



Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Linking the Past with the Future

Published August 2015

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT MARVIN LILLIE '40



The story of Marvin Lillie tells of a young boy who endured great hardships both physical and emotional, a boy who worked hard to help support himself and family, and a boy who learned to see the humor in life. These early lessons were the building blocks to the essential qualities that led to Marvin's success as a business owner, husband, father, and good citizen with whom we are proud to share the distinction of PHS graduate!

Marvin Roger Lillie, was the youngest and fifth surviving child born to Frank and Minnie Lillie on December 18, 1921 on a farm one mile East of Lewiston School and Cemetery. The 80 acre farm they lived on was owned by Marvin's Grandfather, Justus Julius Lillie, a true pioneer. Marvin's father died on January 27, 1924 of pneumonia leaving his Mother with five children ages 2 to 15. Before his death, Marvin's Father had purchased 120 adjoining acres and had the foresight to purchase telephone stock. The telephone stock produced enough funds to keep the farm debt free.

Marvin's family soon moved to North 9th Street in Plattsmouth just 7 blocks north of the courthouse. The Great Depression came along and Marvin's older brother, Harold became a Father figure to his three younger siblings. At a young age Marvin and his brother Warren³⁸ rode on the fender of the milk truck making deliveries in town, they also worked at Sinclair Gas Station that Harold operated. At the age of 10, Marvin was hit by a speeding car when crossing the street in Omaha getting a treat for his brother Warren, who was a patient in Methodist Hospital. Marvin's leg was broken so he shared a room with his brother. During his high school years, Marvin continued to work at Sinclair and was a janitor at the Methodist Church. He delivered groceries for Lorenz

Brothers Grocery Store, cleaned clothing and made deliveries for Lusch Cleaners, and created the display windows for Knorr's Dime Store. Commenting on his work at Knorr's, Marvin said, "Doing the windows for Knorr's was fun, until someone saw a price tag in the window that was cheaper than on the rack." Then Marvin was hired by Dr. Gallop to do telephone interviews for a political poll, which he thought was interesting. After graduating from Plattsmouth High School in 1940 Marvin worked the night shift at Nebraska Iowa Power substation and took care of the switches during storms. "So on good nights I was paid to sleep!" By day, he drove a taxi cab for Bob White's Service, often driving into Omaha. When a canning factory opened in Plattsmouth, Marvin recalls, "I began working 12 hour days 7 days a week until I cut my finger in the plant on a rusty nail and got blood poisoning. Dr. Hudson saw a red streak on my arm and stated I would have died in 30 minutes had I waited longer to get treated." Marvin then began a long battle with infections. He became a guinea pig for a new drug, Penicillin. He was given 50cc every four hours for 2 weeks at a time. He was hospitalized 18 times. Marvin met his wife, Connie Summers, at Carr's Bakery, where she worked. Their first date was St. Patrick's Day and they were married in the Methodist Church on September 10, 1944.

Marvin planned to enlist when he received his draft notice. He passed his physical but noticed his side felt sore during the all-day health check. Within 12 hours from reporting to the Recruiting Station and taking his oath, an x-ray revealed his infection was back. He was honorably discharged from the Army. Marvin and Connie worked at the Glenn L. Bomber Plant in Bellevue until May 1945. After the war, Marvin felt lucky to get a job as an assistant Signalman for the railroad. One carefree weekend, he and Connie picked blackberries. Marvin was bitten by a mosquito and then again battled infection from a hospital bed for two weeks. Jobs were hard to find during those times Marvin became a fry cook for Walgreens at 50th & Dodge in Omaha and then back to work for Les Hutchinson at Sinclair in Plattsmouth. He provided tank wagon service to customers. His years of experience with Sinclair presented the opportunity to buy the Sinclair Agency in Wahoo, Nebraska in 1947. Marvin worked in that type of business for 50 years along with an auto parts and mechanic shop. Connie and Marvin also delivered Avon orders to agents in small towns, including Plattsmouth for 12 years.

"I have been retired since 1997 and we will celebrate 71 years of marriage this year. We have two children, five grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. My words of wisdom would be: My life experiences have taught me that when you start a job, do your best, work hard and finish the job. Always be honest and fair to the customer."

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BEVERLY SPRIECK HIRZ '56 ~ 2015 ALUM OF THE YEAR



Bev Sprieck is the second daughter of Arthur and Frieda Sprieck. She and her older sister, the late Donna Lee^{'47}, grew up on a farm and attended the District #30, Cullom School. She was a typical farm girl with her attention given to school, Church, chores, and family. According to high school classmate June Wagner, who went to a different country school, Bev was a fierce competitor on the softball field when their schools played each other. Bev's skills and talents were proven through 4-H at the Cass County Fair, the Nebraska State Fair, as well as the Corn Palace of the Cass County King Corn Carnival (presently the Harvest Festival). While attending Plattsmouth High School she was a member of Pep Club and a Cheer Leader. PHS was also where she met the late Denny Hirz. Bev and Denny were the 1955 Homecoming Queen and King. They both graduated with the class of 1956.

After high school Bev and Denny were married and lived in Colorado for a short time before moving back to Plattsmouth to establish their roots. Bev and Denny celebrated 52 years of marriage and raised three children who became PHS graduates, Tammy^{'79}, Gregg^{'81}, and Brian^{'83}. While fulfilling the role of stay-at-home Mom, Bev did all the usual Mom support duties of the day. She was a Blue Bird leader, a hard working member of PTA, Booster Club, Band Parent, and much more.

When Bev's stay-at-home days were over she joined the workforce at Bell Abstract. Bev's friendly smile, infectious laugh, welcoming manner, genuine caring nature and work ethic made her a perfect employee. She worked for Bell Abstract for 30 years. Her retirement party included a sleep-over with co-workers!

A huge undertaking was the restoration of Bev and Denny's house on North 6th Street in Plattsmouth. Refurbishing this historic Victorian home to its former glory was a labor of love. She can tell you about every step in restoring the woodwork, sanding and polishing, blending new with old to make it their family home. Her home has been a showplace for the Plattsmouth Conservancy's tours and events. Bev loves the idea of preserving our community of old for the benefit of future generations.

As a number one volunteer in her community, she carries her love of history into her volunteer activities. She counted votes for the election board for many years. She has been on the board of directors of the Cass County Historical Society for many years. She has been the volunteer coordinator for the Cass County Museum since 2007. Bev volunteers at the Senior Citizen Nutrition Center. She has folded her share of Alumni Association newsletters. Bev is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plattsmouth. She has served on the Deacons and The Council numerous times. She has most notably been chairperson of the Fellowship and Congregational Life Committee, once again coordinating many volunteers. She has always been willing to serve a funeral dinner or at the Chicken Pie Dinner, or any other project at the church. She helped compile the history of the First Presbyterian Church from its beginning in 1858 to 2008.

What keeps Bev busy these days? **First**; there is the family that comes to visit or she visits: Tammy and Jim Lindsey live in Colorado Springs; Gregg and Jane live in Omaha; and Brian lives in Omaha. She has five grandchildren, three great grand-daughters and one great grandson. **Second**; is her apparent need to make people happy and feel connected. She regularly calls and visits with elderly friends helping them keep in touch. She enjoys a monthly Class of 1956 lunch with classmates and spouses. Lunch after Church with her Church family is also a favorite time. And then there is her love of playing bridge. She is a member of FOUR different bridge clubs! **Third**; is her lesson for all of us on how to continue to give back to your alma mater and community, through service.

Linda Bowman Glup^{'66}, presented the Alum of the Year award on May 23rd saying, "I've been told she has an ornery side to her, but who wouldn't when she always tries to make everyone smile, laugh out loud and just feel good about themselves." Linda introduced Bev with the following statement, "Bev's many lives she has touched with her infectious smile, the countless volunteer hours she has given to her community, Bev's love of Church and family, her love of history and preservation of her community inspired me to nominate Beverly Sprieck Hirz as the 2015 Plattsmouth Alum of the Year."



Gregg, Bev, Brian, Jane & Jack

HONOR CLASSES 2015



Class of 1950

Front (L to R) -
EvaNell Mendenhall DeCoster,
Nora Frazer Eyster,
Norman Geschke,
Beverly Brown Gottsch,
Marie Toman Hammons

Back (L to R) -
Dena Reichstadt Litle,
Florene Duda Nickles,
Carl Ofe



Class of 1960 – (L to R) - Carolyn Vinduska Chleborad, Loretta Thornton Draper, Sharon Haecke Lybarger
Brian Nelson, Sharon Miller Pohlmeier, Patricia Smock Singlet, Charles Stoehr, Clyde Thompson

HONOR CLASSES 2015



Class of 1955 - Back (R to L) Bill Allgeier, Bob Carr, Don Freeburg, Mary Thingan Geschke, Roger Hild, Gail Peterson Johnson, Ruth Bruns Johnson, Margaret Svoboda Kilibarda, MaryLou McCarthy Mastin Doris Ehlers McBride, **Front (R to L)** John England, Barbara Anderson Meisinger, Larry Molck, JoAnn Koubeck Pechacek, Phyllis Tritsch Reynolds, JoAnn Egenberger Richling, Bill Todd, Sharon Fleischman Todd, William Toman, Betty Todd Wood, Rosie Foster Zurek



Class of 1965 - Front (L to R) Karen Kildare Beckman, Betty Meisinger Berigan, Gary Christensen, Jim Coolman, Linda Frazier Debolt, Linda Barnard Duncan, Jill Sutton Ferlise, John Vanek **Back (L to R)** Ida Bobenmoyer McKay, Delbert Puls, Janet Gansemer Schidler, April Dasher Schoening, Shirley Church Thompson

Homecoming Post Game Party

Join the Plattsmouth Alumni Association for a Homecoming Post Game Party



Friday, September 18, 2015
8:00 PM – 11:30 PM
St. John's School Gymnasium



Cost: \$10.00 per person (advance ticket price)
(Tickets will be \$15.00 at the Door) (price includes food and music - cash bar)

Tickets may be purchased at the Plattsmouth High School, McKnight Family Dental, Harvey Funeral Home or Headquarters 4 Hair (Meridee Gall Lucas '72 - 402-296-3404 or 402-297-9620) Dean '51 & Marilyn Stoehr Meisinger '52 - 402-296-3965

Don't miss this opportunity to join classmates and friends to
Celebrate Plattsmouth's Homecoming!
(Registration available on the back page)

PHS Hall of Fame Induction



Darrel Draper class of 1966

Chosen for his impressive military career, his authorship, and his talent as a historical edutainer.

Induction ceremony is Friday, September 4, 2015 at 1:00pm in the PHS Auditorium with the student body. A reception will follow in the high school library. A dinner to honor Mr. Draper will be at 6:00 pm that evening (Friday) on the patio adjacent to the football field. The dinner is catered by the award winning PHS Culinary Team. The public is invited to all induction events. The dinner on Friday evening is \$12.00 per person, please call Shaun Brothers, high school activities director at 402-296-3322 for reservations prior to September 1, 2015.

Each year the Hall of Fame recognizes PHS alumni and teachers who have distinguished themselves. The Hall of Fame Committee operates on a limited budget to provide honorees and spouses with a dinner, flowers, a plaque, and a framed picture for the PHS halls. The Committee is appealing for donations from interested alumni to continue their work toward this tradition. Please consider giving a gift in behalf of this good work. You may send donations to Shaun Brothers, Activities Director, Plattsmouth High School.

Thank you, Sandra Allgeier, Hall of Fame Committee

Plattsmouth Alumni Association
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HOMECOMING POST GAME RESERVATION

I will be attending the HOMECOMING POST GAME PARTY

**Number Attending _____ (\$10.00 per person)
(Reservations must be received by September 14th)**

**Mail to: Plattsmouth Alumni Assoc. P.O. Box 283, Plattsmouth, NE 68048
For questions call Sandy McKnight – 402-298-8513**

Name (maiden name) _____ Graduation Year _____

Name (maiden name) _____ Graduation Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____