



Shirley Jean Parker in London, England 1979

SHIRLEY JEAN PARKER

Aug. 21, 1944 - Living

My mother was Jewel Jeanette Spurlin and father was Marshall Fisher Cooper. I was born August 21, 1944 in Holt, Okaloosa County, FL. Marshall and Jewel's marriage did not last forever, they divorced and both remarried. I lived with my grandparents Lonnie and Pearl Spurlin for several years. In 1955 Jewel married John Hartwell Parker Jr., he was a career navy man. John adopted me in 1960 when we returned from Bermuda.

My Dad John offered to pay for a college education for me. However, I declined his offer and struck out on my own. During my search for an occupation that I would love, my jobs were numerous from bookkeeper to coil winding. Then in 1973, I went to work for a company that did aircraft maintenance for the military. For the next six years my jobs fluctuated from electrician, sheet metal and inspector. In 1979 my traveling days were just beginning, for the next seventeen years I would not be in one location more that thirty days. While working in Europe I was given the opportunity to join the A.C.E Team, the team evaluated the condition of army helicopters throughout the world. The findings of the team determined whether or not the aircraft would be sent to the overhaul facility. My travels included Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Belgium, Hawaii, Alaska, Honduras and Panama.

In 1980 I began taking my Grandmother Pearl with me on trips. She loved traveling with me. Each time I would take her back home she would say "I think I'll just put my suitcase back in the car and go with you". I loved having her with me.

My parents moved from Jacksonville to Holt in 1988. On September 28, 1989 my mother passed away. My Dad continues to live in Holt. We talk on the phone daily.

After falling from a helicopter and injured my back, I made a decision to retire. In 1995 I returned to Okaloosa County, FL and purchased a home in

Crestview. I spend a lot of time with my Great Aunt Noma Lee Garrett. We enjoy talking about the good old days.

The year 2002 was my best year ever. I attended a Cooper Family Reunion and found the children born to Marshall Fisher Cooper and Mary Emily Frances Horsey. Two brothers Miles Davis Cooper and Charles Robinson Cooper and a sister Marsha Luzanne Cooper Abate. Marshall died June 29, 1957; Mary was left with three small children to raise. She did an excellent job; Mary died June 19, 1972. We missed out on the first fifty-two years, now we can look forward to the years ahead.

*Written by: Shirley Jean Parker, great great granddaughter of John Jordan Cooper.
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