



### **Robert V. Blaine – Class of 1960**

“The most profound and “mature” event during those days in my life was the day I signed up for the Selective Service System. Rather scary with Korea after WWII. My mom stayed after me to keep my grades up in college to be eligible for that coveted student deferment. How were we to know that just three years later our country would be facing the Cuban Missile Crisis when John Kennedy was president? “

### **High School Memories**

Running on 1st place 880 relay team in City Track Meet my senior year with Doug Madden, Hugh Greer, and John Warner. We won the City Track meet and thus got our Senior Class White Shield. It was my last athletic event representing SE. I also made All City in Basketball. Being the Cafeteria Manager for the last lunch shift my Senior year taught me responsibility. And I will never forget winning the Knight Memorial Award. I happened to spy my parents come into the senior assembly and wondered what in the heck they were doing in the auditorium. Come to find out later that Mr. McMillan had called them that morning and tipped them off. My mother was so excited it was all she could do not to tell me before I went off to school.

The 50's were a happy time for teens. We were not too concerned about the Korean War. Gas was 20.9 cents a gallon and we could cruise all night on a dollar's worth. Eisenhower was our president at the time, and thus the interstate highway system was begun. I can remember when the freeway opened up from downtown Kansas City to Van-Brunt Blvd. Polio was a big concern during those days and I can remember my mother not allowing me to go swimming in a public pool out of fear of being susceptible to the disease.

We lived at 4000 E. 69th Terr. (Old Foxtown East) 2809 E. Meyer Blvd. I always had a summer job. My most significant was the two summers I worked for Town Topic working the counter. I worked at the store across

from the main post office downtown--It was torn down years later. I loved music and my new portable stereo system. I enjoyed spending time at Allen's Drive in. Enjoyed hunting and fly fishing with my dad, but would have to say my most memorable hobbies were sports. I participated in summer baseball, fall football, winter basketball and spring track. I truly loved athletics, and they played an important part in my development as a young man.

I also earned my Eagle and God and Country Scout awards during high school and was a Warrior in the great tribe of Mic-O-Say. Oh, and I enjoyed listening to music on the radio by the dashboard light in my folks' 1958 two tone Ford Fairlane 500, if you get my meaning.

### **Memorable Faculty**

- Leon Flappan - Algebra II
- Berle Adams - Senior English
- Irma Wilson - Common Learnings
- Mildred Campbell - Spanish
- Anita Berkowitz

### **Athletic Coaches**

- Leon Flappan
- Nate Roitman
- Cecil Patterson
- Don Chamblee,
- Jess Cross

### **School Activities**

- Band
- Orchestra
- Speech/Drama,
- Football, Basketball,
- Track--Lettered in all three sports my Senior year.
- Knightlights and the Induction program and Senior Business Committee were important activities in which I participated.
- Saturday night Knight Club was an important part of the week for me, too.

### **After High School**

I attended Baker University for two years, then Mizzou for 1964 graduation. I was in the same fraternity as Pete Clark, Bill Estes, Ed Harnett, and Bob

Keefe. Also got my M.Ed. (1965), and Ed.D (1975) at Mizzou. I was a high school teacher and assistant principal at North Kansas City High School and later principal of Blue Springs and Raytown South High Schools.

I participate in the work of the SEHS Alumni Association on the Artifacts Committee and with the SEHS Class of '60 Men's Breakfast Club.

I shared this with seniors at the high school graduation ceremonies I was responsible for. I think it says it all. It is an Old Hindu Sanskrit that reads: "Live this day above all days because within it lies all the verities and realities of life. The past is only a memory, the future is but a vision. But, today, well lived, will bring you pleasant memories, and hope and courage to face the future." That has sort of become my philosophy of life. I guess that is the main reason I got involved in the SEHS Alumni Association. Now that SEHS is no longer, I think it behooves all of us for whom the school was an important part of our young lives to protect its memory.

As I look back to my days at Southeast, the good memories far surpass the bad. I remember having to grow up fast as an 8th grader in the same building with 17-18 year old seniors. The opportunities the school provided me to grow and develop probably led me to my life's vocation. I suppose being a high school teacher and principal for 33 years gave me a golden opportunity to stay young and relive my high school days year in and year out. There may be others in the class of '60 that achieved more than I did, but I developed skills in many areas. I considered myself to be a fortunate young man to have the opportunity to attend what we all believed was the finest high school in Kansas City if not the state of Missouri.

Bob Blaine donated framed photos of the 1958 All USA Defensive Championship Football team that was also State and Interscholastic League Champion, team photo of the 1960 City Track Meet Champions, his 1958 championship football jersey with the commemorative USA Championship patch, and donated the plaque that identifies our SEHS Alumni Museum at the school.