

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON
SYLVIA L. Marrs Famly**

Born: April 2, 1941 (likes to say that she was almost a fool)

Birth Location: Wink, Texas A small town in West Texas surrounded by oil wells

Married to William M. Marrs June 1, 1964

Three grown children and five grandchildren

Sylvia began her teaching career in January 1964 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on the Navajo Indian Reservation at Nazlini, Arizona. Bill joined her there after their marriage. In 1967, Bill and Sylvia were promoted and moved to the headquarters school at Chinle. There she was given an opportunity to attend a workshop conducted by the famous Indian musician, Louis Ballard. The BIA wanted to encourage Indian youngsters to learn their own music. The Principal at Chinle Boarding School actively encouraged the program and provided resources to enable a choir devoted to Indian music. The children sang music from all tribes.

In 1970, Sylvia moved to the Chinle Public School and was encouraged to develop a full program of music to include Native American music. Her Indian choir, named Naatsiiliid Nizhoni Singers, traveled extensively, including Europe.

In 1983, Bill moved to Fort Hood to begin working for the Army and in 1984, Sylvia began her new career with the Texas Public Schoos at Copperas Cove Intermediate School. There she had a highly honored choir for many years until her retirement in May, 2002.

She currently subs for Temple ISD and stays busy with home, DAR, DRT and traveling with Bill to his many Genealogical and social organizations.