

# Section One

## The Early Years

### The following pages are a photo biography of Birth through Graduation

Mike, The early years. How can you put into words the feeling of holding your own little tiny baby for the first time, or watching his first steps or saying his first words? The Early Years are filled with firsts. First we had to get to know each other so we could grow up together. My life long dream and ambition was to be a mom. During my early years I dreamed of having 3 children, first a boy and then twin girls. That didn't happen but we got our little boy, and a wonderful little boy he was.



I grew up as an only child, lonely for someone to share my childhood. The school years were not difficult for me and way back then learning was expected and aptitude played a big role in our futures. The guidance counselors were so sure I was college bound they made me take a full line of college prep courses, like Latin and Algebra and a lot of good information that would not have a very practical application in the world I wanted to pursue. I wanted to take all the business courses offered and then raise a family. We compromised with 2 years in each direction. My ideals won out and my business mind was instilled into Mike at an early age.

Mike was born in Florida in Sept 1960 and as he grew up he would quip he was a true Florida Cracker, more so than the majority of people living in Florida. Gary's career in the military kept us on the move and gave him a beautiful hands-on education while traveling around Europe. The pictures are a brief overview of the little boy growing up in Ocean Grove, NJ and then moving far away to Germany to another continent. The European tour was four impressionable pre-teen years of nonstop travel and learning customs, culture, conversational languages, funny money and exotic cuisine. Always fun to point to a menu item and try native tastes. Usually the choices were good but every now and again we would experience something really foreign.

He was my clone in so many ways except that he was content to amuse himself by reading a book, whereas his mom thought just because she was bored being an only child he should be too. This was not the case although we came very close to giving him a baby sister while in Augsburg, Germany.

Mike was 12 at the time and not real excited about the new arrival. Things didn't work out and the baby died during a premature birth and after hours of emergency surgery there was no hope of ever having any more children.

It was hard losing a baby but Mike filled the void and he was such a caring and attentive child. When he was young and innocent he would entertain adults for hours by just being a cute kid. At an early age we could see how he would think of others and be concerned. He learned a fine skill of money management when very young and would pride himself on his savings and shopping ability. Special occasions would find him asking one of us to accompany him on a little shopping excursion to see what he could find for those special people in his life. With such a small family it was pretty easy to keep track.

As he matured into the awkward teen years, School, American Youth Activities, Scouting, and the Civil Air Patrol occupied most of his time and ours.

Then, as he approached the later teens, the Need for Speed was upon us. Ugh! Why do kids have to drive cars? Seventeen was the only bad year so Gary and I consider our selves luckier than most parents, but that age 17 left lasting scars. Teaching him to drive was an ordeal. Making him learn on his mom's standard shift car was not easy but once mastered, it was fun to drive and no longer a chore. Of course the quiet kid with all the smarts lost all sense of judgement when he got behind the wheel of his car and seemed to run into anything and everything in it's path. 'Aw gee Dad, why did I get a ticket, don't they know I'm just learning?'

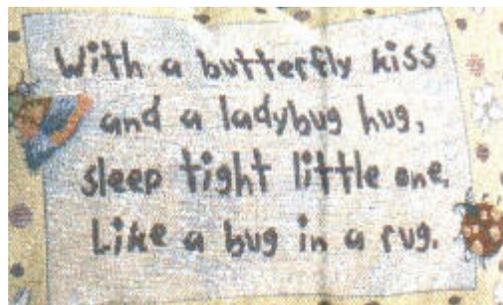
Phew, needless to say, we survived the early driving headaches and high school graduation soon followed as did Gary's retirement after 22 years Army active duty. From being on top of the world career wise, he was now known as Retired Sergeant Major Heiser, basically an unknown civilian.

The end of an era. After graduation we sold our NJ home and moved south to begin a new life in Palm Coast, Florida. Palm Coast was a small bedroom community that Mike liked to refer to as 'Sleepy Hollow'. Soon after we moved here he had his fill of menial labor jobs and he entered the Air Force and used his Civil Air Patrol experience to gain him an additional stripe at enlistment. This brings us to another chapter in Mike's life, his very rewarding Military Career.

**The early years welcome baby Mike! Here we are 4 generations together enjoying a visit with our little bundle of love. We had always been a small family with not much room for expansion.**

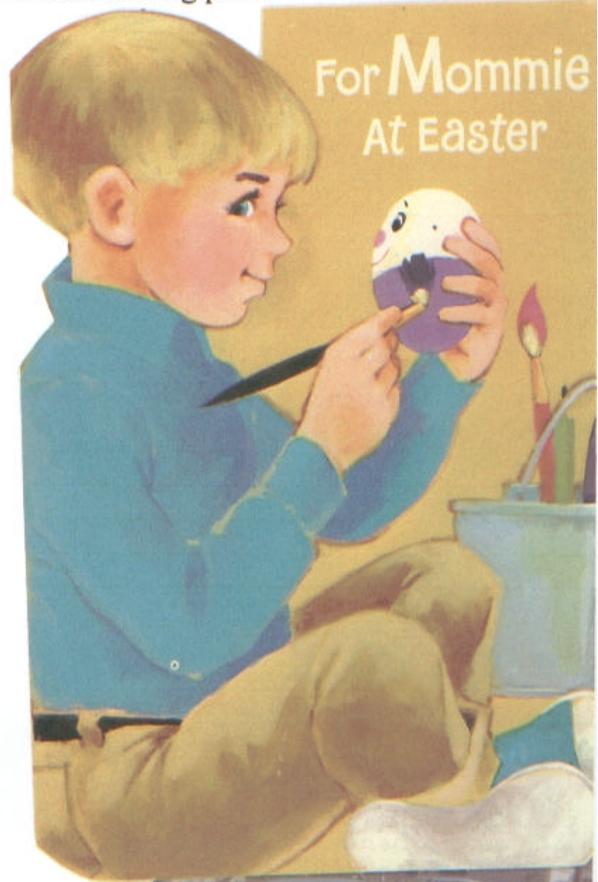


**Once a child enters your life you will never be the same. They rule your mind and your heart and your whole world has a new purpose.**



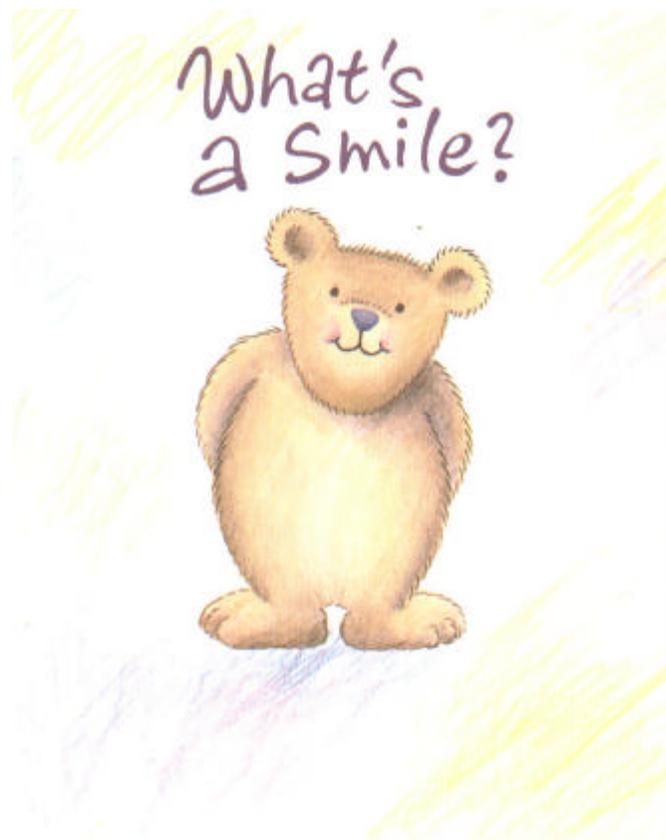
Age 4-5

We've come a long way since that first swimming pool!



Great Aunt Jean and Uncle 'Cisco'





TO THE BEST MOTHER EVER



TO MY MOTHER AT

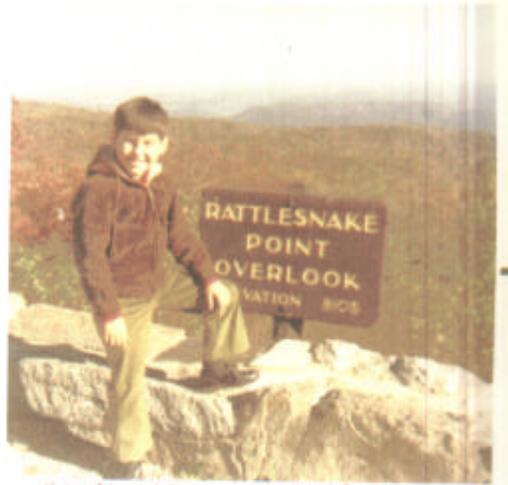
Mother's Day



GROWING UP IN OCEAN GROVE, NJ  
OFTEN TIMES REFERRED TO  
"GOD'S SQUARE MILE OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS"  
Removing vehicles from the town for the weekends didn't bother  
the kids, but it was sure a nuisance for the adults, especially during  
inclement weather.



*ONCE UPON A TIME  
WE WERE YOUNG  
WE WERE NORMAL  
WE WERE A FAMILY!!*



SKYLINE DRIVE



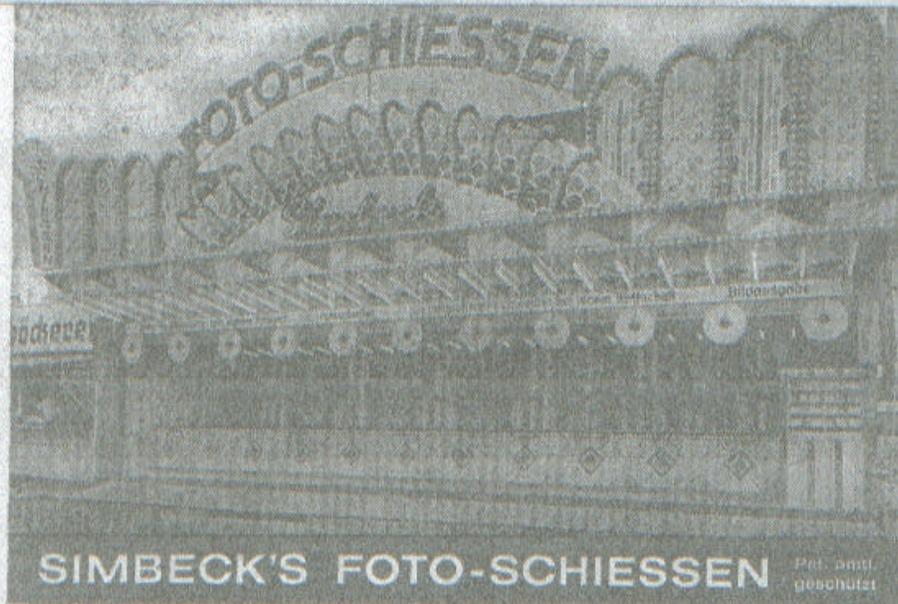
**RANDOM MEMORIES FROM  
THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S**

The European experience produced a lifetime of good memories. We started in Augsburg, Germany Jan 1971. The next 4 years were travel\* travel\* travel, at every opportunity.



OUR FIRST APARTMENT\*\*\*\*ENJOYING BAVARIAN SHOW

**A REAL PHOTO SHOOT!**



**SHOOT THE BULLS EYE AND IT TAKES YOUR PHOTO!**

Oktoberfest 1972 with side trip to Neuschwanstein Castle  
Class trips to fests are common to experience local culture



The Munich Olympics was  
Our first introduction to  
Terrorism!

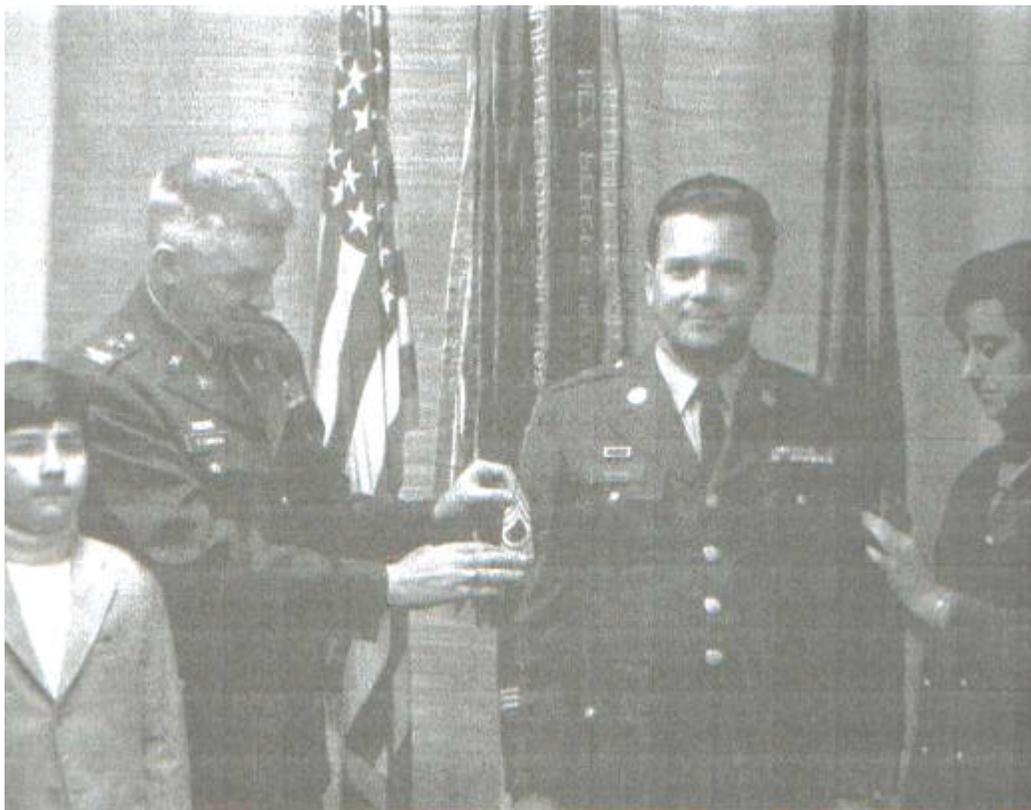


Fürstentum Principality Principauté  
*Liechtenstein*



**Liechtenstein for lunch. Why not?**

*In Augsburg, Germany Gary is promoted to Army Master Sergeant E-8. Growing up as an Army Brat has its advantages*



*After Augsburg comes West Berlin*



Living in West Berlin was different from the everyday freedoms we have come to know and enjoy. To leave Berlin meant pre-planning and obtaining special "Flag Orders" to allow passage via the British Duty Train from the Western Sector through the East into Germany. Some people complained, we made the trips into fun days of shopping, dining and sight-seeing.





**THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT A  
MAN IN UNIFORM**



**THANKSGIVING 1976 IN FRONT OF OUR HOME  
IN COLONIAL TERRACE, OCEAN, NEW JERSEY**

**SENIOR PROM NIGHT 1978**

*Ocean Township High School*

*Senior Prom*

*"It's Getting Better All The Time"*

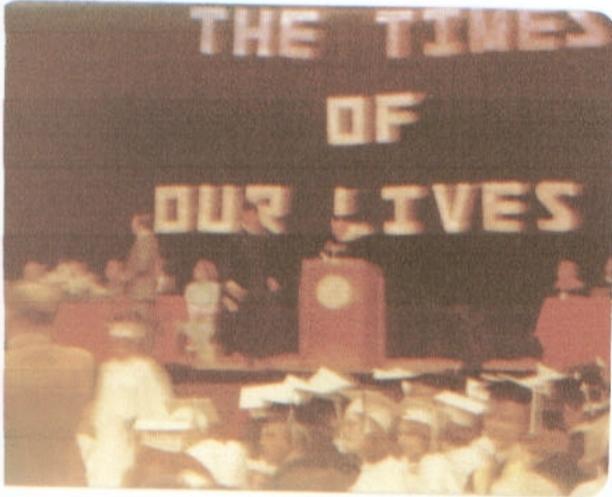
June 13, 1978

SHORE CASINO

Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey



**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
JUNE 1978  
OCEAN HIGH, OCEAN TOWNSHIP, NJ**



**CELEBRATING  
"THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES"**



*Michael G. Heiser*



**Ocean Township High School**  
Oakhurst New Jersey

This Certifies That  
**Michael G. Heiser**  
Has satisfactorily completed a Course of Study prescribed for Graduation  
from this School and is therefore awarded this  
**Diploma**  
Given in the month of June, nineteen hundred and seventy-eight.

*Edward Hughes* *Robert Nelson*  
Principal Superintendent

*James Allen*  
Principal

THE SENATOR OF THE UNITED STATES

To all to whom these Presents shall come  
**Greetings**

*Michael G. Heiser*

*It is my pleasure to congratulate you upon the accomplishment of your High School Graduation. You have reached and accomplished one of life's most significant milestones. May this achievement be a mark of continuing commitment to the ideals of freedom and justice on which our democracy depends.*

*James J. Howard*  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**RANDOM PICTURES  
PROM GRADUATION SUMMER BREAK  
AND RECOVERING FROM LOSING PART OF A FINGER  
TO A TABLE SAW ACCIDENT IN WOOD SHOP**



**AFTER ALL OF THE ABOVE, IT WAS TIME  
FOR THE FAMILY TO MOVE TO THE SUNNY  
SOUTH. HERE WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS  
SOUTHERN STYLE**



**Teens have fun too!**

**Mike clowning with his great grandmother.**



**Mike takes his grandmother for a spin.  
His need for speed began at an early age.**

SHIRTS THROUGH THE YEARS

BOYS SCOUTS OF AMERICA 1968

AMERICAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES BOWLING LEAGUE 1973

US AIR FORCE ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL 1985

DESERT SHIELD 1990

