

Name: Judy Evens

Year of Graduation: 1965

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

The fall after I graduated high school, I attended the Olean Business Institute for the one year secretarial course. Upon graduation, I applied to the FBI for a secretary's job in Washington, D.C. I was hired and offered an opportunity to work as a fingerprint clerk. At this time fingerprint searching was done by hand and the FBI was always looking for new hires for this entry level job. Fingerprints were sent to the FBI from all over the United States and there were three shifts working. I was put in a class of other new hires to be trained in classification and search procedures for the fingerprints that came to the Bureau. Upon completion of the class, we were immediately assigned to a section of the fingerprint files. After a little over a year working with the files, I had an opportunity to return to secretarial service and I applied for a job as Secretary to an FBI special agent who was an investigator for airplane accidents.

About two years later I learned of a secretarial job with the Federal Prison Service which offered more opportunities for advancement. I was hired and worked in different divisions there as opportunities opened.

In July of 1973, it was decided to split the Federal Prison Service into Regional Offices. The first was going to be in Dallas, Texas. The Assistant Director for the division I worked in was selected to be the first Regional Director. As a result, my job was one of the jobs that were being transferred to Dallas, Texas. I was given a choice; my paycheck was going to be going to the new regional office in Dallas and would I like to be there to receive it? I had never been to Texas – so I said yes and was moved with the rest of the employees being transferred.

A few years later, I saw an announcement for a job as Administrative Assistant at the Federal Bureau of Prisons office at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, GA. I applied and was selected for the job. Many federal law enforcement agencies send their new recruits there for basic training and the Federal Prison Service was one of them. It was an interesting place to work as in addition to classroom training, there were also specialty training sessions for such things as using various types of firearms, how to search a house for evidence, how to stop a car racing from a crime with suspects in it, etc.

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency sent staff to learn, among other things, how to detonate bombs safely. It wasn't unusual to be sitting at my desk and hear a loud "BOOM!!" and feel the building shake.

I worked there for about 4 years when an opportunity opened up back in the Dallas Regional Office working for the newly formed Paralegal Training Division in Dallas. I applied for their Administrative Assistant position and was selected. Then the agency decided to combine it with the other training programs located in Denver, Colorado. It became the job of one of the instructors who was also moving and myself to get our operation transferred from Dallas to Denver. We were able to successfully complete the transfer and proceeded to set up the new office in Colorado with the new Director of Paralegal Training.

In 1995 I learned of an opportunity as an Administrative Officer in the Washington D.C. office of a small agency within the Federal Bureau of Prisons called the National Institute of Corrections. The NIC offered

expert assistance and training to correctional agencies throughout the United States. Since I was beginning to think about retirement, an opportunity to get back to the East Coast interested me. I applied and was selected. When I became eligible in the fall of 2002, I retired.

Where do you currently live?

After retirement, I moved back to Port Allegany and plan to remain here.

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

Port Allegany was a good place to grow up and over the years of working with people from all over the country I came to appreciate the quality of the education I received in the Port Allegany School System. I was and am thankful for my teachers at Port for their patience with me and for challenging me to do my best while I was in school here. It paid off!

I do have to mention one teacher especially who, although I did not appreciate it at the time, was a great help to me in one of my jobs. At one point I worked in the Regional Facilities Office with Architects and Engineers. This was the time when concerns about energy conservation were developing and the agency started more seriously tracking energy usage. Mr. James Petzold was my high school Physics Teacher. One of the things we had to learn was how to compare the efficiency of different types of energy usage. At the time I took it, it seemed something I would NEVER in my life use and wondered why I had to waste my time on it. Well in my job as secretary RFO, I was to collect information from field reports about their energy usage for my boss. Because of Mr. Petzold's class, I was able to impress my boss by understanding and helping some field people with the new reports on energy conservation. When I returned to Port Allegany after my retirement, I made sure to let Mr. Petzold know how much I appreciated the "useless" information that he had made our class learn!

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

I really enjoyed working on the class yearbook. It was fun working with classmates and reviewing all the things we had been through as a class. It was a good way to wind up my high school years to relive those memories.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I was blessed to be able to grow up here in Port Allegany. But as a young adult, I had the urge to "see the rest of the country." Part of being able to do that was because of the quality of the education I received while attending school here. It allowed me to take on new opportunities and take on new challenges. Although I never went to college, I was able to use the ability to learn that had been taught me in school here to have a successful career. Now that I am retired, I am very glad to be back here in my hometown. I have made a lot of new and good friends since my return and have come to appreciate the many good things this town offers.

