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# CONNECTIONS

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## 1968-1998 Osco Ski Team Celebrates its 30th Anniversary

*by: Tork Fuglestad*

It all started in 1968 with five individuals that thought skiing in Vail, Colorado would be a neat way to break up the monotony of winter. Those ski enthusiasts included Dick Hilden, Dave Gillis, Tork Fuglestad, Tom Byrne and Bruce Wiuff. Dick, Dave and Tork were back in Vail this year to help celebrate the '30th Anniversary' of what is called the Osco Ski Team.



Three of the original five who started the ski pilgrimage - Tork Fuglestad, Dave Gillis, Dick Hilden.

Attendees at this year's gathering included:  
Back Row: Mike Radtke, Jack O'Connell, Al Hoskins, Dan Baranick, Ken Walker, Jim

Johnson, Dick Hilden, Peter Cook, Tom Rahilly, Chris Larson, Curt Larson; Front Row: Gary Radtke, Tork Fuglestad, Dave Gillis, Haven Ready, and Byron Luke.



Skiing conditions were very good considering "El Nino's" effect on the weather conditions throughout the country this year. During the four days that the ski group was in Vail, 20" of new snow fell onto the slopes.

As one might imagine after 30 years, the ski team has become a somewhat 'more senior' group. In the old days it was up at dawn, in the lift lines by the time the mountain opened, and skiing recklessly until the mountain closed. Today things are different. It's getting up when you are well rested, a hearty breakfast, and by mid morning (if its not too cold or snowing, and the sun is shining), it's out to the slopes. (That is if the muscles don't ache too much from over doing it the prior day.) There are even some 'former' skiers that have retired from this strenuous sport. We won't name names (will we Dan!).

Although the evenings are quieter, they're still a lot of fun. 'Cooking in' has become a tradition. It provides a better atmosphere for reminiscing about the "Good Old Days," and just getting caught up on what's happening in the lives and with the families of the Ski Team members. This year it was *pizza* at Tork's; *elkburgers* prepared by Chef Byron Luke at the Hilden's, and a special "30th Anniversary" dinner at Mulligan's Restaurant in Eagle, Vail.

A special thanks to the Ski Team coordinator Ken Walker for making everything possible. It's a tough job coordinating all the transportation, pick-up, lodging, meals, finances, etc. Great Job Ken! We are looking forward to your continued service in this area for many years to come. (We hope you are too!)



## ... NEWS FLASH ...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### NEXT ALUMNI CLUB LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR

Thursday,  
August 13, 1998  
at

**Carriage Greens  
Country Club**  
DARIEN, ILLINOIS

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# Winter Luncheon Draws Many New Members

By: Susan Rini

Last February 9th, the Alumni Club sponsored it's Winter Luncheon at Alta Villa Banquets in Addison, Illinois. Fifty members, new and old attended this luncheon. Six new members who joined us for lunch at Alta Villa were: Dominick Archer, Don & Lynette Guest, Arlene Klus, Chuck Zajicek, and Regis Sylvester. Welcome to the Alumni Club and we look forward to seeing you at many luncheons in the future.

Ron Green entertained the group with a re-cap of his recent trip to Ireland. We also had a chance to hear from each of our new club members.



Chuck Zajicek, Rex Dobey, Joe Buron, Dominick Archer, and Steve Hoffman are pictured above. Rex Dobey was one of the original members of the Alumni Club Board of Directors. It was wonderful to see you again Rex, and we hope you can join us at more future luncheons as well. Joe Buron (sporting his goatee) recently returned from a trip to the Panama Canal. We're all anxious to hear about your trip Joe!



New Members, Don and Lynette Guest enjoyed themselves at their first Alumni Club outing. Below, new member Regis Sylvester and newly elected board member Ed Blazek reminisced about the good old days.



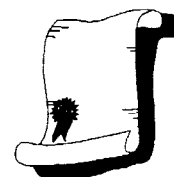
We had many more pictures from the luncheon, but unfortunately the bulk of them were damaged during processing. (Sorry Alice . . . I promise to get a good picture at the next luncheon).

We are looking for ways to increase attendance at our local luncheons. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let us know. Forward your suggestions to Susan Rini, c/o Alumni Club, P.O.Box 5176, Glendale Heights, IL 60139 ( or telephone at 630/858-4810). *We hope to see you at the Club's next luncheon!!*



Steve Troc and Tork Fuglestad welcome new member Chuck Zajicek (center) to the Alumni Club.

## Welcome to Our New Members



The following alumni have recently joined the American Drug Stores Alumni Club. Join us in extending a warm welcome to:

Dave Potokar	Western Springs, IL
John Glazbrook	Rolling Meadows, IL
Dominick Archer	Westchester, IL
Charles Zajicek	St. Charles, IL
Judy Plys	Burbank, IL
Dick Davis	Scottsdale, AZ
Carol Bartkowicz	Niles, IL
Jerry Rivinius	Billings, MT
Don Davidson	Surprise, AZ
Dennis Graninger	Wheaton, IL
Creighton Kennedy	Scottsdale, AZ

Any club member who brings in new member will be given a year of free membership! There is no limit to how many members you can sponsor, so spread the word!

## ***Tournament Champs***

### ***Bob & Sharron Braden***



Last January, Alumni Club Members Bob and Sharron Braden (Glen Ellyn, Illinois) competed in the "20th Annual Social Bridge Festival" in Georgia.



The Director of the Bridge tournament (left) awards first place to Sharron and Bob Braden.

Each year the Cloister, a resort in Sea Island, Georgia hosts a four days of tournament bridge play. This year, Bob and Sharron won first place out of the 100 pairs competing in this event. Sharron taught Bob to play bridge, and Bob taught Sharron to play blackjack. Bob said, "Until now the blackjack had paid off better than the bridge!"

Congratulation Bob and Sharron!!

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### ALUMNI "TiD-RITS"

Bob & Betty Letarte, (Belleville, Illinois) celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary last November 22nd. They gathered at Plentywood Farm Restaurant in October along with 75 friends and family to enjoy this wonderful event. 1997 has been quite a year for the Letarte's. In June, Bob turned 80 and their entire family got together for a picnic in Trevor, Wisconsin. On September 14th, they celebrated a special anniversary mass at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago with Archbishop Francis George as celebrant.



Bob & Betty Letarte celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Lillian McGill (Franklin Park, IL) Our deepest sympathies go out to Alumni Club Member, Lil McGill. She had three tragedies in her family in which she lost two brothers, and one sister all within one month. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family, Lil.



This group of alumni got together for an impromptu reunion while they were vacationing in Phoenix, Arizona. Pictured above are: (left to right) Geri Fuglestad, Jim Johnson, George Stearns, Bev and Jack O'Connell, Mike and Jean Radtke.

Bernie Weinberg (Vernon Hills, IL) Alumni Club Member and former member of the Board of Directors, Bernie Weinberg is recovering from some recent hospital procedures. Get well soon Bernie . . . we'd love to see you and Joanie at the next luncheon!

Joyce Hilden (Avon, CO) writes: Last summer as I was traveling from Fargo to Denver, I sat next to a couple from Grand Forks, North Dakota. Of course our conversation turned quickly to the flood and it's aftermath. They lived on the outskirts of Grand Forks and one of her main concerns was Osco Drug leaving the downtown and going to another location, which would result in much further travel for them. She raved on about how wonderful the Osco Drug was - especially the pharmacists. While in the hospital they had even sent her a "get-well" card. Stories like this is what makes Osco Drug so special!

## "Count on People Who Care ..."

*The slogan "Count on People Who Care" rings true for our Alumni Club Members. Many of our alumni do volunteer work to help those in need. We encourage you to share your stories, so that everyone realizes how we can make a difference to those in need. No matter what the task, it is the caring that counts.*

**Lil McGill** is a member of the American Legion Unit #974 in Franklin Park, Illinois. Up to two years ago she was unable to volunteer her services because she worked. Now that she is retired, she takes the time whenever possible to render her services to those in need.

The Auxiliary Unit #974 goes twice a month and services veterans with any toiletries, socks, T-shirts, cards, and money. Our juniors even make favors with candy. This unit also volunteers with "Gifts for the Yanks" which helps wrap Christmas presents during the Christmas season. They also sponsor a bingo game twice a year at the hospital for cash, and run a bingo game with a smorgasbord dinner for the blind & partially blind veterans. They help them get their food and help them play bingo.

This unit is also involved with doing a lot of work for child welfare. When possible they help towards a scholarship fund. The list of good things done by the American Legion Auxiliary makes one proud to say they belong. None of this would be possible without the help of its members, and donations given through different businesses.

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## Alumni Remembered



**Glen Henricks & Bill Lewis**

*When this picture was taken last fall, it created a perfect opportunity for an article on two Alumni Club Members. We've asked Bill and Glen to share their careers with us.*

**BILL LEWIS** began with Osco Drug in 1949 as a receiving clerk in Mason City, Iowa. Starting pay was \$40/week for a 48 hour work week. Of course, anyone working less than fifty-five to sixty hours was not considered likely to succeed. Following his marriage to Jo Bahnsen in 1950, Bill and his new bride were transferred to Cedar Rapids, Iowa where Bill assumed responsibility as a lobby manager.

In 1952 Bill replaced his good friend Jack Skyles as lobby manager in the Ft. Dodge, Iowa store. About one year later they were transferred again to Rochester, Minnesota as a lobby manager.

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Rochester was Osco's top volume store. In 1954, they moved to Ottumwa, Iowa, and again replaced Jack Skyles as assistant manager to Fred Dearborn. To this day, Fred & Marty Dearborn are very dear friends of Bill and Jo. Because of the hours worked the store was called "Fred's Tread Mill". Bill's weight went from 205 to 176 . . . no need for Slim Fast.

In 1957 came another transfer, this time to Fargo, North Dakota as an assistant to Ken Reardon. Stanford King was Bill's DM at that time, and when he said Fargo, Bill said "Where is Fargo!" Tork Fuglestad was completing his pharmacy degree and also worked at the Fargo Store.

In 1959, with four days notice, Bill was asked to report to Waukegan, Illinois, to replace the store manager. Jo and Bill packed their bags, and with their three year old son John, moved to Waukegan. Bill's old friend Jack Skyles was now the DM for the area. The store was not up to Osco standards. The good news however, was that Tork Fuglestad was the assistant manager. After Tork and Bill evaluated the store and people, they dismissed five employees during the first two weeks, implemented a firm work schedule, raised salaries (primarily checkers and sales floor help) from \$40/week to \$60/week. Tork and Bill cleaned the store up, sold all the old merchandise, and got ready to do business. When the store's first inventory was taken, it was not good. Mr. Stratton (then president) asked Jack Skyles if the company fired the right manager!!! However from then on the store did fairly well.

In 1960, Jewel Tea Company acquired Osco Drug which at the time had 28 stores. Jewel wanted to operate food & general merchandise stores; Bill was asked to be part of a new venture called TurnStyle (after four discount stores Jewel acquired in New England.) TurnStyle (west) opened its first store in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1963, followed by Skokie, Harlem & Foster in Chicagoland; Moline, Illinois; and

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Davenport, Iowa. It was at this time that Glen Henricks from the Jewel Routes, and Dick Rounds from Jewel Food Stores became involved. They worked together for a number of years.

In 1969 the company name was changed to Jewel Companies and presidents were appointed for each of the nine divisions. Bill had the TurnStyle division until 1973. It was then that corporate assigned Bill, Dick Rounds, Bob Craighead, Herb Young, and Paul Pentz to the "HyperMarche" project. This one-year project was a feasibility study to determine the viability of 200,000 square foot food & general merchandise stores for the U.S. Each Jewel company had it's own profit and loss statement (report card). In Bill's opinion the report card got in the way of the project moving forward and the company settled for the Grand Bazaars approach. If we view the current Walmart and Kmart stores of today, Jewel companies was years ahead of its time relative to concept.

In 1974, Bill spent about a year as president of Osco until all general merchandise companies were brought together. He then assumed the responsibility for Real Estate with a great team consisting of Jim Johnson, Jon Hrabe, Don Schere and Hal Raymond.

In 1978 Jewel Companies was considering franchising drug stores. Under that umbrella Bill bought the Osco Store in Mason City, Iowa (his home town and the first store he worked at); Mankato, MN; St. Cloud, MN and a store under construction in Rapid City, South Dakota. Shortly into the first year Walgreen discontinued franchising their drug stores and Jewel companies decided to abort the project as well.

Bill adds, "In the past twenty years Osco has continued to be fully supportive of Lewis Drug. I often think of the many Osco people that helped me -- not just the presidents or vice presidents, but the people on the front line. I can't express how grateful I am to all the Osco people."

"Now we are winding down our drug store business and moving into the rental store business. Our test store is up and running in Three Rivers, MI. Paul Pentz and I own the building, my daughter Lori owns fifty percent and manages the store, and Paul's two girls Karen & Laurie own the other half."

"In closing, my relationship with Osco has spanned over forty-nine years - The lifestyle I enjoy today - six months in Michigan, and six months in Arizona - I owe to Osco. My daughter-in-law Karen Pentz Lewis (my best friend Paul Pentz' daughter Karen is married to our son John), I owe to Jewel Companies and Osco for hiring Paul, and bringing Karen and John together. Now the money I lose to my golfing friend Dick Davis, on the golf course is provided through the Osco Profit Sharing Plan - I wish he would be kinder to the older Osco Guys. I am sure in a year or two the 'killer instinct' will subside!!! Thank you again to all my Osco Friends. It has been a great life to be associated with each of you!"

**Glen Henricks.** When Osco joined the Jewel Family of companies in the early 1960's, I was a buyer of toys, sporting goods and men's wear for the Jewel Tea Company. The Jewel Tea Company was the door-to-door selling organization the produced three catalogs and hundreds of groceries, which were distributed by over 2,400 salesmen from coast to coast.

One day Don Perkins, who was the president of Jewel Tea at the time, called me into his office. With him was my boss Bill Hile, Vice President of Merchandising. They asked me if I was interested in joining the Osco buying team in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. I knew very little about Osco, but had had four toy stores which I had sold prior to joining Jewel. I liked retailing, so I jumped at the chance.

When I joined the Osco team at the Mart there was Paul Stratton, Max Harndon, George Hilden, Craig Allen, Bill King, Carl Stanley, Lee Strain, Ed Weiss, Joe Bradley, Betty Ballew, Julie Andrews, Lee Panek and Marilyn Teakle. What a powerful crew! With their guidance I became totally emersed in Osco history, its practices, policies and strategies!

Everyone on the Osco buying team was responsible for part of the Christmas toy program so I was quickly enrolled in that. I'll never forget my first toy "show". It was held on the second floor, over the main floor of the Decaater downtown Osco store. It was "show and tell" from early morning to late at night, followed by cocktails, cards and crashing (sleeping, that it!). It's amazing how alert you can pretend to be after 3 to 4 hours of sleep.

My first new assignment for Osco was the development of a complete automotive "table". (other retailers called theirs "departments", or "sections"). Most Osco stores only had motor oil and anti-freeze. I was pleased that the concept of a total department was very successful.

I never forgot my first big close-out buy. I was offered 500 Toro Flymo Gas Powered Lawn Mowers for \$34 each. They didn't have wheels-instead the whirling action of the lawn mower blade made the unit hover over the ground. I had to take them all, and I had to take them now. . . I couldn't check with anyone. I bought them, then quickly called Ernie Sawyer the manager of our Elgin store and told him what I'd done. He bought 25 and sold them over the weekend for \$99 each. As I recall he bought another 100. "for a repeat of a sellout" ad. Whew!

Late in 1962 Jewel bought TurnStyle, a Boston based discount store chair as it's newest member of "the family of Jewel companies". We were told that TurnStyle had a strong soft goods buying office and they leased all their hard goods. The concept was advanced that a Jewel

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Food Store and a TurnStyle Family Center would share a common entrance. Food on one side, general merchandise on the other with a elevated fast food operation in the middle where shoppers could gaze about the stores while enjoying their coffee and snacks. Soon after the TurnStyle merger, George Hilden confirmed that Osco would be responsible for TurnStyle hard goods merchandise.

Things then began to move very fast. Osco purchasing went from a buying organization which supplied bulletin information to some 40 managers around the mid-west who bought the merchandise for the 5,00 to 15,000 sq. ft stores . . . to an organization that was also responsible for supplying and developing a re-ordering system for 100,000 sq. ft stores with 50,000 sq. ft of hard goods!

By necessity, TurnStyle had to develop their own buying and operating organization. The Osco organization supplied many of the people who were instrumental in early TurnStyle development. Bill Lewis was asked to manage the first TurnStyle (later he became President of TurnStyle), from the Osco store in Waukegan. Tork Fuglestad worked on Drug, Rx, Jewelry, candy, cards and a variety fof areas for Turn Style before getting drafted to the emerging Chicago Osco group. I was responsible for toys, camera, hardware, pet, garden shop, and automotive (with 3 bays for mufflers, tires, tune-ups). Ike Curry and Richard Rounds were significant early members of the TurnStyle team as well.

Bill Lewis was for TurnStyle what Mike Ditka was for the Chicago Bears. A tremendous leader, motivator, critic, supporter and friend to all. George Hilden - what a remarkable gentleman, great listener, thoughtful guide and inspiration to all of Osco, Chicago Osco, and Turn Style, and Republic Lumber.

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### Recipe of the Month

submitted by: *Helen Campbell*  
*Hanover Park, Illinois*



#### Batter

1/2 cup butter	2 cups sifted flour
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
2 eggs	1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt	1 cup sour cream, or
1 tsp. vanilla	half & half

Cream butter until soft, add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time and beat well after each addition. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately with sour cream, ending with flour. Stir in vanilla.

#### Cinnamon Nut Topping

1/3 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup white sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 cup finely chopped nuts

Put 1/2 batter into 9 x 9 (lightly greased) pan. Sprinkle 1/2 nut mixture, then rest of batter, and top with last portion of nut mixture. Bake at 325 ° for 40-45 minutes.

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## TRAVELER OF THE MONTH

submitted by: **Mary Quinlan**  
**Elk Grove Village, IL**

My husband Joe and I had the pleasure of traveling to England several years ago. Our daughter Erin, son-in-law, and two grandchildren live there. They live in a large home that is surrounded by gardens, flowers, and shrubbery. We enjoyed the guest suite and could view Windsor castle from there.

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The home where the Quinlan's stayed.

We toured the castle with all its fine jewels and furnishings from the past royals. It has been fully restored since the fire from a few years ago. We have heard that the Queen is spending more time there now, since it is near Eton, where prince William goes to school. After we finished the tour we enjoyed the many shops near by and had lunch in one of the neat Pubs.



Windsor Castle

London is a place with much history and we have been fortunate to have had many trips there to see such sights as: Buckingham Palace, Changing of the Guards, Tower of London, Big Ben, St. James Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral where Charles & Di were married, Churchill's War Rooms - where he made a lot of decisions, and Westminster Abby. We also had a bus tour around the heart of London.



A shop near Windsor Castle

I have an uncle, two aunts and many cousins in various parts of England, and we had the pleasure of dining with several of them in Birmingham at the Brass House on Broad Street, which is owned by one of my cousins. Terrific! It's a trip I would recommend to one and all.

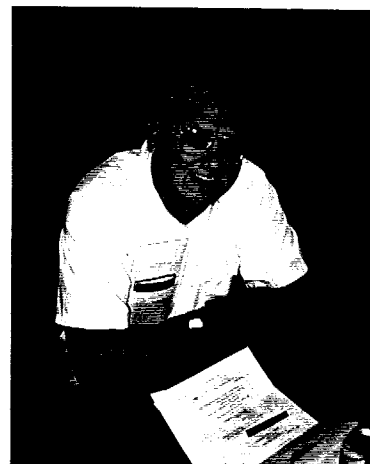
## Meet Our New Board Members



**Steve Troc** . . . started with Jewel Foods on his 16th Birthday in 1958. In 1963 Steve transferred to Osco Drug. He managed stores for 29 years and helped develop training programs for store level management. After over 34 years, Steve made a

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career change and joined RE/MAX Elite, where he is presently engaged in real estate sales. Along the way he married Stella and they will be celebrating their 38th wedding anniversary this September. They have two children, Steven and Sandra; and two grandchildren, Maria (8), and Steven (5) who bring them much joy.



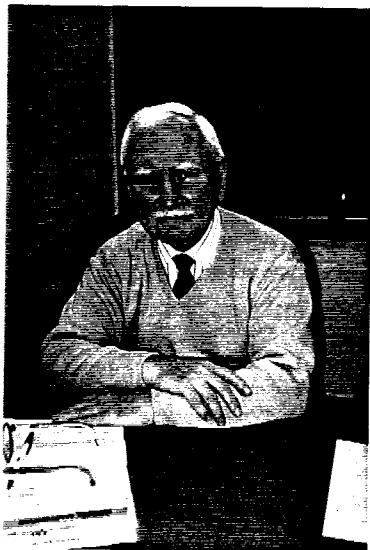
**Steve Hoffman** . . . worked for Osco Drug for over 15 years in store management. He left Osco to go into business on his own. Steve now owns and operates two Dairy Queen Stores in Lombard, and Villa Park, Illinois. He and his wife, Sally have two children, Kevin and Karyn.



**Bernie Schelonka** . . . retired from Osco just over a year ago. Now that he is retired, Bernie says he can enjoy the good life . . . getting up later and enjoying a cup of coffee while reading the paper. This past year he has been busy fixing up around the house which involved a lot of painting. With the end

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of that project in sight, Bernie looks forward to starting on some of his wood projects this fall. Bernie and his wife, Janice have done some traveling as well. Janice still works part-time for the school district so they do most of their traveling during the summer months. Bernie reported that his golf game hasn't improved much since his retirement, so he'll have to spend more time on the golf course this summer. Bernie and Janice are looking forward to a trip out west this summer, and the arrival of their first grandchild this coming July.



**Ed Blazak** started his career with Jewel Food Stores in 1968 as an Internal Auditor. He was later transferred to the Corporate Audit Group where he stayed for twelve years. Eventually Ed moved into the position of Property Tax Manager. In this position he served the whole company but reported to American Stores. Ed enjoyed this position the most because it was the most challenging, and it allowed him to make many contributions to the company. Ed retired from American Stores in 1995 after 27 years of service. Ed is enjoying his retirement and spends alot of time traveling to see his children, and grandchildren. He also spends as much time as he can on the golf course. One of his proudest accomplishments is his "Hole in One" at the Village Links Golf Course in Elmhurst, Illinois.

**Jewel - Osco**  
**&**

**American Stores**

announce:

## **"Jewel Osco Retiree Community Volunteer Project"**

It's no surprise to find out that many Jewel - Osco retirees are involved in volunteer activities of all kind. There are probably many more of you who ask how you can help. Well, here is the answer. A community volunteer group made of, and managed by Jewel & Osco retirees (and interested spouses) has been approved by American Stores.

Retirement means the end of working, but it doesn't mean the end of a productive life. Instead it is an opportunity to continue to make critical contributions to the communities in which we live, to our educational systems, among the homeless, in our social service agencies, with youth at risk, and with the disabled. Wherever there is a problem, you will find dedicated retirees putting the experience and expertise gained over a lifetime of work into solving the aching and often overwhelming problems facing our society.

This effort is being sponsored by Jewel-Osco, but will be run by the retirees. A leadership team will be formed from interested volunteers. Involvement in the leadership group will normally require about a day per month. There is recognition that retirees have a different life style, and this project is designed to enrich retirement, not intrude upon it. This will be discussed at a meeting scheduled for **June 16th** at the Melrose Park offices of Jewel-Osco, 1955 W. North Avenue, Building F. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m, with the meeting to follow at 8:30 a.m. - noon.

**For more details, or if you're interested in attending the meeting please RSVP to:**

**Ed Buron,  
708/531-6165**

**IN MEMORIAM . . .**

*We are saddened to inform you of the death of:*

**Bill King** - of Galesburg, Illinois passed away on March 25, 1998. Bill's career with Osco spanned from 1950 - 1982. From 1958-68 he worked with George Hilden as Merchandise Manager and Vice President. He returned to stores to manage the downtown Galesburg store from which he retired in 1982. Bill continued to do pharmacy relief work until December of 1996. Bill is survived by his wife of 47+ years, Shirley; their two daughters Cheryl, and Linda, and two grandsons. Both Cheryl, and Linda are pharmacists as well.

**Ben C. Oshita** - of Salt Lake City, Utah passed away on November 24, 1997 at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah from Leukemia. Ben graduated from the University of Utah in 1950 with a BS degree in pharmacy. He had a 32 year pharmacy career with Skaggs Drug Centers retiring as Pharmacy Manager. Ben is survived with his wife, Grace, their children Allen and Lynne, and four grandchildren.

**Ken Reardon** - of Mesa Arizona passed away on March 25, 1998. Ken's career began in Fargo where he owned his own store. He eventually went to work for Osco Drug. Ken's career with Osco included a number of different positions and he eventually became a District Manager. As a DM he traveled from location to location setting up Osco stores. Ken enjoyed his work, and the people he worked with as well. He is survived by his wife Evelyn; his daughter Beverly, and son-in-law Paul Mohr, his grandson Paul, Jr., and his granddaughter, Mandy.

**Jack Skyles** - of Temple, Texas. Jack was well known to many of us who worked with Osco and American Stores. He began his career in Iowa in 1949. He held positions from Store Manager, to District Manager, to Vice President. In retirement he and his wife Geneva worked with the Saint Vincent DePaul Society in Temple Texas to help those less fortunate.

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Post Office Box 5176  
Glendale Heights, IL 60139