



Bushy Tales

Dedicated to all who attended London Central
High School in Bushy Park, London England from
1952 to 1962



Issue #12

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Volume #3

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Visit the Bushy Park Web Site at <http://www.bushypark.org/>

Class Representatives

1953 - Jackie (Brown) Kenny

JKYKNY@aol.com

1954 - Betsy (Neff) Cote

betsycote@charter.net

1955 - Nancie (Anderson) Weber

nancieT@verizon.net

1956 - Glenda F. Drake

gfdrake@swbell.net

1957 - Celeste (Plitouke) Brodigan

Mbrodi1939@aol.com

1958 - Pat (Terpening) Owen

nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net

1959 - Jerry Sandham

Jsandham@quixnet.net

1960 - Ren Briggs

renpat1671@unedspeed.net

1961 - Betsy (Schley) Slepetz

sbslepetz@erols.com

1962 - Dona (Hale) Ritchie

DonaRitchi@aol.com

Corrections

(Editors Note: In the last issue under "New Email Addresses" I made an error. I put an "e" at the end of Mike Hoyt's name and showed him as being class of (50). It should be Mike Hoyt (60). Sorry Mike.)

Roster Changes

New addresses:

Tony Taylor (58)

23263 NE 126th St.

Redmond, WA 98053

Home Phone: 425-868-6949

Cell phone and e-mail remains the same.

Darby Grimes Wyatt (60)

P.O. Box 21613

Keiser, OR 97307

Nancy Miller Collins (60)

Roost747@charter.net

Medford, OR

Gail Taylor Adams (60)

9215 Alyssum Way

Annandale, VA 22003

Nile (Mike) Oldham (61)

nile@velocecorp.net

5139 Mussetter Road

Ijamsville, MD 21743

(301) 865-3348

Carol Mihalik (62)

120 Funston Place, #8

San Antonio, TX 78209

New email addresses:

Fred Bidgood (55)

fcbidgood1@netzero.com

Jay Marron (59)

dickinson.marron@verizon.net

Robert Burdick (60)

Burdickre@verizon.net

Peter H. Henry (61)

henryph@direcway.com

Keith Hoehnke (62)

Keith.Hoehnke@memo.macktrucks.com

Suzy Babbidge Trahan (62)

Sukylee@cox-internet.com

Phone number correction

Glenda H. Fuller Drake (56)

Please remove her work phone number

Look Who We Found

From Nancie (Anderson) Weber (55)

nanciet@verizon.net

We've found Pat Miller '55.

Patricia A (Miller) Hodges (55)

9308 Brookhill Court,
Waxhaw NC 28173
(704) 243-0855

It was a joint effort, initially triggered by notes from Don Crews '59 and Don Miller '54 in your most recent newsletter. Don C mentioned a roster in his possession, and in fact it identified the "R" in Pat's father's COL R.O. Miller as Raymond. That was pivotal, finally permitted narrowed focus on the Social Security Deaths Index. The listing most likely his indicated he'd passed away in 2000,

Richmond VA, and as we knew Pat was from Virginia, that worked. Within a couple of hours the Richmond Times-Dispatch had dug his obituary from its archives, identifying COL Miller's survivors.

Meantime, Don M, who'd dated Pat, remembered that there'd been an article in a DC-area newspaper on occasion of her 1959 graduation from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI or VaTech) as the "first woman graduate of her father's alma mater."

We hadn't been sure of the school until that came up and Don went net surfing. He turned up a 1980 speech, "Against the Odds: Women at VPI" which actually examples Pat as opening up new opportunities for women on campus in the late 1950s. Anyone interested, please check out

<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/archives/125th/women/founders.htm>

Dr. Pat Hodges (EDD-RD) is retired from long association with the University of Alabama, is also LTC/Ret. USA via the Reserves. She lives in Waxhaw NC. Her email is pathodges@earthlink.net and she'd love to hear from old friends.

Your newsletter's made the big difference once again, Gary. And please add Pat to its monthly circulation list.

Nile (Mike) Oldham (61)

nile@velocecorp.net
5139 Mussetter Rd
Ijamsville, MD 21754
(301) 865-3348

Mini Reunions

From Sherry Burritt Konjura (57)

sherger@juno.com

Just downloaded the January Issue of Bushy Tales...printed out a copy and look forward to settling down with a cup of coffee and reading all the news.

Here's something for an upcoming issue:

On December 26th Bill Cooper ('57) held his annual Boxing Day Party at his home in DC. Aside from his numerous children, his children's spouses and all the grandchildren, there were a number of friends and neighbors present filling his home with laughter and joy. Bill filled a buffet table with a wonderful dinner and trimmings. Among those attending were Celeste Plitouke Brodigan ('57), Sherry Burritt Konjura ('57), Ruth Lund Bethea ('55), and Diane Lund McMahon ('58). Bill, Celeste, Ruth, Diane and Sherry had a great time "remembering when". It seems, no matter how many times we "Bushyites" get together, "remembering when" is an activity we never tire of! Photo shows l-r: Ruth, Sherry, Bill, Celeste & Diane. Happy New Year Everyone!



Reunions

From Billie (Culp) Bules (54)
BCBules@aol.com

The Class of 1954 of London Central High School is having their 50th reunion, Oct. 10, 11 & 12, 2004 at the Flamingo Laughlin Hotel/Casino in Laughlin, Nevada and invited the classes of 1953 and 1955 to join us. The members of the class of 1954 decided to limit this reunion to a smaller group, just these 3 classes, since it is such a special occasion and we want to have the chance to really visit with the folks that we went to school with. If you are a member of one of these classes and have not received the registration information from either Jackie (Brown) Kenny, Nancie (Anderson) Weber or Billie (Culp) Bules, please email Billie at bcbules@aol.com or call her at 602-482-2839 for registration information.

Memories of Bushy

From Peter Henry (61)
henryph@direcway.com

I was part of the Brussels, Belgium crowd and attended CHS Busy Park circa 1958-59 (sophomore year only) and graduated from Warwick Senior High School, Newport News VA. I went on to Stanford, did my four years in the Air Force (Brooks AFB, San Antonio), and then had a career at DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) in international health. I have just retired (November 1, 2003), and am waiting to see what comes next.

Brussels and the year at Central High school was life altering experience! Last year was largely spent in the Novosibirsk area, at a place called VECTOR, working on applied public health as a transition for former Soviet bioweaponers.

I'm amazed at how many people I remember simply from names and photos. I do have many fond and "interesting" memories of the place, outings, and other events of that time. Who was the dorm leader and soccer coach?

I have gone back to Bushy Park (twice) and tried to find traces, like the gas tanks in the rear (over the wall) of the attached picture **(Editors Note: Picture file was too large and I was unable to make it small enough to be in the newsletter. – Sorry)** taken from the back of the boys dorms - I think the fellow is "Speedo" Thomas, beside a kayak I built and tested in the Thames, I think with Mike Oldham. Alas, although I could find Hampton Court, the park, and where I think the dorms were; everything else was swept clean, save for the deer and a brass plaque near a memorial flagpole.

Mike Oldham was my roommate. I'm having dinner with him next weekend. Hence our mutual amusement at seeing the photos and reviving old memories.

From Nile (Mike) Oldham (61)
nile@velocecorp.net

I had no idea the Bushy Park website existed until yesterday - I was delighted to see the old photos! I must admit that I don't recognize any of the names from the reunions, and precious few from the yearbook. Like Peter, I spent only my sophomore year at Central, returning to VA to attend two more high schools (5 in all), college, and then the next 35 years as a physicist at the National Bureau of Standards (now NIST) in the Washington DC area. I'm actually still there part-time, building strange measuring gadgets.

Attached is one of the only photographs I have from 1950s England – a shot of Mike Williams (left) and me on a wild winter camping trip with a bunch of Brits in the Lake District in 1958. I have a few of other shots from that trip that Mike might be interested in, if Pete's able to find him on his upcoming trip to CA. I returned to Bushy Park in the mid 80s to visit the National Physical Laboratory (sort of the UK equivalent of the place I work) and was

told by a friend that he thought his lab now occupied part of the old Central High School property. He wasn't sure - do you happen to know if anything was built on that property or was it returned to the park?



Classmates Who Have Transferred To The Eternal Duty Station

Our love and prayers go out to the family and friends of our classmates who have gone on before us. We will miss them, yet we can find comfort in knowing that one-day we will all join them for the greatest of all reunions

John A. Henry (59)- per his brother, Peter

Linda J. Culpepper (62)

William H. "Butch" Densford (57)

I was surfing and found this listing of my brother, William H. "Butch" Densford in your Bushy Park High School Grads list. Butch was accepted to the United States Military Academy, Class of '64. In his Yearling year he decided that the military was not for him. Being true to the "Code" he resigned. He returned to Texas and became a successful real estate broker. He was married and had two children. Butch died in 1976 after a truck accident on Bee Caves Rd west of Austin, Texas. He was a fine man and we miss him. next older brother, Bucky Densford 228 Chisholm Trail, Pipe Creek, Tx 78063

Look Who is Looking for Who

From Jerry Berry (55)

jlberry@frii.com

I recently received an email from Jim Childs, '56, an old friend and fellow Scout -and band member- at Bushy Park. My emails back have been rejected. This is a request for Jim "James Child jcchild38@earthlink.net " to try again to reach me. Perhaps send me a phone number. I'm trying to get back to you, Jim!

This and That

From Dianne Pendergrass Hopkins (55)

td400@joimail.com

My daughter and son-in-law came for Christmas from Grand Rapids and they talked with three soldiers returning from Iraq at the Atlanta airport while waiting to return home. They said everyone kept coming up and thanking them for doing such a great job for our country. The whole experience really touched Tina and Jeff. I am going to send them a copy of the newsletter.

NOTE FROM PAT TERPENING OWEN -

does anyone remember who got the Bushy Park dirt at the "Gathering" in San Diego? Dianne contributed the dirt, and would love to know who received it. Unfortunately neither Ren Briggs nor I remember who it was. Thanks.

From Tony Taylor (58)

USNA1964@earthlink.net

We did not get to mail out cards this year with all of the rush to relocate down to Loma Linda, California, for the next two months while I undergo proton radiation treatment on my back. We arrived here about two weeks ago (early December) and will be here until early February before returning to the Seattle area.

We are going to miss our beautiful grandchildren during the holidays, but this is a thing I must do to ensure future good health. All in all I feel great now that the mending from my operations on my back last August is mostly complete. We have a great health club here that we can use daily, so I hope to really get myself back in shape before we leave.

We are staying in a small apartment, but when we can we are getting out to see the sights of Southern California and enjoying the sunshine. Last weekend we spent in Palm Desert, and on another occasion we spent a couple of days on the island of Santa Catalina off the coast of Long Beach.

Upon our return to the Seattle area, we will be down-sizing to a new home that is under construction in Redmond, not too far from where we have been living. Our current home is just too big for the two of us, and our new home will be a rambler with a great room. We will let you know our new address once we make the move. In the meantime I will still be keeping my cell number (425-260-6289) and e-mail address even while we are here in Loma Linda.

From Ren Briggs (60)

renpat1671@7needspeed.net

I talked to Doss Harsch (59) the other day and thought I would bring all of you up to date.

Doss is on the heart transplant list. He cannot be more than 2 hours from home. He has attended several seminars that give him the information, and answers to questions that he may have. Should a heart become available, they will call him on his cell phone. He has two hours to get there. That is it. Should he be out of the area, and he cannot make it, he has to go back on the list. It is a waiting game now. That is the bad part. I can tell you he is ready. He wants to do it and get on with his

life. It will be the waiting that is bad. There are so many things that must be in line to get a new heart. There are others who are on the list, and they too are waiting. Everything has to be just right for the person on the list.

Some may have a higher priority, you just do not know. Anyway, His son will call me and let me know should he get the phone call and keep me posted. I will let you know as soon as I know.

From Valerie Filinson Katz (60)

vkatz@satx.rr.com

Our Gathering in San Diego was wonderful. I can't believe I got to see some of my friends after 43 years! We all shared a very special life there and a special relationship between us existed. I've heard from a few people afterward via email and it feels great to be in touch with them again. I'd love to hear from more of my friends and not fall out of touch ever again.

Stay well and thanks for making me feel like a 16 year old again---if only for 3 days! I even got a phone number of one of my mate's daughter for my son. Who knows, there could be a "Next Generation Bushy" mini series.

From Darby Grimes Wyatt (60)

dcwyatt42@yahoo.com

Finally got out of the house today and did it ever feel good. Forgot what it was like living in upstate New York when we were stationed at Griffiss AFS!

I had my stem cell transplant this past April and if you make it two years without the cancer coming back they feel it was a success. I go back to Oregon Health Sciences in April. Right now I'm not thinking about it and figure if it returns (I was only given a 40% chance) I go on from there. Am enjoying my 6 week

doctor visits rather than 3 times a week. Got my line out of my chest about three weeks ago so really feel like a human being.

Sure enjoy the monthly newsletter you and Gary put out for us. I heard from some people that rode the bus with me to school and their memory was sure better than mine. I had to get the old yearbook out. I do enjoy the notes from everyone. We military kids are a special breed. Keep up the great work and we all appreciate it.

Comments From You Our Readers

From Frank Janusz - Faculty 1958-61

FJanusz@cs.com

I suggested to Ren (Briggs) that the faculty be included in your complete register of students that you folks put together. I like to feel as much a part of LCHS as the students. My wife and I expect to be off for Florida next weekend for a couple of months. Judy Risler Covington (60) and Mike Murphy (58) are scheduled to visit sometime in January or February.

NOTE FROM PAT TERPENING OWEN: If anyone has an address for any faculty, please let me know and I'll start adding them to the database. I do have a few, but not very many. Thanks

From Helga (Blanton) Pepper (57)

helga_61@hotmail.com

Just wanted you to know I really appreciate the newsletter and all the work it takes. Also, I went to the gathering at SD and had lots of fun seeing old friends and meeting some new ones.

From Judy Samms Stanford (59)

stanfordwk@earthlink.net

Fantastic newsletter. I love hearing about everyone and their experiences. I loved Bushy Park and have very fond memories. Keep the

newsletter coming and thanks for all the hard work.

From Craig Sams (61)

craig@craigsams.com

As a regular reader and one time contributor to Bushy Tales I feel that I must write to comment on the joke at the end of the January 2004 edition.

However funny the structure of the joke, it seems to me in questionable taste to equate Saddam Hussein, an un-elected and brutal dictator with representatives of the American people, elected with a majority of the votes in fair and open democratic contests. I realize that many readers, perhaps because of their military background, may see things in black and white but it is important to remember that Clinton, Kennedy and Daschle all represent a majority of the people in the constituencies that they represent, in Clinton's case the entire American nation, in the case of the others, the states of Massachusetts and North Dakota respectively. Soldiers from those states are fighting and dying in Iraq and to trivialise the democracy on whose behalf they are fighting is to lose sight of the principles of unity despite differences that underpin everything that America stands for in the world.

I sincerely hope that this is not the only communication you receive on this subject. Bushy Tales reunites old friends, its relaxed and happy content is spoiled by a politically sectarian joke that demonises leading American politicians.

From Vicki Brown Tidwell (61)

d.vtidwell@charter.net

I enjoyed the stories (and the joke) regarding the current "war" in Iraq. Our son, Brian, is there with the Stryker Brigade (2nd. Inf. Div, 3rd. Brigade, 1-23 from Ft. Lewis, WA.) He

has only been there for about 4 weeks and has 48 more to go! Brian is 21 and we are 60...yes, we got teased quite a bit about it back then.

I also enjoyed reading Judy Schroeder's (59) memories of Mr. Mitchell, the French teacher. Just like Judy, I earned a D+ in his class...but I never thought to get upset and cry in front of him so he would change it to a C-! (I probably wouldn't have gotten grounded if I had tried that.) It was sooooo easy to get Mr. Mitchell off track. He loved to sing French songs and tell stories. He was a very sweet old gentleman--or at least he seemed "old" to me at the time.

I would like to get in touch with Sharynne Zink (61) and Dave Grace (60) if anyone knows where they are. Also, I would like to contact Erin Keefe's sister, Susan. My daughter is named after Erin. Erin could always make me laugh when she would "squinch" her eyes and make fun of something I said or did. The last time I talked to her, she was not in the best of health--and that was years ago.

I really enjoy reading the newsletter each month and would like to wish you all a happy new year ("God bless us, everyone!") Vicki Brown Tidwell (61)

From Keith Hoehnke (62)

Keith.Hoehnke@memo.macktrucks.com

I'd like to thank you and everyone else involved for providing former CHS students to contact each other, it's great finding out what happened to people!