



**Joplin Eagles**

# "JHS Class of '64"

**Issue 16**

**Class Newsletter January 31, 2014**

## Welcome To Our 16th Edition

### "News From Joplin"

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I've been writing the intros to the JHS Class of '64 newsletter for several years. In each issue, as we've projected into the future and outlined plans for our 50th reunion, the event always seemed "out there."

But, here we are, at the start of 2014, and that 50-year milestone since we graduated from Joplin High School is in full focus.

It's a given that Joplin has changed since the years we spent there as teenagers. Time and a tornado have wreaked havoc on many of the familiar landmarks and locations that were bedrocks of our youth.

The school where we congregated in the halls with our ratted hair and pegged pants has been leveled and is being replaced with a state-of-the-art building that we couldn't have imagined in 1964.

Main Street, which was the lifeblood of Joplin then, and the home of many of our youthful memories, dramatically declined after the years that we cruised that thoroughfare. But it's happily on the ascendance again.

Thanks to facade grants and Joplin's fervent commitment to renewal, we'll come home to a street that, although changed, has a shiny new face.

In the Joplin Globe column that follows, I focused on that street and the special spot it still holds for me when I think of my parents.

I'm certain you have your own Main Street memories.

***Jeanne Looper Smith***



### "Memories of Moments on Main"

Rose Kennedy said that "life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments."

For me, many moments, some of which were milestones in my life as a young girl in Joplin, occurred on Main Street.

I've written previously about Main Street's prominence in Joplin and in my childhood and teen years during the 1950s and '60s. After moving away, the years of my 20s, 30s and even 40s were spent creating a family, raising children and building a career.

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I didn't do much looking back then. Now that I'm in my 60s, I'm remembering those earlier times, and the people who populated them, more often.

My parents are gone now—my Dad for almost 50 years and my Mother for a decade. Many of the special memories I have of them happened on Main Street and are as easy to take hold of as if they had just occurred.

My father was a stockbroker whose office was first in the Connor Hotel and then later in a newly remodeled space in the Frisco Building. He was a Renaissance man who taught me to love opera and musical theater and how to pick a really juicy watermelon. He was either wearing a three piece suit and a homburg hat in that more formal time, or was sitting at home in his boxer shorts reading an Earle Stanley Gardner mystery. There was nothing in between.

I spent school holidays at his office watching the ticker tape billow onto the floor while I waited for him to announce lunch time. Then we headed to Miller's Cafe where we devoured cheeseburgers and coconut cream pie. I felt special in his presence as we walked down Main Street, greeting business owners and pedestrians along the way.

When it was time for my first bike, a rite of passage then, it was a quick trip to the Schwinn Bike Shop just several doors from his office in the Connor. And when I graduated from fat pencils and Big Chief tablets to my first fountain pen, we walked to a Main Street drug store where we selected it with much fanfare.

I was even allowed entrance to a

"man's world" when I accompanied him to the Rex Pool Hall. I racked up colorful pool balls and caught glimpses of tame 1950s pinup calendars while he played snooker with colorful characters.

Sometimes my Mother would let me miss school to spend a day with her. She and I bounced back and forth on Main like pinballs, covering every shopping opportunity stretching all the way from Woolworth's to the Dud's Shop.

I was initiated into the secret world of undergarments as she bought nylons with seams and girdles rolled up in tubes from attentive saleswomen at Christman's. Black and white saddle oxfords and white anklets were more age-appropriate purchases for me, and I may still be glowing from the time I spent under the x-ray machine in Christman's shoe department.

Shopping was hungry work so we ate seafood cocktails and drank Shirley Temples at Wilder's Restaurant where I eyed the chocolate covered bugs displayed in cases by the cash register—and secretly wondered why the parking lot was full of cars but there were only a handful of people eating in the restaurant! (I'm "gambling" that Joplin old-timers know, and newcomers may guess, what was going on in the upstairs rooms.)

There were no pinups on the walls at Pearl's Beauty Shop, but the weekly date with Pearl on my Mother's calendar was intriguing to me just the same. I sat amid stacks of movie magazines, fascinated with Liz, Eddie and Debbie while my mother, in pin curls, and Pearl exchanged fascinating gossip

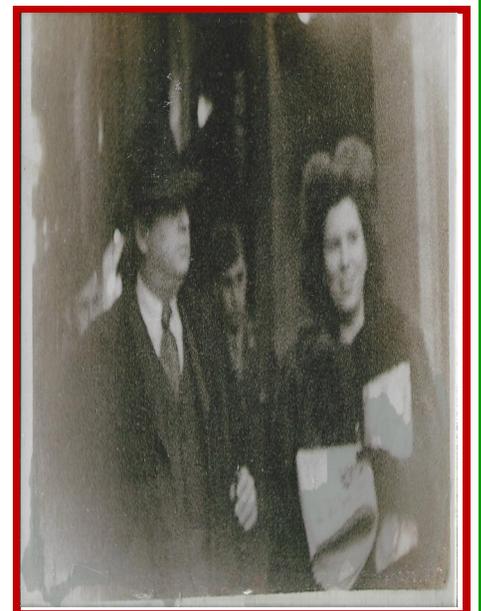
of a more local variety.

If there was still time and energy, we might see Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in "The Long, Long Trailer" at the Fox Theatre or sit in the balcony of the Paramount to watch another 50s couple, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, in their latest romp.

On weekend outings the whole family bellied up to the counter at Fred and Red's to eat Spaghetti Red, tamales and burgers. I can almost feel the heartburn from that greasy recollection.

Though the scenery on Main has changed since those mid-century memories were created, the drive on that street, looking through the rear-view mirror of the past, merges those milestone moments seamlessly into the present. 🐾

**Vincent and Marjorie Looper shopping on Joplin's Main Street**



***Joplin Globe article by Jeanne Looper Smith, who grew up in Joplin and now lives in Kansas City, MO. You may share memories of Joplin with her at [wistfulwordsmith@gmail.com](mailto:wistfulwordsmith@gmail.com)***

Joplin is awash in murals. And, not just the graffiti variety—although there's one of those too, but commissioned works by some very well-known artists.

City Hall, housed in the old Newman's Department Store, at 602 S. Main Street, boasts two world-class murals depicting Joplin at various points in its colorful history.

Thomas Hart Benton's 6 foot by 14 foot depiction of Joplin in 1900 represents a slice of its early mining and rough-and-tumble past.

Benton, a world famous artist who was born in Neosho and began his career in Joplin as a newspaper cartoonist, was commissioned to capture Joplin in its glory days. To keep it all in the family, an equally impressive submission, showing Joplin's mid-century Main Street, was painted by Benton's grandson, Anthony Gude.

The latest murals to appear on Joplin's Main Street are located between 6th & 7th on the wall of Pearl Brothers Hardware.

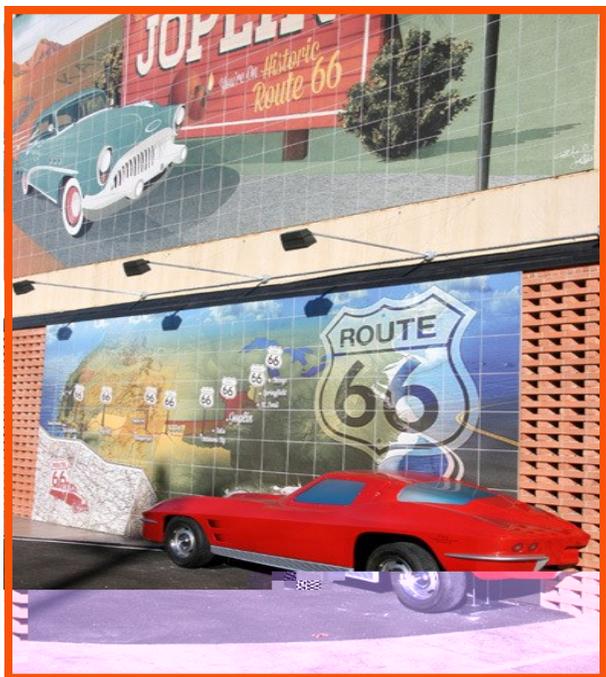
These, unusual in that they are created out of tile rather than paint, tie Joplin to its Route 66 roots—something that in my opinion Joplin has not done successfully enough. (But this isn't an opinion piece so I'll keep my opinions to myself!)

Creator Paul Whitehall owns Images in Tile, the creative company behind the project. Whitehall says that the tiles will not fade in the sunlight and are virtually impervious to graffiti—which can be cleaned easily if someone else's artistic impulse takes over.

Whitehall feels that these murals celebrate Joplin's connection to the Mother Road and provide impetus for tourists, not to bypass Joplin as they've typically done for Galena and Baxter Springs, but to stay and spend their money locally. There's even a classic Corvette bolted to the ground, allowing people to sit and commemorate their visit.

Make visiting these spots part of your reunion weekend experience. And, don't forget your camera! 📷

***Jeanne Looper Smith***



**Murals Continue on the Next Page**

**Thomas Hart Benton Mural**



**Anthony Gude Mural**

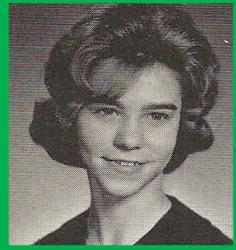


# JUNE 21st & 22nd Book It With Us NOW!!! 50th Reunion



Help the Class Reunion Out & Own a Part of History

The JHS Class of '64 car show fundraiser awarded this Dash Plaque to the 43 entries. We only did a strike of 100 and sell the additional 57 to help with our 50th. If you would like to be the proud owner of our historical dash plaque, the cost is \$2.00. Now that's a real memory bargain folks. Please contact Carol Corbin Buck at [csbuck64@aol.com](mailto:csbuck64@aol.com) or 417-483-3285 to arrange delivery, or purchase at the 50th.



## Karen Trenary - Bio

**"I retired in 2003 when the company asked if I wanted to move to Ohio with my position or take their early retirement package."**



The year was 1963. The king of the American Camelot had been shot. I sat on the floor in front of the television watching Kennedy's funeral procession while sewing my wedding dress. I was getting married in a month during our Christmas break at school. I'm not sure if my tears were for the Kennedy family, America, or me. There had been bitter quarreling between my boyfriend and my parents about our getting married. I was caught in the middle – too young and naive to know what I really wanted. I married William Arthur Smith, Evelyn Smith Steele's older brother, on December 21, 1963. Thank goodness, he was in favor of my finishing high school.

After graduation, we moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he worked for Rockwell, International. I was a shy 18 year old newlywed with no friends in a strange city living in an upstairs apartment with no air conditioning in the middle of August in Oklahoma where

temperatures were over 100 during the day. I would put our sheets in the freezer while he was at work so we could have a few minutes of cool at night.

We made friends with a couple from Arkansas and moved to a duplex in Sapulpa, a small town just west of Tulsa. That enabled us to get a German Shepherd puppy to keep me company. We eventually bought a house. We also bought a registered female and our 2 Shepherds had puppies. I took our dog to the Tulsa Dog Training Club obedience classes and learned as much as the dog.

My first real job was at Burtek, Inc. in Tulsa. They made flight simulators. I worked in the stock room handing out parts and stamping materials according to blueprints. I was able to move into the offices as a planner before I was forced to quit when my pregnancy advanced to 6 months. There was no family act legislation back then. We tired of the commute from

Sapulpa to Tulsa every day so we built a new house on the east side of Tulsa where we were closer to work and play. I was a stay at home mom for a few years after that. We had Jerrod LeRoy Smith in February, 1968, our first son. We called him Jerry. He lives in Bixby and has a wife and 2 daughters. Our second son, Jeffry Wayne Smith was born in 1970. He has a wife, 3 daughters, and 2 step-daughters and lives in Broken Arrow.

During my stay at home years, I acquired a sewing machine and made the square dancing clothes for our Saturday night outings and other clothes. I was also keeping a couple of other kids while their parents worked. One was a girl so I got to sew for a girl. We also made crafts every month and decorated for the holiday or season of the month.

The older neighbor lady across the street came over to see how I made my roses grow and became my first

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Oklahoma friend. Her husband and his brother were builder/developers and needed someone to take care of their office and pay bills. Jerry had started kindergarten and we needed the money so I went back to work. They gave me a flexible schedule (before it was the thing to do) so I was able to be home after school. I learned so much about developing housing additions, building houses, running an office, and operating a business.

I was forced to leave that job when my husband took a job on a seismograph crew for Conoco. We traded our house for a mobile home and moved it to West Monroe, LA. We were there for one summer and then the crew moved to Hattiesburg, MS. We accumulated a baby alligator that the crew found in an abandoned nest. We kept it in an aquarium in the kids' bedroom. He would only eat live minnows so we found the bait shops.

I was practicing the Christmas Cantata with the church choir in Hattiesburg. The women were on one side and the men were on the opposite, facing us. One of the men was the director of the water department in Hattiesburg and noticed that I was always on time and made my boys mind. Guess he was impressed with my work ethic because he asked if I wanted to work for him. I was his secretary and got to tour the treatment facilities and learn a little

about that business and politics. My boss was a wonderful man and would give the shirt off his back to his employees but would not eat at a table with the blacks. I was appalled at the southern culture and had no idea they were still that way. After all, the peace march had already ended and civil rights established. He loved those men but wouldn't eat with them.

The crew then moved on to Pecos, TX. The drive across the southern part of the country was fascinating. However, I thought that west Texas was God forsaken. We could drive for 100 miles without even passing a gas station and no houses in sight. It was summer and that meant HOT again. Pecos had 1 movie theater and it only showed English speaking movies 1 day a week. There were no bait shops to get minnows for the alligator so we had to find the Pecos River to seine for minnows. The "river" turned out to be a stream trickle that we could step across. We were lucky to find a spot that even had enough water to support minnows.

We had enjoyed seeing more of the country but decided we didn't want that lifestyle for our sons. On a visit back home my husband stopped at his old work. The layoffs had ended and they hired him back. We moved back to Tulsa. At that time Oklahoma required every-

one to get their tags at the first of the year so I was able to get a temporary job at the tag agency for the season.

The 100 year flood of Mingo creek forced us out of our mobile home and the Red Cross put us up in an apartment until we could build a new house in Broken Arrow/Bixby. Our address was Broken Arrow but school district was Bixby. My former builder boss built the house for us.

I got a job with the Tulsa County Clerk's office in the financial area. We used NCR posting machines to write the checks that paid the county bills. We also balanced the books and distributed reports to the commissioners. I worked my way up to supervisor of the machine room as it was called then. The machines were outdated and NCR wasn't going to support them anymore. We needed a new system. My boss, the county clerk, sent me to a seminar in San Antonio on an introduction to Automated Data Processing. It changed my life. I fell in love with computers and was convinced that was the future. I asked the county director of data processing what I needed to do to get into that field. He told me to go to Tulsa Junior College and take their courses. I took his advice and finally pursued a college education.

I also got a divorce and moved the boys to an apartment in the

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Brookside area of Tulsa and promised them that we would stay in the same school district and have cable TV. After a while I was able to buy a house close enough to their school that they could walk home. We lived a couple of blocks away from Riverside Drive and the river walk. It was fun to ride our bikes down the trail and play on the sand bar of the Arkansas River. Life was good. I was juggling work, school, and the boys' activities. I would do my homework while at their soccer practices. As I look back I can see God protecting me and guiding my steps. I managed to take the particular courses just as I needed them for my job. I started junior college in my 30's at TJC and achieved my goal of a Master's the month of my 50th birthday from Southern Nazarene University.



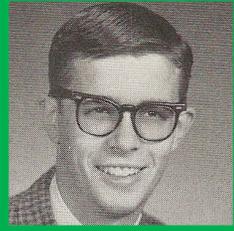
I left the county to enter the data processing field as a computer programmer trainee at Unit Rig and Equipment Co. They manufactured HUGE mining trucks. I started writing programs on punch cards and progressed from one shared desktop computer to designing accounting systems on an individual desktop computer.

I left Unit Rig to work for the electric company, PSO. Public Service Company of Oklahoma gave me many opportunities to grow in the Information Technology field. The field changed its name. There was always something new to learn. The company had a couple of name changes too. The parent company, CSW out of Dallas decided to centralize some of the technologies with its companies in Louisiana and Texas. I was sent to Shreveport, LA to adapt our customer system for their use. Three of us stayed in Shreveport for a summer during the week and came home on weekends while we worked on consolidating the system. While I was in Shreveport my fiancé stayed with the boys. When I returned to Tulsa for good I married Martin Hix in 1988. Then the company was acquired by AEP out of Ohio. I was in Columbus, OH for a week of training when the infamous 9/11 event occurred. All flights home were cancelled. All rental cars were taken. After 3 days holed up in my motel room, a manager at AEP was able to get me a company car to drive home. I was terrified every time I had to stop for gas. After I made it through St Louis, I relaxed a little. Missouri was home state. Then the air conditioner went out on the car. I stopped at my dad's house in Joplin. I was so glad to see him but was anxious to get home to my boys. I finally arrived in Tul-

sa about 18 hours after leaving Columbus.

One of the many seminars I attended was about a new Internet technology. I was fascinated and determined to learn how to make those web pages. I took a week of vacation from my job and went to Cape Cod with my son and daughter-in-law to attend a week long class on how to build a website and start a business. I wanted to start my own business building websites. I'm a behind the scenes kind of person and don't like sales or being in the lime-light and neither did my kids so my business, Arroweb, became dormant. However, the week of training did pay off in my career. Once again, I was prepared when the company decided to enter the Internet age. I became a Project Manager for developing internal and external web systems.

I retired in 2003 when the company asked if I wanted to move to Ohio with my position or take their early retirement package. I had worked the required years of service and met minimum age requirements but most of all couldn't leave my family so I took the package. Now I enjoy being grandma to my 7 granddaughters, companion to my Golden Retriever, sewing projects, cooking, reading, Bible study, painting, crafting, updating the church website, visiting my Facebook friends, and going to Joplin to see my family. Life is good! 🐾



## Don Marvin - Bio

**"In 1966 I married the love of my life,  
Diane J. Marvin (class of '65 at JHS)"**



I think many times how fortunate I was to grow up in Joplin. A place where whether your father was a doctor or a skilled tradesman's life was pretty much the same. People just seemed to help each other. I remember getting a loan of \$350 for my first car from a local banker. I was working at The Fox Theatre part time for 50 cents an hour while in high school. The banker believed in me and gave me the loan without my father co-signing. Wonder if that could really happen today.

A mentor to me was James H. Willis, the father of Jimmy L. Willis one of our classmates. Jim, senior, always encouraged me, telling me that I could achieve anything that I wanted. I looked at him and wondered how a man that only had an eighth grade education, plus a speech impediment, could achieve the many things that he had in his life. This included being the postmaster general of Joplin, the Macy's department store general manager, the Jasper County Assessor for many years in addition to holding high level offices in the National VFW as well as in many local organizations. He always told me, never forget where you came from. I recall seeing

Jim, senior, shortly before his passing when he shook my hand congratulating me on my successes and thanking me for not forgetting where I came from. This meant more to me than the successes I have achieved knowing that I didn't let him down.

Seeing the destruction that the tornado did to Joplin was heart breaking. My elementary school (Emerson), junior high school, (South) and Joplin Senior High School were all destroyed, as well as the neighborhood where I grew up.

We lost a couple of dear friends. We have been fortunate to stay in touch with some Joplin friends over the years through golf outings, etc.

In 1966 I married the love of my life, Diane J. Marvin (class of '65 at JHS). In 1970 after earlier graduating from the University of Missouri with a BSCE we had our first bundle of joy, our first daughter Dawn. In 1976, along came our second bundle of joy, daughter number two, Rachel.

The '70's were spent in Kansas City where I was fortunate enough to get sweat equity and become a partner in a general construction company building it into one of the larg-

est construction companies in the city at the time.

In late '79 I was recruited by a large national general contractor to move to Wichita to be an executive with their firm. And in three short years we tripled the size of our company. During this time I met some guys that had a new concept they were exploring in the hotel business. Over the next 2-3 years we built several hotels for them. In late 1984 the hotel guys asked me to join them to head up their development and construction group and become a partner with them. Hard to believe now some 29 years later that we are still partners and have developed 5 brands of hotels, including Residence Inn (we sold it to Marriott in 1986), Summerfield Suites Hotels and Sierra Suites Hotels (sold to Wyndham in 1998), Hotel Sierra and Avia (a boutique hotel) both sold to Hyatt in 2011. And now we are developing our latest venture, Archer Hotel (a boutique collection).

About three years ago we bought a house in Leawood, Kansas as Diane (has a PhD in education from KU ) was ready to retire from teaching at Newman University to spend

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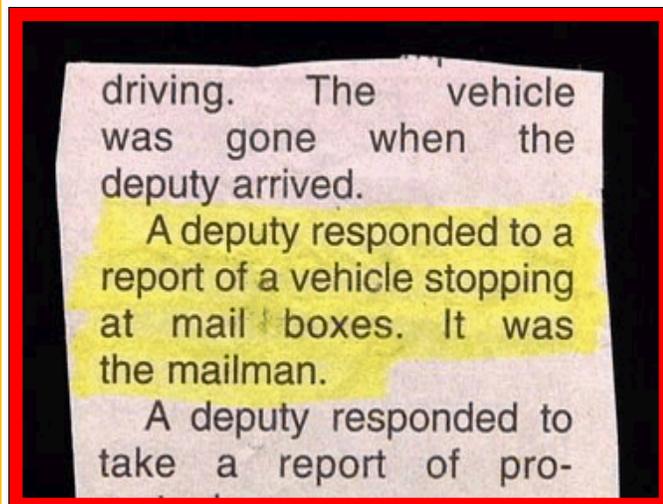
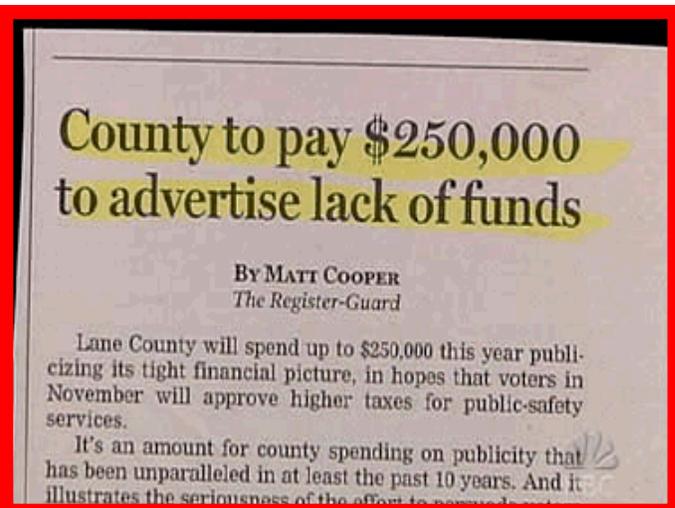
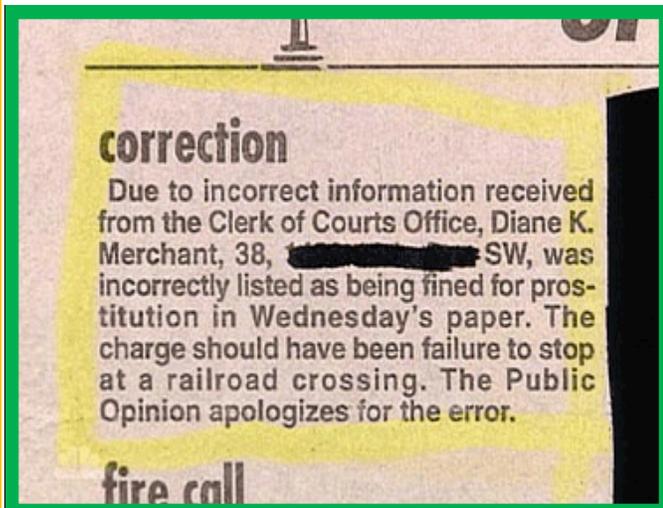
more time with both of our daughters and the grandchildren all of whom live within 15 minutes of our Leawood house. Dawn has two boys, Jack -12 and Joe -7. Rachel has two girls, Sophia -4 and Isabella -16 months. At that point in time I knew we were going to sell our company so I also thought the Leawood house made sense. As things worked out we had some assets left in our partnership, which we didn't sell and there-

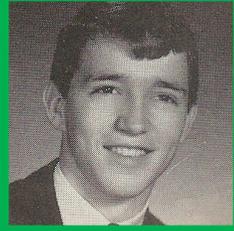
fore we still had a smaller company in place. The younger partners decided they wanted a chance to see if we could do it again, so the chairman of our group convinced me that I should stay with the partnership as the partner heading up the development and construction group. Diane said "I married you for better or worse, but not for lunch, so go help them." Now Diane spends about 70% of her time in KC and I spend

about 35% of my time there, with the rest spent traveling or in Wichita. So maybe I'll do it for another 3-5 years depending on my health.

How blessed I have been to have rung the bell several times when most people don't get the chance once. Blessed I have been to have such a great family, friends, and business partners over the years. Remember, just follow the pay it forward theory. 🐾

**Proof readers & editors can be ever so important**





## Walt Meador - Bio

**"My life after High School. The long and winding road has been great."**



Some things about one of your classmates, Walt Meador I must have been dropped as a baby, because I have never been quite right. If you do by chance read all of this, you will agree.

A faint image of that being dropped scenario is in my brain, in the home where I grew up, back at 1801 Picher Street in Joplin.

For my High School classmates that went to Lafayette Grade School. A faint image I do remember is walking to Lafayette Grade School which was just a few blocks from home. Not ever giving a second thought of walking to grade school by ourselves {just don't talk to strangers} and being free to explore those few blocks. There was Johnny's Market across the street from Lafayette, a small Mom and Pop grocery, and back in the day, you did not have to eat at school, and you could go across the street from school to Johnny's for a hot dog, chips, and a coke for 15 cents, with enough of that quarter left to explore the huge penny candy counter. Also in grade school, a little clearer image was learning to play spin the bottle with some classmates in

Larry Conboy's garage. Even a faint memory of crying like a baby when Gil Stevens hit a grand slam off of me while pitching a game in Little League.

For my High School classmates that went to South Junior High School. Still faint are the memories of South Junior High School, even the pain of "swats" from some of our teachers. They were no fun from Coach Myers while wearing gym shorts, or even from Johnny Holmes and his elegant golf style swing onto our rear ends. But my least favorite swats would come from Mr. Kilpatrick in shop class. As a former wrestler, he had a real power swing. The swats from Mr. Robinson were kinda fun actually, he would run at you from half way down the hall before connecting with your posterior. Also at South Junior High, falling in love at that tender age with an 8th grade cheerleader named Donna Hunt. Great times also riding in Billie Sue Lenger's Mothers big ole car going roller skating. Played a lot of basketball back then, picked up the nickname, Mouse, while playing basketball with the boyz from my Picher Street hood, most of the guys were taller and most of them

slower. However, at basketball, I was very mean to my little brother, Mike, because he was better at basketball than I was. He also learned to be a faster runner than his big brother, because he would make me mad when he beat me at basketball, and he got faster and faster at running away from me chasing him. For my High School classmates. Some good memories that become faint over time, but still good memories, right? Go Eagles, that was all I could think to say from the roof of a car at the Pep Rally on the parking lot at Safeway, 26th and Main, back on September 12th, 1963. But most of us remember that night and it became a vivid memory of actually a good time, with no deaths or injuries from a great pep rally turned "riot". If you were part of the group that took the fire hose away from the firemen and turned it on them at the C&A, I still salute you. A different nice faint image I have is of Bob Macy and the gyrations he made while explaining his trip to a concert in Tulsa to see Ray Charles. Also the 1963 Pontiac with a stick shift that belonged to Henry Sapp and all the

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classmates of John that drove it hard, and had a great time driving it. For those classmates that went to Rockaway Beach for our Senior Trip, you may remember that same Pontiac got some of us thrown in the small jail in Rockaway.

And lastly to my classmates, sorry I was not a better class president, I was truly just an average typical teenager. I do remember being sad at our Commencement Assembly when an older and wiser person told us that would be the last time the JHS Class of 64 would all be together. Sounds like a good reason to not miss the Class Reunion this summer.

My life after High School. The long and winding road has been great. When you look back, Joplin was a great little place to grow up, I had great parents, great friends, and just enough confidence from all of that to tackle the path we chose. Especially if you were just another average fella jumping into the big ole World. So I started college as I did not know what else to do, and kinda stayed with college to avoid the draft. By the time I was a floundering fish at SMS in Springfield I dropped two college credits and was drafted into the Army in May of 1967. Married a nice girl, Lee Ann Swarengin from Springfield, MO while on leave from Basic Training. I was sent to Vietnam in 1968. I served with the 35th Infantry "Cacti" in Vi-

etnam. No pleasant memories, just lucky to be alive. Kinda weird, catching a copter from the Jungle in Vietnam and sitting in a college classroom in Warrensburg, MO three days later. Dennis Triplett and Larry Conboy found one of the only Colleges in the States with a Tri Semester. So, I got out of Vietnam 80 days early! Finished my BA in Marketing at Central MO State, and then went on to receive an MBA from Central MO State. Started teaching Marketing at SMS in Springfield, and taught for three years. After a divorce, taught another year at SMS and Jim Krudwig and I had an excellent time working together at SMS. Divorced with no children, I took a Sabbatical from SMS and went West to California to work for a supplier of military parts for the Imperial Iranian Air Force. That was in 1974. Lived at Marina Del Rey, had a lot of fun on a big sailboat because I had a roommate with lots of money. Because of the job I had, I was exposed to new technology of the era, and I became intrigued by a laser I saw at Rockwell International after going down a manhole cover with a guard and a machine gun at the entrance to the manhole. I did not really understand the technology, but I fell in love with lasers. Shortly after, I stopped taking Farsi at UCLA and decided not to go to Tehran to live. Moved back to Springfield and with a little wisdom

from the SMS library and Jim Krudwig, I bought my first Laser. That was in 1975. It was not the optical power of lasers that motivated me, it was the beauty of the light. I must have made Krudwig nuts, closing the blinds to our Apartment, and playing very loud Pink Floyd music with a small Helium Neon Laser and a Waterford Crystal Candy Dish my Mom gave me. Eventually I progressed to Moog Synthesizers and all sorts of new technology. My first paying gigs with Lasers were in Planetariums. I travelled around the country in a big 59 Pontiac with my goldfish buddy in his aquarium in the backseat, playing a show I called Laser Journeys in Planetariums.

Met my second wife when living in Boston, MA while doing a show called Captain Cosmos and the Intergalactic Touring Laser Circus in outdoor Movie Theatres. Alice was from West Virginia and together we have two children, Sarah and Stephanie. Alice and I lived in Houston, TX for a number of years, and Houston is where I managed to gain my entrance into Concerts and Corporate Theatre with Lasers. I have been fortunate enough to travel to different parts of the World doing laser entertainment, and have been blessed by having an occupation that has consumed me with joy. We all have funny stories in our life's endeavors,

**(Continued on Next Page)**

and I just wanted to share one. While doing a Music Video Shoot at an old WWII Hangar in Long Beach, CA for Michael Jackson, the music video was called "Dirty Diana". A large setting, with tall scaffolding to move lasers and lots of other equipment around, I was working at the top of a scaffold, 20 feet in the air, and I notice a little boy with a red shirt, bib overalls, and tennis shoes on top of another tall scaffold not real far away, and I am thinking someone needs to rescue him before he

falls. Then I see Michael Jackson at the bottom of the scaffold, and the little boy is his Chimpanzee, "Bubbles". From my vantage point, he looked just like a little boy. I have one other story I would like to tell you, and I hope you come to the Class Reunion, and if you are real bored, come ask me and I will tell you. It is about the French and the Palace of Versailles.

OK, I will finish. Alice and I were divorced in 1989, and both daughters are married now. I

have a Grandson, which is just great being a Grandpa! I met the love of my life right back in Joplin. Rhonda is from Webb City, and Rhonda and I were married in 2000 in Las Vegas at a Marriage Drive Thru, where the Reverend says, this is just like Burger King, you can have it your way, so the a la carte menu included the outdoor movie theatre speaker in the car for the wedding music. And the beat goes on!

Hope to see you all this Summer!!! 🤔

I never really liked the terminology "Old Person" but this makes me feel better about it. And if you ain't one, I bet ya you know one! I got this from an "Old Personal friend of mine"!

OLD PERSON PRIDE I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only old person receiving it. Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see.

Old People are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the National Anthem. Old People remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Old People remember World War II, Pearl Harbor , Guadalcanal , Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam

If you bump into an Old People on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an Old Person on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old People trust strangers and are courtly to women.

Old People hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

Old People get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.

Old People have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.

It's the Old People who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country. This country needs Old People with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values. We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old People

We wish to extend our sympathy & condolences to our following classmates.

George Gagle for the loss of his father:

[http://parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o\\_id=2311475&fh\\_id=10419](http://parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2311475&fh_id=10419)

Sharon Harrison Downs for the loss of her mother:

[http://www.masonwoodard.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o\\_id=2307085&fh\\_id=10713](http://www.masonwoodard.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2307085&fh_id=10713)

Linda Yeakey Jones for the loss of her mother:

[http://www.masonwoodard.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o\\_id=2341221&fh\\_id=10713](http://www.masonwoodard.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2341221&fh_id=10713)

Kenny Waggoner for the loss of his sister:

[http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o\\_id=2344247&fh\\_id=10419](http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2344247&fh_id=10419)

## Hey!!!! Chip in your 2¢ Worth to Keep it Fresh

As you may or may not know from our last newsletter, we've agreed to keep the class website & email address alive for another 5 years. But to make it newsworthy and up to date it will take some input from you, YES YOU!

Our class website is in dire need of a freshen up and redesign. Your 3 editors only have so much material to add to the website or to the newsletter and that's why we periodically reach out to you for your help in supplying copies of any old pictures, or current ones for that matter, of present or past events you or your family are or have enjoyed or been involved in. What about an article on a past or present event. A story or hobby that you are doing that you would like to share with us, we would ever so much welcome that. Pictures are really a blessing as we are doing about a 2 hour slide show for our Friday "Meet & Greet" at the 50th and really need some electronic photos for that event. If you do not have a way to scan photos, we will be happy to do that and return your original to you unharmed. So if you get a moment to rummage through some old or new boxes, files or computer and care to share your finds, we would be so appreciative. Help us make our website, newsletter and 50th High School Reunion the best one ever. Check us out at: [www.joplinmo64.com](http://www.joplinmo64.com).

We still have classmates that we've classified as missing. If you have any idea where these classmates are, feel free to share with us so we can update our class directory. So please help us locate the following 29 classmates:

**"Please check these names and help find our missing classmates"**

*Linda Baugh (Robards)*

*Patricia Kay Belk*

*Richard Burns*

*Gary M Colvin*

*Larry Conboy (Phoenix, AZ area)*

*Johnie Coots (Seguin, TX area)*

*Mark Crane*

*Merlene Garrison (Burris)*

*James "Jim" Hilton*

*Clair Howard*

*Robert "Bob" Jordan*

*La Donna Miller*

*Carol Munson (Wrench)*

*Emma Nunn*

*Mitchell "Pat" O'Brien*

*Judy Osborne (Gardner)*

*Richard Lee Pearson*

*Patty Riley (Brewer) (Joplin, MO)*

*Drucilla Short*

*Connie Smith*

*Robert James "Bob" Smith*

*Jack Sneed*

*William "Bill" Ray Stow*

*Shirley Teague*

*Mary Thornton (Reed)*

*Linda Vails*

*Thomas Warren (Chicago, IL area)*

*Paula Weinacht*

**(28 Missing)**

Please help us out. In order to keep you informed and to value your input as we move toward our 50th Class Reunion, don't forget to include us on any changes in your contact information. You may do this by clicking on the following email address [joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com](mailto:joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com), then enter your information and click on the "Send" tab, that's it folks. **If anyone has an email address for Mike Watson - please share, what we had is no longer valid.**

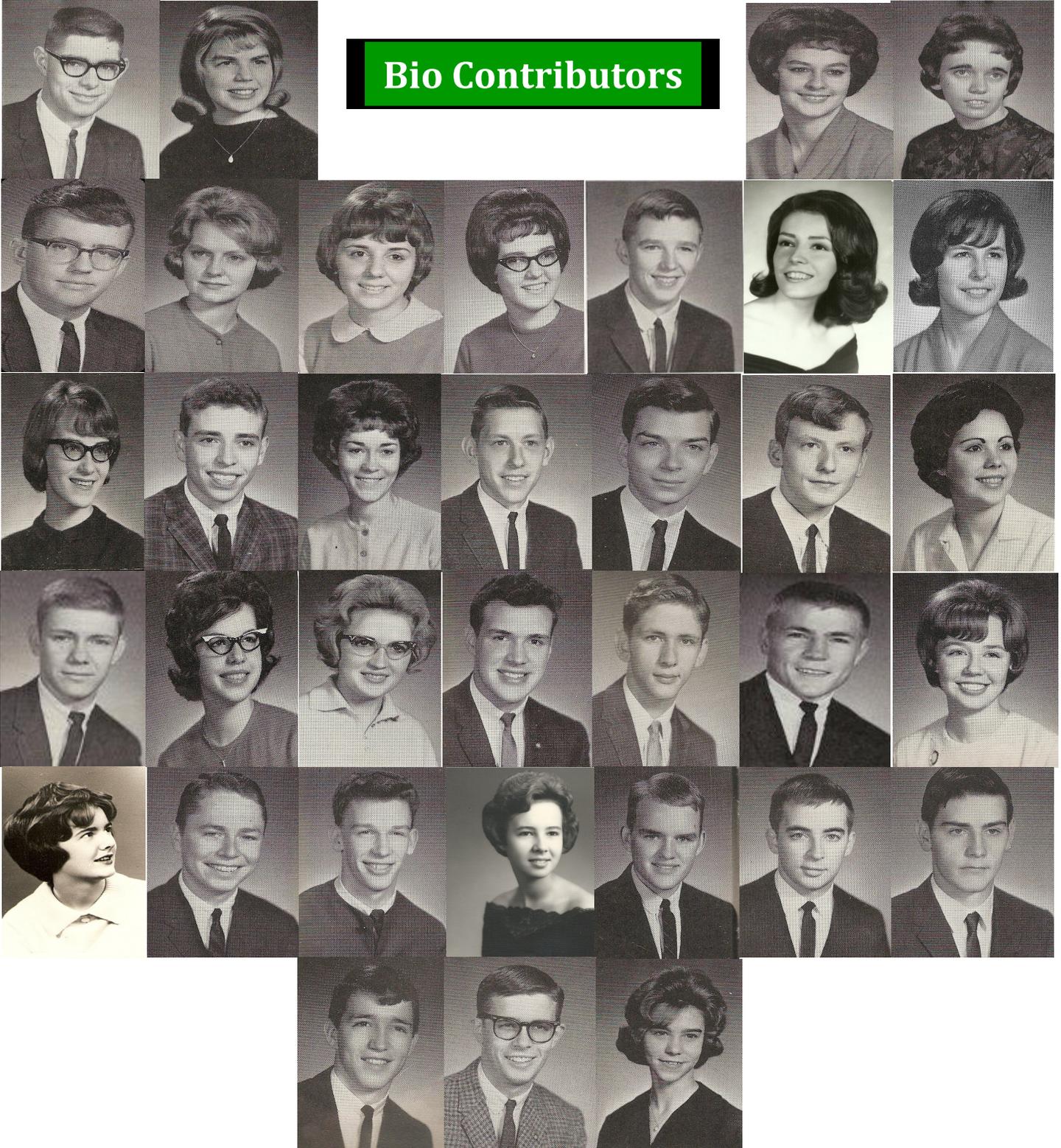
### **Continuing to Follow the Chapman's**

**Taking that infamous 3 hour tour, not.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfR7qxtqCgY>. Mike & Twyla Chapman leased their home in Joplin, bought a boat and hit the waters around North America. They also have a blog set up and post their adventures on it almost daily.

<http://yw8t.blogspot.com/>

**Bio Contributors**



**Joplin Class of '64**

**"ATTENTION CLASSMATES"**

We have been contacted within the last week by classmate Larry Don Williams wanting to add a treasure to our raffle merchandise by refurbishing a guitar that will have the classmates name and Joplimo picture on it. This is asking about interest in being the proud owner of a classic Class of '64 guitar, that will contain the name & picture of those attending the 50th Reunion and to tackle the feasibility of rounding up \$500 for the cost, Larry's labor will be donated. So we are asking if this project would peak your interest and be willing to pay \$2 for a chance to win or \$10 will get you 6 chances to win. Your thoughts would be appreciated, that way we can gauge the interest before investing time and money into the project. Also, would it be better to sell 500 tickets @ \$1 or 250 tickets for \$2? Please let us know at [joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com](mailto:joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com) as Larry needs to have the final draft & printing by May 1st. So speak up classmates, give Larry your thoughts by emailing us soon. If it's a go, we will have the drawing Saturday night with the rest of the raffle items. Your early response is important so we can start pre-selling chances. Donations will be most welcomed. Gives us your thoughts, **please!!!!**

The following is the email from Larry Don:

I DO CUSTOM GUITAR REFURBISHING AND I WAS THINKING ABOUT DOING ONE WITH THE "64 JOPLIN MO PICS" AND ALL THE NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING PLACED ON IT AND PRE SELL CHANCES TO WIN IT AND THE WINNER PICKED ON OUR BREAK. TO DO THIS I WOULD NEED TO SELL 250 CHANCES AT \$2.00 EACH, OR 6 for \$10. THIS IS A CUSTOM FRETLESS FENDER PRECISION BASS, WITH GIG BAG. I CAN ONLY GET THIS DONE WITH YOUR HELP & OK AND THE HELP FROM CLASSMATES. I KNOW IT IS LATE IN THE DAY, BUT IT WILL TAKE ME AT LEAST THREE WEEKS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT. THE COST OF THE CUSTOM WORK IS ON ME, BUT THE AXE I HAVE TO PAY FOR IS SMOOTH AS SILK. IT WOULD BE A ONE-OF-A-KIND, AND A GREAT MEMORABILIA. THIS IS NOT A NON WORKING INSTRUMENT, AS I WILL PLAY IT DURING THE FIRST SET IF WE CAN PULL THIS OFF. *LARRY DON WILLIAMS*

THE COST:

GUITAR REGULAR \$429.00 W/ (PRO DISC)\*\*\*\*\*\$299.00

PADDED DELUXE GIG BAG REGULAR \$79.00\*\*\*\*\*\$60.00

ACRYLIC'S, RE-FINISHING MATERIAL & PHOTO TRANSFERS\*\*\*\$90.00 **(IF IT'S MORE I WILL PERSONALLY ABSORB THE COST)**

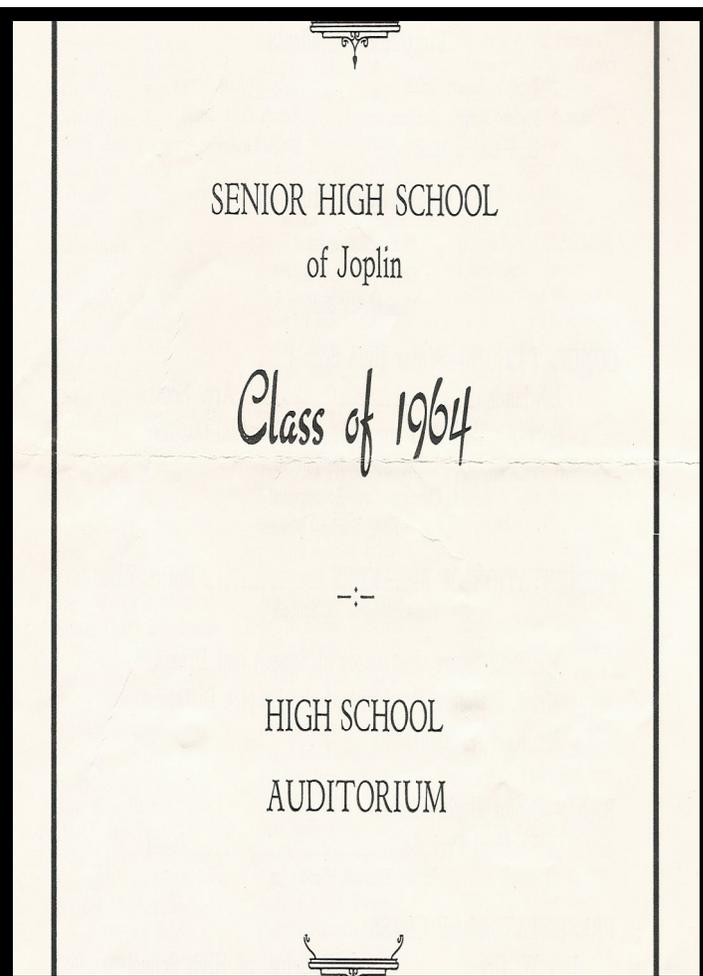
SUB TOTTAL \$449.00

PLUS 7% FLATAX TAX \$ 31.43

**TOTAL \$480.43**

### \$1 Raffle Tickets Purchase & Own A Class Treasure \$1

We are still selling \$1 raffle tickets to support the 50th reunion. Below you will see a beautiful quilt, designed and structured with love and care by our classmate Jeanne Lewis. We also have a cutting board and bread server crafted by classmate John Keeling. We were notified through a 2nd party that classmate Martha Earhart will be donating two handmade quilts that she is sewing. We are trying to verify this with Martha and awaiting her response. Just last week, our classmate Sallie Schofield sent us our Commencement sheet that has ALL the class of '64 names on it. Raffle tickets will be sold at the Friday & Saturday event or may be purchased in advance. You DO NOT have to be present to win, and for those living in the Joplin area you can get tickets from Jeanne Lind McAferty, Carol Corbin Buck & Sherry Baker Cole. Hopefully we will have more donated merchandise added to the raffle program as the drawing will take place the evening of our Saturday night banquet. If out of towners care to purchase tickets in advance, just send your check or cash to Stephanie White Everitt at 2821 Wisconsin, Joplin, MO 64804 and we will fill out the tickets with your name on it and you're in the drawing. That's all there is to it folks.



**The editorial team for content consists of Jeanne Looper Smith, Phyllis Payne Sapp and Dave Knisley. Please feel free to comment & contribute to the newsletter at [joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com](mailto:joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com)**

# June 20-21, 2014

The Friday & Saturday of June 20th & 21st of this year will be remembered as the celebration of our Joplin High School 50th Reunion. Mark your calendars now and make plans to join us for the festivities of a lifetime as we are only 4 1/2 months away.

If you have plans of arriving on Thursday, June 19th, let it be known that this is **Joplin's Third Thursday** event that is held in the evening from 5:30 to 8:30 between 1st Street to 7th Street. Some classmates may want to unite and attend, possibly even have dinner downtown. There will be booths and bands set up as Main Street is blocked for this entire event.

Those living outside the Joplin area most likely received an email from the class email address asking to verify your snail mail address and we did hear back from a few. Again, the reason for this is because we will be sending out the registration forms with a self addressed stamp envelope so all you have to do is fill out the requested information and drop it in the mail. We hope to have fewer returns for wrong addresses by doing a little verification. When you receive the registration form, please fill it out and return it in the self addressed stamped envelope. All that's required is fill it out, place it the USPS postage is paid envelope, seal it and drop in the mail.

We know that cost for attending this event is or can be a primary concern. We have worked diligently trying to keep the cost as low as we possibly can and feel we have fairly well accomplished our goal in doing just that. This editor was never concerned with what other class reunions spent or plans to spend for their 50th, the main concern to me was to develop a program at the lowest cost possible and create a cataclysmic event that we will remember for the rest of our lives. And I feel we've done just that. We have heard that some classes have charged as much as \$100 for a one night event. We have a two night event with a live band for \$35. The Holiday Inn has been great to work with and has given us pretty much carte blanche on setting up our decorations as well as the Meet & Greet program. Right now we have a guaranteed room rate of \$79 and that includes the \$10 hot breakfast buffet every morning. We are working to get that room rate lowered a tad, that's why we would like to know if you have plans on staying there. Right now we have 32 classmates wanting to book rooms and we would love to be able to go to Holiday Inn with 35 or 40 perspective rooms needed and use that as leverage, in hopes of getting an even lower rate. Everyone will be responsible for booking their own room, but **DO NOT BOOK** your room until we contact you with a rate or booking code. All we would like to know at the moment is if you plan on staying at the Holiday Inn and we can add to the room count.

We realize that some are a little apprehensive in committing at this time, but folks, 4 months ain't that far away and we believe that we will be better off if even a tentative commitment is given to us so we can barter with the Holiday Inn rooming guru.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the class email address and we will assure you a quick response. We are ever so looking forward to seeing you as we celebrate our 50th Class Reunion. [joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com](mailto:joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com).

**Attention Golfers:** Jim Christiansen reports that he has four tee times reserved at Schifferdecker on Saturday the 21st and the cost will be \$25 for green fee and 1/2 of a cart. Just another bargain.

*Dave Knisley*

On Wednesday, October 2, classmates in Joplin met for dinner. This was our first Wednesday get together. Our dinner was held at Red Lobster (where no one had lobster). We were quite a rowdy crowd and it was fortunate we had a "private" room. We decided we would get together again on the first Wednesday of each month at different restaurants. *Jeanne Lind McAferty*

**December's Wednesday Night Classmates Gathering at Golden Corral**



L-R Vicki Jones Cornman, Sharon Peters Arnold, Harry Boyd, Back Row: Linda Martin Richmond, Robyn King Wade, Roberta Whitman Webster, Carol Corbin Buck, Sherri Campbell Orender, Jeanne Lind McAferty, Connie Culton Cox, Patricia Ann Wheeler Christenson, & Beverley Kluthe.

**Inclement Weather Cut Into the January Gathering at Ricco's Palace Pizza**



Jim Christiansen, Linda Putnam Emmert, Roger Brown, Carol Corbin Buck & Robyn King Wade

The next gathering will be Wednesday, February 5th at JB's Piano Bar, 112 Main Street

Ann Wheeler* (Don Christensen) H	Jay Campbell	Pam Key* (Lee Mascher) H
Betty Shanks	Jeanne Lewis	Pat Aggus* (Don Noe) H
Beverly Brown* (Roger Brown)	Jeanne Lind	Paula Mills*% (Ben Bartlett) H
Beverly Horton & Greg Moore%	Jim Christiansen	Paul Trim* (Kathy) W
Beverley Kluthe%	Jim Keagy*% (Joanne) W	Perry Potter*% (Ginny) W
Billie Lenger & Dave Stockam	Jim Krudwig* (Donna) W	Phillip "Butch" England
Bob Carpenter* (Sandy) W	John "Larry" Buehner	Phyllis Payne
Bob Linam* (Creola) W	John Keeling* (Debbie) W	Phyllis Phillips* (Mel Whitten) H
Bob Rose* (Donna) W	Joyce Tillman%	Phyllis Wells* (Haley Edwards) H
Bruce McCaw*% (Jamie) W	Judy Greenwood* (Larry Muhr) H	Rick Sadler* (Linda) W
Carol Corbin* (Ed Buck) H	June Duvall	Robyn King* (Gary Wade) H
Charlene Veteto*% (Mike Jones) H	Karen Trenary* (Tim Trenary) B	Roger Brown
Charles Baker	Karol Tate%	Ronnie Kelly* (Mary) W
Connie Culton	Kathie Gardner*	Rosemary Kempt
David Colvin* (Claudine) W	Kathy Horton*% (Larry Roller) H	Ross Smith & Jeanne Looper%
David Knisley%	Kathy Korn	Sallie Schofield%
Dean Papp	Larry Don Williams*% (Carolyn) W	Sharon Harrison*% (Steve Downs) H
Dennis Lea*% (Konnie)	Larry Horine & Sue Trimble	Sharon Peters
Dennis Smith*% (Nancy) W	Linda Hensley* (Chuck Evans) H	Sherri Campbell* (Darrell Orender) H
Dennis Triplett* (Patty) W	Linda Waltman	Stephanie White* (Jim Everitt) H
Diana "Leigh" White%	Lonny Dixon	Steve Campbell
Diane Moore%	Lyle Rosenberry* (Carolyn)	Susan Riley* (Joe Clement)
Dick Smith* (Debbie) W	Lynn Lawson* (Sandra)	Suzanne Gilmore* (Clark Smith) H
Don Bray (Laura) W	Mardell Thomas* (Charles)	Tom Harrison* (Sherry) W
Don Cline	Marian Wolf*% (John Lehr) F	Tommie Brown
Donna Atteberry	Martha Earhart* (Jerald Wright) H	Vicki Jones* (Walt Cornman) H
Donna Drake%	Marvin Gray* (Marsha) W	Walt Meador* (Rhonda) W
Donna Powers	Mary Lee Cole	Wayne Hampton* (Barbara) W
Donna Thurman* (Judy Smith) S	Melanie O'Flaherty* (Dan) (Friday Only)	<b>*Spouse or Guest</b>
Ellen Zwicker* (Chuck Arnce) H	Mickey Moore*% (Cheryl)	<b>%Staying @ Holiday Inn (31)</b>
Evelyn Smith* (Mike Steele) H	Mike Carper/Juanita Conner%	<b>23 Banquet Tables</b>
Everett French	Mike Chapman (Twyla)	<b>117 Classmates / 1 Friday Only</b>
Frank Metz*% (Norma Lee)	Mike Clark* % (Joyce)	<b>65 Guests / 1 Friday Only</b>
Glenda Roe* (Wayne) H	Mike Mullenix* (Troy) W	<b>182 Total for Banquet</b>
Harry Boyd* (Mary) W	Mike Shipley*% (Jan) W	
Harry Reaves*% (Leslie LaMons) F	Mitch Stephens* (Connie) W	
Hedy Barkley	Mitch Stinnett* (Deborah) W	
Janet Hale*% (Lee Tabin) H	Monty Gavin* (Cheryl) W	
Jan Martin*% (Bill Hagan) H	Nancy Godfrey	
Janet Wetherell*% (John Brown) H	Nancy Hill	
Janice McBride%	Nita Dilworth	
Janice Thornberry*% (Ron Mathews) H	Pam Franks* (Bruce McCormick) H	

**Please look this over and notify us of any changes that may be needed. Are you showing a guest & staying at the Holiday Inn? Make sure your information is correct.**

I do enjoy the newsletters very much and will try to do a bio after Christmas, although I feel that mine will be somewhat boring compared to the great ones that I have read.. Really enjoy the journalism from Jeanne and Phyllis!!!!

**Rosemary Kempt Carlile**

Thanks, **Nancy Preston Smith**

I love receiving the newsletter and perusing our website. It really helps everyone keep in touch. Of course, I always look forward to the well-written articles. You guys do a great job and I, for one, really appreciate the time and effort you put in. Please don't let it die out.

**Jeanne Lind McAferty**

I thoroughly enjoy the newsletter. I hope we can keep it coming. Thanks to all who make it possible.

**Monty Gavin**

Thank you so much for another wonderful newsletter. Yes the newsletter is really important to me. I read through it before replying to you.

**Karol Tate Miller**

Great job on your articles and all! As always...SUPER!!!

**Mary Ellen Franks Greer**

GREAT NEWSLETTER!!!

**Bruce McCaw**

Thank you all so much for all the hard work you do to keep us

all connected!!! Yes, I want to keep the contact going! I'm sorry I won't be with you all in person in June due to my nephew's wedding, but I will be with you all in spirit! You all take care! Thank you.

**Cheryl Dines Burke**

Hi there.... I do enjoy the newsletter. I hope it will continue. :-)

**Donna Drake Helton**

I think the newsletter is one of the best! Excellent reading! I thought the intro from Jeanne was written with much forethought and very well done.

**Connie Culton Cox**

You guys are doing a fantastic job and I for one really appreciate it – I hate writing anything. I have started dragging out old stuff that might be good fillers but not sure what you want.

**Joyce Tillman Frey**

Hey team -- you all are great!

**Janet Hale Tabin**

Just sending this to let you know that I got the latest newsletter and enjoyed reading through in very much. You guys are doing a great job of keeping us informed and together as a class.

**Pat Aggus Noe**

I am so proud of our class and especially you guys who try to keep up the website! I was a developer in my career and know how difficult and im-

portant it is to have good dynamic information for a website. Developers can't always manufacture content, they only present it. We HAVE to have suggestions and feedback. That is why I am submitting this suggestion to you.

I was reviewing the newsletter and saw the Bio Contributors page (every time I get a newsletter I vow to contribute). That gave me the idea. Under the CLASSMATES heading, add the BIO sheet with pictures and add a link to each picture that goes to the actual bio when clicked. I have read every one of them but my old memory forgets things and would love to be able to easily find one like that. I know that would be a lot of work but so helpful! I will try to remember to send money to help keep this website. If there is anything else I can do to help, just let me know.

I am definitely grateful for all the time and efforts you guys put into keeping us all in touch. I am also very impressed with the talent and accomplishments of our classmates. I spent all morning trying to write a bio. I didn't think I had anything to write but now will have to try to trim down my 3 pages. I was trying to keep it to 1. **Karen Trenary Hix**

Hope you all have a wonderful Holiday! Thanks again for all the work you do & for the reunion.

**Marian Wolf Stevens**