

Dear Fellow Alumni,



March 1991

December 1990 the sale of **Greer Crest** was finalized along with much of the land that we knew as Hope Farm. The person purchasing it is David Reis of Reis Capital Management of New Haven, Conn. It is being managed by Life Care Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa. We do wish them well in their endeavor. The new name is Millbrook Meadows.

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We regret to inform you of the death of **Dr. Randle Elliott** in Durham, North Carolina. He was the Director from 1949 to 1961. We are sure many of you will remember him.

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**Wayne Holton's** name was added to the Dutchess County Hall of Fame. Put in 21 years in the Pop Warner football league and 18years in the little league baseball at Wappingers Falls, NY.

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Whatever happened to:

Russell Housen	1945-'48	Virginia Childe	1943-'52
Lindley Farley	1944-		

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## REFLECTIONS

From **Bob Constantine**

Walking to Verbank or Millbrook was an EVENT! With 50¢ clutched in your hand, you knew at the end of the three mile jaunt to Verbank or the five miles trek to Millbrook, there was a cold 5¢ bottle of soda pop waiting for you.

I remember slowly lifting the lid on the soda chest in the tiny store in Verbank....looking at the wet, cold bottles that were hung between the steel slats—Cream soda, Orange, Root Beer, Coca Cola...it was agony to have to chose, because you knew you only had one choice...that was all the money you had! I grasped the wet bottle with both hands as I snapped off the cap.

WOW!...did that taste good after three mile of dusty road, side trips to an ancient cemetery and pauses at the farmers fence looking at this bull that was looking at US!...wishing you had a red table cloth so you could see if he really would charge like they did in the movies.

The Verbank hikes brings back memories of buzzing insects, tan colored dust and all but covering the green, tall weeds that lined both sides of the road, and the taste of treats that were not available at Greer.

The Millbrook trip promised a REAL movie in the Theatre along with a variety of treats like malted milk shakes, hamburgers, French fries, etc. I recall the bedraggled kids, who were looking around like they never seen a small town before.

It always seemed like part of the walk back from Millbrook was undertaken in the dark. As the miles slipped past us and, once chattering conversations dwindled away, we were left to our own thought. Needless to say our imaginations ran wild; we saw demons at the sight of each shadow and shape that lines the road.

Every snap and crackle in the woods was amplified causing us to get a little firmer grip on the stick we were carrying to defend ourselves from whatever evil lurked in the dark.

Those who made the Millbrook hike before had mental distance markers so we could gauge how far it was to 'home'. Even though we had a great time in town, a five mile walk was a pretty heavy trip (ten miles both ways) for an 11 year old. Anyway, we always looked forward to the last mile, the sight of the cottages and the thought of a good night's sleep in our own bed.



**Bill Seeley** writes:

Christmas memories are those of the Martin Play, each cottage singing around the tree in the chapel, "spreading its branches." Taking the bus to the "City House. Mrs. Rouse at the City House.

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ANYONE WANTING TO ADD THEIR THOUGHTS -WRITE

The newsletters have been printed and distributed to all those alumni who had paid their alumni dues, this is an example of some of the things we have in each addition.

The dues are \$15.00 per years and you are all invited to join us and receive a copy of the news twice per year.

On August 3, 1991 our semi-annual reunion will be held at the Ramada Inn, Poughkeepsie, NY.

This event will be held between the hour of 7PM and 12 Midnight. A cocktail hour from 7PM to 8PM; then dinner & and dancing.

A block of rooms is being held at the Ramada for anyone wishing to stay there.

The room charge is \$60.64 a room. Please make your own arrangements with the motel mentioning Greer-Hope Farm Alumni Assoc for the room rate


Address:

Ramada Inn  
679 South Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
914-462-4600

This reservation must be made before July 15, 1991.

The reunion will be sit down meal at the motel with a three piece band. The cost of this meal will be \$20.00 per person. Again please make you reservation before July 15, 1991 as we must know the count for the meal.

All yearly dues are due if you want to belong to the association and they are \$15 per year. We do hope that you will join us. A twice yearly newsletter will be sent to you and if anyone has a memory that they want to share, please send it to us. Check for the dinner and dues may be sent to:

James Morton  
  
Millbrook, NY 12545

*Mitzi and Jim*



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Fall 1991

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 100 alumni and families gathered at the Ramada Inn, Poughkeepsie for a reunion and a good gab feast. We came from any different states and time periods attending Greer or Hope Farm. Fred Trommsdorff made the welcoming speech recognizing Mrs. Fink, Mrs. Elliott, and Mrs. Clarke. Then we had a good meal and dancing.

On Sunday morning, the restaurant at the motel was crowded with alumni who had spent the night. We were surprised by the appearance of Gabe DeCaro who always had us busy in the garden weeding, canning, and all those other chores. It was an enjoyable evening and we missed those who could not attend and hope that you will be able to come to the next one.

The big question of the night was "Who played the captain in the stage production of "HMS Pinafore"??? Has anyone the answer?

Again we are requesting that if anyone has any addresses please forward them to us so we may contact these people.

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**MEMORIES OF GREER AND HOPE FARM**

From: **Dot Rogers Regorrah:** [REDACTED] Palm Desert, CA 92260

I have often wondered what happened to Irene Lundberg and Doris & Dagman Johnson. (Anyone know?) If anyone comes my way from Greer phone 619-346-2488

My second husband passed away 22 years ago, thus I am alone. I have two children, 5 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. I am comfortably situated in Palm Desert. William Prentice calls and comes often and keeps me posted.

I have pleasant memories of Hope Farm.

From: **Herb Cuevas:** [REDACTED] Sun City West, AZ 85375

Herb would like to know if anyone remembers running away from Marcy with him and getting as far as the 'Honeyman's'. He was about 8 or 9 yrs old at the time and the other boy was a little older. They left Saturday A.M. and returned to Marcy that night.....

From: **Joe Kaiser:** [REDACTED] Brooklyn NY 11228

Joe remembers, Greer at Christmas. Hash Wednesdays at Daisy. Mrs. Mac and camp life: Movies in the school auditorium: Vitolo's bread, Kimbel's (the chef) road. Sleigh riding down Main House hill: Four legged turkeys at Thanksgiving. The Heifner's (Margaret and Bull). The Torgeson's at Gate House.

From: **Alex Deeb:** [REDACTED] Brooklyn, NY 11209

This time of year brings back fond memories of Camp Barbey; the overnight hikes, the early morning dash down to the swimming pool for an icy plunge before breakfast, the morning flag raising presided over by Mrs. Mac. I remember the frosty March morning when we were up before dawn to tend the cooking fires where bucket of maple sap were boiled down to a few ounces of maple syrup.

It is hard to believe all the tings that have happened. In the fifty years since the Class of '41 graduated from Greer School. This country has fought four wars, developed unheard of rocket ships that were found only in comic strips and adventure novels, and television was only a laboratory toy without practical uses.

I think it is about time to end this nostalgic head scratching and wish everyone my best.

From: **Richard Smith:** [REDACTED] Grove, OK 74344

Hope Farm was the only real home that my sister Betty and I knew until the end of WWII. At the conclusion of the war I married and started a new home. Having been all over the world, I still feel a loving closeness to Hope Farm and all it has meant to me. I always will have:

MEMORIES OF:

Miss Riggs – Telling us of the wonder of Mythology.  
Miss Taylor - Wandering through history as though she lived it personally.  
Mrs. Fink – Taking us on Globe Circling rips through Geography and Current Events.  
Mr. Prater- Teaching math and the art of tagging out a base runner, and getting his hand sliced open by a base runner for his effort.  
Mr. & Mrs. Bacon- Learning scouting and citizenship.  
Mr. & Mrs. McKinley- Trying to keep us on the straight and narrow, the camp fires and the sing-along's at camp, 2x4 on Lake Kneehigh.  
Father Bray- Leaning the right way in church and lordy, could he kick a football!  
Mr. Fink- His guidance in shop and his help in keeping VonLackum field in playing condition.

The Lloyds, the Heifners, Nellie Morton, Miss Sutton, Miss Haines, Dorothy, Bill, Florence and Vivian Goewey – Brian Morton – Bill Gilmer – John and Mitchell Rankin- Wilco and Titus Sunriemi, Walter Dempster, Nellie Shoer, Josephine Peterson, Eddie & Jennette Stadler, Tom, Jean and Barbara Wilkenson, Bill Prentice, Dot Nicholes, Clifford Peterson, Nelson Bowes, Robin and Richard Hammell, Chick Doll.

I also remember Nero, the Golden Setter and how he had to be put to sleep because he was going blind. And Bozo the tabby cat, we never knew where it was but it always came home.

One does not forget the names and places even after 56 years.

One last memory- the planting of thousands of trees each year.

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From: **Dorothy Goewey Holmes:** [REDACTED] Sussex, NJ 07461

I saw Lela and Bill Holzapfel in Port St. Lucie in Florida this winter. Both are well and enjoying Florida year round. I also expect to see Ethel Harrison Coventry in Cohoes, NY, this summer and may also see Marjorie Harrison Clancy who is from New Jersey but may be visiting her sister at the same time. Of course, always see or hear from Joe Obregon.

Say hello to everyone for me.

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From: **Richard Hilsinger :** [REDACTED] Westfield, NJ 19144

I have been living in Hong Kong for the past year and will probably be here for another year. I am building factories in Kunming, China; Taipei, Taiwan; Bangkok, Thailand and Hong Kong.

I appreciated the article in the April newsletter about Herta Freitag; she probably had the most influence on my life than any other person.

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From: **Ruthann Wichelman:** [REDACTED] Chatham, NJ 07928

In June 1990, I retired after 40 years in education. I began at Greer in 1949 teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade and helping Betty Thomas with PE in the afternoon. I'm not certain how much help I was – but it was fun!! In 1954-1955, I taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with the U.S. Army in Japan.

In 1967, I received a library degree (MLS) from Rutgers. From 1965 to 1990 I was a school librarian in the Berkeley Hts. School system, New Jersey, grades K – 6. I really enjoyed this work.

Now I am busy in my church, Long Hill Chapel, CMS I am on the mission board and active in ladies groups. I am also the church librarian.

Is Georgia King still in California? I missed hearing from her at Christmas.

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From: **Joe & Alice Austin:** [REDACTED] Aurora, CO 80017

We have been living in Europe since 1988, working for a church mission in Eastern Europe. We did live in Holland until August 1990 then we moved to Baden, Austria about 20 miles south of Vienna.

Things have changed a lot in Eastern Europe since the walls, leaders, and laws changed; could change back in some countries. Most of our time has been spent in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland. We just returned from a trip to Yugoslavia, a very interesting, pretty place.

We were in the west and south areas.

Say hello to the many people we knew at Greer.

Home for us is still Aurora, CO. Joyce, Stan and Rob also lives there. Steve lives in Boulder, CO. Kathy and Nancy live in St. Paul, MN. We now have 16 grandchildren.

We have many fond memories of Greer.

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From: **Robert Irwin:** [REDACTED] Greene, NY 13778

Could things have been that good or have they swelled in my memory? One illustration: I can remember going out to the garden with others picking fresh strawberries. Later these berries were mixed with the farm's fresh cream and put in an old ice cream freezer. After the ice and rock salt were placed around the outside the real grind began. The crank turned so easily at first, and when I decided that an arm would fall off, the adult in charge would decide that it was nearly done. But when it was done, those who toiled were rewarded by being allowed to lick the dasher.

Was it really that good? Oh, I can remember being 16 and always hungry, but that was the best ice cream ever made.

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## Obituaries

**John Brown**

**Charles Kastner**

**Bessie Kidd**

**Bea Fischer** – on 4/10/1991 in Burlington, VT - wife of Coach Joe Fischer, Daisy Houseparent

**Janet Gregory Clarke** Obituary:

## **Obituaries**

### **Janet Gregory Clarke, retired postmaster**

LAGRANGEVILLE — Janet Gregory Clarke, 86, a Town of LaGrange resident, died Wednesday at the Lovely Hills Nursing Home in Pawling.

A resident of the Dutchess County area since 1942, Mrs. Clarke was a post master for 21 years at the former Hope Farm Post Office in Verbank. She retired on July 31, 1970.

She was a member of the Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook and the Millbrook Senior Citizens.

Born Aug. 2, 1905, in East Orange, N.J., she was the daughter of Harold and Ethel Fales Gregory. Mrs. Clarke was a graduate of the East Orange High School.

On March 30, 1928, in San Antonio, Texas, she married Phillip S. Clarke III, who died in 1948.

Survivors include two sons, Jack

Clarke of Narragansett, R.I. and Arthur Clarke of Annandale, Va.; two sisters, Elizabeth Fraser of Huntington, L.I. and Frances Hardy of Torrance, Calif.; two brothers, Arthur Gregory of Cape Coral, Fla. and Harold W. Gregory of El Paso, Texas; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

**There are no calling hours.**

A memorial service will take place at 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook with the Rev. Kenneth Swanson officiating.

Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements were made by the Robert H. Auchmoody Funeral Homes Inc., Route 82, Hopewell Junction.

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A very old newspaper article telling about the history of the areas around Greer tells of General de Peyster and the TB sanatorium he had built there. One paragraph of this article is as follows for your information:

General de Peyster persuaded the Brothers of Nazareth, an Episcopal Order, to come to Dutchess County and he donated the money and land to enable them to establish their hospital and other institutions including the St. Paul's Training School for Boys (This is about where the chapel of the Child is). This school was built on a plateau know as Prospect Hill, but in the early days of the country it was called Guinea Hill.

Thus the name came from this and any other reasons are not valid.

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As you observe, the Alumni News is what YOU write, so please send us some articles.

This way we can keep the 'news' coming to you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support. Without your contributions and dues, we would not be. We have found this method of communication has enhanced many peoples' lives and brought back pleasant memories. In some cases, it has helped to bring together lost (but not forgotten) friendships. For this reason, we feel the newsletter is beneficial. Please keep the articles coming and we shall keep the newsletter going.

As always,

*Mitzi and Jim*