



"JHS Class of '64"

Issue 21

Class Newsletter April 30, 2015

Here Is Our 21st Edition

Joplin Eagles

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Jeanne's Globe Article | 1 |
| Inside Looking Out | 3 |
| Bio | 5 |
| Remember This | 7 |
| Hodgepodge | 9 |
| Tidbits | 10 |
| Mishmash Medley | 12 |

"My response to winter: Wake me when it's over!"

I've gotta say that winter is my fourth favorite season. I've lived too long at various times in my adult life in the Sunshine State to really like the long, bleak, cold days of the season between fall and spring that I experience here in the Midwest.

So, now that the landscape is waking up from its slumber, leaves are back on the trees and tulips are brave enough to poke their heads above ground, I'm figuratively waking up and appreciating the newness all around me.

Whatever your reaction to the recent season, this spring edition of our JHS newsletter greets you with the wish that all things sunny, bright and new will be your experience.

I recently wrote the Joplin Globe column that follows when I realized I wasn't seeing things around me with the same excitement that I had when they were new. Maybe it took a little nudge from Spirit for me to awaken to a renewed appreciation of my surroundings.

Think there's a lesson for me to learn in my reluctance to embrace winter? Let me sleep on it.

Jeanne Looper Smith



(Jeanne Looper Smith's Joplin Globe Article)

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

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

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

I remembered how excited I was about that dashboard when we first looked at the car in the showroom—how the colors of red, cream and black and the fabulous styling were reminiscent of

(Continued on the Next Page)

an old Bakelite radio from the 1940s.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here's looking at you! 📷

Joplin Globe article by Jeanne Looper Smith, who grew up in Joplin and now lives in Kansas City, MO. You may share memories of Joplin with her at wistfulwordsmith@gmail.com

An April classmate evening get together at Gooch Brothers in Joplin

Front L-R: Janet Counts Severs, Evelyn Sargent Sweet '65, Carol Corbin Buck, Robyn King Wade
Back L-R: Pat Aggus Noe, Jon Kaltenbach, Miriam Hoagland, Beverley Kluthe & Don Bray



Mercy's Precious Gift

Mercy Hospital Joplin has been completed and began regular service on March 22, 2015. Employees and community members made a symbolic walk a week prior to alert the area they were returning home to an expansive new medical facility. Starting at the original 26th St. site which is now a simple, elevated grass memorial with multiple steps leading upward, participants walked south to the new location just beyond the intersection of S. Main and I-44. The 100 acre campus is bordered by the highway, Main, 50th, and Indiana streets. It was an impressive sight beginning at 6 a.m. on the Sunday moving day, to see the transport of 79 inpatients travel from the temporary facility near 29th and Picher to the new hospital. Ambulance after ambulance made the drive down S. Main as police cars secured the route. The first patient transported was an expectant mother whose healthy twins were delivered an hour after arriving at the new hospital! The transfers were complete by late morning and family members waited in reception areas to be escorted to their patients' rooms.

Mercy has bestowed a most precious gift to Joplin with the hope that the new hospital will be a "restful place of welcome" as shared by the Sisters of Mercy addressing those at the dedication. The \$465 million project comprises 890,000 sq. ft. and provides both complete hospital services and a clinic for doctors' offices. Approaching from the southwest side, one enters the clinic for physician appointments; hospital visitors park and enter from the northeast side. The corridors connect so cardiac patients and doctors are on the same floor as it is with other specialties. How convenient it is for providers to be within the same building, thus eliminating travel time to access their patients. The Cancer Center extends to the south with an exterior gazebo where patients may elect, in good weather, to receive chemo treatments outside. Surgery patients are assigned one of sixty-nine private pre/post op. rooms where family members can remain in that room during surgical procedures and recovery or return to main surgery waiting which has floor to ceiling glass windows.

Technically, the most modern of equipment has been included. Video conferencing allows specialists hundreds of miles away to study electronic patient records and provide collaborative efforts with local physicians. The \$60 million data center capability which provided patient records to be electronically stored offsite even prior to the tornado, continues to be a part of the technology. The physical structure is a storm-hardened facility with backup generators partially buried. Special windows, (59,000 sq. ft. of them) are designed to withstand high winds and have received national design attention due to Joplin's past disaster. As one tours the 5 story clinic tower and 9 story hospital tower, you feel more like you are entering a hotel than a clinical area. The open spaces with modern furnishing placed throughout the reception areas are set amidst serene hues of pastel aquamarines and whites. There is minimum signage in the effort to create an "at home" and non-commercial feeling. This has been artfully accomplished and visitors are sharing their awareness of the feeling of comfort they feel.

The chapel is a tranquil and modern room with a wall of Stations of the Cross carefully reassembled from the former location. There and in other sections of flooring in the building, pieces of glass have been poured during construction which came from the original building. Nearby is the cafeteria where employees and visitors sit by glass walls which overlook the moving traffic on the interstate. A small, gas fireplace sits in the middle of the room, thus continuing the feeling of being home.

(Continued on the Next Page)

Looking back in history, I know many of us were born at St. John's which would have been at the 22nd and Jackson location. In 1896 (obviously before our birthdates!), the Sister of Mercy established their first hospital in Joplin at 10th and Virginia which was known as Mercy Hospital. This came about because the nuns realized an injured mine worker had to be transported by train to Ft. Scott to the hospital. The 13 Sisters of Mercy had come from Louisville, Kentucky just a year earlier to establish a Catholic school in our infamous mining town. Four years after starting their hospital, the property we would have first known was the next location and would have many expansions as the hospital grew. In 1968, the "new" St. Johns Regional Medical Center was opened just south of Cunningham Park and many of our own children were born there. By 2009, St. John's rejoined Sisters of Mercy. A few days after the 2011 tornado, Mercy opened the 60-bed tent hospital during our great time of need after sending their team to help at Memorial Hall in the first days of triage. After the row of white tents, came the modular hospital three months later. Next, in 2012, Mercy opened a small, newly built hospital with full-scale emergency department and birthing facilities. And now, in 2015, we have the exceptional new Mercy Hospital Joplin!

As volunteers were encouraged to participate, my neighbor and I decided to join others who are retired and have time to share. It's been a great experience; only six weeks into a weekly assignment, we've enjoyed visiting with patients and families, staff and volunteers and see firsthand the need Mercy Hospital Joplin has filled. I continue to be amazed at the distance many travel to come here and how appreciative people are to have someone to welcome them during a time of health concerns. Working in surgery waiting has been an experience which reminds me what a difference a volunteer can make in a patient's and family members' health encounter. We like being a part of the Mercy family and are appreciative of the faith Mercy health care systems has placed in Joplin with their massive and precious gift. Stop by if you're in town or check online at;

<https://www.mercy.net/newsroom/2015-03-23/new-mercy-hospital-joplin-opens-to-patients> 

Phyllis Payne Sapp

A Message From Carol Corbin Buck

Our May Get Togethers

The 1st Thursday of the month will be May 7th, and the 3rd Friday will be May 15th, however, this would be back to back get togethers because May has 5 Friday's, so we will change to the 4th Friday which is May 22nd.

So there will be two class dinners, one on Thursday May 7th & then Friday May 22nd at 6:30 PM.

We will be gathering at my son Jon's new Palace Pizza Co. at 122 Main St. in Downtown Joplin.

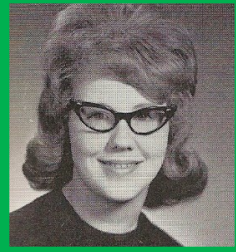
Jon is going to see if Olivia Wu can sing at one of the get togethers, she's an awesome 14 year old local girl.

Please give me a call or email me so I can have an accurate head count.

Thanks,

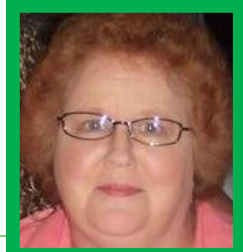
Carol Corbin Buck

Cell 417-483-3285 or csbuck64@aol.com



Donna Powers - Bio

**"Through all our moves we made friends
with many wonderful people."**



Upon graduation from JHS, I went to work and also attended, the now, Missouri Southern University.

In 1968 I married Gary Hansen from Noel, MO and moved to St Louis. Over the next few years we lived a number of places. When the head hunters called, and if it benefited us financially, we packed up and moved!

Through all our moves we made friends with many wonderful people. In 1973 we were living in Charlotte, North Carolina where our son, Graden, was born. What a joy he was and continues to be to this day. Graden now lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri with his wonderful wife, Tiffany, and their two children, Hunter, 21 and Dayne, 14. Graden has a REAL job but also is a professional bass fisherman doing fishing seminars. Hunter is in his third year of college-and I must brag that Hunter played football for Lee's Summit West when they won the state championship. Dayne is in 10th grade at Lee's Summit West-full of personality-and she's currently one of the managers for the wrestling team.

In 1975 we were living in Wagner, Oklahoma when our daughter Gretchen was born. When she was 8 months old, I was cleaning up the kitchen when I looked and saw she was playing in the dirt of one of my large plants. I immediately told her "No" and as I was going toward her she just kept playing in the dirt. Her back was to me so I started clapping. Again nothing. All of a sudden it dawned on me that she didn't hear me.

We were in the process of getting ready to move to Pocahontas, Arkansas. Gary had already started his new job but luckily was due home any time for the weekend. That night we did everything we could think of to make noise such as shaking money in a jar, pounding on pots and pans, etc. She responded to nothing.

I called to make an appointment with her doctor in Tulsa. After checking her, and using a tuning fork, he told me there was a possibility that she couldn't hear-and to take her home and love her. I was told to bring her back when she was 18 months old. Common sense told me that if she couldn't hear, I shouldn't wait 18 months to do something. I made an appointment with an ENT specialist.

After Gretchen's examination the doctor felt pretty certain there was fluid in her ear so we scheduled surgery to have tubes put in her ears. When the Doctor appeared after surgery he told us that he found no fluid in her ears and that she was deaf.

Needless to say, my life forever changed that day. Other people had children with special needs, but not me! Upon returning to our new home I quickly got us unpacked and our home put together in record time-for me.

Next I started checking to see what was available to help me prepare Gretchen to develop and learn in a hearing world. I discovered that the School for the Deaf was located in Little Rock where she would receive her education beginning at age 5. Also, that the state would send someone to our home to help us learn sign language twice a week until she became school age. I found out that ASU in Jonesboro, Arkansas had a wonderful Speech and Hearing Department and immediately called to make an appointment.

There I met Jane LaBlanc who changed the direction of my life. She told me that Federal Law 142 had just passed giving children with handicaps a free and appropriate education. I was thrilled that Gretchen would

(Continued on the Next Page)

be able to stay at home and go to school with her brother but that I needed to let my district know that she would be needing services in four years to allow the district to plan ahead.

I called our Superintendent and was told that they couldn't provide services because of the size of our district and also that deafness was a "low incidence" disability. He then told me—his exact words—"She belongs at the School for the Deaf with her own kind."

I was furious and I knew if I didn't advocate for Gretchen, no one would. So, at that moment, I knew that I had to get deeply immersed in the world of disabilities.

After getting involved at the local and state levels and learning more about the world of disabilities, I was elected in 1977 to be the parent delegate to the first "White House Conference for Persons with Handicaps" in Washington, DC. In that capacity, I was chosen to advocate for parents of children with various handicaps all over the state of Arkansas.

It was decided at the conference that we all hated the word handicapped and the new language became Persons with Disabilities and/or Persons with Special Needs. I have always considered it an honor and a privilege to represent this wonderful group of people.

This trip provided me with an opportunity to visit with my childhood friend, Jeanne Looper Smith, who was living in Washington, DC at the time. We hadn't seen each other for several years and renewed a friendship that began when we were in Kindergarten at Washington School in Joplin.

Also early in my journey working with Jane Le Blanc, we discovered Central Institute for the Deaf in St Louis. CID is a private oral school for deaf and severely hard of hearing children from four years old through 8th grade. They have students attending school there from all over the world.

CID also has a Parent Infant Program for parents and their babies/toddlers. Because of her participation in this, Gretchen, Graden and I would go to St. Louis to stay three or four days every month for instruction in how to teach Gretchen to speak or read lips. Another dear friend from childhood, Phyllis Phillips Whitten and her husband, Mel, opened their home to us just about every month for almost three years.

I feel compelled to tell one of Graden's funny stories on our first trip to St Louis. I was explaining to Graden, who was almost 3, that we would be flying in an airplane and that we would be going way up high in the sky. He asked "Will we see Jesus?" I said "I really don't think we will be flying up that high," and he said, "Well, if we do and I see him, can I pet him?" Children have a wonderful ability to interject a light touch in any moment.

Gretchen was to start school at CID at the age of 5. At that point, it was feasible for us to send her there. However, for me, it was like sending a toddler to college. Luckily, we didn't have to make that choice as a career change for my husband sent us to Iowa where great programs provided the support that she needed.

And, it was there that my own career was born. I volunteered and served on boards and committees that insured that children with disabilities were represented well. As a result of advocating in that capacity I began a part-time position working for an agency that provided services for people with disabilities.

In 1989 my long term marriage ended. And, just when I needed it, a position was created for a

(Continued on the Next Page)

fulltime parent educator coordinator for 26 school districts.

That became a 20 year commitment—and one that I loved. I facilitated support groups for various disabilities and parenting classes. All this enabled me to educate other parents about their rights and responsibilities in their child's public school education and, in turn, supported them in being their child's advocate. This was a team approach that included parents, teachers, school psychologists, social workers and speech and hearing professionals.

My favorite part of my job was working with the families in making certain that their child's educational program was being followed to enable their child to develop to full potential. As a parent with a child with special needs, I was particularly qualified to understand the stresses and challenges they were facing.

As a postscript, Gretchen's hard work paid off—she speaks and is a gifted lip reader. She was an outstanding student who graduated from college with a 3.6 grade point average. She has worked at the same job for 14 years, has two fabulous children, T.J. 14, and Kylie, 11, both very involved in sports. I love going to their games.

As you can see, I'm pretty darn proud!

I retired in 2011. Since that time, I'm spending time with my children and grandchildren and continue to advocate for persons with disabilities.

I've enjoyed reconnecting with so many of you, particularly since our 40th reunion, at a time that our differences no longer mattered—just the joy of being together. 🐾

ATTENTION ALL CLASSMATES

Hello classmates, hopefully you will take time to read this section as I would like to bring you up to date with our newsletter. We distribute this via email to some 300 classmates and we have some that take it by snail mail and our classmate Stephanie White Everitt mails out to those folks. As of this release we've had 42 classmates write a bio for our newsletter and we come to you in every newsletter asking for a bio or material for the newsletter. Some have said they will do a bio and we are in waiting on those classmates. If it wasn't for Donna Powers Hansen we would not have a bio for this edition. What's strange is several classmates say how much they love the newsletter and reading the bios. So here we go again, asking, if you said you would do a bio or would even consider doing a bio, step up to the plate and lay it on us. It doesn't have to be anything personal, it doesn't have to be lengthy, we've had 1/2 page bios to 3 page bios. Jeanne Looper Smith & Phyllis Payne Sapp have offered to help anyone that is willing to do just a rough draft or even talking to one of them. Help is here folks. We've also had offers of help from Jan Hale Tabin on writing, so we're here for you to just possibly tell us how you got from Joplin, MO to wherever USA or maybe tell why you stayed in the area. We have 3 people putting this newsletter together and after 21 issues and not a ton of input from 300+ classmates that receive the newsletter, it would be nice to know if you even read what the three of us take a helluva lot of our time to put together and to keep all informed. Although we do enjoy doing this, we are about at the point where we may be doing a chunk of fiction for you to read. So think about it folks, there are some great stories to be shared and we'd love to hear yours or your bio. 🐾 **DK**

Dennis Lea & Rick Sadler

Last Summer's No-Hitters . . .

1/63

Lea and Sadler Did the Right Thing at Just the Right Time

By RON HUTCHISON
 News Herald Sports Editor

The title of this story should be "How to do the right thing at the right time" or "The best time to pitch a no-hitter is when a professional baseball scout is watching," by Dennis Lea and Rick Sadler.

Dennis Lea, 1920 Harlem avenue, and Rick Sadler, 1902 East Twelfth street, have had one desire in life—to play professional baseball. Now that chance has been given substance.

It's no secret that both boys have gotten their feet into that door labeled "The Great American Pastime," by signing with the Cincinnati Reds of the National League, but the prelude encompassing Cincinnati scout Jack O'Reilly's decision to sign them is something of a novelty.

It began with a phone call from former Joplin high school baseball coach John Willingham to Cincinnati scout Jack O'Reilly. Willingham, presently Dean of Boys at Joplin high school, recalls that "I called Jack and told him he should definitely see these two boys as well as several others I had in mind. Of course, he had heard of Rick from other scouts, but was interested in seeing not only these two boys but several others."

O'Reilly arrived in time to see Dennis Lea pitch his first no-hitter of the season against Nevada in the American Legion district tournament at Neosho last summer. The following day Rick stepped to the mound and duplicated Dennis' feat of the previous day as he too hurled his first no-hitter of the season against the host team Neosho. Neither boy was aware that they were being scouted and needless to say, O'Reilly was impressed.

Both boys were signed by Cincinnati. Dennis signed December 1. Rick signed December 23. Both boys will play for Peninsula in the Carolina Class A League.

"I don't think I'll encounter any physical problems in pro ball," says Dennis, "it will be mostly mental. The guys in class A ball are usually a couple of years older and it may take a while to adjust." Dennis and Rick are scheduled to report for spring training in the middle of



RICK SADLER

DENNIS LEA

Pitched Back-to-Back No-Hitters

son didn't play his senior year at Joplin high. Rick gave up less than two runs per game for the Eagles last season with a 1.87 earned run average at the end of the '64 Eagle season.

Both boys pitched on the Joplin American Legion ball club, winning 34 games between them. Rick had a 17-5 record while Dennis chalked up a 17-3 mark. "I guess I'm lucky," says Dennis, "because I've got a natural breaking ball. My strike-out pitch is my fast ball, but I also have some pretty good stuff on my slider." Rick explains that his best pitch is also his fast ball, but he will often go to a slider, curve, or off-speed pitch.

Both boys have been working out, jogging and running 50-yard wind sprints on the Joplin high school football field every afternoon.

"O'Reilly said that I should take off a little weight around the middle," Rick says, "and in two weeks I've already worked off 10 pounds putting me at 204."

Scouts Ray Myers of Detroit and Chef Montgomery of Pittsburgh have spoken to Rick in

Oldest of its kind

HFC's helpful money service

At 87, Household Finance Corporation is about the same age as the electric light . . . in fact, the oldest and largest company of its kind. That's why more than 2,000,000 people a year borrow from HFC.

Never borrow money needlessly, but for any good purpose, borrow with confidence from Household Finance.

Ask about credit life insurance on loans at group rates



| Cash You Got | MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 36 payments | 30 payments | 24 payments | 12 payments |
| \$100 | \$ → | \$ → | \$ 5.41 | \$ 8.58 |
| 200 | \$ → | \$ → | 10.83 | 19.16 |
| 500 | \$ → | \$ → | 27.09 | 47.91 |
| 1000 | \$ → | 43.21 | 51.51 | 95.27 |
| 2000 | 69.78 | 80.87 | 97.54 | 183.14 |
| 2200 | 76.11 | 88.31 | 106.66 | 198.60 |
| 2500 | 85.59 | 99.46 | 120.31 | 224.79 |

Above payments include both principal and interest, based on prompt repayment.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE

(Continued on the Next Page)

Boys at Joplin high school recalls that "I called Jack and told him he should definitely see these two boys as well as several others I had in mind. Of course, he had heard of Rick from other scouts, but was interested in seeing not only these two boys but several others."

O'Reily arrived in time to see Dennis Lea pitch his first no-hitter of the season against Nevada in the American Legion district tournament at Neosho last summer. The following day Rick stepped to the mound and duplicated Dennis' feat of the previous day as he too hurled his first no-hitter of the season against the host team Neosho. Neither boy was aware that they were being scouted and needless to say, O'Reily was impressed.

Both boys were signed by Cincinnati. Dennis signed December 1. Rick signed December 23. Both boys will play for Peninsula in the Carolina Class A League.

"I don't think I'll encounter any physical problems in pro ball," says Dennis, "it will be mostly mental. The guys in class A ball are usually a couple of years older and it may take a while to adjust." Dennis and Rick are scheduled to report for spring training in the middle of March. No exact date has been set.

Dennis and Rick, both 18 years old, are 1964 graduates of Joplin high school. Dennis has been attending Jasper County Junior college majoring in physical education. Dennis, bothered by a sore arm at the first of last season

RICK SADLER DENNIS LEA
Pitched Back-to-Back No-Hitters

son didn't play his senior year at Joplin high. Rick gave up less than two runs per game for the Eagles last season with a 1.87 earned run average at the end of the '64 Eagle season.

Both boys pitched on the Joplin American Legion ball club, winning 34 games between them. Rick had a 17-5 record while Dennis chalked up a 17-3 mark. "I guess I'm lucky," says Dennis, "because I've got a natural breaking ball. My strike-out pitch is my fast ball, but I also have some pretty good stuff on my slider." Rick explains that his best pitch is also his fast ball, but he will often go to a slider, curve, or off-speed pitch.

Both boys have been working out, jogging and running 50-yard wind sprints on the Joplin high school football field every afternoon.

"O'Reily said that I should take off a little weight around the middle," Rick says, "and in two weeks I've already worked off 10 pounds putting me at 204."

Scouts Ray Myers of Detroit and Chet Montgomery of Pittsburgh have spoken to Rick in the past about professional baseball contracts, but the 18-year-old speed-baller says he didn't care for the Detroit organization. "Pittsburgh wanted me to wait until next summer," Rick says, "but I didn't want to wait until next summer, I wanted to sign now."

Oldest of its kind
HFC's helpful money service

At 87, Household Finance Corporation is about the same age as the electric light... in fact, the oldest and largest company of its kind. That's why more than 2,000,000 people a year borrow from HFC.

Never borrow money needlessly, but for any good purpose, borrow with confidence from Household Finance.

| Cash You Get | MON 36 payments |
|--------------|-----------------|
| \$100 | \$ - |
| 200 | -> |
| 500 | -> |
| 1000 | -> |
| 2000 | 69.78 |
| 2200 | 76.11 |
| 2500 | 85.59 |

Ask about credit life insurance on loans at group rates

Above payments and interest, based on 36 payments

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE
 Corporations

JOPLIN
 405½ Main St., 2nd Floor, Q
 PHONE: MAYfair 4-6
PITTSBURG
 502 North Broadway—ADa



I'm not going to reinvent the wheel—or the info around the possibility of a new kind of cruise for the JHS Class of 1964. So, let's re-visit the original article (with some minor changes) I wrote for an earlier newsletter and refresh your memory, and perhaps your interest, in a class cruise. (Or if you didn't see the original cruise blurb, you're reading about what's up for the first time...)

Cruising Main Street was part of the teenage culture in Joplin, Missouri. On the weekends in the early 1960s, cruising was our weekend ritual.

You remember the drill—we'd pile in a car, put in a dollars worth of gas and spend every Friday and Saturday night driving up and down that long expanse of asphalt with occasional stops at the C&A, El Rancho or Keller's.

You can't cruise Main Street in Joplin now—I've seen the "no cruising" signs—and let's face it, even if we could, it doesn't have the same pull.

However, there's been some talk about having a different cruise experience some 50 years later.

Here's what's being kicked around and thrown out for your consideration. Since most of us will be 70 years old in 2016, there was talk at one of our post-reunion committee meetings about taking a cruise to celebrate that milestone.

At this point, we're just testing the waters (pun intended) to see if you'd be interested in going as a group to blow out 70 candles—cause it'll take a bunch of us to do that. It's too early to make reservations and make hard plans but not too soon to see if there's genuine interest.

This trip will not be handled by anyone in the JHS class of 1964. We will each be responsible for booking the cruise with the cruise line selected and responsible for travel arrangements to and from the city where the cruise originates and ends.

Right now, classmate Stephanie White would like to know how many Class of '64ers have a serious interest in taking a cruise. A few of you have already contacted her, but we're putting it out there again.

Please contact Stephanie at d56cic@joplin.com if you think you'd like to be part of the fun. If enough of us want to go, we may be able to negotiate a group rate.

There's still time to save for this floating 70th birthday party.

Jeanne Looper Smith

The Cat Without Fear!!!



The last class get together was held at Palace Pizza, owned by Jon Buck, Carol & Ed Buck’s son. Those in attendance were, Front Row L-R: Jon Kaltenbach, Carol Corbin Buck (Standing) & Sharon Peters Arnold. Back Row L-R: Charles Baker, in town from Greenwich, CT, Connie Culton Cox, Ellen Zwicker Arnce, June DuVal Cota, Beverley Kluthe, Miriam Hoagland, Evelyn Sargent Sweet ‘65, Jeanne Lind McAferty, Rita & Mike Greenstreet.



Dave & Billie Stockam

This past week I noticed a Facebook Timeline tag that was posted by our classmate Billie Lenger Stockam that read as follows: "*Dave and I are presenting a cheerleader at JHS a scholarship in Lisa's memory in the morning. So all prayers appreciated. I am sure it will be emotional but we are thankful to God to be able to do it. And I know she is cheering us on. Between this and Purple Stride 5k in Kansas City this weekend, it is a very emotional week.*" I thought how inspiring as we have another example of the true character of the Stockam family. I asked Billie if she would mind giving me a small synopsis of what lead up to this gesture. In true Billie Sue fashion, I received the following in two days.

Dave Knisley (DK)

In celebration of the reopening of our beloved Joplin High School, Dave and I wanted to do something to help in the excitement of the students and teachers. I met with Jeff Starkweather, the Athletic Director, and shared with him our idea of presenting a cheerleader at JHS a scholarship in memory of our beautiful daughter, Lisa Stockam, who passed away in January, 2013, after a 2 1/2 year battle with pancreatic cancer. Jeff liked our idea and asked me if I wanted it to be an academic scholarship, and of course that is very important, but we wanted it based on school spirit and leadership. Lisa had cheered since junior high, high school, and Missouri Southern College. She was always a captain, and very much a leader through it all. Her love for Joplin High School and the town of Joplin was always so evident in her life. After the 2011 tornado, even though she was in the middle of chemo treatments and her immune system was compromised, she insisted on going door to door, wearing a mask, to pass out personal items to those in need. It is with this spirit that this award first started in my heart. The girl that was selected for the award is very qualified. She has leadership skills and is a beautiful young lady. She completed an application for the scholarship and explained how her grandpa had passed away last January very suddenly from pancreatic cancer. Perfect fit. Also Lisa's JHS class is having their 25th reunion on July 18. One of Lisa's cheerleading friends had organized a 5k run the morning of July 18 in her honor. I think they are giving all proceeds to the Key Club at JHS. So anyone in our area can participate if interested. We will have a table set up with pictures of Lisa at the event. It starts at 7:00 on July 18 at JHS parking lot. In life, none of us plan on dealing with such heartache as we have had over Lisa, but Dave and I have learned in all these years we must trust God and draw strength from our faith. Love to all of our classmates and be blessed. ***Dave and Billie***

Now a follow-up:

Dave & Billie were in Kansas City this past weekend to participate in the 5k Purple Pride walk/run that begin in Theis Park, near the Country Club Plaza. The phrase "Woulda, Shoulda, Coulda" comes to mind as I just found out about this event 2 days before kickoff. We have about 26 classmates that live in the Kansas City area and time permitting I bet we "cloulda" rounded up 12 to 15 souls that woulda walked in this event representing Joplin High School Class of '64. And the ones that live within the area that didn't walk with us "shoulda." We hope all went well and we pray that the money raised will be used to wipe out this dreaded disease will soon come to pass. God bless Dave & Billie for their community and charitable giving's.

DK

(See pictures on the next page)



I just want to say a big thank you to the Stockam family for choosing me for the award honoring their daughter, and to my friends and family who have supported me throughout my cheerleading career. It was an honor to accept this award, and it was also an honor to be a JHS Cheerleader.

Hailey Radcliffe

The Purple Stride Gang

It was a great day in Kansas City for a walk/run And hopefully all finished with no more than possibly a sore muscle the next day.



ADDENDUM: While we were in KC at Purple Stride last weekend, the JHS cheerleader that we gave the scholarship to tried out for cheerleader at MSSC and she got it. Both of our daughters cheered at MSSC too, so the fit even got better. And at Purple Stride, it was a huge success with over 2500 people there participating and we raised over \$285,000 for research for pancreatic cancer. Lisa's Dragonfly team had 78 and raised over \$5500. We gladly invite any of you to join us next year. It's always first part of May. I will remind you. That would be such a personal blessing to Dave and me to have some of our 1964 classmates join us. Thank you especially for helping us honor Lisa. **Billie Stockam**

Class Bulletin Board

Hey classmates, have you marked your calendar for June 26th & 27th? That's when our classmate Larry Don Williams and the band Ole' Friends will be playing at Indigo Sky on Friday and then moving to Downstream on Saturday.

I would like to connect with those classmates that would be interested in attending one or both events and I will plan a get together in early June and see what sort of turnout we will have in attending one or both the events and cheering on the guys.

If any classmate would be interested in being at that meeting in June or just attending either or both casino events, please email me at the class email address letting me know your preference or preferences. Again, the class email address is joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com so click on it and see if it works.

I will set up a place to meet in the Joplin area and see what our turnout will be and talk about transportation and some other key factors, knowing that Larry & the gang will enjoy the reconnect as well as our support. And knowing them, I bet it will be another evening that we will always remember **DK**

Take a bow Larry, what a great performance by the whole gang.



Keep in mind that the DVD of the 50th reunion has been placed on YouTube and can be viewed by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVrrCjy9GI>

Remembrances and sympathy of our classmates and family:

Our condolences are sent to the family and friends in the passing of our classmate Robert Riggs

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3012928&fh_id=10419

May sympathy be extended to family and friends for the passing of our classmate Joy Graham

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3020637&fh_id=10419

We extend our sympathy to our classmate John Coodey for the passing of his father

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2997394&fh_id=10419

Condolences are sent to our classmate Ron Copeland, in the passing of his father

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2976798&fh_id=10419

Our sympathy goes out to our classmate Nancy Page for the recent passing of her brother

http://www.parkermortuary.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3084857&fh_id=10419

In preparation of the Indy 500, my yardwork is about done

The editorial team for content consists of Jeanne Looper Smith, Phyllis Payne Sapp and Dave Knisley. Please feel free to comment & contribute to the newsletter at joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com

We still have classmates that we've classified as missing. If you have any idea where these classmates are, feel free to share with us so we can update our class directory. Please help us locate the following 32 classmates:

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

Linda Baugh (Robards)

Patricia Kay Belk

Richard Burns

Ed Carey

Gary M Colvin

Larry Conboy (Phoenix, AZ area)

Johnie Coots (Seguin, TX area)

Rayma Coy

Merlene Garrison (Burris)

James "Jim" Hilton

Clair Howard

Robert "Bob" Jordan

James "Jim" Lamb

La Donna Miller

Merlin "Butch" Mitchell

Carol Munson (Wrench)

Emma Nunn

Mitchell "Pat" O'Brien

Judy Osborne (Gardner)

Richard Lee Pearson

Patty Riley (Brewer) (Joplin, MO)

Naomi June Shelton

Drucilla Short

Connie Smith

Robert James "Bob" Smith

Jack Sneed

William "Bill" Ray Stow

Shirley Teague

Mary Thornton (Reed)

Linda Vails

Thomas Warren (Chicago, IL area)

Paula Weinacht

"If You Change Your Contact Information"

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

Continuing to Follow the Chapman's

Taking that infamous 3 hour tour, not.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfR7qxtqCqY>. Mike & Twyla Chapman leased their home in Joplin, bought a boat and hit the waters around North America. They also have a blog set up and post their adventures on it almost daily.

<http://yw8t.blogspot.com/>

*We thank these classmates,
our bio contributors*

