



REMEMBERING A FRIEND

In early June, 2009, a long-time friend and supporter of the Tobacco Root Geological Society, Joan Harrison passed away in Lakewood, Colorado. Jo, as she was known to many of us, was the wife of Jack Harrison, a leader in the geology of the Belt basin in northwestern Montana and northern Idaho. Jo was a constant, cheerful companion of Jack, accompanying him during field studies and conferences. She always added grace and sparkle on field trips, bringing light with a touch of humor as a knowledgeable onlooker to the sometimes acrimonious debates about Belt stratigraphy and basin history among major players in basin geology. Jo held with quiet pride the public honor she shared with Jack in the award of scientific recognition for work in the Belt basin presented to them at the 1993 Belt Symposium. Jack and Jo Harrison provided major organizational and financial support for all of the Belt symposia, and they subsequently endowed the Harrison Scholarship, awarded yearly by the Tobacco Root Geological Society. Jo followed carefully the yearly award of the Scholarship and could cite the names and projects of most recipients. She was truly a supporter of the Society.

Although born in Philadelphia, Jo Harrison was, in effect, a Hoosier, growing up in northwestern Indiana and graduating from DePauw University in 1947. She married Jack the same year and together they came to Colorado where Jack began his career with the U.S. Geological Survey. Jo told wonderful accounts of summers in the field as their family grew, first by birth of daughter Karen, then by births of twin daughters Christine and Judith. Jo never forgot taking a 2-year old in one hand and in the other hand infant twins in a double stroller on public transportation around Washington, D.C., during one of Jack's work assignments there! But geologic field work was always their—and her—first love. When their daughters were grown, Jo served happily as Jack's assistant during field studies and was later recognized by the U.S. Geological Survey for her volunteer contributions. Marie Garsjo wrote of Jo, "...*she seemed just lovely. I TOTALLY admire all the geology wives out in the summer camps; that would have been QUITE the experience (and we know where those men would be without them too!) ...She and of course her husband have helped the TRGS so much.*"

During its 2009 field conference, the Society remembers Jo, and will honor the Harrisons with each future award of the Harrison Scholarship.