

Shawnee Mission North High School - Class of 1961 Web Site Guest Book Archive for the period 2003-2014

From Jim Goudelock (9-22-14): The operation went great; quad bypass and no heart muscle damage had been done. (Jim had a quadruple bypass at Fletcher Allen Healthcare in Burlington, VT.) We should be able to get out of Vermont by Oct 25th, and get us back to the warmer climes for the winter. Spent 21 years in this man's Navy... and a mighty fine 21 years it was. Retired as an HMC back in '84, then 21 years running a small pushboat business on the Mississippi River in New Orleans, then we sold everything and have been traveling ever since. Thanks for posting Bruce's missive... I heard from quite a few SMN 61 classmates. It's mighty nice to be remembered. - Jim

From Mat Haug (9-19-14): Just a personal note.... I have had ALS for the past year or so. Getting to the point that I can not walk or dance anymore. But I am in my 3rd year auditing chemistry and biology at Portland State University . After age 65, Oregon residents can take 8 credits per term for FREE! ALS has no pain associated with it, just the motor nerves die, then the muscle die. No cure. I have a diaphragm pacemaker, to keep the diaphragm alive, and a feeding tube, for when I can not swallow anymore. So I expect to be around for a couple more years, but that is just a guess. Bottom line is that I can not make any more class reunions. But please keep me on your email list. Right now we are on a 2 week trip to Croatia, next week Hawaii, then then school starts up again September 29th. ALS is a bummer but I am not yet depressed, still enjoying life! - Mat

From Tom Dailey (5-27-2013): Next year - 2014, the Shawnee-Mission School District (512) celebrates 60 years of Rushton School. As those of us who went there in 1954, were the FIRST CLASSES to attend, the school administration sincerely wishes to hear from us, with copies of pictures, and anything else that references those halcyon daze [sic] of "Warden Jordan" and "Jailer Maillor". I learned this as I toured the school, just before coming back to Denver, this past week.

From Tom Dailey (4-24-2013): Yesterday, I... along with "Butch" Lewis of SMN '63, were honored by a personally conducted visit through SMN, by Gene Johnson, the Superintendent of Shawnee-Mission Schools, accompanied by the grand-daughter of Merlin Gish and the District Communications supervisor, Kristin, who took many, many photos. We were met by the Principal in the office (felt guilty as hell, thinking we'd done SOMETHING!), along with the entire office staff, and welcomed as if we were "Royalty". Hey Burch, I told Kristin, the photog', that you were known for two things – excellent images... and NEVER SMILING. She laughed.

Then commenced to tour d'force of visiting EVERY space known and unknown by these two intrepid explorers. Walking on the hallowed ground once occupied by Coach Cornwell, W.W. Strong, Gertrude Welsh, Harold George, Vernelle Fletcher (Jones), Ms's Butcher & Collins, Mr. Tiegreen, and even Mr. Clemens & "Wally" Bob Johnson and G. Merlin himself, was beyond description (although I will endeavor to do so, in a later communication. Everywhere we went, the students were welcoming, funny, RESPECTFUL, and eager to learn "how it was" in the "olden daze". They reveled in my stories and laughed at antidotes of yesteryear... yes, Terry Dyke, I even took a photo of "that" place where youer.. "displayed" a portion of yourself that would be met with jail time, these days. Butch, who had the lead role in "Guys and Dolls" in the Senior operetta in '63, got to stand on center stage in the auditorium, while I had found No. 12 seat in my usual seating place on the West side of the auditorium. We both had wet eyes. We BOTH reenacted Mr. Strong's "horsepower experiment" on the same staircase, and remembered the acrid smell of OLD PEACH JAM from the chem labs, up there on the second floor of the science wing.

The gym looks essentially the same; I stood on the tip-up center ring of the basketball court (where I never got to be), and a junior threw me a pass, which I caught, but did NOT sink. We both got a chuckle out of it. The Junior Navy ROTC was working out, and lemme tell ya – those kids are SHARP... damned numbah-one FINE. They're led by a USMC WO-4 (former Gunny), and he'd constructed a crack outfit. He spotted the "fouled anchor" on my tie, and shook the hell out of my hand – "Nice ta' have you here, Chief" – "Semper Fi, Gunny" I said – yep.... damned fine.

Both Butch and I FOUND our lockers (how the hell does that information STAY in your brain?), and we endured the changing of classes – frankly,. we stayed out of the way! The cafeteria no longer has those "generous" ladies in their white dresses; rather, a bit more impersonal these days. No more 35 cents for a very NUTRITIONAL meal, either.... and NEITHER... Still, the kids were laughing, eating, talking, and acting EXACTLY like we did,... scary.

Tonight, we met Gene Johnson (the Supdt), and he presented both of us with a SMN shirt & a LIFETIME PASS to any SMN event... ever - . well kids. It was the best, it's still the best, and we were given a gift that is PRICELESS. We came full-circle and returned, to from whence we came. Yesterday, WE were the heroes... and we still are. - Tom Dailey

From Nancy Kirchoff (4-7-2013): Mrs. Keroher was my fourth grade teacher at Roseland. She attended my wedding and my father's funeral. She was born in 1906 and died at age 106 on Easter Sunday 2013. Her obituary was published April 4 in the Kansas City Star. My brother Criss and I owe her a great deal. She was a magnificent lady. - Nancy

From Ken Robb (7-29-2012): My wife Ann and I attended the reunion...it was a great event. Unfortunately we somehow

missed taking to some who were there but we didn't see them. I hope we can continue to have these reunions...I am sure it gets more challenging each time...our classmates who have worked on these every time have done a tremendous job! - Ken

From Bill Cook (2-9-2012): Thought I would send a couple of pictures taken after the last good snow here in Estes Park. (Above in the "Current Pictures" section.) The 1st one is Dexter (5 month old Schnoodle) and myself on the trail by Lake Estes. The 2nd one is my wife B.J. and Dexter near the same area. The 3rd was taken at Thanksgiving. It is our two youngest grand daughters - Zoe on the left and Sami (with the hat) on the right. They live in a suburb of Houston, so the snow was fun for them. The reunion committee did a wonderful job as always. It is still hard to believe it has been 50 + years. Take care, Bill

From Bill Biggs (1-18-2012): My daughter Tiffany received a car as part of her being named Kansas State TEACHER OF THE YEAR. Yesterday she was recognized by the Kansas Senate and made a presentation to them. Today she is at Emporia. She got most of her "good" parts from her mom; maybe she got the Biggs family dimples. - Bill

From Bill Biggs (11-22-2011): My daughter was selected as the Kansas Teacher of the Year. She will spend the next year representing Kansas at national events, visit the President and Congress - big deal regardless of political views, visit and tour the Houston Space Center, and compete in the National Teacher of the Year competition. She received a \$4,000 check, a ring from Jostens, a rental car plus gas to use in "official" business, and a lifetime payment for 11 hours per semester at any college/university of her choice. Her husband is starting a new business and is gone much of the time. Martha and I as grandparents will assume many of the responsibilities for helping with the grandkids. - Bill

From Marcia Lankford (11-5-2011): I just want to thank you all for the great SMN Memory Book. I've spent hours going through it, and it's almost made up for my having to miss the reunion. Beautifully done, and killer nostalgia. Best of everything to you all. - Marcia Lankford

From Charlene Hanusch (10-3-2011): WHAT A WEEKEND!!! (Our 50-Year Class Reunion) 2 hour time change is tough on this old lady -- BUT, the weekend was worth it! Friday night we had our Family Reunion (so didn't get to the "Fancy One" one in Lee's Summit). The Weather was PERFECT! Sunny, no rain, and in the 70's all weekend!!! Saturday Noon, Nancy Kirchhoff had invited about a dozen to a lunch at Cheesecake Factory in the Plaza. I walked in and found the whole group -- and they paid me the biggest compliment "Hey, Charlene's here!" You see, so many had changed I had trouble recognizing them, but apparently they knew this and introduced me to everyone (with maiden names, of course). Terry Dyke moved people around so he could sit by me with his wife across and Judy Grohne on the end -- with Carolee Large on the other side of me. (Recognize those names?). Linda Musser was there also. The Evening Reunion was one of the best for location (IN Mission!) and room for so many people! AND, I wore my Pep Jacket (with lots of compliments) as did Bernice Wigglesworth! For the "class picture" I took mine off and held the front side and Bernice held the back side while we stood in the front row! For the buffet dinner, Carolyn Turner (and her hubby) saved me a place with Nancy Kirchhoff on my other side, (since we were at opposite ends at the luncheon.) The old brain did fairly well recognizing familiar faces (ignoring the white and gray hair). Jim Crossen opened with typical Jim Crossen comments. AND, since he had been president of Pep Club, we all sang the Shawnee Mission North Song! (I actually danced with him later, since we had grown up together at Trinity Church). Also danced with Terry Dyke, Mat Haug, Bill ?, and a couple others. Mat is an incredible dancer -- he and his wife were stand-outs whenever they took the floor. My best experience was when I walked over to Connie Hartner (who was greeting her long ago neighbor, Lois Croskey) - and she grabbed me and hugged me! You see, we spent 6 years in grade school as bosom buddies and rode the public bus to and from school (1/2 hour each way). Marcia Lankford, one of my close friends, was on the list but did not show up. (BUT, I do have her e-mail address!) But everyone was SO SUPER FRIENDLY, whether I remembered them or not! (As soon as I send this, I'll remember a whole bunch of others and their stories -- you know how that is.) The Memory Book is stupendous! There were SO many people there I really didn't get to "do all the rounds" as I had at the 45th. Until then, "Proud and brave our Alma Mater, Shawnee Mission NORTH!" - Charlene

From Bill Biggs (9-18-11): Just returned from a banquet honoring the Kansas Teacher of the Year Region 3. My daughter, Tiffany, was selected as secondary teacher of the year. The district includes Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte counties. Two years ago my wife, Martha, was a semi finalist for the region. - Bill

From John Evans (8-18-11): I will be attending my first ever reunion and I am excited to see everyone. - John

From Roberta Hinckle (8-16-11): I so wish I could attend (the 50-year reunion)...my husband is quite ill and so I won't be able to see everyone. I will be thinking of all of you and plan on ordering the memory book. Best wishes for a successful reunion. - Roberta

From Jim Evans (8-2-11): Sorry that I have been hard to keep up with, but I traveled around the world several times with the Air Force for 35 years, and then worked for Mascot Oil (SUNOCO) for 15 years. I liked San Antonio Texas the best as I traveled, and my wife did also. I told her when it came to retirement I would hang my hat wherever she wanted, and it was San Antonio, Texas. - Jim

(6-5-2011): Following are thoughts from some of our classmates regarding the passing of our fellow Classmate John Sulley:

* When I first moved to Kansas City at age 3 when my father returned from the war, My family lived directly across the street from John. He was literally my closest friend in those days. Even though we both moved, we stayed close and car pooled all through high school. Since he was a year older (barely- Dec 12th), he could drive before others and we rode everywhere in his fabulous 53 Studebaker during our sophomore year. We traded a few e-mails recently, one about the 50th reunion. I knew his health wasn't good but am still in disbelief and expected to see him this summer and at the reunion. For me, this is a big loss. -Bill Gradinger

* We all share in John's passing. May John rest in peace and his family come together to celebrate his life. -Joyce Whitfill (Caven)

* I am deeply saddened by his death. I have been in contact with him for about 2 years and was so looking forward to seeing him and his wife in September. I do still plan on coming to the reunion. -Ciana Buckmaster

* I am saddened, shocked, and reminded how brief this life on earth for all of us. In sorrow and hope -Sue Sparlin

* Damn. Speechless. Very sad. -Kirk Dyer

* I have so enjoyed his e-mails which mostly reminded me of our childhood. I am so sorry. -Diane Hunt (Kinlund)

* It seems only a week or ten days back John was expressing joy over the arrival of their first grandchild. They waited a long time for that baby; it is tragic John had so little time with the baby. John's legacy will endure. I can't get over thinking about that baby, and the fun John would have... -Bruce Younger

* Gail and I are so sorry John has passed.....altho, new vigor, body, life....May he be celebrating new life... Please pass along to his family how special he was to the class of 1961 -Betsy LaFollette & Gail Snyder

* John was dealt a different hand... played it pretty damned good, and wore his courage well. Johnny... we all had GREAT respect for ya - ya never gave up..... never. -Tom Dailey

* I'm very sorry to hear about John's death. 'what a shock. Nina and I are thinking of attending the 50th reunion, very good chance that we will. -Mat Haug

From Carolee Large (3-11-2011): I lived in Fort Worth from graduation until 18 months ago, when I moved to Weatherford. I went to TCU, married, had two great kids (aren't they all?), taught school and was school librarian for a total of 32 years, divorced, worked for James Avery, a Texas handcrafted jewelry company, and re-retired a year ago. Weatherford reminds me a bit of Mission when we were growing up--a small town on the move, close to the city but not too close. I really look forward to the reunion in September! Hope to see you all then--and maybe hear from some of you before. - Carolee

From Kirk Dyer (3-9-2011): A jolt to hear this (Gary Bates passing). Gary Bates and I grew up on the same street, Rosewood, in Roeland Park. Went kindergarten through SMN graduation as pals. Bill Cook lived on the next street over, Burch, Percival, Nolder, all nearby. I still drive the neighborhood when I visit K.C. There's a photo in our study of Gary, my father, and another kid, Dave Rollert, all sitting on go-karts in our driveway, circa 1959. After high school, Gary enlisted in the Air Force and I joined the Army. We wrote back and forth for a few years but it drifted off. Saw each other for the last time at the SMN 20th reunion gathering. Gabbed about motorcycles, military, families, etc. About a week ago I thought I should begin looking up high school chums I haven't talked to in decades and just say hello... I didn't do it... I should have. - Kirk

From Jody Richardson (3-4-2011): Thanks for contacting me and sending those photographs (link to our class web site). It was wonderful to see everyone. Hope to see everyone later this year. - Jody jodycarner@bellsouth.net

From Donald Knowles (2-28-2011): You may or may not remember me (Don Knowles). I attended Roseland Grade School, Old Mission Junior High School, and one year at SMN before my father was transferred to Tampa, FL with TWA. I spent my last two years of high school at Clearwater High School and then enlisted in the U.S. Army, and was stationed in Germany for 2 1/2 years. Started St. Petersburg Junior College and was hired by TWA in 1964. Have worked in the cities of Las Vegas, Denver, St. Louis, Tampa, Charlotte, Kansas City and am now working for American Airlines here in Orlando, FL. I also work at Walt Disney World (Disney's Magical Express & Disney Cruise Line) at the Orlando International Airport, and if anyone is down this way, please give me a call, it would be great to see you. Found the web site and have been reading and viewing the pictures; and it brings back a lot of memories. Have been to a couple of Clearwater High's reunions and most of those classmates all went to grade school, junior high school and high school together; so other than a few close friends, it's kind of a drag attending those reunions. Would love to attend the SMN-1961 50th reunion and see a lot of the folks that I went to school with over the years. I know it's still months away, and not sure what my work schedule will be, but will try and get a few days off and head that way. Please keep me updated on the reunion plans, and please pass along my best wishes to all..... - Don Knowles DRK048871@AOL.COM

From Kay Alexander (1-18-2011): I attended the 10-year reunion. Then I was divorced and remarried so with my new name I got lost from the reunion lists. I live in Largo, Florida and have been here since 1978. I just retired in June after teaching for over 40 years in Kansas, New Jersey, and Florida. I taught in Grades 3-6 and in the last 10 years have been a Technology Coordinator in an elementary school here. I have 2 sons and Charles has a daughter. Between us we have 7 grandchildren. Charles is retired from the Pinellas Co., Florida, Water System. Please add my name and information to your reunion list. My husband and I will definitely be there. I'm excited about attending. Now that I've retired, we can travel at that time of the year! I've attached a picture of the two of us in our front yard. - Kay

From Mike Bowman (6-18-10): We will finally make a reunion in 2011. Last year we retired and are now living on a beautiful lake in Tennessee near three of our five grand babies. Life now centers around them, rides in the boat and a flight every morning the sun is shining in my little airplane. We have seen John and Susan Weaver recently but think they are the only members of the class with whom I have had contact with since leaving for the Navy in 1965. Sure look forward to catching up. - Mike

From Gary Bucher (5-6-10): Are you forgetting that the proposed date for the next reunion is more than a year away and this requires no near term memory loss. I think we are approaching the point where this should be a serious concern! Regardless, I have marked it on my calendar this time and plan to attend barring any unforeseen travel plans other than KC. I think it would be good to have it for 2 nights or perhaps an optional or informal night prior to the actual night of the reunion. I had a nice visit with Bill Cook last summer as I was in Omaha for a week bicycle ride called RAGBRAI which courses the width of Iowa. I saw lots of corn and soy bean fields, smelled the countryside including pig farms and found out that Iowa is not flat and seems to have constant head winds. Look forward to seeing everyone. - Gary

From Dawn Armor (2-23-10): Our fourth grandchild, Calvin Douglas Nelson, was born at 6:32 a.m. on Feb. 18 (2010) weighing in at 8 lbs. 3 oz. - Dawn

From Sue Sparlin (2-12-10): I'm just living in Canada and currently watching the Olympics Opening Ceremonies as I type. I'm working as the General Administrator of a small school five minutes from home. I act in amateur theatre (I have a show opening Feb 27th) and perform marriages as a Lay Chaplain of the Unitarian Church. I live alone but my daughter is just 30 minutes away in downtown Vancouver. - Sue

From Bobbi Ulrich (1-5-10): To Glenda Garrelts... Glenda thank you so much for sharing the pictures of Overland Park Grade School...I do not have those pictures so they were very special...I attended the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Grades and then went to Santa Fe Trail Grade School. Again, thanks much. - Bobbi

From Bill Dale (6-28-09): For myself, I can't complain....been down her in Texas for the last 30+ years where it's to damn hot. I moved my mother here a few years ago.....she lived in the same old house in Roeland Park where I used to visit frequently. Although I still have two sisters in the KC area, I don't get up there very much any more. You and John S. have done a great job on the SMN '61 web site....brings back old times..... might even try to make the next reunion..... - Bill Dale

From Connie Hartner (6-2-09): Four from our class - Ruth Ann Unruh, Karen Barndt Shehi, Pat Meyer Nall and I are planning a trip to Paris this fall, 3 years in the making. We'll take some pix for the website. Thanks again for being the messenger so we can respond privately or outwardly and be thankful for our memories and times together. - Connie Hartner Schmalz

From Patti Cundiff (3-8-09): Too sad to lose Tom (McCready). I recently learned that another member of our class died February of 2008--Karen Schroeder (Spear). She and I talked on the phone every year around our birthdays. She went to live with one of her sons and I lost track of her. I guess she died shortly after she moved. Sorry to bring more bad news. - Patti

From Mike Bowman (3-21-09): After SMN, I attended KSU and somehow managed to graduate in four years. All I had ever wanted to do was fly off carriers... so two days after finishing college, I was off to flight training in Pensacola. I was in the Navy for nearly 37 years and loved every minute. Along the way I had two tours in Vietnam and got to fly combat again in Desert Storm at the ripe old age of 50. I ended up with nearly 1300 carrier landings, the last of which came three weeks before I retired. My last flight was in an FA-18 with my son Geoff on my wing in his Hornet. It was a great time and I have missed it every day since I became a full time civilian. After the Navy, I worked in Washington DC for eight years with DRS Technologies. It is a defense technology and manufacturing company, and I was their Executive Vice President for Washington Operations. I ran the DC office and was responsible for our coordination with Congress and the Pentagon. This past November I fully retired and am now concentrating on getting back into flying and have bought an ex-Royal Canadian Air Force Chipmunk trainer. It is pretty slow but does go upside-down and is a real joy in my life. Not long after starting flight training, I married the real joy of my life, Sally. We have two children, Ashley and Geoff, who have given us four grandsons and one (very spoiled) granddaughter. We are now splitting our time between our home near Mount Vernon in Virginia and a small house we have on a lake in Tennessee. The lake is very close to our daughter and her family in Chattanooga.....we are really enjoying building memories there. Well that is Mike Bowman for the last 50 years.... Look forward to seeing the rest of the class in 2011. - Mike Bowman

From Marilyn Roy (11-4-08): Seven of us met in Las Vegas this October to celebrate our 65th year. Most of us have known each other since kindergarten. We shared old pictures and stories, saw the Bette Midler show, and shared great meals! Tom Hufstedler came by for an afternoon and shared stories with us. Good times had by all! - Marilyn

From John Sulley (9-23-08): Congratulations are in order for our good friend and classmate Bobbi Ulrich Wills. Bobbi was awarded the Humanitarian Award last week at the National Convention of the American Chiropractic Association in

Cincinnati. This is the highest award presented to a non-Doctor by the ACA. CONGRATULATIONS BOBBI. YOU GO GIRL!!

From Jane Hager (4-14-08): I was walking on the beach this beautiful morning and thought how wonderful it is for a girl from northeastern Kansas to be retired at the beach – both a Florida beach and Lake of the Ozarks beach. My husband Ed and I spend 8 months a year on Fort Myers Beach and 4 months at Sunrise Beach. We have reconnected with Trudy Perez Galvin and her husband both in Florida and at the lake. Trudy and I began our friendship in kindergarten. It is great to have old friends and sharing so many experiences. We sold our Rehabilitation Agency (providing Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy) this year and are newly retired. We have been traveling the last few years and have found the world shrinking and thrilling. I was in a bit of shock when I applied for Medicare benefit (as a physical therapist, I have treating patients with medicare for years). I thought other people got that old but not me. The bright side is that it is so much fun being a senior!! - Jane Hager (Johnston)

From Tom Dailey (3-22-08): Dennis and I had lunch the other day - had a hell of a good time. Turns out, he lives about half-a-block from where I USED to... and HAD for quite some time - serindipity to the max. We plan on trying to light up the rest of the "estranged" bunch out here. - TC

From Patti Cundiff (1-29-08): After forty + years in San Diego, I moved to Lees Summit last January. 'Why?' you ask. Mostly due to family commitments, but also because I missed the changing seasons and my roots. Almost all of my remaining family is in this area. I came back to help care for my parents (we lost Dad to Alzheimers in October). Mother is 94 and in an assisted-living facility close by. I love my home on the lake in Lakewood, and after a year, I can find my way around fairly well. I've had to relearn about chiggers, shoveling, icy roads, and thunderstorms! Got caught in a storm kayaking last summer. The worst part of moving was leaving all my friends, so I'm trying to make new ones. I'm sorry to have missed the 2006 reunion, but I was in Kenya on safari at that time (the trip of a lifetime). Would love to get reacquainted with some of my old classmates and maybe help out with the next reunion. - Patti

From Patty Meyers (1-7-08): We moved to Portland because both our children live here now. Four little grandchildren and one on the way sealed the deal! Oregon is simply beautiful and yes, it does rain but not a downpour like in Kansas. It is worth it because flowers bloom year round here and there is no snow or ice in town. We are 90 minutes from ocean and mountains. Quite a change for us Kansans! Portland is also very bike friendly and we have use of a free streetcar to most places in town! It's a great retirement city. - Patty

From Suzy Peck (SMN 1962) (1-1-08): I was hoping I wouldn't know the person (Ray Edwards), but not the case. I was just at a funeral for one of our classmates yesterday. Donna Garner Stofer (SMN 1962, wife of Dick Stofer, also SMN 1962) died of cancer. It has been a very sad time. - Suzy (Ed note: Suzy is married since 1963 to Bob "Buzz" Bartley of SMN 1961)

From Dawn Armor (8-5-07): My two older children generously rented a big house at Sea Ranch (northern California coast) for us all to be together for my birthday weekend this July. Being with my husband, all three of my children (and son and daughter-in-law) and all three of my grandchildren (17, 5 and 16 months) at the ocean was a sweet and special gift indeed. I hadn't seen my oldest daughter laugh or relax that much since her Dad's untimely death last summer which was a traumatic shock for all of us. . . Our youngest daughter leaves soon for her junior year at the University of Lyon in France. We've taken advantage of frequent flier miles to book our flights to meet up with her in London for Christmas and then a quick trip back to where we lived for 8 months in Switzerland to see the new year in with good friend's there. Wishing everyone good health and joy in each day. - Dawn

From Tom Dailey (5-8-07): Back in 7th. grade at OM JHS, Ms. Staples' class (which I was in) put together a "yearbook" of sorts. It was composed of about 20-30 mimeographed sheets, and covered numerous subjects, as you'd guess. I've always wondered if ANYBODY still has one of those things - what an artifact, eh? Ernie Chamberlain, Gail Snyder, and several others were in the class... - Tom

From Linda Kranz (4-19-07): The group -- Karen Barndt Shehi, Ruth Unruh, Pat Meyer Nall, Connie Hartner Schmalz, and I -- will be getting together this fall in Newport, RI. We'll try to send pictures. - Linda Kranz Ashcraft

From Jim Goudebeck (3-16-07): I retired from the Navy in 1984 with 22 years service. Retired permanently from business Sep 2006. My wife (Linda) and I are now traveling fulltime in our rv after being chased out of New Orleans by Katrina. We're currently in Rockport, Texas, visiting another fulltime couple from SMN: Bruce Younger and his wife Paula. - Jim

From Tom Dailey (3-6-07): (For Jim and Cliftene) The Brightest Star - 'Though I'm older, I recall the empty place that came, when people loved, could no longer hug my shoulder... or give me peace with just a look or grin. 'Tis but little comfort, but I suppose that at least we didn't lose you in some far forsaken jungle ... or nameless mound of sand n'er more to know if you were warm and safe. We will hear you in a fire's crackle... or perhaps your whisper... when snow falls on the mountain.. the rustle of a familiar coat... or a favorite song... once hummed. For as I read in dusty lore so long ago, that memory precludes its' source and heavens' own has reclaimed its' children... the Brightest star we all

have seen... it burns the briefest time. - Tom Dailey

From John Evans (3-5-07): This is very sad news (the passing of Jim Lewis). Being a motorcyclist myself it really touches home. I have lost several close friends that I have ridden with over the years and it is never easy to deal with. I am sure that Jim was doing one of the things that he enjoys the most and that was being free and riding in the winds.. There is a special place in heaven for Jim along with the other free spirited souls that have gone before him.... The following prayer is for another cyclist that is now in that "special place" in heaven. In quoting his prayer card, "If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembering joy, a friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; ah yes these things I too will miss." We will see you again someday for more unforgettable and glorious rides, but until then you ride with us in spirit and remind us all to "Never Give Up". God bless Jim and his wonderful family. - John Evans

From Kip Hammond (1-17-07): I watched the reunion dvd today, after receiving it a couple of days ago. You all look GREAT! It's a pretty good video... I think... under the circumstances, trying to video a room full of OLD and DRUNK people, they did OK! It was fun to watch, although sad for me because I wanted to be there so bad and had planned and counted on it for five years. I remember the complaints I heard about the 2001 reunion video was that the sound was so bad... although I never saw that video... but this time they used a hand-held microphone when talking to individual people, and the sound quality is quite good. And the video quality is excellent. Even Mr. Dailey's comment that he was glad there wasn't a wet t-shirt contest came through loud and clear!!! I suppose the "girls" in our class will eventually make him pay for THAT one! - Kip

From Glenda Garrelts (1-13-07): Hello Everyone, Don and I have just returned from an amazing 3 weeks in India. We bicycled through remote Indian villages with children dashing across fields to say hello. We felt like rock stars. It is a land of contrasts: vibrant color in the clothing in a drab desert, extreme poverty/fabulous wealth. Highlights were 2 days in Varanasi, the holiest of cities for Hindus and Buddhists, where the sights [bathing in and drinking water from the Ganges] and smells were shocking, but the spirituality of the place permeated everything else. Bright colors in the markets: clothing, vegetables & fruits, spices. We ended with several days on safari for tigers in Rathambore National Park. Our one tiger, though very far away, was beautiful as was all the other wildlife we were able to see. We finished with a sunset and sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. The picture is Don and I toasting the future on my birthday overlooking the jungle in Rathambore. Happy 2007 to everyone. - Glenda Garrelts Mattes

From Tom Hufstedler (12-17-06: Hi Everyone. Since there was interest at the last reunion for another golf outing at Las Vegas & Death Valley, I have made some inquiries and here are the results: Since no rooms are available in Death Valley during the week (some sort of bicycle race is scheduled) we can get rooms Sat. Sun. & Mon. (Feb. 3, 4, 5) at the rate of \$90.00 per night. The regular rate is \$170.00, but I have a friend who works there every winter who has arranged the discounted rate. We can have a Super Bowl Party there, much like four years ago which was fantastic. Golf at Furnace Creek will be at the employee's rate of \$44.50, including cart. We can golf Sat. & Sun. and Mon. if people want to stay and return home Tues. Some may wish to leave Mon. If you wish to arrive in Las Vegas prior to Fri.(Feb. 1st), I have arranged for rooms at the Sante Fe Hotel at the rate of \$79.90 for Tues. Wed. & Thur. and 169.99 for Fri. (Feb. 2nd). We can play golf during the week here in Las Vegas for \$55.00 to \$90.00 per round, depending on location and the day of the week. We can double occupy rooms at either location and cut the room rates in half. Only, I won't room with a snorer! Since I have procrastinated so long, your commitment to this outing has some time pressure on it. Air fares should be arranged quickly, and rooms are available now, but might not be so in two weeks. Please let me know if you are interested and if you need more info email me or call me at 702-595-3329. - Huf

From Bruce Younger (11-25-06): I am very saddened to learn of Keith's (Wittenmyer) death. You all remember that during our public school times, much of what was done was done alphabetically. From Kindergarten on, Keith and I were in close proximity in most of our classes, on buses for field trips, and he lived on my walking route to Hickory Grove. Keith was a true gentle man, and a fine friend. He had some health tribulations as a young boy, but never made a big deal of it. Keith was a good man. We are poorer for his passing. Salud, old pal. - Bruce Younger

From Nina Haug (11-1-06): Matson and I just turned 63. He danced the night away wearing a big red bow and an antenna headband that read HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Wish I had a picture of that to share. My husband and I hiked up Mt. Tamalpais (Marin headlands) – not as exciting but I will share that pic with you. To avoid confusion, Matson was in Oregon and I was in Northern California. Happy Thanksgiving a little in advance. We are empty nesting it – no kids around this year. - Nina

From Diane Hunt (10-20-06): I have truly enjoyed the website. Thank you so much for keeping us connected. - Diane Hunt (Kinlund)

From Bill Smith (10-20-06): How come so many old people came to our reunion? Sorry I missed it, but grandchildren came first. They make me feel old for other reasons. - Bill

From Pat Meyers (Trueworthy) 10-20-06: Sorry to miss the 45th reunion. We were in Phoenix with daughter Robin and her family. After spending most of my life in KC, we will be moving to Portland, Oregon next summer when my husband retires. Our family will finally be together for the first time since our children left for college! Our son, Bryan, is finishing

ER residency at NW; his wife, Stacey is OB-GYN physician and they'll move to Portland in January. Robin and family have been in Portland for 3 years and love it. We are all long time bikers. Portland has so many bike lanes and paths that we will take advantage of when not taking care of our grandchildren Evan 3, Ava 2, Meyer 1 and Vincent born Sept 29, 2006 - Pat Meyers (Trueworthy)

From Gary Thomas (10-16-06): Well I just want to say I had a great time at the 45th (my first and hope not last) class reunion. A friendly and happy bunch of old folks you are. If it was a few hours longer I could have talked with many more. Ruth Ann Unruh is as cute as ever and I had forgotten we went to kindergarten, and Hocker Grove Jr. high ("The price of liberty is eternal vigilance") as well as SMN. Thanks to you all for being there. I apologize for not getting to know you better during our time at SMN and not allowing you to get to know me (I was a flower on the wall). The reunion was a great success thanks to the efforts of Linda McGuinn, Bobbi Wills, John Sulley as well as those who were able to attend. See you next time. - Gary Thomas, Arizona

From Charlene Hanusch (10-13-06): The reunion was reallllly a lot of fun. I took my yearbooks and 10 and 20 year reunion books -- but forgot my camera (I'm old!!). The next day when I did take it to church, the batteries were shot, so it wasn't meant for me to do it, I guess. BUT lots of cameras there and they had hired some professionals to take pictures and do a video. I can't wait to see it as I didn't get to everyone there. Funniest thing -- when you walked up to someone, many had to reach in their pocket for glasses to read the name card!!! It says more for the AGE we have become. A few had hearing aids. The first people I saw (after the name card table) were from my church and their buddies (they have met almost every year for the past 40!) Ruth Ann Unruh, Karen Barndt, Patty Meyer, (and Nancy Schroeder joined them) -- with Jim Crossen and Gail Snyder at another table. Terry Dyke and Nancy Kirchhoff were like old friends and we hung out...Bill Cook and wife ate the meal at our table and Nancy took a picture for Nina Haug who asked for one since she had a crush on Bill in high school. Judy Clifford and Peggy Brock were wonderfully friendly hosts. I went and sat with Brenda Dick, and we talked travel agent business. Also ate the dinner with John Sulley and wife -- what a cool guy. Judy looked like someone in their 40's with her hair in a simple ponytail and still her bubbly humble self. Marilyn Clayton and I renewed our Kindergarten friendship; she was such fun. I'm thinking there were more guy classmates than females, maybe because more of them talked with me than females. However, it was much easier to recognize the females than males...their hair (or lack of), body shapes, older faces, and facial hair took time to adjust to. The interesting thing about the "program" was there was so much chatter the DJ could hardly be heard. This was a reunion and that's what we were there for! A few danced this time -- it was fun to see the twist and stroll. It took forever to get everyone together (inside) for the class picture. Then the individual elementary school took even longer and not everyone heard when their school was called. Food was good Kansas City style chow and RICH chocolate brownies! - Charlene

From Kit Thornton (9-27-06): Hello and Greetings to you all from Kit Thornton Buckley. Hope that everyone has an enjoyable reunion. Sorry cannot be with you on the day but will hold the event in my thoughts. Will hope to see some photos posted afterwards. Still have so many memories of that eventful senior year and keep in touch with Nancy Kirchhoff of course. - Kit Thornton (Buckley)

From John Barr (9-22-06): I guess we will not be able to attend. I had planned on it, but my nephew is getting married the same evening at 6 p.m. in KC. Will really miss it, and all of you. - John

From Mike Bowman (9-22-06): We really are sorry to be missing yet another reunion. Seems every time Linda calls with word that another five years have passed and the class is throwing a party we are tied up. Thought that would end after we left the service...oh well, maybe in 2011. As a quick update, I retired from the Navy after 35 years....all I wanted to do in life was fly off those carriers and was lucky enough to get my last landing just a week before retirement. I miss it a great deal but have got to say that not deploying every couple of years has its benefits also. Currently working at my second career in Washington DC with plans to hang it up for good next year and move to California...somewhere in the Sierra foot hills near Sacramento....next summer. Wanted badly to bring Sally to this reunion and introduce her to old friends...we just celebrated our 40th and she is, without a doubt, the best thing that has happened in my life. We have two children, daughter Ashely is a full time Mom and our son Geoff flies for the Navy. Four grandchildren and one on the way. Life is very good....hope to see you all at the next reunion. - Mike Bowman

From Glenda Underwood (9-22-06): I will miss it (the 45-Year Reunion) so much, but I just took this job (Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University - School of Medicine) August 1 and it seems a bit early to ask for time off. I'll catch the next one. Please give everyone my best. - Glenda

From Janet McGlothlin (9-22-06): Hello, just a quick not from Jan Ellis. Although I think it would be fantastic to attend the Re-union, I am still in Israel and will not be going to the US until Mid January for a brief furlow before returning to Mission work. I hope all the classmates able to attend will have the greatest time ever. - Sincerely, Jan McGlothlin (Ellis)

From Mat Haug (9-15-06): I just wanted to go on record as someone who wants to be at the reunion but simply can't make it this time. So, I hope to be around for the 50th. Have fun everyone! - Mat

From Nancy Kirchhoff (9-12-06): I just got my internet connected since moving in June. Nina (Haug) told me about our

class web site but I never visited it until yesterday. I spent the entire evening reading, laughing, and at times feeling sad. What fun! Our classmate Kit Thornton is living in England. She has 2 daughters, Caroline and Asha, 4 grandchildren; one grandson was to have been born on August 22, 2006, but no news yet. She was divorced in the mid-80's. I am teaching freshman and sophomore English, reading, psychology and sociology at Macksville, KS, High School. I have 2 children, James and Cristen. James has two boys, Mason and Tyler. He and Michelle are expecting twins on Feb 2, 2007. My daughter Cristen has two girls, Kiley and Madelyn. She and Mike are expecting their third child Feb 10, 2007. - Nancy Kirchoff

From Mary Weston (8-7-06): I am sorry to miss the 45th Reunion. I think of so many of you often as I get older, appreciating the wonderful experience SMN provided. Do any of you remember, "Go Weston, Young Man!" as I ran for office my junior year? I have lived in Hutchinson, KS., since 1969. I have been a financial consultant (stock broker) since 1983, and in the business years before. I work for A. G. Edwards, love my work and have no plans for retirement. I have three beautiful children, all married: a daughter in Chicago with three girls, a son in San Francisco with one daughter and a son in Oregon with one daughter - 5 granddaughters, but too far away. I hope all enjoy the reunion and I will be at the 50th! Thanks, again, for your work for all of us. - Mary Weston

From Nina Haug (8-7-06): I will be very busy teaching at 2 colleges this fall and will not be able to get to the reunion this time around. The Haug family reunion was in KC over the 4th of July. We stayed at the Plaza; went to the Starlight; a ball game. A great time was had by all. Sorry I will miss the 45th. I will shoot for the 50th. - Nina

From Charlene Hanusch (6-30-06): I just returned from Thailand (Chiang Mai to be exact) where I welcomed my new granddaughter! I'm still recovering from Culture Jolt this being my first trip outside the USA. My daughter and family are studying Thai Language to become missionaries. That is A LONG WAY from here! - Charlene

From Bruce Younger (6-25-06): We did it, we retired; PK last September and me in March of this year. In April, we auctioned our worldly goods, bought a fifth wheel trailer and a suitable truck, and we are on the road. So, in what exotic location do we find ourselves tonight? Merriam. Yes, Merriam, Kansas. We were passing through on the way to our new legal residence and, all at once, suffered a flat trailer tire and a mostly dead Chebbie. Shoulda bought the Ford... We will surf the nation until we find that perfect spot to put the trailer up on blocks, then we shall sit there and wait for the sunset. Our mailing address: 110 E Center St #244, Madison, SD 57042. Nice, tax-friendly state - we really must visit there sometime - Cell and only phone is 913-485-4390. Looking forward to seeing everyone in October! - Bruce Younger

From Marilyn Clayton (6-17-06): Hello to all my classmates of 1961! I'm living in Climax Springs, MO right on the Lake of the Ozarks. Our house is about 30 ft from the water. We've been down here full time since 1999 after Bill (SMN class of '59) retired from the Gas Co. after 40 years with them. I was working at Deluxe Check Printers and guess who my boss was?? John Sulley!! Small world, isn't it? Who'd ever have thought in kindergarten that he would be my boss when I was almost 60 years old! We have 1 son, Ben, who is 30 and lives in Olathe with his wife, Wendy. She is at Sprint and he is an Associate Principal with the De Soto school district. No grandchildren. We live in Apache Junction, AZ in the winter in the same park as my buddy and classmate Pat Perkins (now Maes) That's about it. Hope to see you all at the reunion. - Jeannie Boothe (aka Marilyn Clayton)

From John Sulley (6-16-06): Just wanted everyone to know that to help keep myself busy, I do a lot of selling on eBay. Mostly jigsaw puzzles and games. if you are ever in the market for either of these for yourself or the Grandkids, look me up, my ID is jhawks12. I offer pretty good prices. - John Sulley

From Pat Perkins (6-8-06): Hi Classmates of 1961. My husband, Remy and I, moved from our home in Merriam this last year and moved to Raymore, MO. We've been married 15yrs. We downsized and moved closer to my daughter, Anita who also lives in Raymore. We live half the year in Raymore and the other half in Apache Junction, AZ. My mother lives in Phoenix. I lost my father 3 years ago. We have 7 grandchildren between us. I've had health issues the last few years but am doing fairly well. I still have red hair and freckles. Look forward to seeing all of you in October, God willing. Pat Perkins (Brown Maes)

From Bobbi Ulrich (6-5-06): I recieved a newsletter from the Shawnee Mission North All School Booster Club selling bricks at the memorial garden. I was wondering if the Class of 1961 wanted to sponsor a project at the school? Get your checks sent to Linda for the Reunion ASAP! You don't want to be left out of all the fun! See you there! - Bobbi

From Diane Hunt (6-2-06): I spent 36 years crawling the halls of an elementary school teaching lower elementary grades; my husband, Nat, was an elementary principal and director of elementary education for the St. Vrain Valley School District in Longmont, Co. We have both retired and are enjoying the time off! Please say, "Hello," to Trudy P., Carol J., Janice W., Jay S., Sandy J., Jane H., Jan P., and Cheryl H. Would love hearing from any of you. And..always remembering Julie W. whom I still miss dearly. - Diane Hunt (Kinlund)

From John Sulley (6-1-06): It's Official...we have a new Daughter-In-Law. Our oldest...son John got married on a beach in Mexico yesterday to a wonderful young lady named Stacy. Cindy and I are both very pleased. No Grand kids....two of

the girls are getting married this fall....heck of a year. - John

From Joe Heinerikson (6-1-06): My wife and I have resided in the big town of Osawatomie for 35 years. In that time our family has grown from a family of 4 children to 4 + 3 + 6 and one spouse to come. By the time of the reunion we will have all 4 children married and 6 happy active grandchildren. I am semi-retired but still operating a small sporting goods supply store outside of Osawatomie. We now share our time between our small acreage in Osawatomie and a lake home at Grand Lake Oklahoma. My passion is restoring two old wooden boats to prime condition to cruise around the lake and entertain the family. Janna and I just returned from a cruise to Alaska which we really enjoyed. Hope to see everyone in October. - Joe

From Kip Hammond (5-23-06): Hello fellow classmates! Our 45-Year Reunion is almost here! I have been eagerly awaiting this reunion since 2001, the last reunion. From a personal view, I was on the "lost list" for 40 years, until 2001. When I attended our 40-Year reunion in 2001, I had not spoken to, or seen, anyone from high school for 40 years! What a fun and surreal experience that was to walk into that reunion and see all of those "kids" after 40 years. That was one of the most fun and enjoyable weekends I've had in many years. Hope to see everyone there this time on October 7. - Kip Hammond, Scottsdale, Arizona

From Sharon Shafer (5-22-06): I enjoyed looking at the faces of the people at SMN. I finished my requirements for graduation in Dec. of '60 and never saw any of the students again. I enrolled in 5 high schools in 3 1/2 years & SMN is the school where I got my diploma. Keep the mail coming. It's great that you take the time to do all the work to maintain a web site. Again thanks and have a great day. - Sharon Shafer, SMN '61

From Miki Orwick (5-18-06): Unfortunately in our travels (my husband is retired AF) all my yearbooks were lost, so I can't look up anyone's picture to jog my memory. I was sad to see Eddie's (O'dell) name in the deceased file. I will have been married for 42 years in Aug. We've lived in Alaska since 1980. 2 sons, one lives here in AK with his family, the other is a lawyer in Japan. They are in the picture along with my daughters-in-law and husband. I do volunteer work with my church and in local thrift shop and have a part-time job, doing demos. I garden avidly, read and do some painting and crafts when time allows. I am a 2x cancer survivor (free for going on 14 years) am into herbs big time (the reason I am now cancer-free). I'm not sure if I can make it to the Reunion, but I'd like to keep informed in case it's possible. - Miki Orwick

From Rick Reynolds (4-12-06): Hi '61 Indians. This is Rick Reynolds. I was so upset that Dave Barry discontinued his VERY funny column in the Miami Herald over a year ago, that I now spend much of my Saturday and Sunday mornings (before golf goes on TV) writing a column of my own. It has recipes that I love, humor from my e-mail friends, political commentary from me (Colorado liberal-libertarian--I know that that is an oxymoron), web sites that I have enjoyed, trivia questions, and much more. A few of you already get it, but please contact me if you want to see what's happening in Colorado and the good ole USA. I REALLY can't wait to see you all on Oct. 7th. - Rick Reynolds

From Linda Musser (3-23-06): My husband Chuck and I moved from our long-time residence in Raymore, MO, to Cleveland, MO, about 4 years ago. Cleveland is south of Kansas City between Holmes and State Line at 247th street. We enjoy the rural atmosphere, and we are trying our hand at growing blackberries. I resigned from my management position at Menorah Medical Center several years ago. I am now enjoying my real calling in life as a staff Occupational Therapist. Taking care of patients and seeing them improve has always been very satisfying to me. Although I think of retirement once in a while, I know I would miss working so I have no plans for that in the near future. My daughter, Kim, and her husband have blessed us with 4 grandchildren. We enjoy babysitting and attending all the typical events and ball games that are scheduled. - Linda Musser (House)

From Dennis Hampton (1-25-06): Hello everyone. Great web page. I currently am living in Denver, Colorado, but will be moving back KC in April or May. I would really like to hear from some of you. Call or E-Mail. See Ya - Dennis Hampton

From Tom Dailey (1-4-06): Hey There, Boys & Girls! Gather 'round for fun & frivolity at the 45th Reunion of the SM North, Class of 1961 - the last upside down year, until 6009. Time once again to break out the Bowflex & Just for Men, slap down the credit card for those support socks you've been meaning to buy, & figure out a new "comb-over". Ladies, we're counting on you, so no blue-hair - spare us the cute pictures on the fingernails, and get those cool earrings back from your grandson; they look better on YOU. We've all grown up, and shrunk a bit (damned gravity!). It's no use lying about your age either, 'cause you're 63; we have our sources. Benjamin Stables is the location (Burch, I left it alone - so can you), and while it does raise a chuckle or two about the inspiration, it's important to BE THERE! Come with the "other", come by yourself, or bring your pharmacist. Excuses will not be tolerated - all non-participants will be found and forced to perform Mr. Strong's horsepower experiment. - Tom D.

From Marcus Burns (1-5-06): Howdy troops! I really like the fantastic web site the guys have put together for the enjoyment of all of our classmates from 61. I'm fascinated how so many classmates are scattered all over the country, but I guess that's to be anticipated after forty-five years. A little about me, I married Karen Avery, class of 62, in 1964. The marriage didn't last long but a wonderful life long friendship did, until her death 2 1/2 years ago after spending 6-7 years in a nursing home a result of complications from a second round of cancer. I worked at several careers until I was

drafted and sent to Nam, fun! When I returned to KC I worked for Commerce Bank for nine years mostly in investments. I was in investments for a number of years after Commerce, the most fun was when we lived twenty miles north of Palm Beach, FL in the Jupiter Tequesta area for four years. The lovely lady Barbara, not royalty just elegant, agreed to marry me and we have had a delightful thirty years. I have no children of my own but my wife has a wonderful daughter and she has two year old twins that I idolize. I'm sorry to see the passing of Warren Sweeney, as he was my best man when I married my ex. Ok, let's see... I have been on medical disability for a number of years as I have Anti-phospholipid antibody blood disease, plus I had several heart attacks resulting in four way bypass surgery, bummer but oh well. The passing of Charlie Haines should have added "Ann" to the listing, another real nice lady. Everyone be well and have a great and prospers New Year. If anyone would like to write, I would love to hear from you. - Marc Burns

From Ashley Elbl (12-1-05) (In response to an article quoting Ashley in the Kansas City Star about the death of former KC Athletics first baseman Vic Power): In summer of '99, Blair Kerkhoff, sportswriter of the KCStar, was doing an article on the beginnings of major league baseball in KC, and he asked anyone who remembered the first game played here on 4-12-55 to call or e-mail him. Since my family took me to the opening day and several games in 1955, and I remembered about them, I called Blair K., and we chatted about what I remembered. I had access to the original article until 6-29-05 when my computer crashed. This (story about Vic Power) was a good remembrance of the article. - Ashley Elbl

From Janet McGlothlin (11-30-05): The S-M-N Class '61 web site is great. I have been doing volunteer work in Israel for over 2 years and will probably stay on for another 2 or 3 years. I am working with young people in a Christian English School/ Youth Center and Continued Education project. I have greatly enjoyed touring the land, learning a new language and seeing places most tourist never get to see unless they stay long term. I have also had wonderful opportunities these past two years to travel to Cyprus, Turkey, Jordan, Scotland and England. Retirement is great!!! Thanks for doing the web-site. It is fun keeping up with fellow class-mates via the inter-net. I am not sure about the class re-union at this time. Much will depend on next years Visa Restrictions and how much I can travel in and out of the country. Want to go home sometime during the summer to see my 5 children and 16 grandchildren.- Janet McGlothlin (Ellis)

From Ronnie (Ron) Woolworth (11-22-05): I'll send my life history from May 1961 to the present a bit later. Suffice it to say, it has been varied. I was very sorry to hear of Shirley Fields death. She and I dated a lot our Senior year and I was very very fond of her. When she went on to KU and I couldn't afford to, it just about killed me. Time and distance of course ended it all. Anyway...I'll add my life history soon. Please just keep me in the loop with any and all reunion information. Enough for now! - Ronnie (Ron) Woolworth

From Bruce Younger (11-17-05) (Reprinted from the Kansas City Star): At Last, a Thank-You... On a recent afternoon at a Home Depot in Olathe, I parked my truck. It bears a decorative tag that portrays the Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal. I was walking toward the door when a man approached me and asked, "Are you a Vietnam veteran?" I said yes. He grasped my hand, shook it, and said, "Thank you for your service," then strode off toward the store. I was stunned and a bit teary-eyed. After 38 years, this was the first time anyone outside my family had thanked me. To the big guy in Olathe with the dark hair, firm handshake and clear voice, thank you. I did it for you back then, and I would go back and do it for you again. - Bruce H. Younger, Lenexa

From Glenda Garrelts (11-14-05): You mentioned wanting written bits for the web site. Here is a short summary of the last 45 years of my life. What a time I've had! I started with a BS in medical technology from K-State, worked for a while in KC and then moved to San Francisco in 1971. Got bored with the lab in 1980 and started selling real estate. My then I was living in Mountain View/Silicon Valley. I picked Don up at a motel in 1984 (remember my profession!). We moved to Long Island in 1986, got married in 1990 and moved to Dover (15 miles west of Boston) in 1991. I'm still a card-carrying real estate broker, but reality says I'm retired. We lived in England 1996-98, a fabulous experience and I got to indulge in my genealogy project. Now that we're home, I volunteer for the local historical society, work with Literacy Volunteers of America and TRY to write my family history. Now that Don is retired also, we get to indulge our passion for travel. We spent 3 weeks in April on St Lucia and Grenada and sailing between the two. This was our third sailing trip after 2 to Greece. We hire a boat and captain - best way to relax, we've found. We're planning a trip to India over Christmas/New Year 2006-07. We are both avid skiers with favorites being Taos, Jackson Hole, Telluride and Steamboat Springs. No kids or grandkids, but I have this nephew, Colby Garrelts, who owns the Bluestem Restaurant at 900 Westport Rd in Kansas City. He was named one of the top 10 young chefs in 2005 by Food and Wine. Stop by and tell him I sent you. And ... let us know when you are in Boston - we are good tour guides and love company. Looking forward to more information regarding the event on October 6. - Glenda Garrelts (Mattes); Dover, Massachusetts

From Rick Reynolds (11-11-05): My wife Cathy (Carter) SMN '62 and I join our dear relatives across the country in mourning the passing of Cathy's mother last week in Kansas City. Also surviving are Cathy's sister Carolyn (Carter) SMN '59 Beller, five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren as well as her sister Doris of Pinehurst, NC. Ruth was a very special person to all who knew her. She seldom listened to music; if she wanted music, she sang. She sang in piano bars; she sang in church choirs; she sang in her swimming pool; she sang in her convertible; she sang at the beaches of Siesta Key. On a cruise at age 75 she sang in a talent contest and won. She began her journey through Alzheimer's about 10 years ago and was lovingly cared for by her daughter, Carolyn. - Rick Reynolds

From Charlene Hanusch (10-28-05): HELLO to all you "Easterners." My graduation from college landed me in Seattle, Washington, and since I found "Eden" I'm still here! I've been a Deaconess (Youth work), school bus driver, Nanny, Travel Agent, Preschool Teacher (23 years), and presently Activity Director for 2 Adult Family Homes (a close tag to Preschool teaching). My joy is singing as a bass in a Barbershop Quartet. I have 4 grown children (all out of the nest!) and 3 grandchildren. My only daughter is going to Thailand with her husband and son in February 2006 as missionaries. Altho I've been IN all 50 states, I guess this is a chance to get off the North American continent. SO, Connie, Linda, Karen, Patty, Ruth -- did you know Vancouver is only 2 hours north of me? Seattle has some marvelous tourism! My family are all in Shawnee Mission, so I do get back there --like last August. Favorite memory from 2001 Reunion was renewed contact with friend Nina Haug -- and my prom date, Kip Hammond! - Charlene

From Tom Dailey (9-15-05): I have to agree with Ed Schott. While I've not spent much time in the South, I vividly remember the wonderful folks with the Salvation Army "In country". When that "other organization" was selling coffee and the obscure doughnut, the S-A folks would give 'em away. There are other stories, but all vets' have at least one of 'em. I always drop my money in the S-A "pot". I did handle a couple of health & welfare messages, via ham radio, out of the N-O and Gulfport areas. Contrary to what CNN and the other networks said, there WERE communications, from before through after... all through Amateur Radio. One heartbreaking overheard conversation involved trying to get help for a rooftop-stranded family of five. As the 2 stations in N-O couldn't hear each other (too close), my friend in Larkspur, CO relayed... while they were trying to get the message finished, the originating station in N-O cried out "Oh my God, they're gone... they're washed away, oh God!" ...tough duty, for sure. Heading to London on 2nd. October - I'll wave as I pass over. - Tom Dailey, Denver

From Kirk Dyer (9-12-05): Took the old 250 (motorcycle) down to Pueblo Motorsports Park for its very first roadrace. Bought the machine as salvage in 1987 and resurrected it for street riding, until now. Gathered a 5th on Saturday, 10th on Sunday. At my (our) age, finishing is winning. A tumultuous rise to the championship is considered unlikely by all. Had a multilap cheek-to-jowl dice with a guy on a 250 Bultaco, which he won by finishing just ahead of me, passed a few I didn't think I could though. - Kirk

From Ed Schott (9-4-05): Thought that all of you might be interested in what is happening down here in the South as a result of Hurricane Katrina, or at least one small view of it. We live in Jackson Mississippi, about 150 miles north of the Coast. Monday afternoon the hurricane struck here (actually the eye passed us about 40 miles to the east) with winds and blowing rain up to 80-90 MPH. Almost immediately our power went out and was out for four days. About 98% of Jackson lost power. Since I work at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, we almost immediately began receiving casualties. Not as many as we had initially expected as many were dying before they got to us. My guess is that before this is all over the death toll may well exceed 30-40,000! The city of Jackson has taken in 1000's of refugees-the size of our town has almost tripled with all the folks coming here from the Mississippi and LA coast. Finally, things are to some degree returning to quasi-normal-the biggest problem now is the lack of gasoline. One only goes to and from work and the grocery store. We had a family of 5 from NO staying with us for a few days only to be replaced by others. We in the health care community work, or were supposed to be working with FEMA. My personal opinion of this Federal operation is lower than than a snakes belly! Your Federal Taxes at work! My biggest concern is what in the world are these hundreds of thousands of folks going to do with their lives. No home, no money, no jobs, nothing. May very well become wards of the states for a long time. From my experience here and in Vietnam-the most effective and efficient national organization to give money to is the Salvation Army-they seem to be able to get directly to the folks in the greatest of need. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. - Ed Schott

From Tom Hufstedler (9-4-05): When I went to K.C. this summer, Bette Mabus (Nonemaker) arranged for several get togethers. Jim Crossen, Bobbi Ulrich (Wills), and Jim Turner arranged to be in Kansas City so it turned into a mini-reunion. Peggy Brock (Kahler) hosted a party at her fabulous new home in Olathe, and Linda Jones (McGuinn) followed with a soiree at her home as well. We enjoyed a lunch at Arthur Bryant's, even though he didn't graduate with us. A few of us golfed-between thunder storms). Bette treated me like royalty as usual-I've never had a better friend than she. - Tom Hufstedler

From Linda Kranz (9-1-05): I don't quite recall the details (of the Thespian picture above); perhaps you or Dawn or Mike would remember exactly what we did. Didn't we plan some sort of celebration for Thespian alumni? It was definitely something original, and I think that picture may have been linked to publicity for that event. Connie, Pat, Ruth, Karen and I have indeed been lucky to take trips together. If you remember Cyndi Stiles, she was important in that effort, too. Unfortunately, she died of cancer after only a couple of our get-togethers. I think her death made us more cognizant of time passing... - Linda

From Dawn Armor (8-31-05): As my youngest child is saying goodbye to all her friends (many of whom she has gone to school with since kindergarten) as they all head off for college, I've been thinking a lot about that time in my own life. I was incredibly fortunate to be so welcomed by the class when I came to Shawnee-Mission at the beginning of my Jr. year, and to have so many memorable experiences packed into those two years before HS graduation. I also realize that there are a huge number of people in the class I never met, let alone got to know since most of the people I did get to know were in drama, and a few more in chorus or journalism. I'm saddened to see such a long "deceased" list

among our class, although perhaps the percentage is not that unusual with a group that large. - Love, Dawn

From Tom Foster (8-31-05): The new pictures are terrific and I look forward to attending next year's 45th. I am still amazed (and thankful) that John Sulley was able to track me down. We have had several exchanges, and Bill Cook and I have also renewed our friendship. Thanks, again. - Tom

From Jim Glover (8-14-05): I couldn't believe it when I received a note in the mail about the web site. As a matter of fact I was sceptical it was authentic.....then I went to site. You have done a wonderful job with the info and photos. Since I missed the last reunion, I will for sure be at the 45th. It was great seeing all of the pics of the classmates I have thought about throughout the years. Over the next year I will e-mail some of you and hopefully get together before next year. My wife and I go to the Overland Park area quite often. As a matter of fact, when I get finished with this, I'm going to send out messages to ol' buddies Terry Dyke and Tim Turner today. It was also good to see photos of Roxanne Rick and Ed Shott, also Ruth Ann Unruh (I wish I had your old Chev. today). I'm still working (have to keep the health insurance going for a few years longer). If you all know of anyone else in the Columbia, MO. area, let me know. Again, way to go Kip, you are doing all of us a big favor. - Jim Glover

From Terry Dyke (8-9-05): I'm just blown away by the quality of the SMN1961 website, and just pondered through it ALL today. Just a flood of memories bubbling to the surface of old gray matter. It takes a great nudge to remember that past. But it's all so sweet. I have to tell you I needed a Kleenex after working through the deceased list. As Tom Dailey says, it really lets you contemplate your own mortality. I'll be there in 2006...Ready to circle the date on my calendar. Improbable story running into Meredith Whitman last summer in Shawnee, OK. She came to a little Indian church in a clearing on some Sac and Fox land to help rebuild a rotted kitchen floor for Nagawee United Methodist Church. Her church, North Cross UMC on Vivian Rd. in North KC, was on a mission trip to Oklahoma. I was the local work coordinator for that struggling ministry. We worked hand in hand for that hot July week, reminiscing about the ol' times and SMN'61. - Terry

From Gary Harbison (7-31-05): I've just discovered this web site. What great reading! I've really missed out by not making it to any of the reunions and can only hope to make the next one. My wife Ginna and I, married 39 yrs this Aug., still live in Durango, Colorado. I've been retired from teaching and coaching since 98, but I manage live a very active life style and I am still chasing all those dreams. If any of you pass through this area please call and we'll have a beer together. I hope to hear from you. - Gary Harbison

From Mick Huckaby (7-26-05): Days gone by, on one hand in a blink, in the other it seems like my yesteryear memories are as fuzzy as old family photos. After operating my own consulting company for many years out of Kansas City (Riss Lake in Park Hill area north of the river), I participated in an MBO involving one of my clients, an oil service company with global offices. This took me first to the suburbs of Gotham City for a few years, then a contractual move to Houston when we sold out. Obligation complete, I bailed in the waning years of the last century, hoping to putter with writing and pursue a more sedentary lifestyle. Wounded by the stock market plummet, I continue to lick my wounds and pursue the dollars to maintain my modest lifestyle. Over the last five years, while attempting to learn how to produce compelling fiction, I've written several hundred columns for local newspapers, including film and restaurant reviews. I do have memories of many, some from SMN and others from OM. Paul (Burch) was the ace photographer who captured me shaking hands with JFK. As I recall, Bill (Biggs) married a gal from my wife Kathy's hometown of Carthage. That scalawag Jack (Zinn) and I once ran together. Next year will be celebrating 40 years of wedded bliss with my wife Kathy. - Michael Huckaby

From Jan Prather (7-23-05): Thanks for setting up the website for SMN. What a fun way to stay in touch. As time is stealing away I have been getting nostalgic and thinking about "the good ole days" and wondering what ever happened to..... We have been in Lawrence, Ks. for all of our married life. We are both retired from the state of Kansas. Ken from the Dept. of Education and myself from Kansas University in the enrollment division. We have a son and a daughter. Brandon has aspirations of finishing his degree at K.U. as a non-traditional student, and Lindsay received her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Ed. in 2000 and met her husband at K.U. who was getting his masters there. We do drug and alcohol testing for American Airlines as something to fill in our time besides belonging to Alvamar Country Club. We are both involved in many golf activities and are taking time out in Aug. to take a cruise to the Caribbean. Let me hear from you! - Jan

From Larry Kirk (7-18-05): I retired from my fulltime faculty job in June. The California State University system has a program called FERP which stands for faculty early retirement program. I Ferped which means next year I will be teaching 50% time while drawing my full retirement income. I can do this up to 5 years. Hope all is well with you also. We are experiencing a heat wave so when I get home from work I head for the pool. - Larry Kirk

From Linda Kranz (7-8-05): Hi. Connie Hartner Schmalz, Pat Meyer Nall, Karen Barndt Shehi, Ruth Unruh and I took a trip last week to Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. We spent 5 days enjoying the gardens and parks and museums and shops and eating establishments and culture of this beautiful area. Since we were there on Canada Day (July 1), we got in the spirit trying on hats in one of the many funky stores on Granville Island, Vancouver. Best! - Linda Kranz Ashcraft

From Tom Dailey (6-30-05): This past week I was in KC and happened by SMN, on a rare afternoon when it wasn't

TOTALLY miserable out. As I drove slowly past the old gym... that's when I got slammed - the stadium is GONE. It's been totally razed (curious word, there) for the new one, but the old concrete ediface of yesteryear is no more. I still have the cowbell, I used to ring at football games... symbol of a bygone era. I wonder if they'll name the NEW one Merlin Gish Stadium, like the old one was, before destruction. Oh, what tales those hallowed benches could tell. (of course, you always froze your butt off, in the Winter!) - Tom Dailey

From Dawn Armor (6-20-05): Is there a date for the reunion? Barry (Dawn's husband) was recently honored with an endowed Chair which includes a stipend for professional development for the next two years so we are planning to be in Europe for at least a month next summer - Ireland, Scotland and England probably and maybe time to dip down into our beloved Swiss countryside. My youngest daughter, Meghan, graduated last week from the K-12 school where Barry teaches - he was chosen by the senior class to give the speech this year so he also got to present Meghan with her diploma. My oldest daughter, Brianna, turned 40 a few days later so this is a big transition in my life. Meghan is going to the University of Oregon next fall and I will be able to concentrate more on my writing - I'm working on some fiction now. After three non-fiction books and numerous articles, I'm excited about this adventure. I've also been invited to teach some workshops at a Centre in Zurich next October. - Love, Dawn

From Tom Hufstedler (3-13-05): Hi everybody. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I will not be able to go to Mesquite after all. I am sorry beyond words to have to cancel. I know some of you have made plans because of me and may now wish to cancel, but if you want to proceed as planned, I will still be able to arrange for accommodations and assist in getting tee times. Please let me know. Sorry, again and again. - Huf

From Tom Dailey (3-10-05): Hey Kids... here are the song charts for OUR YEAR! Kipster... I think this would be a GREAT link for the website, don't you? Okay, okay... so it WAS Los Angeles... WHB just isn't around anymore! <http://www.oldiesloon.com/ca/krlaind61.htm> - Tom D.

From Mary Jane Ingram (2-7-05): I retired from Pfizer Pharmaceutical several years after the '01 reunion. I decided to go back into fund raising and am now Assistant Director of Annual Giving Programs at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut. My husband, George, continues to grow his cruise business - just call if you want to book a vacation!" (hummm-is that advertising????) - Mary Jane

From Dawn Armor (2-1-05): Just checked the website for the first time in awhile. As my youngest child enters her last semester of high school approaching graduation, I find myself reminiscing these days about that incredibly solipsistic time of life when one is perched on the edge of adulthood, with few if any responsibilities and a carefree innocence about the future, and reflecting on how much the world has changed in one generation. Thank you for the little trips down memory lane through the website. - Love, Dawn

From Sandra Lofland (1-29-05): Long time to see or hear! I got a forwarded e-mail from Nancy Smith, and it was so exciting to see all the contacts again. I have moved several places in the last few years, and I guess addresses have been lost. Anyway, a brief update— Mary Jane Ingram (Cassidy) and I graduated from Drake University in Des Moines. Wow, to think that's been 40yrs. ago now. I married Bill Thomas from Sycamore, IL. He joined the Air Force after graduating, did the Vietnam thing—and stayed in the military for 24yrs. We have 3 kids—Brian and Jeff who both work in the same architect office in Tulsa, and a daughter, Jodi, who lives with her hubby in LaCygne, KS. Unfortunately, I only have Grandpups—no grandkids yet. So, needless to say in military life, I've moved around a lot since Bill was a C-141 pilot. As time seems to gloss things over—I really enjoyed all the changes and new adventures. We were in Altus, OK for 15 yrs.--who'd ever thought all my kids would be OSU grads. Bill crossed over to Boeing after AF retirement, doing the same flight sims training—so decided to move to Tacoma, WA.--such a beautiful area—just have to adjust to that rain! I was widowed 6yrs. ago, and moved from the NW back to the Midwest in Tulsa, OK. My two sons live here so it has been nice to be close to family again. My Mom is still in Overland Park—so yes, I do make the KC trips periodically. I work as a teacher assistant in Tulsa Public Schools, and enjoy a lot of art activities and traveling. Keep me posted on reunions! - Sandra Lofland (Thomas)

From Tom Hufstedler (1-25-05): Sorry for the delay in organizing an Alumni golf trip. There was a corporate change in the hotels in Mesquite and only today was I able to confirm that my sister-in-law was still in charge. She is still able to provide rooms for us at the Oasis (Sun. thru Thurs.) in April at no charge- or virtually, no charge. Her suggestion was to schedule the event, give her the dates and number of rooms, and she will proceed in the best manner that she can. In years past, this has resulted in VERY affordable lodging. We could then arrange for golf outings on our own. She could also provide rooms at the Casa Blanca, or on weekends, but the rates would, understandably be more. So....I will set a four day "Golf Reunion" week for April 17 thru April 21 in Mesquite, NV. I will send this message to as many people that I think would be interested and also put it on the SMN 61 web page. Those folks that would like to attend should contact me. Anyone who would attend at another date, but is unable to come that week should also let me know. Nothing is written in stone. We could move the dates forward, or back. It is also not necessary to be a golfer to participate.. Anyone is welcome! For those of you who aren't familiar with this area, Mesquite is a small town 70 miles from Las Vegas. Air travel should be arranged to Las Vegas, and many options are available to get there. Arriving in L.V. on Sun. is easiest, as it is the "getaway day" for most visitors. We could arrange for vans, busses, or rental cars easily. Non-golfers would not lack for alternative entertainment, either. My phone number is 702-595-3329. E-mail at

tghuf@juno.com. Now, it begins. - Huf

From Bobbi Ulrich (12-16-04): Happy Holidays. I was in KC last week and some of us got together for dinner to celebrate the Christmas Holidays. Thought you might want the picture for the web page. The best of the holidays to the Class of SMN '61 - Bobbi

From Tom Dailey (12-15-04): Bill Biggs, you've outdone yourself... yes, I recall that your "other place" was indeed, the closet. We always wondered what you did in there, but never were curious enough to try for it, ourselves. I was always getting threatened with being put into the center desk drawer, based partially on my diminutive stature. Gawd, those sorry attempts to make us somewhat socially acceptable, by those pitiful, plitocene-era terpsochorian dancing classes - yup, girls dancing together (it was okay back then, we thought "gay" meant happy), and the boys praying like crazy that they wouldn't get picked for "experimentation", out there in "No Man's Land". Besides, most of the girls were taller than me anyway - what an opportunity I had, right in front of my face [sic], and I didn't get it. Yes, the shower room was the penultimate challenge to one's perceived manhood (or the lack, thereof). Not to mention how fun it was to reenter those halls of academia with soaking-wet hair on Winter days. Oh, to have been a fly on the wall of Mr. Way's office, in between classes. Huzzah! on remembering the words to the Senior Boy's Song... oh how that used to piss off Mr. George during Pep Club. - Tom

From Vicki Biederman (12-12-04): This year has been different due to losing my job in the corporate world, so I reinvented myself and started a personal service company called "Driving Miss Daisy". I provide companion care, driving to appointments for clients and making sure they still feel special.

From Tom Hufstedler (12-11-04): (Regarding the Annual SMN 1961 Golf Outing) I don't expect that Super Bowl week will be feasible for many of the guys that were there last year, but Jim Turner wants to meet in Laughlin around the 17th of March. We could also congregate in Mesquite, but not in March (I understand that the hotels are already booked). April would be possible in Mesquite, where I can get hotel rooms at very low rates, but the golf is a little more expensive. We went to Mesquite one year and golfed in St. George, Utah because the rates were better there. I guess that I need feedback from everybody before I start to put together a trip. Here are the choices: 1) Death Valley- Super Bowl week (rooms about \$60 per night, golf about 35.00 a day). 2) Laughlin- Mid March (rooms about 30.00, golf about 60.00 a round). 3) Mesquite- April (rooms almost free, golf from 50.00 to 120.00 depending on location). My knee surgery was orthroscopic to clean up some ragged cartilage (no doubt a result from a near perfect golf swing). My finger surgery was to release a condition called Dupuytren's Contracture, an hereditary curvature resulting in a permanent fist like hand position. Both were successful and recovery is going well. I should be back hacking around the course in a couple of weeks. Everybody, let me know if you have any interest, and indicate which time and place would be best for you. Thanks, Huf

From Tom Hufstedler (12-8-04): Thanks very much for keeping up this web site. I visit it often to catch up. I am recuperating rapidly, from two different surgeries (finger & knee) and hope to get back on the golf course by January. I would like to have another alumni golf outing, but it looks like it will be next year. We had a great time in Death Valley last year, even though the Chiefs were on the sideline. If Crossen brings a young man to the next reunion, attendance should increase to the point of overflow. (I've always been suspicious of him anyway.) Hi, to all. - Tom Hufstedler

From Bill Biggs (12-2-04): Linda Montgomery (Daniels), Eleanore Holt (Francis) and Bill Biggs met at Linda's house in Stanley, KS and spent 7 hours together reviewing their lives post graduation, sharing kids & grandkid's pictures, laughing and crying about fellow classmates, and gaffing (sp) over their adventures, especially at Old Mission Junior High. Also, we took the "Dailey" test and flunked, although Biggs did know the "senior song" being one himself. Since all three of us were in Mrs.. Schumaker's Unified Studies class in eighth grade we remembered each others misadventures. Holt spending quality class time in her desk in the hallway; Montgomery being told to "just turn around, turn around" as the teacher moved her index finger in a circular motion; Biggs being placed in the closet or falling over in his desk because he leaned over too far; the substitute teacher with the wooden arm; and the moans of the class when a spelling baseball team had to select him for their team. The 1st Junior High dance featured the gym teachers taking gym time, after checking our uniforms, of course, to teach us how to dance. Sad to say to no avail, because the girls danced together and the boys either played shuffle board or ate. Remember how miserable we all were when we had to take showers after P.E.? All three of us tried to figure out ways to hide so that our fellow shower mates wouldn't see how pathetic we were (are?), We had a great time and are looking forward to the 45th.

From Eleanore Holt (12-1-04): Hi everyone. I'm living in Austin, TX (the live music capital of the world!), and would love to see anyone who comes down. I haven't been back since the 10th reunion, but plan to be at the 45th. I can hardly wait, providing I'm still alive. I think y'all look fabulous!! I'm retired after working 30+ years and I'm enjoying life to the fullest. Please keep me posted of alumni news.

From Judy Clifford (9-13-04): Hi Everyone. . . Summer has been wonderful and I have spent lots of time at the lake. . . mainly putting worms on hooks and trying to make sure everyone has on their lifejacket even though 5 out of my 7 grandchildren are on swim teams! They are loving it at the lake and keep me busy keeping the worms cool in the refrigerator. Hope everyone has had a good summer too. The reunion is coming up soon and it will be nice to see

everyone again. I was wondering if Crossen's friends still have their letter jackets and if they dance as good as he does. . . just wondering. Ok. . . take care everyone. . . see you soon. Judy.

From Milt Gaebler (9-11-04): Hey Jim, Glad to hear you're alive and well, although we worry about people who live in Florida. Can I help you learn how to vote?? I think you need to talk to Huff. He can help. - Milt Gaebler, San Diego (Go Chargers!!)

From Sandra Gallen (9-7-04): Lonnie and I have been married 38 years, we have one son, Michael (married) and two grandchildren. Michael is a 5th grade teacher here in Phoenix. This March it will be our 15th annual Encanto Park Folk Music Festival. Lonnie and I have moved to Sun City, Arizona. I remember Charles Bennett well, we used to dance together at our homeroom parties. He will be missed. Hugs -Sandra Gallen (Austin)

From Jim Crossen (9-6-04): Some of the old babes went to Montana this summer...Make sure you get the pictures from Bobbi Ulrich...Is Jones going to do the 45th? She is the BEST at organizing stuff..Hope my prison release will be finalized by then. I've really buffed up with weights and I'm bringing a young man to the reunion I think everyone will like. Windy Labor Day weekend here in Florida but all is well.... - Crossen

From Glenda Garrelts (9-3-04): So ... another MIT grad! - and you've only been back once? My husband is course VI [think I have that right; EE] '67. He hasn't missed a reunion except for the time we were in England. Somehow I didn't remember any from our class going to MIT, but then I was not very aware of educational options back then. My choice was KU or K-State. One of our biggest joys over the past few years has been hosting MIT international students. We try to show them a bit of American life. We've had young women from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana and The Ukraine. I think we learn as much as they do - and SO smart. And what do you think of the new MIT president? - Best wishes, Glenda Garrelts

From Bill Biggs (9-2-04): Thank you for maintaining this site. I am very pleased at the way you honored Charles. My recollections of Charles include some of the following: Charles, along with David Dinges, taught me to play chess. Although I never was, and still aren't, a good player, I now use those limited skills to play chess with my grandson - yes he beats me without my trying to throw the game. Charles introduced me to the delights of Stan Freeberg's humor - "St George and the Dragon-net." Charles' father was a pilot who was killed in WWII and I always wondered if he missed the relationship that might have been with a dad. For many years Charles was the guidance counselor at Fort School, KS Middle School. He touched many lives. He remained slim all throughout his life - a vegetarian [(sp) where is Carol Bishop now that I need her spelling skills]. God rest all of those who have gone before us. - Bill Biggs

From Glenda Garrelts (9-1-04): Thanks for doing the website. It's fun to reconnect with names and faces every so often. I followed some of the links and got to the SME site where there was a link for SME '61, which seems to be broken. I've long wanted to find old friends that ended up there. Any idea if they have an active group? - Best wishes, Glenda

From Bruce Younger (9-1-04): Thank you for the unfortunate news about Charles. He was a person I admired quite a lot. If you knew Charles in grade school and junior high, he was an unhappy, overweight kid in an era when you didn't see that much. Before most of us had heard the word "diet", when exercise was an abstraction, Charles - completely on his own hook - set out to change his lifelong habits. He did, and did so admirably. I think he even ran cross country his senior year. Since high school, when I've needed a shot of courage or endurance for something I had to do, Charles Bennet has come to mind. He was an original. Thank you, too, for maintaining this site. It is a great way to stay connected. - Bruce Younger, Lenexa, Kansas USA

From Bill Biggs (8-26-04): Sadly, Charles Bennett died three years ago.

From Carolyn Turner (8-8-04): Hi Kip! Your website is great! I am trying to locate my best and dearest friend Nancy Stevens. We grew up together and over the years I have lost track of her. Does anyone know her whereabouts? Please send me an email at cmbrandon@webtv.net if you know anything about Nancy. I am looking forward to the 45th Reunion! Tom and I really enjoyed seeing so many of my former classmates at the 40th. Take Care Everyone!! - Carolyn Turner (Brandon)

From Barbara Hannibal (5-16-04) : Hi... At SMN, I was Barbara Ann Hannibal; from 1964-1988, I was Barbara Raynard (having married Ed Raynard, class of '59, then divorced). Finally graduated college at age 36 (A.S.U.) with a Broadcasting degree. Owned my own tv commercial production company for 10 years, then was GM of a large recording studio here in Phoenix. I'm now married to William H. (Bill) Repp, have two grown children and 11 grandchildren. Looking forward to hearing about future plans! - Barb Hannibal (Repp)

From Rick Reynolds (5-14-04): Yes, Charlene, I remember my senior prom date. It was Cathy Carter '60. She dated Danny Strong, Jay Sprague, and John Sulley at one time or another, but she married me and we are still together after the prom 43 years ago. - Rick Reynolds

From Charlene Hanusch (5-5-04): As I hear about all the Prom hoopla of my co-workers' kids (mine are all grown!), I am

reminded that 44 years ago about this time of year -- I WAS THE PROM DATE OF THE CLASS OF '61 FUTURE WEB SITE CREATOR - THE ONE AND ONLY - KIP HAMMOND!! And we doubled with Eddie O'dell and his date. (I think that was our only date, too) Anyone else remember their date those 40 years ago? Anyone actually marry their Prom Date (eventually)? - Charlene

From Gary L. Thomas (4-18-04): Just found this is great website yesterday. Thanks for updating my address and posting my picture. I'm sending another picture showing where I lived in Guatemala. Also if anyone checks out Julia and my web page Please sign the guest book and indicate you're an alumni of SMN. <http://www.frontiernet.net/~casatomas/> Thanks - Gary

From Gary L. Thomas (4-17-04): I no longer live in Guatemala. I would like to submit a picture. Web Page: <http://www.frontiernet.net/~casatomas/> Amateur Radio Call: K0MGD. Thanks, Gary L. Thomas

From Cynthia Watts (4-16-04): Thanks for doing the website. It's great to see "old" familiar faces. Here's an update for the roster. We recently moved to the San Diego area. Talk about a move, from NJ to Southern California. Don't want to do that again soon. - Cynthia Watts (Harmer)

From Tom Dailey (4-13-04): Hey there, Kids... Just surfing the web one evening, I found RUSHTON SCHOOL. For those of us who went there for 6th. grade in '54-'55 (Dick Lincoln, Bob Murphy, Tom Dailey, Judy Hess, Cliftene Hedrick, et. al.) (I still have the class picture... what's it worth to you, NOT to show it?), this is a call. Rushton is celebrating their 50th. Anniversary and Pam Carter (Lindquist), the current Principal, who also graduated from SMN, is soliciting stories, comments, and remembrances from those early daze [sic]. I, for instance, recall the old barn, and old Lady Rushton... who would sometimes wave at us kids. Pam's Email address is rucarter@smsd.org If you recall sledding down the "reservoir" hills?, riding your bike home through the back gate?, "field day" in the back West field?, or those incredible fresh-baked rolls, slathered with REAL butter (who knew about cholesterol?... who cared?) from the cafeteria... served on those dappled green NEVER-BREAK dishes? - then you need to forward those memories to Pam. She'd also appreciate any pictures, memorabilia, & such. Come'on - those Roseland & Skyline folks got their recognition... now, it's OUR turn. PS - Know how Skyline School got it's name? (Bill) Kirk Dyer's dad was an architect/engineer directly responsible for the project; he took Kirk up there, and asked what a good name would be for the school... Kirk said "Skyline", and so it became history - Famous folks in our midst. -Tom Dailey, Denver

From Bob Grissom (4-5-04): Thanks so much for the excellent web site and all the up dates. I am doing a lot of traveling in the west on business and find I spend a lot of time in Colorado. I have tried to find Roberta Hinckle (Charron) on several trips and have no luck at all. Does anyone know anyone that might know how to contact her? If anyone has any info I would appreciate it. Best regards - Bob Grissom

From Dale Schmitt (3-15-04): Attached is a photo I have been meaning to send for some time now but it just seemed to keep getting postponed. Hope you can excuse my tardiness. It's a picture of me and Jack Sanders and Jack's home in North Carolina in the Spring of 2002. We hadn't seen each other in 35 years so there was a lot of catching up to do. Thanks again for the good work you do on the webpage! -Dale Schmitt

From Milt Gaebler (2-10-04): Over the recent Super Bowl weekend (Feb 1, 2004) a few of us got together at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, CA.(214 ft. BELOW sea level). Tom Hufstedler organized the outing when the Chiefs were about 10-0. Since my Chargers were about 0-10 at the time, I was happy to join in. Everyone had a great time playing golf (not very well, but who cares?) and other "stuff". Wish more had come. I think we should expand upon this next year.

From Rick Reynolds (2-6-04): While cleaning out my basement, I found the original photo of the Junior Executive Committee from 1960. (It's on page 181 of the '60 Indian). If you want the photo and have a good scanner (I don't have a GOOD one), let me know via e-mail and I'll send it to you via snail mail.

From Jane Hager (1-27-04): I love the website and going through all the messages. A trip down memory lane. Thanks for all the hard work you, John and Judy do. - Jane

From Dawn Armor (1-27-04): I've enjoyed seeing the new photos you've posted, especially of some of the old Thespian gang; and I'm glad some of those mementos from my disintegrating scrapbooks have found new life. Judy Clifford is as beautiful and serene as I remember her. I'm flattered that Duncan Newcomer even remembers me. It was nice to hear from Ken Robb. I was stunned to see so many familiar names on the deceased list! I'm wondering if anyone knows when or how Cindy Stiles died? I received a nice letter and a couple of keepsakes from Jim after Virnelle Fletcher died and I know other faculty members have passed on. - Love, Dawn

From Martha Eubank (1-27-04): Seeing the photos and reading the messages from old friends brings back fond memories of our high school days. Thanks. You may want to add another name to the deceased list.....Mary Anne Dean. I believe she passed away about 15 or 20 years ago. - Martha Eubank (Moroney)

From Tom Dailey (1-26-04): Well Gang, That makes it 5.93% of us gone... unfortunately, that's pretty much in line with averages. Damn... we gotta' quit this "old" thing... and at 17, I always thought immortality was ours for the asking... of course, nobody had shot at me yet. - TCD

From Tom Dailey (1-26-04): Just think... all these grey-hairs later, Judy C. can no longer deny that she knows me... of course, Bucher still has color in his hair... damn! What a supreme hoot to enjoy this stuff - Mat and Nina Haug are still the funniest folks there... makes me want to buy back my '60 Chevy Impala... yeah, yeah I know it had 4 doors (very uncool). Hey Crossen, I caught all the fish in Ontario, so it's good you went to B.C. Next time, we get a shot of everybody who went to RUSHTON ELEMENTARY, too. Looking at the list of "missing comrades", sort of slaps you in the face with your own mortality. Funny, I still remember Eddy O'Dell's ham radio callsign KNØJLP, & Dennis Kitchen's name should be on the KC Vietnam Memorial wall, as he was surely a victim of our experience as any. Wally Walkle (Roshowski) was an OP cop, and once busted me with a young lady in a "compromising" situation, but let me go with a laugh and a grin. Bill Phipps... well, he always had a smile... always. Sleep well, faithful friends - Tom Dailey

From Patty Meyers (1-25-04): Our son's wedding was in Oct. at the American Restaurant in KC. Our son Bryan is a third year medicine resident and his wife, Stacey, is a third year OB-GYN resident, both at Northwestern in Chicago. Daughter, Robin, is an attorney and her husband is in GI private practice in Portland, Oregon. Their son, Evan, is our first grandchild. I enjoy the website. Thanks for doing it. - Patricia Meyers (Trueworthy)

From Sandy Gallen (1-25-04): Could someone please help me find Gretchen Gibson? We moved to San Francisco, California together when we were 21, stayed in touch many years and suddenly I lost track of her. Thanks. - Sandra Gallen (Austin)

From John Sulley (12-24-03): Wishing everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Send lots of Holiday Pictures for the web site. (Let's keep Kip busy) - John Sulley

From Duncan Newcomer (12-4-03): Hey, I've been in love with Dawn Armor since 1960! How can you do this to me? I just had to hand it to Ken Robb. Cheers and peace. - (The Rev. Dr.) Duncan D. Newcomer (actually happily married in Cheter, Connecticut.)

From Trudy Perez (11-25-03): I just celebrated my 39th wedding anniversary. That doesn't seem possible. We winter in Florida and spend our summers at The Lake of the Ozarks. We live on the quiet side of the Lake. If you are familiar, off O Road out of Laurie. Love both places. Have a great Thanksgiving and email anytime. - Trudy

From Kirk Dyer (11-22-03): I just went through the recent messages on the website. It looks as though more and more classmates are dropping in for look and comment. The site continues to dazzle. Good work indeed. We had our unofficial start of winter here in Denver today... three inches of snow on the ground and it's coming down fast. High country powder too, I'll bet the ski areas are dancing on their cash registers. - Kirk (and Kathy) Dyer

From Jane Hager (11-19-03): I love the website and all the pictures. We were in Hawaii for the 40th reunion. I hope to make the 45th. Many of my old friends and neighborhood kids are in the pictures. What a great experience to stimulate memories. We are in Florida for the winter and it is 80 degrees and wonderful. We'll be back in Kansas City for Christmas. Happy holidays and thanks for all your work. - Jane Hager (Johnston)

From Trudy Perez (11-18-03): Happy Thanksgiving all. Thank you for the great SMN Class of 1961 web site. - Trudy Perez Galvin

From Paul Burch (11-18-03): Hi. Actually, the photo I had in mind ISN'T one of Rick Reynolds kissing Pat Betton. He needs to ruminate over that one some more! (Pat did see it though, albeit accidentally.) See ya' - Paul

From Linda Kranz (11-17-03): I am going to attempt to send two photos taken in New York City over Columbus Day weekend when Connie Hartner Schmalz, Ruth Ann Unruh, Pat Meyer Nall, Karen Barndt Shehi, and I got together our 60th birthdays. If I've been successful, we will be seen in the lobby of the Waldorf Astoria (no, we didn't stay there!) and after a Broadway show having coffee and dessert. The five of us actually stayed at Connie's daughter's apartment. We visited as much of NYC as we could: Ellis Island, Metropolitan Museum, Ground Zero, Rockefeller Plaza, two shows (Thoroughly Modern Millie and Gypsy), etc. We had a marvelous time! Thanks. Linda Kranz Ashcraft

From Nina Haug (11-13-03): (About her family) My father was a roller coaster enthusiast. I remember taking him to 6 Flags with my kids when he was in his 70's and he waited in line twice to ride the coaster there. My youngest son Christopher has found his passion - photography. He is president of the photography club at TX. A&M Corpus Christi. He likes portraits and doing modeling portfolios. He loves photography and it has taken a long time for him to find a passion in life! We've been pretty spread out since the last kid finished high school (Kansas, Texas (north and south) and California. They (Nina's kids) are boy,girl,boy - 29,26,23. - Nina

From Susie Bales (11-12-03): Wanted you to have my new email address. Howard's is still good, so I'm not missing

anything but I have one of my own too. Thanks for all you're doing with the Web site. Susie Bales Kilgore

From Nina Haug (11-11-03): I have been very busy teaching (Human Anatomy) but I am really enjoying it. Matson and I turned 60 in October and all the Haug siblings met in Sedona, Arizona, for the event (4 of the 5 of us are S-M grads). Here's some snaps. The shirts say "Just be happy I'm not a twin" (in case you can't see it). The second is Matson and his wife Julie in the back of a wild jeep ride through the mountains. Nina

From Milt Gaebler (11-8-03): (With) the fires we had around here last week, it was pretty hairy for a while, but we're all okay. By now the smoke is probably settling somewhere around Shawnee Mission. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the outstanding job you've been doing with the website. It's been great seeing what people are up to these days. Is it time for another reunion yet?? Best regards, Milt Gaebler - San Diego (Rancho Bernardo if you know the area at all!)

From Ken Robb (10-31-03): I have decided to come out of retirement, and have recently accepted a marketing position at a supermarket chain located in Upstate New York. Quite a change. The company I was with before had eight store in Wisconsin and Illinois. This company has 104 stores throughout New York and New England, operating under the name Price Chopper. Yes, there is a connection between this company and the Price Chopper in Kansas City, with each company having someone on each others Board of Directors. Otherwise, no common ownership. Price Chopper in New York gave the Kansas City retailers the right to use the name some 20-25 years ago. I started here in August and it's been a wild ride ever since. Ann and I still own our home in Illinois...it's on the market but will take some time to sell, and if it doesn't sell that's okay. We'll move back to Illinois in five years anyway. So, my mailing address should stay the same, however, I will shut down my home email account in December. You should change your records (and the SMN class listing) to reflect my new email address at work. - Ken

From Bette Nonemaker (10-13-03): Diane (Diane Wilson) -- where are you -- we tried to find you for the last reunion -- BETTE

From Dale Schmitt (10-10-03): Thanks for doing all the fine work on the website. I have really enjoyed catching up with some old friendships during the past couple of years. Hope we can keep it going for a long time. Dale Schmitt

From Tom Hufstedler (10-9-03): I can't tell you how much I appreciate this web site. It is fantastic! I start looking forward to the next reunion on the way home from each one. I think it is very unusual for a class to remain so close after all these years. I will forward some pictures soon to add to the site. Thanks again, Huf

From Dawn Armor (10-8-03): Glad to see some of the stuff from my old scrapbook got put on the amazing website you've created. I don't feel so bad about dismantling those books now. Its really sweet to see all the beautiful children/grandchildren our class has helped create! And nice to know we're all aging at about the same rate! - Dawn

From Rick Reynolds (10-8-03): To Paul Burch-- If you're refering to the pictures of me kissing Pat Betton, go ahead, PLEASE. It'll drive my wife (Cathy Carter, SMN, "62) nuts. To John Sulley-- 3000 miles??? Piece of cake!!! Cathy and I just returned from a 4700 mile trip by car from Denver to Port Angeles, WA and back through Utah (sorry, Grissom, we didn't know) in 15 days and 7 rounds of golf. To Kip-- You can't know how much this means to all of us to have this wonderful FREE web site available. Thank you so very much. To ALL-- Let's be on guard for a possible change in our mascot. All this political correctness is driving me nuts. A few years ago Cathy and I were driving from Phoenix back to Denver and drove past Red Mesa High School (a Native American boarding High School in the middle of the Navajo Reservation in NE Arizona) that touted (on a sign) "Home of the Redskins". I-N-D-I-A-N-S has NEVER been a sign of disrespect. Actually, it comes from the Spanish. "In-deos" or "People of God". - Rick Reynolds

From Judy Clifford (10-8-03): Hi Everyone. . . I have been meaning to write for a long time to say hello. . . and. . . most importantly. . . so that I can thank Kip for taking on the task of being our new website manager! As you all may or may not know. . . Kip graduated from MIT, Brooks Institute of Photography, and had his own studio in California until he retired a few years ago and moved to Scottsdale. Had it not been for Kip and that camera he carries around with him at all times! . . . we would not have had such a wonderful record of our 60th reunion in pictures! It's fun to have the website up and a good place so that we can all update our home addresses and email addresses when we have to. So. . . again. . . thanks for working on our new website Kip! - Judy Clifford Bjorseth

From Paul Burch (10-7-03): Great web site Kip. I'm toying with the idea of printing up some unpublished (as in Indian) stuff from my negative file from that era and sending it in. We'll see what I can find. (That should worry Rick Reynolds. . .)

From John Sulley (10-7-03): To Bobbi, I think a 60th birthday party is a great idea, but you're about 10 months late. - John

From Gary Bucher (10-6-03): I'm in the process of phasing out of my current job to something different, retirement, not sure. One daughter has graduated from Whitman College and the other will do so in May 04 so college obligations

should be diminished considerably. Regardless, I'm looking at more time to relax and enjoy life away from the corporate merry-go-round. Gary

From Bobbi Ulrich (10-1-03): I think we need to have a 60th birthday party! Who wants to come? Waiting to hear from you..... Bobbi Ulrich

From Joyce Whitfill (9-19-03): Just a note to say....We miss you, and wish you were here. We are back at the Lake of the Ozark's after all these years. Do you remember the infamous "Senior Week" at Janet Hampton's grandparent's home...daredevil skiing, boilmakers, sinking docks, Gary Harbison and Mike Welch leaping off the Hurricane Deck Bridge, too many people in a bed, sunburn, and many more items we can't discuss at this time. Do you have any thoughts you'd like to share? Hey Ron Smith what do you remember? We need to hear from you soon!!! STAY TUNED --- Picture to follow after face lift recovery!!! Fondly or Tootles, Joyce Whitfill, Janet Hampton, Bette Mabus, Peggy Brock, Linda Jones

From Tom Dailey (9-8-03): Hi Kids, I notice that the page indicates "click to enlarge"... with most of us, it didn't take a click to make THAT happen! Something to do with multiple birthdays and gravity, I suspect. Did any of you go to Rushton Elementary for 6th. grade? Who remembers JUDY HESS? I recently found her for Cliftene Hedrick (they were best buddies through 8th. grade at OMJHS)... oh, and she was my first kiss (in an apple tree, no less)... hey, we're old - it doesn't matter, giving away our secrets now, ya' know! Tom Dailey - Denver

From Joyce Whitfill (9-5-03): Kip, thank you so very much for your continued effort to keep us connected. Well done friend! For those of you who remember my Dad.....you will be happy to know we just celebrated his 90th birthday! Take care, Joyce Whitfill (Caven)

From Diane Wilson (9-5-03): Thanks to you all for the wonderful job you are doing to keep our class of '61 together. Diane

From Linda Kranz (9-5-03): Hi, everyone! It is amazing to have our own website! Thanks. Since this is an auspicious year for all of us, you may be interested to know how a few of us are CELEBRATING turning sixty. Pat Meyer Nall, Karen Barndt Shehi, Connie Hartner Schmalz, Ruth Unruh, and I are meeting in New York City over the Columbus Day weekend. We'll "do the town" royally. (We've tried to get together every couple of years -- in Pennsylvania, in Kansas, in South Carolina (spouses came to that one), and in Florida.) Shawnee Mission North lives on in friendships. Linda Kranz (Ashcraft)

From Bob Grisson (9-5-03): Hi to everyone, Thanks for keeping me updated via this web site. It is great. I am so sorry I have missed all the reunions and I really miss all of you. We (Claudia and I) moved from San Diego in Dec. of 2002 to Pleasant View, Utah to be close to our son Greg and his family. We have 3 beautiful granddaughters (9, 7 and 5) and a 4mo old grandson. Our home is about an hour north of Salt Lake City, next to the mountains in a very beautiful area. My very best to all, Bob Grisson

From Tom Maynard (8-27-03): We just moved to FL last summer. We lived in an apt until our house was finished. I just love it, but Barbara and Scott miss all the friends and relatives in Kansas. We just moved our furniture down here in June and then sold our house in Overland Park we built 25 years ago. Bill Mayer was my lockermate. Cliff (Clifford Horseman) introduced me to my wife. I have attended all of the reunions but I really enjoyed the 30 year the most. There were seven classmates there that I went to first grade with at Overland Park elementary. - Tom

From Cliftene Hedrick (8-26-03): I love it!!! It was so nice of you to do this for all of us and I am impressed and amazed that someone our age could be so computer literate. Thanks so much, it is such great fun to see the pictures and find out what is going on in our classmates lives. If we can figure out how to send you a picture sometime, we will. Love, Cliftene

From John Sulley (8-25-03): We are planning about a 3000 mile driving trip in a few weeks to Disney World in Orlando, and then to Jekyll Island off the coast of Georgia, a couple of days in Savannah, and then a couple of days in Nashville at my wife's sister's house on the way home. September 10, 2003, is our 25th Anniversary, so we thought we would take a nice trip rather than buying each other some trinket.

From Bobbi Ulrich (8-25-03): Hi Kip! You have done a mountain of work! Thanks so much for all of your effort so that we all can stay in touch! Those wonderful years at SMN were the best and the friendships that we made there are forever. Thanks for making it possible for us to have this information...a job well done! -Bobbi Ulrich Wills

From Charlene Hanusch (8-24-03): The pictures were nicely done so I could really see them, and when I didn't recognize one, ah ha, the name was there. THANK YOU! Some I would know off the street: Jim Crossen, Kirk Dyer, Kip Hammond, Peggy Brock, Judy Clifford, and Carolyn Turner...for others it was more subtle. For the record, my children are now two years older than in that picture -- but the ages at that time are correct. Tyler definitely looks like he's right out of the teens -- Tim and wife are expecting their second child any day. Last June when I was visiting family

in Shawnee Mission, I heard that the "INDIAN" logo/mascot is possibly being challenged again -- anyone know anything about it?

From Ciana Buckmaster (8-23-03): Thank you so very much for the wonderful work you have been doing! I enjoyed the pictures, and am so sorry I missed the BBQ that year, but some virus got ahold of me! I am in KC every Thanksgiving it seems. I plan on being there again this year! Will get some family pictures to you soon! -Ciana Buckmaster High

From Kirk Dyer (8-22-03): Hi again, Kip. I've been rambling around in the new SMN website... Wow, it's great! I know how much work it was, and is, to create and maintain it. Many thanks to you and everyone who contributed. I remain un-retired until interest rates and dividends can provide a living again. Whenever that will be. Dang stock market. Crawled back to truck driving to provide for Kathy, the cats, and me. At least it's easy to find work in the industry. We're still on Capitol Hill in Denver, and still looking at the Pacific Northwest (Washington State) for our final coast into oblivion. Somewhere between Seattle and Vancouver, I reckon, where we can sail ourselves silly. We retain hopes of seeing the world via sailboat. My daughter continues to attend UMKC, and will graduate (hopefully) in 2004. We still do vintage motorcycle roadracing, (well, me mostly.. Kathy is the pit crew), and I still fiddle with photography - haven't gone digital yet. We'll be there for the next re-union. Until then; Hello everyone. -Kirk Dyer and Kathy Boone

From Dawn Armor (8-22-03): The website is great Kip. Thanks! I will pick out some photos of my family to send in for the web site when I have a moment. We just returned from family camp and now our summer is quickly rolling to an end. Our daughter-in-law and grandson are here now for another 10 days which is a lovely gift. They are in the process of moving up to Humboldt County. -Love, Dawn

From Fred Cook (8-22-03): Thanks for setting up the site. It looks good. I haven't lived in Kansas since shortly after graduation. I remember some of the names, but have only kept in contact with one other SMN '61 graduate. I thought I might try to catch up a little and maybe make it to the next reunion. Thanks. -Fred

From Nina Haug (8-22-03): Wow Kip, You put a lot of work into this. It is great, terrific! I have just started teaching (Chabot College - Anatomy) so it is pretty busy here at the beginning of the semester.

From Bill Gradinger (8-22-03): Kip, I played golf earlier this year with Ron Bruce, Doug Page and Bill Smith. I have a camera in my cell phone and have a good picture of Ron, Doug, and Bill that I took. Of course the quality is improved without me in it. We were all 59 at the time, Ron turn 60 in early July but the rest of us are still a decade younger. How about you? -Bill

From Jim Crossen (8-22-03): Who did this work....You're hired...GREAT JOB!

From Bill Gradinger (8-22-03): Kip, Great site, well done and a very distinguished group of photo's. -Bill Gradinger

From Glenda Underwood (8-22-03): Kip, Thank you so much for doing this.

From George Andrews (8-22-03): Great site! Looking forward to more and details of the 45th reunion... Judy still looks great! -George Andrews, SMN '61

From Bill Smith (8-22-03): Kip- Looks like you're spending too much time on the computer. I guess it is too hot to do much else this time of year. -Bill