

Bushy Tales

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



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CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



1953 – Mariann (Walton)
McCornack
mgm2010@comcast.net



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

1955 – Volunteer Requested



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



1957 – William Douglas
rwmDouglas@gmail.com



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



1959 – John "Mike" Hall
MGHall446@gmail.com



1960 – Ren Briggs
rpbjr@frontiernet.net



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



1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie
Dona.Ritchie@att.net

A little reminder to all - if/when - you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net or me know, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. Too many times we only find out when you send us an email saying you haven't received the newsletter in few months. Thanks, guys.



**Classmates Who
Have Transferred to
the Eternal Duty
Station**



Sandra Mittelstadt (58) Buchanan

Sandra Buchanan, age 81, of Sanford, Florida, passed away on March 22, 2021. Sandra was born on March 5, 1940 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the daughter of Frederick William and Arlene (Cole) Mittelstadt.

She is survived by her daughters Kristin Paige Buchanan (Buff Harris), Erin Katherine (Steven) Grimwood, and Liesa Jo Payne; grandchildren: Alexandra Erin Ziegler, Jack Kristopher Harris, Matthew Buff Harris, Christopher Buff Harris, Samantha Kaye (Jesse) Flaherty, Seth Steven Grimwood, Stephanie Lynne Grimwood and Shane Steven Grimwood.

The family of Sandra Buchanan invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in her loving memory.

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Memories of Bushy Park

Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at BushyPark.org Among the things you can see at this website is a "Guestbook", in which many website visitors have left comments. There are many entries, dating back to April 2007. Here is a direct link: [Bushy Park Guest Book](#)



From: Fred Buhler (58)

Hi Bill...good issue. Re the photos submitted by Patti [Fawbush (58) Webb], I believe the first photo (with Tony Taylor) is at the American Teenage Club, in the basement of the Columbia House Officers' Club on Bayswater Road. Not sure about the other two.

Wonder of anyone has done a write up on the history of the American Teenage Club? Another possible topic is the Teenage Square Dance Group. They performed in several interesting venues including the Royal Albert Hall, I probably have a few photos of the group.

Fred Buhler (58)

###

From: Ron Holmes (58)



Hi Bill,

Hope you and others are well. As always, I enjoyed reading the March edition of Bushy Tales and appreciate the work you and Pat do to publish this on a regular basis.

I was in the class of 1958, attended the school in 1956 and 1957, and was a dorm student. Attached are several pictures during my time there, mostly centered around dorm life. These are of course old and my skills copying them are limited. Hopefully Pat will work her photo miracles. Unfortunately, a number of our classmates in these pictures are deceased and because of this you may or may not want to publish them. If you need the photos in a different format let me know.

Also attached is a copy of the first page of a Harlem Globetrotters basketball program. A group of dorm students went to see them play on May 1, 1957 and I wonder if any remember going to this. After the game we were able to meet and talk with the players, including stars such as Meadowlark Lemon, and all of them signed my program that night. I can't imagine having unlimited access to athletics such as this in today's culture.

While in England my Dad was stationed at Shepherds Grove and Sculthorpe. The weekend bus rides to and from Bushy Park were always interesting. Wonder how many remember some of these trips? While at Sculthorpe we rented an apartment at Raynham Hall, which was owned by an English Lord and his home was literally a castle (years later found out it is supposed to be haunted). My good fortune was the owner had two teenage daughters and, in the summer, invited me to go horseback riding and to parties. By chance, I ran into one of the daughters over 30 years later while attending a national conference in Kansas City.

I returned to the States in the summer of 1957 and graduated from my hometown high school, then attended The Citadel in Charleston, SC. After graduation and commissioned in the Air Force I was ready to see the rest of the world, but upon receiving my orders traveled a total of 15 miles to Charleston AFB. It turned out to be a great assignment in a Fighter Squadron and I met my wife, Judy, while there. For 30 plus years I worked for an electric utility and retired several years ago. We still reside in the Charleston area.

I have seen a limited number of Bobcats over the years. As Penny Ohrman Bernstein mentioned in the March edition of Bushy Tales three of us had lunch together a number of months ago. Tom Walters (roommate at B.P) and I keep in touch periodically, Judy Tucker married a pilot in the same squadron I was in and we visited several times during squadron reunions, and I have seen a few others over the years.

My best wishes to all of those that attended Central High at Bushy Park. It was a great school, wonderful people, and good times during those years.

Ron Holmes



C.H.S 1956



Christmas Open House -1956
Sean Carr, Judy Tucker,
Sandy Kosanke, Tom Walters,
Al Martin?, Barbara Martin



Top of A Bomb Shelter
Ktisten Ludlow, Patti Fawbush, Spider ?



Oren Jones, Patti Fawbush,
Tom Walters, Kristen Ludlow



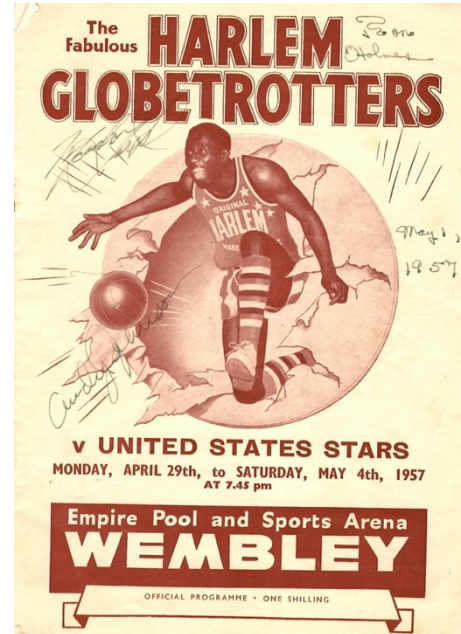
Dave ?, Ron Hogan, Tom Walters



Ben Trail, Jon Boyd, Tex ?



Leroy McLaughlin, Ben Trail
Tom Walters, George Keich,
Pete Churchill, Jon Boyd, Fred ?,



###



From: Norman Alm (61)

Some things being at CHS Bushy Park 1957-1960 taught me
Norman Alm (61)

Besides the excellent grounding in the taught subjects, for which I am grateful, I learned a lot about life at CHS. Here are a few valuable things I discovered:

1. The meaning of real authority

Teacher: Mr. Abel, Chemistry

Mr. Abel projected a quiet but very firm authority that was based on the idea that he just assumed we were going to do the right thing. Unlike any of the other teachers he would regularly stroll out of the class, say on a quick errand to the office, leaving us to get on with it – and that's what we did. The most memorable example of this hold he had over us was when he was gone for ages during our final exam! No cheating took place. Amazing.

2. (a) When you're in the middle of a fist fight it doesn't hurt

(b) Adults were young once

Teachers : (a) Danny Murray (62), (b) the Principal

I had never met Danny, the younger brother of my classmate James (61). I was introduced to Danny via a fistfight we had in front of the buses lined up to take us all home late one snowy afternoon. An impromptu snowball exchange had quickly and unexpectedly escalated and suddenly I found we were trading punches. Being a sheltered soul, I had never been in a proper fist fight before and was amazed to notice that with the adrenaline up it didn't hurt at all. Danny was clearly a more experienced fighter and was getting the better of me – however I lucked out. Just before one of the bus drivers interceded to break

it up, I had backed Danny over a log and he was briefly spread eagled on his back on the ground. To the spectators watching from inside the buses it may have looked like I had ‘won’ – but I knew – and Danny knew – this was not the case.

The next morning I was called into the Principal’s office. The first thing he said was, “Wow - what does the other guy look like?” The interview went on like that – not at all what I had expected. The Principal, far from being fierce, seemed mildly amused, but also firm about no more fighting.

3. My generation did not invent sex

Teacher: Mr. Seaton, School Librarian

I had heard that a classic novel had for a time been banned because of its ‘naughty’ bits. It was not to be found on our School Library shelves, so I asked Mr. Seaton with a straight face why not. He explained also with a straight face that it was considered more adult reading material. Almost as an afterthought he said I might find it at the Base Library. Which I did. Thanks, Mr. Seaton.

4. A good friend will tell you uncomfortable truths about yourself

Teacher: Dick Cunningham (62)

Dick and I were close buddies and played Babe Ruth baseball together in the summer. Dick was a catcher, and I was, briefly, a pitcher, until it was clear I did not have the temperament for it. In an early game I walked two batters in a row, and with the third I threw the first pitch way too wide for another ‘ball’. The second pitch was even worse. Dick jumped up angrily from his catcher’s crouch behind the batter and the umpire. He was a big tough guy. (He later played pro football with the Buffalo Bills). To my – and everyone’s – astonishment Dick reared back and threw the ball, not back to me, but way over my head and clear over the center field fence. He was in trouble with the coach for that, but I thought he was absolutely right – I was a rubbish pitcher. I eventually found a position I was good at – first base – and everybody was happy.

5. Not being afraid of public speaking

Teacher: The Sophomore Class of 1958-59

I was elected Class President in our Sophomore year. This meant chairing the class meeting once a month. The first time I stood on up the Base Theater stage looking out over a sea of classmates, I was petrified. Doing this every month however made it easier and easier – by the end of the year it was actually enjoyable. And has remained so ever since.

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Letters to the Editor

From: Celeste Plitouke (57) Brodigan

As a flight attendant for UAL in domestic, international, and military air charters during Vietnam war and Saudi conflicts as well as a military dependent early in life I think I have made it around the world. But I do have favorites.

After retiring I took many Elderhostel trips.

One of the best was far away in Alaska’s Aleutian Islands. We stayed in Dutch Harbor where forty percent of our sea food is processed. We visited ancient Russian churches and learned about Aleutian culture.



During the day we were treated to local produce and gathered in ground salad items while taking walkabouts. Of course, every evening we were also blessed with great seafood. It takes a full day to fly on rickety aircraft from Anchorage to Dutch Harbor and only the foolhardy should apply.

The second, at the other end of the world, I visited Cape Town in South Africa while on a Queen Mary 2 cruise. It is a diverse destination and has incredibly beautiful places as well as sad city slums. Visiting the zoos and learning about animal conservation was eye opening. One warm day being a bit tired I sat down on a log to have some water and gather strength to continue. I looked up in the tree overhead and saw a koala looking at me and then a momma kangaroo hopped by. Dr. Doolittle was not found but I am sure approved.

From the top of the world to the bottom I have been blessed with destinations that I am pleased to remember.

**Submitted,
Celeste Plitouke (57) Brodigan**

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From: Wendy Johnson (60) Bunch

Pat,

I always thought Steve Kendall had been killed in the Munich plane crash and we were good buddies but before phones and technology so no contact. If I have any luck in locating him, I will let you know.

That crash gave me a fear of flying that I dealt with till 1977 when living in Taiwan. It felt safer in the air as no one was aiming for you. There were 500 bicycles and erratic drivers at every light if they even stopped at a red light. If they hit an American car they knew they would get money- literally beaming.

I have enjoyed reading the Bushy Park newsletters. Though I was not thrilled to be there at the time, looking back we were blessed for all the travel and experiences. It set the tone for my husband's career with Dupont, and we lived in England again in 77-79' as well as Taiwan. As an adult I loved both overseas tours. We moved 9 times in 16 years when we settled in Wilmington, DE in 1979. I am still a realtor after 41 successful years but trying to retire. I started a Sotheby's office with a son and am now a minority owner. We are selling our 76-acre gentleman's farm with a 1781 restored home in Chestertown, MD before heading to a retirement community.

I have 2 sons, both in real estate, who gave me 3 beloved granddaughters now teenagers. Where does the time go?

We have both received 2 vaccines and are anxious to safely socialize in our "golden" years. That should bring you up to date.

Thank you for responding. Stay well.

**Wendy Johnson (60) Bunch
At Bushy Park '57 - '59**

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From: John "Mike" Kelly (61)

Hi, Michael Hoyt,

Very good to pass on your experiences during a community crisis like the Sylmar earthquake. During emergencies, all kinds of skills are needed and it's the middle-Americans who seem to possess the most. In my working career of over 40 years in the Offshore Oil & Gas Industries, coded welders were always in great demand and always well paid. The San Fernando earthquake (Sylmar) was a magnitude of 6.6 with a duration of 12 seconds resulting in over 60 dead. I was not there nor anywhere close to it - I was offshore Indonesia working as a diver. My brother who lived in Highland, California at the time told me about it in a letter (no internet in those days).

My experience with earthquakes came at 12:00 midnight in Kaikoura, New Zealand, November 2016 which lasted for 2 minutes & 10 seconds with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale. My wife and I were sleeping, and it was pitch black outside. There was no way we could get out of bed until the shaking stopped. It was a terrifying experience and there were several aftershocks above 6 on the scale. The damage to our house was around \$80,000 but luckily covered with insurance. All repairs were finished after about a year. As Kaikoura is a rural area there were only 2 deaths but a lot of damage to the town with dated buildings. We were literally trapped in Kaikoura for 3 months as all the roads and rail lines were wiped out with hundreds of massive landslides. Kaikoura has a small airfield but suitable for only light aircraft.

Within 24-hours an impressive Navy was present in Kaikoura Bay including an American destroyer with helicopters. The Yanks were coming, and they were there big time.

Lessons learned: always try and have earthquake insurance, have a shortwave radio, and a "go bag" with all the essentials.

Cheers from Singapore,

John "Mike" Kelly, Class 61

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From: Dorinda Dudley (61) Jordan (Dee)

What would you think about a couple that never dated and only kissed 3 times before they married and knew each other 2 weeks and all contact with each other was in an Army hospital?

My future husband was an Army paratrooper stationed in Germany in 1962 when he crushed his ankle on his 64th jump and they did the surgery in Germany.

Now to put this together. When I graduated from high school in Tampa, FL I was given 2 days to find a full-time job, or I had to go into the military. My Dad was retired Air Force. How could I find a full-time job in 2 days with no car since I was never taught to how to drive, so he took me to the Army recruiting facility and I was sent to Anniston, AL. for basic training then to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) at Fort Sam Houston, TX to train as a nurse aide in the medical field.

One day I was asked for the first time to be an escort on an ambulance that was meeting an airplane coming in from Germany with patients on board that were being placed in BAMC. I was the escort for a female patient on the same plane. On the ambulance, Pvt. William Judson Jordan and I talked a lot then said goodbye once we arrive at BAMC. I never saw him again till I saw him in the hospital cafeteria. I picked up my tray and went over to the table and put my tray down, then asked him, "Are you married or not?" (for he did have a ring on.) He said he was not married but engaged to a girl in Germany. I told him that means you have not been taken yet!

From that day on, when I got out of school and off duty on my ward, I would go up to his ward and play Canasta with him every evening for two weeks. Then we got married by a base minister on base the day he got discharged from the hospital, because if we didn't do it that way, they were going to send him back to Germany to finish his tour of duty. He asked me a week after seeing him in the cafeteria. I knew I loved everything about him.

He had no civilian clothes with him, so I had to go buy him some to get married in. I made myself a quick simple wedding dress and registered for our marriage license ahead of time by always riding a bus.

We got married Nov. 2, 1962. I had graduated from high school June 1961 and I never went on one single date while in school, so I have never been on a date period. Our families were not able to come because it was planned too quickly, but he had a man stand with him and I had a good friend from our living quarters (barracks) stand with me. I found a cute tiny apartment for us right outside the back gate of the chapel where we got married, so we got to walk to our new home.

The funny thing is, when we walked outside the chapel, after the ceremony, Judson tells me, "I was so nervous, I forgot my shorts, and oh, I hate to play cards!" I turned around and looked at him and told him, "If I would of known that I am not so sure I would of married you for I so love to play cards and games!" He said, "I know, that is why I didn't tell you ahead of time!"

He ended up being the love of my life and we were going to have been married 55 years last November, but he died Oct. 13, 2017 of diabetes and kidney failure due to Agent Orange when he was in Viet Nam. He retired after 20 years, while stationed in Columbia, SC at Ft. Jackson.

So, you see, you don't always have to date for long periods of time. It depends on the people and you don't need expensive weddings to be happy. Ours was fine, except we forgot to have some pictures made. And he never did play card games, but my only complaint about my Hubby, was he could be so boring, but otherwise I wouldn't have traded him for the world. His Mom, sister and step-brother were everything to me in my life and still are, except for the passing of my wonderful Mother-in-law who was a "real Mother to me in more ways than anybody could know. But that is another story.

Dorinda Jordan

Pictures from Dee Jordan:

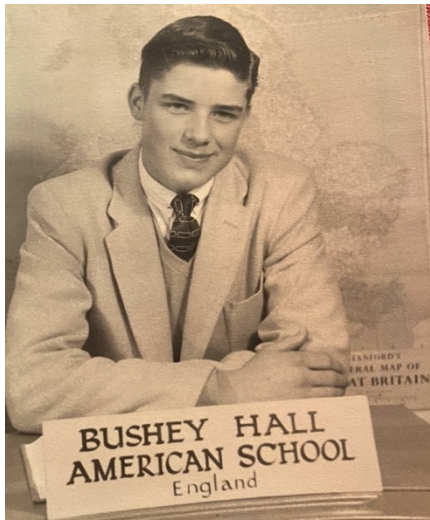


Passport Picture "1955"



BUSHEY HALL
AMERICAN SCHOOL
England

Me - School Picture ("5")



BUSHEY HALL
AMERICAN SCHOOL
England



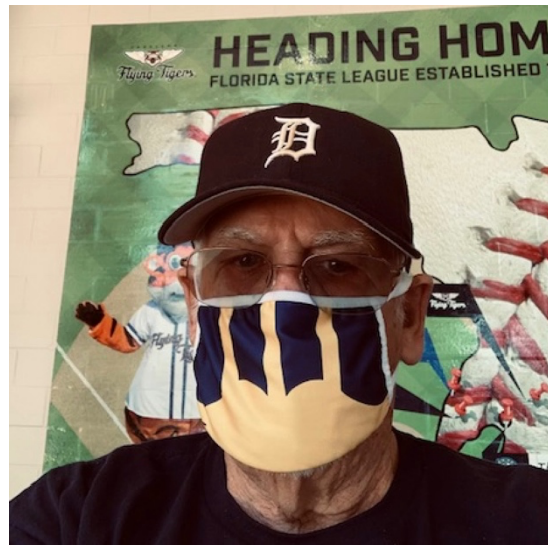
*Jackie Hill
1955
England*



*Backyard - ("1956")
North Harrow - England*

From: Bill Grable (57) Rees

Bill Grable (57) Rees sent the below pictures. They winter in Florida every year.



--FINIS--