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10 Things You Didn't Know About ... Mary Manross

Mary Manross, 58, was raising four children in Scottsdale in 1992 when she decided to run for City Council. She won, and was elected mayor in 2000. Her job: presiding over 184.5 square miles and 227,000 people.

1. She was born in Santa Monica, Calif.
2. Her mother was one of the first female Marines.
3. Her father was an illustrator for Rockwell International's NASA division.
4. She majored in education and political science at University of California, Los Angeles.
5. For three years she froze in North Dakota, 100 miles from the Canadian border when her husband, Larry, was stationed there in the Air Force.
6. They wanted to move to Hawaii, but in 1972 decided to try Scottsdale for "just a year."
7. In her first campaign for city council, she faced nine contenders. With her husband and four children, she knocked on 10,000 doors.
8. She has never used a political consultant.
9. Favorite getaway: Paris
10. Secret skill: She was a sprinter in high school.