



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Spring 2005

We do hope that you are all fine and that you survived the winter, but I for one will be happy to see the winter go away. We will be planning the reunion for the summer of 2006 so please put that one on your calendars. By the next newsletter, we will have the dates set and will let you know when.

I came to Greer with my brother Rod, in the beginning of 1940 and stayed until graduating in 1947. I was very fortunate to stay in Marcy Cottage with your wonderful mother, Mom Morton. I then went to Rapallo Cottage where I spent some years with Peter & Irene Jensen. They also, were marvelous houseparents and made a real home for those of us who otherwise would have had none.

We were also fortunate in having excellent teachers. As I recall at that time, Greer was not an accredited school but one could take the New York State Regents exam in each subject and if you got good enough grades they would serve for college entrance.

We initially had Arthur Opp for civics and later had Arthur Freitag for U.S. and World History. We had Pauline Stock for English and Literature. I remember initially having Cyril Kretz for General Science and later having Ruth Freitag for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They were all great teachers but I think the best was Herta Taussig who taught mathematics. We had her for Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Advanced Algebra. Other superb teachers that I remember were Helen Fink in sixth grade and her husband, Mapledoram Fink in drafting and shop.


All in all, I think we got an excellent education and when I graduated I received a scholarship to help pay for college. I received a degree in Chemical Engineering and remember feeling while in school that the education I received at Greer was every bit as good as anyone else in my class.

My brother Rod graduated from Greer two years later in 1949 and went on to get a PhD in education.

We really had a great experience growing up with all the great kids at Greer. The shop, the farm the garden and canning shop, the library, the athletic programs and work experience all combined to give us a wonderful back ground as well as a caring and loving home life.

I'm really looking forward to the next reunion and can't wait to see what is left of Greer and meet again the people who can make it back to visit.

Sincerely,
Dick Hilsinger

Richard H. Hilsinger

Melbourne, FL 32940

My father Hoover Mountcastle, Hope Farm Class of '32 (and '33) died on Monday, November 15, 2004. He was 90 years old.

He was born in 1914, arrived at Hope Farm in 1920 (with and older brother Howard) and may have been the first person to have attended all grades, from 1st through the 12th there.

He also as noted, graduated in 1932 and stayed on to 'graduate' again in 1933 (his picture is in both yearbooks!) I don't know if he was unique in this but I'd guess it wasn't too common.

He also served as president of the alumni association.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Evelyn and three of his four children.
Please pass the news on to anyone you feel would be interested.

Thank you,
H.W. Mountcastle
Ulster County, NY

Dear Jim,

This letter comes after my third reading of your latest newsletter. Those pictures certainly bring back old memories. In the picture at the top of the first page, I recognized "Misery" Newell. Then the picture of our own homestead Daisy Cottage looks the same except for the children before the fireplace.

If I'm not mistaken, isn't that your brother Brian playing the part of Martin in the annual Christmas Pageant?

Finally, the 1934 picture of the football team: Johnson, Sunriemi, Obergon, Keely, Morton, Peterson and Rankin are all very familiar since I arrived at Hope Farm in 1935. I wonder how many of them are still alive?

Before I forget, please find my check for my 2005 dues. I always like to keep my financial obligations up to date.

Best regards and Happy New Year to You and Isabel, Janet and Doug.

Sincerely,

Alex Deeb (Moses) Class of 1941

Verna H. (Berry) Snelling of Wheelock, Vermont, died Sunday evening, January 23, 2005 at the home of her brother Sheffield, at the age of 78.

Verna worked at Greer School and later at the McQuade School while living in New York. She and her husband Ronald Snelling were houseparents at both Gate House and Marcy. After returning to Vermont, she worked for Lyndon State College and retired in 1989. She was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Ronald C. Snelling in 1997.

Hi to All,

Hope you all had a great holiday season. The New Year here is "white" and we have the promise of more snow! But it is beautiful.

News from the home front--The Fountain has been sold again. The Sun Rise Senior Living Communities has purchased The Fountains. They are hoping to sign in June. We will become a public commodity as purchasing stock is now an option. Will keep you updated.

Meanwhile-start considering coming to our next reunion.

As Always,

Jim & Isabel--Mitzi & Doug.



V
A
R
S
I
T
Y

1949

Back Row Mr. Fischer, Russell Housen, Johnnie Hyland, George Freer,
Bob Cooper, R. Abbott, Bob Hougassian, Jack De Weert,
Mr. Malcolm O'Brien

Middle Row Alan Murray, Russell Raymond, Dick Lucas, Robert
Dillon, Richie ———, Bob Cosner, Richard Devaux.

Front Row Fred Tromsdorf, Donnie Farkes, Duncan Stephenson





1953

Frst Row

Sandy Scala, Barbara Juppe, Veralee Jones, Marylou
Hoystraedt, Chip Fowler, Pam Stobbe

Bk Row

Mrs. Burger Gloria Sichel, Dolores Wadely,
Karen Venetian Pauline Wendt, Gwen Jones,
Virginia Hougasian, Betty Brown

Summer 2005

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Greetings from a nice hot and rainy summer. This letter is early and will be sent to everyone as we want to remind you that in just about a year, the reunion will be August 26, 2006. At this time it will be the centennial of the founding of Greer (Hope Farm) and we do hope that you will be able to attend. With the Christmas letter, when we are making our plans we hope to know how many will attend and those who are attending will receive other mail from us so you can choose what items you want from the menus.

Jim Morton

Sylvia Van Anden:

Freehold, New York. Sylvia Van Anden, 75, of Freehold, NY and formerly of Millbrook, died peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005 after a long battle with Parkinson Disease. Survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Herbert C. Van Anden, Sr., loving mother to Patricia Wade and her husband Frank of Palmetto, Florida, Herbert Van Anden, Jr. and his wife Kathy of Ravena, New York, and Roger Van Anden and his wife Debbie of Charlotte, North Carolina. She was a phenomenal grandmother to Madison, Dennis, and Mackenzie Van Anden of North Carolina and Nathan and Justin Van Anden of New York. Sylvia was an avid crossword puzzler, reader and country music fan. She had been an active leader in the Dutchess County 4H club, a Verbank Methodist Ladies volunteer and was a resident driver at Millbrook Meadows.

Dear 'All,'

I am writing this letter to pass on some very sad news. Jim Morton passed away on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at Sharon Hospital, Sharon, Ct. "Jim was a lifelong resident of Millbrook. He was the head of the commissary at Greer School in Unionvale where he worked for 32 years.

. . . Born on May 19, 1925 in Croyden, England. He was the son of Nellie Parfitt and James Valentine Morton. . .

On July 20, 1977, in Coeyman's Hollow, New York, he married Isabel M. Rarick .

. . . Jim was predeceased by his brother Brian and his sister, Joan Lovelace . . ."

This information was written in the paper when Jim passed, but each and every one of us has our own memories of him. Keep them close to you as Jim was such an active part of our lives for such a long time and he will be deeply missed.

He had not been well in recent months but had made the newsletter a priority. You have probably noticed that the first page of this newsletter says 'summer.' This newsletter is the last project that Jim worked on for us, and I have decided to keep it in tact and send it to you just as he wanted it.

Doug, Isabel and I have decided to continue on and make plans for our 100th Anniversary Reunion. Jim had already booked the Holiday Inn for the weekend of August 26, 2006. A letter will follow this 'Christmas' letter with detailed information about the reunion - and a slip to return to us so we can make the proper reservations.

At this point in time, I would request that any questions be emailed to:

Also, any written communication please send to:

Janet Berry

Dover Plains, New York, 12522

I will do my best to respond to any of you folks.

Until we contact you in January, we wish for you a most joyous Christmas and New Year that is blessed with good health and good times.

Hoping to hear from you soon -

As Always,

Letters:

From Robert Irwin:

Greene, NY 13778

Thank you for keeping me up with what's going on. I thank you for the pictures of the 1934 football team, I played with some of them. I especially remember Titus Sunreimi, he wasn't big but he was quick and they could not catch him. I was just on the team because they needed live bodies, I was small and slow. My wife has cured half of that, she can cook and I have the figure to prove it. Can you remember the "kids" at Gage house tapping the trees and making the best maple syrup ever?? Best part was that they all shared.

Stay well, Anne and I are well . . .

(Remember tapping trees at Marcy but not Gate House . . .Jim)

From Ruthann Wichelman:

Chatham, NJ 07928

What a surprise to see the hockey team with Bette Thomas back in 1949. Those were two great years I had at Greer. It was my first year of teaching - so I wasn't that much older than some of the kids - I turned 22 in November 1949.

From: Mrs. Justine Scott:

Sandia Park, NM 87047

Meant to write months ago to thank you for the news you sent me about Greer. I was excited to find out from Hildi (Walton) Plunkett that Greer has a web site - Thanks to Tony, newsletter and reunion committee.

After over 40 years of just remembering events, people, scenes from Greer it was wonderful to know there are individuals involved in keeping the past real. I look forward to more up-dates and information about the reunion. Susie Murray

Letters, continued:

From: George Freer;
Clifton, NJ 07013

Thank you for the 'spring' newsletter. It arrived on the same day as our third snow storm in the past ten days, 9 1/2 inches this time. Since we don't write enough to fill the newsletter up, you have started including more pictures from the past, inviting comments by various alums, not always accurate. Alex Deeb thinks that Hugh 'Misery' Newell is in the first picture, but that was taken much later and we can see Lee Arvidson in front, one of the Golden brothers in the left background and the big guy in the middle is from the 1948 football team, maybe Howard Hobson.

My only picture of Hugh Newell is on page 12 of the 1949 yearbook. "Hats off to the team of '46 and '47. Hough is No. 32 in the front row. Another picture you might like to reproduce is on page 18 (not numbered) from the 1954 year book, that magnificent panorama of Greer taken from the air, probably by Mr. Alfred Mathewson, Jim's father.

By the way, the blank spot on the 1949 varsity football team roster was Richard Bunn.

If you do use the air view of Greer, you could ask how many people can name all the buildings in the picture. I sent a copy to William Seeley in Dallas, Or. And he got 13 out of 14 identifiable places right. Of course, he's a lawman, trained to observe details.

Letters, continued

From: Sidney Mitchell;
Berlin, CT 06037

Dear Friends;

Many thanks for sending me the newsletters from time to time. I enjoy reading the 'Greer' news, even tho' of course many of the contributors were there well before my time.

I noticed in the last letter than Ron Snelling had passed away, so both Luellings have now departed this world. They were both very rigid child-care workers - we (Eleanor and I) never saw eye to eye on that subject with the Luellings.

At long last I have re-established contact with the Keiths (Daisy cottage); they live at Raywood N.H. On my return to Nova Scotia in July I plan on visiting them. They are not physically in very good shape - Bernard is crippled up with severe arthritis and some years back Mrs. Keith fell and broke a hip.

I plan on attending the next reunion, whenever that may be.

Enclosed find check - please complete the 'pay to the order of' line.

Best wishes to all the newsletter staff,
Yours,
Sidney

From: Richard P. Hawkes
Albuquerque, NM 87111
March 3, 2005

Dear Jim and family:

Thank you for the recent newsletter and the pictures therein. The 'Richie' in the football varsity picture, middle row, 3rd from the right is me. I remember that year. Played one game Vassar College against a team I think from Brewster and two at home. We

Letters, continued

lost two of them. I then broke my elbow in scrimmage and swore off football. What an attitude huh?

In the bottom picture of the girls field hockey team, the girl in the back row, second from the right is I believe Virginia Hougashian. I remember her because she turned me down for a date. My gosh. How could that be? I was of course not exactly a polished gentleman. And she was not the only one to defer my advances. Golly Gee.

I intend to make it for the 2006 reunion but still have hope that you might make it the end of September instead of hot July. Oh, in your address you added my sister Diane Hawkes. She doesn't live with me but is in Alameda, California and her name is Diane Hawkes Johnson.

Take care and God Bless.

Richard Hawkes

From: John Hudnor
Lebanon, NH 03766

My wife, Sandy and I made our annual pilgrimage to Greer on my birthday weekend and we again enjoyed visiting the campus and the Hudson Valley region. The growth in Dutchess County is as rapid as it is in the Upper Connecticut Valley where we live in New Hampshire, but there are constants in Dutchess county that lend a degree of stability that is very reassuring to me. That reassurance is found in the remaining rural character of the Greer campus and the surrounding areas that are close to the campus. It is sort of like my teaching experience; though it's been 40 years (plus) since I graduated from high school, and technology has

revolutionized the teaching experience, human nature is still the same and my students are as courteous to me as we were to our teachers at Greer. With the proliferation of cell phones and I-pods, I'm not sure that they are as connected to their teachers as we were to ours, but then, that's another issue! Some things stay the same, and that was the feeling that I had as I walked the campus on Saturday. At present, no one lives in the lower campus and it was so quiet and peaceful. Though Daisy and Marcy cottages have been gone for quite a while, the fields and woods have not been developed and they are as beautiful as ever. As I walked the lower campus area, I could 'hear' and 'see' hundreds of voices and people from the past. It is great how one's memory never forgets the pictures of faces and sounds of past voices.

Gatehouse still stands but there are changes. The front door was unlocked, so I went in (don't let this bit of information get out), and found that except for the interior beams and two-by-fours that are the main part of the building, Gate is going through a major overhaul. It seems that it was sold last spring and that the new owner intends to make it a 'bed and breakfast' facility. Wouldn't that be nice for those of us who like to come back for a visit? The bad news is that a rumor has it that the new owner has had a few financial snags, and it is delaying the conversion of Gatehouse to the 'bed and breakfast' facility. One of the workers at the retirement community said there is some doubt that the conversion will ever take place. Stay tuned.

As you know the upper campus has been an upscale retirement community for over 10 years now and although there are many additions to the area, the people living in this community are very nice and like to talk to you when you introduce yourself as a 'former

student.' When I mention that this former student has become a high school teacher, they sometimes ask questions about how public school teaching differs from private school teaching at Greer. There are many differences, to be sure. I am really very glad that I live close enough to Greer that each September I can go down for a weekend and reconnect with what essentially was my proxy family. The pull to return to Greer each year is as powerful as ever for me, and it's always a positive change of pace experience for me. It also helps to have married an understanding wife who, although she did not go through the boarding school experience herself, is understanding of my need to come back to Greer each year. The only thing better than this annual visit to Greer is the reunion with all of you that periodically happens, and to this end, I hope to see you next August in 2006.

John Hudnor

Fond Farewells

James R. Hamilton

Town of Lagrange. James R. Hamilton, 75, a resident of the Town of LaGrange since 1969, formerly of Newburgh, died Wednesday, June 29, 2005 at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital.

Mr. Hamilton was the former director of Mental Health of Orange County in Goshen; former director of Social Services in Orange county in Newburgh; from 1989 to 2004, he was the director of Volunteer Services for Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties; and he was the assistant director of the Greer School in Millbrook.

While at Hospice of Orange and Sullivan, he organized a fund raising event called the 'Tree of Life' which was in the Galleria at Crystal Run. The event commemorated the lives of people who died in the past year by placing a star on the Christmas tree. James provided to the Hospice staff great

Moral, support, a sense of charm, friendship and a great sense of humor. He was volunteer at Hospice of Dutchess County; loved to travel; and was an avid gardener.

Born Feb. 25, 1930 in Akron, OH, he was the son of the late Gerald and Margaret Saul Hamilton. He received his BS from Bob Jones University and his Master's in Social Work from SUNY Albany.

On June 16, 1951 at the Swedish Covenant Church, Spokane, Wash., he married Eleanor J. Osterback. Mrs. Hamilton survives at home. In addition to his wife, he is also survived by four daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah & Michael Dribnak of Boulder, CO, Caroline & Edmund Matuk of Clinton Corners; Gayle Dosio of Poughkeepsie; Tina Hamilton of Newport, RI; two brothers, Gerald Hamilton of Brooksville, FL, Howard Hamilton of Akron, OH; a sister, Margaret Gay of Akron, OH; grandchildren, Matthew & Michelle Dribnak, Michael & Brian Gerth, Francesca Dosio and Eddie & James Matuk; and several nieces and nephews.

Patricia A Higbee

I am writing to tell you of the death of my sister Patricia Higbee on 1/11/05. Pat attended Greer her last year of High School 1944-45.

I know she enjoyed reading the papers from the alumni. Perhaps there is someone somewhere who remembers her.

Pat suffered a stroke in July '02 and was in a nursing home from then until she died.

Patricia Higbee; 10-26-27 - 1-11-05
From: Ms. Elizabeth Higbee
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Fond Farewells Cont;Mary-Louise Krawczyk nee Cuevas

Passed away May 3, 2005. She had a stroke a few days before her 79th birthday in September 2004.

She is survived by her husband Alexander Krawczyk of 57 years and a daughter. Also her brother Herbert Cuevas and a sister Edna Smith.

Mary and her brother Herbert came to Greer in March 1932. She left after graduating in 1943. She was born in Revere-Mass. She moved to Arizona with her parents and her brother. Due to her father's illness, she moved to New York with her dad and brother. Soon after that, her father passed away and she came to Greer and lived at 'Plum', 'Ledge', and 'Greer.' In 1947, she married Al, she lived in New Jersey but in 1950 they moved to Phoenix, AZ. She worked at a bank and kept an immaculate home. She stopped working before her daughter was born, but later did volunteer work at the school-district. She was very fond of her brother and she was enthusiastic about all kinds of sports as well as the movies. Just ask her a question about

Had the answer before you finished the question. She never made it back to a reunion s she hated to fly. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Gabriel P. DeCaro

Town of Poughkeepsie. Gabriel P. DeCaro, 90, a lifetime resident of the Town of Poughkeepsie, died on Monday, May 16, 2005 at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie.

He was a Chief Mechanic for the former Fitchett Bros. Dairy in Poughkeepsie until he retired in 1975.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Florentine Council #304.

He served in the US Army during WWII, serving in the Pacific from 1942 - 1945.

Born in NYC on Dec 21, 1914, he was the son of Vincenzo and Maria Landi DeCaro.

On October 12, 1946, he married Mamie Morrone in Huntington Station, LI. Mrs. DeCaro died on Jan 14, 1987.

Mr. DeCaro is survived by his son, James DeCaro, PhD. And his wife Patricia of Pittsford, NY; grandchildren, Jason and Erin DeCaro and Tate DeCaro and her boyfriend, Karl 'Patrick' Peterson; great-grand

Daughters, Alexa and Rebecca; his daughter, Ann Vokes and her husband, Bruce of Poughkeepsie; grandson, Eric Vokes; his daughter; Mary Coppinger of Poughkeepsie; grandchildren, Stephanie and James Webster and Andrea and Clayton Oles; great grandchildren, Timothy, Alyssa Grace, and Nickolas Webster and Garrett and Katelyn Oles; sisters, Rose Orton of Stanfordville and Florence Northrup of Peckskill; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by brothers Angelo, Sr., John and James DeCaro.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, May 19, 2005 from 5 - 9 p.m. at the William G. Miller and Son Funeral Home, INC., 371 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, May 20, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor John R Thomas will officiate.

Burial will be in the family plot in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Janet Berry

Dover Plains, NY 12522