

Veteran writer finds lots of humor during travel through life

Life has its funny side, and that's the side **Sylvia Lou Walsh** sees.

"Often everything you do seems horrible at the time, and when you look back, it's really funny," she said. She's writing a second humorous book.

She wrote a column for the Omaha World-Herald titled "We Also Serve," when she was in Omaha with her husband, retired Air Force **Col. Joe Walsh**, for three years. "It was about things that happen in Air Force life," she said. She was Erma Bombeckish before Bombeck.

Once she wrote about the time a swimming party host mixed daiquiris and colored them to match the guests' bathing suits. "One woman was wearing a navy-blue suit, and after she had her drink, the inside of her mouth turned blue. I laughed. She went into the pool, and the top of her suit slid down. I went into the pool to help her. When she got out she said, 'At least I'm the same color inside as outside.'" A column item.

She saw a sign on a tennis court, covered with snow and icicles, which read, "No playing when temperature is over 100 degrees." Another column item.

Walsh took a tour with her husband and friends to Bulgaria; Romania; Istanbul, Turkey; and Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. They toured Communist areas on a Russian ship but were



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not allowed off.

"I wrote a spy thriller with that background," she said. "But then the Communists were let free, so that will never sell. I am writing another book about horses and Arabs. We stayed in a hotel where there was a meeting of the Arab nations in Istanbul. The Arabs are crazy about horses. I had been in business with my daughter in Hobbs, New Mexico, when she was breeding and racing horses, and I'm terrified of them. The book will never sell because it's overly humorous. I've tried to cut the humor, but it keeps getting in."

The Walshes traveled all over Central America during his Air Force tour. They lived in Guatemala.

She and her husband, who was air attache for the Mexico City embassy, attended an American Embassy garden party honoring then-President **Harry Truman** and Mexican President **Miguel Aleman**.

The mariachis played "La Bamba"

for Aleman and "The Missouri Waltz" for Truman, she said. "Truman leaned over to me and said, 'I hate that darned song.'"

Daughter **Ann Shannon**, a marketing advertising consultant, lives in Guadalajara, Mexico. Daughter **Jacquelin Lynn DuBose**, who bred and raced thoroughbreds, lives in Albuquerque and plans to attend law school. **Cipa Walsh** opened a medical communication business in San Diego. Son **Mike** is a stockbroker at Bryan/College Station, Texas.

In 1973, the Walshes returned to El Paso, where she was born and attended school. She attended Mills College in Oakland, Calif., the College of Mines (UT El Paso) and the University of Alabama in Montgomery.

She has been chairman of the board of the El Paso Area Red Cross and Armed Services YMCA, was regent of El Paso Del Norte Chapter of the DAR, was president of Chapter D, PEO Sisterhood, and West El Paso Republican Woman's Club. She worked in United Way and is an associate director of the Pan American Round Table.

What are her plans when she finishes her second novel? "I'll start a third one," she said. "It takes a lot of time."

Virginia Turner is a retired city editor of the Herald-Post.



Sylvia Lou Walsh works on the manuscript of book.