



# Greer School Alumni Newsletter

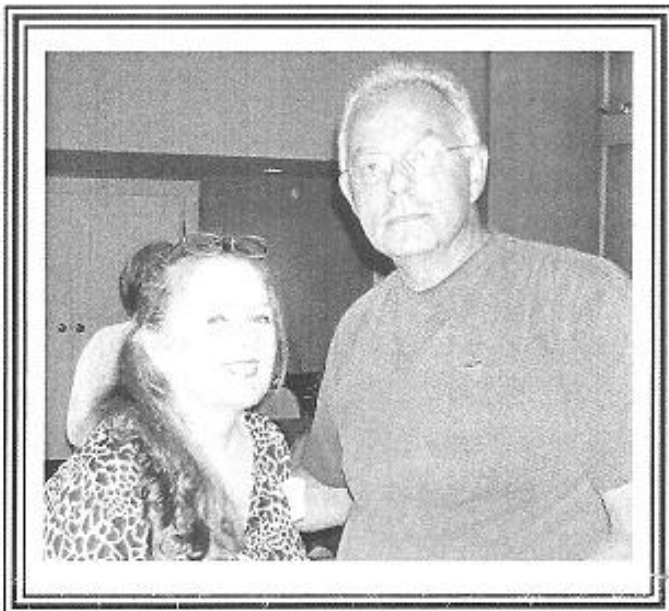


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Holiday/Winter 2008

## Dear Alumni and Staff:

I am sending you the holiday issue **before** Thanksgiving because it's the traditional start of the holiday season and because for most of us, Thanksgiving was more of our "Greer experience" than Christmas as most of us were not on the Greer campus during the Christmas and New Year's day celebrations.

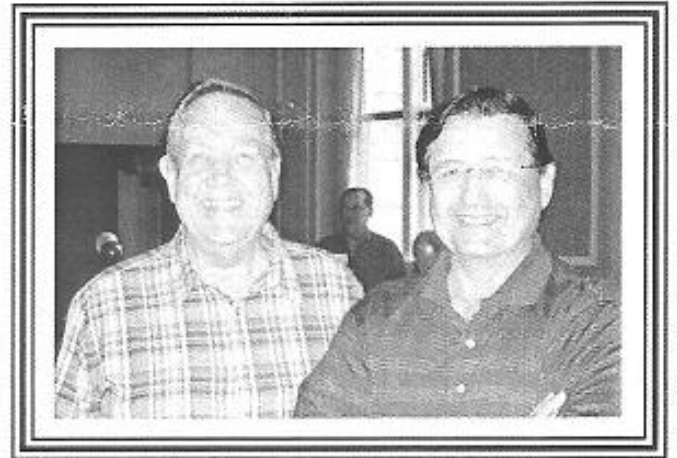


Pam Pequeno and Peter Caram

## Looking back (just a little) and Looking ahead.

I continue to enjoy doing each of these newsletters and reflecting on my past associations with all of you—and am glad that I have not tired of it at all. Those associations taught me lifetime lessons

that continue to be useful and enjoyable to me. Your letters bring to the forefront the positive memories and experiences that you had at Greer.



Jack Ralston and Robert Ildefonso

These are a collective affirmation to me of the value of all of our Greer experiences. That being said, because of my memories of you, I also desire to continue that relationship and I feel that the best way to do that is through your letters and seeing you at reunions. I refuse to give up the hope that at one of these reunions all 300+ of us will show up; what a time that will be. I love what Winston Churchill said to his countrymen in a short speech in 1940 at the height of the Nazi blitz of England: "Never give up, never give up, never give up."



Tom King, Mike Ennis, Anne Meyrowitz



Charmi Neely Jim Anderson, Eve Meyrowitz

So I'll adjust that wartime encouragement to how much I would like to see all of you. In the meantime, keep in touch with us through your letters and especially include stories of what you have done since leaving Greer and/or what you are currently doing. That interests me just as much as your perspectives about your time at Greer.

This issue will contain pictures taken at the September, 08 reunion. We hope that you enjoy them and for those that could not make it to the reunion, we hope you recognize some current faces of Greer staff and students.

### From Ed Crump

I was sitting in the auditorium waiting for lunch to begin when it occurred to me that this room was the center of the

Greer life. The rest, the classes, the cottages, the paths and roads, were where we lived but here momentous events centered our very existence.

For example, what was the most important meal of the school year and where was it served?

Every Friday night was movie night in this room. (Another Hopalong Cassidy?)

Regent Exams. (I do hereby swear!)

Dances. Boys along one wall, girls on the opposite wall. In the middle were the lucky ones already arm in arm.

Theater. The Martin Play. I wonder what happened to the scenery and props.

Also the year we presented "A Midsummer Night's Dream." I can still recite my lines.

Assemblies: I remember a chalk and talk on biblical studies.

And more and more and more and . . .

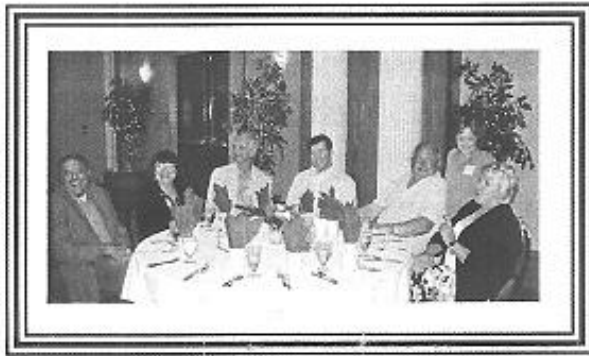


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Banquet at Holiday Inn



Mitzi and Doug Berry

## From Bob Constantine

My September 3, '08 Southwest airline flight from San Diego arrived in Albany on time. A quick trip to the Budget rental car booth and I was on my way 70 miles south to the home of Greer Alum Ida (Farley) Bove. She would be my host for the next week, and would show me the sights. Then, we would drive to Fishkill for the reunion festivities.

Threatening clouds were overhead when we started on the drive to Greer. Fortunately the rain held off, but a missed fork in the road had us 15 miles out of our way. A friendly jogger pointed us in the right direction and we walked into the memory-filled auditorium just as the last guest had passed through the lunch buffet.



Afternoon luncheon

Following lunch we chatted with many of the former students, teachers, husbands and wives. Outside of the schoolhouse, a very light drizzle began and a group formed and set out for Ledge Cottage, past where the Cannery once stood, then



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past the cemetery and up the overgrown road to Ledge. Ledge has not been occupied for many, many years and the appearance of the building showed. A sign said that it was private property. Then we headed back from Ledge road and some of our group decided to walk to the Chapel. Later, most departed for the Holiday Inn in Fishkill to prepare for the banquet.

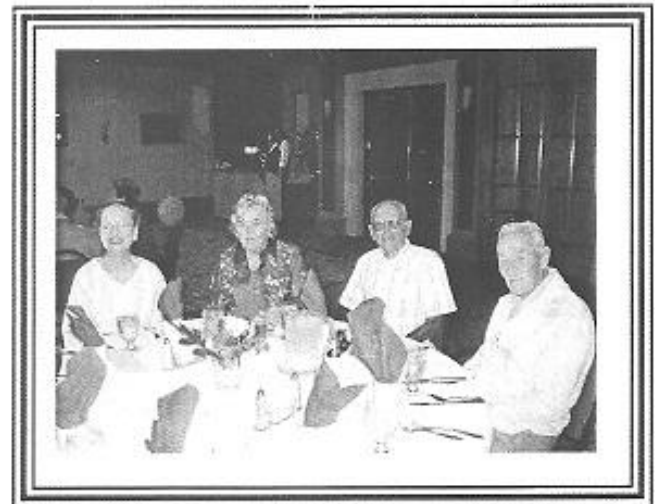


Pre-reunion gathering

The Revelry got underway at 7:00pm in the hotel's cocktail lounge where the wait staff circulated with a bevy of chicken wings, cheeses and small sandwiches. At 8:00pm we filed into a nicely decorated ballroom. Emcee Fred Trommsdorf announced the order of the tables to begin the buffet dinner, where the main courses were chicken or fish. Following dinner, Fred had all attendees rise for recognition when their names

were called from the guest list.

As always, the gathering of so many classmates, spouses and children, helped rekindle the long ago memories of Greer, our onetime sanctuary, a place we long to return to . . . our home.



Pat Hilsinger, Hanna and Herb Cuevas and George Hanson

## MISC

1. It is with sadness that we announce the passing of two of Greer's former staff members. The first was Vernon Ladeau, 85, on March 01, 2008 after a courageous battle with cancer. Vernon worked for many years at Greer as the farm manager and then as the Head of Greer's maintenance department.



Vernon's son-in-law, Ken Lilley also passed away in the spring of 2008. Ken also worked on the farm, and Greer's maintenance department.

I knew both of these good men very well as Vernon was still the farm manager during the summer of 1961 when I first worked on Greer's farm and Ken worked on the farm during the last summer that I worked on the farm in 1963. I enjoyed Vernon's fatherly advice that he gave to me as well as his sense of humor; Ken was a hard-working employee who was only a little older than I when we worked together in 1963 and he was a lot of fun to work with on the farm. He must have had some faith in me as he lent me his car to take my driver's license test near the end of that summer in Pawling. Despite being quite nervous before the test, Ken was very reassuring and kept telling me that I would do fine; I was, and his encouragement was of a big help to me.

In retirement, Vernon lived in Connecticut where he enjoyed working around his house (which he built himself) and in being with his family. Ken was working for the town of Millbrook at the time of his passing. I last saw Ken at a gathering at the Herby Van Anden home in the summer of 2006 and we picked up our friendship as if we had just said goodbye at the end of the summer in 1963. The passage of 43 years of time doesn't change great memories of good times

with friends, and in reflection, I am so glad that I was able to renew that friendship with Ken before his passing.



Afternoon luncheon in high school auditorium

2. The next reunion will be in 2010 and it is our intent to get your input as to when would be the best time of the year to hold it. My main interest is to find out **what month will bring the most of us together**; this is the main consideration in deciding when to hold the 2010 reunion. I have listed some pro's and con's for you to consider.

### November through April

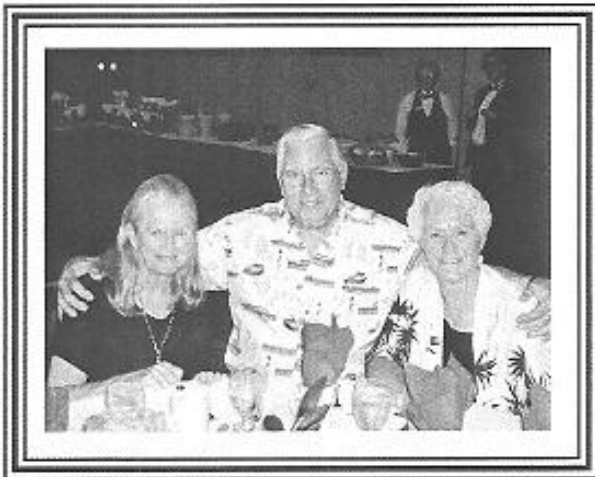
There are two major obstacles for this time period. First, the winter weather which can begin in November and end with a late snowstorm in early April. Second, November & December are busy with holiday plans and in spending time with



family. April is tax time and that can be a burden on our travel budget if we have to pay taxes.

## May-June

In May and June, the mild weather and springtime in Dutchess county is beautiful. Cons are the family gatherings during Memorial day, and graduations of our children or grandchildren which occur in June.



Banquet Dinner

## July-August

The traditional vacation months for those of us who still work full and/or part time jobs. The cons are that it is warmer than late spring or early autumn. We have had almost all of our former reunions during one of these two months and the weather has been good at these gatherings. Hurricane season can also create difficulties leaving home these months.

## September

Much milder weather now, and a touch of fall is in the air. The cons are that many of us live in the southern states and September is still a very active month of Hurricane season—planning a trip to Greer in advance but not knowing about a possible hurricane at the time of the reunion presents risk of having to pull out at the last minute because of a coming storm. This happened to a few you this past September.



Tony and Jo Ann Vaz

## October

There are so many pro's for October. Crisp fall weather, yet mild temps during the day; foliage season, apple cider, hay rides—so many positive memories of Greer at this time of year. Having it in October is almost a no brainier. Yet . . .

There are many con's for October. It

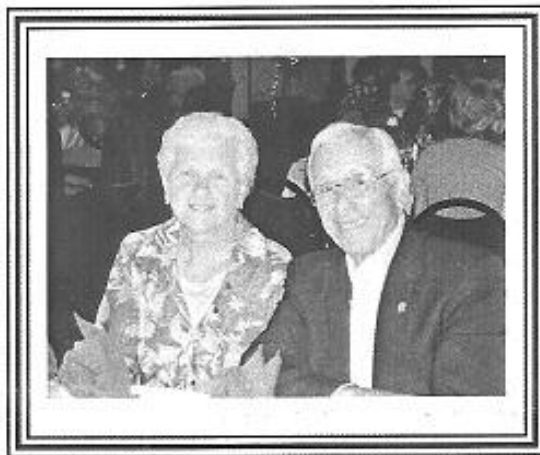


seems that everyone else feels the same way about Dutchess county as we do; Dutchess county is overrun with foilage visitors each year and getting reservations and /or the cost of lodging and food is very high. Car rentals (if you can get one) are also high. You obviously offset this by booking way in advance, but for many of you, we understand that there are many considerations that preclude your being able to plan way in advance. Getting last minute booking is easier in other months other than October. Thus not having it in October is also a no brainier.

have it when most of you will be able to attend, no matter what month that is; we just want you to come and enjoy being together with all of us.



Banquet Dinner



Banquet Dinner

So there you have some of the ideas as to the best time of year to gather in 2010. Let us know when will work best for you so we can decide early in 2009 when to plan the next reunion and thus give you as much lead time as possible for you to plan on coming. As I said earlier, we will

3. We have moved! Our new address is:

No longer valid

The apartment building that we were staying in was foreclosed, so we were lucky to find another apartment down the street from where were living. Despite the cost of living being somewhat lower in Texas than in the northeast, property owners have not escaped being hit by the housing crisis.

Contact information removed for security reasons. Contact [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org) if you need to contact John Hudnor.



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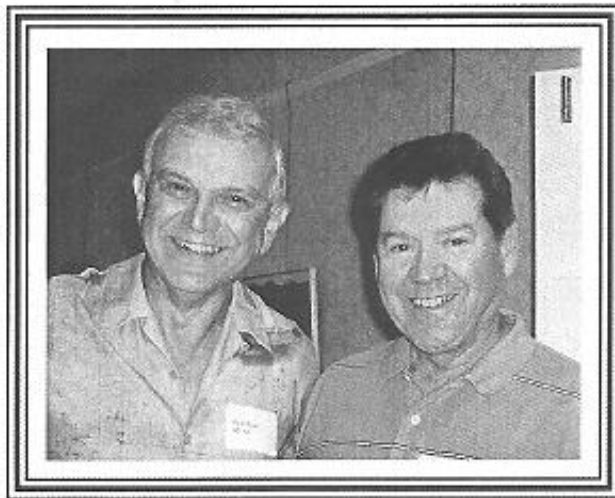


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As always, your letters about your Greer experience as well as what you have done since leaving Greer are the lifeline of the Alumni Newsletters and we love to hear from you. The suggested amount of yearly dues is \$5,\* but any amount will help to pay the cost of the newsletters and reunion expenses.

\* current request



Floyd Oliver and Nick Anderson

5. Speaking of expenses, starting with the "Spring, 2009" issue of the Alumni Newsletter, we would like to send them via e-mail to all of you who have e-mail access. The reasons for this is that we can send it without cost of paper and postage and just as important, you can receive the pictures over the e-mail in full color!

The cost of publishing these hard copy newsletters with the color pictures is exorbitant and that is why we send you the pictures in black and white. Just send

me your e-mail address and we'll move forward from there.

Send to: [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org)

4. Last, but not least, it's great to do these newsletters and hear from you. I consider myself blessed to have such strong and positive memories of all of you and look forward to hearing from you in the future. Have a great holiday season and do keep in touch. All the best to each of you.



Representing The Greer Alumni Association, John Hudnor, class of 63 (byu)

Please note: If a picture was only identified by it's activity, and not it's occupants, it is because the editor did not remember your name. We ask that you forgive our forgetfulness.

**Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
to you and your families!**