



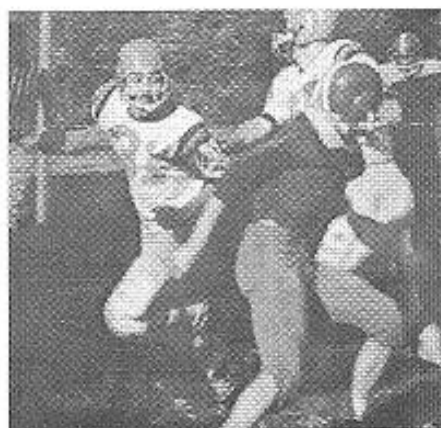
# GREER SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Autumn, 2007

## Dear Alumni and Staff:

The fall of the year has, and remains, my favorite time of year. As the seasons go, nothing comes close to it. We had wonderful traditions at Greer and it started with the Labor Day picnic and then the next day, the start of a new school year. One great thing for me has been that in my 34 years of teaching, I could continue to experience the start of the new school year every September and that has always been one of the perks of teaching--the sense of renewal each year. To be able to start anew in one's profession on an annual basis has always been very invigorating.



Bob Jenkins QB Greer vs. Haldane  
Oct '61

The next activity that would come at Greer after the start of the new

school year was the fall sports season followed by the traditional bonfires, hay rides, fall foliage, the sports hop and the Halloween dances. Then the fall would end with the traditions that were associated with the Thanksgiving holiday. To this day, I still attend ecumenical Thanksgiving eve services and contribute to the local food shelters each year in part because of the wonderful thanksgiving basket tradition in which we all participated at Greer.

For almost half of the years that I was a teacher, I became a participant in the coaching of our football program at various levels. Our school has 800 students and has had a fair amount of success, but when you think of that success in relation to the size of the Greer student body, what Greer was able to accomplish was very unusual - actually it was amazing! From 1950 to 1963, Greer had winning seasons in all but four of those years and went undefeated for 4 years-in-a-row during one stretch (1952-1955) and only had one loss in another of those years(1959). That we had the smallest student body (by far) against all of the

competition that we played against and yet had so much success is a tribute to the you and the coaches that worked with us.



Tom McCandless with ball;  
Greer vs. Pawling, Sept '61

The field hockey teams also had positive seasons. I can still remember Joe Fischer speaking in an assembly as if it were yesterday (I was in Marcy at the time), describing the excitement that he felt for his players when they went up to Chatham, N.Y. in 1954 and defeated a team that had not lost in four years.

The Greer players were truly heroes to us younger students in Daisy, Marcy and Plum. Later on as I grew older, I can remember being on the sidelines as a lowly freshman when Greer got revenge on Millbrook in 1959 when our players stopped a two year undefeated winning streak of Millbrook's football



team and stopped their star running back, Philip Strothers from scoring a touchdown for the first time in his entire football career!

Coach Jack Maddox couldn't have been more proud of his Greer players.

At the time of this success, I did not realize the significance of it, but upon reflection years later, it makes me proud to have been associated with all of you and the success that you had (in athletics and elsewhere) during many of our Greer experiences. As much as I enjoyed my public school experience, I am so glad that I had the unique opportunities that were available to all of us at Greer as they made such a positive difference in my subsequent life.

I hope that this letter finds all of you doing well during this autumn season of the year and that you also have positive reflections on your experiences at Greer during the autumn months.

Sincerely,

John Hudnor, '63

## Greer Football Team Edges Chatham, 14-13

Greer school's six-man football team had a close call at Chatham last night, eking out a 14-13 triumph.

Coach Joe Fischer's players piled up a 14-7 halftime advantage and hung on the rest of the way as they captured their fourth straight win.

The home team scored first on a 15-yard pass play, quarterback Charley Vieni pitching to Bob Goodrich. Vieni pegged to Larry Schroeder for the extra point.

**GREER GOT** its first score on a safety. End Jack Rolston tackled a Chatham back in the end zone.

The Greer squad racked up two touchdowns in the second quarter.

Tommy King circled end on a seven-yard scoring scamper to climax a 65-yard downfield drive. The extra point was missed.

Substitute center Russ Golden blocked a Chatham punt a few minutes later and Lee Arvidson recovered it for a touchdown.

Vieni and Schroeder formed a touchdown pass combination for Chatham in the third quarter. But Arvidson broke up an aerial for the extra point to preserve the Greer lead.

The clock worked against Greer on two occasions. Greer had the ball on Chatham's one-foot line when the first half ended, and was within two yards of the goal when the final whistle blew.

The lineups:

Greer	Pos.	Chatham
L. Rolston	LE	Goodrich
L. Rolston	C	Haner
Baker	RE	Carlo Vieni
Brommsdorff	QB	Charley Vieni
King	HB	Breads
Arvidson	HB	Schroeder

The score by quarters:

Greer	2	12	0	0-14
Chatham	7	0	6	0-13

Greer substitutes: Wolf, Golden, Freitas, Heisel, Devaux, Stark. Chatham substitutes: Simmons, Williams, Flouten, Keller, Sutcliffe, O'Connor, Johnson, Hansen, Alimiallo. Officials: Conley.





## Letters From You:

### **Robert K. Irwin, '37**

Thank you for the Greer School Alumni Newsletter. In 1934, my father went to a TB Sanitarium, so Richard, Robert and Stanley were sent to Hope Farm which became Greer School. It was a great place to spend high school and Stan and I went to New Paltz, New York College and became teachers.

Dick became a plumber and passed away in Virginia at age 82.

Stan now lives in a retirement home in Connecticut with his wife Kathleen.

As for me, My wife Anne and I live in a retirement home in New York and it is a nice place and only 22 miles from our son and his family. We are proud to say that on October 9, 2007 my wife and I will celebrate 63 years of marriage.

### **John Rogers, '41**

You do a fine job and a

great service to the Greer School Alumni and their memory of the times and experiences there. Most of us spent a significant period of our formative years at Greer, and needless-to-say, it's a core part of our lives. I attended Greer from 1931-1941.



Rose Wallace \* and Isabel Morton

### **Liz Rivera '60**

... The latest info on me, I had a total hip replacement in January and I've been healing slowly ever since. I did manage a couple of vacations, Puerto Rico for a month and Phoenix, Az (116 degrees while I was there) Mexico and Riverside, CA while I was out west. That was a great trip.

Big Thanks!

### **Tom Percy, Staff '50 - 60's**

... Want you to know I've enjoyed your newsletters. Although I only remember a few names, each one brings

back a memory.

Yes, Greer was a special place not only for the youngster but also for staff. I live in Maine 6 months and then as a snow bird head for Tucson. Leila and David followed us to Maine. She is a member of the house of representative and Dave runs a general store on his own. Marion and two daughters live in Stawford.

Time really flies when one looks back!

### **Louise Manz, '55**

... I recently saw Mary Ann Packer Webster . . . A daughter lives near me and had surgery. We recognized one another, despite a 25-year lapse, and Mary Ann so strongly resembles her mother.

I've been in touch with Bob Burruss. . His mother, now diseased, worked for Mr. Thien and he has a younger brother, Ellis. I think they were only at Greer for two or three years - you may have known them at Daisy - Bob is a crony of George Sievers and Floyd Oliver. Bob has some delightful memories.

I'll ensure he's aware of the Alumni



Association in case he's not on your mailing list. Many, many years ago, I used to visit them. They moved back to Washington, DC.

## Pete Guild, '54

I was a senior at Greer in Rapallo Cottage. One day at lunch they sent down some very different juice, V8. A few days later they sent some more of the V8 juice again. They never opened the cans, once they saw it what it was. Since I liked it, all was given to me. So, I drank a lot of this juice in a short time, too much in fact. I ended up with a serious case of the hives from too much tomato acid in my system.

Ms. Parker, the nurse gave me some Calamine lotion to put on the itching hives until the acid worked it's way out of my system.

On Friday night, there was a dance at Ledge Cottage. The hives started acting up, itching and bothering me a lot, and the lotion was at Rapallo Cottage. I knew if I walked all the way to Rapallo and back, the dance would be over by the time I returned. I had another idea, I knew where the keys were to the

old suburban the school had. I went, got the keys, and drove to Rapallo for the lotion and figured I could get back before anyone ever knew what I had done. On the way back, I passed the Finks walking on the road. I stopped and offered them a ride. (What else could I do? I was totally busted!) They declined and let me go on. Nothing was ever said about this incident, I was never disciplined or called out for it.

My vision of this is, the Finks really loved and cared about all of us. They seemed to know and have the ability to determine if some things needed discipline and other did not.

Side note, I still like V8 type juice.

## Peter Caram '65

. . . I have never felt ambivalent due to the stressful, argumentative, violent world in which I have lived for over 40 years. Even now I find I am constantly at odds with the empty suits in government especially Washington, the saving grace is that as an independent contractor, I usually tell them what I think without consequence, and ha, it's great.

Enough of me. . . As for the reunion, I always show up and help the day before, so hopefully, I can continue.

## Anne Joe '40-'48

Thank you so much for the new-letters that came in the mail today. I've read them through three times to make sure I didn't skip anything. I just hope you can continue to do this for us.

I was a student at Greer for many years and very proud of it. It was the happiest time of my life. My childhood was taken away from me, but Greer gave it back. I think a lot of students, teachers, etc., are gone now from my era. There are a few left that I'm in touch with, but we are getting old and time is shorter than we like.

Please know that I appreciate all that you do and wish you good health and God Bless.



Pat & Fred Hager '56





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## Guy Farrington '71

Charles Young and I attended Greer School from 1964 - 1971. My grad class was the Millbrook High Class of '71. I have a BA in Counseling from Hofstra U, and presently living in Kelowna, BC, Canada. I am married with three sons.

I love my life here and we do a lot of traveling thru the states in the summer. I would love to have a copy of your newsletter and have only good times to recall of my time at Greer School.

Hope to hear from you soon. My family and I will be in the New York area in August for my brother's wedding (in Poughkeepsie) Aug 15, 2007.

## Ida Bove (Farley)

Class of 1945

Dear Alumni and friends;

I'm truly sorry I didn't attend the 2006 Greer reunion. My sister Viola Stiles lives in Texas, and sister Pearl Farley lives in Colorado. Neither could make it and I didn't want to go without them. Would like to have been there for Jim Morton's memorial.

Bob and Bill Constantine stopped by for

a short visit. They filled me in on the reunion happenings. Glad to hear all was another wonderful reunion.

I received a copy of Peggy's book, "Hope Farm, Greer School memoirs of childhood" from Bob for Christmas. I could not put it down once I started reading it, and I enjoyed all of the photos. They brought back so many long forgotten memories, mostly good. I was truly in awe of the history of Hope Farm from the beginning of Greer School, with all the changes in between and then the closing of Greer. When I read 'voices in the air' at the end of the book, it brought tears to my eyes, a mixture of tears of fond memories, and tears of sadness. I'm sure I'll read it again now that Peggy has perked up my memory and years at Greer from 1937 - 1945, from Plum to Ledge cottage, The Martin Play, My Father's boots if you please, that was my Greer years; never thought about it again, till I read Peggy's book. Thank you for writing such a wonderful book.

When Bob and Bill Constantine stopped the visit, I hated to see them

leave. The next time I talked to Bob (by phone), I told him the reason. I felt



Ken and Mary Lynn '60-'62  
Coach and House Parents

bad about their leaving because I felt like family had come to visit. I do feel like we were and still are one big family from Greer School, all sisters and brothers.

The newsletter has come a long way. I love it!! God Bless all my sisters and brothers from Greer School.

## In Fond Memory:

**Marinus Marie  
Wesdorp**

Dec 6, 1916 - Sept 3, 2006

Born in Den Helder, Holland; a master tent maker; expert sound effects man for the Dutch National Radio, VARA; successfully hid 'S de Vries', a prominent Jewish radio personality in attic in Hilversum; was enslaved to a Nazi work camp repairing





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railroad tracks; escaped across the front lines backpacking another man, emigrated to the US in '54, was a sterling house parent at Greer School, sat for many years at a drafting table for IBM.

He painted, build ship models and clocks, wrote a ream of stuff, kept excellent aquaria, pressed wine from his own grapes, was good in the kitchen and faithful in marriage. The third son of Maria Stam and Marinus Leendert Wesdorp, sea farers of Schoorl, Holland.

**Roderick L. 'Bud' Goe** passed away in February, 2007.

## **Wayne W. Holton**

Wayne W. Holton, 82, a life-long resident of Wappingers Falls and recently of Poughkeepsie, died on July 29, 2007.

He was born on March 27, 1925 to Dorothy and Harold Holton in New York City. He was educated at the former Greer School, where he was active in football and baseball.

Wayne married Pari Moshiri on September 5, 1951, at the First Congregational Church in Southbridge, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Holton survives at home in Poughkeepsie.

Wayne served in the U.S. Marines during World War II and the Korean War. He retired from IBM in 1990, after 38 years of service. He was active in Town of Wappinger Pop Warner Football and Little League Baseball for 25 years, where he served both as coach and officer. In 1990, he was inducted into the Dutchess County Sports Museum Hall of Fame.

## Miscellaneous Items

1. It is with sadness that I learned of the passing of Wayne Holton because Wayne was my inspiration for these reunions that we have had over the past 25 years. It was in the early 1960's that Wayne organized a reunion at Greer on a Memorial Day Weekend and it made a very positive impression on me at that time because it was so successful. I am convinced that it was the memories of that reunion that inspired me 20 years later to start our regular series of reunions. Thanks to you Wayne--we shall miss you. Thanks to all of you for making all of these

recent reunions such a fun time for myself and others. You are a great group of people to be with!

2. For the upcoming Holiday newsletter, we invite you to send in your memories of the Thanksgiving & Christmas traditions at Greer and send them along.

3. Again, and I know that this is very redundant, but thank you to all who have been sending in your dues so that we can continue to publish our Alumni Newsletter on a regular basis. If you haven't yet had a chance to send in your dues, the suggested amount is \$5 \* per year and please make them out to the **Greer School Alumni Association**. Your support of the Alumni Association is very much appreciated and I hope that you like our newsletters and reunions that the dues money has supported through the years and will continue to do so.

\* Donations greater than that are appreciated and should be sent to Mitzi Berry. Contact info at:

[tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org)