

## I REMEMBER WHEN:

I remember our first year of classes being in the Linn High School basement. All 13 of us in the Electronic Technology class (all studied together for the entire 2 years). Our second year we were in high cotton... somebody built a quonset hut to house the Electronic Technology students.

I remember John Baker's pipe (leftover from his Navy days I suppose)... that pipe smelled good and I never smoked. I remember Thurman Willett's cigars and did they ever stink ....and I never smoked.

I remember one day having a break in the high school lounge. We forgot to come back to class so Mr. Baker came and got us. He said, "Are you guys here for class or what?"

I remember Tech English. I don't think Mr. Hopkins smiled once the entire semester.

I remember wondering how I could ever afford to attend Linn Tech. It was \$15 down and \$15 per month tuition and \$18 per year for books.

I remember Frank Stuart, another of our Electronics instructors. He was not far removed from being a Navy Swab. Our class had many a laugh teasing the underclassmen about why their instructor was yelling at them so much. Mr. Stuart and Mr. Baker knew their stuff.

I remember our curriculum all too well. I thought I'd never understand 'grid to plate.' I felt as if I were the dumbest of the Baker's Dozen.

I now remember, in hindsight, we had excellent training. In industry we quickly became highly respected. I remember learning work ethics. I remember leaving Linn Tech with the ability to learn.

I will forever remember John Baker. I didn't appreciate what he was about when I was a student, but now would take him on my team in a heartbeat. We all remember his final days and our last visit with him.

Finally, I remember that without somebody like John Baker and Thurman Linn State would not exist.

- James Tripp, '63 Electronics