

## CHAPTER NINE

### **Marilyn and Her Early Years**

On April 24th, 1951, Marilyn and I were married. We honeymooned at the Colony Hotel in Palm Beach and a week at the Shoremead Hotel. I only had to work half days that week. After the honeymoon, we moved in to the apartment on 36th Street, Miami. Mother had returned to Maine on the train.



#### ***Marilyn and Roger before Church***

I had met Marilyn through a chance meeting she had with my Mother. Marilyn had come down to Florida from Michigan for the first time with her folks, Ma and Pa Cotton. They for many years would come down south to get out of the cold weather up north. They each would take seasonal jobs; sometimes in hotels or Mary would cook for a Jewish family. When Marilyn arrived in Miami, she applied for a governess position.

She worked on Miami Beach taking care of a little girl named Bobo. On her day off, the lady would call a baby-sitting agency.

My Mother was part-time doing baby-sitting. That particular evening, Marilyn returned back at the apartment a little early. She and my Mother got talking and found out, Mother had spent the past summer, also in Michigan, a few miles from where Marilyn's family lived in Charlevoix. My Mother mentioned, she had two young sons staying with her, and said she might invite Marilyn over for dinner. This is how I met Marilyn and we started dating right away.

Mary Bell, Marilyn's mother, survived three husbands. Marilyn's father William W. Watson, 1859-1932, Mary's second husband was a Scotsman who had moved down from Canada. He was a taylor in Fenton, Michigan. He and Mary had known each other for a number of years, before they were married. Marilyn was born the next year 1928.

We have a picture of Marilyn, Marge her sister with Marge's young son Billy, Brother Bill and his wife Viola and Grandmother Westfall taken in 1942.



***Marilyn, Bill and Amy***

Marilyn came from a large family. There were three sisters; Maxine, Marge and Amy and three brothers; Harry, Tom and Bill.



***Grandmother Westfall with part of the family***

Marilyn worked starting at quite a young age as a waitress in Charlevoix in the summer. Then she went to beauty school but ended up working for the Bell Telephone System as an operator along with sister Amy.

When Marilyn became engaged, Mother had a nice party for us at the 36<sup>th</sup> St. apartment, inviting a few friends.



***Mother's Party - The Cottons, Newly Weds, Mother***

I was regularly attending the Episcopal Church also on 36<sup>th</sup> St. but we decided to get married at the big Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Miami.

We had to go several times to meet with the priest for marriage instructions, etc. When the day came, a Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 1951, only family attended but the service was very nice.

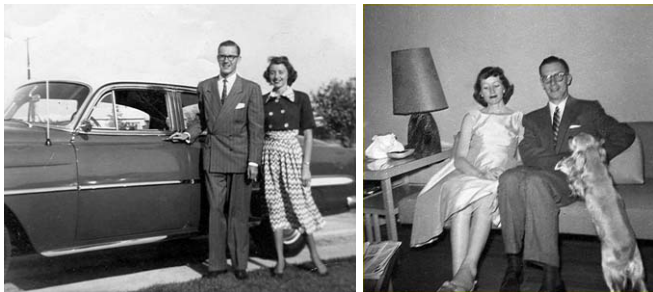
After a year in the 36th St. apartment, Marilyn and I bought a new VA mortgaged 2-bedroom home at 1520 NE 142nd St. North Miami for \$10,400 with only \$1000 down. We moved in with very little furniture but we now had a home of our own. Marilyn was now working at Burdines on Miami Beach. We would drive to the Caribbean Hotel on the beach where she would take a bus down to Lincoln Road. Bob also worked there for a time.



***1520 N.E. 152nd Street, North Miami***

Mother sold the home in Orrington, Maine and bought a small house in North Miami Beach for she and Bob.

I started planting small palm trees around my house. Marilyn was a good cook. Life was great! For the winter we had a kerosene heater, it did smell. No air-conditioning at first, but we were young and did not mind it. Marilyn had a dog. In 1952, Marilyn and I purchased a new BelAir Chevrolet automobile. A year later traded it in for a 1953 Oldsmobile.



***Our New 1952 Chevrolet - With little dog***

Andria Elizabeth deWardt Lane was born at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. Marilyn had stayed in bed during most of the nine months. She had a great doctor who would make house calls. Mary Cotton and I had to take Andria home, while Marilyn stayed an extra week in the hospital.



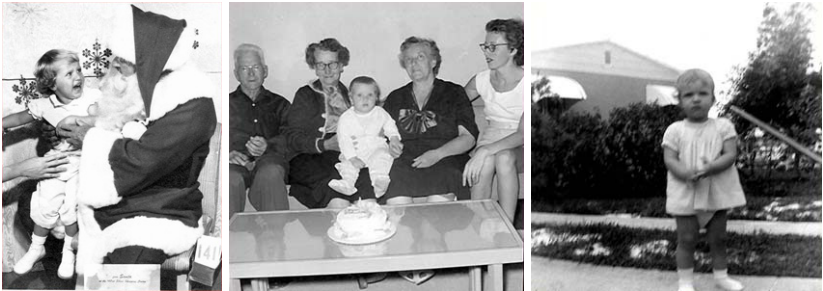
***Baby Andria - Marilyn with Andria***

When it was time for her to go home, Ma and I took baby Andria back to the Hospital, so Marilyn could go home with her baby. Ma stayed for a long time to help Marilyn with the baby.



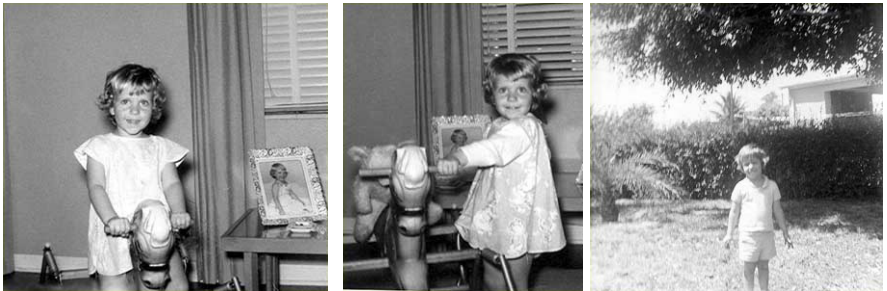


***Andria in North Miami***



***Andria with Santa - With Family - In front of house***

Andria was scared to death the first time she saw Santa. The center picture is a very nice photo of Ma & Pa Cotton and Flora Bell Lane with Andria and Marilyn.



In 1957 we bought our first black & white TV set.

The next years passed so quickly that I can not remember what we did; the beach, vacations around Florida, watching my

palm trees grow, as I had a hundred different ones set out around the yard, black & white TV, a meal at the chicken drive-in, Christmas with the family, and my Greeters and Accountants Club activities.

After three years at the Kenilworth, where Arthur Godfrey was one of the owners, I again wished to move on to a bigger job. My new assignment was the, yet to be opened, new Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood.



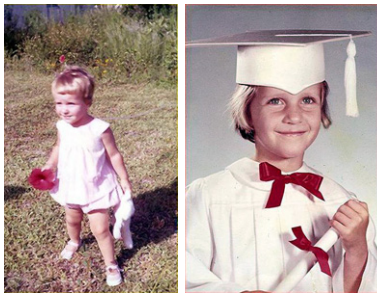
***Marilyn at Parrot Jungle***

Roger deWardt Lane, Jr. was born August 19, 1961. We were living still in the house at North Miami but needed to move soon. I was already working in Hollywood, so we looked around for a new house in a new development - Hollywood Hills. We bought in the second section, a 3-bedrooms, 2 baths, and 2-car garage home for \$18,000. The builder had had it up for sale for a year, and due to the slow real estate market, it was unsold. I still could not sell my VA house in North Miami, so, the builder took a second mortgage back and sold the house to me for a thousand down. We loved the new big house in this great neighborhood. Many of our neighbors were doctors and lawyers.

I refinanced with FHA the mortgage commitment on the house in North Miami, and as a result, in less than a year was able to sell it for \$14,000. The \$4,000 equity was used to settle the second mortgage on the new house and install central air conditioning too.



***Roger, Jr. in Highchair***



***Andria 18 Months - St. Marks***

When it was time for Andria to go to kindergarten, Marilyn found St. Marks, a Lutheran Church School in Hollywood.



***Miami Beach with all the new hotels of the 1950's***

Early in my career, I discovered that the best way to advance was based on whom you knew and the friends you made along the way.