

Glenn & Rhonda “Sadie” Smith

Glenn T. Smith discovered America on May 11, 1944, in Los Angeles, California. He was the second son born to Leroy E. and Sarah C. Smith. When he was two, he moved to Burdett, Kansas, along with his older brother Clifford and their parents to the farm that his Grandfather Smith had homesteaded about 1890. The 400-acre farm is still owned by his mother, who is a charter member of Tired Iron. Wade and Henry, two more brothers, were born in Kansas.

The family moved to Northwest Arkansas in 1959. Glenn finished high school in Siloam Springs in 1962. The class was too big to graduate in the high school auditorium, so the facilities at John Brown University were used. Glenn always says he graduated at John Brown University.

Glenn worked at Peterson's in Decatur and then at Daisy Air Rifle in Rogers until he joined the Peace Corps in 1965. His PC training was held in Hilo, Hawaii, for three months (tough duty), and then he served in Sarawak, Federation of Malaysia, for twenty-one months. He worked with people who had been headhunters up until the end of the Second World War, teaching them basic agriculture and sanitation. The natives did not have pictures to decorate their homes, so they used human skulls. Glenn returned stateside in February 1967 and recruited for the Peace Corps for the rest of that school year. He then went to work as a liaison for the Office of Economic Opportunity for the summer. It was during this time that he met Rhonda, who was serving in an Appalachian Volunteer program. Glenn and Rhonda (Sadie) were married December 17, 1967.

Rhonda is the youngest of three children born to Logan Tackett and Florida Parsons Tackett. She was born and raised near Pikeville, Kentucky, in an area called Little Mud, and yes, it is located just across a small mountain called Big Mud. Herman, an older brother, died in 1993 at the age of 49 due to heart surgery complications. Her brother Chester and his wife Joan live in Lexington, Kentucky. He recently retired from Valvoline Oil Company.

Rhonda's parents were charter members of Tired Iron of the Ozarks. Rhonda's father was a West Virginia coal miner. He passed away in 1998 from black lung disease. Her mother now lives in Lexington, Kentucky, near Chester and Joan. For almost eight years now, Rhonda has worked at the Wal-Mart Home Offices at the specialty coffee bar. She enjoys her work and gets to meet people from all over the world.

In the fall of '67, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio, contacted Glenn and asked him to recruit for them for one year. He had been recommended by the Peace Corps to be a recruiter for the college---there were 120 other recruiters for the Peace Corps that year. He traveled all over Ohio and parts of Kentucky and Indiana recruiting for Wilmington College giving as many as two or three assemblies per day at high schools. In the spring of '68, the Peace Corps Office in Washington, D. C., contacted Glenn and asked him to help start and then run a new Peace Corps office in Boston, but by then Glen had bought a 240 acre farm near Highfill for \$14,300. The \$300.00 was the salesman's commission. Glenn had had enough of the fast paced life, and turned the Peace Corps down.

On Friday the 13th, December 1968, Glenn was drafted at the age of 24 and sent to Korea. While he was working for the government, he had been immune to the draft. Earlier, in January of '65, on the same day he had received his first draft notice, he was accepted into the Peace Corps. He took the Peace Corps, knowing that someday, the draft would catch up with him again, and it did.

Glenn and Rhonda's first daughter was born while Glenn was stationed in Korea, and the first time he saw her she was six months old. Robin was handed to Glenn at the Tulsa airport, and she promptly

threw up on his sergeant's uniform. Things have gotten better though as Robin and her husband have blessed Glenn and Sadie with three grandchildren. Their second daughter, Danya, and her husband have blessed them with two grandchildren. Robin and her family live on the family farm near Glenn and Sadie while Danya and her family live about 1 1/2 miles southeast of the Tired Iron show grounds.

Before he was drafted, Glenn was working for Tractor Supply Company in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and he went back to that same job for another year. He then went to work for an Armstrong Floor Covering wholesaler and traveled Northeast Arkansas for five years, calling on 160 dealers. He was then transferred to Northwest Arkansas where he soon bought a water well drilling business in 1976. He drilled water wells for 24 years in Northwest Arkansas and Northeast Oklahoma. He sold that business in 2000.

It was during his water well drilling years that he took notice of all of the old tractors and engines that people were in love with. In April of '92, he asked Ervin Cripps and Don Etris to help him and Sadie get some ideas together so a club could be started for lovers of old tractors and engines in our area. On the night they were to meet, Ervin Cripps had a fatal horse and wagon accident. So with Don Etris's help, Glenn and Sadie would start Branch 37 of EDGTA. About fifty letters were sent out to interested parties, and on May 8, 1992, thirty people showed up for the first meeting. Tired Iron of the Ozarks was born that night with twenty-four people joining up. Glenn thought fifty would be a big total number, but by the end of that first year, 135 people had joined. Glenn was our first president, and he served for four years. Sadie was out first secretary for four years, but she and Glenn stepped down when Sadie was diagnosed with breast cancer. Now, eleven years later she is doing just fine.

Glenn and Sadie have bought and sold many tractors and a few engines over the years. At one time they bought a 1913 fifty-horse power Case steam tractor. They kept it three years---it now resides in Georgia. They only have one tractor now---a John Deere AR that Glenn's dad bought new in 1951. Glenn recalls that his dad "turned him loose" on the AR when he was about thirteen to help out with the farming. His older brother hired out to other farmers while their dad ran a mechanic shop at the house.

They have a restored 1945 Chevrolet two-ton truck that honors our fallen veterans. A flag draped casket rests on the bed of the truck. The truck has been shown at many festivals and parades. The old truck has an actual mileage of 3,200 on the odometer at the time of restoration.

After Glenn sold the well drilling business, he went to work for the Wal-Mart home office repairing their 400 plus vending machines. It was during this time that he purchased a stump-grinding machine and in no time was busy grinding stumps, and he graduated from Wal-Mart. The local barber nicknamed Glenn "Stumpy, " and it stuck. He also has a sixty-foot bucket truck, so he trims a few trees too.

Glenn and Sadie have been members of The Gentry Assembly of God for the last twenty-four years. They attend the First Assembly of God in Gentry, Arkansas. Sadie has taught Sunday school there for all the twenty-four years.

It should also be noted that Glenn and Stanley Arrowsmith (featured in Tired Iron Newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 3) were great pals and that Stanley left Glenn all of his precious hand made models of yesteryear's machinery. Glenn continues to display Stanley's machines at our shows. Tired Iron owes a great debt of gratitude to Glenn and Sadie as founders of the club and for their continued support.

