

Nancy Neathery, a graduate of Central High in Little Rock, went on to lead a very different life from what was expected. While in College at Sophie Newcombe at Tulane University in New Orleans, she traveled to Mexico as part of a cultural experiment. In her group there were some other young women from Little Rock, some of them from Central High.



The group of senioritas went off to experience life abroad but only one of them came back with a promise a marriage. Nancy and Jose Luis Vega, a law student in Mexico City, were set-up to meet each other because she was so tall and Jose Luis was the only Mexican friend of the group tall enough to be her escort for the social events planned for the group. To make a long story short, they dated long distance for two years and were married in Puebla, Mexico where they lived until Nancy passed away in 1979 at the age of 42. Her extended Mexican family was very large and she managed to make them all love her.





Although her life was cut short by melanoma, Nancy managed to leave her mark on this Earth. Spanish was her major in college, so as soon as she arrived in Mexico to settle into married life, she undertook the task of editing Jose Luis' law thesis. She literally corrected the Mexicans in their own language!



Nancy had three children Charlie, Susie and Fred. She made sure they spent all their summers and holidays in Little Rock. She wanted them to know the world in which she grew up. She would be happy to know that all of them are now residing in the U.S., and what's more, they live in the South!



After her children were in school, Nancy went on to concentrate on her painting. She especially loved to paint portraits of people. In the 70's she illustrated textbooks. This kept her very busy. Nancy also pursued a degree in teaching. She worked as an ESL (English as a second language) teacher for adults in Mexico City. When Nancy passed away, the Instituto Britannia of Mexico, a school sponsored by the British government, dedicated a wing of the building in her memory for all the work she had done there.

Nancy never got to see her children graduate from college, or get married, nor did she meet any of her seven grandchildren. However, she would be proud of the family she created. She is terribly missed but is always with us.

Nancy's family would love to hear from any of her old classmates who knew her.

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Paintings by Nancy Neathery (A.K.A. Nancy Vega)

