and assuring that legal documents were appropriately processed.

My first computer sat on a table behind my desk for several weeks until I could get up enough courage to start using it. Hitting any wrong key caused me to get up and go fetch a secretary to show me how to get out of the mess I had created. Now I cannot keep up with all the technology and changes that are happening, and I often hire Joyce Brown for her professional services.

In the beginning, meetings started at 8:00 p.m., and then were moved to earlier times over the years. Meetings could be short or long, depending on what issues were on the agenda, and the longest meeting I can recall ended at about 4:00 a.m. The matters considered by the city council were always interesting and gave me insight into the city's history. This position gave me the opportunity to make many friends and acquaintances over the years.

I joined Soroptimists in 1971 after being invited to a meeting by Doris Arbuckle. Marilyn Evers was President at the time. Over the years I have chaired some committees and have been a member of most of them. Soroptimist has brought me many new friends, allowed me to volunteer in many community projects, and given me the joy of attending all sorts of Soroptimist meetings and events. I was never able to accept a nomination for president and conduct Wednesday Soroptimist meetings because Tuesdays (the day of city council meetings) and Wednesdays (the day after), were the busiest days on my job.

I have one son and two daughters (all grown of course), 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The end.