

KIRBY GILLESPIE

Kirby Gillespie was born in Grainfield and the second oldest of 8 children. When he was a kid, he liked to get into trouble. One time, he even tried to drown a rooster... it didn't go as planned. Kirby was always one step behind the others to "catch them" if they fell. Kirby was a well-known kid, always making friends and always friendly. He had a lot of girlfriends, all of the girls were his girlfriends. No one had a bad word to say about him. Wherever Kirby went, he had fun.

Kirby had twin uncles who liked to lead him to trouble. They were good friends, even if they were troublesome. Kirby enjoyed fishing and drag racing on main street with his friends. Kirby's favorite memory of childhood was when his parents brought his little sisters and brothers home from the hospital after they were born. The experience was a great life moment. Kirby had a lot of nicknames, but "Lotus" was the most known. Kirby thinks he got the nickname from being a "blooming idiot".

During Kirby's high school years, he was an ornery kid, and his dad didn't put up with a lot. He did a great deal of sports. Kirby did basketball, baseball, track, football, etc. If there was a sport, Kirby would do it, because if he didn't do sports, he would have to go home and work. Kirby threw shot, discus, and javelin in track. In the 50's/60's, the Waltz, Two-Step, and the Twist were popular during Kirby's youth. Kirby's parents thought the music was "too loud", as Kirby thinks music nowadays is "too loud".

Kirby met his wife at a Trego County Fair, which led to him asking her on a few dates. Kirby was about 20 years old when he met his wife. Kirby eventually married and had a family, which he raised in Quinter. 52 years later, he and his wife are still happily married. He says Quinter was the best place he could have ever raised a family. How did he know? All of his children moved back to Quinter to raise their own children.

Mr. Kirby, you are a Quinter hero.

JANICE ROBERTS

Ms. Janice Roberts came into this world in 1930. She was born in Southeast Oklahoma. She is the oldest of 6 kids in her family (2 brothers, 3 sisters). Being the oldest, she said she had to “MARK THE TRAIL” for everyone else. One of her early and best memories of her childhood included living near a national park, and these national parks weren’t as “commercialized”. There was also a stream nearby that she and her siblings could go swimming on Sundays while growing up.

Ms. Janice’s dad was a superintendent, and the salaries in Oklahoma were poor. So, her family moved for better opportunities in education. Jeacie (a nickname she had in her youth) and her family made the move when she was in 6th grade. After she arrived, she quickly learned that she had a “drawl”.

After high school, Ms. Roberts went to college. One day, an opportunity to do some subbing at a school came along. She hadn’t planned on being a teacher, but that “taste of teaching” was all it took. She found her calling. Ms. Roberts began her career in education in 1951, beginning in a one-room schoolhouse. The smallest group was 5 kids, and the biggest was 13...not just one class, as all classes of students were taught in one room. A favorite story she told us included an outhouse. One day, she traveled to check the inside of the outhouse, she saw a snake. She quickly grabbed a hoe and scared the snake away to save the children!

In the early 1960’s, Ms. Roberts moved to Quinter to teach public school in 4th grade. Later, she began to teach 3rd grade, and it was then that she added to her calling. She felt drawn to help students who had learning difficulties with school. At that time, learning disabilities were just becoming a thing in our area. Ms. Roberts continued her calling until she retired in 1993, after 42 years in education. She has inspired and loved so many children over the years in education, and she continues to inspire us through her stories.

Janice Roberts, you are a Quinter HERO.

Sharon DuBois

Sharon Lee Inloes Dubois was born during a late blizzard in March of 1947. Her parents had to drive to Hays to deliver their new baby girl. Sharon's mother told her that the transmission on their old car was not very good, but her mother held on tight until they could get to Hays in the ice and snow.

Sharon grew up on a third-generation farm as the oldest in a family of three sisters and one brother, who was the baby of the family. She loved the farm life, and has many memories of taking care of animals and doing chores. She mentioned that even though you might not think you enjoy working and doing chores, when you look back on your life, sometimes those moments together, doing hard work, are the most special memories. She loved cleaning a neighbor's house – it was a mail order house that I live in right now!

She went to Quinter grade school, and we saw from the photos she brought that the tiles and doors are still EXACTLY THE SAME AS THEY ARE NOW! She told us that they use to show movies in the little room in the basement, which was a place that the kids loved to go. Birthday parties with friends were some of her favorite times as a school girl.

Quinter did not have a swimming pool when she was a youngster. Kids had to load up on a bus early in the morning and be taken to WaKeeney for swimming lessons. They would spend all morning in WaKeeney before they were bussed back to Quinter. This inspired her father and others to form a committee to try to get a pool in Quinter. It made Sharon so proud when her dad was instrumental in getting the Quinter Public Pool built.

When she was in high school, girls were not allowed to do sports or be in FFA. The FFA banquet was a formal event in which the FFA boys asked a girl. Everyone dressed up. Her dad said she wasn't allowed to date until she was 16, but since he really loved FFA, he made an exception and allowed her to go to the banquet before she was 16, but her dad picked her and the boy up and dropped them off!

Sharon grew up through a turbulent time in the United States. She graduated in 1965. She recalls watching Vietnam War footage on television and hearing about the protests. She remembers the assassination of Martin

Luther King Jr. Seeing all these historical happenings made a big impression on her.

She met her husband, Keith, when she answered the phone at an accounting office she worked at. Later, they had a blind date. When he proposed, Keith was sitting at the kitchen table, and he said, "Well, I've come to a decision." Sharon thought he was thinking of breaking up with her. Instead, he said, "I think I've decided. Will you marry me?"

Being a librarian in Quinter meant a lot to Sharon. She felt like giving our small-town access to a world of information was one of her valuable contributions to our area. When we asked Sharon how she would like to be remembered, she said she wanted to always be thought of as someone who helped others and was kind to them both when she was the librarian and always.

When asked what advice Mrs. Dubois would share with young people today, she said, "I hope you will always respect and honor everyone at every age. I grew up in this small school, and I didn't realize at the time that some of the kids that we teased or that teased us, later became my lifelong friends and neighbors. It's always important to honor those around you as valuable humans, no matter differences of opinion or ways of living." She really emphasized that listening to others and getting to know them could help you become a more understanding person later in life. She is so happy to be a Quinter resident, and we are sure happy she has chosen to give of her many gifts in our community.

Sharon Dubois – you are a Quinter hero.

Dan Crist

Dan Crist was born in Quinter, Kansas, in 1973, just a few miles outside of town. Dan told us he was a “perfect” kid, so he never got in trouble as a kid. He did go swimming at the Quinter pool, and he even saw movies here at the Movie Theatre in town! However, Dan fell in love with farm machinery (especially antique machinery) as well as farming with his dad and grandpa. In fact, Dan’s Grandpa started talking about stuff from harvest (threshing machines, etc.), and he’s been in love ever since.

While at Quinter High School, Dan said he was a typical kid. He loved hot cars like Chevy Camaros and SS Chevelles. In fact, he and his friends would go out on Old 40 to the “Strip”, a ¼ mile race “strip” where guys would race cars. One kid would even bring a checkered flag. Moreover, Dan loved the Vo-Ag classes and shop classes at QHS.

After high school, Dan went on to college at McPherson for four years. Later in life, Dan went BACK to school for Car Restoration at McPherson. His first project was a Studebaker! Restoration became Dan’s focus, and he is actually working with his brother on a 1908 car currently. However, Dan always wanted to be a farmer. He bought out his grandpa and moved to his farm where he began farming alongside his dad.

Dan jokingly said he chased old tractors instead of girls for most of his early life...but he got married when he was 35 to his wonderful wife Janice. Together, they have 1 daughter who lives and works in Auburn, New York. Dan described her as the perfect child. So, Dan has two loves...his family and antique tractors. He’s been literally all over the world “chasing tractors”. He is creating tractor parts full time, making parts for people as far as Canada, Australia, and Holland. When asked about advice for others he would share, he said, “Other people matter more than yourself. Look at Other People first. Don’t cheat anyone. Finally, don’t tell lies (especially about old tractors). Dan Crist, you are a Quinter HERO.