John Reid Howell 7/31/40-1/22/17

John was born in Jennings, OK. His father was in the army, it being WWII, and his mother worked for the weather bureau, so during that time he and sister, Betty, and cousin, Ginger, lived with his grandmother in Jennings. Being the only young boy in town (or so he claimed) he was both cherished and disciplined, when needed, by everyone in town. Betty, Ginger and John remained the mighty three-some his entire 76 years.

John later lived in Chapel Hill and Raleigh, NC, while his parents were in graduate school, then in Memphis through his junior year in high school. In his senior year his family moved to Starkville, Mississippi, where his parents were on the faculty at Mississippi State University. They remained there until their deaths.

John attended Duke University his college freshman year under scholarship, having been a Merit Scholar. Then the wanderlust took hold and he enlisted in the U.S. Army which whipped him into the best shape of his life. After three years of army life he returned and enrolled in Mississippi State which is where he met his future wife, Susan. They met in Dr. Harry Bear's logic class.

John and Susan, both mathematics majors, got married as soon as both had their bachelor degrees. They stayed at MSU several more years, getting MS degrees and teaching a year at the university before heading to Houston, TX, to continue graduate studies. That is also where their son, Robert (Rob) was born.

The next move, when Rob was three, was to Hillsboro, TX, for five years, to teach mathematics at Hill College. This is where John began to "dabble" in computer work. He automated the registration process for the college using a small computer similar to what we today call a PC.

It was the move to Cape Girardeau, MO, to teach computer science at Southeast Missouri State University that turned him into a computer scientist. While at SEMO he wrote a computer system he called "Test Writer" that stored test questions from which an instructor could create tests. It worked well because, at least in the case of his department, they would post all the questions in the database, with the answers, so all students would know what questions would be on the test. The students only had to memorize at least a thousand questions and answers from which the tests were drawn. It was used campus-wide.

In 1979 the family moved to Wichita. John worked for NCR for five years and, when AT&T bought NCR and John was assured his job was safe with NCR, he decided it was time to move on. He worked for Boeing Computer Services until retirement in 2000.

In the early years at Boeing he discovered the world-wide web and began to build information on the internet about Kansas communities. That led to a special relationship between the Kansas State Library, which housed the information and paid for travel, and Boeing, which loaned John to the state library for 2 ½ years to continue this work.

His obituary in The Wichita Eagle, January 25 and 29, reads as follows:

Howell, John Reid, 76, died January 22, 2017 from cancer. Born July 31, 1940 in Jennings, OK, to Robert Norman and Doris McChesney Howell. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Susan Helena Gay Howell; son Robert Edward Howell; sister Elizabeth (Betty) Shaw and cousin Virginia (Ginger) Haden. John was an army veteran, mathematician, teacher, computer scientist and website designer. He moved to Wichita in 1979 to work for NCR and later Boeing where he became a specialist in Artificial Intelligence. Also while at Boeing he was an "Executive on Loan" for two and a half years to the Kansas State Library, creating more than 300 websites for Kansas communities. He also is the author of the website *Kansas on the Net*. Between 2005 and 2009 he helped his wife produce the publication *Kansas Traveler*. Memorial service at a later date. In lieu of flowers: **Kansas State Library**, Capitol Building, Room 312-N, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1593; **Kansas Sampler Foundation**, 978 Arapaho Rd., Inman, KS 67546. Tributes to www.dlwichita.com

John's wish, expressed frequently, was to be cremated and have his ashes put on a Kansas gravel road. A memorial at St. James Episcopal church will be held at some point.