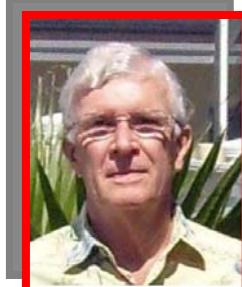


CHS BIO

Richard Gray Foreign Country Expert



INTRODUCTION

When I recently got out my Tom Toms to see who had signed them I was amazed! Amazed at who had signed with notes and amazed how many people I could remember. I did have trouble determining what courses we had shared – except for those who signed in Spanish. Spanish was one of my very favorite subjects, but didn't do me much good until 1991 in Venezuela.

To get to Central High School - - the same school (and probably with the same teachers) that my parents had when they graduated from in 1933. I went the route of not many Tulsa Students: Riverview Elementary School, John Burroughs Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School to Lee Elementary School where I ended my transferring. Then off to 3 years at Horace Mann Junior High, then finally to Tulsa Central.

At Central my best friends were **Larry Smith, Denny McAuliffe, Robert Sisler** (a pledge and fraternity brother and roommate at OSU. (Bob even visited us in Ecuador.) **Ed Wheeler** (we double dated so I could drive the car that he had inherited when he was only 15, but I was 16), **Jack Mozingo** (we were in Albert Martin's projection club together), and **Joel Rosenthal** (we had Schlenker's Trig. & Solid Geometry class together with **Kelly Runnels**.

MY FIRST DATE AND KISS

I guess I was not one of the shy kind. I had my first date (as I recall) at about age 12 with my elementary school girlfriend since the 2nd grade, **Ardis Ann Arnold**. Sometime after that we shared our first kiss. I don't remember dating anyone during junior high school, but at ballroom dance class at Skilly's School of Dance Ardis was my preferred dance partner.



AFTER CHS

After Graduating from Central I attended Oklahoma State University. My major was Electrical Engineering. I pledged and joined Sigma Chi Fraternity. I soon found that I liked (the compulsory) ROTC courses. I had had an enjoyable experience in marching in junior high school in a drill team. And I had enjoyed rifle marksman shooting (with **Ed Wheeler**) at CHS. At OSU in ROTC we marched with rifles: Right up my alley. As a Senior I was a Cadet Colonel in the ROTC. I graduated in January 1961 with a BS in Electrical Engineering.

AFTER COLLEGE

After OSU graduation in January, 1961 I married classmate **Martha Williamson**. We moved to Wichita, and I went work at The Boeing Airplane Company. In March 1962 our only child, Gregory, was born.

I did post graduate work at the OSU, University of Wichita, and the University of Tulsa.



I worked for Boeing in the B-52 Bombing and Navigation Management Group, The first year I worked in Wichita, and the 2nd year I worked on a flight test program for the B-52 ALBM at Eglin AFB in Florida. After JFK cancelled the program in January, 1963, and we moved back to Wichita. Later that year I resigned from Boeing, and we moved back to Tulsa.

In Tulsa I worked about 3 years for Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Then I worked one year for the AVCO Corporation, with 6 months in Tulsa and then 6 months in Cincinnati, OH.

My last job was with Fluor Daniel Williams Brothers Company (FDWB) based in Tulsa, a spinoff company from The Williams Brothers Company of Tulsa. I worked a total of 29 1/2 years up to my retirement in February 1999 for FDWB, interrupted only for a 2 ½ year period when I worked for another one of The Williams Brothers Company's spinoff companies known now as The Willbros Engineering Co.

I had a very interesting job at Williams Brothers designing the electrical power, control, and instrument systems for domestic and international cross country pipelines carrying crude oil, refined oil, water, ammonia, or natural gas. Pipelines sizes ranged from 8" to 30". We did projects in the US and overseas, so I got to do a lot of traveling. Some of the places I worked in were Alaska, California, Kentucky, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Minnesota. Some of the countries I lived and worked in include Argentina (Buenos Aires & Puesto Hernandes), Chile (Santiago & Concepcion), Ecuador (Quito), Venezuela (Maracaibo & Tia Juana), The Netherlands (Haarlem), France (Paris), Russia (Moscow), Nigeria (Port Harcourt, Abba, & Eriemu), Turkey (Ankara), Japan (Tokyo & Yokohama), and Indonesia (Jakarta).

While working at Williams Brothers between trips and graduate school work I owned a computer software design company that worked exclusively for Alpha Controls Inc. developing specialized software for IBM compatible computer controlled products.



During the nine years preceding my retirement, my wife, my high school sweetheart at CHS, **Rosemary Lane (CHS '58)**, accompanied me on many overseas assignments. .We lived with the locals and made many

lifetime friends, both expatriates like us and indigenous locals. These countries included Venezuela, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, and The Netherlands.

After I retiring at age 61 we moved to Rockport, MA, and then went back to Quito, Ecuador for two years to do volunteer work for a Christian Radio & Medical Mission named HCJB. I worked on a new 2000 kW hydro-electric power plant, and Rosemary worked in the Mission's Hospital. We completed our work in 2002 and returned to Rockport. In 2003 we moved back to Tulsa. In Tulsa I worked some at The Willbros Engineering Co. and ENGlobal Inc. In 2006 we permanently retired and moved to The Villages, Florida.

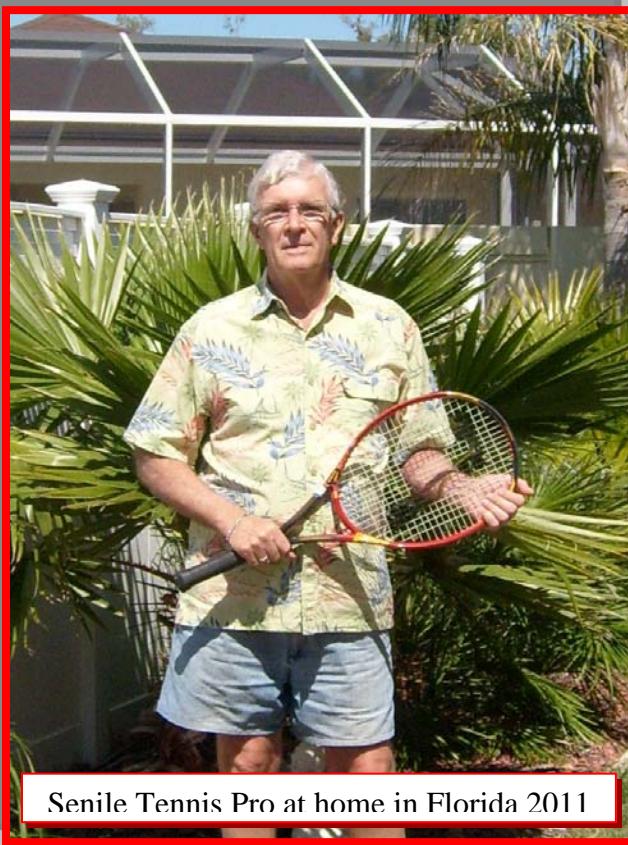
We attended the 40th reunion in 1996, but missed the 45th and 50th reunions. We intend to be at the 55th.

MY PRESENT ACTIVITIES

My favorite activities are playing tennis and swimming. (Same as when I was at CHS.)

I am a volunteer Federal Income Tax Counselor (Preparer) for AARP-Taxwise Program (in association with the IRS).

I am still active designing MS Excel Spreadsheet applications to monitor, track, and plan my retirement income and expenses.



Senile Tennis Pro at home in Florida 2011



Love Brought Us Back Together

See ya at the 55th Richard and Rosemary!