

Spotlight on a Neighbor

Aldine von Isser & Hal Grieve

Once upon a time there was a little boy named Hal Grieve. He and his mom, who was an artist and had a gypsy-like wanderlust, traveled throughout the land. Hal attended 24 different elementary schools. . . but, I digress.

When Hal was 10 years old, they moved to Tucson and rented a little home on San Francisco Blvd. near Swan & Ft. Lowell. His next door neighbor was Tony von Isser and Hal and Tony quickly became inseparable friends. They loved exploring the desert (at that time, this part of Tucson had only dirt roads and was considered **way** out of town). Both boys had a fascination with flying. Being too young to drive didn't stop Hal from pursuing his dream. He simply rode his bike to the distant airfield meeting his friend for their flying lessons. Both earned their pilot licenses, Hal, doing so well before he was old enough to apply for a license to drive a car.

How many ladies do you know who have a photo of her late husband AND current husband?

Hal & Tony



When Hal was 16, his mom met and married the well known artist, Ted DeGrazia. This new relationship, unfortunately, didn't have room for a 16 year old boy, so Hal lived alone in an old, abandoned, trailer in the desert owned by the von Isser family. His motorcycle and a 22 rifle were his most important assets because the motorcycle made it possible

to drive into town for school and the rifle dispatched rabbits for food.

As the months went by, Mr. von Isser grew increasingly worried about Hal's well being, so he contacted DeGrazia who arranged to have Hal shipped off to a boarding house in Hollywood, California. While playing sports in school, Hal fell and broke his wrist. The school rushed him to the hospital but he couldn't be treated because, as a minor, he had to have an adult sign for his medical care and he had no one! When this situation came to light, the hospital called the police who booked him for vagrancy. Now Hal was a "convict" so the State authorized the necessary medical treatment. Hal's living situation couldn't be officially condoned, so authorities found Hal's aunt in Colorado Springs and she arranged for a local boarding house to take Hal in. In the spring of 1949, Hal's uncle, who needed help on his dairy farm in Pennsylvania, agreed to take Hal for his senior year in high school. There, Hal fell in love with Bette and they were married the year after graduation.

Hal always stayed in touch with his best friend, Tony and when, in 1952, he heard that Tony was engaged, he went to Tucson to see what was up with his old friend. The minute he met 18-year-old Aldine he realized why his friend (who he never believed would ever get married) was so thoroughly charmed. Although Aldine was born and spent her early childhood in Toronto, Canada, she and her family had lived in Tucson several years before she met Tony.

Aldine, at age 19, won parental permission to marry Tony only after she

promised to finish university. Always a lady of her word, after they married, Aldine received her BA in Education, MA in Special Ed and her Ph.D. in Education & Psychology from U of A. She was on the faculty of the U of A for 28 years where she ran the graduate study program in Education of Emotionally Disturbed Children. She wrote, in Spanish, the first test for evaluating learning disabilities in monolingual Spanish speaking children, which is still used broadly today. This work took her to Spain and every country in South America, save one.

In 1956 Hal and Bette moved back to Hal's favorite place, Tucson. He enrolled in U of A and for 6 years went to school during the day and worked at Hughes Aircraft Co. (now Raytheon) and then Marania Aircraft at night. Upon graduation, in Secondary Ed, he taught Russian and Social Studies before putting in 15 years of State Service with the Highway Patrol and the Highway Dept. running the Highway Safety Education program.

In 1979, fulfilling the 23 year old promise to Bette that he would someday move her back to Pennsylvania; Hal left his best friends, Tony & Aldine and his beloved Tucson.

Three years later his stepfather died and his mom, being unable to cope by herself, asked Hal to come back to help with the DeGrazia Gallery. What he discovered upon his arrival was vandalized and damaged art and buildings in need of repair and a gallery without organization or management. The first order of business was building a vault and categorizing the artwork.

Tony passed away in 1989 followed by Bette in 1997. Of course, Hal and Aldine continued as best friends enjoying not only years of memories but also many common interests, including both being pilots. To this day, there is a good natured debate on who has more flying credentials because Aldine was a bush pilot in Mexico, but Hal has flown longer and is still current.



Hal and Aldine were married last year at the Chapel at DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun. They spend 4 to 5 months a year in Aldine's birthplace, Northern Ontario, on Lake of Bays. When in Tucson, they spend about a week each month in their

Ranchito in Arivaca (5 miles north of the Mexican border).

After spending just a brief time with Aldine & Hal, one knows how this story ends . . . they are living happily ever after!