



Story and photos by Steve Haynes

Class reunions: taking the photo



“JUST A LITTLE TO THE LEFT.” Jeanie Unger lined up the class of 1943 outside the United Church. She had the class of 1973 ready to go (top photo).

Someone has to line them up, write 'em up

It's as much a part of Alumni Day tradition as picnics, reminisce and buttons with your senior picture on them:

“Line up. Hold still. Say cheese!”

And don't move until your name is on the list.

In Oberlin, the whole process is managed efficiently by Mary Lou Olson of *The Herald*, who sets up a schedule for each 10-year class, plus the 75th and 25th anniversary classes. It takes all afternoon before the annual alumni banquet to get the pictures.

Mrs. Olson says she has been taking down the names for the paper for 24 years, ever since she came back to work part-time in 1979. *The Herald* takes photos to run in black-and-white, though today they're actually color shots from a digital camera.

Photographer Jeanie Unger hasn't been on the alumni afternoon circuit quite as long. She said this was maybe her 13th year after taking over for a McCook photographer in 1991.

“One year, he left, and I did it,” she recalled. “I've

been doing it ever since.”

Mrs. Unger, who teaches Spanish at Atwood High School in addition to her photo business, takes color photos and sells prints to the alumni. Linda Glaze, an Oberlin teacher, was helping her Saturday.

“This is really fun,” the photographer said, “because I used to teach them. That first class (1983), they were my students.”

She said she started taking pictures of her own kids, and her hobby turned into a business as people began asking her to take pictures for them.

The alumni photos must be popular, because she had 149 orders for prints.

She lines up another class, directing one woman to move a little to the left, another to get out from behind a taller man in the middle row.

There are good-natured cracks about her bossing people around, “just like a teacher.”

And then it's time to take off the sun glasses. “Smile. Say cheese! Don't move.”



HOLDING TWO OF THE BABIES from the class of 1993 were Amie Olson, holding Isabelle Erickson, and Carrie Morford, holding Olivia Macfee. They were chatting under a tent outside Family Lumber, where the class had its picnic.



KIDS, MOM, PHOTOGRAPHERS and helpers were everywhere as Linda Glaze (left) helped Jeanie Unger take photo orders. Mary Lou Olson (center background) took down names for *The Oberlin Herald*.