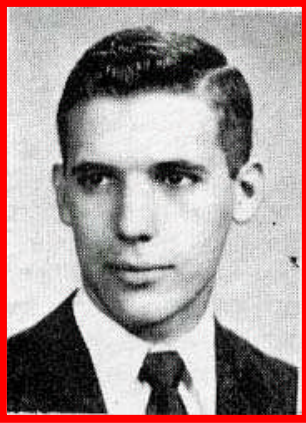


CHS - Bio



1955



Current

Don Kirkpatrick Dr. Biker

I lived in the Brookside area attending Elliott and Horace Mann schools. In my sophomore year at CHS I wrecked Rusty Brownson's motor bike jumping a sewer grate at 32nd Place and Yorktown. My mother was not happy with me and punished me by selling my Indian motorcycle while I was recovering in the hospital. That ended the motorcycle phase of my life. Rusty was also not happy with me. Next I bought a 1929 Ford (Model A Coupe with rumble seat) for \$55 from behind the Webers Root Beer stand in Brookside (no title, no lights, no brakes, no license, no nothing except running on about two cylinders). Dick Gable was on one running board with a flashlight and we drove it to my house about midnight while the cops were eating donuts someplace else. Boy was my dad unhappy when he saw it the next morning. I restored it (painted white) and drove it the rest of high school. My love in high school was Suzie Wilson (CHS57). What a wonderful and attractive girl. One night I accidentally kept her out too late (3 AM) and her dad said no more dating that Kirkpatrick kid.

After CHS I attended Washington University in St. Louis and picked up two engineering degrees and a masters in computer science. In St. Louis I lived on board the Goldenrod Showboat (built 1907; 200' X 65'; docked on the Mississippi in downtown St. Louis) and watched the arch being built. After college I worked for McDonnell Automation (later McDonnell Douglas) Monday and Tuesday in St. Louis, Wednesday and Thursday in Houston and every other Friday in Denver.

In 1966 I said enough is enough and moved to Aspen, CO to learn to be a ski bum. It took two ski seasons and a summer bumming around Europe to learn to be a bum. One evening I walked into the lobby of the Christmas Inn in Aspen and there I meet the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. She was the head of the medical laboratory at the Aspen Valley Hospital and she also taught me to ski. Six months later Jan and I were married and that was 38 years ago. We moved to Boulder, CO so I could go to graduate school at CU. Jan worked in the molecular biology labs and raised horses while I got

a PhD in Information Systems. We have two sons. Ryan, 30 yrs old, is an Electrical Engineer in Louisville, CO while his brother Todd, 26 yrs old, lives in Steamboat Springs, CO and is learning to be a ski bum (like his dad). Unfortunately, Jan and I have no daughter-in-laws and no grandkids. Keep us in your prayers.

The last twenty years of my professional life was spent as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Colorado Department of Transportation. I was responsible for all computing statewide. In 2002 I was honored by being selected the CIO of the year. See photograph. I retired in 2003. For the past three years I have been on the board and three subcommittees of the Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO. It is located at 9,000' elevation about 11 miles south of Estes Park CO. Last year we had about 4,000 guests.



See Ya at the 50th Don!