

## Reunion Milestone Marker Memories

When I came to our 10th class reunion in 1978 I was single and it seemed like everyone else was married. I'd been to college and had a few interesting relationships in the time span since high school. I was living with the guy I would marry, but not for 4 more years. I remember there was food and dessert at the Pheasant Run dinner, but very little else about that event except I was nervous about going and didn't like my shoes.

By our 20th class reunion in 1988, I was married to Bill Johnson (St. Charles class of 66) we had two boys ages 3 & 5, and we lived in a rented house in Genoa, IL. I was on a bigish reunion committee that included Steve Marberry, Sharon Lorenz, Holly Hultgren, Betsy, and Ron Cook. There were in-person planning committee meetings, no email. The reunion's Friday night gathering at the old Legion basement bar was fun, but my favorite event that year was the picnic at Johnson's Mound with lots of kids playing together on a summer day.

I missed all but the Friday night gathering for our (1993?) 25th reunion because we closed on a house in Genoa and moved on Saturday. The Friday night party at Karen Foster Tatlock's was beery and happy. I gave my brand new address to someone there, but in those early or pre-email days I didn't follow through didn't and ended up on the 'missing list' for the next reunion.

Our sons grew, Bill's jobs with golf courses and in sales brought us some moderate income and I was happy working as a children's librarian in Hampshire and Sycamore Illinois. But whatever year the reunion was in Colorado, I heard about it, but couldn't afford the vacation time off or the air fare, hotel costs etc. and didn't consider going to that one.

I had a wonderful time at the 2008 40th reunion in Geneva. We met up and managed to recognize everyone at the Homecoming Parade, had snacks and reminiscing at Dave Phyfer's place in Geneva. We went to the football game with fireworks, then drinks at the bar at Mill Race Inn. Fancy lunch on Saturday at the beautiful Oscar Swan Inn.

Betsy, Holly and I planned the 45th reunion in 2013. It was a simple early October gathering at Houlihan's and the Legion/VFW in Geneva. It was great to see everyone who attended. That year was busy for me. At the end of August I retired from 23 years working in libraries. I cleaned out our house in September and rented it. We moved to Maine in mid-October two weeks after the reunion. Betsy and I keep in touch and she visits us in Maine every year.

And that is how I ended up helping with the 50th reunion in 2018, all via phone calls, emails and Facebook. Thanks for responding and reading all my Facebook posts! I've flown to a reunion for the first time and I look forward to seeing everyone at all the reunion events.

P.S. I drove my 93 year old Father to his 75th high school reunion in New York State. There were three people there for lunch. If someone from Geneva HS Class of '68 plans it, and someone can drive me to it, I'm willing to consider attending future reunions. Who wants to be the keeper of the class contact list?