



Greer School Alumni Newsletter



Page 1

Spring 2009

Dear Alumni and Staff:

Tradition Lives On!

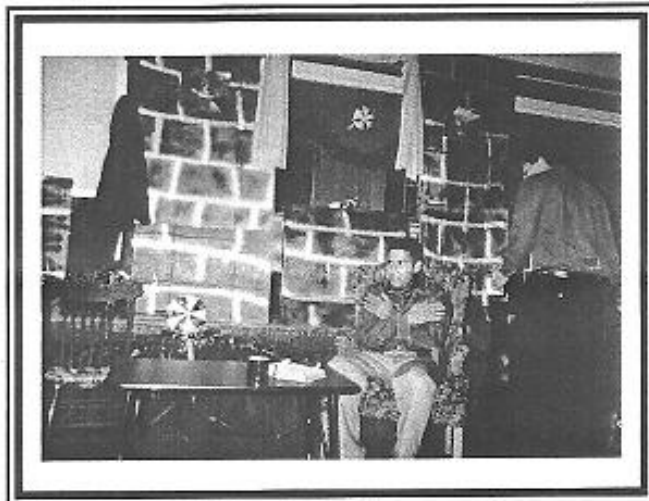
Sandy and I shared the stories of our youth and I have told her of my favorite traditions from Greer. One of my favorite Greer memories was "The Martin Play". Sandy enjoyed that story and this year suggested that the students with whom we are working in south Texas could perform this play. I had some reservations about our ability to do it because of many obstacles we would have to overcome. However, to Sandy's credit and hard work, we were able to perform the play for three audiences and it was very well received. What a wonderful experience it was for all. I thought of all of you this past December during this experience and great feelings came back to me.

will wane with the passage of time'. To me, there's nothing inevitable about it at all—it's a choice that we make and I am glad that we do choose to carry on our friendships -for all of our lives.

I've had a lot of good experiences in my life before, during, and after Greer, and I continue to enjoy my experiences. In addition, one of the precious joys of my life is the continuation of my friendships with each of you and I always look forward to hearing from you; your memories as well as your current experiences. We invite you to share them with us in our newsletters.

In addition, it will be great to see you next year at our 2010 reunion. Have a great spring, everyone and do keep in touch.

John Hudnor, Class of 1963, and
BYU.



The Martin Play, Edinburg, TX Dec. 2008

It reminded me that one of my core beliefs is friendships and traditions can last forever and do not have to be given up when our lives move along. I don't believe that it's 'inevitable that friendships and associations



Trip to State Capital with Mr. Olson's English Class
Early 1950's



Greer School Alumni Newsletter



Page 2

Spring 2009

From Leila Jane Percy

Greetings from Popham Beach, Maine. Somehow one of your newsletters was given to me or sent to me—I just found it in my “look it up” file. My father, Tom Percy, taught at Greer beginning in the 1960's until the mid-1970's. When we were first there we lived in one of the dorms and then got moved into campus housing: first a duplex at the bottom of the big hill on the west side of campus and then we were moved into Bittersweet. I went back to Millbrook a couple of years ago and was astounded at what has changed on campus.



Luncheon after 1956 graduation exercises. Actor James Cagney spoke at graduation.

From Jim Anderson, Class of 1964

I received a nice letter from Warren Olsen in which he said that he was doing well and has retired from teaching at college. I remember Mr. Olsen driving us down to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1961 one Sunday to see the Los Angeles Dodgers play a game. This happened after the Dodgers had left Brooklyn and had moved to Los Angeles and before the Mets baseball team started in 1962. We had to go all the way to Philadelphia to see our beloved Dodgers.

Former Brooklyn Dodgers 1955 World Series hero Johnny Podres passed away last year. It gave me a flashback to when we were in Marcy and Daisy cottage and how we loved the Brooklyn Dodgers. I also think that your mother knew several of the Dodgers as some of them lived in the Brooklyn Heights area where your mother lived. I think of the old days when several of us Greer students would get together while on a vacation in New York City and go to the



Rob Rolston, Roy Gastel, & houseparent/Principal, Jack McHenry feeding racoons: Gatehouse Spring, '53



St. George hotel in Brooklyn Heights to go swimming.

Thanks for your work on behalf of the Alumni Association.



Confirmation Day 1959

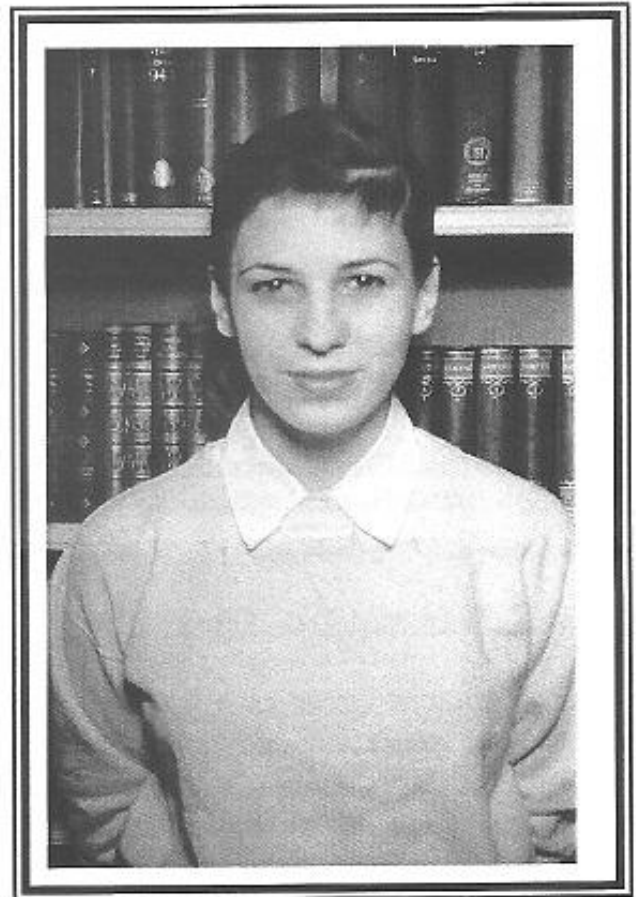
From Mike Ennis, Class of 1958

Seeing the picture of Armin Ali and his story in one of last year's newsletters reminded me of a "come-closer-to-God" incident during my Senior year at Greer. I was the Daisy assistant house-parent that year with Coach and Mrs. Helen Maddox. I was in my cubicle when Harold Soo Hoo came running in to say that Armin had a bleach bottle blow up in his eye. I went to the 2nd floor bathroom and Armin was lying on the floor screaming. As coach Maddox wasn't at the cottage at that moment, Mrs. Maddox gave me the keys to their car and I drove up to the infirmary with Mrs. Maddox holding Armin in the front seat. Naturally Armin was very scarred and instead of going up to the Main house via the regular road, I cranked up the car and *drove it up Daisy hill and across the girls field hockey field* to save some time where the school nurse Mrs. Packer could take over and send him to the hospital for treatment.

From Margaret (Kalik) McKean, 1940's

I lived at Greer, Crest, and ledge cottages. I remember Miss Knowles, my 7th grade teacher, Miss Blanco, my home economics teacher, Miss Bean from Ledge, and Mom Mac, from camp Barbey. I also remember many of the students and many funny incidents while at Greer School.

Presently I live in the Virgin Islands. I did attend two reunions many years ago. One was at a hotel in New York City around 1950 and another in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn, New York a few years later.



Diana Munzer, taken her senior yr, '57



Greer School Alumni Newsletter



Page 4

Spring 2009

From Muriel Bolognini 1936

Although I did not graduate from Greer School, I did attend the school and left in 1936. At that time it was known mainly by the name of "hope farm". I have fond memories of being there and especially of Mr. and Mrs. Fink. He used to fix my sled when it broke. I would go and visit them on Sundays.



Drama Club Presentation of:
'Death takes a Holiday,' 1958

From K. Louise Manz, Class of 1955

I entered Greer as a junior in high school and spent two years at Greer. In response to last Autumn's Greer Alumni newsletter tribute to Mrs. Susan Van Tassell, whom I did not have as a teacher, but whom I remember very well (and her family, including a tall, blond-haired daughter.) We visited her farm during Christmas and maybe spring vacations. We also went to the Abel farm. There were familiar faces in

several of the pictures you selected. However, I didn't share my classmates love of field hockey. They had been playing together since 5th grade by the time I arrived at Greer, and I was left-handed on top of that! As a result, I became very frustrated early on. Ironically, my mother had been a player on a traveling field hockey team during her heyday. However, the football games were especially fun to attend, and the night game at Chatham was one to really remember.

Following graduation, I served on active duty in the Navy for five years. I was stationed in Washington, DC following recruit training and yeoman school at Bainbridge, Maryland. The second of my two assignments was on Capitol Hill in the Naval Liaison office to the Congress. We were a part of a department headed by current Senator John McCain's father. His son (Naval officer John McCain) had recently graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis and frequently stopped by the office of his father on Capitol Hill. While working in DC, I often visited former Greer Staff member Mrs. Barbara Burruss and her sons, Bob and Ellis(Binky). Mrs. Burruss had lived at Daisy cottage with her sons while I was at Greer.

After moving to Philadelphia, I continued my affiliation with the Naval Reserve for nearly 25 years. I agree with you, John, that all of us who were in the military do learn some positive life skills and I feel that young people would benefit from two years in the service after they finish high school and then begin career training.



Greer School Alumni Newsletter



Page 5

Spring 2009



Annual spring cleanup day, 1961. Paula Pequeno and Cherri Abrahamsen

From Serita (Weaver) Eisenbies

It's always great to get the "Greer Alumni Newsletter". I was a caseworker at Greer for part of 1962, 63, 64, and then part of 1965. It was a good time in my life and I loved working and living at Greer. I had a room on the third floor of Greer Cottage where the Shay's were the houseparents. Fellow staff members Howie and Ginny Sanders were such good friends, and the last time I knew, they were still living in Florida. While I have lost touch with the Sanders, I have kept in touch with staff member Pat Dallas through all of these years. She keeps me up to date with some news and she is doing great.

My son Chris lived in Texas for awhile on two different occasions. I learned to make and like Mexican food from him. He is a good cook and his wife appreciates that very much. They and their 3 children live outside of Boston now. My second son and his wife live in Starkville, Mississippi and my third son and his wife live in Livermore, California with their baby. My husband John

is retired and working with a mission group that provides cars for working families. The group gets donated cars, fixes them up, and sells them to clients referred by the community agencies for about \$500. It is a worthy project and as he enjoys tinkering with and fixing cars, what he does is a good match. I spend much of my time involved in various church activities and especially enjoy working with elderly members.



Helen and Jack Maddox,
Daisy House-parents and coach 1957 - 1959

From Florence Chapman Frye

My mother lived at Hope Farm from 1907 to around 1912. I noticed her name on the Memoriam page and wanted to update her information. Her name was Anna Roesler



Greer School Alumni Newsletter



Page 6

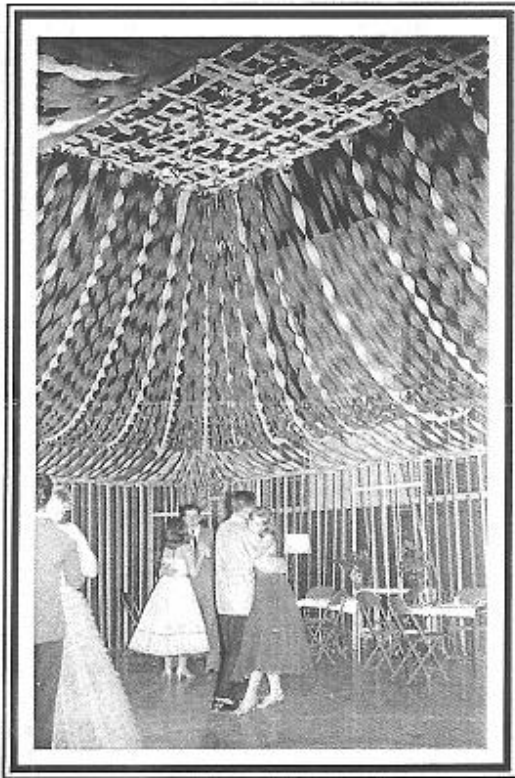
Spring 2009

Chapman and she shared many good memories of Hope Farm. I feel that Hope Farm was a wonderful experience for her. She also had a brother and sister who went to Hope Farm. We have a copy of a small diary that my Mom kept while a Hope Farm; it's just a few pages. She talked of working in the Farm House, then the Main House, then the "Ledge" and the new Laundry when it was built. She said that she got "burnt real bad" one time, and she also told of how she then worked in the main kitchen and she had "sassed at the teacher" and had to stay on the third floor of "Bittersweet" for a couple of days (but she guessed she needed the rest anyway). Thank you to Greer for the care

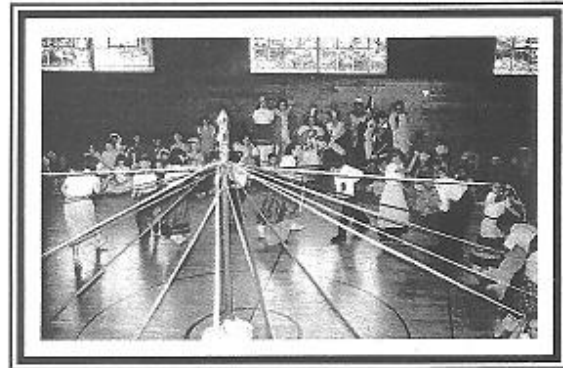
she received and for all that Greer has done for so many students through the years. My mother passed away in 1964.

From Edward Crump

I taught junior high school for 17 years as a physical science teacher (grade 9) and then moved up to the high school and taught Chemistry for 13 years in Edison, New Jersey. I do miss the teaching and the students, but not the bureaucracy of the school.



Prom, Spring 1959



May Pole Dance in gym, spring 1950

From TP Catalano

Thank you for the Greer School Alumni Newsletter. With much interest and pleasure, I enjoyed the Autumn, 2008 issue; the photographs were great.

I lived in Plum cottage with Miss Sutton in 1936. I well remember Miss Sutton as most wonderful with the 5-7 year olds. After growing up, I became a writer and my latest work includes some of my own former Greer experiences

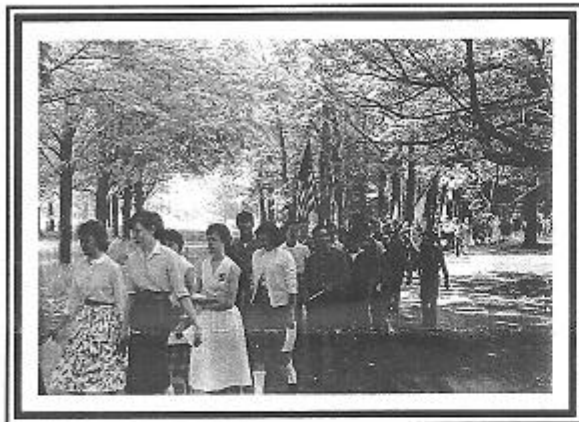


Greer School Alumni Newsletter



Page 7

Spring 2009

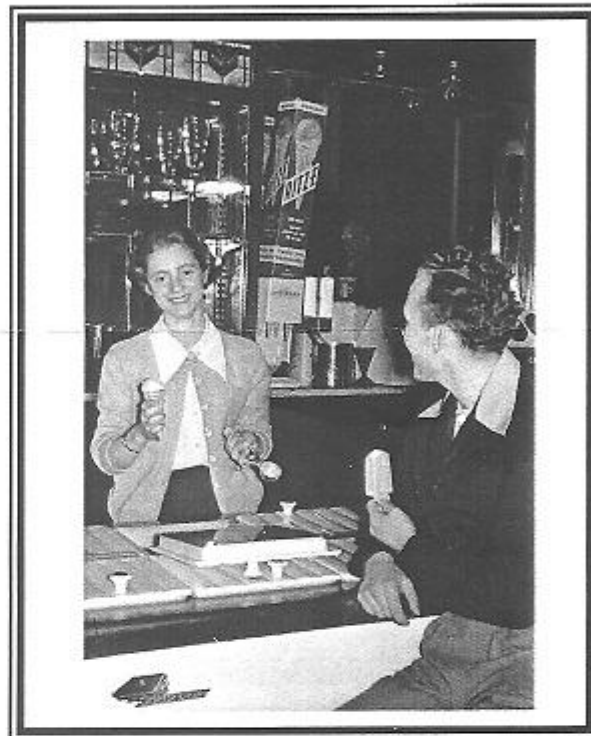


Memorial Day Parade to cemetery, 1959

From Katrina Boltja, 1964-1968

My brother John and I were both at Greer in the mid-1960's. Some of my memories were picking fresh raspberries that were growing behind Greer Cottage, and making 3 large raspberry pies topped off with fresh whipped cream from the farm's pasteurized milk (we would pour off the cream from the top of the milk bottle.) Taking shop class with Mr. George Groh was cool. Picking rhubarb down the road at Ledge Cottage and then making Rhubarb pie in home economics was enjoyable.

I always seemed to get into trouble and cottage, campus, and movie "bounds" were some of my most noted memories. At the time, I hated being at Greer, BUT now I miss some of the good times and good people that I met and hope to remain friends with for the years to come.



Pat Child, Alan Murray 'Wigwam' snack bar, '51

From Kas Kuntsen, 1938

You are doing a great job with the newsletter. I don't think there are many people left from my time at "Hope Farm". I left school in 1938 and then joined the "Civilian Conservation Corps". Later, I joined the Navy for six years and had my career in "Exxon". In 1984 I retired and moved from New Hampshire to Colorado.

Recently, a former Greer student named Frank "Bud" Bunn passed away. He came to Greer in 1940, and after his Greer days, served in the Army from 1946 to 1968 and was awarded the Bronze Star. Later, he worked for Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Texas until he retired in 1998. Frank enjoyed music and was a disc jockey in



Greer School Alumni Newsletter



Page 8

Spring 2009

his younger years. Frank came to Greer two years after I left. I wasn't aware that he had been to Greer until he and his wife joined my church and we became friends.



Mrs. Gwen Elliott, Scout volunteer

From Georganne (Clark) Garbus

My mother and Aunt went to Greer and they said that it was called "Hope Farm" in those days. I did find my aunt in the yearbook but not my mother. They would have left Greer between 1935 and 1937. As for me, I attended Greer from 1952 to 1960. I wonder if anyone else had a parent who went to Greer.

Misc.

I am putting together a power-point A/V presentation for the 2010 reunion. I would like to invite you to share your favorite photo and/or tell us your all time favorite song by band and artist.

We are beginning to make plans for the 2010 reunion! We will let you know as quickly as possible which weekend to set aside.

To those of you who have sent your contributions to these newsletters, just a reminder that we need you need to make the check payable to:

Greer School Alumni Association

Lastly, we are going to try and set up a website for viewing the newsletters. We had very little response concerning emailing them, so we will continue to snail mail them. However, the website will allow you to see them in color, or to print an extra copy for a friend.

If you are reading this here, you are aware this finally happened.

Send your donation of \$5.00 for the printing and mailing of hard copy newsletters to: Mitzi Berry

Check needs to be made payable to:
Greer School Alumni Association

Contact tonyvaz@greerschool.org for address information. Also for forwarding letters to and/or address information for John Hudnor.