



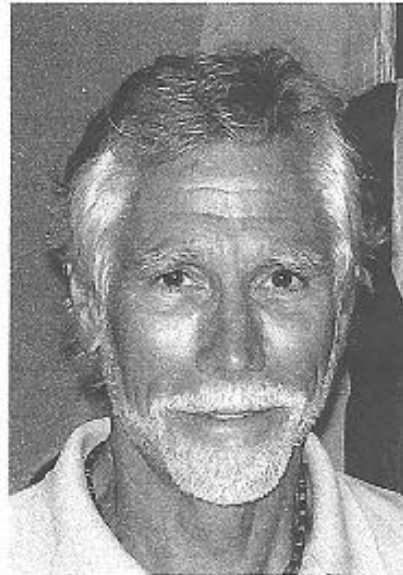
# GREER SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



July 2007

**Dear Alumni and Staff:**

In a story in June, the local newspaper reported that the West Lebanon, New Hampshire high school was going to suspend it's annual alumni day parade after this year because they were running out of contact with their alumni. Their high school closed in 1960 and the underclassmen at the time of the closing went over to Lebanon high school. This got me to thinking about all of you. I had the honor of being



Bill Constantine '48

a member of Greer's last graduating class in June of 1963 and at that point Greer's underclassmen went to Millbrook high school until Greer closed down in the late 1970's. Like West Lebanon High School, we face a similar challenge because our school no longer exists.

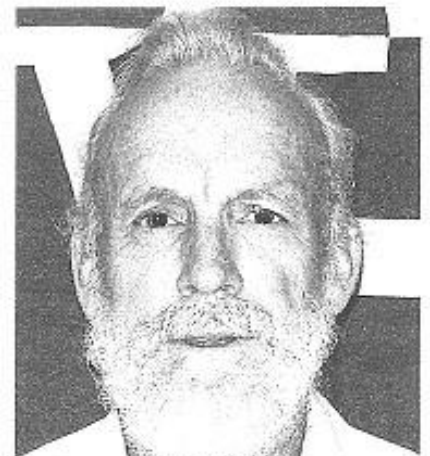
When I started the first reunion in the 1980's, there were only a few members from the class that I graduated with in 1963 who would come to the reunions, and that was discouraging.

What kept me going at the time was the thought that in time, and as one

would normally expect with the passage of time in all of our lives, people from my class would seek to renew friendships from their past. In terms of numbers, our class peaked in 1958 when we had 26 members in our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. By 1963 at our graduation, we were down to 10 members, but it has been very gratifying for me to have heard from 10 of my ex-classmates within the past year. Some of these were at Greer in 1963 and some had left Greer between 1959-1963 to finish school elsewhere, but hearing from 10 of our 26 has intensified my desire to forge ahead with our reunions.



Al Dilks '63



David Abel '57



While it saddened me to see the local West Lebanon Alumni Association discontinue an important event, I, in contrast, was very encouraged to hear from more former classmates. I'd encourage all of you from all of the Greer classes to continue contact with your former Greer friends. The feelings of satisfaction are wonderful and continue to affirm my feelings that Greer was not just like a "public school", and that our ties with each other were special. My wife Sandy gets periodic invitations to her high school reunions in Pittsburgh, but despite my encouragement for her to attend, she says that it's just not the same as the way we feel about Greer, and she chooses not to go. The point is that Greer is different and special, and I appreciate my association with all of you. Please do keep in touch.

John Hudnor, Acting Head of the Greer School Alumni Association



Don Brown '53

## Letters from You!

### Roger Russoman:

(Class of 1963)

...we still live in the same town that we started out in (Bloomfield, N.J.), and my wife Mary Lou and I have just celebrated our 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary and have one son, a 25 year old named Matt. I retired from the electrical industry 3 years ago after 40 years in the business. Although I liked my job as much the day I retired as I did the day I started, 40 years was just about long enough. The business has taken a

physical toll on these old joints.

### Edna P. Crawford

...Very happy to receive the newsletter and woe is me for the lapse of time in responding. The pile of treasures sometimes hides the treasures below. Does that make sense?



George Fisher '49

My two sisters and I spent six years or so at "Hope Farm" between 1924 and 1931. For a time we were the longest residents. That was our claim to fame. Curious to know if you have a roster from that era. Thanks for your efforts. As the editor of the local AARP newsletter, I can sympathize. See you at the next reunion.





Hildy Walton '58



Lix Rivera '60

## Lois Adamsen:

I wrote after the last newsletter as it had been such a treat to read Donald Brown's letter about Ross Adamsen, my husband. He was William Adamsen, but was called "Ross". We still have scrapbooks of the war. Ross and I met at Greer. I was Lois Heller and taught 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and modern dance. I lived in Greer Cottage one year and at Ledge the second. Ross and I married in October, 1952. Bette Thomas, phys ed teacher, and Gordon Goudey, math teacher were married on Thanksgiving of "52"

also. I have stayed in touch with the Goudeys, Bill and Denise Bricker (now Foreman), and Ruthann Wichelman. For a while I kept up with Sandy Scala and Harriet Evdox and had one visit with Angela Oliver. How I'd love to contact them.

Sadly, Ross passed away in January of 2006 and I have since moved to live in a condominium in Connecticut.

Do you have a story, memory, or memory you would like to add?

All entries are welcome and we encourage you to write to:

John Hudnor

c/o tonyvaz@greerschool.org

## Peggy Matthewson Sparks (Class of 1959)

While we were wintering in Myrtle Beach, S.C. I was surprised to receive a letter from Pam (Stobbe) Todd. She mentioned that Fred Hager planned to move to Myrtle beach. After Fred moved, I gave him a call and we went to their house for a visit.

When we arrived at Fred's he had his yearbook out and he asked about so many Greer people ( who, what, where, etc), that



Virginia & Maurice Neville '60's

we probably bored our spouses to death! It was so wonderful to find someone so close. They have a beautiful new home and enjoying not being in the "snow zone" anymore. Before we left for our other home in Minnesota, Fred again had us over to his home and my younger brother,



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who was visiting from Maine, also joined us at Fred's house



Paula Pequeno '62

earned a Master's degree from Rutgers in Library Science. Ruth's family consists of 7 nieces and nephews and their children who she sees as often as possible.



Judy Wallace '66

Mayor's award in Chatham, N.J. for outstanding volunteer service for the Libraries of Chatham.



Suzie Murry '58

## Ruthann Wichelman:

(Teacher at Greer—Early 1950's)

### A Biographical Sketch:

Positive things that Ruth learned at Greer were that she learned how to teach as it was her first year of teaching. She cites the abundant help that was given by Miss Thomas and the Finks. Her most positive memories were the students and the Thanksgiving holiday traditions of Greer. She received her college degree from NYU and after leaving Greer,

Her most favorite tradition while at Greer was the Martin play. In her leisure time today, Ruth volunteers at her local public library and does work for her church. She reports that the most unique thing about herself since she left Greer is that she writes to 29 missionaries once a month. Lastly, an accomplishment that she is proud of is that in 2,000, she received the

## Joe Rosenthal

(Teacher at Greer, 1965-1968).

The following is a letter in response to one of his former students, Judy Wallace:

Words cannot describe how much your letter to the Greer Alumni Newsletter meant to me – I will cherish your beautiful thoughts and this wonderful epistle. This letter will bring you up-to-date from my Greer days to the present. After 3 years at Greer, my family moved back to San Antonio,





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Texas in 1968 and over the past 40 years, I taught piano at two universities, opened a music store, taught, and played numerous concerts as soloist and as a two piano team with my lovely wife. I had a serious stroke in 2001, and my wife passed away during the same year. Subsequently, I closed the store and have been semi-retired since then. I kept contact with Wally Nowakowski through the years. As you might remember, Wally was the huge red-headed man who took over as gym teacher for a few years after they fired Mr. Sullivan for being drunk and burning down the faculty apartments! Wally and his wife became the foster parents of former student, Robin Donaldson. I had the opportunity to have lunch with Robin when he came through San Antonio many years after we all left Greer. It was with great sadness to me to learn that Wally passed away in 2006. My deepest appreciation

for your many kind words and thoughts—teachers sometimes forget how much one's profession can influence students in the future. May God bless you and keep you safe.



Summer picnic at Boy's Field

## Bob Hougasian: (Class of 1950)

The following are some excerpts from some of Bob's memories of his two week summer stay at Camp Barbey during the Summer of 1942:

...We left Marcy cottage and got to camp sometime in the early afternoon. "Everyone, fill your ticks". What's a tick? Oh this striped bag? How much straw do you put in?—copy the older boys. I was assigned to the cabin named "Robin". Is this all there is to it?" Explore it anyway.

Check out how the window tarps come down, check out the shed with long sink and about ten or fifteen water spigots. "Where do we go to the bathroom?" Pheeew, I've to learn to hold my breath.

Suppertime in that gigantic building—wow, what a lot of stuff in here. Hmmm, I could eat some more; maybe I could get to know the cooks.



Flag Ceremony Camp Barbey

Bedtime—with the kerosene lanterns hung on the front of each cabin. Taps played on a bugle; all the chatter stopped and we just listened in silence. It was truly an awesome moment in time. Later we talked long into the night.

Before you knew it, Reveille. Sit up and stretch yourself awake. That straw tick worked



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real well. "Everyone up and make a circle around the flagpole". Bob gets up and heads out. Yikes, this grass is wet and cold on my bare feet, another new experience ( I'm not so sure I care about this one.) However, flag raising was exhilarating. Remember folks, we were at the beginning of our part in WWII. Then, we boys had our early morning splash in the pool in the buff. The water was breath stopping cold and any thought of sleep was left on the edge of the pool as you dove or jumped in. Needless to say, most all of us ran back to our cabins to dress. We ran not because we were in a hurry, but did it to warm up.

Breakfast was one of my favorite times of day. The buzz of everyone talking, the clinking of flatware against plates and if I'm not mistaken, we had hot cocoa available and it was a welcomed part of breakfast.

The first full day was packed with all kinds of things, mostly discovery: Bringing your clean

clothes to the laundry cabin, experiencing as many activities as possible—swing set, horse shoes, exploring—Oh, look, there a bathtub under the kitchen!

After breakfast, we all gathered in front of the White House as Mrs. Mac filled us in on the rules and assigned tasks for us to accomplish. Mine was cleaning all the lantern and lamps, refilling them kerosene and returning them to their proper place.

Summer camp was just beginning for us. There would be afternoon swims (with much warmer water), hikes, picnics, crafts, bonfires, a camp out from camp? etc, etc. And, we still had the Friday night movies in the school auditorium.

It was an exciting, joyful two weeks. On the last day, I consoled myself with the thought I would be back next summer. On second thought, did we actually think that far ahead in at that age?



Principal Mr. & Mrs. Shultz  
1958-1965

## Pam Fernandez Doty Class of '64

I know it has been a "loooong" time since you emailed me at Classmates.com. I have no excuse about not answering except I only go on Classmates once or twice a year, but still, no excuse for not answering. My life in a nutshell since leaving Greer: I left New York about 27 years ago for sunny California (its not all its cracked up to be). I have 2 wonderful sons one born in New York and one out here. I also have 2 wonderful granddaughters—one is 5 and the other is almost 2. My children and





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grandchildren make me so proud and humble. They have taught me a lot.

As for me, I went for a time to NYU in New York and to a 2 year college out here. I still don't have my degree because I keep changing my major.

I am a full charge bookkeeper and work closely with the accountants. My last job lasted 23 years before the business closed. The job I have now I have had since 2003. I had to reconstruct their books from scratch, find backup because I had 3 audits, catch them up on their sales tax and they were also behind on their payroll taxes--this was all on the first day on the job. I also do bopoks on the side.

I spend allot of time reading, about 1500-2000 pages per week, being with my kids and just enjoying life. I work out allot, watch what I eat and my doctor says I must be doing something right because I don't look or feel my age--which of course is 21 right!!! Still the joints hurt a little

and I'm not as fast as I used to be, but still spunky and good looking Ha Ha Ha. I'm also very political and am very passionate about the things that I believe in. Well, that sort of brings you up to date on my life. How about yours?

Take care.

Pamela Fernandez Doty

- • • • •
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- Dues •
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- to contact you with •
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- afford. •
- Contact: •
- [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org) •
- for address details •
- • • • •

## Dearly Departed:

Our thoughts, prayers and condolences to the friends and family of John Henry Slator who succumbed to cancer and Parkinson Disease in January in 2007.



'Mom' Mac's house, Camp Barbey

## News and Notes

Next reunion? As I reported in the Spring, 07 newsletter, most of the people who had sent in the survey choose every TWO years as the best time-period between reunions. Therefore, I will start plans for the next gathering to be in the summer of 2008.

In the meantime, quite a few of you offered to help with future reunions when we were together last summer, and I appreciated your interest in lending a hand. Below is listed a number of committees that you could serve on in preparation for, and to help during, the next





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reunion. Please let me know which committee would work best for you by either e-mailing me or sending me a letter

## Committees of Greer School Alumni Association:

1. Decorations and posters
2. Setting up tables and chairs
3. Helping with mailings to Alumni and Staff-on-going.
4. Cleanup of Auditorium
5. Program format for the evening meal
6. Searching on internet for addresses of former Alumni and Staff.
7. Registration/Sign in table
8. Personally greeting of all people who come to the reunion.
9. Entertainment committee
10. Treasury committee-on-going

## 11. Secretary for Alumni Assoc.-on going

\* On a personal note, Sandy and I have volunteered to do Missionary and/or Humanitarian work starting in early 2008. If this application goes through, we will probably not be able to help with the 2008 reunion. By the time the Christmas 2007 season comes around, we will know the status of our application. However, in anticipation that this opportunity will happen, we will need some of you to step forward and help with the 2008 reunion process. Again, if you would like to do that, please let me know as soon as possible.

Secondly, a special thanks for all of you who are sending in your "Alumni Dues" as it is those dues that makes these regular Newsletters possible. Each mailing goes to between 300 - 350 people. I enjoy doing these newsletters and will continue to do them as long as we have finances to cover the

expenses of printing and postage. There is no labor cost as I do them because it is very enjoyable for me. However, if some of you want to help in producing these mailings, the help would be welcomed. The suggested yearly dues amount is \$5 and make the checks payable to Greer School Alumni Association.

See the previous page for addressing information,

Lastly, because Greer is no longer an operating school, we continue to ask you to send us information about yourself and your current activities, and/or your memories about Greer that you would like to share with all of us in future newsletters.

Have a great summer!

John Hudnor