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Gemini 75 Memories

Bobbi Clark
Gemini 75

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Memories shared by Bobbi O. (Battle) Clark

Hometown: Benton, Illinois

Why I chose WKU: When I was 10, I met Mr. Diddle and he told me my red hair brought good luck to the basketball team. My father was a childhood friend of Dee Gibson and became friends with Jimmy Feix, Johnny Oldham, Jim Richards and Pres. [Dero] Downing. I fell in love with WKU in fourth grade and never looked at another university.

My major: Biology major, chemistry and medical technology

My class: 1978, 1979

Gemini Bands: 1975

Instruments: Alto and Tenor Saxophone

Tours: I toured with the 1975 Gemini for 8 weeks in Germany and Holland. I also was in the 1978 group but had to withdraw from touring because I was starting the med tech program at Vanderbilt and needed to work.

Friends: We really didn't know each other before we started rehearsals, so friendships were slowly developed. Our group was 5 girls, 5 guys and Dr.

Livingston. Our personalities were strong, but I think considering everything, we got along for the most part.

Memories: We originally were to go on tour in January of 1975. There was an incident that resulted in a national security risk, so they postponed our tour until June. Most of the time we stayed on the army or air bases, but occasionally we stayed in local hotels. We performed 7-10 shows a week with one day off a week. We usually travelled by large military bus. One time we were traveling from just outside of Frankfurt to Zeiss, Holland, a 5-6 hour ride. Our bus driver took a wrong turn, and we ended up in Brussels, Belgium. We arrived in Zeiss almost 16 hours after we started. We were in West Berlin for a week and got to see the wall. I caught up with a couple from my hometown that were stationed in Kaiserslautern. We toured Heidelberg Castle. We did one show for a unit on maneuvers on the West/East German border. We borrowed fatigues for our costumes and ate with the soldiers in the field. We rode an overnight train across East Germany and watched while East German soldiers and guard dogs checked our train at several stops for defectors. Our contact in Germany was the cousin of one of my parents' friends in my hometown. At one show, the soldiers were marched in to attend by orders of their officers.

Benefits: Travelled in Europe, meeting generals to privates. We saw some amazing landscape and historic towns and buildings. Performing was the best-getting applause is like no other experience!