

Dear Alumni and Staff:

With the reunion approaching quickly, we wanted to make this issue of the newsletter all about Greer's reunions. After looking through many old brochures, I found out that through the years, there have been quite a few reunions.

John Hudnor '63



Informal Reunion, Manhattan, 1971



Hoover Mountcastle Alumni President 1956

The First Reunions: 1950's-1960's

The first known reunions of Alumni were held in the New York City area. Margaret (McKean) Kalik remembers a reunion that was held in New York City in 1950 and another one in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York a few years later.



Mr and Mrs Fink, Greer 1963 Reunion

In the May-June, 1956 brochure, "Greer News," it was reported that... "the Spring meeting of the Greer School Alumni Association was held March 2, at the Park Avenue Christian Church at 85th Street, New York, for the election of officers and discussion of the program of activities. In order to secure active participation in Association affairs by an ever increasing number of members, the consensus was for a completely new slate of officials.

New Officers:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Hoover Mountcastle..... | President |
| Inge Rothenberg..... | Secretary |
| George Fischer..... | Treasurer |
| Charles Kastner.... VP..... | 1906/15 |
| Malcolm Pugh..... VP..... | 1916/25 |
| Charles Doll..... VP..... | 1926/35 |
| Spencer Buchanan.. VP..... | 1936/45 |
| Elizabeth Brown..... VP..... | 1946/55 |

The new officers will be installed at the July 1st, 1956 meeting."

The VP stood for Vice-President, and as you can see, there is a chronology from Greer's founding in 1906 right up through

1955, so we can assume there was always some Alumni organization that existed.



1980 Greer School Reunion



1980 Greer School Reunion, Class of '63

The brochure then wrote of the coming plans for the celebration of Greer's 50th anniversary and George Zachary, who was a former student and lawyer, introduced a motion which was passed, charging the Executive Committee to plan for the coming event. A homecoming committee was formed and they came up with the following ideas: (1) The homecoming will begin at noon on Sunday, June 10th with a luncheon to be prepared by the Greer Staff and served by the Alumni. (2) Organized sports and games were going to be set up for the children of the Alumni Association after the luncheon and then, (3) an open house was going to allow for visits to cottages, the school, and all of the "familiar haunts" round about Greer which were frequented by the "home-comers" when they were students. (4) the day would end with a farewell supper and meeting in the evening.

Greer's director, Dr. Randle Elliott, was notified and wrote to the committee of his enthusiastic support of this event and said: "All of the Alumni who come to Greer at that time will find a very cordial reception by everyone at Hope Farm, from the oldest staff members down to the littlest 'Plums.' This will be a real grass roots welcome which is not directed from the top, but which lives in the hearts of everyone here."



Tymor Park, Verbank, 1984 Greer School Reunion

The one thing that I remember about that 1956 gathering was that I was in Daisy cottage at the time and that the coming reunion was embraced by the staff and I assume, many students. One of the highlights of the day was a skit written and performed in the auditorium that afternoon by Greer staff and students that portrayed

the history of the school and some of the traditions that had developed over the years. A lot of former students showed up that day—as was the case two years ago in 2006 - as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Greer School.



Surprise birthday party Mrs. Fink 1989

The **1963 reunion** was held on the Greer campus on Memorial day and I believe that Wayne Holton played a major roll in the organizing of this one. The picture of the Finks was taken on the girls field soon after the Memorial Day parade to the cemetery, and I believe that the annual picnic was served at the girls field that year instead of the boys field which was the traditional place for school picnics to be held.

The Reunion of 1980

After I graduated from the last Greer high school graduation in 1963 I think that there was an Alumni day held on Memorial Day of 1965 because I do remember traveling to Greer with some former students on that

day, but after that occasion I am not aware if other reunions were held until we started to organize for a reunion in 1980. That began with an appeal in 1980 for names and addresses to just a handful of contacts that I had at the time; and it was wonderful to have the list of names and addresses swell to over 400 in less than a year and have an enthusiastic reception to the reunion plans by Dr. Ian Morrison who was Greer's director at that point.



Greer Reunion, Camp Barbey 1999

The turnout for this reunion was tremendous as over 250 former staff and students came and the event lasted for two days. It included a luncheon and dinner in the school cafeteria, walking the campus in the afternoon, and then a full breakfast on Sunday in the school dining room on



2002 Greer Reunion, High School Building

Sunday morning. That pattern has been followed regularly ever since except that the meeting places have been changed.

We have the luncheon in the high school auditorium and that has been a very popular place to have it – for obvious reasons – and the evening dinner has been at different restaurants in the area. We have continued to have Sunday morning brunches in the high school auditorium for those who stay in the area overnight.



Reunion 2006, High School Auditorium

By the time we held the 1980 reunion, the school had closed and was in a transition era with plans to open a retirement community using the existing buildings as well as construction of new ones. For those who have returned for visits since 1980, you know that the transition did happen and Greer has become a retirement community called, “The Fountains at Millbrook”. The good thing about this is that much of the campus remains a beautiful and quiet area to visit. Most of the cottages are gone, but the fields, pathways, and roads can be walked and pleasant memories of times and people can again come to one’s mind.



Reunion 2006 Holiday Inn Banquet Dinner

The Reunions of the 1980's through 2006

Regular reunions have been held every 3 - 4 years over the past 25 years and most have followed the pattern that was outlined in the 1980 reunion. The one exception was that a special gathering was held in 1989 to celebrate Mrs. Fink’s birthday and she really appreciated the outpouring of love from those who were able to attend.

The included photos are some pictures and scenes from reunions that have taken place in the past 30 years. I wish there was space for each picture, but the good news is that at each reunion, thousands of pictures are available to peruse in the school auditorium for you to enjoy at the Saturday luncheon and Sunday brunch. We look forward to seeing you there.



Reunion Organizers