



Joe's recollection
of meeting his wife

*"I guess Robbie figured I
had money since I drove
home a new car every day."*



chapter 8.2

DANNY JOE LUTTRELL

Levon & Bill's second-born (b. 1946)

Danny Joe "Joe" Luttrell was born on June 8, 1946, almost exactly two years after his sister, Beverly Sue, was born. Joe's childhood was spent in Wichita, KS. Except for the early grades, Joe attended elementary and high school in Wichita.

{Ken's Flashback: When my Mom (Joe's Aunt Kiree) moved James and me to Wichita in 1958, we spent quite a lot of time over at Aunt Levon's place on Woodland Street up in northwest Wichita. One summer day, Joe, James and I took the bus into downtown Wichita. There were at least a couple of theatres there on east Douglas that showed old movies all day for a single price. Well, we did that until we got tired of it; then we messed around downtown afterward to where we'd spent all our money and didn't have enough money for a bus ticket back. Seems like we spent our last dime making a phone call looking for someone to pick us up, and that didn't work. So we set out and had to walk all the way back to Joe's house in northwest Wichita. When we got back, we were a whipped bunch.}

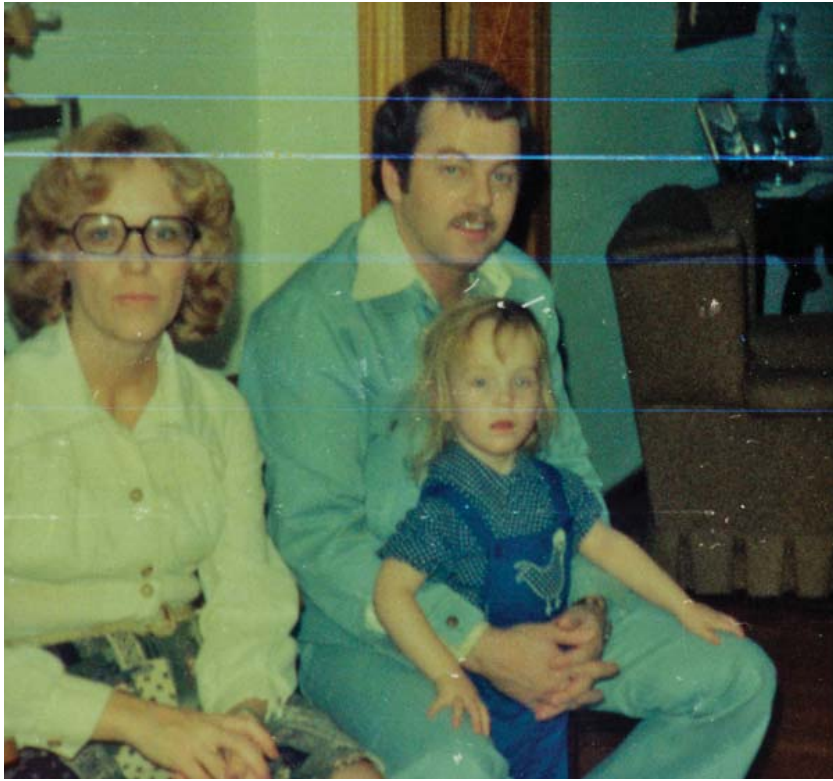
Eventually, Joe's parents moved to a house just south of Wichita State University. Joe remembers all the good times to be had hanging around that campus. Seems like one of his friends was the University President's son, and they had the run of the place. He remembers that place fondly.

Like a lot of his cousins, Joe's ticket out of Wichita was the U.S. Navy. After that, Joe spent many years in sales—cars, furniture, and modular homes, mostly. Then he followed that up with many years as a cross-country semi truck driver.

How did Joe meet his soul mate? Well, according to Joe, he was selling cars in Kansas City, and a pretty young lady lived across the street from him.

Joe likes to joke: "I guess Robbie figured I had money since I drove home a new car every day." *{Editor's note: it's no secret that Joe was a very handsome young man--looks that came from both his dad and his mom}.*

The girl's name across the street in Kansas City was



1970s—Robbie, Joe and Teresa Luttrell
at Kiree Brown's house in Ava, MO

Robbie Lou Shoemaker. She was working as a secretary after graduating from Larned High School in 1965.

Joe and Robbie were married on October 18, 1968, in Miami, OK, before returning to Kansas City to start their new life together. Their joy was cut short the following year when their first-born, William Joe, had serious health issues and lived less than a week. The little guy was buried in Kansas City.

At some point, Joe and Robbie relocated to Dallas, Texas, where Joe continued his sales career. It was in Dallas where their daughters were born:

- Melissa Joy Luttrell on August 30, 1971
- Teresa Ann Luttrell on June 16, 1972

When the girls were young, Joe and Robbie moved to northwest Arkansas where Joe's mother was living. Joe was in sales for many years but eventually turned to a long career as an over-the-road trucker. Robbie went to work at the WalMart headquarters in nearby Bentonville, AR, where she still works.

Major tragedy hit Joe and Robbie's family June 25, 1994, when Teresa was killed in an auto accident in Springdale, AR. She had celebrated her 22nd birthday just a week earlier. Just as she was starting her adult life, it was snuffed out. Joe and Robbie carried on but without a doubt never got over it.

Joe's Life in a Nutshell

- Born 1946 in Wichita KS
- Grew up in Wichita KS
- Joined the U.S. Navy after high school.
- Met Robbie Shoemaker in Kansas City. They were married in 1968.
- Worked in Sales and Trucking
- Joe and Robbie had three children:
 - William Joe
 - Melissa Joy
 - Teresa Ann
- Lives in Bella Vista, AR, near daughter, Melissa and three grandsons.



Joe Luttrell in the
U.S. Navy



August 2006—Joe and Robbie on the motorcycle of their nephew, Larry Masters, Jr. The picture was taken at Sue (Luttrell) Masters home in Wichita KS where the family was celebrating 80th birthday of Sue and Joe's mother, Levon (Hartley) Elenbarger



Above, Joe & Robbie

Below, Joe and Robbie with their daughter, Teresa



They say parents losing children is not natural, and only people like Joe and Robbie understand what it's like.

Several years ago, Joe and Robbie bought a nice home in the retirement community of Bella Vista, AR, just south of the Missouri line on U.S. Highway 71. It's a place where Joe can golf and also be close to the their daughter, Melissa, and her family.

Joe's Daughter, Melissa Joy Luttrell

Melissa Joy Luttrell Cantrell is the middle child of Joe and Robbie Luttrell. She was born on August 30, 1971 in Dallas, TX. On July 29, 1994 she married Wiley Cantrell. Melissa and Wiley have three sons:



Above, late 1970s—
Robbie & Joe with Melissa
(left) and Teresa



Above, 2013—Melissa with her mom, Robbie
in Bella Vista, AR



Robbie and Joe Luttrell

- Tyler Anderson born on December 11, 1990.
- Carl Cantrell born on June 11, 1993.
- Seth Cantrell, the youngest, born on November 5, 2002.

Melissa's husband, Wiley, has worked for Tyson Foods for over 18 years; Melissa works for Comfort Keepers, taking care of Alzheimer and dementia clients. They make their home in Bella Vista, AR.



Above, Melissa with her Grandma Levon (Hartley) Elenbarger



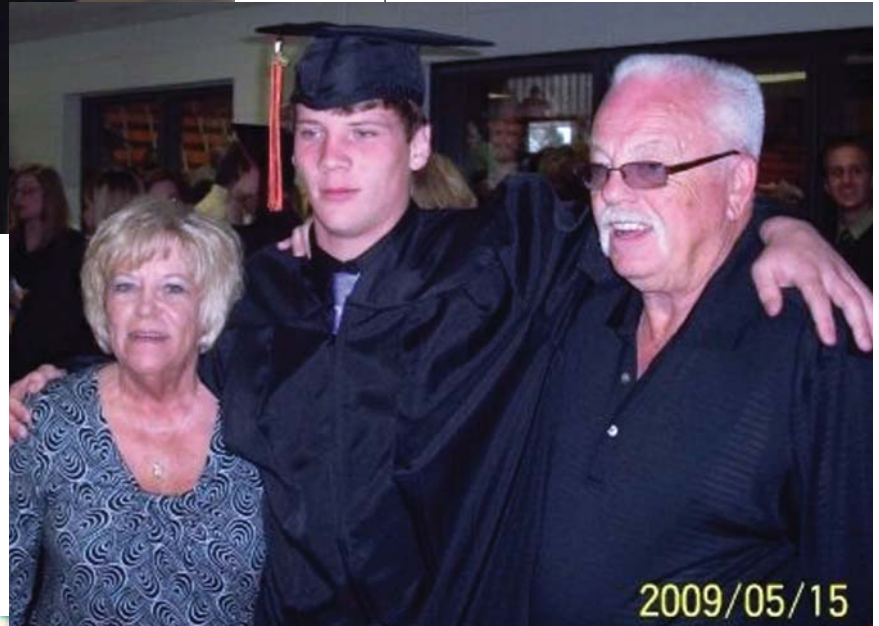
Above, Melissa's son, Carl Cantrell



Above, 2011—Wiley and Melissa (Luttrell) Cantrell



At left, 2013—Melissa's son, Tyler Anderson, a policeman in Rogers, AR.



Below, 2009—Melissa's son, Tyler Anderson and his grandparents, Robbie & Joe Luttrell



At left, Melissa's sons, Seth Cantrell and Tyler Anderson