

## My Friends in Austin

In 1991, I decided to transfer to IBM Austin from Kingston, New York. One of the reasons I was comfortable with this move was that my good friend and colleague Richard Anderson urged me to do so. Rich had been at IBM Austin for a year when I arrived, and he generously provided me a room at his house while I searched for a place to live. Rich later moved to Raleigh, North Carolina and retired from IBM. We are still in touch.

After looking for several months, I found the beautiful house at 6300 Shadow Mountain Drive. The very name *Shadow Mountain* captured my imagination! There was really no *mountain* there at all, and no *shadow* that I could see. Nearby there were many interesting people, including doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

In 1992, after moving in, I began to introduce myself to my neighbors. Next door at 6302, was Mark Yudof, Dean of the Law School at the University of Texas. One day when my wife Joanne and I were visiting Mark and Judy Yudof, I happened to mention the Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. To my surprise, Yudof replied, "I know Ruth quite well." Later, I remember one night when the Yudofs gave a party, I heard this big voice in front of his house. I looked out and saw Barbara Jordan in a wheelchair entering his home. I then realized that this was going to be living in an interesting neighborhood!

In 1997 when Mark Yudof became the President of the University of Minnesota and moved out of 6302, Bill Edwards, a physician, and his family moved in. This included wife Ann, son Jason, daughter Lucy and Ann's mother Ruby Ziner. Ruby was an interesting lady. She was nearly one hundred years old and would frequently leave the house and walk alone along the street using her walker. She read *The New York Times* every day.

In 2009, after the Edwards family left the neighborhood, the third owner of 6302, Kaye Knox, moved in with her two sons. My wife and I have enjoyed many events at her house. One thing I remember about Kaye is the time she found a Great Dane which she adopted after no one came forward to claim him.

Next to Kaye, at 6304 a physician Bernard Weinstein lived with his wife Paula. At 6308, Mike Johnson and Jan More own an interesting house which is set back from the road on a wooded lot. At 6309, Harold Cain, a physician, lives with his wife Carol. They moved to Shadow Mountain in 1978 – some 47 years ago.

On the other side of my house, at 6208 Shadow Mountain, lived Roger Krueger, a retired engineer, and his wife Marj, a well-known science fiction writer. They had two daughters Sharon and Cynthia, who now lives in that house. I am in touch with both.

Across the street at 6205 Shadow Mountain I met Bill Caldwell, a pediatrician. We began walking together every morning before work. Joanne and I enjoyed playing bridge frequently with him and his wife. Bill had a female dachshund named Daphne that was expecting, and he wanted me to take one of the pups. Now, I had never owned a small dog like that so, at first, I was reluctant. Finally, I told him that I was interested after all, but wanted to choose from the litter myself. As the time for giving birth neared, to make sure all going well, Bill took Daphne into the hospital one night and performed an ultrasound. While that was taking place, a nurse suddenly walked in and was surprised to see what was happening. Later he "smoothed things over" to make sure the incident was kept confidential. As the

big event neared, Bill brought home an oxygen tank and a tiny mask to be used in case there was a difficulty during birth. Finally, the day arrived when Daphne went into labor. All appointments at his office were canceled, and he rushed home. When the pups were born, I knew exactly which one I wanted -- a red dapple male which I named Hilbert. This was the beginning of many happy years with my first dachshund!

In 2002, the next owners of 6205, Lynn and Camille Crismon joined the Shadow Mountain community. Lynn became Dean of the Pharmacy School at UT Austin and Camille is a physician. In the year 2010, Camille went to New Zealand and joined the medical profession there. I have made two trips there to visit her – one with Joanne and another with Penny. Camille has returned to the US for visits many times.

In 1981, Bob and Karen Rima purchased the house at 6207. They raised two daughters who have pursued successful careers. For many years, Karen was an organizer and participant in community get-togethers. She died in November of 2015.

Across the street from my house, at 6303 Shadow Mountain, lived Hsien Chang, a retired IBMer with his wife Anna. I discovered that they enjoyed going out to a local Chinese restaurant which offered a buffet lunch. After I retired, my wife and I would frequently join them. We shared the same political point-of-view, so the conversation frequently focused on the politics of the day. Both Hsien and Anna died a few years ago, but I think of them often.

KC Cerny and Karen Kerkering moved into 6301 Shadow Mountain, next to the Changs. They owned a beautiful black-and-white Saluki named “Chip.” My wife Penny and I became good friends with Karen and KC, and, to this day, we see them frequently for special occasions. Three years ago, we met them in Santa Fe and visited several interesting places. Karen and Penny frequently meet for lunch.

On the other side of the Changs, at 6305, Tom and Barbara Manley raised a son Brian who became Chief of Police in Austin. After the Manleys left, Sheila Ellwood bought the house and lived there with her three children. She is a birder with whom we frequently communicate. Several years ago, a Wild Turkey landed in her backyard by the swimming pool! She and her friend Gary participate in projects which study the Golden-cheeked Warbler.

At 6307 Shadow Mountain good friends Keith and Alice Maxie lived for many years. He is retired from the Army, and they have now relocated to Spokane, Washington to be near family. I remember many enjoyable parties held at the Maxie house.

At the other end of the neighborhood, Sheldon Landsberger and Marsha Creatchman live at 6202 Shadow Mountain Drive. He is a professor at the University of Texas. My wife Penny enjoys visiting with Marsha.

Finally, in Shadow Mountain Cove, David and Kathleen Wight, Jeff Eastman and Phil Stovall are long-time residents. Kathleen is the organizer of the email list for the community.

During my first few months in Austin, I looked for people with whom I could play chamber music. I attended some organizational meetings where I met Karen, a pianist who both performed and instructed privately. We soon became good friends, played chamber music with others and gave several informal programs. Later, Karen married Andy in a beautiful ceremony, attended by many of her friends. She now teaches at the Armstrong Community Music School. We still visit frequently.

Not too long after coming to Austin, I began work on an IBM project with code name, "Rio Bravo." One day I learned that a colleague named Robert Wasmuth was giving out cigars because he was the proud father of a baby girl. I went to his desk, accepted a cigar and congratulated him. I learned that his wife Alina is a doctor and the baby girl was named Marissa. We soon became very good friends, and to this day, Penny and I frequently get together with them for special occasions.

I recommended several people that I knew at IBM Kingston for Rio Bravo and they joined the project. My good friend Raj Panda and his wife Viji relocated to Austin with their two sons. We see both of them for special occasions. Another Kingston colleague John Detrich joined the project. His wife Rosemary became Joanne's best friend. Several years ago John died and Rosemary moved to Washington state to be near family. Linton Ward joined Rio Bravo and has had a successful IBM career. He and his wife Michelle still live in Austin. Mark Johnson, whom I knew quite well in Kingston, relocated for the project. He married Desiree Youngblood, a Presbyterian minister, and now lives in Ohio.

Shortly after I joining Rio Bravo, I met Maureen Teodorovich. On one occasion Joanne and I flew in my airplane with Maureen and her husband to Big Bend National Park where we enjoyed several days of hiking and sightseeing. Maureen raised three children and still lives in Austin.

Menchow Chiang also worked on the project. He flew in my airplane on several occasions, including a visit to Big Bend. My wife Penny and I frequently go to his place for a get together where he serves Chinese food. Men Chow recently hiked the John Muir Trail in California and, as of this writing, is doing the entire Pacific Crest Trail, a feat which takes six months.

My good friends Gerry and Cathy Cocco came to Austin before me. I had known them in New York, before they were married and worked with Gerry on IBM projects. Gerry flew with me in my airplane several times on IBM business. After they were married, Gerry and Cathy raised two children who now have careers of their own.

After arriving in Austin, while looking for a place to live, I found several possibilities at a small airport named Breakaway Field. I knocked on a few doors, met Bob McBride and learned he was a certified aircraft mechanic. He began doing the required annual inspection on my Mooney aircraft. For the next several years, I would land at Breakaway for my annual inspection. He became a good friend. He raised two daughters and we are still in touch.

After a few years, Breakaway field was closed to landing for people who did not own property around the field, so I was no longer able to use Bob McBride for my annual inspections. I searched around for possibilities and found Rod Rodriguez, a certified mechanic who had retired from IBM. He operated out of a small airport in Lago Vista. I then began to take my airplane to Rod for my annual inspections. This was the beginning of a long friendship with Rod and his good friend Mary Ann Wavell. Tragically, Rod died in November of 2024 at the age of 90, after a short illness. I am still in touch with Mary Ann.

So, after thirty years in Austin, I am fortunate to have good friends, many of whom I continue to see. Others, I no longer see, but I remember them time to time.

