

## A Name for a Reason

*By Donna Bishop*

My birth was a much anticipated event. My father was determined to have a son – not that a little girl wouldn't be welcome but it was important for the first child to be a boy. Dad had visions of his youth playing year-round sports of baseball, football and basketball. What a joy to see his son following old dad's adventures. William Donald Bishop, Jr. – that would be his name.

The moment arrived. The bundle of joy was a girl! A name for a girl had not even been considered. Mother suggested using dad's middle name, Donald, in the feminine form of Donna. A second name is traditional so my mother experimented with names that sounded well together and decided on Donna Sue Bishop. I was born in Texas and my family and friends called me Donna Sue. Later our family moved to northern states and I was known as Donna.

We moved to Cody, Wyoming when I was in the sixth grade. I was extremely quiet and didn't raise my hand to answer questions although I knew the answers. The teacher recognized my reluctance to volunteer to speak out in class so she called on me. However, a very bright aggressive boy named Don shouted out the response every time the teacher started to say Donna. The teacher's solution was to use my middle name Sue. So for one school year my name was Sue. It wasn't too difficult for me because at home my mother frequently called me Susie Q.

I like my name. It is easy for people to pronounce and remember. In my early twenties I married and as was customary at that time I assumed my new husband's name which was difficult to say, spell and pronounce. The name was Megeath spelled capital M, small e, small g-e-a-t-h. The story is that the original name was the Scottish name, McGrath. Two brothers feuded with one moving to Wales and changing the spelling of the name to Megeath. The name I used was Donna Bishop Megeath.

I developed a professional career under this name. I was later divorced but retained the Megeath name because I had small children with that name. However, after my former husband married for the third time I decided I was one woman who didn't need to use the name Megeath. I went to court to have my name legally changed back to my birth name, Donna Sue Bishop. The name felt right to me in spite of some awkward moments at work and with my children. I suspect there is some part of our personalities that have a deep connection to our birth name.

My father never had that son. Of his three daughters I'm the only one to retain the Bishop name. I think that might have pleased him.