



Joplin Eagles

"JHS Class of '64"

Issue 18

Class Newsletter July 29, 2014

Welcome To Our 18th Edition

"Promoting the 50th JHS Class of '64 Reunion"

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We've spent several years in this newsletter promoting and preparing for our 50th JHS Class of '64 reunion. It was a "happening" that in retrospect was over too quickly. And, when it was all said and done, I felt a bit of a letdown and some sadness—as well as a profound sense of gratitude for the experience.

The memory of the weekend prompted me to write a column for The Joplin Globe that spoke about my awareness that the reunion was so much more than the decorations, food, music and recon-nections with friends from the past—although all of those things certainly delivered.



What took place at the Holiday Inn was more powerful than any of the above components—so I offer the following article that ran on July 6th in the Globe rather than rehash my response to the weekend in this intro.

However, let me say that each one of you played a special part in the event and your presence there was crucial to its success.

For those of you who weren't able to be there, for whatever reason, you were not forgotten and were held in our hearts in spirit.

Jeanne Looper Smith

"High school reunions are like Woody Allen movies"

High school reunions are like Woody Allen movies. You either like them or you don't. I'm in the camp that enjoys both—his movies and reunions—but for now Woody is on his own. This is about the 50th reunion of the Joplin High School Class of 1964, celebrated two weekends ago at Joplin's Holiday Inn.

First off, fifty years since graduation is a heck of a milestone. And, really, in the realm of reunions, it's the biggie.

Whatever we brought to the reunion experience probably varied wildly. Some of us wanted to show up looking good—most of us just wanted to show up. **(Continued on the Next Page)**

Because the reality is that, 50 years since we flipped our tassels, some of us couldn't show up. And, one of the bittersweet realities of an occasion like this, is the realization that as time goes on, our numbers become smaller and smaller.

But, for those of us who remain, we seem especially vulnerable to the pull of a connection that we created with one another more than five decades ago.

We were the first graduating class of the baby boomers—those of us born in 1946. And as a result of that boom, there were 509 graduates in the class of 1964. 138 of us, along with our spouses, partners, former teachers and friends—a total of 240—made an appearance to celebrate the 50 years that have transpired since then.

It's interesting how the things that defined us in high school no longer do. The labels—self-imposed and those bestowed on us by others—seemingly written in permanent ink back then, have faded from the pages of who we are now.

There was little talk about what we did for a living, how much money we'd made or how much of the culture's definition of success we'd actually achieved.

The cliques were retired, the "most likely to" scenarios had played out or not, and at this juncture, didn't matter.

What seemed to matter as we reconnected was talking about what had given our lives real meaning in the decades since graduation. At the 50 year mark, we viewed the past with the perspective of time and the wisdom gained from our life experiences.

And, a big chunk of that wisdom is the knowledge that what we came here to do is to love—not to achieve.

Aside from just sharing space and a particular place in time in Joplin, we were fellow travelers on a journey to adulthood that held some of the defining moments of the 20th century.

We were seniors in high school when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated—and each of us could remember the class we were in when that announcement came. We witnessed, before and after graduation, the cultural fabric of our nation change with the Vietnam War, shifting sexual mores, the civil rights movement and expanding opportunities for women—and, good heavens, the break-up of the Beatles!

When we left Joplin High School in the summer of 1964, just on the cusp of adulthood, our lives were stretching out before us. Some of us stayed in Joplin and some ventured out beyond its borders. But each of us crafted a life that expressed the uniqueness of who we were and are.

Coming back together in that ballroom at the Holiday Inn, we celebrated not only the differences in our experiences, our lifestyles, and even our physical appearances, but

also the knowledge that we are deeply linked.

The passage of time has rendered the differences less important than the shared realization of how much at the core we are alike, how special our years together were—and how much, all these years later, we love one another.

I'm betting Woody Allen couldn't have written a better ending than that one.

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

Did you know?

1. You can survive without eating for weeks, but you will only live 11 days without sleeping.
2. People who laugh a lot are healthier than those who don't.
3. Laziness and inactivity kills just as many people as smoking.
4. A human brain has a capacity to store 5 times as much information as Wikipedia.
5. Our brain uses the same amount of power as a 10-watt light bulb!!!

The JHS Class of '64's 50th reunion is now a page of class history. As a committee member and others I have talked with, were all very pleased with what took place June 19th through the 22nd. Our class wrap up meeting takes place this Wednesday and will be hosted by committee member Phyllis Sapp. It will be an end of planning that culminated 4 years ago. It was a little more than that when we developed the class quarterly newsletter and got an email address and website. The quarterly newsletter is still alive as is the class email and website. In fact we just renewed a 5 year contract for both the email & website. Our website is in the process of being updated and we are still working on doing just that. We have placed 72 pictures of the 50th on the site for viewing. Just click on the "Classmates" tab, then "Reunion" then "50th" and you are there. And your link to bookmark is www.joplinmo64.com.

Although success for the event has been highly rated, one still has some regrets. Mine was not having time or taking the time to meet more classmates. In watching the class video and looking at still pictures and see classmates that I didn't get a chance to chat with and to welcome to the event. However I felt great about connecting with those that I hadn't seen in 50 years. Then there were those that I haven't seen since the 45th and it was great to reconnect with them and catch up on what has taken place the last 5 years. It was sheer pleasure to renew friendships and catch up on the last 5 to 50 years.

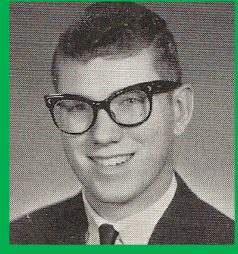
I feel the need to send a special thanks to Larry Don Williams and the band, Marc Marcano, Jim Hunter, Johnny Rose, Jon Sherman, Bob Toft, Jerry Holcomb & their guests. What a way to celebrate and highlight a first class event and what a performance they gave! Additional thanks to the reunion committee that I was fortunate enough to work with and especially thanks to Kristie Erwin & Dwayne Benson, who worked behind the scenes at the Holiday Inn, to make our event the success it was. Except for the warmth at the Meet & Greet, the food was spectacular and they kept it coming and my hat goes off to the Chef for the food served at the Saturday night banquet.

A special thanks to Dick & Dot Espy of The VideoWorks in Roeland Park, KS. What a great DVD Dick gave us as he did the videotaping and editing and Dot taking the still pictures gave us the visual memories we will have forever. I've had the pleasure of working with Dick for 25 plus years and every project has been A-1. So thank you again Dick & Dot Espy.

Speaking of the DVD, we've distributed 187 of them and some of those had the class directory sent to classmates that had ordered them, but couldn't make the event. All should've received their DVD as well as the Directory by now and if you haven't, please let us know by responding to the class email address... www.joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com. Also use this email address to report a defective DVD and a replacement will be sent your way. If you attended the Meet & Greet and received a disc of the slideshow, and having a problem playing it on your computer, once it loads, just click on the box containing the yellow letters (title) and the program should play. If you don't believe me, just ask Karen Trenary Hix and she will verify that, right Karen?

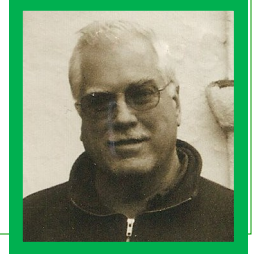
If you care to see or share the DVD of the event, feel free to pass the link below on, as our event DVD is now on YouTube and the link will also be on our website. Enjoy it and thanks to all of you for sharing with me memories I hope to have for years to come. Dave Knisley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVrrCjyy9GI>



Bob Havens - Bio

"After high school graduation I attended Dartmouth College, in the upper Connecticut River Valley of New Hampshire."



Unfortunately, I wasn't able to join you, my JHS classmates, for the recent 50th anniversary celebration of high school graduation. However, a few weeks before the just-concluded events of the late June reunion, I had received emailed greetings, enticing news about scheduled reunion activities, and details for obtaining a copy of the forthcoming revised class directory from one of our classmates who has been tireless in her efforts to keep us all connected in spite of the mounting pile of decades and the post-high school diaspora out of southwest Missouri which has scattered many of us to various places around the country and even in a few instances to addresses in the world outside the US.

This unexpected email from a reunion committee member, which I received with gratitude and which was replete with useful information to help us all stay in touch one way or another, was just a single instance out of several networking efforts undertaken by the committee. In addition to what I perceived in the email to be a very low-keyed mission to persuade a few more of us hold-outs to return to Joplin for this

major event (or at very least to bestir ourselves to obtain the newly updated class directory and reunion highlights DVD and perhaps then to reconnect with some of our classmates), Phyllis Payne Sapp's email also made a passing reference to a summer, 1963 speech and debate institute at Northwestern University that our classmate Linda Firestone and I had attended, at the conclusion of which Phyllis had traveled to the Chicago area to enjoy the sights and then to keep company with Linda, me and members of our families during the long journey back to Joplin. The thoughtful recollection triggered a flood of memories of that experience at Northwestern and of our trip home together utilizing the newly-completed interstate highways cutting diagonally down through Illinois and Missouri, which provided a direct, limited access concrete conduit between Chicago and Joplin, shaving significant time off the many more hours such a journey would have taken just 5-10 years earlier.

I responded by email to Phyllis's recollections of the summer of 1963 with reminiscences of my own and then

added a long paragraph in the same response--in case anyone inquired about me at the reunion-- to account for my doings during the many decades since high school graduation. I'm repeating that summary of my adult life here (with some relatively minor changes) for any classmates who may care to learn my version of my post-JHS life.

After high school graduation I attended Dartmouth College, in the upper Connecticut River Valley of New Hampshire, quite a distance away from our corner of Missouri. At the conclusion of four very happy years at Dartmouth I spent a much less happy year attending Harvard Law School. I suspect, in this long retrospective view on the younger me, which I should probably have taken a break from academic pressures for a year or so before embarking on the next phase of my education but I chose to plunge heedlessly ahead. The summer following that year at Harvard I landed an internship in the Department of Agriculture (of all places!), specifically in the Foreign Agricultural Service, and I spent my summer immersed in a program that brought

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disadvantaged students from District of Columbia high schools for orientations to public service employment and low-keyed recruitment efforts as the youthful prospects wandered wide-eyed in small groups shepherded by us government apparatchiks through the maze of corridors in the vast Ag Department building on the National Mall.

Sometime during that summer of 1969 I decided after much internal wrangling that I didn't want to return in the fall for my second year at Harvard Law School, choosing instead to take up Scott McKenzie's seductive invitation in song form (which was all over the radio waves that summer) and thus to join the rising generation's surge ("people in motion") that was flooding into San Francisco (I did, however, skip the "flower in your hair" part). In the final week of the internship my father flew to Washington to discuss my law school decision with me, eventually giving me his blessing, even indicating during our weekend together that he had himself rebelled against a life too convention-bound by riding the rails for several months as a fledgling hobo during his restless youth days in the Thirties--and who, sadly, died unexpectedly a scant three months after giving me this show of support, I packed my 1965 Mustang with all the possessions that I had room to carry and started the long journey to the west coast, making various stops along the way (including an interesting stay on a traditionally-run tobacco farm in Kentucky owned by the family of one of my Washington roommates). I can truly say that I've never regretted the decision to come to the Bay Area to

live and year by year this place has deepened its standing in my heart as "home".

I have found myself profoundly at ease with the innovative spirit so prevalent here in computer technology, bio-medicine and other work disciplines that drive our local economy; I'm usually intrigued by the diversity of ethnic and affinity groups that I see all around me; and I identify proudly with the forward-looking politics of tolerance and public responsibility for which the Bay Area is known. And to top off this shameless boosterism, there's also the mild climate as well as the breathtaking scenic beauty of northern California to plug. I taught in a private junior high school for the first year after arrival and then I entered the doctoral program in American history at UC-Berkeley, which studies I thoroughly enjoyed, as I also enjoyed teaching jobs at UC-Berkeley and San Francisco State University during my graduate school years. Towards the end of my Berkeley graduate studies I got the irresistible chance to purchase a home in the Oakland hills, perched on the top edge of a canyon in the first rise of coastal foothills, with views on its western flank down to the SF Bay. Over the decades now since I purchased this house I've gradually shaped it to my tastes and filled it with the plunder from numerous trips to all the world's continents except Antarctica. (friends of mine have made that long, expensive, hazardous journey but I have never felt the slightest urge to brave the melting ice flows to see up close those monotonous white expanses of snow and ice covering the land mass).

I've also quietly rejoiced that I took the plunge and bought property when I did in the late 1970's since in intervening years the prices for homes here in the Bay Area have skyrocketed. The purchase of the house also symbolically represented my putting down of firm roots in the soil of this place, and gradually it became clear to me that much as I enjoyed both teaching and scholarly research in American history, I would probably need to relocate if I was to find an academic teaching job. Since moving away held absolutely no appeal for me I started looking around for other employment opportunities. Quite by chance I came across a newspaper job posting for a community outreach position in a Kaiser Research Foundation-funded study to investigate what was hypothesized to be a very sharp rise in enteric parasitic infections among gay men in the SF area and over the next several years I recruited subjects for testing, both through presentations at social group meetings all around the Bay Area and through health fairs held in predominantly gay neighborhoods. The findings of our research indicated even more extensive intestinal parasitic infection rates than had been projected and I eventually became one of the authors of two scientific papers which documented these findings. In retrospect these papers can be seen as early warning signs of a much more serious health crisis that was silently incubating when we published (in 1979 and 1980), namely what eventually became known as the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which began

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exploding all around us big time by 1982.

This first job led to my subsequent hiring, during the flailing early efforts to understand whatever seemed significant in this mysterious unfolding plague, as a researcher for a large National Institutes of Health funded longitudinal study of the natural history of the HIV virus in San Francisco, now widely regarded as one of the seminal epidemiological efforts to understand the effects of the virus in infected men and the spread of infection to those with whom they had contact. For nearly a decade I was part of a clinical team gathering data from study participants. On a personal level I had to come to terms with the grim reality that many of these relatively young men that I came to know through interviews every six months were gradually withering away and dying as I stood by and watched helplessly. One of the great gifts of this work, however, was the way it gradually allowed me to filter out awareness of the infirmities of the flesh and to focus instead on qualities of the spirit. As the earliest medical therapies began to appear, I remember vividly conversations in which I tried to motivate study subjects to join the drug trials that were by then beginning: to see themselves as medical astronauts, those pioneers who were willing to risk much to illuminate the trail for those who would follow them.

It may sound surprising, but as I developed expertise in epidemiological work, I began to realize that I had fortuitously stumbled into what the Buddhists call "right livelihood," work not just for financial compensation but which is also undertaken because of usefulness to the community and which utilizes a broad range of the worker's skill set. This accidental career in epidemiology, all of it carried out on two campuses (Berkeley and San Francisco) of the University of California, felt like the good fit that I had sought through earlier false starts, and it became my fulltime career until my retirement in 2007.

Over the course of those years, however, I also worked on non-HIV-related projects seeking to understand better the effects of human papilloma viruses and the causes of two major cancers, pancreatic and the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. Retirement has given me the welcome leisure to read and to listen to the thousands of LPs and CDs (very eclectic in genres though weighted towards classical) that I've collected, and also to travel frequently.

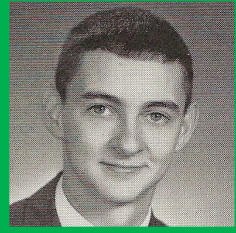
Since 2000 I've taken more than a dozen trips to Turkey, a country I've begun to regard as a second home. I've made close friends in Istanbul, with whom I stay when there, and I've gradually explored the fascinating society outside the beautiful metropolis along the Bosphorus. I've also reunited with a Turkish

foreign exchange student who lived for a year with my family while he attended Joplin High School, Oktay Soyman, who some of my readers may remember. Oktay has had a distinguished career as a lawyer, becoming the chief counsel for one of Turkey's largest private banks, Guaranti. I can provide his email address for any of you who may want to be in touch with him. He has fond memories of Joplin.

It's been a colorful journey for me since our 1964 graduation, but I can honestly say that I don't regret a minute of it. I can be reached at rha-havens8@sbcglobal.net and would love to hear from any of you who might care to re-establish--or establish for the first time--personal contact. 🐦

Did you Know?

1. There are three things the human brain cannot resist noticing -food, attractive people and danger
2. Right-handed people tend to chew food on their right side
3. Putting dry tea bags in gym bags or smelly shoes will absorb the unpleasant odor.
4. According to Albert Einstein, if honey bees were to disappear from earth, humans would be dead within 4 years.
5. There are so many kinds of apples, that if you ate a new one everyday, it would take over 20 years to try them all.



Larry Strong - Bio

"So what has defined my life since I left the safety and warmth of classmates and friends at JHS?"



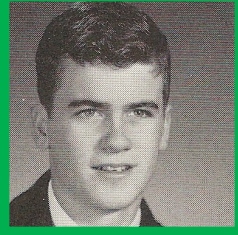
I love to read the accounts of our classmate's lives and to discover what paths each has taken after our time together at JHS. And I am delighted to learn of the many endeavors, accomplishments, accolades, excitement and joy that so many of you have lived. But I find it challenging – if not daunting – to write my own biography. Perhaps my writer's block has emerged from my focus on the real purpose of my life and not on "just the facts" as Sergeant Joe Friday used to demand on Dragnet. In reality, the facts of my life tend to cloud the tapestry that God has been weaving, of which I am just a simple thread barely visible to the casual observer. How can I define my life? It would not be based on my education at MSC and Tulsa University, my 40 year career with the IBM Corporation, the cities in which I have lived, nor the places around the world to which I have traveled. Though, in fact, I could probably use my hotel perks to provide my nursing home location. So what has defined my life since I left the safety and warmth of classmates and friends at JHS? I served as Minister to the Granby Christian Church as I completed my

education at Missouri Southern. I was an Associate Minister for the Highland Park Christian Church in Tulsa, OK as I completed a degree in Education, and an Associate Minister for the Rolling Hills Christian Church in Tulsa as I completed a degree in mathematics. I managed a Christian Camp on Shoal Creek during my Summer breaks to help my family continue a ministry that began in 1946 and ended in 1983 providing a Christian Camp for literally thousands of young people in our four-state area each Summer. And as a footnote, we have re-opened the Ozark Christian Camp grounds for local Church youth groups for weekend camping, picnics, sports facilities, fishing, camp fires and other "old time" activities.

As I was working toward a Doctorate degree at TU, I was asked to interview with IBM, and my first response was "why would I want to sell typewriters the rest of my life!" which turned out to be a most purposeful thread in the tapestry God was weaving with my life. In each city to which I was moved, there was always a local congregation that needed an interim minister, and I had some of my most rewarding

times of preaching and teaching at those Christian and Church of Christ congregations across the country. One congregation grew into a megachurch after I left, which perhaps says the best thing I can do for a church is to leave!

IBM served its purpose and I retired from my earthly employer in 2011. I spend much time with family, including some of the best grandkids ever delivered, and I have recently spent a lot of time in Joplin helping my cousin go through a miraculously successful heart transplant, and maintaining the 80 acres along Shoal Creek. And the final chapter of my life and perhaps the complete definition of my few years on this earth is yet to be written. I have always believed in a purpose-driven life, and I look forward to seeing the fruition of that purpose before this "mist of life" vanishes into a small memory for those left behind. I want to be defined as a servant (which is what the word 'minister' means), nothing more and nothing less. My sincere thanks to every one of my class mates and friends who influenced my life and that are forever endeared in my memories of Joplin. 🙏



Mike Shipley - Bio

"After coming back to Joplin, I worked as a tool designer and my youngest daughter was born."



It was 1963, the year we packed up and moved to Joplin. I was born in Santa Monica, California, and lived there until I was about nine. Then we moved to the San Fernando Valley. We lived there until I completed my junior year of high school. Because of my stepfather Jim's deteriorating health, in 1963, he and my mother made the decision to relocate to Joplin. Jim was raised in Joplin; his father had worked for the creamery. Like so many, including my own Father and my mother, Jim had come to California during WWII.

I only attended Joplin Senior High School for my senior year, 1964, thereby becoming a member of the 1964 graduating class. I was a bit quiet to say the least, and even though I met and had friends, I really didn't get to know too many class members, unfortunately. I did know who many classmates were, from sharing the classrooms and so forth, but I wasn't much of a joiner of activities. Looking back, I wish I had been.

In 1967, I returned to California with my wife. Our first daughter was born, and I went to work at Rocketdyne as a designer. I was working with the rocket engine which powered the first stage of the Saturn 1b rocket. When I got to Rocketdyne, there were 9,000 employees at that facility. When I left there, and headed for Joplin, that number had been reduced to

2,000, as the aerospace contracts had dried up.

After coming back to Joplin, I worked as a tool designer and my youngest daughter was born. In 1972, my wife & I divorced. I returned to Missouri Southern to continue my education, while working as a machinist and CNC programmer. I later met and married my wife, Jan.

In 1990, Jan and I, and our youngest daughter moved to Northwest Arkansas. Jan was a Radiation Therapy Technologist, and had been hired by N.A.R.T.I. in Springdale, while I tried my hand in sales. I soon realized that I preferred the purchasing end of things, and ended up as a purchasing agent for Alcoa Aluminum (Kawneer facility). After eleven years with the company, I retired. That was about six years ago. Jan had retired a few years earlier. I built a book bindery at my home, and have been stayed busy as a hand bookbinder, repairing; restoring and rebinding all types of books (my favorite work is period style leather).

In 1999, we finished building our current home, above Beaver Lake. We live here with our little Maltese, Jojo. We have nine grandchildren, ranging from 23 years of age to 13 months. We also have one great granddaughter, Lily. Jan and I recently celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary. I am only about 1 hour, 15

minutes from Joplin, so we are able to come up often to visit family and friends.

I came to our 25th Class Reunion, and now I can add the 50th reunion. I suppose I will try to hit one every quarter century or so, just to keep up with you folks.

I sure enjoyed seeing everyone this past June at our 50th, what a blast. 📷

Did You Know?

1. Your shoes are the first thing people subconsciously notice about you. Wear nice shoes.
2. If you sit for more than 11 hours a day, there's a 50% chance you'll die within the next 3 years
3. There are at least 6 people in the world who look exactly like you. There's a 9% chance that you'll meet one of them in your lifetime.
4. Sleeping without a pillow reduces back pain and keeps your spine stronger.
5. A person's height is determined by their father, and their weight is determined by their mother.
6. If a part of your body "falls asleep", you can almost always "wake it up" by shaking your head.

We wish to extend our sympathy & condolences to the following:

To the family of our classmate, Betty Shanks

http://www.masonwoodard.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2523229&fh_id=10713

To our classmate Mitch Stinnett & family for the loss of his Mother

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2573057&fh_id=10419

To our classmates Marilyn Edens Hartman & Kathy Edens Millers for the loss of their Father

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2598378&fh_id=10419

To our classmate David Hamm for the loss of his sister

http://www.masonwoodard.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2619947&fh_id=10713

"You're still in time to submit an entry to our website"

Part of our website has been updated, not only the home page, but if you click on the classmates tab and then reunions and then 50th, you will see 70 + pictures that were taken at the event.

Check us out at: www.joplinmo64.com.

We really appreciate suggestions and even more, we really would like to have material that may be in your possession, possibly hidden away in the attic or basement that you may want or would like to share with us and have it placed on the class website.

What materials do you need, you may ask. Well, anything from old class pictures and that includes K through college or early adult life. Old or new vacation pictures that one may have taken to some interesting place or places with family, friends or classmates. Comments are always a welcome addition for the newsletter as well as for the websites comment section. How about your thoughts or feelings you had about the reunion?

The website should be a class team effort containing input, ideas & suggestions from all classmates. When we say we value your input, we honestly do, so feel free to make suggestions or share tidbits of interest that we can place on our website and keep it fresh, enjoyable and most of all up to date.

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

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. Please help us locate the following 32 classmates:

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

Linda Baugh (Robards)

Patricia Kay Belk

Richard Burns

Ed Carey

Gary M Colvin

Larry Conboy (Phoenix, AZ area)

Johnie Coots (Seguin, TX area)

Rayma Coy

Merlene Garrison (Burris)

James "Jim" Hilton

Clair Howard

Robert "Bob" Jordan

James "Jim" Lamb

La Donna Miller

Merlin "Butch" Mitchell

Carol Munson (Wrench)

Emma Nunn

Mitchell "Pat" O'Brien

Judy Osborne (Gardner)

Richard Lee Pearson

Patty Riley (Brewer) (Joplin, MO)

Naomi June Shelton

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

"If You Change Your Contact Information"

Please help us out. Don't forget to include us on any changes in your contact information. If you should move or change telephone, snail mail address or email address please let us know. It's very easy and you may do so by clicking on the following link joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com, and enter your information, then click on the "Send" tab, that's it folks.

Continuing to Follow the Chapman's

Taking that infamous 3 hour tour, not.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfR7qxtqCqY>. 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/>

"Feedback from our 50th reunion"

Thank you to all the people who made this reunion happen. Besides those involved with the endless preparation, a real appreciation goes to the people who worked the tables (in the rather toasty atmosphere), all the super decoration efforts, and right through to the end. I know as a "seasoned citizen" myself, that big projects are not so easy to tackle as they once were.

Mike Shipley

My hat is off to all of the class reunion organizers, the decorating committee, for working so hard for the class of '64. I feel that the entire class appreciated the hard work that was put into this.

Tom Harrison

GREAT JOB. Thanks. **Sheri Higgs-Harrison (Tom's wife)**

Thanks so much to all of you for the many hours you put in over the past 4 yrs. to make this past weekend an occasion we the Class of 64 shall never forget. What memories I will always treasure. **Donna Hansen**

The committee did a stupendous job. We all thank you for your work from the bottom of our hearts. **Charles Baker**

It was a great night!!! **Patricia Noe**

I THINK WE ALL HAD A GOOD TIME AT THE 50 YEAR REUNION. I KNOW I HAD A GREAT TIME AND REALLY ENJOYED MYSELF. **Janice Bond**

I had a ball! Thank you for all the hard work that went into pulling it off. I'm so looking forward to the cruise info>3 **Joyce Frey**

David Knisley and crew. What an amazing extended weekend! Thanks to all the committee; Connie Cox for your helpfulness, Phyllis Payne Sapp for that great North Middle tour. More kudos are needed for all! **Karol Miller**

Carol, Phyllis, Dave & Jeanne & gang; What a great event you planned and it came off in spectacular fashion! Especially when you think of cost for two nights of attending. Keep it up and hope to see you in 5 years! Great to see so many that missed #45! **Bruce McCaw**

Yes, it was exciting, the DVD was great, to be enjoyed many years, thanks so much to everyone!!! **Rosemary Carlile**

Dave, thanks again for a truly outstanding Reunion Weekend! You and the Committee are to be congratulated! It was really great seeing all of the classmates and catching up on the last 50 years. **Larry Munn**

What a great job these people pulled off...all the hard work definitely showed and we can't thank you enough! **Charlene Veteto Jones**

"Feedback from our 50th reunion"

Thanks to all the folks who were responsible for the 50th reunion....the wife and I had a GREAT TIME!!! **Mickey Moore**

Just watched the entire slideshow DVD! What a job! Really enjoyed it, all the photos and the fantastic music! Thanks so much. Great event video! My thanks to you and Dot and Dick Espy. It was well done and the background music was so appropriate. **Jeanne Lewis Owen**

It was a great reunion, and it could not have been so without your effort, dedication, and talent! THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Thanks, and God Bless you! **Larry Strong**

I had to thank you for a wonderful rocking chair memory. The 50th Reunion was perfect! I really appreciate all of your hard work & long hours in the planning. Larry Don and the band were great, the food was good & the company awesome. See ya at the 60th!!! **Janice Martin Hagan**

Thank you for your time & commitment to our class reunion. It was awesome! **Beverley Kluthe**

Thank you for including me in on the 1964 Class Reunion activities. Also for letting me bring my granddaughter, Ashlee. We enjoyed the group. Sincerely, **Mary Ellen Greer**

The reunion so successful. Larry Don's and his band were awesome. Thank you and all of the committee for your dedication and hard work. "This reunion was over the top."
Sallie Schofield

Thank you for all the work you and the group did to pull this off in grand style, it was fun and much appreciated. **Joyce Tillman Frey**

Wonderful high school class reunion.....so much fun!!! **Donna Drake Helton**

JHS64 50th Year Class Reunion -- great time!!! **Janet Hale Tabin**

What a super high school class reunion we had! Thanks to everyone who made it possible. Hurrah for Joplin! **Monty Gavin**

Had a great time last night at my 50th high school reunion. Wow, where has the time gone. Many thanks to the reunion committee. Class of 64 still rocks! **Sherri Campbell Orender**

Just had an incredible evening at my 50th Joplin High School reunion. Now I am reflecting on the glorious memories with friends that I have become reacquainted with this weekend.
Charles Baker

Larry Mann Monty Gavin Charles Baker



Joanne & Jim Keagy



Jeanne Lewis Jeanne Lind Jeanne Looper



Lyle & Carolyn Rosenberry Kathryn Blagg



Connie Culton Charlene Veteto Katherine Patterson



The North Jr. girls with Larry Don Williams

Karol Tate, Connie Culton, Sharon Peters, Larry Don, Robyn King, Kathryn Blagg, Phyllis Payne, Katherine Patterson





Dave Knisley, Sallie Schofield, Jim Christiansen



Tom Harrison & Monty Gavin



Jan Hale



Gilda "Pat" Edmondson with husband Robert Baker



Larry Don Williams



Sherri Campbell & Carol Corbin

Jeanne Lind

Kathryn Blagg Beverley Kluthe



3rd Thursday L-R Jeanne Looper, Phyllis Phillips, Jeanne Lind, Robyn King & Janice McBride



Billie Lenger



North Jr. High tour gang



Mr. Balloon Man, Mike Shipley



Dave Stockam



DK and Committee

What can I say—it was a gasssssss!!!!

A heart-felt thanks goes out to each and every one of you for "taking a chance" on the quality of the entertainment I pitched, and believing in me, at the offer of being entertained by me and my mystical entourage of musical acquaintances and that is not credit enough for them.

When I threw the ball, they each of them, took it and ran for a touchdown. The amount of music and entertainment was barely heard. Each one of those men put hours on their own before I hit town for the two day rehearsal.

The past year or more has flown by and I do not think I have ever felt the gratification for my performance and the feel of real success until now. The people that I entertained with on the 20th and 21st are now, and forever will be some of the most important people that I have ever known. I did not realize this until it was over and I sat alone and reflected on some of the work. I have walked on stage many times and in many different situations. Some of the time it was with a group that I had put together, but other times in the shadow of stardom.

Merle Travis, Mr. Johnny Cash, and Tina, and the long list of others were the "in charge" person at their shows. But, last Friday and especially Saturday the ball was in my court and the load on my shoulders. The personnel that filled the stage with me are in the category with the best that could, and has performed with the best in the business.

The entire "Class of '64" planning committee should still be getting pats on the back from the attendees of the function. It was "first class" all the way. The mere requests made for the stage size and layout would not have happened if D. K. hadn't responded to my request and asked the event coordinator, Kristie Erwin from the Holiday Inn who jumped through hoops and "borrowed" a drum riser from another hotel to fulfill that request. The decorations were superb!!! That comment comes from a professional designer and coordinator, "My Wife", who is a retired floral, wedding, and event designer and director. The food was excellent and the selection was wonderful. The complete Holiday Inn staff was most cordial. The gentleman in charge of setting up the room for our event, "Dwayne" even stopped to help me as a Bellman when I arrived at the hotel, as there was not one available.

In a strong southern term, "Y'all done good" and thanks again for making my first "Footlight's Tour" a huge success. Please send this to all DK as I cannot ever repay you all for what you did!!!

Larry Don Williams & "Ole' Friends" The Band

We grew up in the '50's and we were lost in the '50's this past June

<http://safeshare.tv/w/FEDEwZHZXu>