

# **70 Years in 70 Haikus**

*By Lilli Smith, David Smith, and Shelby Eidson  
For our father, Steve Smith, with all of our love on his 70th birthday  
August 22, 2013*



Born in Abilene  
70 years to the day  
Hot, dry wind and sand

Moved to Sweetwater,  
Decatur, and Odessa  
50's West Texas

Modest Texas home  
For the first 23 years  
Oil rigs, tumbleweeds

Sister Karen Ann  
Mother: Marie, father: Wayne  
Post-war family

Little league baseball  
Occasional golf with dad  
Mind always active

Jerry Pittman, friend,  
Shared the neighborhood horses  
Years of boom and bust

The very first class  
At Odessa Permian  
Cousins followed soon

Honor roll student  
Class valedictorian  
Admired by many

Scholarship student  
Rice is nice when beer is near  
College dreams came true

Never missed a class  
Noticed girl in the front row  
Martha Kirkpatrick

Baker College hot  
Fans, no air conditioning  
Jones College cooler

Dated her roommate  
Carolyn doesn't compare  
Martha is the one

Summer trip: Europe  
Overseas telephone call  
Life forever changed

Father and uncle  
Both lives ended suddenly  
Survivors bonded

A double-E geek  
Rice engineering degree  
Can change a lightbulb

Married Martha K  
48 year partnership  
TRG? No way!

Cambridge for B-School  
Parked the car in Harvard Yard  
Frigid winter wind

Istanbul intern  
Summer of '67  
Two kids from Texas

Moved to Washington  
Part of the best and brightest  
DOD and HUD

Rented in Georgetown  
Watched the great lunar landing  
No time for protests

Crossed the Potomac  
Found Arlington, Virginia  
Good people, good schools

Lilli Marie born  
June 1971  
Apple of his eye

David Kirkpatrick  
December '73  
Time to buy a house

Shelby Karen third  
Not as easy as the rest  
Need a bigger house

Bedtime story pro  
Hey, Henry, dropping H's!  
Ira sleeps over...

The Investment Group  
Bought a lot of real estate  
Monopoly champ

Jet-setting business  
From Jeddah to Anchorage  
Hot and cold markets

Rode on the Concorde  
Mach 2 en route to London  
Life goes by so fast

BMW:  
Somebody's moving on up!  
Still, active at church

Reliable man  
A Cherrydale volunteer  
Rarely played hookey

Played James the Lesser  
In Cherrydale production  
Not lesser at home

Affordable homes  
With WHDC  
Inspired to give back

Built Empire State,  
Eveready battery  
Quality craftsman

Baseball fanatic  
Watched the Barr Realty Tigers  
After busy days

Touchdown, John Riggins!  
Redskins won the Super Bowl!  
Fun family time

Had button in car  
To turn the traffic light green  
Gullible children

Stealth watcher of dreck  
Melrose and other night soaps  
Marie watched Dallas

Loved Bill Cosby's show  
Thursday night TV with Shel  
Called her "Silly Goose"

Talks like Donald Duck  
Makes many a child giggle  
Not taught at Harvard

Odessa Christmas  
Two flights from Dulles Airport  
Dedicated son

Skier on two skis  
Kicked one off in lake mid-ride  
Combover windsock

Town home in Sea Pines  
Hilton Head Island beauty  
Egrets in the marsh



The beach was nearby  
A short walk to Harbor Town  
Gators lurked nearby

Jackson, Wyoming  
42nd birthday cake  
Mountain top snow storm!

More great vacations  
Paris, Kauai, Steamboat  
Unforgettable

“Hi Shel...iiiiis Mom there?”  
All-business when calling home  
Efficient with words

Dedicated friend  
Lodals, Cohans, Morrises  
With them through it all

Kids graduated!  
UVA, Rice, Emory  
More time for golf now

Board of Governors  
At Rice University  
Wayne would have been proud

Delta Shuttle to  
The Richman Group in Greenwich  
No more golf mid-week

Portrait on the wall  
At Washington Golf clubhouse  
Where his mother danced

Mother had a stroke  
"You help" is all she could say  
Six difficult years

Long ordeal over  
Mother passes peacefully  
A hole in our hearts

A century ends  
So too mustache, combover  
Aerodynamic

Near the Golden Gate  
Karen married best friend Joe  
Crying joyful tears

House in Boynton Beach  
Not one but two golf courses  
Focus shifts southward

Retirement suits him  
No more lawsuits, business flights  
Lots of Quail Ridge friends

Led Virginia Golf  
VSGA president  
Adopted home state

Hits off tee so well:  
"Ultimate Driving Machine"  
White balls pierce blue sky

Handicap of 2  
President of Secession  
Golf: his true passion

Low Country leader  
Secession in recession  
Avid grass expert

Lost son of Scotland  
Single malt at Clynelish Open  
Summer dreams come true

Royal Dornoch, Nairn  
Links courses for connoisseurs  
Discerning golf tastes

Miami wedding  
A memorable Best Man  
And dancing machine

A generous heart  
Welcomes both Sean and Leslie  
Great father-in-law

Stephen, his namesake  
Violet K and Thomas J  
New generation

Grandsons, granddaughter  
Newfound patience discovered  
Excellent granddad

Savvy deal-maker  
Builds trust with integrity  
Grandkids learn from it

70 years young  
Recently climbed a mountain  
Life well lived, well loved

So many years makes  
For a long epic poem  
Haiku 70