



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



**Winter / Holiday 2018
Volume 12 No. 1**



HO! Ho! Ho!

**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**

Look for them as you go through the summaries of each month. I hope some of these activities bring back some pleasant memories for you.

John Hudnor, Greer "63" and BYU "67"

Winter months at Greer and..... You

In this issue, we will highlight life at Greer during the Winter months of 1960-1961. In this issue, as in the fall issue, I continue to be appreciative of the Greer Administration for introducing us to cultural opportunities "on- campus" as well as "off- campus" along with our regular campus life and its variety of social, athletic, and the many clubs at Greer which you were free to join. At the time we were publishing the Red and White, I never thought of all these many opportunities given to us, but in going back through these Red and White issues, one can see the many activities that were presented to all of us. In fact, we were not "short-changed" at all.

December 1960

The editorial in the first issue of the Red and White for December was a concern for excessive gum chewing in the school building and church! The penalty for being caught was detention during the Friday night movie. My, oh my, when one hears about what is going on in many schools today...gum chewing is the least of their problems! The student council set up hall patrols in order to keep students going up and down the stairs in single file and to enforce the "no running policy"! Were you on the hall patrol? The student council also sponsored a "come as you are" surprise party on December 3rd. The news of the party was not announced until after supper



in each cottage, and it began with a sudden outburst of fire alarms all over the campus! Once all the students in each cottage were outside with their coats on, they were told of the party in the auditorium. The highlight of this party was a “dance marathon”, and the 10 couples who made it through the entire two hours were awarded a free trip to a movie at the Dover Plains theater.

On December 4th, Greer had its 2nd concert of the school year as the “**Monroe and Woodbury choristers**” came to perform songs and later, joined Greer’s Senior YPF for supper in the auditorium.

During the next week, staff members **Tom**



Percy and **Jim Morton** took the explorer boys to



New London, Connecticut. The highlight of the trip was a tour of the naval base and exploring a WWII Gato submarine.



On December 10th, the annual Senior Christmas party was held in the gym. The Senior Class Advisors, **Robert** and **Bertha Packer** gave each senior a gift. At the climax of the evening, Senior **Syd Nesbitt** twirled Mrs. Packer around the dance floor.



On December 11, there was a **Candlelight pageant** put on by the younger cottage aged students; the traditional Nativity scene

was acted out and the service ended with the lighting of candles by the participants and the audience. The annual **Martin play** was put on the next week with **Tony Voight** as Martin, and on Friday, December 16th, the annual **Pledge and Candlelight service** was held in the chapel.



Gate House won the cottage Christmas decorating contest this year, but as usual, each cottage was beautifully decorated, and the competition was spirited as bragging rights were on the line!

Christmas at Greer. For the students who stayed at Greer during vacation there were field trips such as bowling and going to off-campus movies as well as daily recreational activities. On Christmas day, there was a party for all the students at Bittersweet given by the **Elliott's**, and each student received several gifts.



January 1961

The big news from the “**Wigwam**” recreation center was that 13 new records had been added to the jute box! In early January there was a welcome back dance in the auditorium and the winners of the dance contest each got 50 cents to spend in the Wigwam.

On January 12th, science teacher **Ruth Freitag** gave a talk on civil defense to all the student body, and she stressed the serious outcomes of radiation.

On January 18, many of Greer's high school students went to Millbrook to see the play, "**Richard I**" while on the same day, others went to the YMCA in Poughkeepsie to start a once-a-week- course in **life saving** that was held weekly for 9 weeks.

On Friday, January 20th, something happened at Greer that had never happened before in my 11 years at Greer. A gigantic blizzard that forced Greer to cancel school for only the first time! Wow! There was so much snow that Greer's roads were not cleared until late that afternoon as some drifts were as high as 6 feet.

Herby Van Anden and the farm crew had started plowing before dawn on



that day: a long work day for them indeed! The science magic show which was scheduled for that night was canceled because the magic man was unable to reach Greer. But it was arranged to have a dance at Ledge that evening that took the place of the magic show.

The Winter sports season was well underway by now. As it turned out, the boys' and girls' basketball teams each only

won two games that season. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, Greer's football and field hockey teams had much more success than the basketball and baseball/softball teams. The fact that the schools we played had more students to choose from seemed to make a difference. Several articles of game summaries in the Red and White about our basketball games mentioned that these other schools had taller players than Greer's players and this seemed to give them an advantage in winter sports.

On January 26th, The Ledge girls hosted the Gate/Rapallo boys with a pancake breakfast at Ledge—this was on a school day, no less! —thanks girls!

To finish out the month, a sleigh ride social on January 28th was held on the entire length of Main House hill with torches placed on each side of the road. This was fun as you could really fly going down this long road. Refreshments at Rapallo cottage warmed us up.

February 1961

The last full month of Winter started on February 1st with **Senior speeches** held in the auditorium. **Carolyn Ladeau** spoke on Castro's Cuba; **Madelyn Niemann** spoke of the evils of segregation; **Maureen Meyer** spoke of the Doctor shortage in America, and **Ellie King** warned us of the dangers of the cold war.



These four students choose topics that showed us where America was as a society in the early 1960's.

On February 11th, the annual **Valentine's dance** was put on by the sophomore class.

As part of the entertainment at our dance,



our class acted out a skit based on the hit song, **"Stagger Lee" by Lloyd Price.**



Bob Jenkins, Doug Skipworth, DeDe Greenway, Mike Galioto, and a few others acted out the song as it was played on the record player. We were a little late on having the leaves, "come tumbling down" at the right time in the song, but no matter: we had lots of fun trying to keep up with the action as the lyrics of this popular song of the day were played.

Some sadness on campus was next as on February 15, long time Greer 6th grade



teacher, **Miss Sackett** passed away due to a heart attack. It was the only time in all my years at Greer when a staff

member died on campus while working at Greer. Her Funeral services were held at the Chapel-of-the-Child.

On February 18th, **Trevor Miller** came to Greer to show movies of underwater life in tropical waters.

As part of an on-going tradition of Greer, on February 22nd, **Mrs. Van Tassel's** class put on a Washington's birthday program in the



school auditorium before the entire student body. In those days, both Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays were observed before the

government made the third Monday in February as "President's Day".

A **"community sing"** was held in the auditorium on February 24th: sort of like a modern day **"Karaoke"**.

We finished out the month of February when on the 26th, the senior class held a bake sale, and every baked item sold out.

Reunion News

The date has been set for next year's gathering: Friday, September 20th, and Saturday, September 21st, 2019. The theme for our gathering will be, "Honoring all of the staff who served us at Greer." We are still in the planning stages of what will be a fun and memorable weekend. We look forward to seeing all of you. Additional details will be published in the next two newsletters.

Sad News



We have learned that Charles A. "Charlie" Berry passed away on November 23 of this year in Brooksville, Florida. Charlie was a 1957 Greer graduate and long-time staff member before moving to the Land of Sunshine in his later years.

In memory of Ken Lynn: It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of former Greer houseparent and coach **Ken Lynn** who passed away in September of 2018. After Ken and his wife **Mary** served the Greer students from 1960-1962, Ken had a very successful coaching and teaching career at Roy C. Ketchum high school in Wappinger's Falls, New York. During the two years that Ken and Mary worked at Greer, I was at the stage of my life where I was struggling with the consequences of coming from a family with some major issues. This prevented me from establishing a good relationship with Ken, and he probably viewed my immaturity and attitude for what it was: pathetic. The good news is as I matured some years after leaving Greer, I was able to contact and meet Ken and Mary on several occasions. Each visit was very pleasant, and I have come away with very good feelings about our renewed relationship. This is an affirmation of the goodness of both Ken and Mary. I look



forward to again seeing Ken when I pass from here to there.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

I have managed to upload all the recent newsletters to the web site and will upload the Spring, Summer and Fall 2018 issues as soon as this one has been put to bed.

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

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor >

Sandy Hudnor > Contact Tony Vaz for their contact info

Peggy Sparks >

Or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.

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 Vaz

DEAR SANTA,
I CAN EXPLAIN...

Scenes we'd like to see...again.

Nevermore 🤖 (Photo credits: A.R Elliott)

