



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



Spring 2023
Volume 16 No. 2



Class of 1963



Graduation... Greer... and you!

The day of your graduation from high school (whether from Greer High School or elsewhere), was of vast importance because it was the demarcation between your childhood and becoming an adult in society. Years of vigorous learning and studying culminated and became a springboard from which you would leap forward into a new and different lifestyle. Many of us headed in different directions: college, military, a career, and marriage, etc., not thinking about the next time we would gather at Greer. Some of us stayed connected, with others seeking their futures independently. As the years passed, some of us felt the desire to re-gather and some reunions began to occur. I can remember former Greer student **Wayne Holton** organizing reunions in the early to mid-1960's.

Reunion News and Registration

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the last graduating high school class at Greer. Therefore, we have decided to make this milestone a gathering to be enjoyed by all of you who ever attended Greer School. Among the activities being planned for this day are:

Registration and breakfast goodies from 8-10am in our high school auditorium.

This will be followed by going to our chapel to remember your graduation (from Greer or elsewhere) as well as other memories you have from your Greer experience.

A luncheon will be served at noon and later a showing of a Greer DVD at 2:00pm.

Next on the agenda will be your option to walk/ride around the Greer campus or remain in our auditorium and just enjoying talking to other alumni.

Dinner will follow at 4:30pm and then the option to linger longer in the auditorium and continue to socialize with others. Other activities are being planned as we go to press.

We are holding this gathering in the middle of the week (**Wednesday, June 7th**) because hotel and airline fares are less expensive as opposed to weekends and in terms of where you will travel to after the reunion, there will be daylight until past 9:00pm at this time of the year.

On a personal note, as I indicated in the last issue of our newsletter, this will be the last time I organize a reunion and I am most anxious to see all of you— seeing you is, in fact, why I have served on the Alumni Association committee and have helped organize reunions for the past 45 years. We hope you will plan to attend.

One last note. Sandy and I will be on campus a day early (Tuesday, June 6th), and would love for you to join us for dinner! We can meet at the Gate House parking lot at 4:30 and then decide where we will go out to eat. Let us know if that sounds good to you.

Hearing from you, the Alumni Association was very pleased to hear from many of you during the past holiday season. We received greetings from the following alumni:

John Blass, Syd Nesbitt, Frank Cavallito, Hildi (Walton) Plunkett, Richard Hawkes, Liz Rivera, Susie (Murray) Scott, Harry McCandless, Pam (Stobbe) Todd, Georganne (Clark) Garbas, Armin Ali, Linda (Wilson) Cavanaugh, Stanley Elbe, Bob Jenkins, Pauline (Wendt) Kalahale, Anne (Meyrowitz) Foster, Jack Rolston, Diane Johnson, Nick Anderson, Rick Fischer, Inge Rothenberg, Anne Joe, Stan Austin, Cherlyn (Geirgenger) Luberto, Pat (Jordan) Picco, Jim Anderson, Barbara Moore, Pam (Rogers) Tooke, Karen (Townsend) Hargy, Pat Hilsinger, Tom Oliver and Tony Vaz.

Catching up on letters from you

From Roger Van Anden*

*This is part two from a letter that Roger sent. Part One appeared in the past Winter newsletter.

Some other pleasant memories I have are cookouts at Camp Barbey or on the boys'/girls' fields, Football, basketball and baseball games, hayrides in the fall, milk and food deliveries from the central kitchen, baling hay in summer. It was such a simpler time then even though at times we felt it was harder.

Here is one final memory that was conjured up in my mind. My wife Debbie and I went to a wedding in North Carolina last year, and while there we went to an old-time general store which is the original "Mast General Store" in Valle Crucis, North Carolina—first opened in 1883. When we first walked in, we noticed they still have an operational post office. It engendered an "instant flashback" to the Greer School post office with the boxes and the clerk's window. I remember walking up to the post

office to get the mail—what a pleasant memory this was. Eventually the Greer post office was closed down, and the mail came to Greer on a rural delivery basis with **Ronnie (Ladeau) Lilley** as one of the drivers.

From Jim Matthewson

The Piano or no Begging!

It was the autumn of 1952, and Greer was offered an upright piano, and all the school had to do was to come to Hyde Park and pick it up. **George Groh** assembled a group of four able bodies (**Fred Trommsdorff, Billy Hunt, Don Brown, and me.**) We picked up the piano easily, loaded it and headed home to Greer. As chance would have it, it was the "going-home-from-work-time" for other businesses in the area. Our route was through Poughkeepsie's main street. We stopped for a red traffic light right in front of the **Lucky Platt** department store. My buddy **Don Brown** started playing on the piano--the only song I think he knew, and some of the people seemed a little amused. I got the idea to take off my baseball cap and hung it on the side of the truck, and to my surprise some nice people put some coins in my hat! I then heard Mr. Groh growl something from the cab of the truck. I wanted to go around the block for a 2nd time as we were making some money. However, Mr. Groh would have nothing to do with that idea, and while I did not receive verbal guidance from him once we got home, the look on his face said volumes that did not require words!!!

From Don Miller

I'll never forget being in Marcy cottage with Mom Morton as our house mother. We were all members of her cub scout pack. Every night before bedtime we would all sit in our pajamas, sitting on the floor, when, inevitably, someone would break wind. Mom would say, "alright, whoever did that needs to go out on the front porch and air out your pajamas." Well, obviously, no one would own up, so she would march all of us out to the porch and all of us would drop our pajama bottoms and shake them to air them out. Can you envision that? I'd love to have a video of this for the old TV show,

"America's funniest videos"—I guarantee it we would win!

Another time was a personal interaction with her. I hated oatmeal, so after breakfast one morning, I stayed at the table while everyone else went upstairs to get ready for school. We had cloth napkins, and I used them to wrap up the oatmeal, thinking she wouldn't find out. **Right!** I went upstairs to get ready for school and while brushing my teeth, she grabbed me by the ear. She marched me downstairs and made me eat a new bowl of oatmeal. I have loved oatmeal ever since!!!! There are more stories, but these are two that I will never forget!

From Peggy Matthewson Sparks*

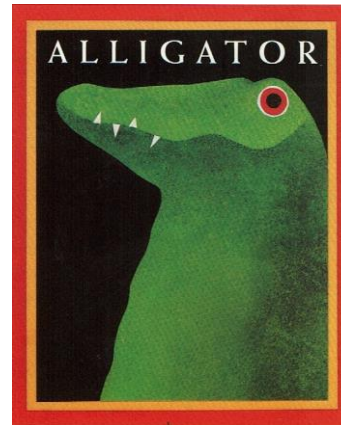
*Peggy sent me this memory last year before her recent passing.

There have been times during different illnesses that I have gone through, that I daydream of Greer. I close my eyes and walk the paths and roads from cottage to cottage. From Crest cottage to the school, towards Bittersweet and then up to Main House, then to the chapel and a walk by Plum cottage. Often, I visit the farm where **Rollie Rolston** told me that they named a cow after me! I remember working in the infirmary and walking home late at night when we had flu season up to Ledge cottage by the cemetery. I always walked a little faster past the cemetery! I walk down the path near the girls' athletic field to Gate House to sit in the bleachers and watch a football game. Or I go to the gym to watch a basketball game and remember how beautiful our gym was on prom night. I remember the movie on Friday nights, not much of movie usually, but it was free, and I could sit with my boyfriend. Last of all, I remember that I had the honor of playing the young mother in the Martin Play and George Sievers was Martin. In reliving my childhood, it always takes my brain away from any pains I am currently having. Thank you, Dad, for giving me a wonderful childhood, as I spent 12 of my growing up years at Greer, probably more than most kids who went to Greer.

John Hudnor – Class of 1963

From Bertie Wood*

*This note from Bertie was sent to the newsletter return address and then copied and forwarded to John and Sandy.



Feb 18, 2023
Dear John and Sandy,
Thank you for the
informative and entertaining
Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Newsletter.
As you may know, my
husband Walter passed
away almost one year ago.
Your newsletter brings back
fond memories of him and
our time at Greer School
as young uninvolved home-
parents. In peace,
Bertie

Sad News

We were notified by her son, Michael Cox, that Beata Christina "Chris" Peterson Cox, passed away in 1994. Chris was a 1938 Hope Farm School graduate, who went on to become a nurse who served two years in Burma during world War II. She was buried in the Chattanooga National Cemetery with military honors.

A returned newsletter led to the fact that Raul Enrique Gandara passed away in July 2022. Raul was born in 1939. A found obituary did not give any information about Raul except for his date of death. There isn't any obvious information about Raul's time at Greer on the Greer website. Do you know anything about him?

A returned newsletter indicated that Kenneth W. Albrecht had passed away sometime in 2021 or 2022. An internet search for his obituary could not be found, but an Ancestry.Com search found that he was born in 1934. There isn't any obvious information about Kenneth's time at Greer on the Greer website. Does anyone know more about him?

Rather than waste time looking for any other obituaries or address changes, the following list of alumni is published hoping someone knows something and can report it to tonyvaz@greerschool.org :

Returned newsletter hard copy recipients

Richard Carlton Lucas
Reginald Mabie
Ida Farley Bove
Mrs. Ken Lynn *
Edna and Henry Dicker
Vera Vitalo Miller
Virginia Nisi Calnan
Mary Austin Fertig

In addition, we have had electronic newsletters
“kicked” back from the following:

Rita Playfair Bourne (Hotmail) *
Bob Ildefonso (MSN)
K. Louise Manz (Hotmail)
Lance Curley (Hotmail) *
Penny Klyce (MSN)
Tom Oliver (Cascade Access)
Norman Thompson (Hotmail)

We have reestablished contact with Rita and Lance, but
are waiting for responses from the rest of the list at
press time. *

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

Now that I have pretty well recovered from my
pinched nerve operation and rehab, I have started
getting the Newsletter page on the website
squared away. The icons are in order, however the
newsletters behind them need to be modified to
blank personal contact information (except mine)
to prevent Internet scammers from farming the
information. I have about a year's worth of
newsletters to do this coming weekend with the
expectation of being complete by Sunday evening
(3/26). During that time the hard copies will be
printed out and in the mail by Monday, 3/27.

That's all for now.

See you in the summer.

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

Be sure to report any change of mailing address or
e-address, to me at tonyvaz@greerschool.org or

a521@bellsouth.net. If you fail to, you may miss
out on your newsletters or pertinent alumni
activity information. *

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor – newsletter@greerschool.org
Sandy Hudnor - newsletter@greerschool.org
Tony Vaz – tonyvaz@greerschool.org

* or “snail mail” them to the return address on
your hard copy envelope.

**Find the reunion meal registration form on the
next page.**

Final reminder:

If you want to purchase a reprinted copy or
multiple copies of Peggy Mathewson Spark's book,
“Hope Farm/Greer School - Memoirs of
Childhood”, you have until March 30, 2023 to get
your request to Anne Foster. Contact Tony Vaz
(above) for her address.