



Shirley M. Moore Leslie – Class of 1956

Working on the Crusader yearbook staff was a good learning experience my senior year. My family lived at 733 E. 72nd Terrace, Kansas City, Mo. I attended Marlborough Elementary School. I was the only one in my class who lived in the Southwest attendance area, but I was allowed to go to Southeast since all my Marlborough classmates were going there.

High School Memories

I participated in Teen Town every Saturday night in the girls' gym - dancing to juke box music. Miss Mosman and Mr. Tira were sponsors.

The teachers I remember best are:

Anna B. Shouse - English Grammar

Herberta Towner - Spanish

Marvin Langford – and Family Living - All senior students took the class.

I also remember:

- Home field football games
- Talent show - I played an accordion. It had 120 base buttons that I played with my left hand, and my right hand played the piano keys and chords. I don't remember the musical piece I played. I do remember how heavy the accordion was. It took a lot of strength to play.
- Crowned Football Queen as a senior - 1956 Class
- Pep Club, vice president
- Beta Club, recording secretary
- Honor Roll
- Crusader Yearbook staff
- Y-Teens
- Senior Business Committee
- President and vice president homeroom
- Teen Town Committee

Outside of School

I practiced accordion solos. I took lessons from the time I was 5 years old. At first I played a small accordion, and I took lessons at Jenkins Music downtown. Later, I took lessons at a studio at 63rd and Troost. We also had monthly recitals there on Sundays. I still have my white pearlized accordion.

American Youth Foundation Scholarship (Camp Miniwanca in Ludington, Michigan - founded by the Ralston Purina family) I spent four 2-week sessions at the camp on the shores of Lake Michigan, first as a graduate of Southeast High School and a recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Sorooptimist Club of Women in Kansas City; we paid for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th weeks. A camp motto was "My own self at my very best all the time." Also, "I dare you, whoever you are, to share with others the fruits of your daring. Catch a passion for helping others and a richer life will come back to you!" "I Dare You!" is a book written by William H. Danforth, the founder of Ralston Purina.

In the summer prior to my senior year, I was invited to go to New Mexico to visit a Baptist affiliated camp. We toured several churches on our way there. This experience shed new light on the needs of people. Also, I was on a road trip in 1961 to Glorieta, New Mexico, with students from Baptist churches in Kansas City, Mo. In my late teens, I worked in the kitchen preparing sandwiches at Marley Company, Kansas City, Mo. Another work experience was in a gift shop near our home on Troost Avenue.

After High School

I attended college at Central Missouri State College at Warrensburg. I received a teaching degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish. In the fall of 1959, I was doing student teaching at Grandview High School in English and Spanish. My mother passed away several days before my final time elapsed. My supervisor allowed me to complete the student teaching requirement although I missed the last four days.

In the fifties, the Missouri Department of Education offered a 3/2 college program meaning three years of math at a qualified college and two years at Missouri S & T. Jerry took advantage of that program. He spent three years at Missouri Valley and played football three years there. His last two years in college were at Missouri S & T in Rolla, Mo., with a civil

engineering major. Jerry and I were married in 1960, and we were living in Rolla. I was teaching English and Spanish at Cuba, Mo., High School that year before Jerry graduated.

A favorite instructor in the math department at Missouri Valley when Jerry was a student there was "Pop" Ferguson. He taught for over 60 years. Jerry's brother, Ed Leslie, now holds the position that "Pop" Ferguson held - Chairman of the Math Department at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Mo.

I was a teacher in both Missouri and Ohio. Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1961 to avoid the draft. He was sent to Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., for basic training. From basic training, he was assigned to a Nike Hercules Guided Missile Base near Wilmington, Ohio. The threat from Russia to the U. S. (with missiles shipped to Cuba in 1962) necessitated raising the underground missiles top side. The farmers in the area were amazed. During Jerry's tenure at the base, I was teaching English and Spanish at a nearby county high school.

We have a grown daughter and son who are both married and live in the Farmington and St. Louis area.

Message to Classmates: Don't smoke! Jerry and I do not smoke - never have smoked.