

Joe Harris
(1976-78)

The two years I was president of CCFLT were two of the most rewarding years of my professional career in second language education. My contacts with the CCFLT Board and language teachers throughout the state provided a network of colleagues and friends who remain a vital part of my life today.

The challenges of making CCFLT an active, supportive, and vital state professional organization were very much the same as today. Providing workshops and conferences along with professional publications that would provide current methodologies and updates in technology were always a challenge. Getting participation in the organization from all sectors of the state was constantly looming in front of the Board. To portray the organization as a statewide (rather than a Front Range) network was always difficult. Financially speaking, to bring in national speakers and workshop presenters was much more difficult with our modest budget. Genevieve Overman, who was the Secretary/Treasurer for many years, always questioned every expense of the organization. Once I wanted to pay for lunch for the Board during an all-day meeting. Genevieve asked me whether we could afford that expense.

The "fun times" were always an important part of Board and Organization activities. The president's party during the Spring Conference began in the 1970's on a small scale. Without sponsorship from an exhibit participant, we would gather in the president's room with a "few bottles of wine." The *Mardi Gras* at the Broadmoor will always be a high point for fun times. Dressed as an Arab sheik, I entered the elevator with my wife Judy. Judy overheard a lady in the elevator saying to her husband: "You see honey, I told you this was an exclusive hotel!"

My big rewards for being president include my lifelong friendships with people such as Sam Butler (an outstanding leader) who precede me in the presidency. My other rewards include following mentors Dan Martinez (my high school Spanish teacher), Bill Lopez (who hired me to teach in Fort Collins 32 years ago), and Lynn Sandstedt (whose leadership skills have always inspired me) in the presidency. Another reward is to have my former student, Michael Nettleton (of whom I will always be extremely proud), become president and later to become Executive Secretary. Other great rewards include seeing another outstanding former student, Beth McGregor, become a Board member. I am proud of other Fort Collins colleagues: Marie-Jo Hoffman and Becky Thomas, who added their contributions to the CCFLT Board. Marie-Jo also became president. (con't on page 16)

