



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



Winter 2022
Volume 16 No. 1



The gift of self: Mike Ennis, Greer and you!

I loved my last three years of high school at Greer living in Gate House and enjoying the friendship and camaraderie that developed and deepened with the other students living at Gate House: it was very special and remains a wonderful memory for me as the years pass by. Living day-by-day with 20 other guys at Gate taught me important lessons that have been helpful in my family and professional career as a teacher.

The recent passing of **Mike Ennis** reminded me that Mike and several other male and female Greer upper class students throughout their years at Greer did not always spend all their high school years at one of the senior cottages of Gate and Ledge. Mike and other upper-class students lived at one of the junior cottages in order to be assistant house parents and gave up the special experiences of living with their upper-class contemporaries at Gate or Ledge. Concerning my experience with Mike, I cannot understate how enjoyable it was to have him at Daisy during my years in that cottage. He was just a good guy who was always approachable in the section of the dorm where he

lived in at Daisy -- whether it was for small talk or seeking advice. We at Daisy were blessed to have Mike, and I have nothing but pleasant memories of Mike's kindness and the interest he took in all of us during this time in our lives. We knew he cared for us and that made a big difference in our time at Daisy. By the way, Sandy and I had the opportunity to have a lunch with Mike and his wife several years ago in New Jersey where they lived, and I was able to express the gratitude that we at Daisy felt of Mike and he was pleased to hear of these feelings that we had for him.

Thus, a **"shout out"** to all of you who gave up the experiences of living in the senior cottages in order to serve the younger students in their cottages. In this holiday season when we think of giving, you gave the **gift of yourself** to the youngsters at Greer. **A wish to all of you that you enjoy a very special holiday season.**

This year's gathering at Greer in September 2022 - a summary!

Getting together with other alumni in the high school was very nice and the following is a summary of the weekend.

Friday evening

Sandy and I joined **Jim and Barbara Anderson and Mark Speakman** for dinner at the Iron Furnace restaurant in Verbank and we shared stories of our past lives at Greer as well as catching up on our current activities.

Saturday

From 8:00 to Noon we spent enjoying breakfast goodies and socializing with those who came. Alumnus **Paul Hutchinson**, who was at Greer from 1956-1962, came to his first reunion and shared with us his wonderful memories of his time at

Greer. Others who came to our gathering were: **Doug Berry, Isabel Morton, Karen (Townsend) Hargy and her husband Don, Nick Anderson, Pat (Monza) Bertrum, Robert Ildefonso, Jim and Barbara Anderson, Mark Speakman, Anne (Meyrowitz) Foster, Bill Monza, Linda (Wilson) Cavanaugh, her husband and daughter, John (Jack) Miller, and Sandy and me.**

After our noon luncheon, several alumni walked around the campus and then 10 of us came back to the high school and talked for another hour. As in the case of other reunions, the weather was perfect and being together again was wonderful.

Sunday

I continued the tradition that began at previous reunions by showing one of the Greer DVDs to the residents of the Fountains-at-Millbrook followed by a question-and-answer session. We had over 20 residents of the Fountains-at-Millbrook attend, and following the end of the DVD, it was fun to share stories about all of you and the staff at Greer. The attendees have a genuine interest about what being at Greer was like.

In conclusion, one has to personally experience these reunion gatherings with other alumni to really appreciate how special they are. A verbal summary cannot do justice to the good times and feelings of being together. Feelings of appreciation of long-ago friendships are rekindled, and I have never heard a Greer alumnus say that attending a reunion was not worthwhile. We review our lives in a more holistic, realistic, and positive manner as we get older, and it makes the reunions so special. I love being around, and with, other alumni at our gatherings as we share our experiences while we were at Greer and subsequent life events, and it is the primary reason I have been involved with the Greer School Alumni Association for over 40 years. For me it is always time well spent and an event to cherish and remember!!!

2023—A special year to gather together.

June of 2023 will mark a significant milestone in Greer's history as it will be exactly 60 years since Greer's last graduation. (Because Greer's high school students started going to Millbrook High

School in September of 1963. Think of how special it is to still have an active alumni association 60 years after the last time Greer High School had a graduation! To me, this is so awesome, and I want to make this upcoming reunion so special-- one you will especially enjoy and remember. Plans are now underway for the **June 7th, 2023, reunion.** It will be on a **weekday** because hotel and airline fares are significantly less expensive and easier to obtain. The other reason it's so special for me is that it will be the last reunion that I organize. As much as Sandy and I enjoy our annual journeys back to Greer, the personal expenses and health issues that accompany these trips have made it much more of a challenge for the two of us.

Look for more details and reservation forms concerning our June 2023 gathering in the Spring Alumni Newsletter.

John Hudnor, Class of 1963

Hearing from You!

Note: In the recent Autumn issue of the newsletter, we printed half of Pauline (Wendt) Kalahele's (class of 1955) memories of Greer. What follows if the other half of her memories.

I entered Greer's high school in the early 1950's. Greer had a vocational training program for which students were actually paid. My last and favorite job was working in the school office under **Mr. Mapledoram Fink**, and my most important duty was figuring out the payroll and paying the students. Also, I helped with the student bank where a percentage of the gross amount was saved for the student's future use. Other memories include interscholastic sports for both boys and girls, Friday night movies, walking privileges for the older students on Sunday, hayrides in the fall with **Mr. Vern Ladeau** hitching up the tractor on a wagon from the farm filled with hay: we had lots of laughs and fun on those hayrides. In the summer, we went swimming in the Rapallo pool if it wasn't polluted. In terms of work, we canned our own vegetables from the farm, and I remember tomatoes, green beans, corn and rhubarb that were first heated up and then we cleaned, canned them, and sealed them for use in the winter months. This was NOT a fun job, and almost

everyone complained when their cottage was called upon to help. **There was a lot to do at Greer besides schoolwork!!!**

I remember sometimes during the week; I would be asked to babysit the two daughters of **Vern and Libby Ladeau** and sometimes for **Mom Mac** when she had a child or two who was too young for Plum cottage. I usually made \$2.00 dollars for two hours work, which was much more than I was paid for the vocational jobs I had.

In sum, I really liked Greer and made lots of friends. It was my home for over 8 years, and I was a happy 18-year-old when I graduated. I would start my first job four days after graduation thanks to **Tony and Victor Vaz's** mother, **Amy Vaz**, and I was on my way to being an adult and on my own.

From Roger Van Anden

Roger was the son of Greer Staff members Herby and Sylvia Van Anden. (Herby and Vernon Ladeau ran the Greer School farm.)

Roger remembers that his father was very pleased to have mentored quite a few Greer students who worked for him on the farm and helped them to become fine and productive adults. Herby was so proud of these students.

One of the stories that I would like to share with everyone was the time my Dad and **Vernon Ladeau** raced Greer's two Allis-Chalmers tractors up the barn road to the door of the 2nd story barn hayloft. Dad's tractor slid out the other door of the hayloft with Dad still on it and **the tractor flipped upside down:** fortunately, Dad was not hurt!

Roger adds kiddingly, "can you imagine what would



Herby's replacement

have happened if two of Greer's students who were working on the farm had pulled that stunt!!!!!! "*"

***Roger's memories to be continued in the Spring issue of the newsletter.**

Profile-Paul Hutchinson

When Paul came to the alumni gathering this past September, he shared some of his life's story with us.

He was at Greer from 1956-1962 and left at that point because his mom remarried and he finished his schooling in NYC. He worked in several NYC hospitals as a quality assurance person to help make sure the hospitals were of good quality. Later on, he worked for a New York plating company and finished up his career working for the NYC transit authority. His hobbies include coin collecting and doing Boy Scouts with his children, and last of all helping in their marching band as a volunteer. He enjoyed his years at Greer from 2nd grade through 8th grade before his mom took him home with her new husband, and said his favorite teacher was **Mr. Tom Shay**. Last of all, he loved to hike during his time at Greer.

Miscellaneous

We have moved (hopefully for the last time), and our new address is:

John/Sandy Hudnor

Grand Junction, Colorado

Sad News

Margie Tracy notified us that her husband, Police **Captain Thomas "Tom" Ames Tracy** passed away on January 29 of this year. Tom left Greer after his older late brother Bill graduated in 1962.

We heard from his son-in-law that **Morris Wistar Wood** passed away March 11 of this year. Wistar along with his wife Bertie were "house parents" at Greer in the early 1950's. Their first child, Carol, was born while at Greer and they always spoke fondly of their time there

Laurel Breztman notified us that her mother, **Harriet Costas Evdoxiades Mock** passed away on April 8 of this year. She was a 1953 Greer graduate.

We previously reported the passing of **Michael Neil Ennis** on April 27 in Glen Rock, N.J. of this year.

Some of you already know that we lost a key member of the Alumni Association Management

Staff in the passing of **Margaret Louise “Peggy “ Mathewson Sparks** on November 16th. She was a valuable member of our team and will be missed greatly. She would have turned 82 years of age on January 5, 2023. She was not suffering and went peacefully according to her brother Jim and her daughter Stephanie Tumbleson.

We have learned from Cindy Shaughnessy, his partner of over 25 years, that **Victor Cholewicki** passed away over the Christmas holiday. Victor was 80 years old and attended grades 8 through 11 before leaving Greer for his Senior year.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

All 2022 newsletter issues (not previously uploaded due to my recent illness and recovery) and this issue will be uploaded to the Newsletter page soon after the publication of this issue.

That’s all for now.

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

In addition to reporting any change of address to John or Sandy Hudnor, you can contact me at tonyvaz@greerschool.org or a521@bellsouth.net

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor – newsletter@greerschool.org

Sandy Hudnor - newsletter@greerschool.org

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

Photos of some of the alumni attending the September reunion. Compliments of Anne Foster.

John and Sandy Hudnor



Anne Foster and Karin Hargy



Bill Monza and Doug Berry



Isabel Morton, Nick, Jim and Barbara Anderson with Bob Ildefonso



Gordon, Julie and Linda Cavanaugh



John Hudnor, Esther, Elijah and Paul Hutchinson with Doug Berry

