

Melanie Evans finally went to Disneyland

By: LaRAYNE WATTS

Melanie Evans was born in Aberdeen but raised in Raymond by her parents, longtime Raymond residents Denny and Joyce Evans. Both of her parents are RHS graduates.

Melanie graduated from Raymond High School in 1987. She reports that her class had between 40 to 50 people in it.

One of Melanie's favorite memories occurred in the 4th grade. She was in Mr. Bacon's class. He had the class run around laps around the play-ground to promote physical fitness. For encouragement he counted the laps off as if it was were the distance to Disneyland. She said, "I remember being confused when I ran the appropriate number of laps to get to Disneyland, but Mr. Bacon didn't take me there!"

She remembers two teachers as having a special influence on her life. One was Mr. Swecker, the band teacher. She said, "He made playing in the band fun and nicknamed our group "Boots Carter and the Mama Beaner Band."

The other was Mr. Henrie. Melanie recalls, "He always made his classes fun by telling jokes to help us remember things. I also enjoyed track with him because he let me participate in any of the events even though I wasn't skilled in any of them!"

The activity that most shaped her future, according to Melanie, was the opportunity to be a TA (Teacher's Aide) in Sandy Watterauer's class. She said, "I received the knowledge and many of the skills that I needed to become a teacher.

After graduating from RHS Melanie attended Grays Harbor College for two years where she received her associate in Arts degree. She then went to central Washington University for two more years and received a degree in Elementary Education. She got her Masters Degree in 1993.

Melanie took a year off to work as a nanny for friends in Orlando, Florida. She also worked for the Walt Disney Company for six months as well as during the summers.

She has worked for the Olympia School District in the primary grades for the last ten years.

In addition to teaching, Melanie works with Foster Child Care Program and with Habitat for Humanity. She says, "I bought a home in Lacy eight months ago and have recently been licensed to be a foster parent."

She keeps up with her hometown by visiting her parents. "I read the newspaper occasionally at my parents', but I don't know most of the people or kids that they report on now."

When asked what advice she would give to this year's seniors, Melanie replied, "I would advise that they work hard to accomplish their dreams and do what it takes to make them happen. This comes from a person who always thought it would be fun to work at Disney World, and I somehow made it happen. Also enjoy your youth now because before you know it, you'll be an adult and someone will ask you to tell about your memories of RHS!"