

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Family, Children and Vacations

The next few years are all about the family after moving to a new home in the Hollywood Hill Section of Hollywood. My work was at the Diplomat Hotel & Country Club which is covered in a separate chapter. Relatives would visit down south for the winter. Some would stay with us but mostly visited with us for the holidays when we would have big gatherings for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve or barbeques in the back yard.



Uncle Bob and My Mother join us for Christmas

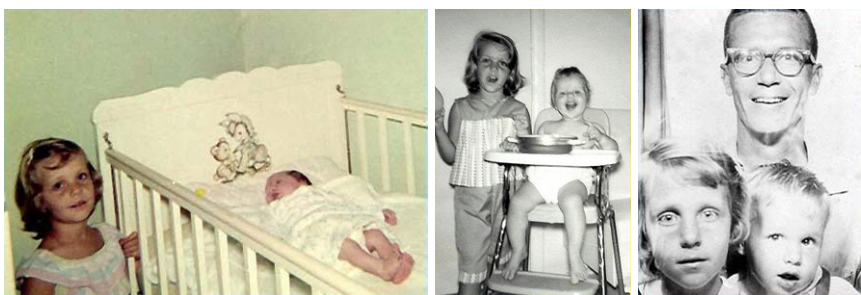


Mary Cotton with Roger, Jr. & Andria

Christmas in Hollywood with the children was a big day at the Lane home. We always had the tree in the Florida room. We had little furniture and the Florida room was without any for almost ten years.

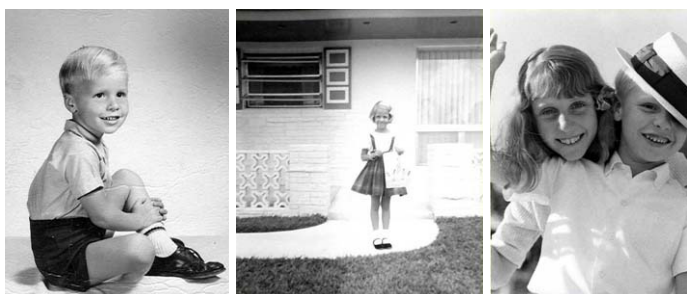
Roger Jr. was only four months old when we moved into the new Hollywood home. Andria was four years old when we moved. Again, like our first house, the house was in a new section - Hollywood Hills, about 5 miles west of the beach. We were in the second development section, so, in the next few years, we saw the whole town grow. Many of the neighbor's houses were occupied by professional people.

I'm going to insert pictures of Andria & Roger Jr. throughout the story, to show how they were growing up.



Andria, Baby Roger, Jr. - Proud Daddy with them

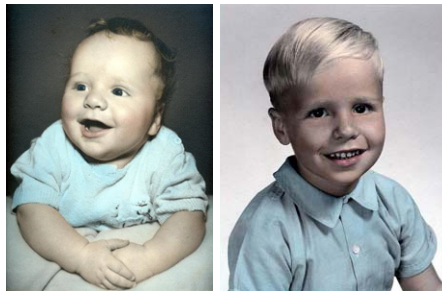
Roger Jr. had the front bedroom, Andria the one next to it with the hall bathroom between. Marilyn and I were in the Master bedroom and bath.



Roger, Jr. - Andria - Picture by Uncle Bob

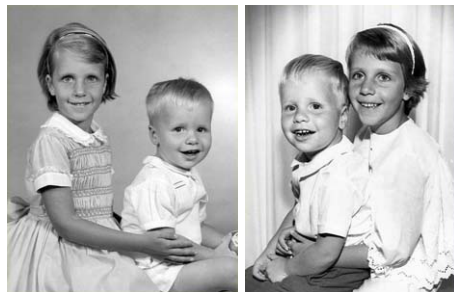
About ten years later, I arranged with a building contractor who had just finished building the 4 story addition to the Diplomat

West, to assign his master carpenter for two weeks to finish off our two-car garage into a den with 10 foot high oak paneling, recessed doors and new lights. I designed floor to ceiling bookcases for my library, made out of matching oak Formica. The room came out just great. We put in a well and sprinkler system and had a gardener and spray service. With a new automobile every few years for Marilyn and a company car every six months for me to drive, we were living ***The American Dream.***



Roger deWardt Lane, Jr.

Roger Jr. attended a private school in Fort Lauderdale for eight years due to dyslexia. In later years he had a green house for his orchids and a pot plant, until I found it.



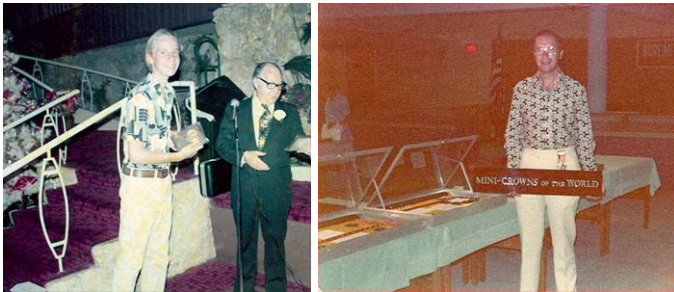
Andria and Roger, Jr. growing up in Hollywood

Marilyn always dressed the children so nice. Marilyn saw to it that the kids had good schools. Andria had piano and art lessons. During high school Andria was a little hippie with old patched up dungarees.



Grandma Lane with children - Santa with children

In 1966, I started to collect coins. So, each weekend, I would take the children with me for a trip to the flea markets. There were three or four in the area. We would stop at the Royal Castle or Krispycream for breakfast.



Coin Award for Roger, Jr. - Roger, Sr. with Exhibit

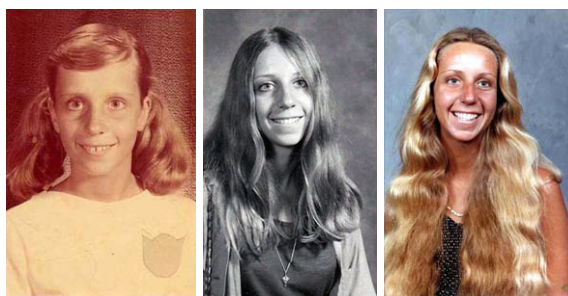
Each year we took long vacation trips by automobile staying at motels, sightseeing, drive 100 miles before breakfast to a small town or a local restaurant or truck stop. Then we would gas up, drive another 200 miles and stop in a nearby town just a little off the throughway. Then we would inquire for a restaurant where the local people had lunch. This way we avoided the tourist stops and always found great local food and interesting people. For dinner, we would do the same. After checking into our motel room, we would stop for gas and inquire for the best local restaurant or roadhouse. Good food and service with very nice local people made for a pleasant evening. The children liked this arrangement too. Quite often, Dad would not order anything but coffee as the

kids would share part of their meal, they could not finish. They use to call me *the human garbage disposal*. On the trip north or the last stop before returning home, we would stay with Aunt Amy and Uncle David in Birmingham, Alabama. If I got an early start in the morning, I could drive the 800 miles home, arriving just at midnight. They, would in turn, visit us in the winter on their way to see Ma Cotton who had a trailer in Fort Lauderdale each winter.



Andria, her white cat and Uncle David

Our vacation trips were combined with attending a large coin convention or stops to visit small coin shows and sometimes a quick visit to a local coin store. One summer, we drove to Toronto to attend the *Canadian Numismatic Convention*, then north in Canada to Sudbury and back down to the States into upper Michigan and a visit with Mary Cotton in Charlevoix.



Young Andria in Florida

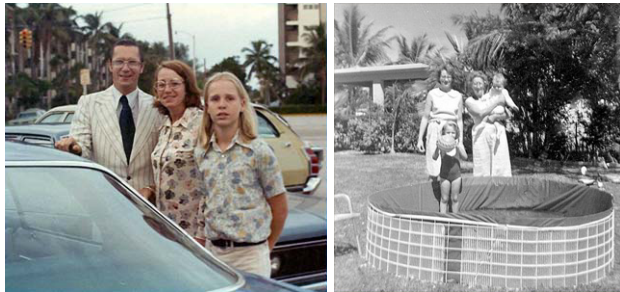
Young Andria's school picture is in sepia, on the left, followed by a 1971 picture and her high school graduation picture. I would

have three weeks off in the summer, so, we could make these long trips. The company car was always only a few months old; Pontiac at first, then a Lincoln Town Car, new every six months.



Ringling Art Museum - Sarasota

Vacations around the State of Florida were the first summer trips with the children. We visited Key West to see the turtles, St. Augustine, on the East coast to visit the **Spanish Fort – Castillo de San Marcos** then on the West coast, to visit the Edison home and Museum at Fort Myers. Another year, we went to the **Ringling Art Museum** in Sarasota. When the kids were very small, they had a portable pool.



Vacation 1973 and back yard pool

Bob Lane spent winters with his mother at their home in North Miami Beach and the summers in Chicago, Detroit or New York as a successful model. In later years, I suggested to him that he get on the other side of the camera. He took my advice and made a living in North Miami Beach as a photographer.



New York Pictures of Bob the Model

Most of our neighbors were great but one family next door had some boys. The boys with their friends went to Chaminade High School. The time would be in the early "70"s. The neighbors owned Rickies Bar near us, on Hollywood Blvd. The boys were troublemakers. They and their gang attended Chaminade Parochial School, about four blocks west of our house. These boy and their friends started spray painting messages on our white double car garage door. After the first two times and the effort of having the vandalized door repainted, we decided to leave the message up a while. This message spray-painted in bright orange paint read, "**CHAMINADE HI.**" A couple of weeks later, there was a knock on the front door. Coming to the door, there was a little old lady standing there. She very politely asked, "**IS THIS THE CHURCH OR THE SCHOOL?**" Eventually the neighbors moved away. What a happy day this was at the Lane's.



Bob, Roger, Sr. in back yard with Honey

I moved about twenty of my palm trees over from the old house. Now, some fifty years later, many are on their third generation but a few are over 40 feet tall and growing strong. As the kids grew up, we would have back yard cook-outs. Roger, Jr. would BBQ the filet mignons or as you can see in the picture - shishkebab.



David Charlton with Amy - John White with Marge

Marilyn loved to have the family over to the house. She had three sisters; Amy, Marge and Maxine, along with three brothers; Bill, Tom and Harry. The photo below with Harry shows a painting by Andria. Thanksgiving was a special day. My mother, Uncle Bob, Ma Cotton, Maxine and Carl would join us. Marilyn always made a big turkey. Bob kept us laughing; the life of the party.



***Maxine, Bill, Mary, Harry, Marilyn - left picture
Mary and Maxine seated, Marge and Marilyn standing***

Anytime the relatives were in town or visiting Mary Cotton, who had a trailer next to Maxine & Carl in Ft. Lauderdale, they would come over to our house for a visit. When possible, I would invite some of them to visit the Diplomat Night Club with us to see

one of our big name shows.



Christmas 1989 - Barb, Ma, Booth, Sher & Scott

Marilyn and I would see most of the Diplomat Night Club shows each winter season. Many times we would entertain relatives for the Nightclub dinner & show.



Maxine & Carl Browne, Marilyn and Mary Cotton

During several winters, Marge and John had a condo in Fort Lauderdale. In this photo, Bob and Marilyn look like they were having a great time.



I never wanted a pool, like most of our neighbors. When it was time for Roger, Jr. to learn to swim, Marilyn would take him over to the Diplomat Golf and Racquet Club in Hallandale and use their pool. As the children got older, we had a cabana at the Golden Gate Hotel, Sunny Isles for three summers. The first year, they were there every day and Saturdays too, with Roger, Sr. joining on Sundays. Then the following year, the trips to the cabana were weekends and holidays only. By the third year, the time to get ready and drive to the Cabana to swim, is just too much effort, so it was used just a few weekends and holidays. By the fourth year, we dropped the cabana as it was easier to drive the few miles to Hollywood Beach, swim in the ocean and get some ice cream at one of the stands.



The Hole to China

When Roger Jr. was growing up, he had a very good friend, Scott Schlesinger, who lived the other side of the neighbor to the west. Scott and Roger, Jr. were either at his house or playing in our back yard. One time they started to dig a hole. A very big hole, which was named ***The Hole to China***.

Roger had dyslexia. Marilyn and I were attending a PTA meeting, where her eye doctor was describing the newly identified symptoms of this developmental condition. We turned to each other and said, ***“That sounds like Roger, Jr.”*** After tests, we placed him in a special private school – ***Vanguard School, Fort Lauderdale***, for the next eight years. Later in California he received special tutoring in High School and learned to read at full twelfth-grade level, then went on to college for a year.