



# "JHS Class of '64"

Issue 4

Class Newsletter February 6, 2011

## Joplin Eagles

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### Class Website:

Check the website out. Click on the tabs & enjoy.

[www.joplinmo64.com](http://www.joplinmo64.com)

The Newsletter is the last tab on the right. Scroll over, click on it, then click on view. You may have to download the unzipper to view current issue.

## Classmates, Our 4th Edition is Here

The beginning of a new year brings a new JHS Class of 1964 newsletter. The holidays are behind us and 2011 looms large with resolutions and resolve. The scenery may be barren and bereft of color for those of us who live in the land of changing seasons but the prospect of new opportunities paints the canvas with vivid possibilities for each of us—regardless of where we call home. We're hoping that this finds you excited and filled with intention to create a wonderful 2011.

It seems that we're careening toward 2014 and our 50th reunion at warp speed. It may seem early to begin building the foundation of the weekend that will mark this milestone moment in our class history, but it's not too early for us to request input and inspiration from you. Please think about how you'd like to structure the time we'll all be together again as a class.

We've mentioned before the possibility of an "a la carte" weekend where you could

choose the activities you'd enjoy. We've had a sampling of suggestions from those who attended the 45th that included a hayride with Spook Light as a destination, a dance with music (live or DJ'd) from the '50s and '60s, a car show on Main St. (A later start time for the Sunday breakfast get-together!)

At this point the weekend is wide-open and ready for your ideas. Let's get out of the box in the planning stages to make this celebration unique and as individual as we are! ∞

### DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

In reading the current AARP publication, I noticed articles on baby boomers volunteering. It seems that only about 30 percent of boomers volunteer. That figure struck me as rather low since I often read in our local news about many who do.

Just recently, I clipped the article of Stephanie White

Everitt and husband Jim who join members of First Community Church in preparing and serving Christmas dinner to over 800 each year in Joplin. The tradition is now in its 36th year! What a wonderful gift to the many who come to enjoy the festivities. Over seventy-five members work to prepare the food, set the

decorations, and serve those who attend. A new touch was added two years ago when they included homebound and carry-out meals. Accolades to all who take part in this and other worthwhile projects.

In 1994, Congress designated January 17th, Martin Luther King Day, to be a

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**Aging:**  
Eventually you will reach a point  
When you stop lying about your age  
And start bragging about it...

Our link is now on the JHS Alumni website.  
Check this out: <http://www.joplineagles.org/alumni/>



## Ross Smith - Bio

**We have the 50th reunion coming up in 3 years.  
Good grief! That's cause for celebration.**



I mastered reading, writing and arithmetic in a three-room schoolhouse in Greenwood, Missouri, just southwest of Joplin. (You'll have to judge how well I mastered the writing.) I remember feeling frightened at the prospect of moving into town and attending a huge city school—South Junior High. But I soon adjusted and it seemed quite normal, until sophomore year at Joplin Senior High, when the stakes got higher and the school got larger. Although a case of shyness made me somewhat reserved, I have lifelong friends and great memories from the class of 1964.

After graduation, I started classes at Jasper County Junior College. I didn't last long there—if I remember correctly, about a semester. My mom was not pleased with my grades and the fact that I didn't get invited back for the next semester encouraged her to enroll me in Joplin Business College where my classes consisted of shorthand, typing and some bookkeeping. I got the message and I started back, more seriously this time, at JCJC in the fall of 1965.

During the summer of that year, classmate Jeanne Looper and I had a whirlwind romance that ended, sadly, when she moved with her family to St. Paul, Minnesota and I headed to California to live with my uncle and pick up my education at Orange Coast Junior College in Anaheim.

As with so many guys, Vietnam was looming in my mind and in my reality.

I finished a year at OCJC and decided not to delay the inevitable—joining the Army in July of 1967. In February of '68 I was on my way to Vietnam. I was unscathed there—I didn't even fire my weapon as maintenance crew chief on Huey helicopters. But many weren't so fortunate.

I corresponded with Jon Rippee from our class while we were both in Vietnam. Having my most recent letter to him returned stamped "killed in action" is an indelible memory from that time. I am stirred by the sacrifice of our classmates, and so many others of our generation, who lost their lives there fighting for the principle of democracy. And, I'm grateful, too, for those who served and returned home—even though the home-coming reception for many of us was less than welcoming.

I left Vietnam after a year of service, married just after returning, and finished out my remaining year-and-a-half in Mineral Wells, Texas—can't say I would park there for a lifetime but it was preferable to Vietnam. I completed my stint in the Army and moved to Springfield, MO where I attended Southwest Missouri State University, graduating in 1973.

I lived in Joplin again in the 1970s, working at Eagle Picher during that time. My daughter, Kendel, was born in 1973 and my son, Jason, in 1978. I became a follower of Jesus Christ and my family and I were in church whenever the doors were thrown open. I

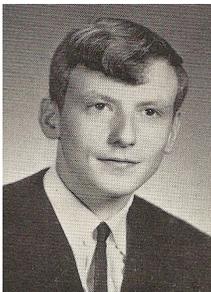
am still a follower—no longer "churchy"—but quite content with my spiritual path.

I moved to Kansas City in the summer of 1978—on a weekend that was as hot as any in Vietnam—to work at King Radio in Olathe and later at Bendix (now Honeywell). I spent the next 15 years there, took a layoff and ended up in management at Sanofi-Aventis, a pharmaceutical company—and that's where I am today.

I divorced in 2009 after 3 years of separation. Jeanne and I connected again after 40+ years apart and were married on August 20th of last year. We live in a condo in downtown Kansas City and love the urban lifestyle. We walk everywhere within the city center—the library, the city market, restaurants and jazz clubs we love are just beyond our doorstep. I am indeed a lucky man to have such an incredible woman with whom to share this wonderful time in our lives.

I'll put a bit of a plug in here. There are several folks who put a great deal of work into this newsletter. I appreciate their efforts so much and I know they would love to hear from you with comments and contributions.

We have the 50th reunion coming up in 3 years. Good grief! That's cause for celebration. Tell the committee and the newsletter editorial staff what you want that event to look like. It's our reunion and it's a biggie! See you there. ∞



## Jay Campbell - Bio

It's been a long time since 1964. Things have changed a lot since then. I've made new friends which makes life easier, but my golf game is still????



After graduation, I remained in Joplin a year and enlisted in the US Army in Oct. 1965. Basic training and AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) were at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. In our company there were only 7 RA (Regular Army meaning those had enlisted) with the rest being draftees who had received orders for Vietnam.

The 7 RA got orders for the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Honolulu, Hawaii. I thought that was great! When I got to Travis AFB, San Francisco, CA, they informed us we were to join the 25th in Vietnam and would actually arrive before them as we were flying and they were on a ship going over. What a surprise that was. We were given 3 hours to call home, be packed, and ship out. We arrived in Saigon after a 22 hour flight and it was 102 degrees at 10 a.m. From March 1966 through March 1967, I was in the country. During that time I was stationed at Cu Chi. (The US later learned the main underground tunnel complex for the Viet Cong and NVA was under our base camp.) My duty was to haul troops from the jungle and back and transport supplies to the Cambodian border. I was fortunate to have avoided being injured.

Returning to the states, I was stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC. During that time, I was sent on temporary assignment to West Point to haul the new class to their training stations. After that, I was sent to Ft. McClellan, Alabama to NCO Academy and

served as a Sgt. E5 until my discharge in Oct. 1968.

At 22, I came back to Joplin and began working for Clean Coverall Supply as a route salesman for 3 years. I married my first wife, Kathy, a year after returning home and our daughter Sherri Lynn was born in 1971. At the same time, we were friends with Fred Vickers and Steve Baker who also had daughters born about the same time. We all used the same middle name, so there was also Terri Lynn Vickers and Kerri Lynn Baker. Unfortunately, Sherri's mother and I divorced in 1976. My daughter Sherri now has 2 boys, one in high school and another in elementary. She is Director of Nursing for Joplin Health and Rehab.

In 1972, I went to work for Clyde Love Distributing, the local Budweiser distributor. I delivered beer to local bars and liquor stores and stayed with the company when Larry Hickey purchased it. I became Hickey Distributing's top route salesman and had the territory from Neosho south to the Arkansas state line.

I did this until 1988 when I realized the physical part of delivering hundreds of cases and kegs was a young man's job.

So, at the age of 42, I continued to enjoy Anheuser-Busch products but returned to Clean Uniform as the district sales manager. I was promoted to plant manager in 1995 and my personal life changed as well. I

married a lady I had been dating for two years. She was the mother of nine-year-old twin boys.

I met Norma when my sister had suggested I call her friend who also worked at Empire District Electric. I did, and to my surprise, she was Mike Siskowski's ex-wife. We were married in August of 1995 and built and moved into a new home with the boys in Joplin. Norma and I enjoyed traveling with the boys and having Mike over for birthdays and special occasions. Mike and I had known each other since first grade and took pride in the boys' accomplishments.

In 2001, I retired from Clean Uniform at age 55. In 2003, Norma was diagnosed with breast cancer. She passed away in February of 2004, the boys' senior year in high school. We enjoyed our time together though it was far too short.

David and Daniel graduated with high honors from JHS and went on to the University of Arkansas. Their father, Mike, passed away with cancer in 2006. The boys went on to graduate with distinction and are civil engineers. Both work for the State Department in Little Rock. I am proud to be the father of one daughter and two stepsons, which are all doing great in life.

It's been a long time since 1964. Things have changed a lot since then. I've made new friends which makes life easier, but my golf game is still???? Retirement's great. ∞



Your Bio Could Be Here

**ATTENTION!!!**



*We are down to one bio for our next newsletter. We have had promises galore from some who say they will do a bio for the newsletter, so now is the time to fulfill that promise. Please consider a short update on how you got from Joplin Senior High School in 1964 to where you are now. Nothing personal needs to be included, just what got you to where you are now and some of your interests. We have had some great feedback on past bios and would love to keep this alive, but to do so, we need your participation. So go for it!!! ∞*

## Help Us Find Our Missing Classmates

*We still have classmates that we've classified as MIA's. If you have an idea where any of these classmates may be found, feel free to let us know so we may be able to communicate with them. Please help us locate the following:*

**Linda Baugh (Robards), Patricia Kay Belk, Richard Burns, Jo Ellyn Brown (Baker), Danny Clark, Gary Colvin, Larry Conboy, Johnnie Coats, Mary Sue Cox (Riley), Merlene Garrison (Burris), Don Hall, Donna Jean Harbaugh, James "Jim" Hilton, Clair Howard, Robert "Bob" Isaacs, Robert "Bob" Jordan, La Donna Miller, Carol Munson (Wrench), Emma Nunn, Mitchell "Pat" O'Brien, Judy Osborne (Gardner), Richard Lee Pearson, Patricia Kay Puckett, Patty Riley (Brewer), Drucilla Short, Connie Smith, Robert James "Bob" Smith, Robert Joe "Bob" Smith, William "Bill" Ray Stow, Calvin Summers, Shirley Teague, Mary Thornton (Reed), Janice Trombley (Testerman), Linda Vails, Thomas Ray Warren, Paula Weinacht, Steve Wimp.**

Please help us out. In order to keep you abreast 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 on the website by clicking on the "Contact" tab, then click on the class e-mail address [joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com](mailto:joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com), then enter your information in the e-mail and click on the "Send" tab, that's it folks.

Thanks to classmate Janet Hale Tabin, who sent us several photographs of the 25th year class reunion. We have posted her pictures in this quarters newsletter and they will also be put on the class website under the "Classmates" tab that contains pictures of previous reunions. Our thanks go out to Janet for helping to keep the information alive in the newsletter. If anyone has old pictures or news clippings of classmates, whether it be grade school, junior high or high school, and would want to contribute to a feature in the newsletter, we would very much appreciate it. Also any info on what you are doing now, what's on your bucket list or a mini bio is welcomed. Without you, information in the newsletter could come to a screeching halt.



**Kathy Watkins Moffett & Kathy Patterson Barnes**



**Greg Moore, Beverly Horton Moore & Rich LaNear**



**Janet Hale Tabin & Kathy Watkins Moffett**



**Melanie O'Flaherty Stanley & Gail Heller Smith**



**Deborah & Mitch Stinnett**



**Richard Allen & Nancy Page Allen**



**Mike Siskowski**



**Larry Buehner, in the background is Melanie O'Flaherty Stanley, Gail Heller Smith & Mitch Stinnett**



**Rosemary Kempt Carlisle**



**Sharon Johnson Lawrence & Leslie Lawrence**



With Kansas City getting over 13 inches of snow on Ground Hog Day, and Joplin more than that, a nice bowl of chili or some Spaghetti Red came to mind as I was out clearing driveways in the neighborhood. Come to think of it, even four days later, it still sounds good. What will we do when Fred & Red Chili and Tamale joint sells? Will it stay in Joplin or will they just close the books on a place that has been a fixture since 1923 and in its current location since 1943? Hopefully not.

### **Update on Lisa Stockam King, daughter of Dave & Billie Lenger Stockam**

### **Toss it up for Lisa and Let's Raise some GREEN- \$ 5,000 for Disney!**

Lisa continues her treatments for pancreatic cancer. Friends are raising donations on her website blog. Please check in and keep updated on her quest and the tremendous progress she is making. Feel free to donate if at all possible. Just a little bit can go a long way.

Lisa's website is <http://www.helpisafight.blogspot.com/> and the family encourages you to check it out.

**"We're thinking and praying for you Lisa"**

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

## Joplin's Union Station



The following column written by Jeanne Looper ran in the March 11, 2007 edition of the Joplin Globe. (The jury is still out on whether the Depot will see new life.)

**“The only way to have a new white picket fence is to always be repainting the old one.” G. K. Chesterton**

The train has left the station but the landmark that remains is a faded and forlorn building that sits like a stubborn white bulldog at the end of Main Street. Covered with graffiti, the Joplin Union Depot Train Station bears little resemblance to the beautiful Art Deco structure that was the hub of arrivals and departures for me and for countless Joplin residents over the decades.

The talk of restoring the 1911 Depot presents an exciting prospect. The study that indicates it will take a large investment of capital and commitment to resurrect the building, presents a challenge. Other cities have seen their depots, with the help of state grants, go from empty and neglected to vibrant centers of activity. Kansas City's Union Depot is a spectacular example of this trend. Closed in the 1980s, it was given new life in 1997 when construction began to restore its original glory. The stunning train station now houses an ever-changing array of tours, events and exhibits and is the permanent home to a large screen theater, science museum, shops and several wonderful restaurants.

My personal romance with the rails and with Joplin's Union Depot is intertwined with a summer romance that was conducted in the hot months of 1965 when I was 18 years old. After I moved with my family from Joplin to Kansas City and then later to St. Paul, MN, the train was the vehicle that connected me to Joplin and to my friends who lived there.

I'd board with a good book and my father's admonition to the conductor to "watch over her." I loved seeing the countryside float by the window and relished the easy, relaxed way to traverse the distance. The portion of the trip from Kansas City to Joplin, on the Kansas City Southern line, provided plenty of time to take the rollers out of my hair, apply make-up (a real art with the lurch of the train) and arrive in Joplin to be picked up at the station by my "first love".

The summer passed quickly for us with a flurry of dates to the Tri-State Drive-in, trips up and down Main Street, afternoons at Grand Lake and ended with a teary good bye on the platform of the train station. Convinced that our youth and the distance that separated us were insurmountable odds, I boarded the train, without him, to begin my life. He headed to Vietnam, which, fortunately, did not end his.

Train stations, like airports today, played out the drama of life. Joplin's Union Depot, on the National Register of Historic Places, is a link to our past. The question is whether a city wants to have a past. Too many of Joplin's historically significant buildings are gone. Let's keep and restore this one. All aboard?

**Wanna read more about the old home town? Feel free to browse Joplin at the following website:**

<http://www.historicjoplin.org/>

**COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE!!!**

This is our fourth edition of the class newsletter and hopefully you enjoy the website as well as the newsletter. We need your ideas, comments, bios, old pictures, etc. Feel free to share information on what's going on in your world. Nothing shared has to be personal, we think it would be of interest to many to just share how and why you got from Joplin, MO to where you are now, or why you never ventured far from home. Think about it, we are starving for bios, pictures and information for the newsletter.

*Our rally hats continue to tip to the following classmates for their monetary as well as their content support and positive comments about the website and newsletter. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts:*

**Carol Corbin Buck, Connie Culton Cox, Stephanie White Everitt, Jeanne Lewis Owen, Janice Thornberry Mathews, Dave Knisley, Phyllis Payne Sapp and Jeanne Looper Smith, Jim Christiansen, Marvin Gray, Suzanne Gillmore Smith, Donna Drake Helton, Greg Moore & Beverly Horton Moore, Janet Hale Tabin, Kathryn Patterson Barnes, Charlene Veteto Jones, Sharon Harrison Downs, John Keeling & Dean Papp...**

*The older we get,  
The fewer things  
Seem worth waiting in line for.*



**Connie Culton Cox & Donna Drake Helton**

**Girls Will Be Girls**

This past fall, Donna Drake Helton took a day trip from her home in Bolivar, MO to Joplin and hooked up with a few classmates over lunch and or dinner. One such classmate was Connie Culton Cox. Here is a perfect example of why one can't let a couple of girls run loose in Cracker Barrel. We haven't heard if they are allowed back in the place.

national day for volunteer service. If you've ever volunteered, I'm sure you'll agree that one receives more from the experience than we give. Now that retirement is here or close for most of us, it's a great opportunity to share life's experiences and talents with others. To find local ways to get involved, check out [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org), or touch base with your local schools, churches, and community organizations. There are so many ways just waiting for the Class of '64 to make a difference.

We'd like to share with the newsletter readers other types of volunteer work our classmates enjoy. Please e-mail us anything you're involved in . . . it just might give ideas to others who are considering entering the volunteer world. ∞



**Stephanie Everitt has her work cut out for her Thursday as she scoops out individual portions of cranberry sauce at First Community Church in Joplin. The church will serve its traditional Christmas Day meal from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the fellowship hall.**

December 23, 2010

Tradition of Christmas Day meals continues.

By Sarah Guinn [news@joplinglobe.com](mailto:news@joplinglobe.com) The Joplin Globe  
Thu Dec 23, 2010, 10:31 PM CST

JOPLIN, Mo. — Familiar Christmas Day meals are already in the making at area churches and relief organizations. The tables at First Community Church, 2007 E. 15th St. in Joplin, will be filled for its 36th annual Christmas dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The church's fellowship hall has been decked out with red and green tables, and garland is meticulously strung from the center of the room. The church expects to welcome 800 for the meal.

Church members David Mason and Jim Everitt said the dinner is a holistic church effort that begins shortly after Thanksgiving.

"We do a lot of things throughout the year," Mason said. "But this is the biggest thing that we do."

Both said the men of the church handle the kitchen, while the women help with decorations.

Marianne Edwards, a church member who has participated in the community dinner since it began, estimated that it takes 75 volunteers to make the meal a success.

Mason, when asked why he will choose to serve on Christmas Day, said, "My (parents) passed away in 2000, and I've replaced this with what I used to do."

Any food that is left over from the dinner is donated to Souls Harbor, Edwards said.

Another area church plans to start a Christmas dinner tradition. The Presbyterian Church at Sixth and Pine streets in Pittsburg, Kan., plans to feed 300 at its first community Christmas dinner.

(Continued on next page)

K.O. Noonoo, the pastor, said the dinner is aimed at ensuring that "no one needs to be alone on Christmas."

### A New Tradition

Another area church plans to start a Christmas dinner tradition. The Presbyterian Church at Sixth and Pine streets in Pittsburg, Kan., plans to feed 300 at its first community Christmas dinner. K.O. Noonoo, the pastor, said the dinner is aimed at ensuring that "no one needs to be alone on Christmas."

Food will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Noonoo said the church began serving meals on Christmas two years ago to Meals on Wheels recipients.

"Those clients called us, and so we put a meal together privately and quietly, and delivered to those people," he said.

The next year, a Christmas dinner was served for church members who weren't traveling.

"We tested it out to see if this was something we could grow into," Noonoo said, referring to the past two years.

When asked how many volunteers were needed for the holiday meal, Noonoo said he couldn't pinpoint an estimate, but he said the planning was a "community affair." He said the church asked for help from other area churches and residents, and they were supportive.

He said the church also will offer home delivery and carryout for those who are in need of a Christmas meal.

### Other meals

Souls Harbor, 915 S. Main St. in Joplin, will put on its Christmas brunch from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday.

Joan Lewis, Souls Harbor director, said the shelter expects to serve about 75 people, and it welcomes anyone in need or who otherwise would be alone on Christmas.

The Salvation Army in Joplin plans a Christmas dinner for noon to 2 p.m. at its headquarters at 320 E. Eighth St.

The shelter expects to serve about 250, about the same as last year, according to volunteer Leslie Grissom.

She said area schools were a driving factor to ensure that the shelter would have enough food to feed its Christmas guests.

The Carthage Crisis Center at 100 S. Main St. will welcome residents from noon to 2 p.m., said Pam Boswell, a volunteer.

### Economic Impact

Edwards, with First Community Church in Joplin, said the church expects to welcome more area residents to this year's Christmas dinner because of the economy.

But, she said, "Our main thrust is not necessarily numbers, but to serve the people that need to be with people (on Christmas)."

The Crisis Center and Salvation Army reported an increase in donations to help the centers serve people for the holiday season.

"There has been a greater need (at the Crisis Center), and we are expecting (to serve) more people," Boswell said.

Grissom said the Salvation Army has received more donations this year.

"We're seeing new faces come through," she said. "A lot of people are having a hard time making their dollars stretch."

Everitt, when asked why he gives up his Christmas Day to volunteer at the First Community Church dinner, smiled and said: "I think we all find it very rewarding. It makes us feel good to support our church and our community." ∞

## Greenwood King and Queen Elected at Carnival



Deloris Martin and Jimmy Tharp were crowned king and queen Friday at the Greenwood school carnival as shown above. Seated is Mrs. Rose Whicker, pianist for the program. Standing are Michael Knisley and Donna Hunt, king and queen candidates from the primary room; Earl Severs and Sally Cogbill, candidates from the middle grades; Quinten Platner, announcer; Vernon Enlow,

crown bearer; Jimmy Tharp and Deloris Martin, king and queen, from the upper grades, and Ross Smith, crown bearer. Flower girls, seated from left to right: Dair Woods, Charlotte Joyce, Victoria Anderson, Neva Beeler, Linda Green and June Sills. Donald Lemon is school principal and teachers are Mrs. Whicker and Mrs. Mary Ann Kinion.

Being raised for a spell south of Joplin, in the Greenwood community, which is part of Loma Linda now and stretches a few miles north of I-44, was a joy to young boys & girls. Several of the classmates came to Joplin schools, as others went to Seneca. The far left boy is my brother Mike Knisley and the far right boy and crown bearer is the infamous Ross Smith.

*Thanks to so many of you who sent cards, email and Facebook get well wishes my way. They were spirit lifters after my surgery and during my ongoing recovery. I am delighted to report that I have moved from soup to more substantial fare--my surgeon told me that I was to tackle red meat before I see him again at the end of the month. (How's that for a prescription--"Eat a steak and call me in the morning.")*

*Again, I appreciate your thoughtfulness so much.*

***Jeanne Looper Smith***

**\*\*\*Remembrances\*\*\***

**This is the first quarter since starting the quarterly class newsletter that we have nothing to enter in the way of classmates and or teachers passing. Hopefully we can keep it this way for some time to come. Remember, the website does contain a direct link to the Joplin Globe where one may stay on top of what's going on in our hometown. <http://www.joplinglobe.com/>**