

Shirleen Becker (211) recently returned from a 9-day trip to her hometown of El Paso, TX. She was accompanied by her her son, Matt, and daughter, Susan. Below is her summary of their trip.

Although we had rented a house on VRBO for our stay, due to our late evening arrival in El Paso the first night, we made things easier on ourselves by staying in an easy-to-access downtown hotel, The Plaza. Built in 1930 as only the sixth hotel in Conrad Hilton's empire, this beautiful structure recently underwent an impeccable historic renovation. Downtown El Paso is beautiful and clean, with wide sidewalks and many recently restored/refurbished buildings bearing historic plaques.



The next day we moved into our VRBO atop the foothills of Mount Franklin and proceeded to tour different districts of the City (and different 'Memory Lanes') each day. A highlight was our visit to the historic bungalow on Tremont Street where my [Sharpley] parents were living from my birth until age 2, when my family moved to Galveston. Unbeknownst to me at the time, my future husband David's [Becker] family then moved into that same bungalow, where David was raised. During High School, David and I dated after my family moved back to El Paso and in 1956 we were married. David and I then bought that bungalow from David's

parents and moved into it together. After visiting this bungalow, we drove by the wonderful modernist adobe home that David and I designed/built on the foothills of Mt. Franklin, which we moved to from the Becker/Sharpley bungalow with our growing family in 1964-65 - which was where all of our kids grew up.



The rest of our tours around the City featured stops to visit with cousins and old friends at so many of our favorite family dining spots - most of which (amazingly) still exist! These included many excellent meals at our favorite Mexican restaurants, amazing steaks/baked potatoes/cole slaw at Cattlemen's Steakhouse (on a ranch 30 miles outside town), and traditional Texas family fare at Luby's Cafeteria (where we always went after church on Sundays). *YUM!*



We're all very thankful that we got to make the trip, filled with so many powerful reminiscences of our beloved David.