

# Happenings & Highlights of 2014

## News from Owatonna High School Class of 1963 Classmates

### August 2014

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since our memorable and very successful 50th Class of 1963 Reunion. What an event! What wonderful memories! We've heard from many of you since the Reunion and there seems to be a common desire to stay connected. This is our first attempt and we hope to make *Happenings & Highlights* an annual newsletter. We are a self-appointed committee and are always looking for your input or a helping hand. Please share what is happening; some news will be good and some will be not so good, but please share it anyway. Thanks!

*Jerry Carstensen, Jim Colton, Ron Eustice and Kathy Johnson Lembke*

#### 50TH REUNION PICTURES

*You can still view pictures of the Class of 1963*

*50th Reunion at Ron Eustice's website:*

<http://www.roneustice.com>

Click on:

**Owatonna High School 50th Reunion Class of 1963**

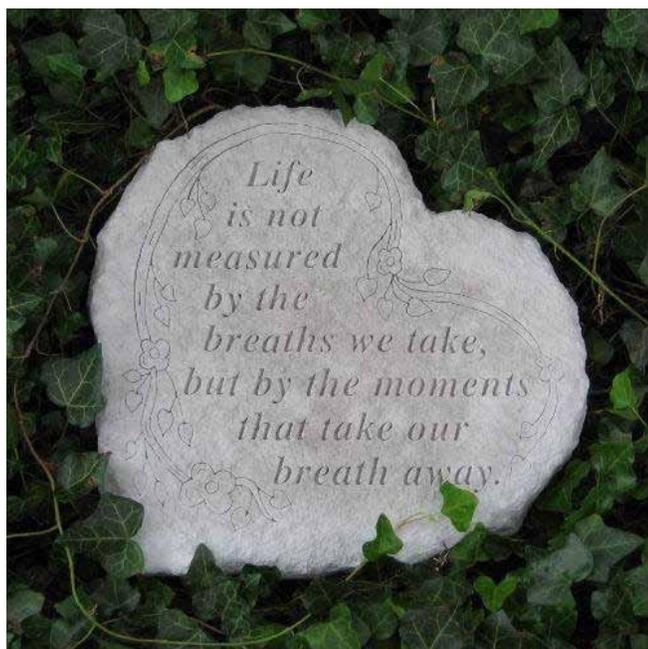
#### Contact Information:

Jim: james.colton10@gmail.com

Jerry: jcars10@ymail.com

Ron: reustice@gmail.com

Kathy: hklembke@frontiernet.net



"The Guys" (Paul Lian, Curt Utpadel and Paul Daffinrud) at the D-Backs game...Diamond Backs won, 4-3 in 10 innings over the Florida Marlins. THX to Curt for negotiating our tickets to include the "All You Can Eat" buffet table. We did some SERIOUS DAMAGE at the hot dog stand. THX guys for a FUN day !! *From Paul Lian.*

After 5 years of flying for Braniff Airways and 15 years as a Navy wife John and I retired to Pebble Beach, California where we have resided for more than 25 years. During our Navy years we lived for a time in Bangkok and for 7 years in Northern Italy. We have two daughters and one grand daughter who are the lights of our lives. We currently divide our time between Pebble Beach, visiting the daughters and sailing the Eastern Aegean on our sailboat.

Growing up in Owatonna was a wonderful experience and I appreciate the values learned and long-standing friendships made.

**Jean Abbott Peterson**  
[jp4148@gmail.com](mailto:jp4148@gmail.com)



## Happenings 2014; News from our Owatonna High School Class of 1963 classmates



*Gene and Leah Wilker*

When I saw how well prepared and really neat last year's 50th Anniversary class booklet was, I regretted not having submitted a photograph of Leah (my other half) and myself. It was enjoyable to see photos of class members, and of their mates too. Since then, Leah passed away on January 19, 2014. She had lung cancer. However, the treatments were helping and the test results were favorable. We celebrated New Years, and even joked about going again on a regular basis to Vegas, to do some gambling and enjoy *Cirque Du Soleil* and other entertaining Vegas shows. But then Leah had a heart attack.

This time, however, I am submitting a photograph of Leah and myself for this year's newsletter. I am very proud of Leah in every way, and would like my classmates to know that. I wish all would have an opportunity to meet Leah. I think they would have found her to be a wonderful lady—smiling, happy, so full-of-life. She was absolutely the best partner for me throughout our years together, and just the type of personality a guy like me (who tends to be less outgoing) needed. She was my sweetheart. During our almost 32 years together, I felt that having Leah for my partner made me the luckiest guy in the world.

**Gene Wilker**



*Mary Jo & Jim Colton at the Giants/Twins game in San Francisco in May 2014*

Hello Classmates! Mary Jo and I went to a Giants/Twins game in San Francisco in May. The Twins garb made it easy to identify the Minnesota fans—all 15 of them! Of course they were the nicest people at the game. Some lived in the Bay Area but many were on vacation from MN. Sorry for you Twins fans but the Giants won that day!

In November Paul Hammel hosted a mini-reunion with Noel Bartsch, another Minnesota friend, and our wives. We had a great time catching up on old times and got to see Paul's fairly new house that he practically built himself. Of course it's a masterpiece.

Small world: When we visited the far reaches of Guatemala in February, we took a 90-minute boat ride up a river to visit a school. I struck up a conversation with a couple next to us who are retired communications professors from Kent State. I asked if by any chance they happen to know my classmate, James Lull, who is a retired communications professor from San Jose State. They know him well from professional society meetings and journal publications. In case you're wondering, they gave James a good report!

I'm still heavily into photography. I'm taking lots of photos, give photography talks at retirement centers, and am mentoring fellow photographers in Photoshop. Here is a link to a few of my latest photos:  
<https://picasaweb.google.com/104213468348737979143/BirdsOfTheEverglades?authkey=Gv1sRgCLTDnrDFyK20Sg>

I'll be in Owatonna in late September and hope to see some of you!

**Jim Colton**  
**james.colton10@gmail.com**

### ***Melissa McClintock Carlson writes:***

The class reunion celebration is a wonderful memory, and the booklet filled with news and memories is still being read and enjoyed.

This September we are traveling to Eastern Europe to visit my cousin and wife in Romania. We will explore Dracula's castle and Transylvania before traveling to Hungary, Bulgaria and Serbia.

In October we will welcome our seventh grandchild, so I'm re-learning how to crochet a baby blanket over the summer months.

I have also taken up the hobby of geocaching. There are many caches hidden along the walking trails and our state park, so it is an incentive to get out and hunt.

We spent last winter in Ft. Myers, Florida where we met Bob Bennett, Nancy's brother, at the Twins game. Next year we plan to winter in Bali or visit our son in Guam as a change of pace.

**Melissa McClintock Carlson**  
**carlsonma@charter.net**



*David Stanton doing target practice*

Another year has gone by and I hope everyone is doing well. I started the summer with a graduation for my grandson, Jackson Olson, from Hamilton, MT. My wife, Judy, and I had a good trip to Montana and we spent a week with my daughter and her family. We also try to spend as much time as we can visit different campsites with our trailer in the summer.

Jerry Carstensen and I visit the shooting range occasionally for target practice. And then Jerry, Jon Simon and I, along with several others, will get together for coffee as often as possible.

It's always nice to hear from everybody and best wishes to all of you for a good year.

**Dave Stanton**  
**goldsmithy@charter.net**

Hey guys & gals: - Just wanted to let you know that I stopped by the High School July 29th and delivered a picture of Curt Ringhofer for the Veteran's Memorial Display. That's part of the OHS museum and when Rick and Kathy Nelson were here this summer we visited the museum and noticed the incorrect picture. The only picture I had was the one shown in the Class Reunion book - that picture shows Curt in military uniform which is good.

**Jerry Carstensen**



Hard working senior, Dave Stanton, shows off a new built-in range.

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*The National Farmers' Bank of Owatonna, Minnesota is a bank building designed by Louis Sullivan with decorative elements by George Elmslie. It was built in 1908, and was the first of Sullivan's "jewel boxes". The lobby mural salutes agriculture and the dairy industry.*

*The following article by Jim Randers was written with the intent that it be included in the 50th anniversary booklet. We missed it. Our apologies to Jim. Here is Jim's update a year late:*

**About me:**

I spent 3 years 4 months in the Air Force in the 60's. Graduated from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in '71 with a BFA degree. Married, had one daughter, Charis, remarried in 1989 to Jan Storebo.

I worked in the Tradeshaw industry for 34 years, owned Display Arts Inc. for 25 of those years. Retired in 2005, selling the business and the building. Moved to Afton MN in 2007 and loving it.

Patented a Motorcycle Storage Container that I designed in 2006, called the BikePort.

Was heavily involved in the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce for 21 years, the 4th biggest chamber in MN with 750 members. Served 6 years on the board of directors and was Chairman of the board. Served twelve years chairing the Marketing Committee. A 21-year member of the EDPA (Exhibit Designer and Producers Assoc.), a display industry organization worldwide. Was President of the Maiden Rock Area Community Association (MRACA) for three years, in Wisconsin.

Currently I am a Commissioner in Afton, MN of the (HR/HPC) Design Review and Historic Preservation Committee. I have been serving on that for 5 years. I have been writing monthly articles for the Maiden Rock Press in Maiden Rock, WI the past 8 years, where we have a weekend house.

I still ride motorcycles since I was 12 in Owatonna; I have a Harley V-Rod, Moto Guzzi V11 sport, my wife has a Harley Low Rider, we have covered many miles on our motorcycles. We like to snowshoe, cross country ski, hike, travel; she is involved in a horticulture club and is an avid gardener. I dabble in music, guitar mostly now.

**Jim Randers, class of '63**

**Is it Tucson, Arizona; Burnsville, Minnesota, or Both?**

Ron and Margaret Eustice spend their winters in Arizona and summers in Minnesota. The cold and seemingly endless winter of 2013/14 has convinced them that they need to spend more time in Tucson. The Eustices have "downsized" in Minnesota and will spend more time at their 1.3 acre "farm" in Tucson. They recently purchased a townhome near Burnsville Center and have listed their Savage home for sale after 25 years living there. It's amazing how much "stuff" a family can accumulate over the years.

In Tucson, Ron has rescued many cactuses and planted them in the yard or shall we call it a "botanical garden." Margaret volunteers at the Assistance League that provides clothing to needy students.

Some classmates expressed concern that Ron would suffer "withdrawal symptoms" after the 50th anniversary booklet was completed, so he took on another project; publishing a 135 page hard cover book called *Red and White Reflections*, a history of Red and White dairy cattle to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Red and White Dairy Cattle Association. Ron purchased his first Red & White calves in 1964 as a University of Minnesota freshman. Learn more at: [http://www.agrinenews.com/news/minnesota\\_news/eustice-recalls-years-of-red-and-whites/article\\_4ae4a033-022b-5f83-bbdd-f0b-2c9a3f2de.html](http://www.agrinenews.com/news/minnesota_news/eustice-recalls-years-of-red-and-whites/article_4ae4a033-022b-5f83-bbdd-f0b-2c9a3f2de.html)

In August, Ron and Margaret will travel to Uruguay and Argentina. Ron was an International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) delegate to Uruguay in 1967-68. He is still in contact with five of his host families. In October, it's back to Tucson and more sunshine with a stop in Seattle to see son Kevin, his wife Alison and granddaughter Sabine.

The Eustices are looking forward to another get-together in 2015 with fellow Class of 63 graduates living in Arizona and elsewhere. Why not schedule a 2015 winter vacation in Arizona?

**Ron Eustice**  
[reustice@gmail.com](mailto:reustice@gmail.com)

**From Florice Nelson Lietzke:**

The only thing I wanted to tell my classmates is that my Mom died on May 20th with me by her side. She was an amazing woman and I will miss her. Judy Kretlow, Kathy Schuster, Jon Simon, David Long and Janet and Julie Klemmer and Carole Nordlie all attended Mom's celebration of life for which I was so grateful. Many of you knew her as she was always willing to host parties, float building or anything else we needed. Many of you ate her delicious baked goods!! Thanks for the memories!!

**Florice Nelson Lietzke**  
[fflietzke@gmail.com](mailto:fflietzke@gmail.com)

**Live each day as if it were your last!**

We lost three classmates that I am aware of since our 50th reunion. Frani Anderson, Gary Nordlie and Richard Tollefson, all to cancer. All three touched many lives and will be fondly remembered. It reminds me how quickly our lives can change. Live each day as if it were your last day.

**Kathy Schuster**  
[kjnanny@charter.net](mailto:kjnanny@charter.net)

Thank God there are no updates to report since the reunion. Thanks for all your work on this.

**Mike Hanson**  
[crappiemike@gmail.com](mailto:crappiemike@gmail.com)



Hello Everyone!!

I don't have a picture, sorry. One of the things I have enjoyed this year is reconnecting with everyone.

I love catching up with the goings on of everyone. The reunion was almost magical for me, seeing and talking to everyone. Our class reunion was really something. The best. I was able to spend time with my cousin Nancy and her husband Chuck.

My Son and my husband's son are getting married within 2 weeks of each other next year. So we have already been busy with plans picking out gowns and invitations. I can't wait for all of the festivities!!!!

Not much more to say except that I miss you all very much.

**Sally Lewis Wilson**  
**sallywilson1945@yahoo.com**

We are all at that place in our lives when we are losing family members and loved ones and I am no exception. Life does go on of course but it is no less sad and they are missed.

On a happier note, instead of joining those in retirement, I decided to run for re-election as Denton County Judge. The Primary election took place in early March and thankfully I won with enough votes to prevent a runoff election. I actually enjoy campaigning but the fund raising is difficult. I am very grateful to those that donated as it was necessary to raise (and spend) \$100,000.

I do not have an opponent in November so come January first I begin another 4-year term. Yes, it will be my last term. I think I have said that before but for sure, this is it.

For those that have not found the Facebook page "You know you are from Owatonna if" - I suggest you check it out. Brings back good memories of growing up in Owatonna. Best Wishes to All!

**Mary O Roberts Horn**  
**judgetcampaign@yahoo.com**

It was great to see everyone at the reunion. 50 years doesn't seem possible.

Owatonna continues to grow and have new businesses come to our community. We will have created over 300 new jobs in 2014. We have been blessed to have Vonda White purchase the Pillsbury College and turn it into a camp for US and international students. They have 23 different flags flying in the cafeteria representing the counties that are involved with the camp.

The Gainey Conference Center announced that they would be closing and putting the campus up for sale. We are fortunate to have Meridian Behavioral Health purchase the campus and will open a center for drug and alcohol treatment which will be like the Betty Ford Clinic.

We will work hard to have Owatonna the best community ever and look forward to the next reunion.

**Mayor Tom**  
**tkuntz11@gmail.com**

We had a fantastic reunion! I married to John Trettel in 1966 and raised three wonderful sons. We divorced in 1985. I met Al Cox in 1985 and we've been together since then and married in 1994. I became a stepmother to their great stepsons. We have 15 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. I've worked at the U of M, Prudential, and Target Corp. over the years. I've traveled the U.S. East to West and North to South visiting many interesting, historical and fun places. I love gardening, particularly prize-winning irises. I was diagnosed with MS in 1990.

A slow progression over the years has had many challenges. I've had to make many adjustments, but I've kept a positive attitude and carry on the best I can.

**Jeanette (Hugill) Cox**  
**Rzztop123@aol.com**

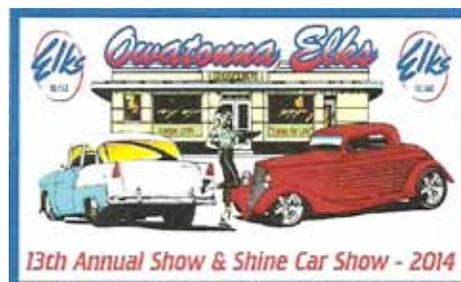


It's amazing how fast this past year has gone! As for us, there is nothing to be updated.....We had a beautiful fall season and a long winter but thank goodness for grandkids' volleyball and basketball games plus deer hunting, shopping, wrestling, and MORE SHOPPING. Yes, we survived even without a spring! As we write this we are looking forward to a mini vacation with Chuck and Nancy Newgard to the North Shore Drive. It will be exactly a year from the time of our 50th class reunion when lots of good memories were made. Now we will make more treasured memories and "Explore Minnesota". Sure hope the weather is nice.....but.....this is Minnesota! In closing would like to share a favorite....."And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." (Abraham Lincoln) This is so true especially after reading the obituaries of our three classmates we lost in the last year. We send our best wishes to our classmates and hope it has been a good year. Keep in touch!

**Helmer & Kathy Lembke**  
**hklembe@frontiernet.net**

It has been a year of firsts for me and our family since Gary passed away from pancreatic cancer on November 15, 2013. Life goes on and we are all adapting with the help of family and friends. I am still working at the dental office which helps occupy my time. We were at the cabin on Lake Vermillion several times this summer and it was bittersweet without 'Nord', but we reminisced about 30 years of good times spent there. Thanks to all of you for being there for me when I needed you most...

**Carole Nordlie**  
**gnordlie@q.com**



A couple of years ago, Margie Cook Gilbert and I made a pact to go to our 50th class reunion together. As the date drew near, I have to admit I was a bit apprehensive. I mean, it had been a long time. What were going to talk about? Who was going to remember us anyway? Well, that was a waste of energy. Everyone was so warm and friendly. The reunion was full of hugs, laughter, and a familial atmosphere.

Lots of conversations started with "Do you remember when we..." I find it incredible that, after all these years, most of us can still remember our time in school together from kindergarten all the way up to graduation in '63.

Dancing and singing along to the music of the 60s as played by Richie Northrop's band and, later, Marc Reigel with his keyboard, certainly helped keep those memories alive. I can't wait for the next reunion.

Usually, I have summers from Head Start preschool off, but now that we have a Little Learners program that goes all summer, I get to help those children, too. They all call me "Grandma Lula" and give me lots of hugs. I'm loving it, obviously.

My summer won't be all work, though; my daughter Julie and I will tour the East Coast together and my husband Chris and I are, of course, planning a few road trips this year. He likes to fish and I like to shop; after fifty years of marriage we've got it figured out.

I hope your summer is full of love and laughter.

**Eula Conrath Peterson**

## CHRISTGAU'S PHARMACISTS



ABOVE: Senior clerks J. Abbott, J. Krampitz, E. Steeke, and K. Pobanz laughingly exclaim, while reading a favorite Hallmark card, "We work hard in Christgau's ONLY FOR YOU!"

"BETTER THAN YOU EXPECTED"

January 25, 2014 will live in infamy for my husband and me. We left home at 6:30 to attend a choral concert. When we arrived home three hours later, the waiting police told us our house had been trashed. Responding to calls reporting the sound of breaking glass, they had arrested a 26-year-old man, high on drugs, naked and screaming, "The world is exploding!" Fortunately he did not reach some areas, notably leaving us our kitchen, basement, and clothes closets. Unfortunately, nearly everything else was in disarray--up-ended, thrown down the stairs, damaged, or destroyed. He apparently used part of the bed frame to knock some 30 holes in the walls, break windows, and attack art works. Potted plants, including one in a gallon of water, had left dozens of music scores wrinkled and occasionally muddy.

In the months since we have managed to lead our normal lives, interspersing regular activities with dealing with contractors, insurance adjusters, and restoration personnel. At first the vandal had declined to plead guilty, because he had no recollection of what he had done, but now he is serving a 4-year prison sentence. The refinished floors and repainted walls look good.

**JudySandstrom**  
**jas@dls.net**

Hi everyone!!

First off, what a great class reunion! Thanks to all who organized it and did all the work!! Bill and I really enjoyed seeing everyone. We have been saddened by the loss of classmates/ friends this past year, and think of them often. Life just seems to go by way too fast!

Bill has enjoyed gardening this summer, his flower gardens look awesome! I have been keeping busy with the grandkids and some work. We are both feeling good, and so really we have no news, but look forward to the newsletter, and hearing about all of you! Life is Good at the Stransky home!

**Bill and Phyllis Stransky**  
**phylli5491@gmail.com**



Mary and Jerry Carstensen Ziplining Whistler, British Columbia (May 2014)

It's been almost a year since our class reunion and there are so many great memories of that weekend. The only regret, and I've heard this from other classmates, is that there just wasn't enough time to visit with everybody. And then we lost some very good friends and classmates since last August. That is always so sad.

We did our usual trips to CA and TX to see our daughters and their families and spent time with the grand kids. Our daughter and her family in CA have since moved to the Austin, TX area so we thought we'd take in some sights in the LA area this last time. She did get us tickets for the Jay Leno Tonight Show and we also visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

Rick and Kathy Nelson invited us to visit them in Port Townsend, WA so we flew out there in May. They planned a three day trip to Whistler, British Columbia and one of the things they surprised us with was making arrangements for all of us to go on a five run zipline course. I don't have a "bucket list" but if I did this would be one to check off.

One of the things I've especially enjoyed as a result of the class reunion last year is reconnecting with so many classmates. Hardly a week goes by that I don't talk to somebody or correspond by text or email.

Best wishes to everybody. I hope you're having a great year and let's all stay in touch.

**Jerry Carstensen**  
jcars10@ymail.com



Marian High School Class of 1963 held their 50th Class Reunion September 13th - 14th, 2013 with a "get together" at Torey's Restaurant on Friday evening, brunch at Mary (Stibal) Carstensen's house on Saturday morning and the main event and dinner at the Owatonna Country Club Saturday evening. How many people do you remember?

Front Row: Barb Hartle, Gayle Viehman, Rebecca Guse, Mary Stibal. Second Row: Barb Barrett, Barb Misgen, Donnis Ringhofer, Elaine Speltz, Kathy Cupkie, Mary Hogan, Paul Dilleuth, Patty Borowicz, John Stolman, Rose Ann Klecker, Mary Gontarek, John Perhay.

Back Row: Steve Schaefer, Jane Long, Paul Coufal, John Muellierelle, Roger Nass, Bob Bina, Bruce McAnnany, Ted Stransky, Bill Stransky

We had a great winter again in Fort Myers, Florida. In June we flew to Paris and took a river cruise to visit Normandy Beach for the 70th anniversary. We had a wonderful trip. During the rest of the summer we have been busy at grand children's ball games and in Brainerd on Gull Lake.

**Jan Krampitz & Jerry Lewison**  
jerrylewison@gmail.com



#### Attention Classmates

#### Your story could have been here.

We saved this space for any last minute responses to our request. While we are very grateful to the classmates who responded and sent an update, we know that most of those who did not respond have a story to tell even if it's trivial. We look forward to next year and hope that there is only good news to report. Enjoy this newsletter.

Ronald Eustice  
7040 North Via Assisi  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
reustice@gmail.com

I would like to update Roger Rehman's profile from the 63 newsletter. I would like to add that for 26 years he was a volunteer fireman on the Owatonna Fire Department and in 2010 he retired from Steele-Waseca Coop Electric. We also have a great granddaughter besides our five grandsons.

Roger would not let me mention these when it was the class reunion so I am now adding these comments myself.  
Diane Rehman (wife) Thanks!

drrehman@charter.net





The wide selection of sweaters seems to have momentarily stymied Rick Nelson, a member of the senior class.

**GILDNER'S**

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Did you know that more than 12,000 people read the PHOTO NEWS every week?

**Good Question:  
Who is the girl with Richard Northrop?**



**Class of 1963 Gathering  
Cibo's Restaurant, Phoenix, Arizona  
(March 15, 2014)**

*On March 15th, some OHS 1963 classmates living in Arizona, gathered in Phoenix. The event was organized by Paul Lian and included Sabra Whiting Ottesen, Margie Cook, Mary Helen Hamilton, Ron Eustice, Paul Lian and their spouses and friends. There is quite a contingent of OHS Class of 63 graduates in Arizona. Others living in Arizona include Paul Daffinrud, Curt Utpadel and Florice Nelson Lietzke.*

Our Cibo Dinner Party during March in Phoenix was a great success!

This gathering may have been the catalyst for a future event. Several '63ers have expressed an interest in doing "stuff" together. We could call it the OHS Class of 1963 Travel Club.

The logistics could be fairly simple using e mails, Facebook, cell phones, etc. I'm thinking we could organize a mini trip around the country on an annual basis. There might be enough interest to attract married couples, widows, widowers, singles, etc. to travel together in a safe environment. Possible destinations include:

- a) Branson, Missouri
- b) Broadway-Dinner tour to NYC.
- c) Weekend excursion to Chicago
- d) Baseball trip to Los Angeles
- e) Concert-Dining tour to San Francisco
- f) Bicycle trip thru Ireland

There are no limits, other than our own ingenuity, health and financial issues. If we give people enough advance notice... the sky is the limit.

Please e mail me if you'd like to participate or have other ideas for destinations. Thanks.

**Paul Lian**  
**fron.epl@gmail.com**

I never made it back to Owatonna for any reunions. I graduated from University of Minnesota in 1967, with BA in Psychology, and University of Minnesota Law School in 1970, with Juris Doctor. I served a 30-year career in the United States Air Force, all as a Judge Advocate where I did prosecution and defense of criminal cases. During that time, I served twice as Staff Judge Advocate in charge of legal offices, and was a Military Judge for last 13½ years.

My last assignment was Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force. At the end of 2000, I retired from the military. Since then, I worked at Texas Workers' Compensation Commission for 3½ years as an Appeals Panel Judge at first and then as the Chief Judge of the Appeals Panel.

In July 2004, I moved to a position as Federal Administrative Law Judge with Social Security Administration. While there, I worked in the Houston hearings office until May 2009 when I transferred to the San Antonio hearings office.

I have been married to Sigrid (Meyer) McShane since August 1969. We have a son Michael who teaches Biomedical Engineering at Texas A & M. He is married with three daughters. Our daughter Jenni is working for GM the past 16 months, after 12 years with Texas Attorney General's office. Jenni and husband are expecting first child in October.

**Mike McShane**  
**MMcsh444@aol.com**



*Mary Helen (Hamilton) Pelton and her husband, Ray, Florice (Nelson) Lietzke and her husband, John, and Sabra (Whiting) Ottesen and her husband Bill. The picture was taken this spring when they got together for lunch. Sabra writes, "Next winter I hope there will be more gatherings of our class in Arizona!"*

**Sabra Ottesen: swotteson@aol.com**



*Owatonna High School in the 1920s*

# Lives Remembered



Gary Nordlie (1945-2013)

**Gary Nordlie**, 68, of Owatonna and Lake Vermilion passed away Nov. 15, 2013, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born July 16, 1945, in La Crosse, Wis., to Norman and Oma (Nyseth) Nordlie.

Gary moved to Owatonna in 1958 and graduated from Owatonna High School in 1963. He married his high school sweetheart Carole Soukup on Dec. 23, 1967, in Owatonna. He received his teaching degree from Mankato State University in 1968. Gary taught English and speech at New Richland High School until his retirement in 1998. He also coached track, weight lifting, cross country, and created the Oral Interp variety show.

He grew up on the Mississippi River and developed his love of fishing from his Grandpa Andrew. After many years of tournament fishing, freelance outdoor writing and photography for various magazines, he began a career as a fishing guide on Lake Vermilion where he spent the last 30 summers at the family cabin.

His interests include golfing, wood carving, restoring hot rods, motorcycle riding, hunting, fishing, BB guns and trapshooting, and playing his guitars and dobros. Gary recently published a children's book called *"The Boy Who Talked to Loons"* based on, and for, his grandchildren.

Gary was survived by his wife Carole; daughter, LaRae (Bill Samuels) Kubista; three grandchildren, Karter, Konner, and Kailie Kubista; a sister Lynda Virgin; brother-in-law, Roger (Sharon) Soukup; sister-in-law, Paula Soukup; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law George Soukup.

Gary was a well-known teacher, but was also known as an educator—not only in his school room, but also of nature, fishing, music, and life lessons in general. He will be remembered for his wit and sense of humor. He would want to thank all the people who shared his guiding trips and the many students who shared his classroom.



Richard "Rick" Yule Tollefson (1945-2014)

**Richard "Rick" Yule Tollefson**, 69, died Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, at St. Marys Hospital in Rochester. Rick was born June 29, 1945, in Owatonna to Harold and Muriel (Yule) Tollefson. The youngest of five children, Rick grew up with a love for the outdoors and cars and all things mechanical. He spent many happy summers in his youth with his family at their cabin on Roberds Lake. And he tore down his first engine at the age of 13. Rick grew up in Owatonna and graduated from OHS before entering in to the military in 1964. He served in Greece and Germany before concluding his service in 1968 with a tour in Vietnam. It was during his station in Germany that he met his future bride, Shannon. They dated during their time in Germany and were married in Arizona on Feb. 20, 1968, before he went to Vietnam.

Rick had many passions that he pursued in his lifetime that would take him all over the world and the U.S. He loved to laugh; he loved old westerns and on occasion was known as a practical joker. He seemed to spend his whole life with grease under his fingernails because of his trade as a mechanic. From boats to cars to planes and helicopters or anything with a small engine... if it was broke, he could fix it. He loved to be on the lake boating or fishing and he loved camping and drag racing and flying and thought of his boat as his pride and joy.

He loved traveling with his family. They visited many states throughout the U.S. in addition to Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada, Europe and the Middle East. He would probably tell you what he loved most was "his girls", his wife of 46 years, Shannon; his daughters, Kimberly and Megan. Rick loved and was loved dearly by his grandchildren, Caitlin; Noah; Korey; Morgan; William; Ava; great-grandchildren, Lilah and Cecelia. He was a friend to many and was always willing to help a friend or stranger in need.

Richard was survived by his wife, Shannon; his daughters, Kimberly Keck and Megan (Ian) Kleeberger; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his sisters, Jeanne (Roger) Voll and Nadine (Tom) Jines; several nieces, nephews and cousins.



Frances (Hruska) Anderson (1945-2014)

**Frances "Frani" (Hruska) Anderson**, 68, of Waseca, died Sunday, April 20, 2014, at the Lake Shore Inn Nursing Home of Waseca with her family at her side.

Frances Theresa, the daughter of Bernard and Dorothy (Guimond) Hruska, was born on July 28, 1945, in Owatonna. She attended Owatonna High School and graduated with the class of 1963 and continued her education at Johnson's Beauty School. She then began her career as a beautician and eventually began her longtime career in Waseca where she enjoyed the many friendships she made.

Frani was united in marriage to John C. Anderson and were blessed with two children, Christian and Kathryn. They were later divorced.

After 30 years of styling hair, Frani purchased Warehouse Liquor and continued to operate it for 10 years. She then worked at Itron in Waseca and eventually retired in 2012.

Frani truly enjoyed volunteering at the Lake Shore Inn Nursing Home, the Bread of Life Luncheon, and in many ways at the Church of the Sacred Heart, especially with the Catholic Daughters. She also enjoyed gardening, reading, traveling and spending time with her family and friends.

She was survived by her children, Chris Anderson of Chatfield and Katie Anderson of Shakopee; three grandchildren, Jonathan, Codie and Samantha; her parents, Bernard and Dorothy Hruska of Owatonna; and her sister, Pat Schroeder of Savage.

A Mass of Christian burial was held April 24, 2014, at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Waseca.

*Remember me with smiles and laughter;  
Because that's the way,  
I'll remember you.  
If you only think of me  
with sorrow and tears,  
Then don't remember me at all!  
~Frani  
(Frani left the above note for all of us)*