



## Although Karen's guest enjoys traveling, she also really loves being "Down on the Farm!"



By Karen Zach, Around the County

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I literally grabbed this gal for an interview as we were riding home from our Retired Teacher's Association meeting in Clinton where I gave a talk titled, Genealogy is for Everyone (she talked me into it) and she is our current president. She was getting ready to go with her husband the next day to West Virginia to ride their Polaris RZR's in the hills and mountains. They do it twice a year. Whew, this interview was certainly a tight squeeze. I wasn't sure she was eligible as she lives just about a mile into Parke County but they own property in Montgomery so good enough for me. Besides, she's a Wavelandite by family and heart.

A 1963 Waveland graduate, she was a cheerleader, sang Soprano in choir, was in the Jr-Sr plays (although she didn't remember the roles or names of them) and played clarinet in band. In fact, we'd have had to be in band for at least a couple of years together but neither of us remembered it. I would have been way back in the clarinet section and she in the front row. During high school, she also babysat and waited tables at both the Shades Inn and Turkey Run's inn. Also, she was active in the Presbyterian church choir and Youth group. In 4-H several years, she took clothing and foods, mainly.

She dated her husband a little while at WHS in their younger high school grades, he being in her class. After graduating he went to work at Donnelly's while she went to Ball State, later transferring to Indiana State to study to be a teacher. After a few semesters she came home, discovered his '63 Chevy convertible (she said laughingly) and when they started talking again, they just hit it off. They were married at the Presbyterian church with three each standing with them along with her younger brother and sister as groomsmen and flower girl. Like few I ask she remembered she had blue (well and obviously a white dress) as her color. That was 54 years ago.

When her youngest entered Kindergarten she decided to finish school. She did and taught at Turkey Run grade school Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 4th for more than three decades. When I asked her which grade she liked the best, I loved her answer: "Each had something special. In Kindergarten, it was awesome watching them develop into perceiving little of anything into knowing the routine and many things by Christmas. First graders learned to read. What a thrill! Third graders could discuss things with you and by fourth grade, I loved to teach them Indiana History and see their conscience grow to where they were thinking of others." Fourth was likely her favorite as they got to do so many wonderful things with the kids. The Lela Mastellar grant helped them to do a project then take the kids on a trip that centered around the venture. It was so much fun to team-teach in 4th grade and she said she'd not change one thing about her career. Active in several clubs, she is a past member of DAR on the McCampbell line, and Eastern Star. As per above, she is the current president of the Parke-Vermillion Teacher's Association, on the Waveland Presbyterian Cemetery Board, plus as a current Browns Valley Christian Church member, she helps with the after-school Wednesday program as "I simply love working with kids!"

Upon her marriage, she and hubs decided to go into farming with his parents and they still live on that farm. Two children blessed their lives, Dave is married to Chrissy (who works with brain injured patients) and has two children, Steven and Shannon. Steven works at Steel Technologies in Crawfordsville while Shannon is married to Brandon Ling and is a pastry chef at Jeffrey Ruby's Steakhouse in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dave owns a lawn and saw repair shop in Waveland. Their daughter, Audra is school nurse with Parke Heritage Jr. High/Turkey Run Elementary and my old walking buddy at school – lots of trips around the gym floor first period with Audra. She is married to Todd Long, a crane operator. They have Michaela (married to Ben Woods); Amanda (University of Toledo Law School); Andrea (married to Jake Guinn and they have Braxton whom everyone spoils since he's the only baby in the family); and youngest is Ethan who is a Junior at Parke-Heritage and interested in Auto Tech.

Many have figured by now that my guest is Sally Milligan Simpson who grew-up in Waveland and whose father was Rol Milligan, a patriarch of the town. Rol lived to be 97; an aunt 110 and her maternal grandfather 99, so Sally is looking forward to living a long life.

She is married to Malcolm Simpson and says, "He loves his cows. Doesn't do golf or anything like that, just enjoys being on the farm." She admits their animals are so much fun to watch, that they all have their own personalities. Her job on the farm is driving the truck to haul grain. They own 500+ acres and raise beef cattle with about 80 at a time which they sell at the sale barn. Also, she watches Braxton a couple times a week while his momma is taking on-line classes. Sally has also worked for ten years at Up The Creek a couple of days a week.

Others in the family pitch on the farm during really busy times but they can handle the majority themselves and plan to do so while health permits.

In her spare time, she reads historical fiction and enjoys flowers. They both love to travel, having been out west this summer which they dearly loved especially enjoying the arches and canyons of Utah. "It's so different from here!"



I've known Sally long enough to not be surprised in what she's gonna' do next and one thing I'm definitely happy she tackled was an interview with Crazy Karen. Thanks Sally for paying my speech favor back multi-fold and being my Around The County guest this week!