

REMEMBER WHEN...

1965 Electronics grad remembers the good ole days

In 1963, Ronald Douglas enrolled in the Electronics program at Linn Tech. According to Ronald, there weren't many places for students to live at that time. "So my parents secured a room for me at the hotel on the west end of Main Street," said Ronald. "It turned out, there were ten or more of us who roomed there. We all became close overnight."

On his first day of class, Ronald met John Baker, his instructor. "We quickly discovered his love of smoking a pipe," commented Ronald. "Oh yes, we could smoke in class. As a matter of fact, after the first week most of the students were smoking pipes too."

"Right off from the beginning we were issued slide rules and instructed on how to use it," stated Ronald. "We were to have it on our person at all times."

Ronald holds many fond memories of his time as a student at Linn Tech.

As many people living at that time do, Ronald remembers the day John F. Kennedy was shot. "We were going to English," said Ronald. "It was our last class of the day. The rest of the school and the high school were dismissed but our instructor, Bob Hopkins, made us come to class. He said there was nothing we could do for the President, but we could learn more for ourselves."

When Ronald and his friends weren't in class they engaged in sports which primarily consisted of a basketball team. "We did have basketball although the team was kind of thrown together," he said. "I played."

Ronald remembers one game in particular when the Linn Tech team played the Redheads. "It was a ladies Globetrotter type of team," he said. "You know I don't remember who won that game but I do remember at the end of the first half they came to our coach and asked that we not run fast breaks, so they could do their show." As for recreation, Ronald recalls spending time at the Dairy Queen across the street from the school where he and his classmates would play pool for hours. In addition to playing pool, Ronald stated that he and his friends would go to the Luystown slab outside of town. "We would go wading and gigging for snakes," commented Ronald.

In the days Ronald attended Linn Tech, the tuition was only \$200 which he considered a great price for a quality education.

Although Ronald completed the Electronics program in May of 1965, he didn't attend graduation. "Jim Davis, Cecil Stancil and I had already gotten jobs at McDonnell Aircraft and we were to start work on the Monday of graduation week," said Ronald. "Mr. Willett said, 'Go for it boys and good luck.'"

Ronald said attending Linn Tech was a great time in his early life. "There are things I will remember

forever, even Dress Up Fridays” he stated. “That may have partly been the reason how we got our first jobs.”