



Rich Erney and his wife Mary are enjoying retirement with their 4 children and 7 grandchildren, ranging in age from a senior in high school to a first grader. Rich also continues to enjoy his hobby of deltiology or collecting old postcards. He started collecting postcards about 25 years ago, finding them at antique shows. As the world wide web grew, he started buying many post cards on *Ebay*.

Rich remembers that he was always excited as a child when his family received postcards in the mail. He enjoyed reading where they came from and then researching the history of the place. He enjoys looking at a postcard and determining the time period by looking at the cars in the picture, the clothing

on people, the style of architecture, etc. Rich currently has about 100 postcards. His favorite post cards are those of old Bethlehem Christmas scenes and he enjoys studying the history of Bethlehem. Rich has shared some of his postcard collection for us to enjoy in the link at the bottom of the article.

After Rich left Liberty he joined the US Air Force for four years. When he saw that even Elvis got drafted, he figured his time was coming and the Air Force sounded better than the Army. He was very fortunate to be chosen by the air force to be trained in computer programming. He did that for his entire four years. Some of the places that he was stationed were Texas, Mississippi, Washington State, Alaska and finally back to Pennsylvania to an air force base near Harrisburg, which is now Penn State classrooms and the old air fields are now the Harrisburg Airport.

After leaving the air force he came back to Bethlehem and worked at Mack trucks in Allentown as a programmer. After leaving Mack Trucks he became a programmer for Gimbels Department store in Philadelphia. After twenty years there, Gimbels was sold and went out of business. His next job was for Boscovs Department store in Reading. He was employed there until he retired in 2010.

He met his future wife (Mary Sassaman) after graduating from Liberty. Mary was a 1962 graduate of Liberty who went on to St. Lukes Hospital School of Nursing to become an RN. They were married in June 1967. By sheer coincidence, our classmate, Charles Klein, and Rich were married in the same church on the same day. Charles was married in the morning and Rich in the afternoon, and they shared the cost of the altar flowers between them.



Because of where he worked, the Erneys have lived in Allentown, Quakertown, Philadelphia, and now after retirement, in Kutztown. After his travels in the air force, he decided to stay in good old Pennsylvania.

As the children were growing up, they took their children on vacations across the United States to show them historical places of interest. They always planned trips to include amusement parks wherever they went. It was always two days of historical sites and then one day at a park. It worked out well.

Mary and Rich are enjoying retirement and are looking forward to our next LHS Reunion in 2021. [Please click here to view some of Rich's postcard collection of old Bethlehem.](#) Go back to simpler times.