



Jerome “Jerry” A. Leslie – Class of 1956

Jerry was a student in Bernard Barisas’s wood class. He remembers that during his junior year (1955), Mr. Barisas and his students began work on the round table. Made of walnut, pieces were cut down and shaped. Details were carved by hand. The table was beautifully finished. It took over a year to complete. Although the plan was to place the table in Mr. Langford’s room for Round Table officer meetings, the finished table was too impressive for that. It was placed on display in the center of the Rotunda where it remained for decades.

High School Memories

Besides working on the Knights of the Round Table, I made a wooden locking key cabinet for Mr. Harman’s drafting class, three tables and a walnut grandfather’s clock that was entered in the Ford Motor Company’s Industrial Arts Award Contest (received honorable mention). Clock is still in our house.

I also participated in football, basketball, track, Teen Town. I spent many hours in wood shop and worked in the lunchroom.

My most vivid Southeast memories are math classes with Mr. Adams, woodworking classes and extra time with Mr. Barisas working on and finishing projects. My favorite lunch was meatloaf, mashed spuds and corn.

Memorable Classes and Teachers

- Math and Basketball - Berle Adams
- PE and Track - Jess Cross
- Wood Class - Bernard Barisas
- Civics and Football - Cecil Patterson
- Drafting - Claude Harman
- Family Living - Marvin Langford

I lived at 6811 Chestnut during high school. My brother Ed Leslie graduated in 1957. I remember Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president in 1953.

Away from school, I played a little golf, went fishing with family and worked part time for Sam Hoff Construction during high school and college. (Sam Hoff was Dan and David Hoff's father.)

After High School

I went to Missouri Valley College at Marshall, Mo. for three years, then to Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (3-2 program) with a BS in Math from Missouri Valley and BS in Civil Engineering from School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla, Mo. I was a civil engineer with the Federal Government for 41 years. I served three years in the Army, 20 years with Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, six years with Army and Ft. Leonard Wood and 15 years with the VA in St. Louis, Mo. While in the Army, I was at a Nike Hercules Missile Base.

Message to Classmates: "Take your pills and see your doctor when needed or scheduled."