



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial

PIONEER PRIDE AWARD

Lyricists of "Pioneers"

14th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 10, 2009



Earlene Flager Belsey
SHS Class of 1928

Earlene was born on a farm in Pawnee County. During her third grade year, Earlene's family moved to Stillwater when an older brother enrolled at Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University).

By the time she was in high school, Earlene was an accomplished violinist and performed in the orchestra as well as performing solos for music competitions. She was invited to participate in the college orchestra from the ninth grade until she graduated from SHS. In her senior year, she was the concert mistress of both the All-State and Tri-State Orchestras. At SHS, she was a member of Student Council and National Honor Society, among other organizations. As a student council member, she was assigned to the committee to assist in the selection of the lyrics submitted for the new school song. Because she was going to enter her own set of words, she had to resign from this committee assignment.

After graduation from SHS, she enrolled at Oklahoma A&M and graduated

with a degree in music with enough education credits to be a teacher. She began an educational career teaching instrumental music in Texas, New Mexico, and

California. She would perform in local orchestras in each of her teaching cities, and has performed in several prestigious orchestral groups. She continues to have limited private students to this day.



Mary Jo Carrier Springer
SHS Class of 1948

Born in Yale, Oklahoma, Mary Jo arrived at Stillwater High School for her junior year after her father was elected Payne County Superintendent of Schools. She had little difficulty making friends and becoming immersed in school activities. National Honor Society was one of her many school clubs and she was selected Band Queen and Miss Congeniality of her class.

Mary Jo, with her musical talent and piano skills, became an accompanist for the vocal music department and also sang in many of the choral groups. She would be the accompanist for instrumental soloists at music competitions. Along with her lyric-writing pal, Earlene, they were invited to be part of the OSU Entertainment Bureau where they would travel and perform duets of classical violin and piano, but then bring out the hoedown music of fiddle and accordion.

After graduation from SHS, Mary Jo enrolled at Oklahoma A&M and met her future husband, Franklin. She transferred her piano skills to the organ and while

raising her family would serve as organist and choir director for her church in

the towns where the family would reside. This "hobby" lasted 56 years. Her family of three children has produced two OSU cowboys, her son, and now a grandson, a sophomore in 2009.

Presenter
Glen Mitchell
Stillwater High School Class of 1963