

## Go to Camp, Experience the World!

Jeanie Seamon

Hagan 1964-1969



The six years at Camp Hagan (1964 – 1969) were actually a life changing experience for me. Camp Hagan has always been significant to me for the people I met and the activities I participated in. My first cabin was Senior 1, so I didn't start at an early age. My family life was good, in fact the reason my parents sent me and my sisters to camp was to have the experience of being away from home ... before our wedding night. Can you imagine? Though for my mother that was important as it was something she had struggled with when she married my father. Little did she realize how much I would be affected. Most of my adult life has been about having experiences; primarily centered around travel.

Actually, my first experience, outside the norm of my family life, was performing in regional theater. Having participated in various productions at Hagan I realized how much I love to sing. So, I started to take voice and dance lessons; while working full time and going to college at night for business. Oh, to be in my 20's again. The highlight of that experience was being part of the summer stock company at the Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, PA. Though, I had my sights on something else.

I had decided to audition for "The Kids of Kingdom" at Walt Disney World; moved to Orlando, FL wanting to be available every time there was an audition. To pay my bills, I interviewed for any type of work at WDW, they decided that the Resort Division was the best fit. Mostly because of the business courses I had taken and real-life experience in the business world. I auditioned frequently, though never secured a full-time position in the entertainment department of WDW ... however, the hotel business was fascinating. After another life changing experience, five years later, I decided that central FL was not for me; which is another story altogether.



The best job offer was back in PA ... close to where I grew up ... in my field of study, accounting. Within 6 months I knew accounting was not going to be my career. At the time, my salary was exceptional; I planned to save, quit and travel. Three years later, in 1985, I was able take a year to travel around the country; basically, I explored the 4 corners of our country, including Alaska.

Realizing that full time work was not the key to my happiness. In 1986, I started to work by contract for a tour guiding company in Philadelphia, dressed in an 18<sup>th</sup> century costume; a throwback to my theater days. Loved being a tour guide, but it was a financial struggle.



**Portraying Betsy Ross**



Beginning in 1995, I started to work for companies that plan corporate meetings and events; which has given me the opportunity to travel the world. Sounds a bit glamorous, but the hours are long; sometimes I only see the hotel and/or the convention center where the event is being held. However, there have been some unique experiences; getting clearance from the U.S. Department of State to assist with and/or give tours to US Presidents, foreign dignitaries and heads of state; along with being the “handler” for various entertainers and guest speakers.



**Training the Dolphins on the Big Island of Hawaii**

Over the years I have taken advantage of some locations and stayed to explore; visiting 4 continents multiple times. Though, I’ve never been asked to work in Antarctica; waiting for the opportunity to go to Africa and Australia.

I thank my parents for sending me to Camp Hagan, so that I wouldn’t get “homesick” on my honeymoon; which I have yet to experience.