

## Biography of Nancy Peternal

Nancy Peternal was born in Lynn, Massachusetts which is just outside of Boston. She attended public school for the first eight years then went to a parochial high school. From high school Nancy went on to attend Emmanuel College which was a Women's Catholic College in Boston. She was an English major who later decided to become a school teacher.

Nancy was raised in a Catholic family. She was the second to the youngest and has three brothers and three sisters. Nancy's father was a mechanist for the United Shoe Machinery Company and her mother was a homemaker. Nancy remembers Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving with her family. They always had big family dinners and got a few gifts for Christmas. She also remembers having to cook for family when her mother was in the hospital and also wearing hand-me-downs. None of Nancy's brothers or sisters live in Lynn. They have few family reunions, but they do manage to see each other occasionally.

After Nancy graduated from college she applied to several schools. The big demand for teachers was in the West in the small towns. She was hired by the Lincoln County School District in Kemmerer Wyoming. Nancy traveled to Kemmerer by train. She remembers how the land was so barren. There was no trees and miles of land that didn't seem to go anywhere. Upon arrival she caught

her first glimpse of real cowboys as she stood in front of the first J.C. Penney store. For the first couple of months Nancy lived with Besty Beachler who ran a boarding house for school teachers. She taught the third and fourth grades in the new Diamondville school.

Nancy had been in Kemmerer for three years when she met her future husband Bill Peternal who was in the Service during the Korean War. They are the parents of two children. Their son Farrell graduated from Kemmerer High School as valedictorian. He went on to graduate from M.I.T. and then to study for his Masters in Rome. Then Farrell went to Spain to obtain his Doctorate. Presently Farrell is a priest. Kelly is their daughter and she, also, was the valedictorian in her class. After high school she attended the University of Wyoming for an year and a half. Kelly decided that university life was not her cup of tea and she came back to Kemmerer where she took correspondence classes in business through Western Wyoming Community College. She married Bob Thoman who is a rancher and they live in Riverton with their seven children.

Nancy became involved in politics when she was elected Vice Chairperson of the Democratic Party in the Central Committee meeting. Nancy went on to serve two terms for Lincoln County in the State Legislature. She also served eight years as the Lincoln County Commissioner. Nancy has received many honors including The Business Women of the Year Award in 1990 and she was the first recipient of The Nellie Taylor Ross Award which is given by the Democratic Party.

Nancy feels that she has led a very fulfilling life. She is currently the founder and the President of the Fossil Country Museum in Kemmerer. Nancy philosophy on life is to enjoy it but work hard towards your goals and to treat others with respect and dignity. She has certainly set a fine example for others to follow.