Bushy Tales

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

Issue #1 **March 2010** **Volume #10**

Gary Schroeder (55), Editor gschroeder4@comcast.net
Visit the Bushy Park Web Site at http://www.bushypark.org/

Class Representatives

1953 - Jackie (Brown) Kenny
JKYKNY@aol.com

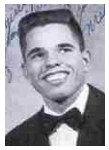
1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote
betsycote@verizon.net

1955 – Nancie (Anderson) Weber
nancieT@verizon.net

1956 - Edie (Williams) Wingate
WingW@aol.com

1957 –Shirley (Huff) Dulski
shuffy2@msn.com

1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen
CHS1958@sbcglobal.net



1959 – John "Mike" Hall
MGHall@Q.com

1960 - Ren Briggs
rpbjr@frontiernet.net

1961 - Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net

1962 - Dona (Hale) Ritchie
DonaRitchi@aol.com

REMINDERS AND SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Don't forget, if you're planning on changing your e-mail address (especially if you've been using a work e-mail to receive the newsletter and are planning on retiring soon) to let either Gary or Pat know so you can continue to receive news about your classmates.

2. Please try to remember to put BUSHY PARK or something similar in the SUBJECT line when you send us something. If we don't recognize your name or e-mail address we might delete it. (I've done that in the past - Pat). **We also need your class year.**

3. If you decide you no longer want to receive the newsletter, just send an e-mail to either Gary or Pat and let them know and you'll be taken off.

4. If you haven't received your newsletter by the 5th of any month (unless Gary or Pat let you know

if there will be a delay), please contact either of them and they'll get a copy out to you.

Big Problem

If you are receiving this newsletter and have in the past asked to be removed from the mailing list I do apologize. I experienced a computer crash last month and lost my entire email address book (among most of everything else). With the help of Pat Owen (58) I have been able to rebuild the address book from old files and some of you may have asked to be removed since then. If this is the case, please send me an email and I will remove you from the list. Also, we may have missed some who have been found and we don't have them on the list. If any of you know of someone who is not getting the newsletter please send me their name, email address and class year and I will add them to the list. I am sorry for all the problems this has caused and am doing my best to get things rebuilt and back to normal. If anyone has the email addresses for the Faculty I need them too.

Also, if any of you can not open Adobe PDF files and need the newsletter sent to you as a Microsoft Word file please let me know, I lost that list also.

Roster Changes

New Email address:

Diane (Zumwalt) Dorsey (57) no picture available
dhzumwaltdorsey@att.net

Look Who We Found

Ingrid Gath Kakalow (60)
thegreek@q.com

Memories of Bushy

Walt Hunt (56)
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A shot at the Winfield House (Teen Club) one Sunday in Fall of 1952. Who are these folks?

Tony Taylor (58)
usna1964@earthlink.net

Senior Class Trip '58

While touring the Continent by bike and hitchhiking during the summer of '57, Ric Henslee and I noticed all of the advertisements for the upcoming Brussels World Fair scheduled for May of '58. The more I thought about it, the more I thought "wouldn't that be a great place to go for our senior class trip?"

Once I returned home in London, I started thinking as to how we could do this and make it affordable so that everyone could go. I asked my dad, who worked at the American Embassy, if there was any contact we could make in Brussels where we could invite some Belgian high school students to come visit us in London for a few days and stay in our homes, and in return we could visit them in Brussels during the World Fair. He came home one day with a contact and suggested that I write a letter to the director of the Association Belgique American and propose a student exchange.

As it turned out we were very successful in coordinating an exchange. In mid April 33 Belgian students ranging in age from 15 to 23 arrived in London and became guests in our homes.

One of their first visits was a trip to Bushy Park where we all met and even had a student exchange discussion in the cafeteria and then shared lunch with them. Later we arranged for tours of London its museums as well as a visit to the American Teenage Club (TAC) at Hyde Park.

A month later the great class of '58 gathered at Victoria Station for our trip to Brussels. We were met in Brussels by our host families and began what would be a senior class trip of a lifetime.

Not only did we get to see a replica of the newly launched Sputnik space capsule in the Soviet pavilion, but got to hear the "beep-beep" signals from the Sputnik in space, the world's first space craft.

The American pavilion was impressive and very modern, while many of the other national pavilions reflected the culture of those countries. We also had a chance to see the old city of Brussels; one of my favorite European capital cities.

By the way, our classmate, Steve Eng, wrote a very nice article about our trip that fall while a student at University of Maryland, Munich; it was published in the November 1958 issue of **Student Life**.

Attached are a few photos from the visit by the Belgian students as well as from our visit to Brussels in May 1958.

Belgian Students Visit Bushy Park

A Party for the Belgian Students at the TAC

Judy Garrison at Waterloo Station

Class of '58 at the Brussels World Fair

Mike Kelly (61)
MikeKelly@austin.rr.com

I just was looking at some 1959-60 photos and found one of me at Christmas break 1959.

I had just returned the day before from Bushy Park on the bus to Upper Heyford with wild ideas about

partying until the wee hours of the morning and just having a laid back good time with friends at Upper Heyford. My dad took one look at me and told me I should rethink my "vacation" plans significantly. No way, as I felt just fine! He asked me if I would respect someone elses honest opinion and I had to agree. (He was bigger than me!) He sent me across the street to Dr. Fruend's house. Dr. Fruend sat me down and gave me the facts and told me what I should be doing for the next two weeks. As you can see from the picture the next day I had a good case of the mumps. It was a bit boring and a lot different than what I had planned, but I did live through it

Mini Reunions

Billie (Culp) Bules (54)
DWBCBULES@aol.com

While attending a Newcomer's Club Christmas luncheon here in Fayetteville, AR I met another graduate of Bushy Park, much to my delight. We were having a casual conversation, this lovely lady whom I had just introduced myself to, and myself, when the subject of high schools and reunions came up. I mentioned that my class of 1954 graduated in London, England and that we get together every other year for a reunion. She smiled and said, "Was it Bushy Park - London Central High School?" It was a thrill for me to meet her and we have been trying to get together, but the weather kept getting in the way. Today she and I met for lunch to be better acquainted and to talk about our lives as Air Force Brats and attending school in London. Her name was Virginia Talley and she was in the graduating class of 1961. Her name is now Virginia Moore and she and her husband Randy moved here to Fayetteville about 3 years ago, from Austin, Texas. My husband Dave and I moved here 1-1/2 years ago from Phoenix, Az.

It is always so nice to make new friends with former students of Bushy Park.

Reunion Information

Dianne (Pendergrass) Hopkins (55)
dhopkins400@peoplepc.com

LONDON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL at BUSHY PARK REUNION

Classes 1953-56 & Friends
September 19-23, 2010
Wilmington, NC

We are finalizing the plans for the reunion in Wilmington this September, which will be here before we know it. Wilmington is awaiting us to come and enjoy her rich history and beautiful scenery. We have planned a welcome reception for Sunday night. Starting Monday afternoon, Bob Jenkins shares with us an informative lecture on Wilmington, with the option of a walking tour. Also on Monday, Ted Hopkins '55 will have a presentation for us, which is always enjoyable. Tuesday will be an optional sightseeing trip of the area including Southport, Brunswick Town, Orton Plantation, Fort Fisher, a ferry ride, and much more. Wednesday we have planned a tour of a battleship during the day and a fabulous banquet that evening at the Pilot House located on the Cape Fear River.

Pat, Ruth and I visited the restaurant twice while we were in Wilmington making the arrangements for the reunion. The food was great!

It will help with our final planning if you can make your reservations as soon as possible. We need to estimate the final numbers for transportation and each of the events. Cancellation is 24 hours before the arrival date, and the cutoff date to make reservations is August 19, 2010. We have had fun planning the reunion and we are looking forward to seeing all of you in Wilmington!

Organizers:
Ruth Lund Bethea (rbethea@verizon.net
Pat Miller Hodges (pathodges@earthlink.net)
Dianne Pendergrass Hopkins
(dhopkins400@peoplepc.com)

Renold Briggs (60)
rpbjr@frontiernet.net

Bushy Park Gathering 2010 Las Vegas

I hope all of you are planning on attending the Gathering May 16th to 19th in Las Vegas. There has been a change for the contracted room rates. The old room rate was $50 a night. It is now $36 a night. For the ones who have made their reservations, your rates have been adjusted. You do not have to do anything.

The Gathering cut off date of April 14th is coming fast so please make your reservations as soon as you can. If you have any questions please contact me.

Please see last two pages of this newsletter for a flyer about this reunion.

This and That

Richard "Rick" Schroeder (55)
sschroe27348@msn.com

I was messing around with Google Earth last night and decided to see if I could find the old 113 the Heights, South Harrow, London, England. It went right there and you could look in to the "back garden". I also tried to find Chester Collage in Harrow but couldn't find it. Did find Bushy Park and Hampton Court but no Central High School (I know that it was torn down). You might want to mention in this in the next Bushy Times. Others might want to play also.

Karl Rubinstein (61)
karl.rubinstein@gmail.com

The Summer of the French Kids.
I attended Bushy from 1958 to 1960. As a town kid living in Old Windsor, I was a beneficiary of the posh coach service that took me on the 1.5 hour (each way) trip to and from Bushy. This distance created two Bushys, one for the dorm kids and one for the town dwellers. Since the town kids were scattered all over the area, my social group of Bushy students was limited. I did know

Mike Murphy, whose articles have appeared in these pages. I recall bumming a Kool, I think it was, from Mike when a group of us loitered on the streets of Staines one evening. I think Bob Overton was there too. And possibly, Mike Feeney who I swear was the model for The Fonz on "Happy Days." I loved being in England and have several stories I could tell, but the story of "The Summer of the French Kids" shoves its way to the head of the line. So here it is.

As the summer between the 1958 and 1959 school years commenced, a flock of French kids floated in like so many white plumed flower seeds, several settling as summer visitors with local families in the area around Old Windsor, Staines, and nearby places. The loveliest of these flowers was a teenage girl who looked like Bridget Bardot-- long blond hair, luscious figure; pouting, bee sting lips.

She moved in with our next door neighbors who lived in the other half of the multi-story duplex my USAF Dad had leased. In an instant, I was knocking at her new door, dying to meet her. And, sure enough, I met her. As I stood on the concrete steps, tongue hanging out, practically panting, she

regarded me with disdainful blue eyes and sneering red lips. She knew about three words of English, but her message was loud and clear. "No dice, Bozo."

Rats. But life goes on, and the next day I met Pierre Orosuf, a French kid my age whose summer nest was half a mile away. Pierre habitually wore a beret and a horizontally striped long sleeved t-shirt, looking like a guy from an Eiffel Tower brochure. His English was excellent and we immediately became friends. Naturally, I told him about the girl next door. Pierre assured me he was the epitome of French-girl dreams and had several beautiful girlfriends back in Paris.

Knock. Knock. "Er, is Yevette in." Yes she was. Soon her blue eyes stared derisively down her cute, turned up nose at Pierre. A few quick sentences were exchanged in their native tongue, then the door closed behind her as Pierre gaped in surprise. My spirits soared at the realization I wasn't the only strike-out artist in the neighborhood.

So Pierre and I spent the warm weeks of summer Yevette-less, except for rare instances when we'd glimpse the poetry of her image moving across the distant, unattainable horizon of our world. As summer drew to an end, Pierre was invited to an End-of-French-Kid-Summer-Dance at someone's house. Pierre invited me and we showed up. Mike Murphy might have been there as well. Yevette was in attendance, but her distaste for anything Karl or Pierre seemed unabated.

There were a lot of kids there and I was dancing to some British version of American Rock and Roll when I mentioned I had a ton of current American 45s back at the ranch. "Oooh." "Ahhhh." I was sent to fetch them, which I did.

For my first act as a DJ, I chose "At the Hop," by Danny and the Juniors. Wow! None of the French kids had ever heard it. They went stark nuts, rockin' and rollin' like American Bandstand never did. I was the hero of the hour. They all loved me and I basked in a never before and never after achieved stardom. Best of all Yevette consented to dance with me. At last, after long months of secret yearning, I took her small, silky hand. And we danced.

No, that's not true. *I* danced. To this day, I have no idea what she was doing. She twitched, wriggled, hopped, and shook. But no motion had any relationship to the music. She was like a puppet whose cut strings were being pulled by cats running for different exits. So much for poetry in motion. My disillusioned mind filled with phrases like, "Beauty is only skin deep," and "You can't judge a French Girl by her cover."

Despite this, I decided to forgive these defects and ask her out. But the music stopped. Just before she turned and glided away, her clear blue eyes said, "No dice, Bozo."

From Susan (Dalberg) Miller (62)
wolfpaw81@aol.com

Update on the question about cancer, lung problems, etc: possibly from living on bases. Only had one reply, so guess it's a non issue. Good to know.

Also wanted to thank "Brats" in general. I just finished reading a book where a young teen had such a tough time adjusting, making new friends, fitting in at a new school, new town. Made me feel very happy to be a Brat. Luckily, for most of us, that was never a problem. My first day on the bus, during the hours it took to get to Bushy, Judy Stillson grabbed me the minute I got on, introduced herself and all her siblings, then made sure I knew everybody on the bus. During the day, I'd run into one in almost every class and they'd introduce me. By the end of that first week I was, once again "home" in a very short time.

Thank you again Gary and Pat for ten hard, long enjoyable years!
Susan

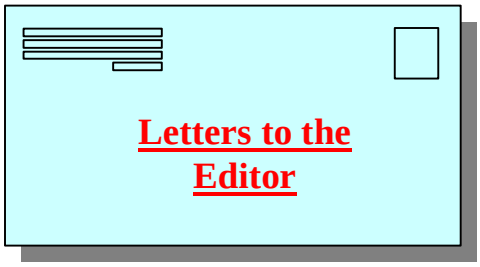
John Strand (58)
jsstrand@hotmail.com

Thought you might find this item about Buckingham Palace interesting for the newsletter

"BUCKINGHAM PALACE HAS RECENTLY BEEN VALUED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME AT OVER £1 BILLION. THE QUEEN'S

OFFICIAL LONDON RESIDENCE WAS ESTIMATED BY HOME VALUATION SITE Zoopla.co.uk, MAKING IT THE UK'S MOST EXPENSIVE FAMILY PROPERTY. BUT THE PRICE TAG IS HARDLY SURPRISING WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THE PALACE HAS 775 ROOMS, INCLUDING 19 STATE ROOMS, 52 ROYAL AND GUEST BEDROOMS, 188 STAFF BEDROOMS, 92 OFFICES AND 78 BATHROOMS. IT ALSO HAS A CINEMA, SWIMMING POOL, 40 ACRES OF LAND WITH GARDENS AND PARK LAND, AND IT'S VERY OWN POST OFFICE. A ZOOPLA SPOKESPERSON SAID; 'EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE, EVEN BUCKINGHAM PALACE. AND IT SHOWS THAT THE ROYALS MIGHT BE SHREWDER INVESTORS THAN THEY ARE GIVEN CREDIT FOR, GIVEN THAT BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, AS IT WAS KNOWN THEN, WAS REPORTEDLY PURCHASED FOR

ONLY £21,000 BY KING GEORGE III IN 1761.' THE QUEEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT, WINDSOR CASTLE, HAS ALSO BEEN VALUED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT OVER £200 MILLION. THE FIGURE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE £37 MILLION SPENT ON RESTORATION FOLLOWING THE 1997 FIRE. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT THE ROYALS DO HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH OTHER BRITISH PROPERTY OWNERS, AND ARE NOT IMMUNE TO THE FALL IN THE HOUSING MARKET. ZOOPLA HAS ESTIMATED THAT BUCKINGHAM PALACE HAS FALLEN IN VALUE BY AN ESTIMATED £57 MILLION IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS. WINDSOR CASTLE FARED ONLY SLIGHTLY BETTER WITH A DROP IN VALUE OF £8 MILLION SINCE LAST SUMMER."



Bob Lyle (54)
Robvlyle@cs.com

Dear Gary,

Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of Bushy Tales. Thanks to your great dedication and hard work you have stirred some great memories.

Life in England was always fascinating. Recently I was reminded of an experience I had going to an English school before going to Bushy Park. Being the only American (or Yank) in the school at the time, I seem to have a vivid memory of some of the things that happened there (good and bad!).

This school had a philosophy that everyone played sports regardless of ability (unless you had an excuse from a doctor). It's a great philosophy. The school was divided into houses that competed against each other in every sport (our version of intramurals). After being exposed to cricket for the very first time I was inserted into a game and asked to try bowling (pitching). I had previously played a lot of neighborhood baseball in my home town in New Jersey. Anyway, I came running up to the line and unleashed a baseball type pitch and it was accurate enough to knock over the wicket (batter out!). A heated debate ensued and the throw was ruled illegal – in cricket you can't bend your elbow when bowling. From there my cricket playing went downhill! However I did learn the game (just not how to bowl or bat) and it is a very interesting sport. Any other cricket fans out there?

Gary, thanks again for your wonderful dedication.

Bob Lyle
Class of 1954

Bushy Park, Central High Gathering 2010

Celebrating The Class of 1959 and 1960 50th Anniversary

The time has come for you to attend the 2010 Gathering. If you have never attended one of our past Gatherings, you should make every effort to make this one. We are planning our biggest and best one to date. For those of you that have attended one in the past we are looking forward to seeing you again. This year we are celebrating the classes of 59 and 60th 50th year anniversary. Because they were two of the largest classes to attend Bushy Park, we are changing our format and will have a dinner and dance instead of a luncheon.

The dates are—May 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th, 2010.
The Location—The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
Reservations number is 1-800-675-3267

You are responsible to make your Hotel reservations. We have received a special room rate for the above dates at $36 a night. In order for us to get that rate you must give the reservations people a GROUP CODE NAME AND NUMBER.

Reservations ID NUMBER is – 0LCHC05 and the Group name is –LCHS GATHERING. Without this Group Name and number you will not receive the special rate. The cut off date for room reservations is **April 14th, 2010**. After that date it will be on space availability.

We have selected The Orleans Hotel for its location and facilities. There are 1872 rooms, nine (9) restaurants, outstanding pool and spa facilities, bowling center, 18 screen movie theatre, and much more. You can go on line and take a virtual tour under The Orleans Hotel and Casino.

We will have a hospitality room available for check in on Monday the 17th and on Tuesday the 18th all day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. It will be a great place to get together and exchange stories. The dinner and dance will be May 18th, Tuesday night in the banquet room.

On page (2) two you will find the information about the dinner/operating costs for reservations. Please print this page and fill in the required information. We must have all the dinner/operating costs in hand by **April 14th**. The Hotel will work with us on late reservations.

See next page for signup sheet and prices.

2010 Gathering Dinner and operating costs

Mail to: Ren Briggs
1671 Monte Vista Dr.
Bullhead City, AZ 86442

CHS Student Name_____
(maiden name)

Spouse / Guest _____

Class of _____

Address _____
City/state _____
Zip and phone_____
E/mail _____

<u>Dinner cost per person $55.00</u> (includes tax and gratuity)

Dinner ($55.00) number of people _____ equals $_____
Operating cost per person $15.00 _____sub total $_____

Total submitted $_____

Please make checks payable to Ren Briggs
Must be received by April 14th 2010

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