In 1948, Joe Scheufler, BSCE’50, ten classmates and their professor, Bob Zumstein, caught a train and traveled 495 miles to the little town of Hinton, W. Va. to study the Bluestone Reservoir Dam that was nearing completion. All of the students were civil engineering majors except Joe’s brother Jack, a geology major. The two took photos of the group and the dam.

Last June, EXEMPLAR received a packet of photos and a letter addressed to the chair of civil engineering, Mumtaz Usmen, with Joe’s recollections of this trip. The photos and commentaries of the event that took place almost 60 years ago captures a certain point in time long ago imbued with opportunity, promise and camaraderie only college days offer.

“I believe we spent three or four days touring the dam inside and out and hearing talks by the resident engineers,” Joe writes. “The dam was very impressive – however, one of my lasting memories was a poker game that five of us played on the train. Five-card draw, nothing wild and I hit a full house. Three of us bet like crazy. When the betting was over, I was beat by a bigger full house that was beat by four of a kind,” Joe remembers.

In August 1975, Joe and his classmates celebrated the 25th anniversary of their graduation. “Stan Kapel hosted a gathering in the backyard of his home just outside Detroit to mark the occasion. I flew in from Millbrae, Calif. to join,” writes Joe, who remembers a great time highlighted by the presence of four of their illustrious professors – Lloyd Cheney, Dan Ling, Chet Orden and Jim Paulson.

by Justyna Konczalska

Joe and EXEMPLAR would like to hear from his classmates. “I would be absolutely delighted to hear from any of my classmates who are still around or from anyone for the matter,” Joe writes. And EXEMPLAR would like to receive college day stories like Joe’s from you. Send all correspondences and photos to dreich@eng.wayne.edu