



The Hope Farm / Greer School  
Alumni Association  
Newsletter



June 2014

Greetings!

This is the seventh of the eight committed issues of the alumni newsletter published by Tony Vaz and Peggy Mathewson Sparks, former residents of Greer School. Spring has just about run its course and now we are getting ready for the long, hot summer. Damn you, Al Gore!

**Sad News**

We have learned of several deaths since the last issue.

Virginia Hougasian Karibian passed away 10/8/08.

Robert Hougasian passed away 10/24/12.

Dean R. Miller passed away 4/24/14.

Leon Gildersleeve passed away 4/24/14.

Virginia Swanson Neville passed away 5/14/14.

John Moffitt passed away on 6/3/14.

All have been noted in the Greer School web site In-Memoriam page:

([http://greerschool.org/in\\_memor.html](http://greerschool.org/in_memor.html)) and the Magnussen sibling's data have been updated.

**Reunion News**

As previously reported in the December newsletter, there will be an alumni association reunion on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

That's now just **three (3)** short months away. If you are planning to attend, you are urged to send your reservation forms and payment to Mitzi and Doug Berry, [redacted] New York 12522. **The cutoff date is August 21, 2014.** Come on folks, as Daniel Lawrence Whitney is prone to say, "Git-R-Done!"

If you need a copy of the registration form, contact Tony Vaz by e-mail ([tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org)) or by mailing to the return address on your newsletter hard copy.

The list of alumni already registered to attend the reunion is as follows:

Georgia King (2), Jack Rolston, Don Berger, John and Sandy Hudnor, Robert Kennedy (2), Harry McCandless (2), Pam Pequeno, Pat LoCasto, Maureen Miller, Tony Vaz (2), Victor Vaz (2) and Doug and Mitzi Berry (4).

These folks have indicated that they will attend, but may not have sent in their registration forms by press time.

Dolan Brammer (2), Jim Anderson (2), Nick Anderson (2) and Bob Jenkins (2?).

**Financials**

Mitzi reports that contributions are still coming in to support the newsletter and/or reunion activities (also known as "dues"). These contributions should continue to be sent to Mitzi and not to the newsletter staff. This arrangement may change after the reunion later this year. Details will be forthcoming in a later edition of the newsletter.

New contributors are as follows:

Paul Bassett	\$ 25.00
William Seeley	\$ 50.00
Victoria Craig	\$ 30.00
Ann Foster	\$ 25.00
Betty Tompkins	\$ 25.00

**The Greer School Web Site Mods**

A new photo collection has been added to the Photo Albums – Personal Albums page. It is a collection of photos taken by John E. "Jack" McHenry during his time at Greer. It was provided by Jack Jr. and sent to me by Jim Mathewson. See it at:

<http://greerschool.org/mchenry.html>

Look for another collection on-line now, provided by John Nicholas. It is seventeen shots of the Greer – Darrow game in the fall of 1959.

The Greer team is identified by name and number. Find it on the bottom of the page at:  
<http://greerschool.org/papeople.html>

--Tony Vaz, Webmaster – Greerschool.Org

## **The Hope Farm Quarterly – June 1, 1928**

### **Daisy Cottage**

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Daisy Cottage was built in 1911 and named after Bishop Greer's daughter, Daisy Greer. The cottage is a large stone structure with two protecting towers separating the wings from the main building.

When it was completed, more children came from the city until the cottage had reached its capacity of sixty.

The very small boys and girls, ten in number, lived in the lower floor of one of the wings. This was known as the nursery room. These small children had kindergarten in a large room outside the nursery. They were taken care of by Miss Elizabeth Zellar.

The rest of the children slept on the second floor of the main part of the cottage. They ate together in a large dining room while the nursery children ate separately.

Mrs. McKinley had charge of the middle-sized girls and all of the boys. Mrs. Matilda Misner had charge of the older girls.

On the third floor of the cottage, there were two playrooms, one for girls, the other for boys. There were also rooms in which the assistants lived.

Later, another cottage was built, so the oldest boys left Daisy while new boys came in their place.

In 1923, the Greer Memorial Cottage for girls was completed and thirty girls moved from Daisy. This left thirty boys there. Three years later, the Marcy Lester Cottage boys moved to Daisy while the Daisy boys moved into Marcy.

In 1926, the old nursery was made into a library. Part of the basement was furnished and used as a community room in 1927.

The same year, the old playrooms on the third floor were made into an apartment for Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Hazzard.

The present house father and house mother are Mr. and Mrs. Bacon.

--Howard Holloway, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

### **Cottage Life Remembered Life at Daisy Cottage**

I lived at Daisy cottage during my 6th and 7th grade years at Greer, (1956-1958), and had two sets of house parents. During my first year, the house parents were Joe and Bea Fischer. Because Joe Fischer had so many responsibilities as a teacher and coach, the guidance I received at Daisy mainly came from Mrs. Bea Fischer. I do not remember very much about Bea Fischer, because like her husband, she had 25 boys she was responsible for in addition to her own children. That being said, there was a daily schedule and routine established at Daisy, and Mrs. Fischer kept us on track. In retrospect, having a structure which was consistently followed was very helpful to us who came from homes which did not always have such a consistency. One of the things I do recall about Mrs. Fischer was in the summer, she would make us kool-aid popsicles and we always enjoyed these on hot summer days.

In terms of giving us a routine and structure, the same can be said for my house parents, Jack and Helen Maddox, during my second year at Daisy cottage. Jack was also a coach and teacher, so Helen kept things running smoothly at Daisy.

What I remember very vividly during my time at Daisy was our student assistant to the house parents. We were very lucky to have Mike Ennis living with us at Daisy. Mike was a very nice person and perfect for us. He lived upstairs with us in the dorms and was always available to talk to or to just hang out with. I cannot say enough about how nice of a guy Mike was; we were fortunate to have Mike as a counselor and friend as he gave up the opportunity to live with his own classmates at Gate House in order to serve the younger students at Daisy. I always enjoy seeing Mike at our reunions and he remains as nice as ever; he remains a class person. Thank you, Mike, for your service to the Daisy students.

Some other memories at Daisy which come to my mind are sledding down Daisy hill--you could really go quite fast on the long hill. Another vivid memory was my introduction to American Bandstand which we were very anxious to watch after coming home from school each day, and a second show we could watch was the Steve Allen comedy hour every Sunday evening. One of games we loved to play on the lawn in front of Daisy was called, "Burns". There were two huge trees at the far end of the lawn and one team defended those trees. The guys on the other team would run to the trees and circle them and try and get back to the starting line without getting tagged. If you got tagged, you had to go to one of the trees and hope a teammate would evade capture and touch you and thereby set you free so you could attempt to get back to the starting line without getting caught in order to score points for your team. We played that game of "burns" for hours on end: what fun this game was! Every time I pass those trees during our reunions, I remember the fun we had playing "Burns".

While at Daisy, two of our teachers, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Freitag, lived in staff apartments on the third floor, and in a basement apartment lived Mr. Groh who had an HO (scale) train layout that he would sometimes let us come and see as he operated those trains: a real treat for us.

Living at Daisy was during a transitory period between the end of elementary school when we left Marcy and the beginning of high school, when we were moved to Rapallo cottage. The two sets of house parents who served us helped make it a positive and generally carefree time during our lives at Greer. Thank you, Joe and Bea Fischer and Jack and Helen Maddox for your good examples and counsel.

John D. Hudnor - Class of 63

### **Peggy's Idea for a Future Article**

In the last issue Peggy asked if there were any published authors in the alumni ranks.

To date, the only alumni authors that have been identified either by response or research are as follows:

**Peggy Mathewson Sparks** published - **Hope Farm/Greer School - Memories of Childhood**

**Floyd Oliver** published - **Breeding by DESIGN**

**Thelma "TP" Catalano** published - **No Strings**

**Peter Caram** published - **The 1993 World Trade Center Bombing: Foresight and Warning**

If we missed someone, be sure to let us know.

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Next issue: Unpublished authors

### **Camp Barbey – The Cabins**

An Excerpt from Peggy's book

Camp Barbey was a special time, a change of pace for the children. It held many cherished memories for all who went there. The older boys had to walk up the hill to their jobs, so they didn't spend as much time during their turn at camp as the girls. In the summer of 1909, the first camp was set up down by Lover's Lane on the Flint Road, past the McKinley home. Marie McKinley (nee Hildenbrand) was only 19 years old when she was assigned the position of managing the camp. There were no cabins, just simple tents and shacks. It was crude, and only had one central dormitory that was a long shed in which one end had been converted to a little room where the cook slept.

"The house where my mother and father slept was transferred to the new camp, so were two cabins, Bluebird and another one. They were carried over on sleighs in the winter. The camp had a dining area consisting of four poles with a roof and a long table. It was very elementary. There was an old farmhouse with a fireplace in it."

– William McKinley III, [1917-1936]

in taped interview. Rod Hilsinger, 28 Jan. 1999

## Peggy's Thoughts About Cabins

With the approaching of spring & summer not far to follow, I began to wonder what some of these birds Mom Mac named the cabins after really looked like. So I thought it would be fun to research, find them & send the results to Greer alumni who might enjoy this little memory of our childhood or as an adult who shared in it with us.

On the left or west side of Camp Barbey (you had to be standing on the road), the cabins, all named by Marie McKinley after birds. Marie was director of the Camp for as long as it existed, from day one when it was located at first by the old reservoir, (close to Lovers Lane, for those who only heard rumors where it existed) and then to where it sits today.



Bluebird



Chewink\*\*



Lark



Oriole

\*\* AKA Rufous-Sided Towhee

On the right or east side of Camp was:



Robin



Chickadee



Bobolink



Owl



Blackbird



Wren

## 2014 Guests of Honor

This year is the sixtieth anniversary of the Class of 1954 and the fiftieth anniversary of the Greer residents in the Millbrook High School Class of 1964. Some have gone onto greener pastures. We hope the rest will join us at the reunion so that we can give them proper recognition.



Top: Gwendolyn Mae Jones, Mary Ann Packer, Judith Marion Mahler, Pauline Ann Russell. Center: Kathleen Anne Turnbull, Delores Loretta Wadeley, Peter Arthur Munzer, Harry James DuMond. Bottom: James Alfred Mathewson, Peter Guild

Class of 1964 photos as Juniors in the 1963 Talisman. The 1964 Milestone is unavailable.



Top: William Hansen, Susanne Ketcham, Eve Meyrowitz, Pamela Kiser. Center: Harold Soo Hoo, Veronica Ladeau, Sharon Wilson, James Anderson. Bottom: Thomas French, Pamela Fernandez, Janet Schafer.