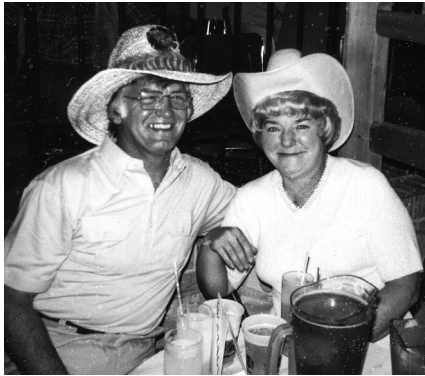


## From Across the Pond

# Fond Memories of Gordon Duester

My name is Bruce Youse and I have been married to Janet Duester, Gordon's sister, since October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1969. I felt I had to write a few lines to help me get over the loss of my brother-in-law Gordon Duester. He accepted me and treated me like we were blood brothers, and I will forever be thankful for all he has done for Jan and me.



Gordon and Joan in the States

### A Bobby looking for You

Sometime in August of 1969, I had the pleasure of my soon-to-be fiancée introducing me to her brother Gordon. I was a bit apprehensive, being a 'Yank' and being out in the countryside rubbing elbows with the locals - outside the relative security of RAF Upper Heyford. I rapidly learned that this Gordon was quite a gentleman, scholar, gardener, carpenter, loving brother, son and husband. For those of you who knew him, you probably guess that I left some other things out that were not quite as complimentary.

When I married Jan, Gordon and Joan stood as our witnesses, and we spent many enjoyable visits in Shipton. Many good times were had at Gordon's - I'll never forget when the 'Bobbies' came to the front door and accused me of breaking into the house. Somehow we got locked out of the house when we went out for supper and on coming home I had to

climb on the porch roof and enter through the window in the bedroom. I'll never forget Gordon calling up the stairs to me that there was a 'Bobby' looking for me!

### Big Macs

Gordon and Joan visited us in the States. On their first trip they really enjoyed Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

(We learned that Gordon had a weakness for McDonald's Big Macs and was also a very good navigator). We visited Gordon's sister Liz and family, and Joan got to visit her beloved Elvis's estate in Memphis. I can remember Gordon fixing things around the house, advising on gardening; we even got to do some fishing - oh and Gordon did love sitting on the deck sipping a 'cool one' in the evenings.

In October 2001, I finally made it back to England. We came out of Customs and there was Gordon to greet us. Gordon planned for a cottage in the Woodbridge area, and he took us on a tour of some of the bases I had been stationed at; Bentwaters, Woodbridge, Alconbury, as well as the town of Felixstowe. What a great visit; Gordon always seemed to know what others would enjoy. We were heart broken when we learned that Gordon had passed away, especially since he seemed to be doing fine after his heart surgery. RIP Gordon.

**Bruce Youse**