



Joplin Eagles

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"JHS Class of '64"

Issue 17

Class Newsletter April 30, 2014

Welcome To Our 17th Edition

"News From Joplin"

After more than four years of writing intros for the JHS Class of '64 newsletter, I'm about out of clever lead-ins to introduce the Spring edition. There are only so many ways to say that "April showers bring May flowers" and "Spring has sprung." So forgive me if I just cut to the chase.

Here's what I can say—I'm so jazzed that our 50th reunion is just weeks away, and with it, the opportunity to connect and renew relationships—and maybe create some new ones.

Relationships are important to me—that's not changed since high school. Letting someone know that they've made a difference for me is a priority.

My most recent Joplin Globe column, which follows on page 2, gives voice to the importance of saying what we need to say and highlights one of our classmates who did just that.

Did I say that I can't wait to see you!

Jeanne Looper Smith

"North Jr. High Alumni "

Since North Jr. (now Joplin North Middle School) is the only one of the three original junior high buildings remaining, I invite those who attended and anyone else who would like to join us Saturday, June 21st at 1:00 for a tour.

Having chaired the Historical Renovation Committee, I'm proud of the district's invitation to share North's history and build around the existing site as we knew. Many of our classmates contributed to the \$25,000 we raised for special projects in 2010. If you're in town, I hope you'll join us as we walk through the halls we knew, view the historical chandeliers from the 1931 construction, and see the new double gym, modern music rooms, and state of the art auditorium. I believe you will find the large, custom designed mural in the commons area to be of interest as it depicts the activities going on within the building. Funny thing . . . with the addition of computers, those activities are the ones we knew during our years there.

If interested, please e-mail, so I'll know how many we'll have. Looking forward to hosting and reminiscing about our days at North Jr.

Phyllis Payne Sapp (jpsapp@cablone.net)

In today’s world of Facebook and Twitter it may appear, on the surface, that people are having no trouble saying what they need to say—and then some—when they use social media to report their every move and random thought.

Although these sites have provided us with unique opportunities to connect with those from our past—a feat that would have required the services of a private detective a number of years ago—they now allow us to constantly update our “friends” with news of our lives.

However, some postings on Facebook take the form of yearlong Christmas letters with glossy reports of perfect children and grandchildren, tropical vacations and tributes to spouses and partners that often are so intimate I feel that I’ve stumbled into the middle of their bedrooms. And, Twitter can resemble a verbal GPS as celebrities and others report where they’re eating lunch and buying shoes.

This “over sharing” of information doesn’t really touch on what I think John Mayer had in mind when he wrote those song lyrics.

How often do we quietly, and personally, take the time to tell people, those closest to us and even those whom we’ve never met, that they’ve made a real difference in our lives?

Phyllis Payne Sapp, a close friend and classmate of mine from our Joplin High School class of 1964, has never met late-night talk show host Jay Leno. But she nonetheless feels that he’s been a pivotal figure in the daily fabric of her life. After the ending of his 22 year run on NBC, she was left with a void in her routine—and in her heart.

So she sat down and composed a letter that she mailed to Mr. Leno. In it Phyllis revealed what a difference he had made to her widowed mother and to her.

A portion of her letter to Jay Leno follows:

....“My elderly mother never missed a show (except when taking a couple of family cruises) during the years after my dad’s passing. You made her day during the seventeen years she lived as a widow. She looked forward to tuning in and having something to look forward to as the sun set and the night approached. Thank you for being there for her and the many others in her generation. I can recall her setting an alarm if she’d had a busy day and might doze off before the show began!

In reflection and knowing your last show was approaching, I personally realized how you’d also been there for me and my late husband. When we made dozens of trips to Houston for his cancer treatment, your show would give us a peaceful break as we spent weeks in medical center hotels or the hospital. We could laugh and escape reality and enjoy your quick wit and gracious hospitality with your guests. You brought out the best in people, and we felt you an exceptional and sincere mentor for so many. Those four years of medical challenges and the next seven after his passing found me thankful I could tune in and know I would find solace in my day. Thank you for the laughs, the smiles the next day when I’d remembered a joke appropriate to share with my middle school students, the company of having a program that entered my home when it was tough to end a day without feeling lonely....and most importantly, the safety net of knowing I could tune in again the next night.....”

Phyllis never expected that her letter would get past the gauntlet of front line assistants and actually reach Jay Leno—but she felt that she had something she needed to say.

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It was important to tell him what a difference he had made in her life—and it was important for her to say it, even if he might never read it personally.

Several nights after sending the letter, she was relaxing with her family in her Joplin home when the telephone rang.

Caller: "Is this Phyllis?"

Phyllis: "Yes"

Caller: "Phyllis, this is Jay Leno."

Phyllis: "Jay Leno?"

Jay Leno: "Yes, I want to thank you for the letter you sent. It was very kind of you."

Phyllis: "How do I know this is really you?"

Mr. Leno started reading the first paragraph of her letter aloud and then said, "It means a lot to me and I wanted you to know I have it and how much I appreciate it."

There was a bit more conversation before the phone call ended, but not before Jay Leno told Phyllis that her letter had made a difference for him.

With today's technology—and all the ways Jay Leno might have communicated that to her—it wasn't something to tweet or post on Facebook, but something he needed to say. 📧

Jeanne Looper Smith

Jeanne Looper Smith grew up in Joplin but now lives in Kansas City. You may communicate with her at wistfulwordsmith@gmail.com

To quote Joan Rivers, "Can we talk?"

In mid March a few of your class reunion committee members met at Phyllis Payne Sapp's home and put together the mailing of the information & registration sheet with a self addressed stamped envelope and mailed out to 400+ classmates that we had a mailing address for. As of today, April 28th, we still have 241 classmates that have not returned their registration sheet for whatever reason. One reason may possibly be that we had the wrong address for you and you never received the envelope, and possibly it was never returned to us by the USPS folks, as we've had that happen. Or it possibly got put aside and one still has plans to sending it back. We have right at 160 registrations sheets that have been returned and we thank those of you for doing that.

I come to you today asking if you have received yours and have not filled out the information we asked for, to do so today. Even if one is not planning on attending, your information is most important to us in keeping up all contact information for the class directory. Also, if one wishes to be removed from our list of emailing's, just let us know that and we respect your wish, as we've had a few do just that and we thank them for the reply. By returning the registration sheet it will let us know that you received the information and you're not in limbo as we might be thinking.

If you have not received the registration sheet just contact us with your address and we can resend via snail mail or we can electronically send it to you. Please take the time today, and we thank you.

joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com

"The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things: Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax-- of cabbages and kings"--

Our big event is 6 weeks away and will be upon us before we know it. Because of the generosity of several classmates donating their time, money and ideas, we have been able to keep our two day event to \$35 a person and we challenge anyone to top that price and have what we have to offer classmates. Our Meet & Greet will be on Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and a cash bar will be available for the liquid refreshment of your choice. We will also have the gamut of Holiday Inn's appetizer offerings, a slide show featuring pictures that have been sent to us for the event and some that haven't been sent, but were obtained, possibly by scrupulous means. We will offer all those attending a free DVD of the slide show for one to enjoy at their leisure.

On Saturday morning several will tee-off at the Schifferdecker Golf Course beginning at 8:00 a.m. and then at 9:30 a.m., some of us will begin decorating the banquet room for the big evening event. Early afternoon the band will set up and the doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for a 45 minute or so mini Meet & Greet for those that may not have made the Friday event. Name tags for classmates and guests will be available at our registration desk at both the Friday & Saturday events. Just make sure if you get your name tag on Friday, you will need to wear it at the Saturday night dinner. Our Saturday evening will consist of a raffle drawing as well as a few surprises that are in store. Larry Don Williams and the band will be the highlight of the evening and we also hear that he has some audience participation surprises for us to look forward to, as well as enjoying the musical entertainment of the evening and grabbing a dance or three.

As you may or may not know, we have secured a \$75 room rate at the Holiday Inn and that includes their hot buffet breakfast every morning. You may place your reservation by calling Holiday Inn at 417-782-1000, punch 0 for the operator and make your reservation by using the code of **"Joplin Class 1964"** or **"JCR"** for the night or nights you care to stay. You cannot do this online, it must be done in person or on the phone.

With the event 6 weeks away, I come to you with this request. We still have a few classmates that have offered to help out financially and here is why we need you to help out now. Soon we need to present the Holiday Inn with a check to cover the Friday Meet & Greet as well as covering the equipment rentals that we need to make both our evenings one to remember. And since Holiday Inn has my credit card information, I come to you with this update: We need to pay the band and cover the room and meals for our DVD production guru, since all attending classmates will receive a free DVD of the entire event, as will those that paid for and requested a DVD on the registration sheet, but are unable to attend. So we ask those classmates that offered to donate to sit down today and forward to our class treasurer any amount you can so we will know what additional monies we might have to come up with to fulfill our plan for this two day event. With the rentals, the band, the decorations and the colorful class directory, we humbly ask for your help. Thank you so much as your thoughtfulness is ever so much appreciated. DK

Just make a check out to JHS Class of 64 and please send to:

Stephanie White Everitt
2821 Wisconsin
Joplin, MO 64804

In this section we would like to update you and to answer any questions that you may have. Your class reunion committee consists Connie Culton Cox, Jeanne Lind McAferty, Sharon Peters Arnold, Phyllis Payne Sapp, Carol Corbin Buck, Jeanne Lopper Smith, Ross Smith, Jim Christiansen & Dave Kinsley. We have been known to consult with classmates Sherri Campbell Orender, Janet Hale Tabin, Mike Shipley, Jeanne Lewis Owen & Marvin Gray. Some have asked about the Saturday night buffet, so I will bring you up to date with that. We will have a three meat entrée consisting of baked Tilapia with Lemon Thyme, Chicken Tarragon & Prime Rib. Also Rosemary Oven Browned New Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Tossed Green Salad & Fresh Seasonal Fruit Salad. We will also pick from assorted cakes & pies, dinner rolls, coffee, hot tea, & iced tea.

At the Meet & Greet we will have the luxury of nibbling on Veggie Spring Rolls, Mini Quiche, Swedish Meatballs, Assorted Pin Wheels, Chicken Cordon Bleu Pinwheels, Boneless Roasted Turkey Breast Carving Station and a cash bar for the refreshment pleasure of your choice.

For all those staying at the Inn there will be a free hot buffet breakfast every morning and we will also have a private room for our farewell Sunday Buffet, free to all those staying at the Inn on Saturday night and for those not staying but wanting to attend the cost will be \$9.

Jeanne Lopper Smith also adds this about some classmates questions on attire. We've had some inquiries about dress code for the reunion. If you show up, whatever you show up in is just fine. Friday night's Meet and Greet is definitely casual and if you want to dress up a bit, Saturday night's dinner could be the time for that. But there's no right or wrong, it's up to you--dress up or dress down.

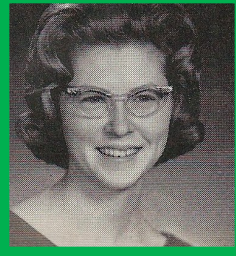
A reminder that name tags will be issued at both the Meet & Greet as well as the Saturday night banquet door opening at 6:00 p.m. and raffle tickets will be sold at each event. Just remember that if you get your name tag Friday, be sure to wear it to the Saturday night event.

That's about it, if you have any questions or concerns by all means feel free to contact us and we will do our best to answer or provide guidance to you as our event is only 6 weeks away. DK



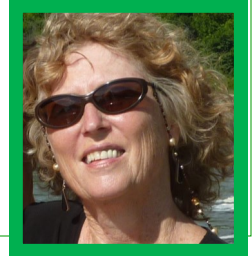
Help the Class Reunion Out & Own a Part of History

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



Pam Franks - Bio

"I have found a way to make a significant difference in lives in a place that has a desperate need"



When I was in my 20's I went to a women's conference at the church I was attending. During this conference we were being encouraged to fully give our lives over to Jesus. I resisted and resisted due to the fear that God would send me to Africa to be a missionary. Ugh! Please don't send me to Africa! Well, I gave in and told God I'd do whatever He needed me to do and thankfully He told me my mission field would be my neighborhood. I set about with what I felt He outlined for me and was a happy camper.

Fast forward to 2005 when I met a woman who had started a nonprofit called H.E.L.P. International (His Everlasting Love Prevails). For a few years I had been advocating for Compassion International engaging people to sponsor needy kids around the world. During this time I sponsored a boy from Uganda who had won my heart with his passion and desire to be all that he could be. By the time I met Jean Kaye I was wishing I could go to this young man's wedding. She promised me she would help me get to Uganda to meet him. Yes, by this time I am thinking about going to that dark continent. It is only 20 or 30 years later....

In 2008 my chance came to travel with a medical mission team (I am not medical in any sense of the word!) led by Jean to Kenya. After the team left, Jean took me on over to Uganda to meet my already married young man. I got to eat in his house, meet his young wife and find out she was expecting their first child. I felt like I was becoming a grandmother of an African! They actually named their second child after me. What an honor! But I am skipping ahead.



During that first visit I was introduced to a village in Uganda called Masese. It is a slum outside Jinja. Jinja is lovely for an African small town. It sits near Lake Victoria, where the mouth of the Nile begins its journey north. At that time there were a few white faces, but for the most part Jinja was a cultural site to see! Women with loads carried on their heads walking down the dirt streets, men riding "boda bodas" (motorbikes used as taxis), guards with rifles, colorful crafts, street kids and more. Masese was pretty opposite. It was dark and dirty with starvation rearing its ugly head everywhere we looked. Dirt, dilapidated buildings, alcohol brewing, huts made from mud bricks, smoke from cooking fires and generally unhealthy people as far as the eye could see, Desolation surrounded us. However, there were children!



Lots of them! Clamoring to touch us and hold our hands, scampering around us as we walked. I was enthralled with the children, but their circumstances changed my life forever! I came home and cried because my house, my cars are better than where those people are housed.

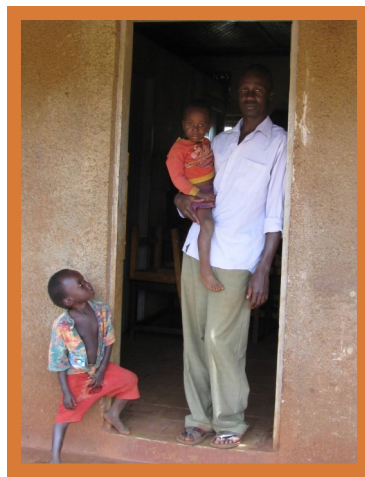
Jean had been approached by some young men to help them get some training to be better able to provide for their families. Helping others help themselves is a no brainer! We tried to start a vocational training school for them, but it never seemed to get off the ground.

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Once I reached home all I could talk about was Africa. My friends got sick of my passion as did my husband. He said he didn't sign up for having a missionary wife and that was my trip of a lifetime. I was not expecting to ever go again. Uh oh! Now I am begging God to let me go to Africa. You can see why I say God has a great sense of humor. I didn't see myself as a missionary, but I sure wanted to go back to this amazing land. This was a problem!

With some good council I decided to give up the next trip my friends were going on to Zambia. I needed to honor my husband. I had to learn to put him first and not be resentful. If this was God's plan for my life He was going to have to show my husband. I was pretty confident God had put this desire in my heart, but I was not so sure my husband would be open to God's leading at that point. Keeping the resentment down was hard, but I was determined.

One year later, 2009, Jean is returning to Kenya and Uganda. This was her first international trip after a bad fall earlier in that year. I tentatively asked my husband if I could go with her. God had softened his heart a bit as Jean's fall was a serious one and he thought she might need me to help her on this trip. I was elated, as you might imagine!



This trip proved to be more than just a trip to Africa. As we were sitting with the young men in Uganda that had requested our help for vocational training we were frustrated with the lack of movement on their part. They seemed no better off than when Jean first met them. Most still didn't have a job and the container of supplies she had sent was not being used for training. We asked them what did they need! What were their interests, skills, opportunities??? One man, named Ben, quietly spoke that he was a teacher. We about fell off our chairs! He didn't need training, he needed an opportunity! I quickly figured in my head what I was paying to sponsor a child through Compassion and for just a few dollars more I could pay a man to teach children and help him care for his family. I was all over that! There were many school age children running around that couldn't go to school because of their parents extreme poverty. Without

realizing just what we were getting into we started a school. With 50 kids who had never been to school, a box of paper and a few chairs from the container we had sent and a roof of a dilapidated pole barn, Ben started teaching. In 6 weeks he had 90 kids! When I asked him why he said that kids would come sit around the perimeter of the open air building (no walls) so they could listen and learn so he just invited them in. I loved his heart but knew he couldn't be very effective with that many kids so I asked him to find another teacher. Fortunately, I was able to find a sponsor for her like I was sponsoring Ben. God was faithful to provide both the teacher and the sponsor. Now what am I going to do with my husband? I am committed more than ever. I have found a way to make a significant difference in lives in a place that has a desperate need. He is questioning our marriage. Fortunately, I didn't know this.. Since he loved me he decided to make the trek to Uganda with me to see this school before he decided what to do about our marriage. By this time the school is at 150 kids! I cried when we drive into the compound and I heard children learning! Oh! My what a thrill! 150 students! We are changing lives through these teachers. They have become my heroes.



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I can't really explain what it is like to look into the faces of these children. As they look up at you with their distended bellies, runny noses, tattered clothes (if they have any clothes on at all), dirty and diseased you can see the face of Jesus in their eyes. We have become their hope. This is a heady thing and it is hard for the heart to reject. They are hungry and don't even have a latrine to use, but they are learning and they are grateful. I am undone! My husband is undone! Who are we that God should use us like this? Neither of us know what we are doing, but we become Jean's Uganda Directors. The path we travel is so different than what we expected....and so much better!



Our marriage is stronger than ever! The school will be at 500 students this year. We now have a 6 classroom building, a kitchen with a breakfast and lunch feeding program, 10 teachers and a headmaster, a social worker, a library and Project Director, business training, a jewelry market for the bead women, a playground. We need much more for that many students, but our hearts are thankful for what God has provided. We have a team here in the States that range from Long Island, New York to Colorado and Wyoming with talent and experience. We have a web site for the project www.help-uganda.com and a web store for the jewelry

www.biggerthanbeads.com and a Facebook page Help Uganda-Masese. We have had our lives enriched beyond measure. In a country where 50% of the population are age 15 and under we are impacting those that will lead the country!

We take teams twice a year. If anyone wants to join us, let us know, but don't forget that God has a sense of humor and your lives may be changed forever! 🙏





Jim Beeler—Bio



"When I got to Senior High I decided I wanted to go to Franklin Tech and take cabinet making."

Well it's hard to know where to start, but I'll give it a shot. I had a very humble beginning in the area called Chitwood. I lived on Washington Ave., which is just north of Schifferdecker Park. I lived there with my mom and dad and 2 brothers and 3 sisters. I went to Longfellow School my first 6 years, before going to North Junior High. My mom was a stay at home mom and my dad worked for the Missouri State Highway Dept. at 4th and Range Line as a mechanic. He didn't make much money but we were happy. My siblings all graduated from Joplin Senior High; Kathern 1962, myself 1964, Stephen 1966, Mary-Margaret 1972, GraceAnn 1973, and youngest brother Kerry 1979.

At Longfellow School we had split classrooms with 2 grades in each room. I walked to school which was 2 blocks, in all kinds of weather. The most favorite was when we would have 4" to 6" of snow. We would build snow forts at school, and play king of the mountain. Now they won't even let my grandkids go outside when it snows. That's the pits. When I was in the 5th & 6th grade, I became a patrol boy and would walk the 1st

through 6th grade kids to the corner at "A" and Schifferdecker and put out the Stop sign and help everyone across the street. Longfellow was a simple time in my life and I enjoyed being with my friends. It was good to hear from Joyce Tillman, which was in my class as well as others like Tom Brown, Joe Cowen, Sandy Macy, Sam Toney, Carolyn Phillips, Jerri Glover, Harry Lanning, Peggy Long and others.

During the summer months I played Little League Baseball from the time I was 8yrs old to my 13th year. I decided not to play Babe Ruth ball, and that's something I wish I had not done. But, I did start playing fast pitch softball, and played for the next 30 years. I played in the church league, open league, and the industrial league. I was the pitcher for church and industrial leagues and pitched several no-hitters. I loved softball; just ask John Buck, Carol Corbin Buck's husband.

I attended North Jr. High, which was a fun time. It was different from grade school and a new experience for me. I generally rode my bike to school with Jim Keagy in the warm weather. My 7th grade year I also rode the City Bus.

We got off at "C" and Gray, and walked up to North. The next years the bus line went out of business, so my dad would drop me off at 4th and Gray on his way to work. I was in the 7-2's and 8-2's and my home room teacher was Mrs. Skinner in the 7th grade. Some of my favorite teachers were Mr. Welch who taught plastics, mechanical drawing, Mrs. Sale who taught art and Mr. Smith who taught science. I played on the 8th grade and 9th grade Basketball team. Our Coach was Ted Clowers. I was not very good, but I enjoyed the time on the team. I enjoyed playing with guys like Gil Stevens, Richard La Near, Dennis Triplett, Rex Ratrie, Terry Calhoun, Brent Horton, Larry Munn, and Bob Warren. But, I always hated the end of practice, because I knew we would be doing sprints and running 20 laps around the gym. Before school several of the guys would get together and play a game with our pocket knife. You would start with your feet together and stick your knife on either side and you would move your foot to the knife. You would keep doing that until one or the other could no longer

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reach the knife and you would lose. I also got stuck with a knife in my shoe several times. You sure could not do this in this day and time. I also enjoyed pole vaulting in the spring. I was able to make my goal of 9'-6".

When I got to Senior High I decided I wanted to go to Franklin Tech and take cabinet making. So I decided to make my vocation in life carpentry, as my grandfather was a carpenter. I would go to his home shop in the summer months and make things with him. He had always told me that I should be a draftsman and go into architecture. I took the necessary courses in the 10th and 11th grade for graduation along with ROTC. In the Vo Tech course, I was at Franklin Tech for half days, and classes the other half at Joplin Senior High. My ultimate goal was to work for one of the cabinet companies in town; Brackels, which was at 12th & Wall, or H & H Manufacturing on west 13th St.

I loved ROTC, with the drills, inspections, shooting range, taking the M-1 apart and putting it back together, and striving for the next rank. I was always trying to make platoon or company orderly, and would make it sometimes. However, it was pretty hard to beat Bob Schimmel or Richard Palmer and Jim Gilbert. But, it taught me never to quit. My junior year I made JO (Junior Officer) at the end of

the year, and was looking forward to being an officer my senior year. However, a change of course happened, and I was not able to take ROTC my senior year. That was because I was selected to take COE (Cooperative Occupational Education) my senior year and time constraints would keep me from ROTC. Mr. Hobart, the COE teacher had secured a job for me at the City of Joplin. I would go to school in the morning and work at the City from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

I had hoped I would be able to work at Brackels for the half days, but that wouldn't be, as I was still 17 years old. You had to be 18 yrs. old to work in a cabinet shop. I had planned to work after graduation and not go to college. However, that changed also when I took a drafting class in night school after graduation. I didn't have a lot of confidence in myself and didn't think I was very smart, but learned I had more smarts than I thought I had.

I was given the opportunity to work on the survey crew at the City, while in COE, and that continued after graduation for the next two years. I also continued to take courses at night at Joplin Junior College. In 1967, I received my first promotion to be a draftsman for the City. My grandfather would have been proud that I had accomplished what he wanted me to.

In 1967, I married the love of

my life, Kay Conrow. We knew each other from the church we attended; 2nd Assembly of God. Our church and our relationship with Christ was a big part of our lives. In July 1969, our son, Thad, was born. He is now 44yrs old and graduated from Joplin High in 1987. In 1972, our daughter, Melanie was born. She is now 41 yrs. old and also graduated from Joplin High School in 1991. We have 3 grandchildren. Our son has 1 girl, 12 yrs. old, and our daughter has a boy, 14 yrs. old, and a girl, 10 yrs. old. My wife and I decided that she wanted to be a stay at home mom and raise our children. We knew it would be tough, but we were determined to make it work. She worked the first two years after we were married for Foremost Dairy as the payroll clerk.

Our son went to MSSC and music was his major. He has worked at different jobs, but came back to his roots of music. He is now the Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Carthage. Our daughter also went to MSSC and majored in music with a degree in teaching. She taught in Joplin Schools for 3 years until she started her family. She is a full time mom and works part time now.

I realized when I was promoted to Draftsman; I needed to further my education. That's when I decided to attend college 4 nights a week and worked 44

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Hours a week. In 1969, I was again promoted. This time, it was Administrative Assistant to the Director of Public Works. I continued my college courses through Jasper County Junior College, Missouri Southern College, and Missouri Southern State College. I graduated from MSSC, now MSSU, in 1971. My plan was to graduate in the spring of 1970, but I had to take a short detour from that schedule. My military exemption of 4-F expired the fall of 1969, and the draft lottery was to take place. I decide to take my chance on the lottery, and if my number was high enough, I would attend my classes the spring semester. If not, I would see if I could get into the Army Reserves or National Guard. My luck was not good as the first date drawn was my birthday, Sept. 14, as #1. My heart sunk, and I knew I would have to join something, to have a chance to get what I wanted.

Since our son was born in July 1969, I decided to try and join the Reserves or National Guard. That was the height of the Vietnam War, and most units were already filled to capacity. I had searched all the units in the area, and all were full. The only one I had not contacted was the Joplin unit; Headquarters company of the 203rd Engineers Battalion. I went there last and they had two openings; and one was for a surveyor. With my experience with the City on the

survey crew, I was enlisted. My wife and I feel it was a gift from God. I served in the 203rd Engineers Battalion, hound dogs, from 1969 to 1975. I had to take a leave of absence from the City for 6 months, to do my active duty. I took basic in Ft. Bragg North Carolina, and A.I.T. at the Army Engineers School in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. I had completed all but one semester of my 4 year degree, and had to complete it when I returned from active duty. I graduated from MSSC in 1971, with a BS degree in Marketing Management.

I picked up where I left off with the City, in July, 1970. I remained in that position until 1975, when I was promoted to Superintendent of Operations. I was in charge of street maintenance, sewer maintenance, refuse collection, landfill disposal, and fleet maintenance. At this time I knew I had been with the City too long to leave and go to another job. In 1992, I was promoted to Management Systems Administrator. I was to monitor all operations, and set up programs that would increase productivity, and promote better relations with the public.

In 1978, I joined the Royal Rangers group at our church. This group worked with boys to develop them into men. We ministered to them through their physical, mental, social and spiritual needs. This was a lot like Boy Scouts with camping

as a major part. I spent many a Friday night and Saturday camping with my son and many boys in teaching them about Christ, and trying to meet each individual boys' needs. I spent the next 26 years in that ministry. It was a very rewarding experience to see boys grow into men and be a part of their development.

All during the times our kids were growing up, we would try to take them on a vacation that they would remember. We were able to see Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Disney World in Florida and Rocky Mountains in Colorado, The Smoky Mountains, Niagara Falls, Washington DC and other places. We loved to travel, but when our kids were in their teens, it wasn't cool to be with mom and dad. So, we didn't go anywhere for several years. After the kids got married in the early 90's, we decided to travel again. So, we went on a cruise to the Caribbean and to Hawaii twice.

In 2007, I finally decided it was time to give it up and retire. I had spent 43 ½ years with the City and it was time to do what I wanted to. I had hoped that my Dad and Mom would be able to be around when I retired, but my Dad passed away in June of 2006. It was a wonderful experience, and again we decided to travel again. We took trips to San Antonio River Walk, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Mobile,

(Continued on Next Page)

Alabama, San Francisco, Yosemite, Washington DC again, Mackinaw Island, Michigan, Germany, Austria, North Carolina, Tennessee, and other places. We thought as long as our health was good, we would enjoy what we could. However, things changed in May 2011. We had been to Branson, with two other couples, and had just got home when the weather on May 22 took a dangerous turn. I had built a small house on Washington Ave and when we returned we went to check on the house as we had it up for sale. The clouds looked funny, so we left the house pretty quick. We got to 7th & Schifferdecker, when large drops of rain began falling, and the sirens went off. My wife said to get home as fast as we could, and we did. We live on Winfield Ave., south of 26th St. When we got home, I immediately turned on the TV to see what was going on, and the report said it appeared that something was forming around Down-

stream Casino. About that time, the TV lost reception. I noticed that it was getting extremely dark outside, so I went to the front door and opened it to see what was going on. As I opened the door, you could hear the roar. It was louder than a freight train. My wife and I immediately closed the door and went to the main hall on the south, and began getting down on the floor as we didn't have a basement. I helped my wife get down as she had had knee surgery earlier in the year. I was covering her, and we no sooner had got on the floor when things started pelting the house. It seemed like an eternity, but it lasted less than a minute. Within seconds the wind was gushing through the house and debris flying. We began praying for protection from God, and he answered our prayer. When it was over, shock set in. We were unhurt, but almost everything was destroyed. The house was totaled, our 3 vehicles, were destroyed, and our 21 trees we

were proud of, were destroyed. Our neighborhood was totally destroyed as were many others. Over the next couple of weeks, we finally got our senses together and determined what we were going to do. We moved into the little house I built on Washington for the next 17 months, while I had the house, my shop, and my model train building rebuilt. I feel blessed that we were able to do that. We have rebuilt with a safe room in our home today. The 161 people who lost their lives will always have a special place in our heart. Now, my wife and I are trying to get back to a normal routine, and travel a few more places. We feel that the Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us so much, and we give all of it to his glory. We spend as much time with our kids and grandkids as we can. I hope to play a little more golf, fish more, and work on my Chevy nova this year. ☺

life hacks

#801

Drinking 16 ounces of water will increase your metabolism by up to 30% alone.

@1000LifeHack
1000lifehacks.com

life hacks

#802

Putting a small amount of 7up in a flower vase will preserve them for much longer.

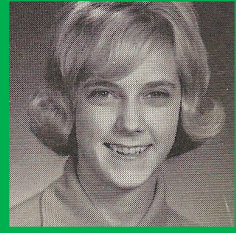
@1000LifeHack
1000lifehacks.com

life hacks

#747

Can't afford Microsoft Word? Get "open office", it's the same thing except it's free and has more features.

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Jeanne Lind - Bio

"I was so happy to be able to get together with my other two Jeanne's since moving back to Joplin"



Last night my sister and I went through one large suitcase, one large plastic tub, one smaller plastic tub and one medium cardboard box of photos and memorabilia. We found pictures of Mom and Dad as very young children, their junior high school and high school graduation certificates and Mom's autograph book. There were pictures of grandparents, great aunts, and we had no idea who some of the photos were!

Then there were pictures from the time we spent in Japan when my Dad was in the Army, along with our passport issued in April of 1950 and not valid for travel in Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and the USSR. Kathy and I did some reminiscing about that time of our lives. We arrived in Kobe, Japan, right before Christmas. However, our belongings didn't make it before we did. After many phone calls and a lot of "negotiating" on my Dad's part, everything (including Christmas decorations and presents) was delivered on Christmas Eve night. I understand they were opening crates and bringing things inside quite late into the night so Kathy and I would have Christmas on schedule!

I must have been a terribly difficult child because when we got back my only friend was Kathy. When lunchtime came at school, they had to bring Kathy to the cafeteria or I wouldn't eat. And Mom would cut the crust off my sandwich and cut it into eight little squares. What a little brat I was. And clumsy too. Before I got out of school, I had broken every finger on both hands and had more stitches than any half dozen other kids my age combined. Glad I outgrew that! After 20 years in the service, my Dad retired and we settled in Joplin. It was our first "permanent" home and it was wonderful to settle down and be able to make lifelong friends. I have such great memories of junior high (East) and high school. Of course, that's when I first met Jeanne Looper and Jeanne Lewis. (For those of you who watched Bob Newhart, that's kind of like "This is my brother Darrell and my other brother Darrell.") In junior high we could leave for lunch and we would descend in mass at Grover's for those wonderful hamburgers. And they only came one way - fully loaded. If you wanted plain, you'd probably be late back to class while you waited for it to

be cooked.

Oh the days of cruzin' Main and 7th and sitting for hours on the parking lots at C&A and the Ranch. Remember our early barbecued chips? - a bag of Fritos and a cup of barbeque sauce. And top it off with a cherry or chocolate Coke. Thanks to the gas wars of those days, we could pool our change, buy a dollar's worth of gas to cruise all evening! And who could forget our pep rally that turned into a "riot." I think they must have called out every fire truck and police car in town. And the talent show - who was it who lip-synced the Beatles? And what about that Volkswagen in the student lounge? We all had to have our dyed-to-match outfits (and moutons) for homecoming. I think my favorite, though, was Twirp Day. What a strange way of celebrating the distribution of yearbooks. But the day finally came when it was time to join the real world.

My first job was as a legal secretary and, in the summer, I worked evenings at the Redings Mill pool. I was married for a couple of years after high school but, like many of us who married way too young, it didn't last. In 1971 I moved to

(Continued on Next Page)

Topeka and married Mike McAferty. After a couple of years, we moved to Olathe, Kansas, where Mike worked with his brother in the electrical wholesale business and I went to work for King Radio. I eventually signed on with Johnson County Government, first in the Legal Department and, after a couple of years, in the office of the Board of County Commissioners. What a trip working for seven elected officials. Kind of reminiscent of herding cats. There I stayed for 23 years managing the staff, the budget, and everything having to do with the Board's official business. While working with seven egos was quite challenging, it was certainly never boring. But we had a wonderful staff, and several of us have stayed in close contact.

I am so happy that Mike and I were able to enjoy over two years of retirement together before he passed away unexpectedly in December last year. We had 42 wonderful years together and I treasure each one.

And that brought me back to

Joplin and what a blessing that has been. My sister, Kathy, has been wonderful – propping me up when I needed it; introducing me to all of her friends; and sharing her doctors, hairdressers, eye doctors, and insurance agents. And you may remember her husband, my brother-in-law, Paul Trim. Paul graduated with us and has been a true brother to me, looking after me and making sure I'm safe. I have reconnected with some of you since I've been back and look forward to seeing many more of you at our reunion next year. I was so happy to be able to get together with my other two Jeanne's since moving back to Joplin. We had a great reunion and I'm looking forward to staying in contact with them. Those of us '64ers here in Joplin recently began meeting for a monthly dinner (the first Wednesday each month) and it's been really fun seeing everyone again.

I also volunteer at Joplin NALA Read (Neighborhood Adult Literacy) where I tutor adult students in reading and English as a second language. We're cur-

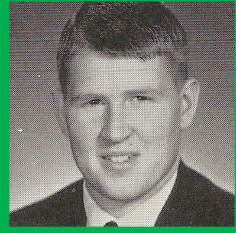
rently working on our annual fundraiser to be held in March. It's called Spell Ball but has nothing to do with dancing. It's a spelling contest based on baseball and pitting 18 teams against one another until only one remains standing. There's also plenty of food and a silent auction.

Those who have friended me on Facebook are aware that I rescued a cat a few months ago. Her name is Miss Otis (named after a Cole Porter song "Miss Otis [Regrets]") and she's such a joy. Of course she's the smartest cat ever and I'm glad she's not spoiled. For some reason she does like to eat about 3:00 a.m. She's figured out the best way to get me up is to walk around on the night stand and try to knock the lamp over. I, however, discovered the spray water bottle. I have found, though, that it has to be pointed in the right direction – which is sometimes hard to determine half asleep and in the dark.

And that, my friends, is my life in a nutshell. 🐾

Corporate Mergers

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W. R. Grace Co. will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
2. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become: FedUP.
3. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.
4. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: PouponDPants.
5. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: ZipAudiDoDa.
6. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become: MMMGood.



James Hughes - Bio

"I spent one semester at Joplin Junior College...and then joined the Army Security Agency. I was trained at Fort Deven's in Massachusetts"



Congratulations on our 50th Reunion:

I have read almost all of the biographies sent out on the classmate email network. So, I decided that I would take the time to write mine.

Most of you probably don't remember me, any better than I do you ...and I am sure that you have changed as much as I have.

I was raised in Joplin and went to West Central, then North Junior High, and then Joplin Senior High. I was a pretty average student, just good enough to get by. I didn't go to dances, sporting events or join clubs because I worked almost all of my spare time. I was in ROTC and on the rifle team, and other than that I was pretty average.

I spent one semester at Joplin Junior College...and then joined the Army Security Agency. I was trained at Fort Deven's in Massachusetts and then went to a Special Operations Unit at the end of the Aleutian chain of islands, about 200 miles from Russia. I was offered a position with the NSA and spent the rest of my time traveling all over.

When I got out, I married my wife Joyce and brought her back to Joplin from her home near Cleveland, Ohio. My dad and I bought a Skelly gas station at 20th and Wall. I spent a couple of years with him to make sure that he would be alright. It had been his dream for many years.

My wife and I moved to Warren, Ohio... and I enrolled at Youngstown State University, graduating in 1977 with a degree in Advertising and one in Commercial Art. I started an Advertising business...and spent 36 years doing that while we raised a daughter who graduated from Kent State University, and in her spare time married and gave us three wonderful grandchildren.

In 2005, I started an Appliance and Furniture Store with my daughter...which has taken most of my time. Unfortunately, my health is not what it should be, and I have undergone several surgeries in the last few years. Due to that I am unable to make the trip to Missouri any more. However, I really appreciate the newsletter and the information on the tornado that was in it. I hope that you all enjoy the reunion and have a wonderful time. My thoughts will be with you. 🤝

"Ponderisms"

- ◆ Hmm... Yet another day has passed and I didn't use Algebra once...very interesting
- ◆ Why does toilet paper need a commercial, who is not buying it?
- ◆ Old age is when you stopped growing at both ends, and have begun to grow in the middle.
- ◆ We're all mature until someone pulls out some bubble wrap.
- ◆ A man has reached old age when he is cautioned to slow down by his Doctor instead of by the police.

Personal Reflection

I met Kathleen our sophomore year of high school when she was 14 and I was 15. We saw a lot of each other -- orchestra practice, chorus, speech and theater. I suppose at first we connected because we had chosen so many of the same activities, but soon our choices were also being influenced by our friendship.

We both took drum lessons so we could try out for Top Hatters; she made it as a snare drummer while I managed to get the bass drum assignment. We tried out for the school plays. She usually got cast in stage roles; I usually worked managing some back stage function. I had a driver's license first, so we scheduled private voice lessons with Oliver Sovereign back to back. Kathy was clearly the song bird; I was the transportation.

Activities often frame the connections between friends, but friendship is something quite apart from activities. By my mid-teens, I had had many playmates and some of those playmates did become true friends.

But I learned from Kathy how to have and be a confidante. I think it was mutual. I have more to say about that, but first ...

Kathy and I shared something else rather unusual in my life experience: we liked to hang out in the same space, doing unrelated things. We'd spend summer afternoons at her family's home. I might read or write or even nap while she practiced piano or violin. I learned years later in a child development class that that pattern has a name; it's called 'parallel play' and is regarded as an early developmental stage the human child passes through in learning to relate to others.

What the development folks don't mention -- surely they know? -- it is also a life-long element in relationships. Enjoying the simple presence of a valued companion is a key marker for friendship and love.

But not the only one -- so back to trust and confidence. Before Kathy came into my life, I didn't know you could share a fear, a disappointment, a pain or shame with another human being and find continuing, loving support. I learned from Kathy how to trust and when to trust.

Despite our geographically divergent adulthoods, Kathy and I never lost touch for long. Even apart, she was always in my heart.

And now, though I can no longer look into her eyes and hold her hands, her spirit is strong beside me. http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2490204&fh_id=10419



WATKINS, KATHY
General, B206
Portfolio, Top Hatters,
Palette and Brush, AFS,
Dramatics and Thespians



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

Lee Ann Fairchild's Husband

http://www.ulmerfh.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2402756&fh_id=12101

Linda Putnam's Father

<http://www.clarkfuneralhomes.com/sitemaker/sites/clarkf0/obit.cgi?user=1256555Putnam>

Jana Swab's Father

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2443844&fh_id=10419

Harry Sorg III (Classmate)

<http://robertsondrago.com/harry-h-sorg-iii/>

Janice Trombley's Mother

http://www.masonwoodard.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2461761&fh_id=10713

Ann Wheeler's Mother

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?p=alma-jean-wheeler&pid=170129288&thid4101>

Kathleen Watkins Moffett (Classmate)

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2490204&fh_id=10419#

Janet Wetherell Brown's Husband (Only person to die in the Baxter Springs tornado)

<http://www.joplinglobe.com/topstories/x1535585884/Family-of-Baxter-Springs-man-killed-by-tornado-shares-memories>

Dedicated to our classmates who have fought the good fight and who have gone home to the Lord.

Donna Drake Helton

Life's Bridges!!!

Sometimes the bridges we cross leave us shaken, and life seems hard to bear.

Remember, God walks before us and is waiting to meet us there.

We then can rest in,

His very presence divine, when we feel life's moments have been unkind.

He can be our strength in our trials of life,

He gives an inner peace in our world of strife.

Lay your burdens down, trust Him and confide,

He's waiting there for you, just on the other side. **Galia Cockerham**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIm-YTrs4tM>

We still have classmates that we've classified as missing. If you have any idea where these classmates are, feel free to share with us so we can update our class directory. So please help us locate the following 31 classmates:

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

Linda Baugh (Robards)

Patricia Kay Belk

Richard Burns

Gary M Colvin

Larry Conboy (Phoenix, AZ area)

Johnie Coots (Seguin, TX area)

Rayma Jean Coy

Merlene Garrison (Burriss)

James "Jim" Hilton

Clair Howard

Robert "Bob" Jordan

La Donna Miller

Merlin "Butch" Mitchell

Carol Munson (Wrench)

Emma Nunn

Mitchell "Pat" O'Brien

Judy Osborne (Gardner)

Jim Lamb

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

(31 Missing)

Please help us out. In order to keep you informed and to value your input, don't forget to include us on any changes in your contact information. You may do this by clicking on the following email address joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com, then enter your information and 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/>

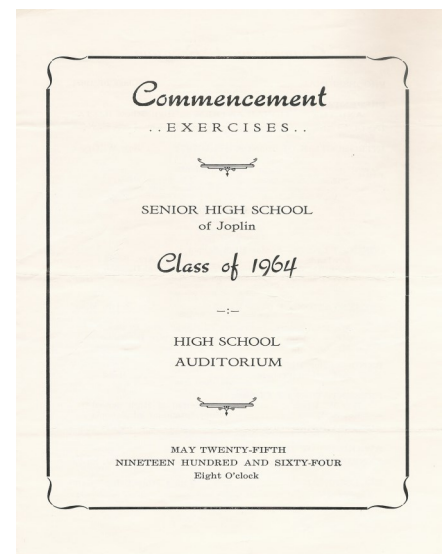
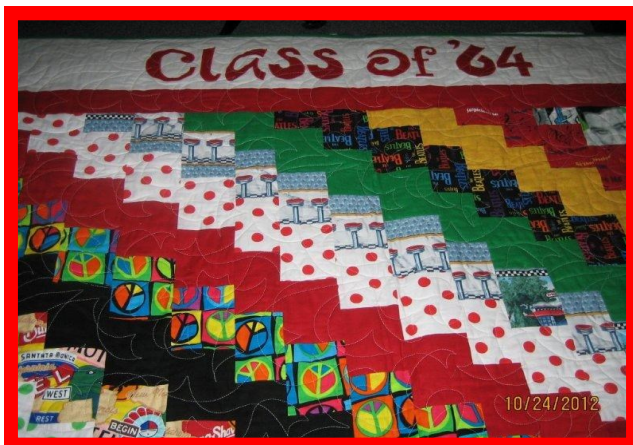
Bio Contributors



Joplin Class of '64

"Our Raffle Drawing"

Most of you know that we have been selling raffle tickets to support a few of the 50th Class Reunion events. Several items that have been donated by classmates will be raffled Saturday night at the cost of \$1 per ticket. So far, items consists of a handmade quilt designed by our own Jeanne Lewis. Also a cutting & bread board as well as coasters that were made and donated by John Keeling. A Commencement Exercise Directory that has ALL graduating classmates listed by first, middle & last name, donated by Sallie Schofield. A Turquoise Native American Pendant Zuni Turtle necklace with accessories, donated by Jill Longenecker. Martha Earhart is planning on donating not one, but two quilts for the raffle. We did let her know that we'd be more than happy with just one, but two is great. Tickets will be on sale Friday & Saturday, and the drawing will take place just before the band takes the stage, you do not have to be present to win. Advance tickets are sold by Jeanne Lind, Sherry Baker & Carol Corbin for \$1 and that's for all items being offered. I'll take 10 of those tickets please!!!



http://www.ebay.com/itm/Zuni-Carved-Necklace-Turtle-Lapis-Turquoise-Malachite-and-Silver-Great-Detail-/221381841819?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item338b62d39b

Retirement age does have some blessings. I now notice that some of the magazines I take used to cost me \$19 to \$30 for a year's subscription, now they can be had for \$6 to \$15 a year. One of the 20+ magazines I take is The Good Old Days. The issue I received this month was loaded with memories of my youth and growing up in the country life, as well as when we moved to the city. One I could relate to, as I'm sure some of you can as well, was wash day and mom hanging her laundry out on the clothesline to dry. That was standard operating procedure in the country and when we moved to the city, my dad's first project was to install a clothesline for mom. The smell of Mother Nature's freshness in what we wore or slept on could not be duplicated and that holds true today, even with the chemicals that line our store shelves, nothing is better than what Mother Nature gave us for free. Even though mom had an electric dryer, the clothesline was still her first choice. When all my siblings were gone from the home and the laundry for mom totaled her & dad's wears and sometimes a grandchild or two, the old clothesline was sparse. When they moved from the 19th & Moffet area to the 22nd & Florida area, mom saw no clotheslines in the neighborhood. Her first purchase was one of those merry-go-round rotating clotheslines, with assembly required. Yes, she still was hanging clothes out to dry and some of the older neighbors in the area picked up on that and were purchasing the rotating clotheslines. Maybe you can see why the cover of The Good Old Days brought this memory alive and maybe it will with you too. Did it? **DK**



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

June 20-21, 2014

Hopefully you know everything that will be written in the "Mishmash Medley" section but if not, let us relive some past information that has been distributed.

First of all the above dates are the official dates of the Joplin High School Class of '64's 50th Reunion. That is a Friday & Saturday. On Friday will be a Meet & Greet that will be held in the Atrium of our host hotel, which is the Holiday Inn. The kickoff will start at 4:00 p.m. and will begin by all classmates picking up their nametag and welcome packet. When you enter the atrium, our slide show will be playing and a cash bar is available for your choice of refreshments. Hors d'Oeuvres will be served at 5:00 p.m. This event will continue until 7:00 p.m. Feel free to make dinner plans as a group if you so desire. This is a free event to all paid Saturday banquet classmates & guests.

Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. will be tee time at the Schifferdecker Golf Course. This reunion is showing more interest and has both male and female golfers playing. Also that morning, we have several volunteers that will meet at 9:30 and start decorating the banquet room. We hope to be done with this by noon and then around 2:00 p.m. the band will be setting up. Classmates may also take a tour of Joplin that was designed and will be produced by Phyllis Payne Sapp. I think I heard that the old Anderson Ice Cream Parlor is among the sites to visit. (See the next page) The banquet doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and a partial Meet & Greet will take place because some first timers that couldn't make the Friday afternoon event will be attending. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. and a few surprises will be in place before the band takes the stage and I hear there will be a surprise or two with them.

Sunday we will have our farewell breakfast buffet at 9:30 a.m. in a TBD private room at the Holiday Inn. Once we know what the room will be we will make that known to all. After our goodbye, farewell and travel home safely wishes, we may have to breakdown the banquet room. We were told that we could leave it all as is Saturday night and if they didn't have an event scheduled for that room for Sunday Morning, we will have to break it down. If they do have an event scheduled, they will break it down and store it for us, so all we have to do is pack & load.

For those arriving Thursday, let it be known that day will be Joplin's Third Thursday. They will block off Main Street from 1st to 7th and there will be all sorts of goings on taking place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Check it out. <http://www.downtownjoplin.com/#!third-thursday>

Well, that's about it classmates, we know this is a longer than normal newsletter and hopefully you understand why. We've tried to cover all the bases and answer any question that you may have about this event, but if we have missed something we would love to have you contact us with any concern you may have and you can do that by sending an email to the class email and we assure you we will get right back to you. joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com.

Please take care and travel safely, we will see you in about 6 weeks.

CLASS OF '64

If you haven't been in town recently, we'll list a few locations you might enjoy at your leisure. Maps will be available at the 50th with a list of the locations which follow and another showing the path of the 2011 tornado.

Two new evening choices just happen to be owned by Carol and Ed's son, Jon Buck. Having had Jon in middle school, I want to take a moment to mention his efforts to invest in Joplin's future.

It's neat to see our young adults achieving success. You may remember a former article where he manned donation trailers and a distribution center when residents were in need of so much after homes were destroyed.

We're proud of you, Jon! His businesses include JB's Piano Bar which offers appetizers and live music at 112 S Main and is open Wed.-Sat. Jon's newest venture is Far Side of the Moon, a fondue and martini bar in the same block at 106 S Main, open Thurs.-Sat. Sushi has just been added to the menu. Both would be good stops if you're doing Third Thursday or Friday after the Meet & Greet.

Let's go back north on Main and

begin our cruise with the new Joplin Regional Airport terminal, north on Hwy 43. Driving back to town on Main, just before Murphy Blvd., is the expanded Ozark Christian College Campus. Proceeding south on Main, notice the former Newman Building at 6th St. now houses City Hall. Across at 617 Main is the Route 66

Mural on the south side of Pearl Brothers' Hardware. This artistic tile work was created by Images of Tile in Joplin and also features a '64 Corvette cut in half and attached to the mural. Definitely worth stopping by to enjoy. Images also has murals at several universities, Hong Kong Disney Land and Hotel, and national sports teams home stadiums.

Continuing on Main, you'll find the Gryphon Building at 1027. Now recently renovated as an office building, it's interesting to walk through the halls and local artists' shop. Some of us remember the radio station on the top floor where in 4th grade; we'd compete in district spelling bees. The Frisco Railroad also stopped there during our youth. Going south on Main to 15th, a painted mural covers the side of

Dixie Print and is titled "The Butterfly Effect, Dreams Take Flight" and was created after the tornado. It features pictures drawn by more than 200 area children expressing their thoughts of the disaster. One that has always spoken to me was a bulldozer placing a band-aid on a fence. Langston Hughes' poem

"In Times of Silver Rain" completes the colorful wall that was painted by 15 local artists and designer Dave Loewenstein of Lawrence, KS. {Our Dec. 2011 newsletter tells the story on pgs. 8-10.} You can easily park in the lot across 15th and take a longer look. Fascinating if you remember it shares the thoughts of Joplin's young children who had experienced destruction . . . yet had hope in their hearts.

Continuing south on Main, a turn east at 20th will take you to the new JHS building that will open next fall. It will house a memorial wall of historical high school pictures.

Returning to Main, you will remember Dude's Donuts at 2316. Dude and his family still operate the business and it's very much

(Continued on Next Page)

like we remember it from years gone by. Driving over to 22nd and Wall, the vacant lot is where South Jr. stood and down the street on 26th is the now vacant lot of the Irving we knew.

St. Mary's Church and School no longer stands at 25th, but the large cross which did survive the tornado and served as a symbol throughout the national news coverage remains near Moffet Ave.

On a more positive note, you can see the 7 homes newly constructed by Extreme Makeover in the 2400 block of S. Connor. Deserving Joplin families were chosen to have

the custom designed homes which were done in 7 days with hundreds of volunteers working to complete the project for their 200th and final show. Each has a different theme.

Cunningham Park has been rebuilt at 26th and Maiden Lane and the east side features remembrance projects.

Going south across 26th, the large ground with raised dome of earth was the original St. John's Medical Center. It will soon become a science center and gardens for the public and school use.

Beyond it, land was donated for the new Irving Elementary which serves both Irving and Emerson students.

Freeman Health Center and Mercy Hospital can be seen south-east of the school. St. John's is now Mercy and has a temporary site with full medical coverage. Freeman, at 1102 W. 32nd, is so close . . . it remains a miracle to me that one was unharmed during the tornado and the other destroyed.

Driving toward McClelland Park, take a left at the intersection of Glendale road, just before entering the park. This will wind around and take you to South Main's newly constructed round-a-bout and you can continue south over the new Redings Mill Bridge. Going a mile on Hwy. 86, The Candy House and the new Anderson's Ice Cream who are neighboring shops are worth a stop. Coming back toward town, you'll find a walking trail under the Redings Mill Bridge that will take you to Low Water Bridge and Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Nature Center. Wildcat can also be entered from S Main just after the round-a-bout.

Returning to 50th and Main, you

will definitely see the new Mercy Hospital set to open early in 2015. Going east on 50th will take you past the new South Middle School, opened in 2009. Continuing back to town, going to Connecticut Ave. then turning east on 44th, you will be on Rangeline. Following it through the diverging diamond now below I-44, you can go past Holiday Inn to 20th St. and turn right (east) until 20th passes the new East Middle School and Soaring Heights Elementary. Duquesne and Duenweg student attend Soaring Heights. Missouri Southern State University can be located north east of North Park Mall.


Know this isn't cruising Keller's or the C & A, but you might trace the Route 66 path from Zora & N Rangeline through Royal Heights, down Euclid then N. St. Louis to Broadway and over the bridge to town and west to 7th St.

Whatever your path, we hope you enjoy returning home. You may be surprised how different it is with many familiar landmarks no longer present and new ones taking shape. Memories, however, are forever.

Phyllis Payne Sapp

A MUSICAL HAPPENING OLE' FRIENDS


Jim Hunter



Marc Marciano




Johnny Ross



"Jurassic" Jon Sherman



Bob Toft
and Harmonica



Larry Don Williams



Jerry Holcomb
A/V-TECH



BASS/VOCAL
CLASS OF 1964 REUNION
JUNE 21-2014

THE LEGEND OF "OLE' FRIENDS"

A musical happening that has culminated over the last half-century, is coming your way soon. This event will be bringing together some of the best and most talented entertainers and musicians that Joplin, Missouri, and the surrounding area, has produced. This was a project started by the "RING LEADER" Larry Don Williams when he received notification of the Class of 1964's fifty year reunion, and not a mention of live music. He wrote a response, to where he thought it would do the most good, to classmate Dave Knisley, a genuine Guru, sounding-board, and negotiator for the Class of 64 Reunion happenings, asking what about entertainment? Recalling very familiar words, he stated a borrowed line from ex recording label mate "Bob Smith", better known as Wolfman Jack, and the quote, "There is still life in da party, especially down south with da donkeys."

This was particularly disturbing and literally sent a chill up Larry Don's back as MOTHER MUSIC had been good to him for most of his life. He used the following tools and the help of a long-time family friend Bob Toft, after pitching the live entertainment segment to DK. They, (Bob and Larry) used prayer, foot-work, phone, internet, and more footwork and lots more prayer, fueled by the desire to kick the "Footlights" one more time in his hometown with "Ole' Friends" and put "A LOTTA LIFE" in the fifty year reunion of his high school graduation, "Class of 1964." The Picker search was on! I am ever indebted to this guy because I know Bob worked hard and made many calls to get this "SHOW ON THE ROAD."

Well over two-hundred fifty combined years of talent will take the stage and do what they do best and that is, entertain you! They will flam, pick, stroke, strum, thump and pop as they play their way into a musical groove that will have your feet dancing and tapping, or the tears running, from the songs of days past and singing along to the "special songs" to each person in the audience. "I've said it oh so many times before," says Williams, the musicians from the Joplin area have that little niche or groove they get in. It comes from the heart. I guess it is the water! Their GENRE is like the book, "What Don't They Do!" ROCK & ROLL, SOUL, COUNTRY, JAZZ, SOUTHERN ROCK, SWING, TWO STEPS, WALTZ'S and much more, by artist's that also fill the Who's Who- with too many to remember and name. The musical entourage touts these musical specialists in alphabetical order. "OLE' FRIENDS" is made up of the following personnel:

Jim Hunter, is on Saxophone, he's entertained and amazed folks for 45 years with his Saxophone technique and sound. He did a long stint with "the Imperials" Jim has opened the show for numerous artists. His calendar stays filled with invitations and rightly so. He keeps booked, performing with numerous bands in the Four State area.

Marc Marcano is on Keyboards, and he began his musical career in Northwest Oklahoma at the age of sixteen soon after his arrival from Venezuela. He started out playing guitar and piano in small town honky-tonks throughout Oklahoma and Kansas. In the 60's he attended Pittsburg State College and played in such celebrated bands as The Gas Company and the Aardvarks. In 1970 Marc partnered with the late (and much missed) Steve Gains of Lynyrd Skynyrd fame to form MANALIVE that recorded in Memphis at SUN studio where the likes of Elvis, Jerry Lee, and Johnny Cash recorded and paved the way for all up and comers and supporting musicians. Then he went to Detroit to partner with three former members of Mitch Ryder's group, "The Detroit Wheels" and to form the "Detroit Rockets". His love for traditional Latino music and his desire to learn more prompted him to

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join the group "Folklore Venezuela". After retiring from his "day gig" he returned to the Joplin area and joined Solid Gold with Jon Sherman who you will read more about later on.

Johnny Rose is on Guitar and Steel Guitar and has graced the stage since 1963 or for Fifty-one years playing with stars like B. J. Thomas, "King" George Strait, Sha Na-Na, Strawberry Alarm Clock, Leroy Parnell, and Patty Lovelace. In 1989 he was involved with Frankie Avalon (watch the youtube video) and was invited to tour with him. He also displayed his talent in concerts with Tracy Byrd and Aaron Tippin. Prior to all that, Johnny rubbed elbows with other "Biggies" as he calls them, by joining the likes of The Pointer Sisters, who dropped by the Roman Palace in Joplin. In addition, others, such as The Drifters and The Classics IV, with Dennis Yost, while performing with "Grandmas Remedy" and Larry Don Williams in the 1970's. However, Johnny's first taste of stardom came in the 1950's when he was selected as the Gerber Baby. You've all seen his pic on the jar. Johnny now shares his music capabilities and love for the craft by teaching beginners, wannabes and professional's alike.

Jon Sherman on Drums and Percussion has played since 1959 or Fifty-five years and his list of credits include a group called "The Rousers" and he backed the likes of; Del Shannon, of Runaway fame and the dynamic Fats Domino, Hank Jr., Sonny and Cher, The Turtles, Ike and Tina Turner Review and the Diamonds, in southern California. Then twenty years of experience later, Jon headed Texas way in 1980 and with Allen Ross opened the Kerrville Folk Festival with Jerry Jeff Walker and the legendary Peter Paul and Mary. Then headed to Florida with Elvis Norcross and John Burrows where he performed for several years in clubs and doing several gigs with Hank Jr. He stated being around Hank was "No Biggie" as he was their neighbor in the Bayside Resort where they lived. Jon and Marc are presently in the group Solid Gold, a "peddle to the metal" bunch of musical vets that keep "Jurassic Jon's" (as he is very well known and referred to by his peers) cardiovascular system pumping to its limit. During that stint in Florida, Jon and Larry Don were only about ninety miles from each other without crossing paths.

Next in the box is Bob Toft on Harmonica and Bass Guitar. Bob has played the Blues and everything else in his Forty years in the business, working with Denny Oxendine for 23 years and now Max Brown for the past 12. Bob has played every major and minor festival and most circuits from the Holiday Inn's to Ramada Inn's. He has entertained the passengers on cruise ships as well as parties from Florida to Joplin while traveling the roads that led to "Blues Venue's" in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and all points in between.

Lastly is the organizer or "Ringleader" so to speak, Larry Don Williams on Bass Guitar, Guitar, and Vocals. Larry Don claims first of all, he is "Blessed and Highly Favored" to still be breathing, and secondly to have rubbed elbows with the Cream of the Crop, and that's speaking about all the guys that make up "OLE FRIENDS," the band. According to LD to name all of the accomplishments of these fellows totally would take several pages, this barely scratches the surface. Since 1958 he has entertained in all the lower 48 states, two tours of Alaska and Thule Greenland. In the year of 1957, at the then "Memorial Hall" he began his trek down music row by singing Tutti Frutti, by Little Richard with two others brothers Walt and Bert Melton. They won a talent show by applause (they had a lot of screaming teenage girls down front) beating Joplin Legend "Don Clements and the Ram-Rods" They were featured in WMBH's R&R radio shows, with T-Bone Walker / Little Mack. He also did some spots in shows with Bobby Lord. Between 1959 through 1965 he played for local and area

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night-clubs, private parties in several bands, including Larry Don and The Shan-tones at the "Eagles Nest." In Sept of '66 after graduating from the A R M Y he was summoned by, and began touring with, the Grand Ole Opry regional shows as a bassist for rising star and now Grammy Award Winning songwriter Wayne Carson, and guitar phenomenon, Merle Travis during his last Midwest tour, just before his death. While with Travis he toured all over Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas, with the likes of Johnny Cash, Minnie Pearl and Grandpa Jones just to name just a few. In 1967 he worked with, and was offered a job, with a Georgia band called The Allman Joy's, aka Allman Brothers Band, in St Louis' legendary Gaslight Square. He turned it down and says "Hindsight is 20/20," but the group he was with was in the process of recording what later became the upper mid-west regional hit "One More Time" on the Garrett label, which also recorded Bob Smith or Wolfman Jack early in his career. The song climbed the charts to #17 in January of 1968. He also didn't think the Georgia based A J's would make it due to personal habits. The rest is in the history books. In 1969 after helping a stranded road band on I-44 he became bassist/vocalist for a Fort Lauderdale based Maxima Show Band, a thirteen piece unit that "hit the ground a runnin.'" What a kick-ass sound, NO MONEY, but what a sound. He then worked with George and Gwen McCrea, a couple of years before their hit Rock Your Baby, at the same large night club in Ft Lauderdale, Florida for nine months. Early on in 1970, he joined another recording group, "Jimmy Head and the 7th Plane," where he was the bassist and vocalist. While with that group, producers and talent scouts picked them to be the music and vocals for the rock opera "Tommy" during that tour. He and two other band members were picked to do the Grammy Awards background vocals while their drummer performed with the Atlanta Symphony for the show, which featured B J Thomas, Billy Joe Royal, Gate-mouth Brown, Archie Campbell, and Roy Rogers.

While living in Atlanta working in Underground Atlanta at Sgt. Peppers, and recording an original album, he was approached by Tommy Cogbill and Chip's Moman to work on an up-coming recording project. They were partying pretty good and "I chose not to talk business that evening while they were toasted". They did not come back but he found out later by reading the album liner notes the artists name for the project was none other than---Elvis Presley. Yet in the meantime, while he was in Atlanta, he worked with the legendary Platters, The Coasters, Tams, and The Drifters, featuring Bill Pinkney. In 1973 forming once again his own band, Grandma's Remedy and he opened for what was later Co-Billed with A.R.S. (Atlanta Rhythm Section) and Dennis Yost and the Classics IV. Their last tour included opening for Ike and Tina Turner (what a lesson) and then bassist for "Tina" and worked shows with David Allen Coe and Charlie McClain.

This is a very small accounting and list of the accomplishments and travels on the band that will highlight the celebration of Joplin High School Class of '64's 50th Reunion. They are very humble and some-what reserved with information about their feats. However, I can tell you this much, "Fifty" plus years is a long time to hold a single job and they have accomplished the task. These entertainers have shared the stage with the finest of the fine, greatest of the great and the most brilliant and shiny stars past and present. In many instances their talent catapulted the stars to fame and fortune. Fame also comes in various ways, and in this writers opinion "The Brass Ring" might not have been in their hands but "he who had the ring" they were the reason he or she grasped it. All these performers are "still alive and kickin'" and entertaining you at various night clubs and Casino's in the area other than Larry Don who has made his home "Down South With Da Donkeys" on the sugar-white sands in Northwest Florida where he has a trio "Bone Dry" with yet another Joplin musician, guitarist, Gary Patrum. Live a little and treat yourself to some great entertainment. Live Music Lives in Joplin.

Compiled by CALD and Associates

Ann Wheeler%	Janet Hale (Lee Tabin)	Mitch Stinnett (Deborah)
Betty Shanks	Janet Wetherell (John Brown)	Monty Gavin (Cheryl)
Beverly Kluthe%	Janice Martin (Bill Hagan)	Nancy Hill% (Loretta Faulkner)
Bill Hunt (Wilma)	Janice McBride%	Pam Franks% (Bruce)
Billie Lenger & Dave Stockam	Janice Thornberry% (Ron Mathews)	Pat Aggus (Don Noe)
Bob Linam (Creola)	Jay Campbell	Pat Gold (Mary Kay)
Bob Rose% (Donna)	Jeanne Lewis	Paula Mills% (Ben Bartlett)
Bob Schimmel (Karen)	Jeanne Lind	Phyllis Payne
Bruce McCaw% (Jamie)	Jim Christiansen	Phyllis Phillips%
Calvin Divine	Jim Keagy% (Joanne)	Rex Adamson
Carol Corbin (Ed Buck)	Jim Willis% (Linda Johnson)	Rick Sadler (Linda)
Carol Yeakey	John Keeling (Debbie)	Rich LaNear (Ellen)
Charlene Veteto% (Mike Jones)	Jon Kaltenbach	Robyn King (Gary Wade)
Connie Culton	Joyce Tillman%	Rosemary Kempt
David Knisley%	Judy Greenwood% (Larry Muhr)	Rosemary Stockburger (Brooks Brinkerhoff)
Dennis Lea% (Konnie)	Karen Trenary	Ross Smith & Jeanne Looper%
Dennis Smith% (Nancy)	Karol Tate%	Sallie Schofield%
Diane Moore%	Katherine Patterson%	Sharon Harrison% (Steve Downs)
Dick Smith (Debbie)	Kathy Blagg (Jerry Petty)	Sharon Peters
Don Bray (Laura)	Larry Buehner	Sherri Campbell (Darrell Orender)
Don Hall (Ruth)	Larry Munn%	Sherry Baker (Jerry Cole)
Don Marvin (Diane)	Larry Strong (Kathy)	Sharon Harrison% (Steve Downs)
Donna Drake%	Larry Don Williams% (Carolyn)	Stephanie White (Jim Everitt)
Donna Gibson	Linda Hensley (Chuck Evans)	Steve Campbell (Sally)
Donna Powers%	Lonny Dixon% (Cathi Grantham)	Susan Riley% (Joe Clement)
Ellen Zwicker (Chuck Arnce)	Lyle Rosenberry (Carolyn)	Suzanne Gilmore (Clark Smith)
Emmett Haddox	Lynn Lawson (Sandra)	Tom Harrison (Sherry)
Evelyn Smith (Mike Steele)	Margie Doolen (Russell)	Vera Oxendine
Everett French	Mark Stout% (Nancy)	Vicki Jones% (Walter Cornman)
Frank Metz% (Norma Lee)	Marian Wolf (Jack Lehr)	% Holiday Inn
Gary Hamlin (Sharon)	Martha Earhart% (Jerry Wright)	107 Classmates - 67 Guests
Gerry Harrel (Cathy)	Marvin Gray (Marsha)	
Gilda "Pat" Edmonson (Robert Baker)	Mickey Moore% (Cheryl)	
Glenda Roe (Wayne Wittner)	Mike Carper/Juanita Conner%	
Harry Boyd (Mary)	Mike Clark (Joyce)	
Hedy Barkley (Friday Only)	Mike Mullenix% (Troy)	
Hugh Grossman%	Mike Shipley% (Jan)	
Jack Haverly	Mitch Stephens (Connie)	

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