



Joplin Eagles

"JHS Class of '64"

Issue 26

Class Newsletter November 2, 2016

Here Is Our 26th Edition

"The Fall Season of 2016"

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It's easy to fall in love with Fall. Hoodies, hot chocolate, leaf-strewn sidewalks, crisp autumn air.

Every leaf that drops reminds us that it's okay to "let go." We can drop the things that no longer serve us, that weigh us down and don't support our highest and best lives.

As we head into the season that highlights the beauty of nature, we send you the blessings of this spectacular time of year.

We know that just ahead are the holidays that highlight our connections to family and friends. And that it's a great time to reflect on how much there is to be thankful for and to treasure in our lives.

The following is a column that I wrote for the Joplin Globe that reminded me to be grateful for the things that, without attention, can so easily recede into the background.

We're sending a colorful greeting to you and a warm, spicy touch of this season, JHS Class of 1964. ☞



Jeanne Looper Smith



"Seeing With New Eyes"

"The more often we see the things around us - even the beautiful and wonderful things - the more they become invisible to us. That is why we often take for granted the beauty of this world: the flowers, the trees, the birds, the clouds - even those we love. Because we see things so often, we see them less and less."—Joseph B. Wirthlin

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We were driving back from Joplin heading to our home in Kansas City when my attention was drawn to the shiny dashboard of our little Fiat.

A flash of sunlight that sparkled against the metallic red of the retro dashboard triggered a flash of awareness that I'd taken for granted something I'd initially loved and noticed often.

I remembered how excited I was about that dashboard when we first looked at the car in the showroom—how the colors of red, cream and black and the fabulous styling were reminiscent of an old Bakelite radio from the 1940s.

Maybe the fact that I'm from the '40s too, having made my appearance in 1946, explains my fondness for things retro. And the beauty of this little car, particularly its stylish interior was something that I often appreciated—in the beginning.

Now, even though nothing's changed in the car's appearance, I realize I jump into it without noticing anything other than whether there's gas in the tank.

When we got back I unpacked the knowledge that I'd taken our car for granted and that was the catalyst for seeing things in our home, too, that I no longer really saw.

There are lots of things in our surroundings that were purchased with the same excitement and enthusiasm that I'd had for our Fiat. The large piece of art work that I lusted after for months before we bought it, the mid-century chair in citrus green that occupied my thoughts nonstop until we were able to own it, to name a few.

Looking with a heightened lens, I realized how many of the things that I've loved, including photos of my parents, children and grandchildren were somehow out of focus and hazy, becoming just the background of my life.

The flash of light against a metallic dashboard snapped me back into gratitude and appreciation mode—and illuminated an additional awareness that it's easy to allow the people in our lives to become background, too.

How often do I look at my husband with new eyes, and experience him with the same thrill and excitement I had when we were first together? I never want to take him for granted and become a relationship version of our little Fiat.

There's a sharper and much more satisfying focus now, when the things, and particularly the people I see more and more, don't become the things I see less and less.

Here's looking at you! 👉



Jeanne Looper Smith grew up in Joplin and now lives in Kansas City, MO. You may contact her at wistful-wordsmith@gmail.com

It's often uncomfortable to talk about money, but after all, we're like family so I'm just gonna put it out there.

Unlike our financial situation when we began the planning process for our 50th class reunion, we don't have a comfy cushion to start the ball rolling. We're down to our last \$200 dollars in our sparsely feathered nest.

Many of you have asked us to let you know how you can help in the money department for our 55th reunion, so here goes.

Without repeating what Dave Knisley has written in some detail for this edition, I'll just do a bare bones outline of what we'd like.

To eliminate the need for a decorating budget and the expense to transform our event spaces, each committee member has happily agreed to take a table to decorate (and to assume the expense to do so). It will be a fun way to get our creative juices flowing. Since we're hoping to have more tables than committee members, you can help by donating the funds to decorate a table. We'll do the decorating with the supplies you sponsor. Or, if you want to do your own decorating the day of the event, we'd welcome that help, too.

We're going to have a theme for the event and each table décor will reflect that. (More info on that later.) Right now we just need to get our decorating fund going and to start sourcing the materials.

And, along with fund raising opportunities that Dave has outlined, we will have a general fund for donations to subsidize the cost of the event as we did for our last gathering, making it easy for everyone to be a part of our 55th reunion weekend.

And, we'd love to have your donations now rather than later so that we'll know where we stand money-wise and how much additional fundraising we'll need to do.

Please make your checks out to Joplin Class of 1964 and notate in the info space at the bottom of your checks if this donation is going to the general or decorating or memorial fund.

Mail your donations to: Stephanie White Everitt, 2821 Wisconsin, Joplin, MO 64804

Thank you, you're the best! 🐾



Jeanne Looper Smith

Some of us miss the old kind of (Yiddish) humor. Not a single swear word in their routines.

I just got back from a pleasure trip. I took my mother-in-law to the airport.

I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years. If my wife finds out, she'll kill me!

My wife and I went to a hotel where we got a waterbed. My wife calls it the Dead Sea.

A Jewish man said that when he was growing up, they always had two choices for dinner - Take it or leave it.

Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!" Patient: "I AM 60!" Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"

The year was 1981. Health options were about to change for Joplin. A young cardiac surgeon returned to his hometown with the goal of bringing an open heart surgery program to the area. Dr. Mitch Stinnett with his partner and close friend, Dr. Joe Graham, wanted to locate where a heart surgery program did not already exist and create a new opportunity for patients. At the time, there were not a lot of hospitals doing heart surgery, and it was a relatively new treatment. Yes, it was the beginning of pride for Joplin as the innovative goal of a local man became reality.

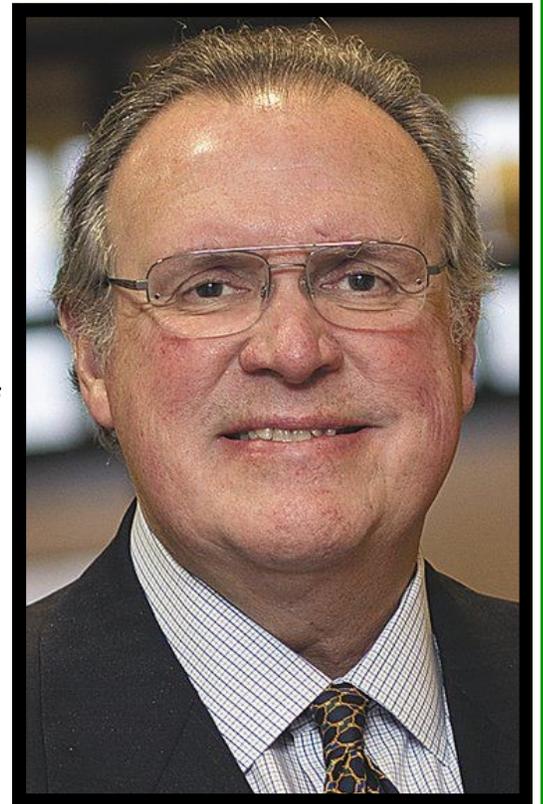
That vision came to life when Mitch performed the first open heart surgery in Joplin. For him, it remains one of the most memorable points in his career as his lifelong goal was to save lives. While local physicians were concerned about new procedures, they were won over by results. With low death and complication rates and being in the top 10 percent almost every year, our community was fortunate to have been chosen by these talented physicians. Mitch recalls that when they came to town, there wasn't a gastroenterologist, pulmonologist, or cancer specialist at the hospital. The heart program led the way for other specialties to be recruited and St. John's to be known as a regional medical center.

After graduating with us in '64, Mitch attended MU then went on to Baylor College of Medicine. "When I got to Houston, all the action was surgery. That was the era of transplants and the beginnings of the artificial heart. It was quite an exciting time to be in heart surgery." Graduating magna cum laude from Baylor, he remained in general surgery residency for two years. After serving as a flight surgeon during the Vietnam War and completing his service as a major, he returned to Baylor to complete the general surgery residency.

Studying under Dr. DeBakey and Dr. Cooley, renowned thoracic and cardiac surgeons, Mitch began his specialty residency. Later, having set their sites on establishing the Joplin program, Mitch spent the year as Cooley's junior associate doing surgeries. During this year, St. John's was building the infrastructure and setting up the needed equipment and labs for the heart program to begin in his hometown.

From 1981 through 2002, Mitch performed 15,000 surgeries in Joplin. He decided to retire due to medical problems and "stop while I was at the top of my game." Though he no longer operates, he certainly continues to serve the community . . . as he has for decades. Being in administrative positions since his surgical retirement, his professional guidance remains highly valued.

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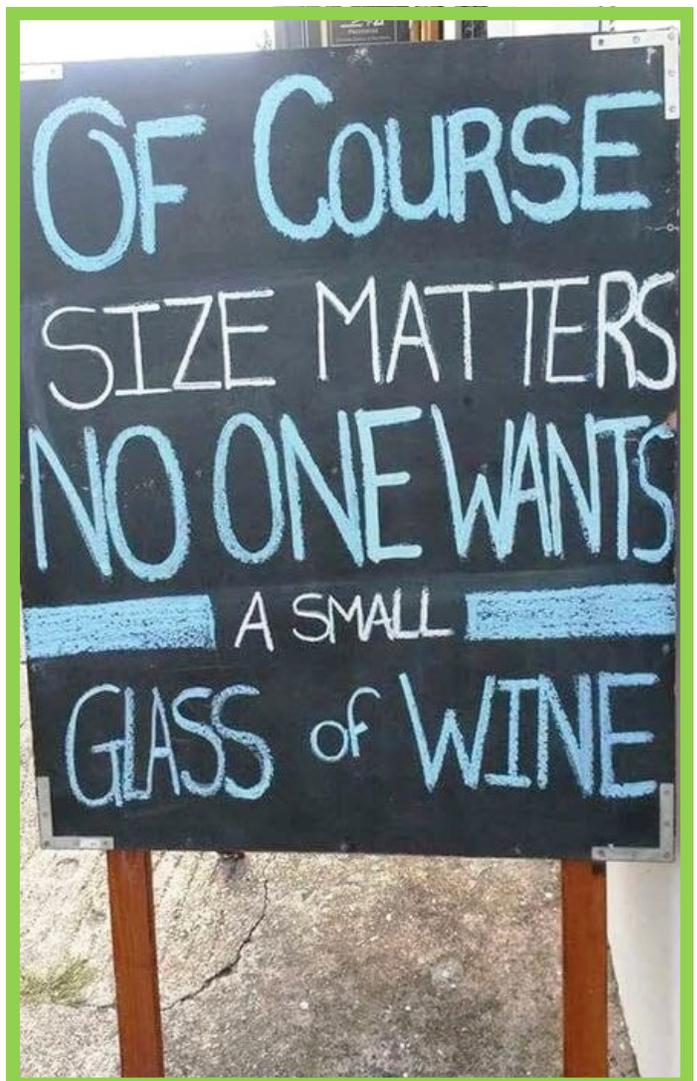
Passing knowledge on to students, he served as a clinical assistant professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine as part of the Joplin rotation and led the team of volunteers who raised \$15 million to build the new Mercy Medical Center after the tornado. Mitch was also on the steering committee for the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences that has raised \$30 million to start a medical school in Joplin which will open in 2017.

Mercy and the community honored Mitch at a retirement reception on August 9, 2016. Co-workers, physicians, patients, business leaders, family and friends paid tribute to Dr. Mitch Stinnett, the man who dedicated his life to saving others. Thanks, Mitch, for the exceptional dedication to making our community and surrounding areas the recipients of your vision.

The Class of '64 joins in sending our best to you and your family. 🍷



Phyllis Sapp



Cunningham Park has welcomed a neighbor to the south, giving visitors a chance to enjoy a peaceful stroll or try their skating talents on the winding paths. As I walked the loops and glanced across the pond, I stepped aside to let a young girl of five or six skate ahead of me. By the time I had finished the loop, she had been around the concrete path three times!! It was then I realized this new park is great for all ages. While I couldn't help but think back to the residential sidewalks and the skating rink we all knew, I also registered that I was now in the walking and gazing stage of life so would be content viewing the two gushing fountains situated in the massive pond.

The park was funded by two federal disaster relief grants and cost \$4.9 million. The City Council approved the design which includes a stormwater control system, two pavilions, benches, a small boardwalk, a wildflower meadow with native landscaping, restrooms, and a large parking lot.

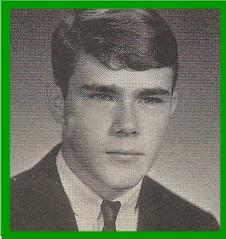
The meadow will be planted in December as cold weather will help germination. A unique addition is an interactive butterfly mural on the east side of the park. Designed by a local tile firm, it is digitally printed tilework. Visitors can stand in for the body of the butterfly and enjoy an intricately designed, artistic wingspan of 20 ft.

Since its August 2016 dedication, the land donated by Mercy Health System seems always to have local residents walking the paths or stopping to reflect peacefully along the way. If you haven't walked the loops yet, I hope you will have an opportunity to do so. Presently, it is an open space with small trees set to prosper. As grass begins to grow and when the meadow is planted, more new chapters will be written by visitors of all generations at this familiar site. In the meantime, I'll stop by and skip a rock in honor of our class . . . and leave the skates at home until the grandchildren visit. 📍

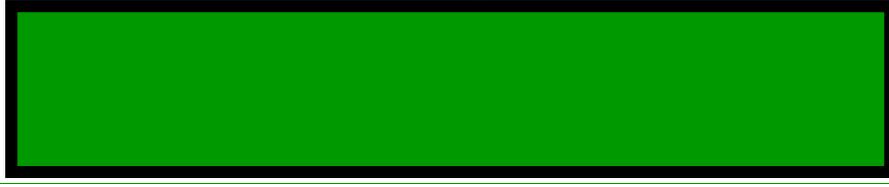


Phyllis Payne Sapp





Dennis Triplett Bio



Preface: Dave Stinson emailed me and reminded me of those times when several of our classmates spent time in Galena, Kansas at Nina's Green Parrot. I recalled trading Miss Nina for a neon beer sign that I proudly displayed in my bedroom at home in Joplin. A high school boy's dream; to have your own illuminated beer sign! I now have a wine cellar, so maybe some things haven't changed all that much. We all made a number of "runs" to Nina's; Tom Welch in his '53 Chevy, Mouse in his '58 Chevy, Sapp in his dad's Pontiac, and Stinson in his '56 Pontiac. It took us all several years to learn that Coors could produce more beer than we could consume.

After high school graduation I attended JUCO in Joplin as I didn't have a clue as to what curriculum or direction to choose in my education. I transferred to Kansas State College, now Pittsburg State, and selected their business school. While at Pittsburg I married Patty Francisco from Carthage whom I met at JUCO. After college graduation we moved to Columbia, Missouri, enrolling in the MBA program at MU. School was progressing nicely until graduate school draft deferments were eliminated (in 1969) and the Jasper County Draft Board promptly invited me into the military. I was shipped to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for basic and AIT but was fortunate to be subsequently assigned to a new school at Fort Jackson and I helped evaluate new teaching and testing methods there. That too was interrupted by orders to Vietnam, but my departure was delayed briefly as Patty gave birth to our first child, a son, Alexander. After a brief 30 days with Patty and our new baby, I was off to Vietnam. Upon arrival I was selected to stay at the in-country processing center to lecture newly arriving soldiers about do's and don'ts, policies and practices, and processed their unit assignments. When my tour in Vietnam was completed, in whirlwind fashion I flew back to San Francisco, out-processed at night, then flew to Kansas City and took a Greyhound bus back to Joplin. I spent that night in Joplin and the next morning Patty and I drove to Columbia where graduate school classes started the very next day. 24 hours from soldier to student!

Following graduate school we moved to Kansas City to begin a career in banking. First, with Commerce Bank of Kansas City and then later I joined the First National Bank of Chicago. Our second child, Stacey, was born in 1975 while in Kansas City. When Stacey was very young, we moved to Salina, Kansas, and I assumed the role of General Manager of an agricultural equipment manufacturing business based in Salina and served also as the CFO of the parent company, a grain company headquartered in Kansas City. We had a wonderful time in Salina as it reminded us of Joplin in many ways. We sold the business in 1983 and our family moved back to Kansas City and I re-entered the banking business. I served as CEO of a couple of banks in Kansas City and oversaw the consolidation of a number of banks as the banking industry went through its consolidation

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phase in the late 80s and 90s.

Our son, Alex, joined the Army and was an MP serving in Germany and after his time in the service he went to college and did some graduate work as well. He moved to Nashville, entered the Police Academy and became a police officer there. He married a woman from Kansas City and they were starting their life together.

Life however changed dramatically for us in April 2000 when our son was killed in an automobile accident in Nashville. Other members of our Class of '64 have had tragedies in their lives and this was ours. We will forever live with those memories.

I focused on my work, in part to absorb my thinking and steer my focus away from the obvious. Patty did the same and our smaller family hung together during the months and years that followed. Stacey, was an accomplished athlete and soccer player and had a scholarship to and graduated from the College of Charleston, in Charleston, South Carolina. Stacey now has two children, two grandson's for us, her first born, Rex, was named after my father Rex Triplett, and a younger boy, Lucas. They are ages 8 and 6 respectively. Needless to say they are the joy of our lives and we're lucky that they are close by here in Kansas City.

In 2003 I set the strategic direction for UMB Bank's healthcare banking business and have run that business since its inception. I am currently Chairman and will continue in that role until year end when I will officially retire. The business has grown dramatically and is nationally regarded as one of the top healthcare banking organizations in the country. I have Chaired a couple of trade associations, The Employers Council on Flexible Compensation, and the HSA Leadership Committee of America's Health Insurance Plans. I also help found the HSA Council of the American Bankers Association and remain on those Boards today. I speak frequently at industry events and continue to blog and write about topics within the healthcare banking and payments ecosystem. This fast paced and ever changing business has been both professionally consuming and fulfilling for me. I have spent many days in Washington with Congressional members educating and persuading them on relevant healthcare topics and have learned that you can make a difference if you are committed and persistent. My future trips will be closer to home as we travel to the soccer fields each weekend to cheer on my grandsons.

I still love to hunt and fish, avocations I picked up while growing up in Joplin, and have hunted and fished from A to Z (Argentina to Zimbabwe). I recall my first trip to Canada as a Boy Scout in 1963, and John Sapp and I canoeing the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and Canada. My wife and I enjoy going to Canada and have gone there every year for the last 26 years and will be there again this spring. We plan to continue fun trips on the rivers, lakes and fields and hope to interest our grandsons in outdoors sports along the way. 🐾

Route 66 in Texas. https://www.traveltexas.com/texastodo/films/kickin-it-on-route-66?utm_source=Newsletter_20161101_MainImage&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=TravelTex&utm_content=Route+66+image&utm_campaign=US+Residents_TexasTourism

Seattle Propane (at Wallingford Chevron) has a person with a really good sense of humor running their sign department.





Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany



Breathtaking view of Hallstatt, Austria



Bibury, England, United Kingdom



Mer, Province, France



Manarola, 1 of 5 Cinque Terre, Italy



Bled in the Julian Alps in Slovenia

Remembrances and sympathy to our classmates and family:

Classmate Jim Beeler's Mother

<http://masonwoodard.com/book-of-memories/2705285/Beeler-Margaret/service-details.php>

Classmate Linda Jennings Kennedy

http://www.fourstatecremation.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3886522&fh_id=14024

Classmate Tom Harrison's Mother

<http://www.masonwoodard.com/book-of-memories/2714689/Harrison-Kathryn/obituary.php>

Classmate Jim Burt's Father & Mother

http://www.parkermortuary.com/home/index.cfm/obituaries/view/fh_id/10419/id/3916657

http://www.parkermortuary.com/home/index.cfm/obituaries/view/fh_id/10419/id/3862841

We take pride in publishing the class newsletter and have certain guidelines that we abide by. One is no political comments or articles and we do not push religious preferences, even though we're firm believers, we feel it best to refrain from commenting on those subjects.

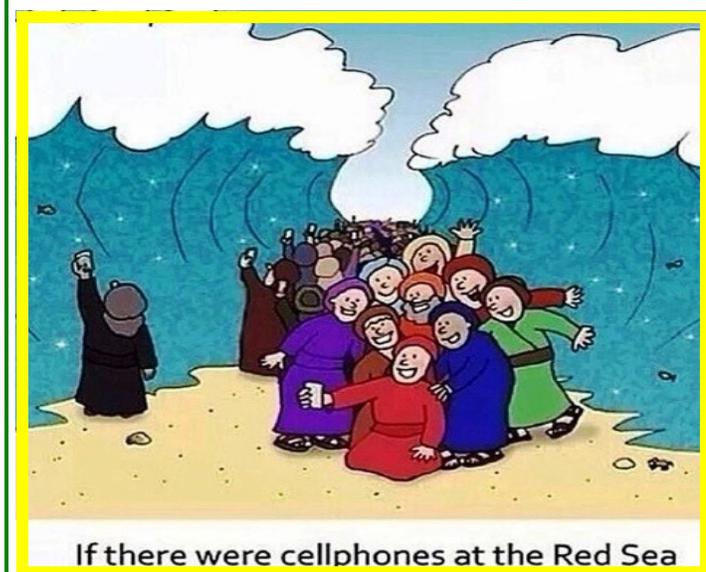
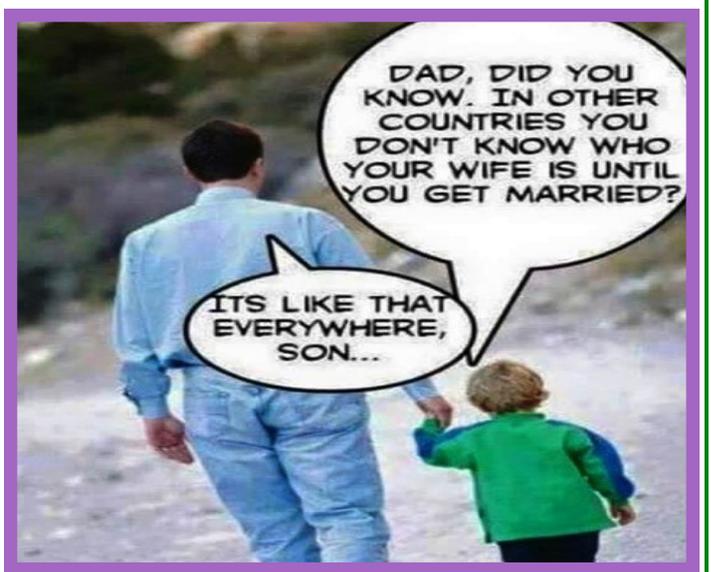
We ask in every issue for suggestions or articles from classmates that we can share in our newsletter and we get very little response. That's was our main reason why we went from every 3 months to every four months, but we do hear from some regular classmates and even some non '64 classmates. However, when we do receive comments or articles for the newsletter, we try to grant their requests and publish what is meaningful to them. The following are two spiritual pieces are more than that and are meaningful to the two classmates that felt it noteworthy to share. The first one is from classmate Larry Don Williams and the second would like to remain anonymous, and that's not a problem.

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/89476173>

<http://www.andiesisle.com/thenatureofgod.html>

An elderly Floridian called 911 on his cell phone to report that his car has been broken into. He is hysterical as he explains his situation to the dispatcher: 'They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!' he cried.. The dispatcher said, Stay calm... An officer is on the way.' A few minutes later, the officer radios in 'Disregard.' he says. 'He got in the back-seat by mistake.'!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com
I had a Goldfish that could
break dance on the carpet.
But only for like 20 seconds.
And only once.
Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com



There are times
when my greatest
accomplishment
is just keeping
my mouth shut.

PONDERISMS

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in".. But it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane ?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?

Why Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, it gets mad at you, but when you take it for a car ride, it sticks his head out the window?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?

Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?

Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?

Why do "tug" boats push their barges?

Now, how many of you actually sang A B C D E F G & then Twinkle Twinkle Little Star?



Not to mention any names, but it came to us that two of our classmates came out of retirement and joined forces and decided to go into business for themselves. After much consideration they pondered about what their joint venture would be and decided to start a company that would be cleaning out septic tanks around the immediate area. Now the next step was to acquire a vehicle and then promote their business through some sort of advertising.

After much soul searching, Tom said he knew where they could get a truck and Dave came up with an idea on what to name it and how to paint their work vehicle.

We wish them much success in this venture and let everyone know that if anyone has septic tank problems, they will be there to serve.



Class Get Togethers

From Carol Buck. The 3rd Friday, Nov. 18th at 6:30 P.M. the class get together will be held at JB's Palace Pizza, 122 S, Main St. Parking in the rear or across the street next to Dollar General. Then on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, at Festival's Mexican Restaurant, 631 S Duquesne Rd and Friday, December 30th, at Woody's Smokehouse BBQ, 25124 Demott Dr (Stones Corner) and hoping to see everyone there.

Please contact Carol Corbin Buck at 417-483-3285 or csbuck64@aol.com, if you plan to attend any of these dinners.

We still have 28 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 check these names and help find our missing classmates"

Richard Burns

Ed Carey aka (Edmond C Comple) (Joplin)

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

Robert James "Bob" Smith

Jack Sneed

William "Bill" Ray Stow

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.

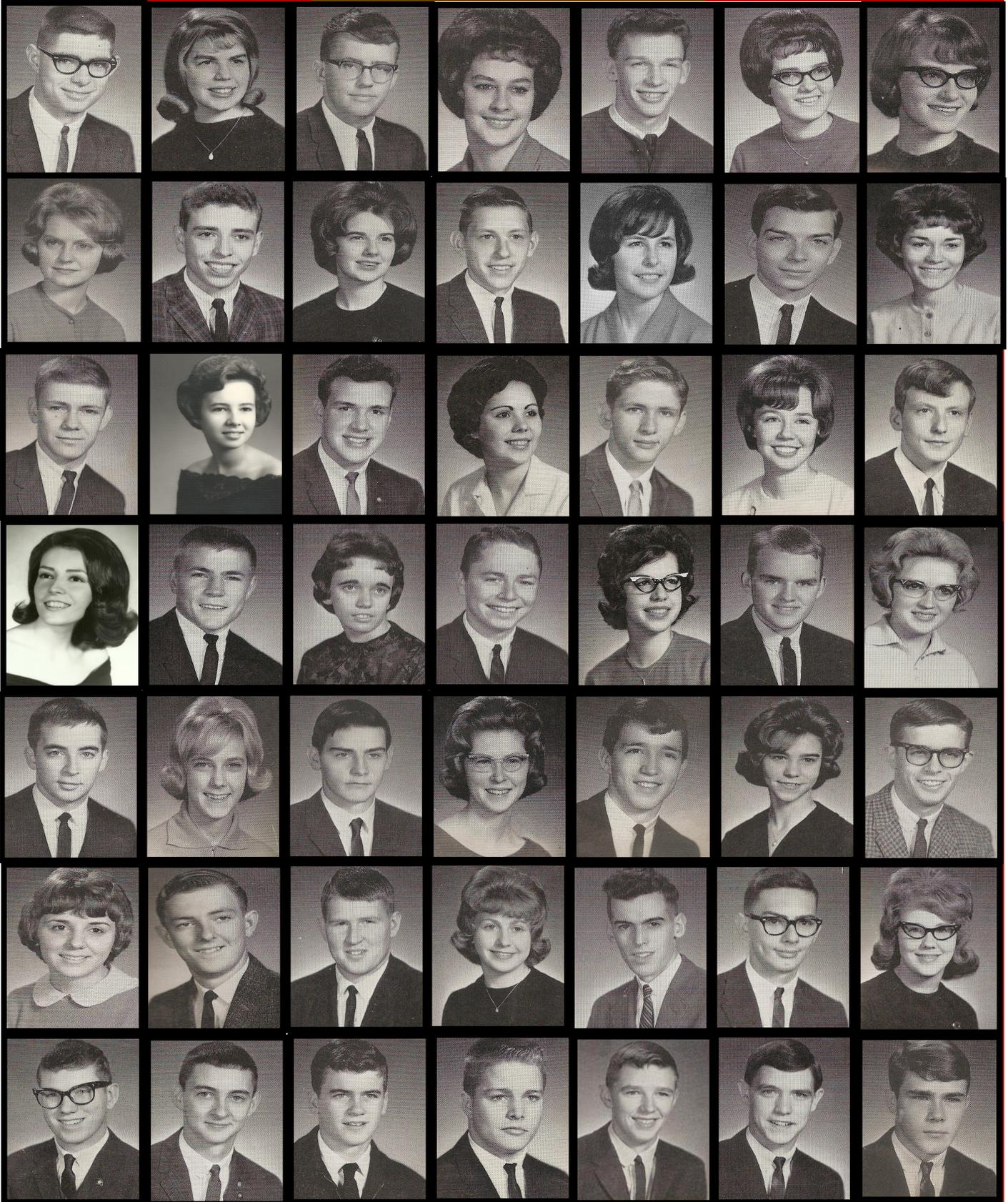
Continuing to Follow the Chapman's

Taking that infamous 3 hour tour, not.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfR7qxtgCgY>. 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/>

*We thank these classmates,
our bio contributors*



"Planning for the 55th Class Reunion"

Yes, the class reunion committee has been planning or at least talking about the 55th class reunion that will take place in just a little over two and a half years, and we have two meetings under our belt. I would imagine that some are asking why and we have an answer for you. We started planning for our 50th reunion 4 years out and three years out we locked in the prices of the hotel rooms as well as the Saturday night three meat buffet dinner and we all had a grand time. By reserving in advance, we got a \$60 hotel rate, all the appetizers they serve for the entire length of our Meet & Greet and then the Saturday night buffet, a live band, thanks to our classmate and Ole' Friends, Larry Don Williams, not to mention the décor we had for both events and all of that for \$35 a person. Believe me folks, I spent many years planning events just like we had and some were even held at the Holiday Inn where we were, and that price was one great bargain.

When word got out to the classes that followed us and they were paying anywhere from \$90 a person up to \$130 for a two night function and that came with no entertainment, they were questioning why their event was so expensive compared to what the class of '64 paid. We had a slideshow of past events that played during the Meet & Greet, as classmates sent in old and recent pictures of kids, grandkids and each were given a copy of that DVD. We also had a DVD of the Saturday night banquet and an updated class directory. All that happened because we started planning in advance and for the classmates that contributed monetarily and personal items is what made all that happen. We also had raffles and contribution from classmates like Jeanne Lewis, who made a quilt, John Keeling made his cutting bread board and contributions from other classmates like Donna Gibson Messer, Sallie Schofield and several others. Our biggest money maker was the raffle of the classmate donated big screen TV. All donated items were part of the \$1 ticket or 6 for \$5. We also did a car show and are contemplating what we will do to raise money for the 55th. So we are looking for ideas that will help us have a decent reunion at an economical or affordable price for all.

As we announced after our first meeting we have made the decision to hold our reunion at the now Hilton Doubletree, formerly the Holiday Inn in early June. They are still under a \$21+ million dollar renovation and will not be in a position to make any plans until spring of next year.

Sadly, we have lost 11 classmates since our 50th reunion and Jeanne Lewis Owen has suggested, after the passing of classmate Sharon Campbell Fretwell, that we could donate to the 55th in honor of the classmate or mates or all those that have gone before us. The 11 that are gone are as follows; Robert "Bob" Broadwater, Karen Porpoth, Robert Riggs, Joy Graham, Shirley Teague, Sue Lyscio, Eugene Mayo, Dave Gillespie, Dave Thomas, Linda Jennings & Sharon Campbell.

Just click on the link below and throw a couple of ideas our way in helping to grow our banking account from \$200 to around \$3500 or more, or to offer some of your ideas as to what you would like to do or see at the event. Much appreciated. 🙏

joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com



Dave Knisley