

Betty Reagan Bryan, born on May 16, 1925, raised on the Van Reagan Ranch, west of Prescott in Yava. (Yavapai County) Grandparents, Van and Alice Reagan, drove their cattle from Texas to Springerville. My father, James Pleasant Reagan was born in Springerville (Arizona Territory) in 1888. Mother, Allie Annis Archer, was born in the territory of Oklahoma in 1892. (Her father, Thomas Jefferson Archer was a circuit rider Methodist Preacher in Texas and Okla.)

I attended a 2 room school, grades 1 to 8 in Yava, then moved to Prescott for High School. We were the first Freshman class in the new High School. (Now the Middle School) Higher ed: Trinidad College, Trinidad, Colorado & Columbia University in MO.

Like most women on a ranch I operated a tractor, dug our basement for the ranch house with the front end loader. Played polo. Drove fence posts. Took the family tobogganing in the winter, took the Jeep on roads that few dared to navigate, later took my vacations in the winter to go scuba diving.

Having 7 children, gave me a very full life in keeping everything together. I placed 7 college diplomas mentally on the wall, one as each was born. I knew how to do what was needed, after all, I come from Pioneer stock. I am no different than many mothers raising their children their kids today.

Career – *News Reporter (Feature Story Writer, 1st place winner Major Story, Colorado Press Women; Community Action Director, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, Colorado; Only female in the Special Technical Assistance Program, Rural Community Development Specialist, (only 5 of us in the Nation. I was assigned to Gov. Love in Colorado.) When I was a STAPer Gov. Love sent me to a rural group that called their group QLE. My first question was, “What is QLE?” I got my answer: Qualified by Long Experience, they were a group of senior citizens. I have racked up hours and hours of volunteering. My most rewarding experiences was working with rural communities, can’t call it a job.

Have been president of many corporations – Construction, Housing Development, Painting, Jewelry (Butterfly Kreations) and more. Retired from the US. Dept of Labor. Moved back to Prescott to be in the pines and space. I have a love of working with people, being near water, and traveling.