

Meet Your Neighbor

Dorothy Stone

She Who Swims With Sharks

By Gary Bégin

ELIZABETH – Dorothy Stone sings in a rock and roll band, skis, loves to drive her MG sports car, has sailed all over the world, is a lawyer and a municipal judge times three.

She didn't earn the moniker "she who swims with sharks" because of her legal status however, but because she really does swim with sharks, the kind with real big pointy teeth. Rows and rows of big pointy teeth, the kind that can rip flesh without effort.

Among all the things Stone is and does, perhaps one of her biggest passions is scuba diving, surrounded by sharks, in the exotic French Polynesian South Pacific paradise of Bora Bora near Tahiti, part of the Society Islands.

"For some reason I'm not afraid of them," she says casually. By them she doesn't mean other lawyers, but the actual sharks swimming so near she can touch them. Growing up a tomboy in Redondo Beach, California, Dorothy used to go hunting and fishing with her dad and says she is her "father's only son", so playing rough isn't new to this gal.

At a young age she was figure skating and ice dancing, but after high school her pursuits became academic as she earned a degree in psychology (Cal State – Long Beach) and then a master's in clinical psychology (CU – Boulder), but "I didn't want to be a professor," she says so she entered

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law school because she "wanted to help people."

Boston University is where she ended up and Washington, D.C. is where she first passed the bar leading her to a career in law.

It wasn't long before she ended up in Denver at a law firm downtown, but she wanted more than to be just another member of the firm so she moved to Elizabeth after discovering it driving around the area.

"I love the small town atmosphere. It looked beautiful as I came over the ridge from Franktown and saw all the trees," she said. "Unspoiled".

Turns out her singing career was discovered too, while performing karaoke at a local bar, a rock 'n roller liked what he heard and eventually they formed a band called Flashback to perform 60's and 70's rock 'n roll.

Her favorite song from that era is Jefferson Airplane's White Rabbit. She's proud to be a newlywed and also of the fact her husband Neil is the sound engineer for the band and knows his music as well as anyone. He's also British and an IT guy.

This all dovetails nicely with her love of Morris Garage (MG) sports cars and the Beatles. She owns a 1974 MGB and belongs to the MG Car Club of England – Rocky Mountain Centre and enjoys touring the countryside with same.

The 57-year-old also loves to ski (Copper her favorite resort) and has been sailing all over the world as

well, with a return trip to Greece on her schedule as well as a scuba trip to Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

If that weren't enough, Dorothy is a municipal judge for the towns of Kiowa, Simla and Deer Trail, but was a little leery at first about doing judicial duties.

"I was a civil procedures lawyer and I had to learn criminal procedures quickly in order to feel qualified," she said. She was recommended and asked to take the position by Town of Kiowa.

Her life has been impacted a little since becoming a judge, including not being allowed to put campaign signs on her property or signing petitions, but for the most part she has eight years as an arbiter under her belt and has no plans to stop.

She says of her role as a rock 'n roll singer, "It's a dream come true." Reviving old songs is par for the course for Stone as she loves things with a bit of age to them and laments our "throw away society".

Stone loves antiques, which includes everything from old cars to old furniture to the old former bank building she leases in downtown Elizabeth, which she would buy if it were for sale. She is also chairwoman of the Town of Elizabeth Historical Board, currently inactive and searching for members for a possible revival.

At one point in her busy world travels, she was asked to take the job of Assistant Attorney General for the

Republic of Palau, but the government changed its mind at the last minute. She decided to go there anyway and do some scuba diving which, after getting certified, became her lifelong love, or at least one of them.

Her six member band, made up of musicians in their 40's and 50's, does a lot of playin' at the Stagecoach in Franktown and other area lounges. As expected, many of the fans are the same age as the band, but unexpectedly, many are much younger and just getting into the old tunes now.

"There's a huge young contingent that really gets into the music," she says.

Stone may love to play Rolling Stones on stage, but her life is stable as a rock and she's not changing anything, anytime soon. Oh, did I mention Bluegrass. She recently hung out at the former Cowboy Coffee shop near the Post Office here (it's now called the Taste and See coffee shop) and sung bluegrass tunes with a small group of ad hoc players on Tuesday nights.

Despite her busy life, one can tell she'd still like to be singing bluegrass with friends and strangers alike if given half a chance. Just for the record your honor, the author fesses up that the moniker of "She Who Swims With Sharks" was bestowed by him to you --- for all you do, and most certainly all you'd like to get around to doing in the next 57 years.