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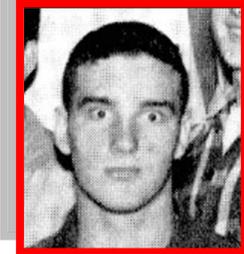
# CHS - Bio

Current

## Gretchen Hotz - Miss Music



Hi Fred! Here's what's been going on in my life the past 50 years (**WHEW! That's a VERY LONG TIME**)! High School was the best time for me as I had lots of friends from several different elementary and Junior High Schools. I have always been active in music since I started playing the piano when I was five years old. Playing as first oboist in both Orchestra and Concert Band at CHS, I played better than **Don Gassaway** (a class ahead of me) in tryouts as he just couldn't count correctly!



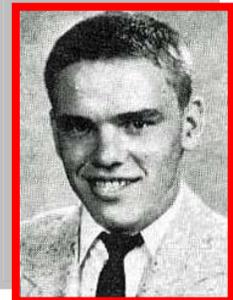
**Charlie Moore** was my boyfriend for a while until he spotted cute **Lynn Douglas** and dated her. That was okay with me as I spotted **Gary Shoemaker** (#30 Jersey in football) and wore his senior ring on a gold chain as his "*steady*" our senior year. Just last September when I was in Tulsa for the Class

**Charlie Moore** was surprised when Gretchen said she would go out with him

gathering, I phoned to invite him to the party. His wife answered the phone: "*WHO IS THIS?*" Finally she let me talk to him and he joined us for the party. When he saw me, he gave me a great big bear hug! Boy ... that was GREAT! After graduation, I attended TU for four years, pledged Delta Gamma, continued my piano studies, then changed to an organ major, and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. I taught elementary music in the Tulsa Public School System for four years and married Scott Senter in November of 1960. That marriage was going nowhere, so I got a divorce in May of 1965. Having decided to move to St. Louis where both of my sisters were living at the time, my Dad gave me the opportunity to attend graduate school in music at Washington University. I was a full-time student for two years, graduating in May of 1967 with a Master's Degree in Music Education. A friend in the music school fixed me up with a blind date with a nice young banker, Paul Ross. We met in October of 1965 and were married on June 4, 1966.



Charlie dropped Gretchen for **Lynn Douglas**



**Don Shoemaker**, Gretchen's steady

This year we will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. My husband, Paul, attended Westminster College in Fulton, MO, and knew **Lee Gideon** and **Allen Keenan**. Small world after all, isn't it? As an organist and pianist I have worked in several churches in Tulsa as well as in the St. Louis area. Since 1983, I have been at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church in St. Louis as organist for a year and then assistant music person after that. To mark special years in my life, I have given organ/piano recitals. The 1988 program was to mark my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Then in 1998, I performed for my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our church organized a duel-piano group and we performed in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Well, that 65<sup>th</sup> birthday rolled around and I gave a program with three other people to mark the occasion in 2003. In the spring of 2005, I recorded a CD with our organist, playing organ/piano duets for six of the pieces on the CD. As a Delta Gamma alum, I have remained active as co-chairman of the Preschool Vision Screening Program in the greater St. Louis area. I have served as Volunteer Chairman on the board of the Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments, and I worked at Barnes Hospital in the Cancer Information Center for over nine years, fitting women with wigs that were in treatment for cancer. Paul and I have two wonderful children: Paul Jr. who is 37 years old and is a wildland firefighter/writer/photographer whose writings and photos are regularly published in several fire and helicopter magazines; and a daughter Lisa who is 35 and married to a wonderful young man, and they have a 6-year old girl, a 4-year old boy, and a two month old baby boy. They moved back to St. Louis last summer from Charlotte, NC, and live two miles from us. It's such a blessing to be with the grandchildren and their parents. My music career came to a grinding halt last September 25<sup>th</sup> when I completely tore the rotator cuff in the right shoulder. The good news is that I had surgery on December 8<sup>th</sup>, and my physical therapy program is going well. I am hopefully to be back playing in time for the reunion. "Hats off" to you, Fred, for the work you have done to keep us informed over e-mail about the classmates. This really will be **THE BEST CLASS REUNION IN THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL!** *"Y'all come," and I'll see you there as I surely don't want to be square!*

**See Ya at the 50<sup>th</sup> Gretchen!**

