



# "JHS Class of '64"

Issue 5

Class Newsletter May 15, 2011

Joplin Eagles

## Classmates, Our 5th Edition is Here

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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 or past issues.

It's said that April showers bring May flowers—maybe so, maybe not. But no matter what the rain produces, one thing is certain—we're on our way to the promise of sunny summer days and sultry summer nights.

Reminiscing about summertime in Joplin always generates memories of how we filled summer nights so long ago. For Boomers, the Tri-State, The Crest and The 66 Drive-ins are fixtures in the faded fabric of growing up in

Joplin.

In our early years, we headed to the drive-in with our families, where we sweltered in lawn chairs, swatted mosquitoes and spent intermission on the swings and slides.

As teenagers in Joplin, the drive-in was, after the Main Street cruise, the only dating game in town. As predominate as the drive-in is in our dating DNA, it's difficult to believe that subsequent generations of teens will have only multi-plex

movie memories.

Drive-ins, with a few exceptions, have gone the way of the dinosaur, but the memories of those summer nights—whether with family or with boy-friends and girl-friends—remain as bright as the images projected on those oversized, outdoor movie screens. ∞

The following column about a family outing at the Tri-State Drive In appeared in the July 20, 2007 edition of The Joplin Globe.

By: Jeanne Looper Smith

### Drive-in Story Now in Reruns

"A good film is when the price of the dinner, the theatre admission and the babysitter were worth it" -

Alfred Hitchcock

Alfred Hitchcock obviously hadn't been to one of Joplin's drive-in theaters when he made that statement. At the drive-

in, there was no need to hire a baby sitter—the kids came along. The dollar-a-carload admittance seemed more than fair, and concession-stand food made dinner a gastro-economical, if not gourmet, experience. Whether the film was good was kind of be-

side the point.

Husbands and wives with babies could enjoy a movie without fear of disrupting an entire theater, and teenagers found drive-ins ideal for dates (with the greater privacy afforded them there giving way to their reputation as "passion pits"). Often, families

showed up quite a while before the start of the movie, which couldn't be seen until dusk anyway, to let the kids have the run of the playground.

Now that many of the drive-ins still standing

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## Jeanne Lewis Owen - Bio

"Jeanne Lewis Wells Owen (one of the 3 Jeanne L's from East Junior High!)"



64! What a significant number in many of our lives right now! Isn't it strange how we are celebrating the golden anniversary of special events in "history" and seeing our teen idols either get very old or pass away on almost a daily basis?

After graduation, I got my Associate Degree from Jasper County Junior College, got married, got divorced, started working at Eagle-Picher and got my Bachelor in Education Degree from Missouri Southern. I taught fifth grade for 11 years at Irving Elementary in Joplin and earned my Master's from Southwest Missouri State University.

My second husband, Don, was from Columbus, Kansas. We met at Eagle-Picher and have been together now for 38 years. To our surprise, in 1983 his job transferred us to the Jacksonville, Florida area where we have lived since. Don, being a golfer, loved it here and never looked back. We moved into a condominium on a golf course (now closed) and played lots of golf. He even attempted to qualify for the Senior PGA Tour and

retired at age 45!

He had two sons who are now in Tampa and California. We have 3 grandchildren; one in the Air Force stationed in Nebraska, one in KC, and one in Tampa. We also have 2 great-grandchildren in Omaha.

I continued to teach remedial reading and remedial math in 3 more elementary schools and was selected Teacher of the Year at 2 of them. The last 10 years I was a computer/technology instructor and I retired 4 years ago.

Retirement has agreed with me! I have taken up quilting as a hobby and really enjoy selecting fabrics, cutting them apart, and putting them back together again in new ways. I continue to substitute teach some, am a mentor to 5 beginning teachers, and also mentor 6 teachers in the Florida Virtual School which is all online learning. I also give private computer lessons to some more technically challenged friends.

We enjoy watching golf, cheering for the Jacksonville Jaguars,

and are NASCAR fans. I volunteer as a financial secretary (money counter!) at my church and am currently the president of our community homeowners' association. We like to travel within the U.S. and had a fabulous trip to Alaska last year. We only have 4 more to make all 50.

My parents have both passed as has one sister. My older sister lives in Branson and my younger sister lives down here near me. We still have family and friends in the tri-state area and come back occasionally.

Life and health have been good to me. I look forward to returning to Joplin for our upcoming reunion and seeing many of you at that time. 8-)

Jeanne Lewis Wells Owen (one of the 3 Jeanne L's from East Junior High!) ∞

### Questions:

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

And why do "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?



## Sharyl Reece Barwick - Bio

First National Bank of Little Rock became my next workplace. I'd like to say I earned my position as Secretary to the Chairman of the Board because of my education, experience, and my winning personality.



Recently, a friend asked me if I had a "bucket list". I said that I didn't. However after thinking about her question, and analyzing the subject to death, as in my nature, I realized that I'm living my "bucket list". As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a wife, a mother, and to help people.

After high school, I went on to Jasper County Junior College. There I took the Social Work curriculum. (They don't call it that any longer.) After my first year of college I married my high school sweetheart, Chuck. Not a '64 grad, but an upper-classman. I finished my Associates Degree and went to work as a Social Worker with the Jasper County Department of Family Services. Since Joplin didn't have a four year college at the time, like many young married couples, going out of state to college was not a possibility...

In 1967 I gave birth to a daughter, and in 1971 I had a son. I stopped working after my first child was born, and didn't return to work until both children were in school. I was fortunate to be able to stay at home while the kids were little. But by the time our son was four, I thought my brain was turning to mush.

Jasper County Jr. College had become MO Southern State College, and a four year facility. I returned to school and also landed a job with the R-VII school district. I would never have dreamed that the 6th grade teacher, who discovered I was a non-reader, would not only teach me to read, but would eventually hire me to work in a remedial reading classroom. Strange, but true. The man was an amazing teacher and an amazing principal and employer.

A job opportunity for my husband made it necessary for us to leave the Joplin area and move to Little Rock, AR. There I again found a position in education. I worked as a Vocational Educator in a Little Rock high school. In addition to being away from Joplin's small town atmosphere, I worked in a school that was 90% black. That included students and staff. It was my first experience being in a minority. I am sure that I learned more than my students while I worked there. This was the "south". The students and teachers told me stories of being unable to use the "whites only" water fountains and public toilets. And even in

the 1980's there was a great deal of discrimination in the south. They related "mouth dropping stories" of discrimination. When it appeared that funding for the vocational Evaluation Programs was in jeopardy, I began looking for another job opportunity.

First National Bank of Little Rock became my next workplace. I'd like to say I earned my position as Secretary to the Chairman of the Board because of my education, experience, and my winning personality. In reality, I was hired because I knew how to lay a hat down properly. When the elderly Chairman of the Board met me, he handed me his hat. (He wore a Fedora every day.) I put it on the counter crown down and brim up. That sealed the deal. I was hired. One never knows what tidbit of information can make or break a job deal. Again I was in a position to learn a great deal. As board secretary, I met a number of interesting people.

One of our board members was Governor elect, Bill Clinton. After meeting him, I was asked to apply to be administrative assistant to Mr. Clinton,

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Your Bio is Needed, Please Help Us Out

**ATTENTION!!!**



*We are down to two bio's 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, Johnie Coats, Mary Sue Cox (Riley), Merlene Garrison (Burris), Don Hall, 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.

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. **If anyone has e-mail addresses for Peggy Long Phifer & Larry Horine (Sue Trimble) - please share, as what we had is no longer valid.**

are relegated to "swap-shop" skeletons of their glory days, it's hard to remember when they spread faster than "The Blob" and numbered in the thousands. Their peak popularity came in the 1950s and early '60s when there were nearly 5,000 across the landscape. Joplin had more than one, and Webb City and Carthage provided overflow. In contrast, during the decade between 1948 and 1958, 5,000 indoor movie theaters closed.

One of the largest drive-ins in the country was the All-Weather Drive-In in Copiague, NY, with parking spaces for 2,500 cars. It even had a 1,200-seat indoor viewing area with heat and air-conditioning, a playground, a cafeteria and a full-service restaurant. And there was a shuttle train that took customers from their cars to the various areas on 28 acres.

If only Joplin's Tri-State Drive-In had had a shuttle, my dad might not have gotten lost one memorable night in the maze of tail fins and speakers while making his way back from the concession stand.

Cartoonish commercial trailers during intermission aimed at sparking hunger pangs to increase concession sales (and sometimes to let the windows de-fog!). And theaters using them gained increased sales between films.

During one of these intermission interludes between "No Time for Sergeants" with Andy Griffith and a now-forgotten second feature, the pull of the dancing hot dogs on the screen beckoned my dad to the concession stand.

He never came back. No, I'm not kidding, he never came back.

My mother, brothers and sister and I waited patiently for him---and the promise of hamburgers served up in cardboard boxes and fries with the potential to leave great grease marks on the upholstery of our '56 Plymouth, if not for the plastic slipcovers standing guard!

But Dad never reappeared and, obviously, the food didn't arrive, either. The intermission was over and the second feature began. A sense of panic set in for all of us. Had a car hit him and left him lying facedown in the gravel between the rows? Had aliens abducted him? (This thought was big in the 1950s.)

My mother drove the rows of cars looking for any sign of him. He was a big man and, I assure you, he would have been hard to lose. He wasn't lurking around the concession stand or in the men's room and at this point he had been gone for more than an hour. It seems to me that there was talk of calling the police and I think this may have taken place.

There was nothing left to do now but drive home and wait. No second feature, no hamburgers and no Dad. It was one of those "If he isn't dead, I'll kill him" moments for my mother. (Actually, there were quite a few of those moments during the course of their marriage!)

We arrived at home to find Dad piled up in bed, in his underwear, reading. He had bought the hamburgers in cardboard boxes and the fries and the large drinks all right but had lost his way back to the car. After walking the entire lot and not spotting us, he tossed the food, which was now lying in the gravel between the rows of cars as we earlier feared he had been. He simply called a taxi from the concession stand and went home.

And even though we never ate a bite or saw the second feature, the experience that we retold year after year at every family gathering was worth more than the price of admission.

By the way, you can re-create the 1950s drive-in experience at the 66 Drive-In Theatre in Carthage, MO which has been beautifully restored and is fully operational. If you go and you see my dad wandering the rows, call me.

should he win the upcoming election. He did....and I didn't. I figured I had more job security in my present position.

I loved Little Rock, the big city atmosphere, and my job, but my family was not happy there, and we all missed the area we called home. We moved back to Joplin in 1985. Another career change was in line for me. I went to work for classmate Bill Cook in his or-

thodontic office. I've worked in dental offices from then on, even as we moved around. Now I work for a dentist in Bentonville, AR. This is my twelfth year with him, and twenty plus years in dentistry. Travel and vacation time is not an issue. I'm allowed to take time off most any time. The dentist is my age, so I suppose as long as he works, I will work with him. I work both

front office and chair side. That keeps things from being boring. We live in MO, just six miles north of the AR line, in McDonald County. No, I'm not married to my brother. (You're supposed to laugh here.) However, we met when I was only fourteen, so I don't remember much of life before he was part of it. ∞

### Why Wait ?

That's exactly the question classmate Mike Chapman and his wife Twyla have asked and answered. Always one for great adventures, Mike has long been known for his interest in boating. Since Mike and Twyla married in 1999, they've spent years working during the week and enjoying weekends at the lake.

Deciding they'd like to create a major sailing adventure, they're preparing to do so and have just this month leased their Joplin home, held an auction to sell their material possessions, purchased a boat in New York and are now in Virginia preparing to begin their year long excursion in mid-May. Exciting!

In talking with Twyla, she invited us to check into their website and enjoy the trip with them as they head NORTH to do the Great Loop. The only problem I see with that is many of us will wish we could take off and join them!

You can read the history on the site of acquiring the Nauti Nell, Mike's experience in sailing her toward Florida but stopping 30 miles north of Norfolk, Virginia due to weather preventing him from going on to Florida at the time, and their current fun as they anticipate beginning the excursion.

Suggest you go to the site and back to December archives so you can get the first hand scenario from Capt. Chappy, formerly known to us as Mike.

We'll keep you posted in the quarterly newsletters and hope you'll check in on your own for the complete narratives Admiral C (Twyla) will be writing.

From all of us to you, Mike and Twyla, we send our very best. Enjoy! . . . and be home in time to join us for the 50th reunion in 2014!

We will publish Mike & Twyla's URL that will take you to their website in the next edition.

A few of the '64 classmates who live in the Kansas City area had another soiree to kick off spring in the city. It's always a nice time for all and we were blessed to have Connie Culton Cox and Sharon Peters Arnold drive up from Joplin to join us. We have over 25 classmates that live in the surrounding area and have high hopes on this little quarterly get together growing. All will always be welcome.



L-R Jan Martin Hagan & Bill Hagan, Sharon Peters Arnold, Connie Culton Cox & Harry Reeves. (Pictures continue on page 8)

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

It has been reported to the editorial staff of the class newsletter that Lisa's cancer has gone into remission and she is improving daily. For some reason, we feel a higher power was involved in this, but we would also like to pay homage to the medical staff that helped Lisa with her fight for life and to the comforting I'm sure they gave to Dave & Billie. May God Bless!!!!

Below are a few comments from fellow classmates about Lisa's progress that was posted last quarter:

**Thanks for sending along such a faith encouraging message. It is good to know that God knows...and He cares...and He hears...and He acts! I will pass this along to the men in my prison for they have prayed. Reverend Wayne Hampton**

**WOW ! MIRACLES DO HAPPEN. PRAISE GOD. --THANK YOU FOR THE UPDATE.-- HEDY BARKLEY**

**Great to hear! Reverend Monty Gavin**

**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).**



Clark & Suzanne Gilmore Smith



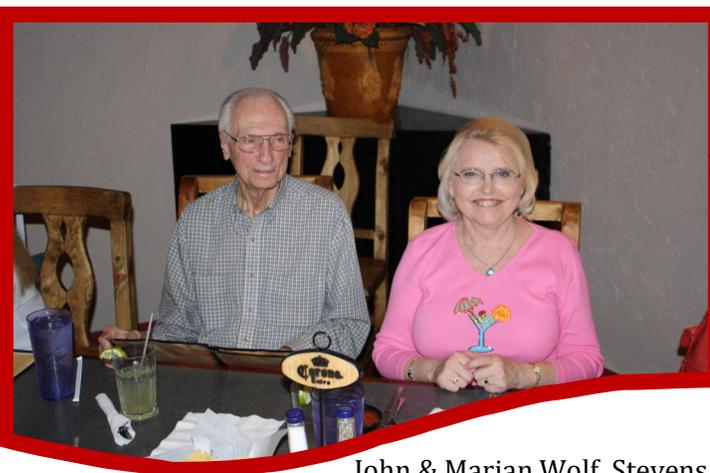
L-R Connie Culton Cox, Ross Smith, Harry Reeves & Clark Smith



L-R Sharon Peters Arnold, Jeanne Looper Smith & Connie Culton Cox.



Jan Martin Hagan & Bill Hagan



John & Marian Wolf Stevens



Sharon & Connie

**COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE!!!**

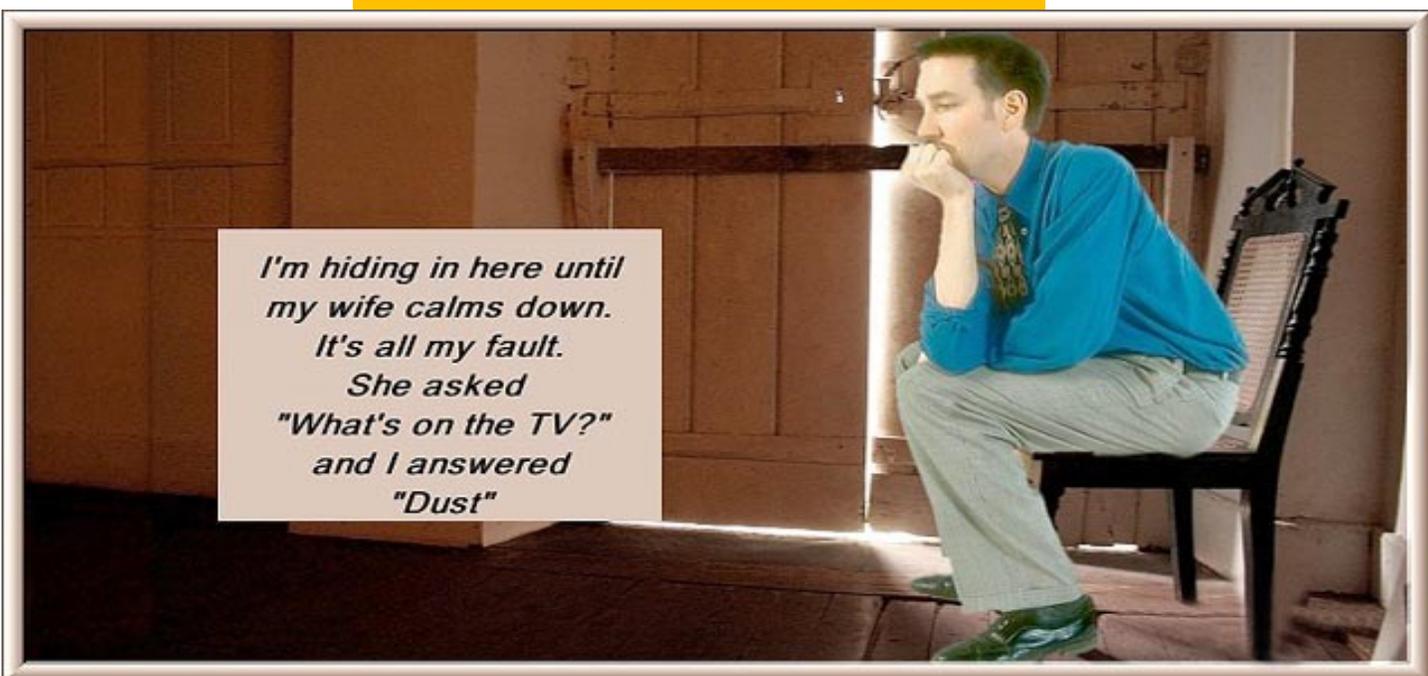
This is our fifth edition of the class newsletter and hopefully you enjoy the website as well as the newsletter. We need your ideas, comments, bios, old pictures, etc. Please feel free to share information on what's going on in your world. Your bio does NOT have to be of a personal nature, we think it would be of interest to many to just share how and why or how 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.

We thank the following classmates for their monetary or 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. We are still accepting donations, along with pictures & suggestions.

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

*I'm hiding in here until  
my wife calms down.  
It's all my fault.  
She asked  
"What's on the TV?"  
and I answered  
"Dust"*



### The Older Crowd

A distraught senior citizen Phoned her doctor's office.  
'Is it true,' she wanted to know,  
    'that the medication  
You prescribed has to be taken  
    For the rest of my life?'  
'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her.  
    There was a moment of silence  
    Before the senior lady replied,  
        I'm wondering, then,  
    Just how serious is my condition  
Because this prescription is marked  
    'NO REFILLS'!

### When Insults Had Class

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

**The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison."  
He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."**

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**"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill**

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**"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).**

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**"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain**

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**"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West**

## Trolley routes expanded to serve residents throughout Joplin

Getting around Joplin has been made easier with the City's recent introduction of two new routes of the Sunshine Lamp Trolley. The original route traveled in the northeast part of Joplin was expanded to eighteen stops, and the new routes provide thirty-four stops covering the southern and western portions of Joplin. A new fare structure has also been introduced this year. Trolley rides continue to cost one dollar, but the City now offers a half-fare program to those who qualify, including riders who are 60 years of age or older; disabled; or receive Medicare. A monthly Trolley Pass is also available for \$30 and allows unlimited rides during a calendar month. For those who qualify for the half-fare program, the pass will cost \$15. A deviated route service that is available for anyone living within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of a Trolley Route has also been established. The service allows riders to schedule a ride on the closest colored Trolley Route with as little as one hour's advance notice. Deviated route service costs \$2 per ride. To schedule a deviated stop, riders should call 626-8609. Two 14-seat transportation vans will provide service on the new routes. Both are equipped for wheelchairs. The vehicles, although smaller in size for better maneuverability, have been fashioned to resemble the current Trolley's historical look. A complete listing of guidelines and a map of the Trolley routes are available on the City of Joplin website, [www.joplinmo.org](http://www.joplinmo.org) with the keyword: Sunshine Lamp Trolley, or you can request a brochure by calling 626-8609, or 624-0820, ext. 204. (Information was supplied by The Current). <http://www.thecurrentetc.com/index.php>



### \*\*\*Remembrances\*\*\*

It is with deep regret that we mourn the passing of classmate Greg Scheurich on March 5, 2011. The class e-mail site received the following e-mail from Greg's wife Harriet:

I just thought you all would want to know - we lost Greg on Saturday. Had heart surgery, but it was too much. <http://obit.rindt-erdman.com/obitdisplay.html?id=901612>