

## **Memories from Sandy Hartley, March 16, 2012**

Greetings... I drove down in pelting rain storms to Scott's restaurant early this morning. I had the reunion marked in the calendar for weeks, and now realize it is tomorrow. This makes me so sad, I really don't think I will attempt the drive again tomorrow. I really was looking forward to this reunion and can't tell you how big a disappointment this is. When I see all your names on the list all the memories come pouring back.

Is the old YMCA still there? I remember all the stairs and narrow hallways - it was daunting just to find the gym! I used to get stomach aches just thinking about training with you all as you were so amazing. I was scared to death being coached by such great coaches as Dale, Dale and George... did he really fold up his ear? What a team!

I remember running out of a hallway and into active basketball courts with balls flying in order to vault. You never knew if the way was really clear to run all out.

I remember Leanne, Lonna, Joyce and Cleo's parents driving us all home at nearly 10 pm at night... Thanks forever... that was such a generous help to me after a long day at U of W attending a full class load of 3 semesters and 7 courses per semester.

I remember Cleo being the first getting to a handstand on the high bar of the unevens- we had all been trying for months, and now we all wanted to get that trick too. Giants were out of the question then as the bars were too narrow.

I remember choreography weekends with Dale and the pianist... you came out with so much creativity to remember!

I remember Dale and George (and others) patiently trying to teach me the full twisting layout on the trampoline. It was actually easier once we did them with the momentum of the tumbling... and you may not know that because of that, I was the first Canadian, male or female, to compete the full twist in Floor Ex competition in 1969 (World Team Trials, York University).

The fruits of the training at the Y helped me to come 9th at U.S. Olympic Trials in 1968... I would have loved to have actually been on the team to train with Joyce, Cathy, Linda. But instead I won all three Olympic Trials in Canada, and was seriously injured at a training camp 5 weeks before competing in Mexico City. I was badly weakened for the bars (dislocated elbow) at the Olympics, and did not compete well.

Dale and Leanne's parents had boarded me at their home on Densmore in 1967-1968. That was an unbelievable contribution to my Olympic year... the Husky scholarship with Eric Hughes fell through, and the Seattle Y gang and the families in gymnastics made my training possible. I am scared to ask what kind of burden that was for you, and I hope that you will forgive my debts.

Sue told me about a summer recreation job at Mount Lake Terrace in the summer of 1968... it was my first paying job ever... all I had to do was keep control of 700 kids and the recreation equipment running wild all over the playgrounds and gym that summer. I borrowed a bike and worked the program until practice started at the Y.

So many memories of all of you competing, doing school demos, and helping me understand your work ethic. We had fun! We shared cotton guaze strips. I hope you are all well and healthy and forgive me for not meeting up with you after all. I am bianchigirl1 on Skype if that works for you sometime. The International Competition looks fabulous... cheers, Sandy