



The Hope Farm / Greer School  
 Alumni Association  
 Newsletter



**September 2014**

Greetings!

This is the eighth and final committed issues of the alumni newsletter published by Tony Vaz and Peggy Mathewson Sparks, former residents of Greer School. Summer is about to come to an end and we are so looking forward to the coolness of autumn. John and Sandy Hudnor are scheduled to re-assume the newsletter responsibilities in the future and you will be hearing from them at the reunion and in the Christmas newsletter.

**In-Memoriam**

We have learned of several deaths since the last issue.

Janet Maltz Harrington passed away on 7/24/13.

Harriet Hammond Flanagan passed away 12/21/13.

William "Bill" Beer passed away 7/10/14.

Alexander "Alan" Bruce Murray passed away on August 29, 2014.

Herb Van Anden passed away September 7, 2014.

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)

**Reunion News**

As previously reported in the past three newsletters, there will be an alumni association reunion on Saturday, September 27, 2014. If you failed to get your registration form and payment in and wish to attend, you will now have to contact Mitzi Berry directly. She may be able to make some arrangements for late-comers. Contact her at Mitzi Berry, [redacted] Dover Plains, New York 12522. (sarjanny@[redacted]) **The cutoff date was August 21, 2014. Shame on you if you didn't "Git-R-Done!"**

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

Jim Anderson (2), Nick Anderson, Don Berger, Doug and Mitzi Berry (4), Peter Caram, Linda Wilson Cavanaugh, Angela Oliver D'Ambrosio, Gwen Elliot, Stanley Elbe, Mike Ennis, George Fisher, Anne Meyrowitz Foster, George Freer, Karin Townsend Hargy (2), Nora Lea Able Hayden, John and Sandy Hudnor, Robert Ildefonso (3?), Robert Kennedy (2), Georgia King (2), Tom King, Pat LoCasto, Cherlyn Gieringer Lumberto, Jim Mathewson (2), Harry McCandless (2), Maureen Miller, Clark Moffitt, Bill Monza, Pat Monza Bertram, Isabel Morton, Tecla Klyce Murphy, Maurice Neville, John Nicholas, Pam Pequeno, Billie Philips (aka Billie Shaughnessy), Elizabeth Rivera, Jack Rolston, Roger Russoman, Pam Tooke, Tony Vaz (2), Victor Vaz (2), Tony Voight, and Rose Wallace.

These folks have indicated that they will attend, but Mitzi has heard nothing definite from them.

Dolan Brammer, Penny Klyce and Bob Jenkins.

**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 (see her address above) 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:

Bill Beer	\$ 50.00
Anonymous	\$ 50.00

The following sent in dues, but the amounts were not recorded due to the distraction of the reunion payments: Pat Bertram, Suzanne Keith Sorrentino, Dolores Filer, Betty and Wendell Tompkins, Nick Anderson, Bill Monza, George Freer and another anonymous ET.

## The Greer School Web Site Mods

There is nothing new to report at this time. Look for an expansion of the Millbrook yearbooks after the reunion as well as a collection of photos provided by Judy Gries' husband, Dave and other collections that have been gathering dust here in Mississippi.

--Tony Vaz, Webmaster – Greerschool.Org

## The Hope Farm Quarterly – October 1, 1929

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### Annual Alumni Reunion

#### Many Return

Saturday evening, September 28, on the Verbank train, the vanguard returning alumni arrived. The festivities of the week-end were ushered in by perfect weather. At six-thirty a picnic supper was served at Bittersweet to our returning guests and the alumni reunion for 1929 was underway. About thirty were with us over the week-end.

Following the supper, everyone walked over to the school for the dance of the year. During the afternoon, a group of older girls under the direction of Irma De Santos had tastefully decorated the auditorium. A four-piece orchestra had been engaged and by 8:00 P.M. they were "going strong." All the younger children were permitted to "look and listen" until about nine o'clock after which the dance became decidedly an older folks' affair. Taps sounded at eleven thirty.

Early Sunday morning there was a Communion service, well attended, followed later by the regular eleven o'clock morning service. For this we had a choir entirely composed of alumni. The noon dinner was served at Main House followed by an afternoon of hiking, visiting and swimming. In the evening, everyone migrated to camp, where a real community sing followed until after nine o'clock.

Monday dawned bright and promising. Thirty more alumni joined us for the day. A lively ball game was staged on the von Lackum field between the Alumni and the Hope Farm boys, several staff members joining the game. Yes indeed! The Hope Farm boys won. And then the race to the girls' athletic field was on.

Hungry children lined up to be served – "Hot Dogs", steaming corn, sliced tomatoes, lemonade, ice cream cones – and there were "seconds"? Yes and thirds and fourths for some – not those who were reducing. Nearly three hundred of us ate lunch together on the field.

After more visiting and playing, everyone went for one last swim. Then the goodbyes were said, hands shaken and another Hope Farm Alumni Reunion had passed.

-Anonymous

### Life at the Cottages-continued: Rapallo and Gate House

#### Rapallo

I only spent my freshmen year at Rapallo, and do not have many memories of my time there. **The Wesdorp's** were the house parents during my time at Rapallo and the main memory I have of this couple was that they ran a tight ship: there was a standard procedure for every aspect of our lives and you were expected to follow this standard. Having strict rules and guidelines was not a bad thing, and it generally worked for the Wesdorp's and those of us at Rapallo, as for the most part we stayed in line.

One memory which still stands out is my first attempt at smoking. Someone gave me a "Lucky Strike" unfiltered cigarette and had me stand at the edge of Rapallo pool before I inhaled; while I did not fall into the pool as they had hoped I, I do remember staggering and being very dizzy and coughing afterwards. My venture into smoking lasted only about two weeks as I decided it wasn't for me. Given the health consequences and price of smoking on one's wallet, I'm glad to have made this decision early on.

#### Gate House

The last three years of my high school experience was at Gate House and I have to say living at Gate was great. During my Sophomore year, **Ken and Mary Lynn** were the house parents, and after the Lynn's moved to Ledge the following year, **Mr. and Mrs. Gene Valentine** were the house parents. Both of these couples were very easy to get along with, and it was clear they liked the students who lived with them at Gate House. Both couples

understood our being the older students on campus and we had a pretty informal lifestyle at the cottage, which I very much appreciated; the laid back atmosphere at Gate was just right. I was also fortunate to have two good roommates in **Roland Herwig** and **Tom Tracy** before having my own cubicle in **Kingdorm** during my Senior year.

There are so many good memories during my time at Gate House that I hardly know where to start. In my younger years at Greer, I was very disappointed at not having more time with my actual parents and extended family, but by the time I was living in Gate House, I recognized the value of my friendships with my cottage's brothers and loved and accepted them as my surrogate family; I also received much love in return from most of these same surrogate brothers and these feelings remain very powerful to this day, and I feel blessed because of it. This is why I look forward to seeing all of you at our reunions; these feelings grow with age rather than fade away, and it's great! As for memories of the girls, it was wonderful to have date nights with the Ledge girls as they would come to Gate and have dinner with us on Fridays before going to the movies. In addition were the dances at the cottages once a month in addition to the school dances at the auditorium. Athletics and academics also played a larger role for me in the years I spent in Gate House, and in short, life was very pleasant at Greer during my time at Gate. Thanks to all of the staff and you, my fellow students, for such good times.

- John D. Hudnor - Class of 63

### **Peggy's Idea for an Article**

In the last issue, we identified some published alumni authors.

There wasn't enough room to feature the self-published authors in that issue, so here is one we omitted along with some additional published authors we have been notified about:

**Alice Austin** self-published "**Etched On Our Hearts**".

**Tecla (Klyce) Emerson Murphy** collaborated on

**Imagining Heaven: "An Anthology of Personal Visions of Heaven";** and published these:

**"Antietam – Waking The Fury"**

**"Jennie Wade: a Girl from Gettysburg"**

In addition, Tecla is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the bi-monthly magazine, "**Outlook By The Bay**", based in Annapolis, Maryland.

**Daniel Dewey** published:

**"Manifestly Dangerous"**

**"The Wire Mother Monkey Chronicles"**

**"Collateral Damage From SE Asia To The Middle East"**

If we missed someone, be sure to let these folks know:

John Hudnor: johnhudnor@gmail.com

Sandy Hudnor: shudnor@gmail.com

### **Voices in the Air**

Final words from Peggy's book,

#### **Hope Farm/Greer School – Memories of Childhood**

Now, close your eyes and let the voices in the air talk. Hear the noise of children running down the roads, the little ones heading to Plum after a long school day. Hear the boys of Daisy dashing home. Do you hear their



soprano voices changing? Listen to the young boys at Marcy trying to round up Francis, a raccoon or a

skunk. Listen to the old trucks as the Gate House and Rap boys stir up the dust, feeling the power of the engine. Listen. You can hear older girls



talking as they walk the Crest and Ledge roads off to work or back from school. Listen as the bell rings for church on Sunday and the Chapel of the Child fills with students



and staff, and not a pair of blue jeans in sight. Can you hear the singing round the campfires of

Camp Barbey, and the rush to jump into the pool on a sweaty hot day? Do you hear the students on the road heading towards the Res to join with others while Coach Fischer writes down their names and



assigns a buddy? Listen in the auditorium to the roar of the pep rallies, the Friday night B-grade movies, the many plays and operettas, and the current events of the day.

Listen. You will hear them. They are every where. They left their childhood and became the new leaders of the world. They own their own businesses. They became mothers and fathers, lawyers, bankers, salesmen, draftsmen, factory foremen, laboratory assistants, farmers, teachers, writers, musicians and songwriters, nurses, equestrian professionals, woodworkers, carpenters, housewives, and computer technicians. They became professors, photographers, insurance adjusters, engineers, social workers, clerks, pharmacists, language interpreters and secretaries. They became models for Neiman Marcus. They taught in China and England. They had careers in the military. There are thousands of children who succeeded because one man and three women saw beyond their comfortable lives, encouraged others to do likewise, and made a better world for them. Once again, thank you.



The End

- Peggy Mathewson Sparks (Class of 1959)

### Missing In Action

Over the last few issues we have had snail mail copies returned with no forwarding address and no notification from the intended recipients as to their current address or their status. Attempts at searching for them through various Internet search programs have been unsuccessful. If you have any knowledge of the whereabouts or life status of the following, please let us know:

Mrs. Isabelle Shay, Helen Greene Drake, Joan Cenawood Calton-Coyle, Kevin Lang Barbara Lawrence, Rose McClain Fuhrman

### The Final Count

Thanks to the many contributions and donations from alumni and former staff members over the past two years we able to amass and bank \$3351.17. This included \$538.17 in cash and approx. \$15.00 in postage received from John and Sandy Hudnor when they turned over the reins to us.

We have spent over \$1278.61 to snail mail over 2000 newsletters and letters to alumni members in the eight issues that we have published (including this one). Fortunately, the number of mailings was reduced as many of you decided that the electronic versions were all you needed to receive the newsletter. We thank very much all of you who did so.

The balance of the funds remaining at this point shall be delivered to the next publishers of the newsletters (John and Sandy Hudnor) in the form of \$600.00 cash to be used as preliminary publication costs. They undoubtedly will be soliciting the membership for additional funds to continue publishing. Wait for the Christmas issue for further details.

The remainder of funds will be forwarded to Mitzi and Doug Berry as soon as this issue is finalized and the hard copies are mailed. They will use the money to further the reunion efforts and will determine the final disposition of any remaining balance. With the previous transfer of \$500.00 in August of last year, they should expect a further transfer of about \$1100.00.

### The Final Word

As we complete our onus of bringing you the alumni newsletter for the last two years, we do hope that you have enjoyed receiving it and reading it. We wish John and Sandy success in continuing the publication.



*Tony and Peggy*