



Dear Fellow Alumni,

March 1994

I start this letter on January 20<sup>th</sup>, the weather started at 12 degrees below zero and the high was 6 degrees above. The roads were very icy as the road crews didn't do a good job during the last snow. There is about a foot of snow on the roof and I am glad to say we only have one little leak. Of course the tractor broke as I was plowing and I am waiting for a part and hoping it doesn't snow again. The trees are really bending with frozen sleet and then snow on top. About six inches on the branches and limbs. It is pretty BUT...I was in Florida for two days, and wanted to see Dick & Betty Lucas but things didn't work out that way as I didn't have the time. Even while I was gone a foot of snow fell here and Isabel was alone to cope with it.

The association does thank you all that sent us cards and you will see that we have used them in this letter. We think it is always good to know what you all are doing and that you are well and enjoying your lives. Also we want to thank you for a few new addresses and also those of you who joined the association or sent money to help with the expenses. Can think of Bill Robertson and Norman Van Ray, others also. The letter from Mr. Bell made me laugh as I remember his car and the bell he had on it that he rang to let us know he was around. We do hope that you will all enjoy the letters as much as we did. Again, and as always, we do urge you to send us any alumni addresses you may have so we can contact them and try to get them to join us.

Getting back to MOTHER NATURE again we do wonder how all of you fared through the cold and the earthquake on the west coast. We do wonder about people such as George Zachary, Georgia King, Chip Fowler, and Fanny Bunn who live in the LA areas which have been hit by fires, mud slides, and now an earthquake.

I try to get to Hyde Park quite often to see Mrs. Fink. She is doing well with all the cold weather we are having. Today her street was a one-lane and it was hard parking there. However I managed and went to see her. My job for the day was to turn over her mattress which was done easily. We have a plan that she will make a listing of jobs she wants done and I will try to do them. Anyway, all is well there. She told me she had a phone call from Peter Craig, if any of you remember him. About the only thing I can recall was he had lost a leg in a motorcycle accident.

We want to thank you for joining our association and if you do have addresses we can use please send them on. Every time we send letter to all alumni we always get quite a few back that cannot be delivered and so our number shrinks.

Hope you all forgive me for rambling on.

Over the Christmas holidays we received some letters and cards from the alumni. Let us share some with you all.

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From: **Jim Hamilton**, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Trust all is going well. We thought the Christmas news letter was great. Greer School and the student were so special.

We talked to Tom Shay the other day and he wants to belong to the association. He would like the newsletter and will pay the dues. His address: Mr & Mrs Thomas Shay, [REDACTED] Franklin, PA 16323 (Newsletter was sent: JM)

These past few days have been so rocky – We went to Italy in November to visit Tina (Our youngest daughter). She is in art school. We went to Geneva and Monaco and had such a great time.

We're ready to go again.

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From: **Ward S. Bell**, Sea Cliff, NY 11579

It was a pleasure for me to receive your holiday newsletter. It reminded me of the fine situation at Hope Farm (changed to Greer) while I was there 1938-1942. Your mother was a "gem" at Marcy and I knew you as a tall boy in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. We had a great faculty and staff in those years: Mr. & Mrs. Fink, Miss Thomas, Mr. Ross, the

Heifners, Mr. Behrends, the Bacons, the Torgensons, and so many others. I sincerely enjoyed working with the “kids.” I could make such a long list of those remembered. The boys and girls were also a great credit to themselves and were the finest of growing young citizens. I still hear from Wayne Holton, who had come to live with us after his term in the service (WWII and Korea)

I left Greer in February 1942 to go to Walden, NY with Eldred Ross, stayed there a year and a half, and came to my home town on Long Island to teach at Roslyn High School for the next 34 of my 40 years of teaching. I retired in 1977 and since then I have taught free sailing lessons at the local village beach, entered many sailing races and now am into race management as a national officer in the Empire State Games. I do a great deal of wood carving and operate as “The Hometown Whittler” in “The Dusty Workshop” – my basement which I cannot clean too much as it would run the risk of losing its name.

I returned to Greer a couple of times after going away but I have not returned to that area in many years now. I hear from Mr. Ross very often and we visit once in awhile. I heard from Mrs. Fink after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her nephew, known at Greer as “Mr. Bert,” was a classmate of my brother and that led me to my teaching job there right after college. He and I then went to teachers college at Columbia University and have been lifelong friends. He was a long time college teacher now retired, in Oneonta, NY.

I want to congratulate you both on what you are doing; returning to our school so much by keeping things together for all of those to whom Greer was home. This group not only includes the students, but those of us who were faculty and staff. As I write this, the names of dozens of students come to mind with affection and admiration. Some time I will compile a list of those “great kids” who were my friends and neighbors in my career as a teacher.

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From: **Judy Wallace**, Orleans, MA, 02653

My dues will be in the mail with a letter and my promised story about meeting up with Betty Bliven (who is fine, by the way).

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From: **Dorothy (Rogers) Regorrah**, Palm Desert, CA 92260

I hear from William Prentice, Tom Wilkinson passed on. Yes, I am in touch with Babs Wilkinson, Block Island, RI. I enjoy hearing the news but it seem Greer School is phasing out. Sad, because looking back, it prepared us for life.

As you know Douglas (Lefty) passed away at age 53, (heart attack), leaving seven children in Philadelphia; two girls, on an attorney-one TV soap opera girl. The four boys are in the investment business. I have two children, five grand children and nine great grand children. Am retired, and widowed. I am 73 – time flies.

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From: **Joe Fischer**, South Burlington, VT 05401

I keep busy with many activities and plenty of exercise. I have a little dog named Duffy who keeps me hopping.

My two boys are doing well. Joey is still at VVM and Rich is in the sports medicine department at Ohio State U. Both have doctors degrees – Joes is a Ph. D and Rich is an orthopedic surgeon shoulder specialist. I correspond with Mrs. Elliott, Chris Doyle and others.

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From: **Amos Berry**, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Thanks for the memories, the Martin Play especially.

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From: **Georgia King**, Malibu, CA 90265

Tom came by for a visit October 20. He and wife drove across the country. We did a helicopter tour of the area. Less than two weeks later a lot of what we saw from the helicopter was burned bare.

We were lucky, the firefighters saved our house on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Regards to all.....

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From: **Dick & Betty Lucas**, Miami, FL 33186

We were disappointed to have missed Mrs. Fink's 100th birthday and the reunion with dear friends, Dick and I were pleased to hear the reunion was once again successful and were disappointed so many of our classmates were present and we weren't. But family called so we couldn't travel.

We have 2 grandchildren now, 13 months apart!! We are busy!!!

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From: **Margo Eireman**, Beachwood, NJ 07059

I was living at Plum Cottage about 1953. Gertrude Sutton was the housemother and Penny was the cottage assistant. I have some pictures taken at Plum.

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From: **George Freer**, Clifton, NJ 07011-1130

Remember our hay rides?

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From: **Helen Zarakovitis**, Miami Beach, FL 33140

Thanks for keeping the Greer association going it means so much to many of us. All is well here. George is coming for Christmas, arriving on December 21.

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From: **Dee (Wadeley) Filer**, San Diego, Ca, 94124

Always nice to hear from you. Glad to hear how successful the turnout was for the reunion. It's really too bad that I don't make it. It's not that I don't want to, it's our work schedule that is so demanding. When we retire it will be easier. Hard to believe Mrs. Fink is 100 and active. We should all be so fortunate, I am happy for her.

We just got back from a 9,000 mile motor home trip last week. We bought a motor home 34 feet, with all the bells and whistles.

We saw some great country but we also had mishaps with the electrical system, tire blow-outs, etc. Fortunately we were covered by insurance but a little panicky at times. Many times Jack was ready to send it down the canyon from pure disgust. Much of our problems were of our own inexperience. Anyhow it's all fixed. But who knows when we will take another trip like that again except when we retire.

All the family is fine. Mike and Ken both completed their masters this year and are doing well, Kathy is still teaching PE. I now have 9 grandchildren and they keep us busy.

Heard from Georgia King, The fires in Malibu came in their yard and narrowly escaped burning the house. And now they have to worry about mud slides. It is a beautiful area & such a tragedy.

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From: **Joe Kaiser**, Brooklyn, NY 11228

Just received your latest Alumni Newsletter which I always find very interesting even though (I must be getting old) the names of the people mentioned are no longer familiar to me. Anyway it's great to read what they have to say, because it's from a place familiar to us.

*(Does anyone have anything we could put in a newsletter about Joe as we want him to feel he belongs. ....Jim Morton)*

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From: **Bill Robertson**, NY, NY 10280

Thanks for the newsletter. It brought back a lot of good memories. It was the best greeting I could have received.

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From: **Mrs. Ingeborg Campbell**

We finally sold our farm in Millan and we will be permanently here in Palm Bay, FL., though there will be many trips back to Dutchess County.

I had a wonderful visit again with Mrs. Fink before we left.

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From: **Dr Albert Latucha**, NY, NY 10028

Thanks you very much for sending the address of Robert Doel. I finally got to speak with him yesterday and we had a very long talk. I am trying to locate several home movies I took of Greer and the people there in 1948. I had left them with Jack Clarke a few years ago and want very much to put them on video tapes and make copies of them for all of us. They are a very precious look of how Greer was 50 years ago. All who knew Greer, ever slightly, remember it was much appreciation and reverence. Bob is thinking of writing the history of Greer, which is a wonderful idea. We find we don't remember where the old buildings were in relation to each other such as the Main House, Plum, Crest, Daisy, etc; Greer needs a memorial in pictures and in print, as it is in many hearts.

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**Harold E. Westerhoff dies:**

### **Harold E. Westerhoff, care consultant**

**MILLBROOK** — Harold E. Westerhoff, 78, a Millbrook resident, died Sunday.

Born in Hawthorne, N.J., Mr. Westerhoff had lived in Columbus, Ohio, for 15 years before moving to Millbrook 22 years ago.

He was general secretary for the International Society of Christian Endeavor in Columbus for 15 years. Most recently, he was comptroller and consultant for Greer Institute of Group Consulting Care in New York for 22 years.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and earned a Bronze Star and the Distinguished Service Medal.

He was a member of Lyall Memorial Federated Church in Millbrook, National Association of Accountants, Lions International,

Optimist International, All-American Council to Combat Communism, Ohio Alcohol Educational Council, New York State School Boards Association, and National Association for Homes for Children.

Mr. Westerhoff was a delegate to the White House in 1960 for the Conference on Children and Youth. He is listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World.

Surviving are two uncles, Richard Laggner of Augusta, Maine, and Ralph Lagner of North Haledon, Maine; nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Valleau Cemetery, Ridgewood, N.J.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Browning-Forsyth Funeral Home, Hawthorne, N.J.

**Lee Arvidson's son marries:**

Lee and Maxine Arvidson's son was married in Chicago on June 12th, 1993. We have received a copy of the wedding announcement and will pass it along to you that knew Lee.

### **Arvidson-Majors**

Todd Arvidson and Lori Majors of Waukegan were married on June 12, 1993, in the Immanuel Baptist Church in Waukegan by the Rev. Joe Boerman.

The bride's parents are Shari and Ken Majors of Waukegan. The bridegroom is the son of Maxine and Lee Arvidson of Penn Valley, Calif.

Honor attendants were Michelle Brooks of Beach Park and Eric Steen of Penn Valley.

Bridesmaids were Meg Omundson, Kim Dean, Lorie Fallyn, the bridegroom's sister, and Julie Brandon.

Groomsmen were Kevin Hollinger, Steve Waltrip, Scott Miller, Brad and Chris Majors, the bride's brothers.

Summer Hillman was a junior bride and Max Sabo was the ring bearer.

Candlelighters were Eric and Tim Mortensen.

The newlyweds greeted guests at a reception held at the church before departing on a honeymoon to Monterey and Lake Tahoe, Calif.



**Mr. and Mrs. Arvidson**

The couple live in Waukegan. The bride earned a bachelor's degree in biology and elementary education from Wheaton College, Illinois, and is employed by Waukegan Public School District. The bridegroom is attending Trinity College in Deerfield and is employed by Allendale in Lake Villa.

From:  
Kathy O'Connor Baima  
[REDACTED]  
Newton, PA 18940  
December 28, 1993

Mr James Morton  
[REDACTED]  
Millbrook, NY 12545

Dear Mr. Morton:

It is with sadness that I report the following. My mom, Adelaide (Immediato) O'Connor, died October 12, 1993, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

My dad received the Greer School Christmas letter, and we decided to answer it and send the Association dues for my mom. She spoke about Greer School all the time --- with enthusiasm, love and warmth. To her, Greer School was home -- and a very happy supportive one. We all made a few trips to Hope Farm (I think it was called) when I was young and my mother proudly showed us the cottage and trails she was familiar with.

My mom & dad would have been married 54 years in November of 1993. My mother kept her yearbook (class of 1936) right up until her death, and we would all look through it from time to time. She would tell us a little something about each of her 11 classmates, and we knew all the poems and stories --by heart.

Thank you for including my mom on your list, and please pass the news of her death of he appropriate person.

Adelaide Immediato O'Connor loved Greer School and was a very successful wife, mother and career person. She always gave all the credit to her upbringing at Greer School.

Sincerely,

Kathy O'Connor Baima  
(Daughter)

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#### Dorothy Gero Schaefer dies:

##### **Dorothy Gero Schaefer, restaurateur**

ST. ALBANS BAY, Vt. — Dorothy Gero Schaefer, 73, a St. Albans Bay resident, died Saturday at her home after a long illness.

Mrs. Schaefer and her husband operated Schaefer's Restaurant in St. Albans, Vt. Previously, she was a psychiatric observer for emotionally disturbed children at the Baird Center in Burlington, Vt., and later at Greer School in Millbrook.

She was a communicant of Holy Angels Church St. Albans.

Born May 11, 1920, in St. Albans, she was the daughter of Mabel Peters Gero of St. Albans and the late Fred Gero.

Her husband, Irvin "Tiny" Schaefer, died Sept. 23, 1978.

In addition to her mother, Mrs. Schaefer is survived by two stepdaughters, Stephanie Decker and Rita Thompson, both of Poughkeepsie; five grandsons; aunts and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services took place for Mrs. Schaefer in St. Albans.

Burial was in the family plot in Mount Calvary Cemetery, St. Albans.

Arrangements were made by the Brady & Levesque Funeral Home, 86 S. Main St., St. Albans.

#### Angie Vitolo dies:

I recently had a telephone call from Vera Vitolo Miller, Bronx, NY 10469 to inform me that her sister, Angelina (Angie) Vitolo had died on December 22, 1993 at the age of 79. The Vitolos were associated with Hope Farm and Greer for many years and I am sure many of you remember Mr. Vitolo as our bread baker (that was always so good), our butcher, and a man of many talents that he practiced at the school. His sons and daughters all attended Greer, Vera in my class. -- J.M.

That's all for now, folks.

Until next time.

As always,

*Mitzi and Doug*

*Jim and Isabel*



From: **Viola Stiles,** [REDACTED] Irving, TX 7561

How nice to receive the newsletter, bring s back so many memories, especially the “Martin Play” and the magic of it every year.

Also enjoyed the insert by Jack Wesdorp and remembering those thanksgiving dinners, all that great food with all those good friends.

It truly was a magical place even though most of us didn’t know it until we were no longer there.

I’ve returned a number of times and sensed the changes that took place. I wanted my three sons to see where I grew up, then last year when I found “it was no more” only in my heart and in so many good memories. And I thank God for that.

I sometimes find it hard to believe it’s about 48 years since I left Greer, but then I think of my three sons, my three granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter and say “Yes, I guess it is possible.”

Did you know that as a child, my own mother was up at Greer? Mrs. Mac took care of her like she did my sister Pearl. That’s a long time ago.

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From: **Robert Doel,** [REDACTED] Fairfield, ME 04937

After I left Greer I 1949, I never re-connected until about 10 years ago, when I wrote a letter to Jack and Betty Clarke, and from then on we have reunited our past heritage.

They came to Maine and stayed with us for a few times in October(s), but haven’t been back since they retired to their new place in Rhode Island. Recently, Jack sent us a copy of his Greer School video containing old footage of Dr. Latucha’s winter at Greer plus some of his mother’s old 8mm clips. It was very nostalgic seeing oneself some 50 years ago and wondering “Where have all the good times gone, long, long ago.”

Priscilla and I took a fall drive to Greer 2 years ago. It was quite an experience for me, since we got quite lost coming in from Dover Plains. We entered on the road by the Chapel, which I recognized but from there I was totally disoriented. We managed to locate what used to be the school – despite the disappearance of the gym, the library and Main House – and after entering the old “front door” were perplexed by the hyped up condo complex. Yet, believe it or not, the old school auditorium was just as it always had been, and standing in the entryway I could envision the Thanksgiving Dinner; the Friday Night Movies; Ross Barrett as Martin at Xmas; Mr. Fink gathering us together for stern lectures on the importance of being truthful and honest; and even myself standing in front of our cohorts reporting on the Herald Tribune Forum on “The World We Want” that I attended at the Waldorf Astoria in March 1948-49. (Believe it or not, things haven’t changed any in the Middle East since then)

We visited Mrs. Fink, who as you know is one remarkable lady. Wayne Holton came over with Parri who I knew at Top of the World Lodge at Lake George, NY. I wish we could have stayed longer. But we were only there for the weekend.

Before leaving for Maine, Priscilla and I went back to Greer for a few hours to try to get things in order. We found the old road to Camp Barbey (your letter by Karin Green who walked the road with Gwen Elliott is a gem.) and walked down, sighting 5 pheasants and 7 deer along the way.

We also went to Ledge Cottage and poked around the crumbling house. There were old records strewn all around, along with glossy photos of girls who lived there and who obviously faded away into Greer’s last years in decline. Very sad.

(The photos that were at Ledge were not of the Greer girls, but of children from another school that Greer had merged with. We knew none of these people and didn’t save them. J.M)

About a month ago Dr Latucha called me to ask if I had his 8mm films. We got talking and I wondered why no one has ever written something about Greer. Mrs. Fink told me that the novel “Daddy Long Legs” was based on a young woman’s unpleasant stay as an orphan before Greer’s time.

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From: **Ward Bell**, [REDACTED] Sea Cliff, NY 11579

I was most amused that you remembered the Bermuda carriage bell on my car. That was a 1938 Ford. Years later, when buying a used car to use for commuting to work, it not only contained \$18.00 in deposit cans and bottles, but it had a similar bell!! So now I have two of them.

I promised you that one of my future projects would be the compiling of lists of those I remember from my Greer days. In the past days these results: The names of 83 'kids' who knew and strongly recall 16 faculty members & 24 staff members. Then I went to my cluttered attic and found the yearbooks from 1939 & 1941, and graduation programs for the 8<sup>th</sup> grades in 1939 and '40. These I carefully reviewed, gave each name an honest test and then added the names to my list of those I completely and honestly remember, so that my total list adds up to 109 Greer students, well remembered !! To be truthful, I doubt I could come up with such numbers for all the other 46 years of my teaching. Greer was so special.

One thing I rescued from the attic was a pencil music sheet that Mr. Ross did for one of the two songs that I wrote for Greer. I had made up the words and the tune, but not being a man of music I asked him for help. One night, long after I had gone to sleep he came to Gate House woke me up and he had me sing the words to my "Greer School to Thee." He had me repeat enough so he could determine the notes. When I called him and told him what I had found, he said that among his papers, he has a copy finished in ink that he used to play at school events for the rest of the year.

"Greer School to Thee" words and tune by Ward Bell, music by Eldred Ross:

This song we sign I praise to Greer our home and school.  
We are devoted to thy good where truth and honor rule.  
We hold to thy name e'er glorious, in work and play victorious.  
They children near and far, praise G\*R\*E\*E\*R.  
The 'G' stands for great, the greatness of Greer.  
The 'R' stands for right on record so clear.  
The 'E's are for excellence and ever we'll know,  
The last 'R's for reverence, to thee we owe.  
(repeat the first four lines)

The other song is of words sung to the tune on an old Bob Crosby Dixieland record, Bluebird label, about 1939, which sold for 35¢.

"Greer School Fight Song", words by Ward Bell, tune: "High Society" Dixieland

We're here to cheer the school we love so dear.  
Her praise we ring in the song we sing,  
In notes so loud and clear.  
Greer School rides high. Her praises reach the sky.  
Her spirits never die, in Greer's victory cry!  
And how our team goes down the field.  
Don't you know we'll never yield?  
Fight and fight some more. Crashing touch downs score.  
Fighting for the Red and White, FIGHT!  
(Repeat the first five lines, LOUDER)

Now I must begin the search of more Greer memorabilia. I have a photo album with pictures of many Greer events and of many of the Greer students, faculty and staff that were so important to me 52 years ago. Violet Smolec sent me a 1942 yearbook and Commencement Program. Those are also lurking somewhere in my collection. I wonder what pleasant memories those items will bring to light.

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From: **Helen Zarakovitis** - PO Box 2383, Miami, FL 33140

Thoroughly enjoyed the March 1994 newsletter. This time I knew quite a few who wrote in. It would be nice if some of the others I knew would also write.

My brother George came for our brother Ernie's' birthday March 22, we partied for a week.

Sorry you had such a terrible winter; snow storm after snow storm. For a change we were the lucky ones in Florida with A+ weather.

George is treating me to a trip to Greece in October. What a wonderful thing to look forward to. One drawback, I will have to leave little GIGI (dog) home. My first separation in 11 years.

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From: **Judy Wallace** –PO Box 2512, Orleans, MA 12655

Your visit last summer/fall to the Cape was a most pleasant surprise. Besides getting to tour the area with good friends, I made a terrific discovery; one of my co-workers, with whom I had worked for the past year, had also known Greer School intimately. But, she had lived at Hope Farm many years before I'd never been born. History lives!

Betty Bliven, who now is in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year, revealed to me during a coffee break at which I was recounting your visit and other reunion related matters, that she had taught at Hope Farm back in the early part of this century—sometime in the late 20's or early 30's from what I can figure from out many conversations. Back then, she was called miss Bessie Brown and she'd come to Greer at the referral of her good friend Miss Riggs (Riggy). She taught the younger children in this, her first, teaching position.

During our casual chats, Betty recollected many affectionate times at Greer, such as:

The time during a Memorial Day ceremony to the cemetery, when a few lads hid their pet woodchuck in their coats as they marched in the supposedly 'solemn' parade, when suddenly the woodchucks started to whistle.

She recalled how there once was a building behind Ledge called the Watts de Peyster (named after the man who had the building constructed as a sanatorium for his wife or daughter).

She remembered Bishop Greer and Mrs. Fink and Mapledoram and a host of others.

Of special interest to me were a few books she recommended, both written by Jean Webster who was a Vassar graduate who took a special interest in our institution. Read Daddy Long Legs and Dear Enemy if only to see how the author used real names and mixed them up just enough to confuse and delight her readers. You'll find Watts de Peyster in there too.

I was especially interested to read of a wealthy man's mansion in one book that was called Knolltop. If anyone knows anything about such a place, Please share it. My son's great-grandfather once owned such a place in upstate NY, which burned down many years ago. I have a hunch it might be the same place...but that's my fantasy.

Now I have to run. I'm still working here at the Osterville Free Library (Betty drives to work with me every Tues. when she volunteers here) and my lunch break is officially over for today.

If you would like to correspond with either Mrs. Bliven or with me, our addresses are as follows:

Mrs Richard E Bliven

██████████

Osterville, MA 02655

Ms Judy Wallace

██████████

Orleans, MA 02653

Thanks again for the push to do this and for printing my poem in a recent newsletter. I'm sure most of your readers would not remember me (nor my sisters), but since Charmi Neely and Mark Parliearos were our houseparents back then, they should be assured that we were raised properly!

Take care & good health to all of you.

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From: **William Seeley**, ██████████ Dallas, OR 97338

While reading the Alumni Newsletters for Spring and Fall of 1992, I saw that I came to Greer just after Jimmy Mathewson. I came to Greer in January, 1948, where I became a 'new boy' at Marcy. In addition, although I left Greer in the spring of 1952, up until that



time, I shared many of the experiences and memories Jack Wesdorp described in his letter.

Cub Scouting was major activity at Marcy. I wasn't old enough to be a Cub, but I remember them getting 2 sheep skins, one of which was eventually made into a Tom-Tom. Another project was a horse racing track that had little horses cut from plywood and you rolled dice to move them along the track.

Like everyone else, I later became a Cub. I was in the "Stephen Foster" play in Black Face, and also helped collect the sap from the maple trees we tapped in the spring. I too remember the sledding on Marcy Hill, also on "Hazard" & "Suicide." Roy Gastel broke his leg skiing on one of the hills when we were in Daisy.

I learned to swim at Camp Barbey, and got to move to the "Big Side" of the pool. This as I recall didn't qualify me for the "Big Side" at Rapallo pool, but I eventually passed the test there too, and then on to swimming at the reservoir. I would have liked to walk to the camp when I went back and visited Greer in 1987. My sister and I drove past the Chapel, the Blacksmith Shop, and down toward the farm. We found signs however, stating that the area was closed.

While at camp, I learned what was meant by the "Trees", the latrine; how to make potholders, and how to hammer out an ashtray from the lid of a #10 can. The thing I remember most was that the bath tubs were under the kitchen. I know this feature was mentioned in a Camp Barbey song, the fact that they were "open air."

While still at Marcy, we started having our meals at Daisy. Shortly after this started, it became the "in thing" to have a sling shot. The framework was made from the "U" shaped piece of bed spring found on a bed in 3 Dorm and evidently nowhere else. I think the kid who had the bed was 'Hager' who before the fad was over didn't have much of a bed left.

I moved on to Daisy where I learned to ride a bicycle, one of those major milestones in your life.

The Heifners were houseparents at that time and when they and their son, Arthur, left, the Plains came and then Mr. & Mrs. Groh and the Fishers.

Mr. Groh, Mr. Fischer and later Mr. McHenry, ran the projector for the Friday night movie. Remember, you couldn't cross the road to Greer Cottage until the bell had rung? Alan Murray, Class of 1951, helped and later I learned to adjust the carbon arcs and plug in the speaker Jack described in his letter. Does anyone out there know how or what put the first hole in the movie screen?

Time passed with school, camp, canning, trips to City House for vacation, hiking, or bike riding to Butler's Store, and the occasional trip to Millbrook for a movie.

For some reason, everyone knew that it was 3 miles to Verbank from Greer. Over the years I have often thought of this fact when driving along a slow 2-lane road. Consequently, when my sister and I made our visit, I checked it out and it was 3 miles from the store to Gate House!

When I came to Greer, the Clifford Cronk's were houseparents at Gate House. I went to Gate just as the McHenry's took over. The first time I saw Mrs. McHenry I thought she was from Ledge. There was a pot stove at Gate for making hot water and Jim Mathewson tended it. Yes, Jim, I also remember your sister Peggy, your dad the photographer and your cat.

I also remember Eugene Devaux. I believe Mr. McHenry gave him the nickname "Plugger." Then there was Clarke Moffitt. Clarke was "laid back" before it was invented. I first remember him as Jim mentioned driving the Farmall tractor we called "Ivy." I never knew how the name came to be, but one story was that it may have been called "Ivy" for its IV -four-cylinder engine.

There was always some odd job to be done with Ivy. Filling in pot holes; hauling firewood; getting rocks for the field stone fences which we used to fill in the front of the garage that was built at Marcy. Clarke always had a bunch of us "volunteers" to help him with these chores. The place of honor was to ride while standing on the drawbar. You stood there holding on to the back of the seat. If you were lucky, you might then get a chance to drive, pull ahead, or go through a gate.

Clarke and his 'volunteers' moved onto the dump truck and then on to the red stake bed 'store' truck' that delivered the food to the cottages when the central kitchen was set up. I believe Clarke had a brother, John, who was a couple of years younger than he was. I don't know how much actual help we gave Clarke, but he should receive some sort of reward for putting up with us little kids, and our squabbling about who got to sit or ride where or whose turn it was to drive.

To respond to your question, Jim, I remember the spotting tower, Civil Air Patrol watch tower on the roof of the Main House. The lumber came from the trees that the storm blew down at Watts. Bill Potter and I helped with the loading, hauling and sawing. The sawing was done at a portable mill that was set up at the farm.

I spent but 5 years at Greer, however, the people and places are a part of my life history. I also have copies of the 1950 & 1951 yearbooks.

I mentioned earlier that I left Greer in 1952, and did not return until the visit in 1987. I found, that I knew every rock, tree, and where each trail or path led. Such is the nature of a little kid's memory.

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I would like to take this time to thank you all for your letters. As you can see, they make for a most interesting Newsletter. Please keep them coming, for without your news, there is no newsletter.

We obtained a copy of the Student Guidebook (1956-1957). I think it would be appropriate at this time of year, to touch some memories in all of us, and let you remember what it said:

"Thanksgiving: Student and staff all spend their Thanksgiving at Greer. The highlight of the day is Thanksgiving dinner in the school auditorium, complete with all the trimming and served to the students by their teachers, houseparents, and other school officials. Each child's feast is provided for him by a former Greer student who remember his own Thanksgiving dinner with its songs, thankful thoughts voiced by a student from each cottage and presentation of the Albrecht medals. Special entertainment is provided in the evening. After the day's festivities are over, each child and each staff member writes a descriptive note of appreciation to his alumnus or alumna dinner host."

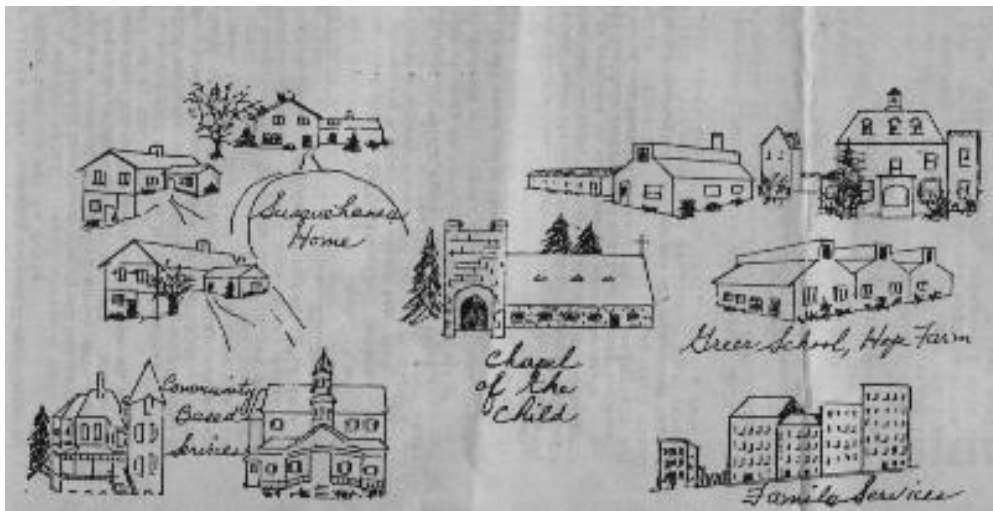
We would wish for all of you a Happy Thanksgiving –you are all remembered in our thoughts.

As Always, *Mitzi & Doug, Jim & Isabel*

From: Thomas Percy, [REDACTED] Phippsburg, ME 04562

Thanks for your letter. For the first time in a long time I feel like a member of the younger generation since I recognize so few names!

Some one mentioned visualizing the old buildings –somewhere there is a map I made of them along with a painting of the building. Enclosed a card some may recognize.



A copy of the last annual financial report filed with the New York State Board of Social Welfare may be obtained upon request by writing to New York State Board of Social Welfare, Office Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223, or Greer Children's Services.

*Donated by Thomas Percy  
for  
Greer Children's Services* \$



Hello Fellow Alumni,

December 1994

We, the officers, wish all of you a happy holiday greeting and do hope that all is well with each and every one of you.

Last summer, my wife and I took a trip to England. I had to see my folks there. While visiting Kew Gardens just outside of London we had a nice visit with Hildi (Walton) Plunkett. She had some photograph albums of Greer and the people during her era, we had a nice time going through them and remembering a lot of people.

“Night Before” by **Cherri Abrahamsen**

Twas the night before vacation  
 And all through Ledge  
 Not a person was sleeping,  
 They were not in their beds.  
 The hall lights were on,  
 And the flashlights were burning.  
 They were all getting ready for  
 That trip in the morning.  
 Ellie and Liz were cleaning their room,  
 Mary Jane and Nance could not find the broom.  
 Betty still had her good Christmas spirit  
 With her “Here comes Santa.” I bet you could hear it.  
 Penny and Cherri were already packed,  
 Their boxes and suit cases were neatly stacked.  
 Paula and Gigi were washing their windows.  
 The windows were open so we all nearly froze.  
 Maureen and Becky were washing their clothes,  
 They were standing n laundry that covered their toes.  
 Rosie and Annie were up in the attic,  
 Their radio was blasting, but only with static.  
 Diane and Kathy were eating some candy,  
 They had a big box full, it sure was dandy.  
 Mary Lou and Barbara were singing away,  
 They sounded like cows, who had eaten too much hay.  
 Linda and Gerry were playing the vic  
 The records were so old the needle would stick.  
 Madelyn and Lee were making their beds,  
 With pillows and sheets around their big heads.  
 Miss Joyce and Adonnis were not in sight.  
 Well, tomorrows the big day to each and to all,  
 And we wish with all our might  
 A very merry Christmas to all,  
 And right to all a good night.

Crest Christmas Spirit by **Ellie Gral**

As far as I can see, Crest has shown a remarkable Christmas spirit.

Everyone is very excited about it, mainly because of one small fact. Most of the students are going home during the vacation.

At Crest, we have placed our Christmas tree on a table in the living room in plain sight of everyone who comes in. It was decorated by Cherri Abrahamsen and Charmi Neely with a few assistants. Our living room has been decorated in other ways such as with ornaments on branches of the tree laid over the fireplace.

Everyone is sincerely awaiting the arrival of Christmas. We sing Christmas carols (after lights out) I’m sure everyone in Main House appreciates our beautiful soprano voices.

But one thing is certain; everyone in Crest is awaiting the one thing that will make Christmas complete. SNOW!

---

Seniors Stage Martin Play

December 15, 1953, the senior class presented the traditional Christmas play, "Where Love Is, There God is Also," by Leo Tolstoy

Under the excellent direction of Mr Carmine DiArpino, the play was a master stroke of acting, light and staging.

THE CAST

Prologue.....	Mary Ann Packer
Martin.....	James DuMond
Neighbor.....	Judy Mahler
Pilgrim.....	Peter Munzer
Ivan.....	Jimmy Mathewson
Poor Mother.....	Gwen Jones
Beggar Boy.....	John Maffi
Voice.....	Tom King
Children..	Angela Oliver, Marie Barkman, Pam Fernandez
Epilogue.....	Dee Wadeley
Acolytes.....	Jerry Wolf, Amos Berry

The gentle Christian sprit of the play brought out everyone's bet ability.

The well known plot of the cobbler, embittered by the loss of his little son, who finally finds peace in Christ, does not need to be told.

The play was produced in a very effective way, with the acolytes, organ and choir. The choir made up of volunteers, and many selections, to the accompaniment of an organ play by Mrs. James (Eleanor) Hamilton. To sum up the spirit with which the seniors presented the play, I quote the sentence that was printed on the back of the program:

"We hope the spirit of tie play will carry through the coming season and make Christmas and the New Year joyful.

---

Thanks to Ward Bell, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class of June 11, 1940 was:

Elaine Ardrey	Jean McKinley
Robert Billig	James Morton
Herbert Cuevas	Helen Preston
Robert George	Eva Prokopiv
Marvin Gildersleeve	James Rabold
Emma Lou Graves	Herbert Rossman
Wayne Holton	Robert Smith
Wanda Horton	Dorcas Taylor
Norma Howard	Doris Terwilliger
James Kittaras	Vera Vitolo
Irene Magnussen	Edna Vose

Thank you, Ward for supplying the program for that year. It is interesting to know that 4 years later, 50 years ago, because of World War II, there were only a few of us in the graduating class.

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**Annual Pledge Service**

On December 18, 1953, Greer School held its annual Pledge Service in the Chapel of the Child. The pledge service is when all the students and staff at Greer contribute to the Cerebral Palsy Clinic in Poughkeepsie and at which time every cottage sings its traditional song around the Christmas tree before the alter. The students decorate the tree with pledge tags representing their contributions.

The first to hang pledge cards on the tree were from Greer Cottage. They sang "Away in the Manger." Daisy followed them with, "Three Kings." After Daisy, the Plums sang, "Once a Little Baby," and then Gate House came with "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Crest girls sang "The First Noel," Rapallo came up with "O Come, All Ye Faithful," with Ledge "The First Noel." The Marcy boys finished p with "There's a Wonderful Tree" and "The Friendly Beasts."

The Christmas message was brought in the form of a story read by Dr Elliott about the German Clock maker and titled "The Christmas Apple" by Ruth Sawyer.

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#### QUESTIONNAIRE by **Penny Cummings**

What would you do if your best friend came from Mars?

Paula Pequeno- I'd try to keep her as a friend and maybe someday she'd take me to her house. Ha! Ha!

Georgeanne Clarke-Then I would know why she was so funny looking.

Becky Lovett- I wouldn't do anything, I'd be lucky if she didn't eat me.

Miss Shumer-I wouldn't do anything, I don't believe in that junk.

Gary Wood- I wouldn't do anything because I come from Mars.

Don Berger-No comment. It's for the paper. She is.

Sue Cumming-I'd introduce her to my mother.

Mr. Cheetam-I'd try to talk to him. Why?

Kathy Hampochan-Head for the hills.

Mr. Plass-I don't know I've never come up against it.

Lois Crouch-Well ....I'd ship her back.

Diane Wagnon-I'd take her to Mrs. Freitag.

Mrs. Freitag-I think it would be very interesting. Why? Are you sure your best friend is a Martian? It's fascinating.

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#### TIDBITS by **Georgeanne Clarke**

Recently, during the movies on Friday nights, there has been quite a bit of noise. The noise distracts the people who are trying to hear the movies.

Mr. Warren Olsen has added four white bookcases to his classroom, Mr. Garold Berry made the bookcases. They improve the appearance of the classroom very much and are very useful.

The Junior class is putting out an Anthology which is a collection of literary works produced by the students. Any contributions will be appreciated.

On Monday, November 2, 1959, Becky Lovett, Rose McLain, Betty Tuttle and Mary Lou Owens gave their speeches in competition for the public speaking contest. The following Monday, November 9, Darryl Hannon, Burton Berry, Peter Osis, and Mark Parliearos delivered their speeches.

Dean Hartz, Lizzy Rivera, Lee Gifford, and Robert Ildefonso are giving their speeches on November 16, 1959. The speeches have been on problems of national interest. There will be four more from the Senior class.

Tuesday of every week, the Senior class goes to rehearsal for the Martin play, which will be given just before Christmas vacation.

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#### Greer Drama Guild by **Darby Sievers**

On November 23, 1957, the students of Greer School were entertained by the Greer School Drama Guild. The first play was "The Rope." Thomas Buchanan directed it & also acted in it. The other actors were Charmi Neely, Robert Jenkins, Tecla Klyce, and Robert Perez. The Rope was written by Eugene O'Neill who won the Pulitzer Prize for the drama several times. At this time he has a Pulitzer Prize play on Broadway, "A Long Day's Journey into Night." The actors did not know their lines as well as they should have, and the scenery could have been better, but the plot and idea of the play was very good. But I think that since this was the first time Tommy Buchanan ever did this sort of

thing it was pretty good. Some of the people did not like the idea of the language that was used in the play. I do not think it was as bad as some people made it, since the idea of the play was to give you the kind of impression of the character, which you got when he used the language.

The second play was "A Game of Chess" which was directed by Mr. DiArpino, who has had more experience in directing than Tommy Buchanan. The scenery in this play was very good and it gave you the effect that you were supposed to get. The acting in this play was better also but there were too many mistakes noticeable to the audience. "A Game of Chess" was written in verse by Giuseppe Diacosa, an Italian writer of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The story is based on a medieval legend. It takes place in the Italian Alps sometime in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The actors in this play were: Maureen Meyer, Robert Tate, Robert Ildefonso, Larry Von Radics, and Mr. DiArpino.

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#### History of the Class - Class of 1943

We, the mighty Seniors, wish to show to you our friend, the advancement of our class since the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Ours was the only class to completely graduate in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, also known as the worst for making noise. While accomplishing these wonderful feats, we presented a Chinese play and a Minstrel Show. In our Chinese production, we held the interest of the audience by a very accomplished musical orchestra. This was lead by our very able vice-president who banged on tin cans. Others accompanied her with gong, cymbal, and an odd variety of violent noise producing instruments.

As Freshmen, we won for ourselves the reputation of giving the best parties and plays. This was obtained by giving the St. Valentine Dance, and presenting on the stage, "Two Crooks and a Lady" in conjunction with "The Patchwork Quilt." The only difficulty in portraying "Two Crooks and a Lady" was the fact the gun failed to go off at the proper time. After the play was over we discovered the secret of shooting it, and the audience wondered what was going on back stage.

In the Sophomore Class we again upheld our reputation by putting on a Halloween Dance, and a party in honor of our victorious team. During these activities we were gaining and losing class members.

In our Junior year, we presented a play "Lady Luck" and gave the St Patrick's Dance, There have been no new additions to our class since our Junior year; we now have a grand total of 11 members.

During the Senior year, two plays were given to raise finances for our book. Both were a great success. The crowning point of our achievement along the line of drama was "The Midnight Ghost," the traditional class play which met with rousing enthusiasm.

The class supper proved to be a jovial affair although we realized that it means the parting of the ways. Everyone enjoyed themselves and each received slams at the end of the scrumptious dinner.

Finally the great day arrived; everything was in a state of flurried excitement. Graduation was joyous but still a sad day. We realized that it was – GOODBYE, but we hope to meet again.

So, we bring this brief history of our class to a close by wishing the future Seniors and everyone the best of luck and happiness.

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I found this poem in a magazine and it reminded me in the fall when the chestnut trees let the fruit fall and we poked a hole in the chestnut and put a string in the hole and had fights to see whose chestnut would last the longest. I am sure you remember the tree by the chapel. – Jim Morton

The chestnut sheds his summer store  
To load the park of woodland floor  
With apples which disclose within  
A berry brown and smooth skin,  
The envy of the walnut tree

And what the hazel tries to be.  
Its sheen is of sunset gold  
Well polished and a joy to behold:  
But roast and nut and spoil the sheen  
To taste what roasted gold can mean.  
And yet there often lies in wait  
A much more glorious school box fate:  
For hung upon a piece of string  
The chestnut is a noble ting:  
A warrior, tough to give and take  
The hardest blows and not to break.  
What chestnut would not choose to be  
A conquering conker, bold and free?  
He must be fit to stand a knock  
Unflinchingly and like a rock,  
And then to smite is foe instead,  
As David's stone Goliath's head;  
To win, and winning, keep the score  
And still to add one victory more:  
A modes niner, then to ten,  
And then at twelve he wins again;  
On to a score without a scratch;  
Until one day he meets his match.  
A fifty-five and youngster meet heir fate.  
And so the best of friends must part  
With broken head and broken heart  
R. Shaw-Smith

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#### Shopping for Thanksgiving - No Name

Wednesday November 20, 1957, a group of 6<sup>th</sup> grader and their teacher, Miss Sackett set out for Millbrook to do some Thanksgiving shopping for their baskets.

Their principal, Mr. Schultz, took them. When they arrived they all went their separate way. Mr. Schultz went to the drug store and Miss Sackett went to the Grand Union with four 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Robert Drillien, Stanley Rittgers, Eve Meyrowitz, and Herby Dais.

Mr. Schultz, not having any money, came back to the car and discovered the keys were on the front seat, but the car was locked. Mr. Schultz found us and told us what had happened, and went to the drug store to call Mrs. Rittgers.

Meanwhile we were by the car freezing. Finally, about 15 minutes before Mrs. Rittgers came, the man who owns the dime store close by, noticed us standing around, so he said we could stand in the store and warm up.

Finally, around 5:30 pm, Mr. Schultz got Mrs. Rittgers and told her of the situation.

Around 5:50 pm, she got to Millbrook with a spare key that was at Mr. Schultz's home.

It was a cold experience that won't soon be forgotten.

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#### Greer VS. Millbrook - No Name

On Saturday, October 30, 1959, Greer crushed Millbrook by the shocking score of 20 to 0 at the loser's field.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> half, Greer & Millbrook battled it out, but at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half both team were scoreless. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, Bob Ildefonso blasted a 42 yard touchdown to open up the game. Then in the last quarter Peter Osis intercepted a Millbrook pass and dashed 63 yards to score. Ed Martin also scored when the passer fumbled and Ed picked it up and took it off for a 38 yard touchdown, the final one of the game. Don Berger made both extra points. Meanwhile, the Greer defensive line was doing a splendid job by keeping Millbrook scoreless throughout the game. Millbrook threatened a few times but this line threw them back for great losses.

Until this game, Greer had not beaten Millbrook in 4 years, when Greer lost the title to them in 1956 after a 4 year winning streak.

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#### The Halloween Party by **Madelyn Niemann**

On October 26, 1957, Saturday night, we held our Halloween party. The auditorium was fixed up like a carnival.

When you came in you received a piece of paper with a ticket for each booth on it. At 8:00 pm, 7 boys put on their spectacular act, "Hula Love." Vic Cholewicki sat with his beautiful maiden, Murray Buxell. Then the he-man chieftain, Peter Osis came in and took care of Vic with one punch and a trip over a canoe, and then he took his maiden away. Suddenly came out the most beautiful hula dancers you would ever see, Enchanting Ronnie Settler, Lovely Louie Rosado, Moose Tate, and Long Legs Pavlick. They came dancing and wiggling their co-ordinate hips to and fro. When B.O. asked the boys back in for pictures they seemed to have lost some of their apparel. The whole thing went off very well and everyone seemed to enjoy it. We thank all the boys and give special thanks to Barbara Simmons for doing a very nice job on the costumes.

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#### TIDBITS by **Winifred Rittgers**

Our nurses, Mrs. Packer and Mrs. Wesdorp have been two of the busiest people on campus these past few weeks. Altogether they have had 104 children in the infirmary since September. They have been running up and down stairs treating children for colds or influenza, night and day. So far this month (from November 1 through the 14<sup>th</sup>) there have been 34 admitted in the infirmary. They are real pretty tired out from all the work and deserve a rest. Let's help them to get a rest by keeping healthy. We can keep from getting sick by dressing according to the weather, eating properly and reporting to the nurse at the first sign of sniffles.

Two weeks ago, Tommy Honaker came back to Greer. He left in June and is back now in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

During the past week, Russell Golden, Victor Von Radics, Jack Rolston and Diana Haynes, former students of Greer and Mr. McHenry, former principal of Greer were here visiting the school.

We are glad Mrs. McKinley is back again and feeling much better after having been in the hospital.

Mr. & Mrs. Fink left for a two week vacation in Bermuda on November 9<sup>th</sup>. They left by plane and will be staying with some friends.

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#### Ledge Council – 1958- by **Madelyn Niemann**

The Ledge Council was formed to see if we can bring up the standards of Ledge and make it a better place and cleaner place to live in. The first meeting was held Saturday night, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. We elected the council members, 2 from the Senior class, Grace Bates and Sue Murray; 1 Junior, Peggy Mathewson; 2 Sophomores, Sue Rutherford and Angie Oliver; and 1 Freshman, Darby Sievers.

We passed a few laws that night and the meeting was adjourned.

We are planning to have a Ledge clean-up some day. All girls are going to clean the cottage, inside and out.

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#### The Cantata- by **Paula Pequeno**

On December 16, 1959 in the upper school auditorium a Cantata was put on by the Greer School Glee Club.

A cantata is a musical composition that tells a story.

This cantata was entitled "Childe Jesus" which told the story of the birth of Jesus.



Syd Nesbitt was the narrator, and solos were done by Lee Gifford and Barbara Simmons, and Warren Olsen. We would like to thank and compliment the Glee Club for their fine performance.

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**Fleata (Gregory) Rechsteiner:**

A letter from Helen Zarakovitis informs us the Fleata (Gregory) Rechsteiner died on May 16, 1994. She leaves a daughter Delvie and 2 grandchildren, also there sisters Helen, Betty and Thelma. Helen went to the funeral with Fleata's mother who is 92.

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We want to report on Mrs. Fink. Seems she went to Bermuda for a week's vacation during October. She had a great time but mentioned that everything had changed. More houses and a lot more traffic since she had been there before. The last time was in November 1958.

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We are again appealing to you. We have, at times, had a great deal of trouble trying to fill six 14" sides of paper to give you the alumni news. We are sure that you would like to hear how other people are doing and also the stories from when they were growing up at Greer. The stories that Mitzi & I tell are nice, but we would like to hear from others as we don't always have items to share with you. The newsletter is written 3 times per year. This Christmas letter goes to everyone & the March & October letters goes to those who are members of our association. So it takes a great deal of stories to complete each issue.

As we send out the letters at Christmas we always get at least 10 returns as some of you have moved & we don't know your correct address, it would be appreciated if you would send along any changes. And while we are on the subject, we need names and addresses of alumni that we do not have. Our alumni list keeps on getting smaller, about 350 names and addresses, there are so many more alumni out there which we would be happy to contact even if they say they are not interested. So please give us your cooperation.

Thank you very much.

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In the Student Handbook, I found the following description:

“Christmas Pledge Service: It has been our custom for many years, before we exchange gifts with friend and loved ones, to offer something toward the happiness of a sick child. We do this in the name of the child, Jesus. On the Friday evening before the Christmas holidays, the children from each cottage go up to the Christmas tree in the Chapel, and after placing their pledges on the tree, sing a carol. The pledges are sent to an organization which helps less fortunate children ---generally the Cerebral Palsy Clinic in Poughkeepsie.

How many of you remember this? Remember the excitement of the holidays, the walk to the Chapel on that Friday evening, and the feeling of “something well done when you left the Chapel after the service.” We wish for all of you this holiday season that same excitement and feeling of anticipation. May the New Year bring to all of you much happiness and health.

As Always,

*Jim      Mitzi*  
*Isabel    Doug*