

At Age 17

This picture was taken in the 11th grade; the shirt was made by Jensen and was bought at a place called Martins; and I wore glasses – but had taken them off for the shot. My posture seems a little odd – as though I’m about the fall over – but I think it must have been something the photographer preferred...



Life was pretty good. I was running on the track team, active in my church and youth group, and able to have a few good friends to hang-out with on occasion. I was diligent about my studies (maybe too much) and was aspiring to something in the sciences. My musical talent or development was much less than my oldest children; regretfully, I tried out for the band but did not stay with it. A few years earlier, I had acquired a trap-drum set and was influenced (by an old guy named Tony) to be a drummer...in a band...or at least, in my mind. The ideal situation would have been to drum in both marching and a rock band – but neither happened...

Music was a big part of my life however, as I play around on a guitar or similar and listened to a combination of folk and contemporary music. Before there was digital sound, MP3 players and any similar conveniences in micro-form, I listened to the music on magnetic tape and vinyl; yes, the old 8-track and cassette with the tunes to drive-by. Car stereo systems were on the rise; not the boom-boxes of this modern day, must some sizable, mega-watt systems still the same and, coincidentally, Jensen (could be another company) also made speakers and stereo systems. Friends who had cars would also have some 6x9 back speakers with tweeter and woofer combinations, amps and tape players to blast-out the Eagles, Boston, Chicago, Kiss and the list goes on and on. Only I liked John Denver...

Rock & Roll was big; whereas Rap and Hip-Hop did not exist as far as know. As a small note, Boston has made a comeback and was scheduled to play in St. Augustine (2008) as part of their comeback tour; realize however, **that this band began when I was your age!**

Speaking of comebacks and the movies, *Star Wars* made its debut when I was 17; yes that’s right, this series of movies and the millions upon millions that had been made over three decades began in 1978. In this same period, Indiana Jones made his entry to the silver screen in search of the Ark of the Covenant. In this movie, my favorite script or line was when his companion and local assistant has just located the entrance to the chamber where the Ark resides; he looks in the chamber as, through the torch light, sees the slithering of countless snakes; and then turns to “Indy” and says: “Hasps, you go first Andy”.

Oh well, somebody had to go and so, why not the hero...

@BCL@480A104F