

## Carolyn R. Beever

### Autobiography

Art has been a part of my life from the first moment I picked up a brush and started my first art lesson at the age of six. I took private art lessons from Lou Musgrove in Petersburg, Virginia from first grade through my graduation from Petersburg High School in 1960. After graduating from Mary Washington in 1964, I immediately began teaching art that fall at Caves Springs High School, Roanoke County, Virginia. For the next 43 years, I taught art in high, middle and elementary schools in the state.

In 1987 an Apple G4 with PaintsWorks Plus Software was placed in my art room at Godwin Middle School in Prince William County. That small machine sparked a completely new creative world for me. From that moment on I knew that I wanted to produce art works on a computer. I had completed fifteen hours of my master course at UMW, but technology took over and I started working towards mastering it. I completed an Instructional Technology Certification from George Mason University and became a technology instructor for teachers in Prince William County Schools.

In 1995 I began teaching my art classes (would now be called Computer Graphics) in a computer lab at Godwin Middle school. In 2000, I moved to the first instructional technology high school in Prince William County and wrote the curriculum for Computer Graphics I, II, Multimedia I, II and Independent Studies in Multimedia for Prince William County Schools. In June 2007, I retired and am now able to create my art work in all the media I love the most—computer, oils, watercolor, and pen and ink.

I have lived in Stafford County for the last 30 years with my husband, Robert. Both of my children, Anna and Riley, graduated from North Stafford High School. Riley was killed in an automobile accident on Fall Hill Ave. (article: Killer Curve, Riley Crockett, appeared in the Free Lance Star) in 1988. My stepson, Rusty, died in 1990 and my daughter Anna was in an automobile accident which left her in MCV for 5 weeks with head trauma in 1991. Anna recovered fully and now lives with her husband, Rick Merryman, and their daughter Caroline in Kilmarnock, VA. Having survived all those things and teaching for 40 or more years, it is one of my greatest pleasures to be able to create my own art works.