

## ***Chapter 22 - Our Children and Their Lives***

Charlotte and I have settled down, although our lives are still very busy. My five children and her three children are grown and most of them are married with children of their own. We have all remained close and involved as a family.

Joan, my oldest daughter, married E. Jay Searle, who retired as a postman. They have two sons, Karl and Keith, and a beautiful daughter, Jennifer, who is married to Jamie Stanley, and they have two darling children named Zoe and Kiley. Joan is a talented chef, nurse and seamstress, and still loves her animals. Joan and Jay, and Jennifer and her family live in the mountains of eastern North Carolina in a city called Franklin.

My second daughter, Betty, became an airline stewardess with TWA for about 13 years after graduating from college. During this time, she met and married a fine engineer, T. Don Gray. They lived in Colorado and raised a fine son, Michael, now a marine biologist in St. Petersburg, Florida and a delightful daughter, Lori, headed for her doctorate in music. Betty died suddenly of a ruptured brain aneurism – a real tragedy, affecting us all. Don, after some years, married Mary Grace whom we all like and approve. Betty was a good student, disciplined, and was a pleasure to have around. One could see at an early age a reincarnation of her mother.

Gail, now called Anna-Lisa Nilsson, her Hollywood name, became disillusioned about becoming an actress and is now passionate about her work in the movie-making business. She also works part-time as an author of children's stories and screenplays for television and film. She married Bill Huch, a media and marketing man who collaborates with her in developing screenplays and reality television shows. Gail was always a happy child. I swore she had champagne in her veins, as she was so bubbly and optimistic. She loved her mom and dad and got along well with everyone. At an early age she was a vibrant speaker, and a good, sensitive listener. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, we always knew Gail would go far and do well in her chosen work.

Barbara, my fourth daughter, attained her Master's degree in French and minored in Computers, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa at the University of North Carolina. She married Tom Graham, an attorney, and they adopted two beautiful babies, Frances and Hope, who became the light of their lives. Frances just became the mother of a darling boy, Isaiah. They all live in the Denver area where Barb and Tom run a very successful Primerica business.

Alan, the youngest of the Snider crew, graduated from college with a pre-med degree. He went on to graduate from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, then completed an internship and a four-year residency in orthopedic surgery. He married Rebecca Poetschke, who became a neurologist. They have a son, Adam Paul, and a daughter, Emily Grace. Alan and Becky have a medical practice together and are doing very well in Tecumseh, Michigan.

Charlotte's children are all grown with their own tales to tell. Sharron, with a Master's degree in interior design, has become a specialist in decorative felt wall- hangings and fiber art. Her work has been shown on television, in numerous art museums, and the Smithsonian Museum in D.C. Sharron and her husband, Ken Parker, who was a statistical consultant to the governor of North Carolina, live in Raleigh, NC.

Brant, a former world tennis professional, is now a tax attorney in St. Petersburg. He and his wife, Annie, who teaches voice and piano in the schools, are the proud parents of two sons, Ben and Barrett, both outstanding athletes in basketball and tennis, and two daughters, Tirzah and Brianne, who excel in music. A family in their church had family problems, so Brant and Annie took over the responsibility of raising their five children for five years.

Randi Beth, her youngest daughter, graduated from Florida State University and earned a master's degree in library science and computers. She resided in Tallahassee, where she was a librarian for the state of Florida's Historical Library there. She has recently moved near us in Largo where she became employed as a teacher and the school librarian, with emphasis on computer science.

We are very proud of the whole family!







