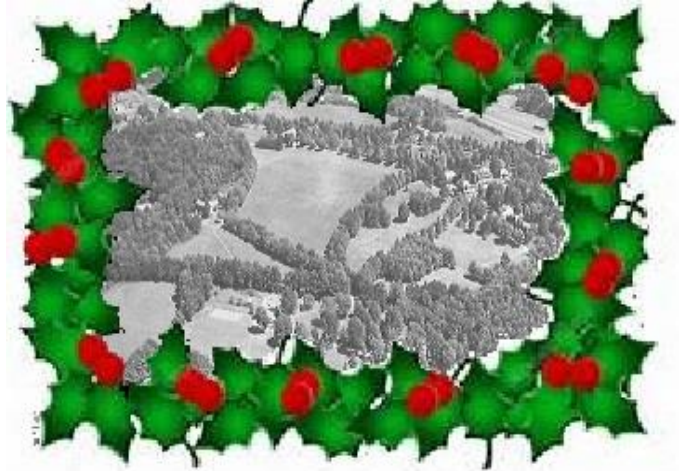




The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter

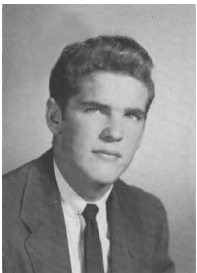


Winter / Holiday 2017
Volume 11 No. 1



A tribute to Tom King, andYou!

Tom King was a member of the class of 1955 who passed away on Memorial Day this past year. I was a Marcy cottage student during the years that Tom was in high school, but since the late 1970's when I joined the Greer School Alumni Association and started helping other alumni to organize reunions, I have gotten to know Tom as he came to virtually every reunion during the subsequent 38 years. At each reunion, I would spend time talking with Tom and getting to know about his experiences at Greer as well as his post Greer life and family. Through the years, Tom offered many positive suggestions as to how to improve our Alumni Association as he took an interest in what we were trying to accomplish as a family of Greer Alumni. At the 2016 "Thanksgiving-in-October" celebration weekend, Tom shared an apartment with Sandy and I, which gave us an opportunity to spend much more time-sharing

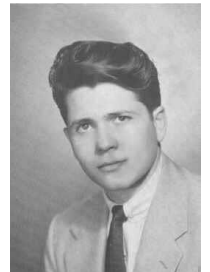


memories and perspectives of Greer. I recognized in Tom his ability to easily communicate with others and to enjoy his relationships with family and friends. **I see similar strengths in so many of you**, the staff and alumni of Greer, and this causes me to be happy to be a part of your lives.

I contacted some of Tom's, "Class of 1955" classmates, and they shared a few memories. **Pam Stobbe** remembers that Tom and she were on the honor roll most of the time, and that Tom did very well in Greer's athletic teams. She also remembers seeing Tom and his collie dog (Bonnie) around campus: they



were inseparable. Also, Tom was the Salutatorian of his class. Classmate **Pauline Wendt** remembers Tom as being congenial and excelled in athletics and academics. Last of all, **John Travlos** did not have as much contact with Tom as the



other classmates in Tom's class because John lived in Rapallo cottage as he and fellow classmate **Jerry Wolf** (pictured above) were house parent assistants who helped supervise the younger students. Nevertheless, John said Tom was a good athlete who did well in his post-Greer life.

We get mail

This E-mail from Erich Rogge has a special request:

Subject: Mark Parliearos, Class of 1960

Hello Mr. Vaz,

I met Mark in 1975 when he began a relationship with my sister, Ursula. They were married in 1979, enjoying a quiet life here in Upstate New York until his death from cancer in 2003.

Ursula is now confined to a nursing home in Orange County due to various health issues, and sadly has shunned contact with old friends and family.

I always enjoyed hearing Mark's revelations of his time at Greer, and I miss him greatly. I always regarded him as my "favorite" brother-in-law.

My late sister Helga had initiated e-mail contact with several Greer alumni following his death; should anyone enjoy sharing stories about Mark's life please forward this message and contact info to them.

Thanks, Erich

erogge@frontiernet.net

From Joe Delisle, 1960's

Joe especially enjoys going to seminars that are open to the public by the University of New Hampshire where he lives. They also have field trips to the New Hampshire coast that allow one to learn about plants and animals in that area. He also enjoys doing volunteer work in areas related to the above programs.

About 30 years ago he taught himself how to oil paint, and Joe continues to enjoy this as a hobby. He did lots of traveling while in the Military and enjoyed the places he was able to see.

He remembers Greer and the many friends he made with much fondness.

From Betty Brammer, 1960's

Betty is retired and living in Senior housing which she enjoys very much. Betty was a QE/QC inspector (Quality control inspector) for 35 years, and while she misses working, she now enjoys helping others, and manages to keep busy doing other activities. Most of all, Betty says life has been good to her.

Betty says hardly a day goes by in which she wonders how the people who went to Greer are doing. Greer was her life and heart and will always be this way for her; it was, in fact, the only home she knew.

From Robert Sahagen, early-1950's

With the help of his good wife, Jeannine, they have had good success in the propane gas business along with an additional start up, Rangeley Fireplace and Stove Co., located in the Rangeley Lakes area of Maine. He and his wife have turned the day-to-day running of this business over to his son and daughter in law as Robert has retired.

During the summer months, they live on the shore of one of the most beautiful mountain lakes one has ever seen. Robert says that in the winter they live in New Orleans as they love the fine dining, music and cultural aspects of New Orleans: The Jazz and Heritage festivals are very special. New Orleans is their second home. They have also traveled extensively on their Goldwing motorcycle and have gone over 10,000 miles on it exploring our national parks and other areas in the United States. They have also explored Ireland and plan a trip to the Netherlands in the future. In short, says Robert, it's been a good life with more adventures to come.

Happy trails Robert and Jeannine!

From Alice Austin, Staff, 1959-1965

Alice likes to travel, but at 90, her travel options are limited. She does like to read and write, and

especially likes to walk each day when weather permits her to do so. In addition, there are opportunities for field trips and movie nights. These types of activities remind her of similar things that were done at Greer. Last of all, she has gone on some fishing trips and enjoys this very much.

One of the ways she helps in the retirement community she lives in, is as an ambassador for new move ins. She spends 3 days with each one escorting them to meals in the dining room and introducing them to other residents. She has been told she is good at what she does for the community.

Alice had fond memories of the Memorial Day march to the cemetery and the service there as well as the school picnic afterwards.

From Jim Mathewson, Class of 1954

Jim and his good friend, and classmate, **Don Brown**, had been good friends since 1948 when they both were attending Greer. After Don's recent death, Jim shared some memories of Don. He was, Jim said, quite the prankster and drove some of the Greer staff "nuts"! He loved history and sports, but most of all, Don had a large heart who had almost no negative characteristics except for his love of being a prankster!



Jim shared one of Don's favorite stories about Greer which was called, "**The saga of the escaped pigs.**" While in high school one day, an announcement came to all the high school students that some pigs had broken out of their fences at the farm. Don quickly volunteered to help round up the escaped pigs, and then volunteered his good buddy Jim—what the heck, it got them out of class, thought Jim, and off they went.

The pigs were reported heading down the road that went past the high school, so Don and Jim split up and went off the road circling ahead of the

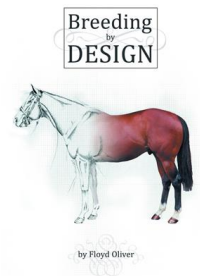
pigs—and got them turned around and headed back toward the farm past the school grounds. As they came to the high school area, Don had one of his questionably brilliant ideas. He wondered if the pigs could be encouraged to go into the high school building!!! **Uh oh!** Undaunted, Don went ahead and opened the door. The pigs hardly hesitated and entered the building: then it got messy! The hallways of the high school were covered in well waxed and polished linoleum. This made the pigs nervous as their legs were slipping out from under them causing more lubricant to be spread about. This was accompanied by loud, high pitched squealing.

Don and Jim were directed to the principal's office, and principal **Malcolm O'Brien** came in looking fit to be tied. Expectations of a major calling out were expected, but the boys were shocked when the usually sober Principal O'Brien started laughing, only stopping long enough to sputter, "that's the damndest thing I've ever seen!" There was, Jim reports, punishment to be sure, but for the next 60 years they survived to periodically remember and always have a wonderful laugh about this unusual event at Greer. Thanks Jim for sharing this wonderful story of the saga of the escaped pigs.

I wish I had been there to see this event!

From Floyd Oliver, 1950's

Floyd worked for American Airlines and after retiring in 2000, he moved to San Diego to pursue his passion for thoroughbred horse racing. He wrote a book entitled, "**Breeding by Design**" and it is a best seller in Australia, where horse racing is their number one sport. He is currently working on a second book on racing called "**Sire Line Mythology**", and in addition, is working on a novel called, "**The Power and the Glory.**" This phrase is from the Lord's prayer, and the first quarter of the book is about Greer. The first pages of the book are what I remember about August 15th, 1948, which was my first day at Greer. In fact, I recall at the end of the first day, **Miss Sutton** telling me I wasn't going



home and that I was going to become a Greer School boy. I swore to myself that would never happen, but after a couple of years under the tutelage of **Mom Morton**, guess what? I emerged out of Marcy Cottage as a Greer boy: and, I am still one. The book will have a religious connotation, but basically, it is about a Greer child who meets the real world. My intent is to immortalize Greer School, and I hope I can write well enough to accomplish that goal.

Last of all, Floyd has some wonderful memories of life at Camp Barbey. He remembers life in one of the cabins at the camp and remembers being in the cabin with **Bob Ildefonso, Mark Parliearos, Larry Von Radics, Ingo Orlamunder, Fenton Keenan, John Hammer, and George Sievers**. He would lie in the cabin feeling the cool forest air, looking out at the lantern lights flickering, and hearing the mournful sound of the Whippoorwills.

He also remembers cresting the hill on the road from camp near the cow barn. We would duck under the electric fence and cross the meadow that led to the main campus. As we walked through the tall grass, suddenly a flock of beautiful, Red-winged Blackbirds would rise and fly in all directions. To me these birds were remarkably beautiful. Now that I am getting older, I think back to the delight those birds used to engender in me, and it always puts a smile on my face as it did in those long-ago days. In all the school's campus, there was an atmosphere of quiet peace, and tranquility. I miss that sense of peace...., but it still makes me smile remembering the Garden of Eden in which we were lucky to be raised.

Alumni Profiles

Marion Percy

Marion is the daughter of long-time Greer Staff members, **Tom and Cynthia Percy**, and Marion was at Greer from 1957-1976. She graduated from Millbrook School (formally Millbrook School for Boys) in 1974 and at that school, she was the first female to earn a varsity letter in soccer and track! Following graduation from Millbrook School, she

went to Briarcliff college and earned a degree in Child Psychology in 1978. She was a toddler gym instructor for 10 years and then worked at a business school for a time and then was a receptionist for the past 20 years.

Marion has two children and one grandchild. She is currently learning to be an artist and specializes in needlepoint and in making 3"x5" cards. She also loves to read a wide range of books and subjects. In reflecting at Greer, she remembers enjoying forming friendships with some of the older students and enjoyed the picnics held throughout each year at Greer.

Andy Sewell

Andy attended Greer from 1960-1962. His parents, **Calvin and Dorcus Sewell** were on the Greer staff during his time at Greer. Calvin was the Industrial Arts teacher at Greer, and both were house parents at Daisy Cottage. After leaving Greer, Andy graduated from Litchfield (Connecticut) High School in 1969. He then attended the University of Connecticut. Later he settled in to a career as a builder of boats in Maine and then for twenty years in Massachusetts. After moving back to Connecticut, he became a Carpenter, and is a "jack-of-all-trades" in his chosen profession. Today, he continues to do Carpentry work of all sorts.

In reflecting at his time at Greer, Andy mentioned the main thing he remembered was that his parents remembered their associations with the Greer students very positively and spoke often of their time at Greer.

Reunion News

We are all set for the June 1-3rd, 2018 reunion next year. **The attached form at the back of the newsletter will give you all of details.** We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

The Greer School Alumni Association Reunion Registration Form

The Schedule for the reunion is as follows:

Friday, June 1st, 2018 - Noon until 4:30

We will decorate the auditorium (Memorial Day theme) throughout the afternoon and at 4:30 go

out to dinner at a local eatery. All are welcome to join us.

7:00pm

Friday night movie in the "high school" auditorium.

Come and join us to watch an outstanding Memorial Day movie. The movie is called, "**Taking Chance**", and is the true story of transporting a fallen soldier (Chance Phelps) home from Afghanistan to Wyoming. This movie is one of my favorites as the script, music, and acting are outstanding. Kevin Bacon is in the leading role, and the reverent and respectful response that is given, as the fallen soldier's body is transported across the country, moved me very much. You will enjoy this movie, as it is a tribute to all the men and women who have fallen in our wars.

Saturday, June 2nd, 2018 - 8:30-10:30

Registration in the high school auditorium.

10:30

Walk to cemetery with a short service and an opportunity for anyone to express some memories of Greer, or any other subject you may want to comment about.

Noon

Lunch in the high school auditorium with all the food we would eat at our Memorial Day Picnic.

1:00-5:00 Afternoon activities such as campus walk, gathering at Gate House or the high school auditorium to socialize, digital sharing of pictures you have of Greer (bring your laptops and thumb drives), for viewing of some Greer School pictures and movies.

5:00pm - Dinner and evening program

Dinner will be served at this hour in the high school auditorium. The early dinner time will allow for travel home or your motel during daylight hours.

6:00pm

Repeat of Greer films, and /or linger longer and enjoy the opportunity to socialize.

For Your Information

Please make checks payable to "**John Hudnor**" and mail them to me at my address below. I will be paying for the meals in advance from my own account as I do at every reunion.

Deadline for reservations is **May 10th, 2018** so the Culinary Staff will have enough time to order the supplies and food for the reunion.

John Hudnor

Contact tonyvaz@greerschool.org for the balance of John's address.

Sad news

Sadly, we have learned the Dewey brothers, "Ray" and "Danny" have passed away in recent times.

Daniel David Dewey passed away in May 2015.

Frederick Raymond Dewey left us in December 2016.

We also heard from his son Rick that **Robert Joseph "Bob" Best** aka **Roscoe Sweeney** died in December 2016.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

I have managed to upload all the recent newsletters to the web site and will upload the Summer and Fall 2017 issues as soon as this one has been put to bed. I also just received some documents from Bob Cole (early 50's) that I intend to upload 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.

Have a wonderful holiday season from all of us:

John and Sandy Hudnor

Doug and Mitxi Berry

Ron and Peggy Sparks

Tony and Jo Ann Vax

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor - Sandy Hudnor - Peggy Sparks

Contact tonyvaz@greerschool.org for their contact information or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.



Here is the 2018 reunion registration form. Please find John's mailing address on Page 5 above.

Please Detach and send this form to John Hudnor

2018 Greer School Alumni Association Reunion Registration form

Saturday, June 2nd, 2018

I, _____ will be attending the Greer School reunion
with _____ guests.

Lunch	Cost/plate	#eating	Total
	\$15.00	_____	_____
Dinner	Cost/plate	#eating	Total
	\$21.00	_____	_____
		Final Total	_____