Osawatomie alumni share the high school reunion experience

lumni Weekend is special. I remember going to my father Franklin's 50th reunion at Utica High School. We got to see his old hometown, a small one in Missouri, quite a bit smaller than Osawatomie.

It is simple living - skipping rocks across the lake, hunting for frogs and fishing - lots of fishing.

I have never been to my own, but my old school Prep North in St. Louis was sold not long after I graduated. It became a grade school parish and then a nursing home. I have no idea what it is now.

I often wonder what it would be like to go back to my high school and hang out with everyone and share stories that keep growing each half decade.

Osawatomie High School took me in for Alumni Weekend and treated me like family.

I didn't get the key to the city, but I may as well have.

Mayor Nick Hampson drove me around town for five hours on Osawatomie Alumni Weekend. I got to nurse an ice cold Coca-Cola at the Elks with members of the Class of 1975.

enjoyed macadamia Ι



Gene Morris

nut cookies with ladies and gentlemen from the Class of 1965 at the Osawatomie Golf Course.

Graduating from Prep North High School in 1987 myself, I got to relive a few of those memories with the cardboard MTV sign, the Rubik's Cube, Pac-Man and all of ladies pictures on their flat heads, showing off the 1990 blowout fluffy, bounce hairstyles.

My day started with the Osawatomie Alumni Parade where I got to visit with Bowen and Austyn Taylor and Alex Ebel, holding signs for their parents from the Class of 2005.

With all of the candy flying on Main Street, it was like Halloween, even with a cool late spring breeze. Everleigh Mulbury and Jacki Johns were among the children filling their buckets and



Gene Morris / Miami County Republic Bowen Taylor, 5, Alex Eble, 10, and Austyn Taylor, 9, hold up a poster for their parents from the Osawatomie High School



Photo Courtesy of Gunnar Karr

Osawatomie Mayor Nick Hampson poses for pictures with Gene Morris of the Miami County Republic, his sidekick for Osawatomie Alumni Weekend.

jacket pockets with candy.

The parade featured a 1966 Chevrolet pickup that Chuck Wies from the Class of 1975 drove when he was in high school.

Mary (Bussell) Johnson from the Class of 1975 drove her 1977 Trans Am in the parade. She had thought about driving "The Boss," her old classic cherry red 1968 Pontiac GTO. She bought the car in 1974 and drove it in high school.

The Class of 1990 was my first reunion picture of the day, making a short walk from the parade to the Downtown Lounge where I laughed at the flat heads with all of that big hair. With about an hour between pictures that day, I sat down with Ivy (Witt) Cole and ate some Mexican food with her class while having a glass of iced tea which was exceptional.

From there, Mayor Hampson and I were off to the Osawatomie Golf Course. We set up chairs on the deck outside to have the Class of 1965 pictures taken.

The weather all day was simply gorgeous. And taking some of the back roads by the farms with the cattle grazing needed was a hammock out in the yard.

But there was work to do and more class pictures to take. We got a picture of the Osawatomie Class of 1975 on their float out in front of the Elks. I teased the ladies in the picture that we needed them to take off their sunglasses, so everyone could see their eyes, unless they were in Witness Protection. That drew a few laughs as they removed their sunglasses for pictures.

The Elks bar was a great place to take a break and recharge from our hard work

Mayor Hampson and Mary Johnson. Before leaving the Elks, out the back door of course, I had to try a couple more of those spin roll sandwiches. I don't know what is in those, but they are addictive. And why are they so small?

Our final class picture of the day was at Amy (Cannon) Hall's house with the Class of 1995 which included Chad Haefele, Jimmy Kerley and Tim McIntre who played for the Osawatomie Trojans inaugural baseball team.

While visiting with them, I tried some hot dogs fresh off

ten (10) days after publication

Powell who was our backyard chef for the evening.

While my tour with Mayor Hampson was over, my Osawatomie Alumni Weekend was just getting started.

I went back to Osawatomie High School for the banquet and caught up with a few more old friends and tried some of the chicken from Chicken Mary's and a piece of pie.

The evening ended under the stars back on Main Street for some good old rock and roll music from Route 66.

Thanks everyone for treating me like one of you and giving me my first high

persons concerned: You are

hereby notified that on May

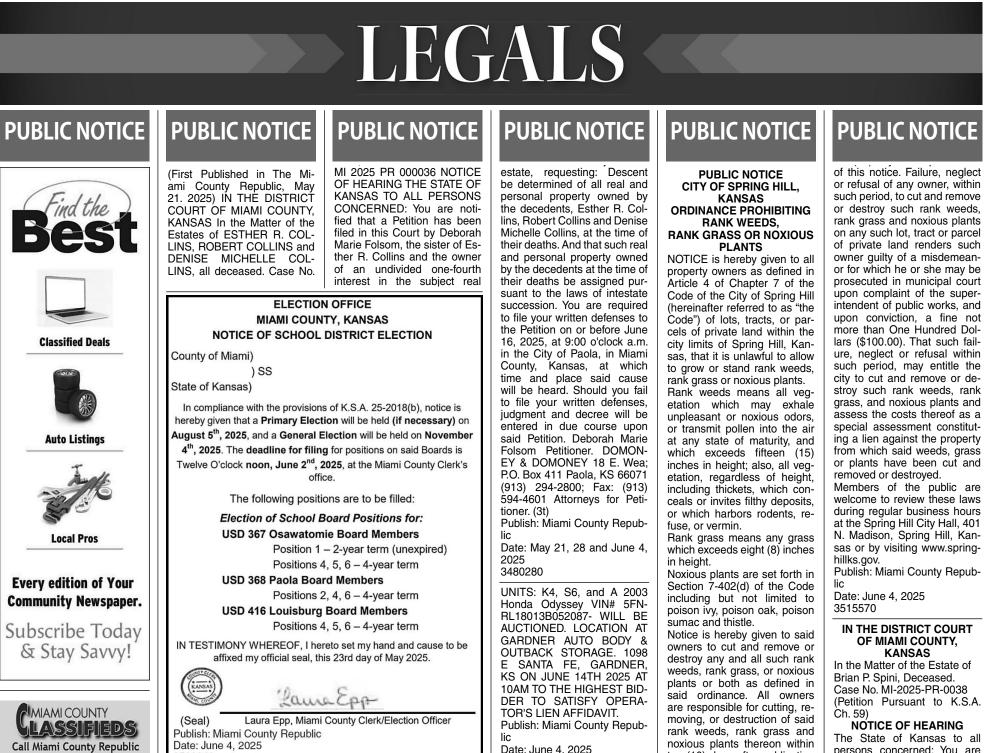
Gene Morris / Miami County Republic

Mary (Bussell) Johnson, a member of the Class of 1975, drives a vintage 1977 Trans Am in the Osawatomie alumni parade.



as relaxing as it gets. All I

at 913-294-2311



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