



### **Pam Linwood – Class of 1970**

“No matter what your high school experience was like, consider reconnecting. It has surprising wealth. “

### **High School Memories**

I loved school at Southeast. I wish I could have taken more classes – art and Latin. Mr. Herron was the principal my senior year. When I got in trouble in class for talking, I was sent to his office. He was reasonable and said, “Just stop. Stay here a little while, and then go back to class.”

I feel like 1970 was a watershed year. There was a huge cultural shift between my freshman and senior year. The school went from 75% white to 25% white in those years. However, we prided ourselves on blending together. For our reunions, we try to include students who attended but did not graduate from Southeast (because their families moved out of the area).

My family home during high school was at 5639 Swope Parkway. My sister Kathy graduated in 1967. Kathy died at age 52 of cancer.

I played flute and was active in band and orchestra. I remember the bus rides to music contests and going to games and playing. Music classes were on the 5th floor. We would sneak up the stairs from there into the tower. Neighbors would call to alert the school that there were students in the tower.

It was the time of the civil rights riots. I remember being in Mrs. Roll’s class, and kids were running in the halls. She locked the classroom door. I also remember walking home with a friend north of the school. Suddenly, there were 15-20 girls running at us. They formed a line, and as we passed by,

they hit us with their shoes. They had taken off their shoes to run. We ran to a neighbor's house and they let us in. The girls did not chase us; they just wanted to harass us.

Away from school, I took private flute lessons at the UMKC Conservatory. We also went to Fairyland Park. Patty Breitag and I pooled our change for gas and drove around. I remember going to Allen's Drive In for cheese frenchies. They were fried cheese sticks. Every summer I went to camp. I signed up for several. Church camp was the best. Some were work camps where we built things for the camp.

My most memorable classes and teachers were:

- Roll taught English and Latin. I had her for English. I wrote poetry at the time, and she would take my poems home to read and then make comments.
- Linda Buckle taught Humanities. Her class exposed us to literature and art. We read plays and acted them out. It brought them to life. We experienced things that broadened our perspective of the world. We ate chocolate covered ants and fried grasshoppers. We wrote and acted our own plays. I wrote "Jason and the Golden Hypodermic." We reported on our favorite artist. I chose Picasso. Linda Buckle and Humanities shaped my personality more than other classes.
- Mr. Markley taught the music classes.

### **After High School**

I went to UMKC. I have been self-employed for 23 years. I develop marketing materials for small and medium sized businesses. I have a certification in direct marketing, and I do some training. I have served on the Block School Alumni Board for 6 years. I come from a family of writers. My mother was a librarian, and my sister Kathy was a news writer. Now I am in advertising. I never married or had children.

I have always been on the reunion committee, and I developed the Facebook page for the Class of '70 (Southeast High School, 1970, KCMO). I have some copies of the Tower and a ticket stub for the Senior Assembly. I also have copies of all the reunion yearbooks for the Class of 1970. (Pam donated a PDF file of the reunion book for the 35th Reunion which was held in 2005.)