



Who is K-M Concessions' HR Manager Marna Dowling?

- A. *Was a precocious child who continually questioned the nuns about divine origin, which is the theory that states that God created the earth out of nothing.*
- B. *Was a former hostess, bartender, waitress and busgirl at various restaurants in Boulder and Denver.*
- C. *Was once a free spirit and wild woman.*
- D. *Is a devoted wife and a loving mother.*
- E. *Is an abstract artist who earned a degree in both fine arts and art history from the University of Colorado.*

The answer: all of above.

Marna was born and raised in northwest Denver. She still lives in the 250-acre neighborhood that has always been known for its ethnic diversity since its founding in 1858. Her architecturally unique house was built in 1903 and was remodeled by her late husband, Phil. Her parents now live with her and her 14-year-old daughter, Mary. (Mary recently started working at the Denver Zoo.)



Like mother, like daughter. Top photo: Marna with her mother.

Bottom photo: Marna with her daughter Mary.

Marna's name was inspired by the Alfred Hitchcock film *Marnie*, which may be why she is a movie buff. She owns more than 1,600 DVDs. She shared that her TVs are really just DVD monitors as she doesn't watch a lot of television. Marna said the last TV show she watched was *Cheers*, and that was when it was in syndication.



Marna took a nervous Phil home to meet her family on Friday and got married by a Justice of the Peace the next Monday at the courthouse in Denver. She said she did not have any monogrammed cocktail napkins, nor a DJ or a special dress for her day.

One of her first jobs as a child was as a busgirl. To pay for college, she worked as a hostess in a local restaurant as well as a free-lance researcher for academia as well as the private sector. As this was before the days of Google and the internet, Marna used her inquisitiveness to find the answers from

reading through books, magazines and encyclopedias. It helped that she had and still has a passion for reading. Today, Marna likes to read mostly non-fiction books, such as those on politics or commentary. However, her daughter coerced her into reading one of the vampire-based fantasy romance



Marna's Favorites

Food: Oxtail stew with pinto beans

Sport: Billiards

Her father was pool shark, and she wishes she would have spent more time learning the game. Also, she likes to watch billiards tournaments – either live or on television.

Book: ??

While she doesn't have a favorite book, she does have a favorite painting. It's *Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2*, a 1912 painting by Marcel Duchamp. The work has become a famous example of modern artwork.

Music: Andrea Bocelli as well as classical music.

Movie: Lord of the Rings trilogy

Twilight books, Marna described the experience as “reading a Harlequin romance book on steroids.”

After returning to Denver from Chicago and while recovering from an intense almost four-year relationship, Marna met her husband, Phil, who was a petrochemist, while she was working at small bistro in north Denver, Marna said it was like a thunderbolt hit her when she meet him. Interestingly, her very first restaurant job was at this same restaurant, but then it had different name. The smartest thing Marna said she ever did was to marry Phil. “It settled me and grounded me in a positive way,” she added. But she shocked the world when she announced she was getting married. “I’m not the type of woman who would have the nerve to get married and have children,” she said. She and Phil had one daughter, Mary. Unfortunately, Phil died in an accident in 2004, the week before Christmas.

Her 14-year-old daughter, Mary, started working at the Denver Zoo in the summer of 2010.

With her restaurant experience, one would

think Marna would have majored in business, but she earned a Bachelor’s of fine arts as well as bachelor’s in art history from the University of Colorado. She started to work on her master’s of fine arts, but stopped work when a family emergency occurred.

Initially, Marna honed her artistic skill by painting watercolors, but moved to creating experimental art and big abstract murals. Rather than wielding a brush, Marna likes using a palette knife to create her textured work with sweeping areas of flat color as well as tiny shapes of color. Her biggest artistic business accomplishment involved selling some of her artwork during the International Women’s Conference, which was held in Boulder while she was attending classes. The sale paid for one year of school. She has recently started to paint again from her home studio.

In her free time, Marna is involved with the Good Neighbor Law Association, an organization dedicated solely to the purpose of helping people learn how to be a good neighbor. She is a board member, even though she describes herself as a private per-

son, who likes to work behind the scenes.

Marna turned her experience as a restaurant employee into a position as personnel recruiter for upper management for the restaurant industry.

She joined the K-M family in 2001, when she started work at the Arapahoe Race Track, Marna then spent time working at the City Park Pavilion, and National Western. Marna became a Manager at the Denver Zoo in the spring of 2008 and was later promoted to the HR Manager.



When asked about her most valued possession, Marna was going to say her daughter, but decided it sounded too possessive. She then identified a 3x3-foot oil painting that she painted of her daughter as her most valued possession. Phil and Mary sit below the painting.