



Jack of Few, Master of Many  
by  
E. Louise Smith

The indomitable mailmen have nothing on Louise Lang. Rain or sweltering heat, ice or snow, or our wild Reno winds find Louise taking her daily walk through Rancho San Rafael Park. Part of the year she smells the beautiful aroma of recycled Christmas trees that bring back wonderful memories of a happy childhood in the northeast.

Louise was born, raised and educated in Boston, Mass. She attended Children's Hospital and became a registered nurse the same year she had her first child, a daughter. In between children, she worked as a nurse.

Unhappy with the cold, the family moved to Southern Calif. where Louise's son was born. Unfortunately, her husband missed the east and they moved to New Hampshire where she ran her own nursing home for ten years.

"Then I closed the nursing home and told my husband it was his turn to support the family. He didn't do a very good job of it and I divorced him a year later," Louise explained.

"I'd like to go back to Boston on an Elderhostel," Louise said. "You know how it is, you live in a city and never bother seeing any of the historic stuff. Now I'd like to return and see everything I missed."

Louise has been married twice and had two children, a boy and a girl. Her second husband, Tom, turned out to be an adventurous sort, and with her sister, Judy, as crew, the three of them left by boat from San Diego and crossed the Pacific Ocean. This article is not long enough to tell about their many experiences, good and bad, in reaching

French Polynesia. Fortunately, Louise wrote a book giving the juicy details. This book was written in the Lifescapes class at Northwest Library.

Sailing to the South Pacific was the highlight of Louise's fairly colorful life and if she were prideful that would be the experience of which she was most proud.

Louise moved to Reno 22 years ago for the skiing. She spent a year studying computer science, and if you ElderCollege members happen to need help, she is pretty much of an expert willing to share her expertise. By the by she just recently gave up skiing.

In the '70s she and her husband lived for a year in a nudist colony and discovered how misunderstood the life of sunbathers was by the general public. She has an enthusiastic interest in murder mysteries and regularly attends the Mystery Group founded by Julie Ley. She decided to use that genre to tell what life in a nudist resort was really like. If you are curious, Louise published the book in 2005 under the title, "Nudists Die Too" and it is available for purchase at PublishAmerica.com and some retail bookstores.

Louise took a cooking class in Tuscany last year, slides and recipes of which she shared in an ElderCollege class. This summer she will teach a class on Sudoku. For several years she facilitated a crafts class which included everything crafty — all of which she does. She makes many of her own Christmas presents.

Like most people who regularly attend ElderCollege, the variety of classes has been for years a major interest and at times of stress, a lifesaver. Louise is a heavy reader and when her companion of many years died, she pulled the plug on the TV set. She'd rather listen to books on tape.

In her backyard she grows a salad garden full of nutritional veggies. (She has been seriously interested in nutrition since her nurse's training.) Her garden is waist-high so she doesn't have to bend over to tend it.

Years ago she and her husband were swing dance champions. Took TV years to realize what an exciting activity this was and is.

For the last three years she has been editor of this newsletter which comes out six times a year.