



The Hope Farm / Greer School Alumni Association Newsletter



September 2013

Greetings Alumni, Staff, Friends and Relatives!

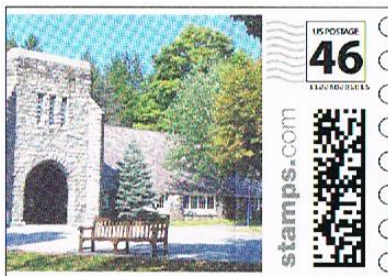
This is the fourth Greer School/Hope Farm Alumni Association Newsletter to be published and distributed by Tony Vaz and Peggy Mathewson Sparks, both former residents and students at Greer School, Hope Farm, NY. We hope that your autumn is now in full swing and you are enjoying every glorious second of it. Our apologies for the smaller font. We have a lot to say in this issue.

A Special Thank You

In the last newsletter, the generosity of Dean Miller was acknowledged for his donation of 300 first class stamps. Some of you got to see a sample of the stamp on your hard copy envelope. Did you happen to take a good look at it? Did you notice anything familiar about it?

When I first received the stamps from Dean, I didn't pay a lot of attention to them, put them in my newsletter drawer and planned to use them for the June newsletter. Imagine my shock when I found they had disappeared and we had to start using regular USPS "Forever" stamps on the first batch of envelopes (to the hard copy only crowd). Fortunately, when it was time to mail the balance of the hard copies, I found that Dean's stamps had slipped into the bottom of the filing cabinet and were easily retrieved.

As Paul Harvey used to say, "Here's the rest of the story": Only the face value of the stamps was acknowledged. I failed to notice that these were special "photo stamps" available from Stamps.Com and they cost more than face value. Only Dean will know how much he truly paid, but whatever it was is much appreciated. By the way, did you notice the subject matter on the stamp? No? Take a gander:



Sadly, We Have Learned

Nelson Dowd Bowes passed away 3/47
Naomi Alene Gazan Bowes passed away 10/96
Peter Ernest Puig passed away 2/11
Charlotte Glover Allegretto passed away 3/13
Irene Magnusson Meyer passed away 5/13
(Helen and Walter Magnusson both passed away several years ago as reported by Irene's husband of 65+ years, Edmond Meyer, Jr.)
Harold Lee Arvidson passed away 7/13
Mary Ann Packer Webster passed away 7/13
Walter Raymond Bell passed away 7/13

A Visit with Dan

I first met Daniel David Dewey in 1953, when he caught up to me in the fifth grade (thanks to Mrs. Ruth Fulton). The last time I saw Danny was at the end of our Junior year in 1960, when I was taken out of Greer due to my mother's illness and ensuing death.

In June of this year, my wife and I planned to take a trip to Port Richey, Florida to attend a model railroading event being held there. I knew Dan lived on his boat, "Kermit" in Tarpon Springs, a few miles away, so I contacted him by e-mail and arranged a visit. It turned out Dan was staying in Gainesville, Florida for a little while with Spencer, his 14-year old rescue puppy doing some dog-sitting for the family of his good friend, DeVaughn Slone. We agreed to meet him in Gainesville on our way down to Port Richey.



We had a good reunion with Dan for a few hours and continued on our way. The next day, after the "train show", (if you want to call it that), we headed back to Gainesville by way of Chiefland, Florida, where there used to be a decent



flea market, but it had declined considerably since the last time we were there.

We proceeded to Gainesville, where we met with Dan and DeVaughn at a pretty nice Mexican restaurant and spent another few hours talking about where life has taken each of us for the past 53 years. I won't get into that so that you can plan your own visit with Dan. I'm looking forward to another train show in Central Florida and to Captain Jack's in Tarpon Springs, but next time I have to coordinate it with an orchid show. Some of you know the reason for that.

Tony Vaz - Class of 1961 (Hon.)

Financials

Heartfelt thanks go out to the latest contributors since the June issue:

K. Louise Manz	\$ 25.00
John Boltja, Jr.	\$100.00 *
Maureen Miller	\$ 25.00
Richard Hilsinger	\$ 25.00
Anonymous	\$100.00

* On top of a previous \$300.00 donation

Many thanks also go out to these folks for deciding they can make do with the .PDF version of the newsletter and no longer require a hard copy:

Carl and Eunice Ginder	Joe Delisle
Jim Mathewson	Bob Cole
Mike Ennis	Peggy Sparks
Albert Dilks	Elaine Gunter
Michael Stolting	Ron Cooper
Jack Miller	John Hammer
Jim Dumond	Malcolm Giles
Karin Green	Maureen Miller
Warren Olsen	

Reunion News

The latest word from Mitzi and Doug Berry is that they have begun preliminary work on the 2014 Alumni Reunion.

We have booked the Ramada Inn (former Hilton Inn) for Saturday, September 27, 2014. A buffet dinner will be served, and a cash bar will be available. The cost of the dinner is \$47.00 (only \$2.00 more than the last time we were there). We have guaranteed 50 attendees for the dinner reservation. A copy of the menu will be published at a later time. We will keep the Ramada updated as the numbers change.

We have reserved a block of rooms. Rooms are \$129.00 plus 12.125% tax. Reservations must be made by Call in - (845) 896-6281 and the Fax# (845)

897-2095. The group code is **CGGSAA** and payment is to be done by the individual making the reservations. The cut off date for rooms is August 28, 2014.

We have reserved the Auditorium at Greer for the "breakfast" sign-in and the luncheon. We have not had a price on the luncheon yet, but when I spoke to Billie, she said between \$12.00 and \$15.00.

Ed. note: Effective immediately, please discontinue sending contributions or newsletter subscriptions to the Lucedale, Mississippi address. Instead send any funds to Mitzi and Doug Berry at:

"Greer Hope Farm Alumni Association"

A Visit with Lee

Lee Arvidson (Class of 1956), was in high school during the years I was at Marcy and Daisy cottages, so although I was aware of who Lee was, I did not know him personally. What I did know about Lee was that he was an excellent football player and I became aware of this because when we would get out of school on Friday afternoons in September and October during the football season, our houseparent, Mom Morton, would send us over to the boy's field to cheer on Greer's football team. Cheering came very easily for all of us who watched the team play on Von Lockum field because during the four years Lee was in high school, Greer's football team only lost one game. Lee and his teammates were indeed heroes to all of the Marcy boys.



L to R: Fred Hager, Dick Heisel, Ted Trommsdorff, Lee Arvidson

Recently, I have gotten to know Lee in a way I never had the opportunity to have while at Greer. Lee lives in retirement in a beautiful California area known as Grass Valley, which is only 45 minutes

away from where we are serving our mission in Sacramento. Lee and his wife, Maxine, invited Sandy and me to join them for a visit. It was a wonderful visit as Lee has very strong and positive memories of his days at Greer just as most of the rest of us do. We spent several hours remembering people and events, and looking at pictures, and finally, sharing how our Greer experiences shaped our lives.

In addition, Lee had me laughing as he described some of the “pranks” he pulled on some of his classmates (and on some staff members also) during his days at Greer. In his senior year picture, Lee said his ambition was “acting,” and I guess he did plenty of that when he was pulling pranks on everyone! I especially enjoyed getting to know Lee in a way that I never knew him, and was glad to hear of the lasting effects that Greer had on Lee’s subsequent life. I asked Maxine how often he talks about Greer, and her response was similar to my wife’s response to the same question: “all the time.”!



The hours spent with Lee and Maxine flew by so quickly, so we resolved to get together again before Sandy and I finish our time in California in mid-October. In the meantime, I know Lee would want to be remembered to all of you who knew Lee during your years at Greer. He is a good guy and has represented Greer well in the choices he has made and the way he lives his life.

John Hudnor – Class of 1963

(Ed. note: As previously noted in this newsletter, Lee passed away in July.)

“Our Day at Bennett School” from

The Hope Farm Quarterly – October 1, 1930

Saturday, October the eleventh was Bennett School Day. With the aid of trucks and cars from Hope Farm, and cars from Bennett School, our large family was transported to Millbrook. As soon as we arrived, everybody began looking for their “Bennett”, that is, to the individual who was to play particular hostess for the afternoon

This interesting spectacle of identification took place along the driveway, and was shortly accomplished. We went for horseback rides, bicycle rides, played tennis or romped on the campus until we were summoned at three-thirty to the Bennett Theatre. The first part of our entertainment was a puppet show, “Princess Charming.” A clever dance in riding costume followed. After the dance we saw Shakespeare’s great drama, “Henry the Eighth.”

Following this we went to the gymnasium for refreshments, and witnessed the “Fox Trot Marriage” which was very funny. After listening to piano music we bid our Bennetts goodbye, and found a ride home.

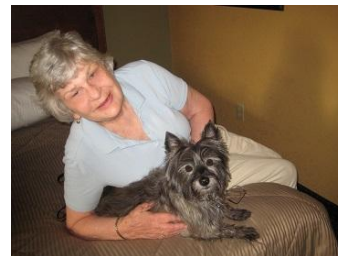
W. Holzapfel, 8th Grade

A Visit with Louise

In early June I received an email from Louise Manz, class of '55 who lives in Upper Darby, PA. She wrote she was going on a bus tour of the Mid-West and would arrive on June 22nd in Albert Lea MN at the Comfort Inn for the night. This is about 80 miles from us in Rochester. She wondered if it were possible we could have lunch or supper together. AND most importantly she asked if by any chance we could bring Griffin, our Cairn Terrier dog, along with us.

We agreed to meet and I decided rather than have a short two hour visit and drive home in the dark, Ron and I would check-in at the same motel. I think we probably had more trouble finding the motel than her bus driver, which was caused by all the detours due to heavy rains and flooded streets in the small town of Albert Lea.

The plan was to keep in touch via cell phones, however Louise's phone lost the signal for some reason and we had no contact. So I waited in the lobby keeping an eye out for the bus. About 7:00 the huge white tour bus arrived, but to my surprise no one got off and yet the luggage was unloaded. Then the bus door opened and who should appear but Louise, heading quickly for the lobby. She was FAST! We greeted each other with hugs and the first thing she said to me was "Where's Griffin!" Did she really want to see me? I laughed and took her to our room where she met Griffin who greeted her with lots of kisses and a tail wagging blur.



They kept the passengers seated on the bus because it was decided to take them directly to Applebee's for supper; it was already past 7:00. Rather than get on the bus again, Louise decided to ride in our car



with Griffin on her lap. She quickly told them to go on without her. Just to let you know, Louise is a cat person, but you couldn't tell that from her attraction to Griffin.

Her friend Ruthie, with whom she shared a seat and room, ate with us. Both women had met when they were WAVES years ago and had stayed friends. Ruthie's husband didn't want to go on the tour, so Louise came instead. I am sure we bored both Ruthie and Ron in our Greer memories. Most friends & family of Greer alumni soon get use to the routine :) Louise generously treated Ron & I to our supper at Applebee's, while Griffin waited in our SUV (air conditioning going, it was 80+ degrees outside) and then we headed back to the motel where we talked until late. I had my laptop and we looked at the Greer web site (<http://greerschool.org>).

The bus planned an early departure for 8:00 the next morning, at which Louise frowned. They were heading to Mt. Rushmore, Wall Drug, Crazy Horse and the Black Hills in South Dakota among other sites. We both requested a 'wake-up' call so we could have breakfast together.

In the morning the tables were filled with people busy grabbing a little breakfast previous to boarding. Before she left, Louise had to see Griffin one last time. He doused her once again with delicious kisses, (I think Louise had some breakfast crumbs on her face).

The visit was short, but I am so thankful Louise had given thought that maybe we could grab a quick visit. Chances like this do not happen often, don't pass them up.

Being as Ron and I are no longer doing long trips and have decided we will brave the Minnesota winters from now on, this was a treat for us.

Peggy Mathewson Sparks – Class of 1959

Hope Farm, a Love Story

There are couples who have met at Hope Farm/Greer and have gotten married. This is one of those love stories as told to me by the grandson of Nelson and Naomi Bowes, Stephen Bowes.



Naomi Alene Gazan came to Hope Farm as a very young child in 1921. As she grew up she played field hockey, was captain of the basketball team, class president, class secretary, played in the band, sang in the choir and was in the garden club.

Six years later in 1926, Nelson Dowd Bowes, came to Hope Farm. As time went on he played football, baseball, basketball, ice hockey, was class president, treasurer, and sang in the



choir. They both graduated in 1933. These pictures are in the 1933 yearbook you can view online at <http://greerschool.org/yearbooks.html>

Both had come from broken homes, as many a Greer kid. Naomi's mother left when she was very young; Nelson's father had taken off. Their hearts were young when they fell in love and in 1931, they were married at the tender age of 17. But, No, not in New York State. They were still in high school and it was illegal to marry in New York at that age, so they went to Elkton, Maryland, a state without restrictions based on age. As grandson Stephen put it, "I suspect that as good God-fearing Episcopalians they felt they needed to be married before any hanky-panky." They returned to school as husband and wife, but kept their secret to themselves.

After graduation from Hope Farm, Nelson entered college at the University of Connecticut and became a landscape architect landing a job as superintendent of Woodlawn Cemetery in Yonkers, NY. Naomi pursued her dream of nursing and earned her degree.

It was after college in 1937 they had a second more formal wedding with all the pomp and circumstance a wedding can command. They became parents of two boys, Bruce Orin Bowes (named after Orin Bacon, houseparent and teacher at Hope Farm) in 1941 and then Craig Ashley Bowes in 1944. Then came WWII and Nelson enlisted in the US Army. Because he had children, he was not sent overseas.



They built their home on Vredenburg Avenue in Yonkers, NY. Life was good. Then tragedy struck one afternoon in 1947. Nelson, on his way home from work, while running to catch a moving train, slipped and was instantly killed. Naomi and her two little boys soldiered on, all three managed to live happy and productive lives despite their tragic loss.

Naomi wisely sent her boys to St. Peter's Preparatory school. Bruce became an Episcopalian priest and Craig owned and operated a successful construction company. Naomi passed away in 1996 when she was 82. She never remarried. Nelson and Naomi left a strong legacy of 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Of the 15 descendants 7 of them have Naomi's red-hair.

Peggy Mathewson Sparks – Class of 1959

Ed. note: Capt. Nelson D. Bowes, US Army is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. He served with the 716th Military Police Battalion at Fort Wadsworth, SI, NY.