

## **THE AUTHORS SHOW – Animals/Nature**

**Author: Marge Dawson**

Pearls of Creation

Is intended to

Increase your Knowledge of,

Interest in, and Love of pearls.

Recognize the difference between Natural, Cultured, Freshwater and Seawater Pearls.

Learn how to Care for your pearls, and

The simple 'test' to Know

the Difference

between 'Real Pearls' and 'Imitation Pearls'.

I grew up in very different times, in Durban, South Africa during the 2nd World War (1939-45).

My parents were divorced and my mum, sister & I were poor and lived with my gran.

After my Primary School education, I completed two years in a Commercial High School in Durban, where I learned to type.

I started working at 16 at Standard Bank and completed ten years' service with them. Thereafter I worked as a clerk for a legal company for two years.

In 1955, I was married to Vernon Dawson at the age of 21. We were married for 53 years before he passed away in 2007.

When I started my family, I joined Tupperware where I worked for 13 years. In this time, I learned Direct Marketing skills and progressed to Advanced Manager level.

After Tupperware, I sold a few other products such as linen and non-stick pots which took me to Trade Shows all over South Africa.

At one of these trade shows I found “Pearls in the Oyster”, a company which sold pearls directly from oysters to the public and set them on jewelry while you wait. I was immediately attracted to this business and started marketing these beautiful pearls, called the Akoya pearls, from Ago Bay, Japan. These pearls had such good luster and came in a variety of colors and sizes, even twins! Marketing pearls, really was a pleasure – drilling and setting pearls -everyone loved them. I opened a small shop in our local Shopping Mall which did well until the Government put a 60% Surcharge Tax on Imported Jewelry, and sadly I had to close my shop.

My passion for pearls had grown to the extent that I decided to write a book on pearls and was already researching this subject as there was so little information readily available. Wherever I went I collected information on pearls.

In 2006, my late husband, Vernon and I visited a pearl farm in Camden, Tennessee, where freshwater pearls were being cultivated in mussels. This was a very interesting visit and fueled my interest in visiting other pearl farms to learn more about different methods of culturing pearls.

Back in SA, I continued researching pearls, while being a Realtor, for 33years. In my spare time, I typed my manuscript and organized it into the book it is today.

My first edition of “Pearls of Creation” was a combination of all the data I had at that stage, and I typed and self-published it in 2004, in South Africa, marketed it myself successfully by doing talks to all who were interested in pearls, even going live on TV to talk about my book. I also did a podcast about my book for a radio station.

I registered an ISBN and printed copies for the launch in South Africa.

Vernon and I visited the USA where we had the great opportunity of doing a talk to the 'Pearl Society of Illinois' with Eve Alfille, in her Gallery and Studio, Evanston, Chicago, where my book was well received.

My success encouraged me to carry on gathering information for a second edition of my book as I realized there was so much more information to share. I collected more interesting data on Pearls even visiting 2 more pearl farms with my grandson, the beautiful Paua Abalone farm in Christ Church, New Zealand, and the Paspaley pearl Company in Australia, all cultivating beautiful, vastly different varieties of pearls. Also included in the book are Pearls Fiji, Micronesia, Jewellmer Pearls from the Philippines, and the Conch pearls being cultivated by the Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch, Oceanographic Institute in the USA.

Included is valuable information and pictures of the 7 different pearl farms, and many different interesting subjects, like "The Craze", the gold rush of the pearl industry, which were added to the History section. It also mentions the Pearly Kings and Queens in England, whose costumes are decorated with mother-of-pearl buttons.

All information was given freely to me, including pictures supplied by the pearl farms. The book includes contact details of all who contributed to my book. My late husband also took many of the pictures contained in the book.

"Pearls of Creation" 2nd Edition was completed in 2012, when I again typed every word, put the 200 full color pictures and interesting data together in a 330-page book.

"Pearls of Creation, A-Z of Pearls", received a BRONZE AWARD in 2014, under the category 'Green Living', 'Nature Conservation'. This was an award from the Independent Publishers Annual competition run by Jim Barnes in the USA.

I even wrote the Queen of England to tell her about my book and sent her a copy of both editions, since she is very fond of pearls. I received an acknowledgement from her secretary.

Recently I have written two articles about pearls and pearl farms for the Jewel Trader magazine in South Africa. This is a publication which is circulated online and in print form to Jewellers worldwide.

In 2016, I attended the conference for the Woman's Prosperity Network in Orlando, Florida, where I did a lot of networking. While in the USA, I visited the Pearl Button Museum in Muscatine, Iowa, and was invited to return to give a talk on my book.

Both the printed and E-book "Pearls of Creation A-Z of Pearls" 2nd Edition are available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Ingram Spark/Lightning Source, Powells and my website. I have also managed to get my book into the Dana Point Library, Orange County, California, and am continuing to market it to other Libraries.

In essence, my book pays tribute to God for His Creation of the waters of the World and the life therein, including natural and Cultivated pearls. It is an easy-to-read book and will appeal to everyone, of all ages, interests and genre.

Unfortunately, most sales are done when I market my book doing talks on pearls, or anywhere where I meet new people. I am 83 years old already and I want to share my knowledge and passion for pearls as widely as possible. I will never retire as I am enjoying marketing my book.

Pearls of Creation A-Z of Pearls in 2004. ISBN 9780 620 284 165

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