



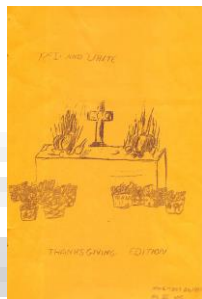
The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



Fall 2018
Volume 11 No. 4

A year in the life of a Greer Student
and...You!

It was the responsibility of each 10th grade English class to publish the twice-a-month issue of our school newspaper, **"The Red and White."** For some reason, although not apparent to me at the time, I saved the issues of the Red and White during the year my class published it in 1960-61. I am grateful I did save them because saving all the issues allows me to be able to share the events of the 1960-61 school year with you, as it **reflects the variety of life of a typical school year at Greer** through the eyes of the 10th grade students who were the reporters for the paper. As I look back on this school year all of these years later, I feel we were very fortunate to have so much variety and opportunities afforded us in such a small school with limited financial resources. The 700-student public high school that I taught at did not do any better than Greer at providing many various school experiences. My hope is you will have some personal memories of some of the events and people listed from each month of a typical school year end enjoy reflecting about them; I encourage you to send me a memory/story of someone or event from a year at Greer to share with the rest of us. This issue will cover the events reported during the Autumn months of 1960.



September, 1960

As with the start of any school year, Greer welcomed some new staff. As is the case with any public and private school, there is always some turnover. However, we were fortunate at Greer to have some staff who had served all of us for many years, and they welcomed the new staff who joined us in September of 1960.

Helene Robertson rejoined the Greer community as the business

teacher. **Calvin**

Sewell was the new Industrial Arts teacher and he and

his wife later served as houseparents. Calvin had flown a B29 bomber in WWII. Ms. **Ellinor**

Zischkau was a 7th/8th history teacher and the girl's athletic coach along with **Mrs. Kenneth Taylor**. Ms. Zischkau had an unusual hobby of analyzing handwriting. Do any of you remember her doing this analysis for you? Mr. **Daniel Simonds** was the

new guidance counselor and he and his wife were houseparents at Daisy. **Ken Lynn** was new boys' coach and he and his wife **Mary**

were the Gate House houseparents. **Mr. Bernard Keith** and his wife were the new houseparents at Rapallo and last of all **Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Cronk**



returned to Greer after serving in the early 50's at Greer to again teach; **Mrs. Cronk** was a receptionist. These new staff members joined returning staff members from the previous school year: **the Schultz's, the Packers, The Elliott's, Mrs. Ruth Freitag, Mr. Warren Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Speakman, Mrs. Andrews, the Percy's, Miss Dorothy Schafenacker, Mrs. Stitt, Miss Ethel**



Sackett, Mrs. Van Tassell, Miss Meyers, Miss Shumer, Mom Mac, Mr. and Mrs. Connie Keuhler, Mrs. Savage, Mr. and Mrs. Greendale, Frank Hunt, Vern Ladeau, Herby Van Anden, Jim and Eleanor Hamilton, Joe and Alice Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Shay, and Mr. and Mrs. Meanor. These returning staff represented continuity in our lives and was a stabilizing factor for all of us.

The football and field hockey teams started practices in preparation for their season. The football team held two scrimmages against other schools and the field hockey team prepared for their first game.

We had two socials that month—one was a dance in the auditorium and the other a gym night. The reporter did not say what we did in the gym, but I would guess that we played co-ed Volleyball. Once-a-month cottage dance socials did not start until October that year.

Cottage reports—news from each cottage highlighted “odds and ends” about individual students. The reports were trivial as one looks back on the typical cottage news report, but when written in 1960, they were amusing. These cottage reports were in every issue of the Red and White throughout the school year.

Student elections were held, and **Ed Martin** was



elected President, **Nick Anderson** as Vice President, **Carolyn Ladeau** as Secretary, and **Harold Soo Hoo** as Treasurer.

October, 1960

The first meeting of the student council was held, and **Ed Martin** appointed an “entertainment Committee.

Gate House was the scene of the first cottage social of the year, and there was a monthly dance at each cottage. I look back at our cottage and auditorium dances with very fond memories.

The athletic seasons were fully underway by now. The football team rolled over Darrow 40-14, and 40-0 over Pawling, but had a disappointing 6-6 tie with Dover Plains and then lost to Red Hook 13-6. The field hockey team beat Millbrook 8-0, and Windsor 2-1 before losing to Barlow 4-1.

The annual 5th grade Columbus Day play was put on for the entire school in the auditorium, and the Boy Scouts scoutmaster, **Jim Hamilton** took the scouts to their first campout of the year to Camp Nooteeming in nearby Salt Point. There was always a fall, winter, and spring campout each school year for the scouts.



The annual hayride was lots of fun. We went down lover's lane, through some corn fields and ended up at Camp Barbey for a campfire with songs and the roasting of marshmallows. The

farm staff of **Vern Ladeau and Herby Van Anden** drove the tractors that pulled the two hay wagons. For me, those hayrides were as good as it gets!

In late October, the Senior Class held the annual White Elephant sale in the Auditorium.

Senior **Syd Nesbitt** was the auctioneer and he did a great job as the seniors cleared \$110.00 for their efforts—a good profit in 1960!



Greer's administrators arranged for other events that October. **Archdeacon Andrew** of Toronto, Canada, had spent 30 years in China and shared his experiences with us. The YPF group heard **Mr. Stringfellow**, a lawyer in Harlem, New York, and he spoke about the fight to win Civil Rights for all Americans. In late October, a **brasswood quartet** came to perform a concert in our auditorium. Last of all, 48 top prize-winning photographs from the annual **Kodak** film high school photo contest were on display at Greer.

October ended with the annual Halloween party in the auditorium. **Nick Anderson** and **Dinah Fillman**



won the costume contests. Bales of hay and orange and black crepe paper helped make the auditorium atmosphere very special. On

the actual Halloween night, the next week a few Ledge girls went "trick-or-treating" which hardly ever happened at Greer. They cajoled **Dr. Elliott** into giving them special permission. Those good Ledge girls must have used their persuasive charm

on Dr. Elliott to get him to approve this exception to the rule.

November, 1960

The autumn sports season came to an end with Greer football defeating Haldane, 23-0, tying Millbrook, 13-13 and getting upset by Pine Plains, 20-7. The field hockey team lost to Oakwood, 3-1, defeated Barlow, 2-0, and tied Windsor Mt. 1-1.

The annual **Parents' Day** was held on the first Sunday in November. The parents met in the auditorium for a question and answer session with Dr. Elliott and then had meeting with teachers.

On November 12th, the annual football supper was held at the McAllister house and hosted by the Ledge girls. **Coach Lynn** introduced next year's



captains, **Ed Martin** and **John Nicholas**. Principal **Paul Schultz** spoke of how proud he was that despite

playing against schools with much larger numbers, our boys' and girls' teams did quite well. Former coach **Loren Shirar** was visiting Greer and came to the supper.



On November 19th, the cheerleaders and Art Club hosted the annual sports hop. The auditorium was decorated with Red and white streamers and looked great. Thanksgiving was as wonderful as usual, and much has been written about this holiday in previous issues of the Alumni newsletter. A fun square dance was held in the auditorium on November 25th. Coming back to visit that day were Alumni

Bill Robertson, Robert Ildefonso, and Peter Osis.



Earlier that autumn former Coach **Jack Maddox** visited as did alumni **Penny Cummings, Nina Devendorf, and Burton Berry.**



On November 27th, a young people's fellowship group enjoyed a waffle supper in the auditorium and had a visitor speak who had done work in Africa and shared his experiences.

We Got Mail from Diana "Dinny" Munzer continued

This is the rest of Dinny's letter from the Alumni Summer Newsletter issue:

Mr. Bender: My seventh-grade teacher. He was studying at NYU and he used our class as an experiment. Not only was the class fun, but I learned something. He took a group of us down to NYU to talk in front of his class, describing our experimental social science class.

Miss Shafenacker: She took a group of us scruffy, awkward kids and had us singing beautiful songs.

And the gym teacher (Ed. Note: **Mrs. Peterson?**), she was so organized that we became a working unit. Our basketball team became a team to be reckoned with. We learned zone defense and how important it was to pass the ball. Of course, having Georgia King on our side helped us a lot. I

understood exactly what I had to do in order to get a Letter. It was all spelled out for us, and we had to work hard to achieve success. It was delightful.

But the most fantastic bit of luck that I had was to have the most amazing couple as my houseparents when I lived at Crest Cottage. **Wistar and Bertie Wood.** They were only there for two years, but they crammed so much love into those years for me it seemed like they were there for me forever.

Wistar Wood was a conscious objector, and so instead of going to jail he and Bertie served two years at Greer. They were not much older than we were, in fact I think that Edward Baker was older than they were. When they arrived, they were given no training. They were showed where Crest Cottage was and that they would have thirty or so girls living there with them. At first all they had was a small room to themselves. And they took it in stride. They were intelligent and funny. They actually talked with us like we were regular human beings. They explained things to us and they were truthful. Life sure didn't seem fair to any of us, and we were going thru teenagerhood and I remember whining about my life. And even though there were so many needy girls under their care Bertie took me on a walk one day and explained that feeling sorry for myself wasn't going to make anything any better. We spent a good part of the afternoon walking and talking and me crying and laughing.

And when I complained about my low citizen report-so low that I couldn't go to the movies-they explained in detail why they had given me that mark, making sure I realized what I could do to bring the mark up, so I could be sure and get to go next Friday. I worked at it for a while, but it seemed that I couldn't sustain it and missed many a movie. They instituted a new rule that if you wanted to bring your citizenship mark up (in order to be able to go to the Friday movie) you could work your way

up to a passing mark. I chose to work in the garden in the front of Crest Cottage, and to this day I love to garden. It never seemed like a punishment to me, in fact sometimes Mrs. Wood would sit alongside me and we would chit chat.

The Woods were real, like regular people. Bertie was pregnant, living now in two small rooms, taking care of twenty teenage girls. Not to mention that we all came from some kind of a dysfunctional home life. And they merrily lived their lives among us and with us and taught us to harmonize to our Christmas Carol, Noel.

I remember one night in particular. We were all quiet and asleep and Wister came upstairs and woke us up and anyone who wanted was allowed to come down stairs to see the black molly fish give birth. They were like that. I guess since no one told them the rules they could let their conscience be their guide. And as you can see I remember it with wonder, to this day.

I thank all these people and others too many to mention. And also, all my brothers and sisters. I love you all.

Reunion News

We do have a date for next year's gathering and it is Friday and Saturday, September 20th and 21st, 2019. The theme for the gathering is "honoring the staff who served us." Details will be available in the next issue. We will try to arrange for an afternoon hayride between lunch and dinner. Hope to see you there!

Sad News

Sadly, we have learned that **Peter Thomas Caram** passed away August 13, 2018. Peter was a 1965 graduate of Millbrook High School and a Greer resident.

This morning I learned of the recent passing of **Ken Lynn**, Greer's former football coach, houseparent and teacher from 1960-1962. He passed away in September of this year and was 83 years old.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

It has been a trying summer for me with rain and grass to cut as well as equipment breakdowns, in addition to a few medical issues. There is also a model railroading habit (mania) I must contend with. Hopefully, I will begin to get back into uploading mode soon.

That's all for now.

Tony Vaz – Webmaster Greerschool.Org
Greer Class of '61 (Honorary)

In addition to reporting any change of address to Peggy Sparks, you can contact me at tonyvaz@greerschool.org

Hope you enjoyed the photos in this issue.

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor {
Sandy Hudnor { Contact Tony Vaz for e-addresses
Peggy Sparks {

or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.