

Bushy Tales

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



Issue 11

November 2021

Volume #21

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

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

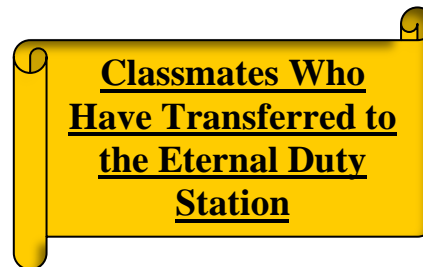


1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net



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.



Coralie "Coco" Guertin (55) Lajoie 1937 – February 4, 2018

WORCESTER, MA - Raymond W. and Coralie A. Lajoie, together for 63 years, died this past week a day apart. Coco passed away on Sunday, February 4, 2018, and Ray passed away on Monday, February 5, 2018.

Ray and Coco were married 60 years. Ray was part of the golf staff at Worcester Country Club for 47 years retiring as head professional in 1996. Coco worked with him in the pro shop for the 27 years that Ray was head pro. Together, they organized the annual Lori Lajoie Charity Golf Tournament, named after their daughter, which has raised more than \$6 million for the Seven Hills Foundation which provides services to individuals with disabilities and significant life challenges.

Ray was born in Worcester in 1934, son of Wilfred and Eva (Aucoin) Lajoie. He attended Commerce High School in Worcester and began his golf career in 1946 caddying at Worcester Country Club. Ray then began working in the pro shop for John Bernardi. He later served as caddie master and assistant professional before being named head professional in 1971. He held memberships in the PGA, and the American Contract Bridge League where Ray was a Club Master Player. He travelled to many Ryder Cups and, along with Coco, started the PGA Member Hospitality Service Tent at the 1999 Ryder Cup in Brookline, MA. It has been carried on to every Ryder Cup since. Ray and Coco have met and serviced US Presidents, celebrities, and numerous golfing legends including Byron Nelson.

Ray was honored many times during his life for his contributions to the game of golf, the NEPGA, and the PGA. The New England Professional Golfers Association named Ray Golf Professional of the Year in 1988 and inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 2006. In 2015, he was the first New England professional to receive the Deacon Palmer Award, an award received by golfing legend Arnold Palmer prior to his death. Upon Ray's retirement, he was named an honorary life member of Worcester Country Club. He was a superb golf business mentor; seventeen of Ray's assistant professionals went on to become head golf professionals at courses spanning the USA. Ray was a well-known expert in golf club repair... golf icons Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino personally sought out Ray for club repair.

Coco was born in Leominster in 1937, daughter of Henry and Rita (Gagné) Guertin. Her family followed her father around the world during his military service. She attended grammar school in Japan, and schools in Tombstone, AZ and Grass Valley, CA before completing her education at

the American School in London. She was a voracious reader, loved to travel, and made many trips to Aruba- a paradise she loved dearly- with family members.

Ray and Coco lived in West Boylston for 25 years where they raised their 4 children before moving to Northbridge in 1999. After Ray's retirement at Worcester Country Club, he became the head pro at Leicester Golf Club where he and Coco ran all aspects of golf operations for three years. Coco also worked as a host at the Valley Café in Whitinsville in her retirement years.

The lives of Ray and Coco were highlighted by a strong sense of family, charity, philanthropy and generosity. They lived each day serving the needs of others above self. During their 63 years together, they were never apart for more than a week. Their love for each other was a shining example for all to emulate. And perhaps most important, Ray and Coco were excellent, loving parents.

Ray and Coco leave a son, John M. Lajoie and his wife Susan of Sterling; a daughter, Lynn M. Ellsworth of North Oxford; seven grandchildren: Chester B. Marek III and his wife Laura of Worcester, Angela Marek of Worcester, Dr. Jason M. Lajoie and his wife Anna Margolin of Brighton, Jessica L. Genna and her husband Anthony of Mendon, Jacqueline R. Lajoie of Sterling, Chelsea M. Ellsworth of Brighton, and Elizabeth L. Ellsworth of Holiday, FL; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. They were predeceased by 2 daughters, Lori A. Lajoie who died in 2001, and Lisa M. Marek who died in 2008.

Coco also leaves five siblings, Cindy Porter and her husband Tom of LA, Ann Mitchell and her husband Carrie of TX, Susan Dagg and her husband Robert of FL, Sherry Guertin of TX, and Michelle Roy of Millbury. She was predeceased by a brother, Henry Guertin, Jr. Ray also leaves a sister, Helene Toursie and her husband Paul, of Merrimack, NH. He was predeceased by his sister Helen Pfeffer, and his brother John H. Lajoie who died in the Korean War.

Ray and Coco will be waked and honored together. The funeral Mass was held February 17, 2018, at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St., Worcester, MA. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Coco and Ray's memory may be made to the Seven Hills Foundation, 81 Hope Ave., Worcester, MA 01603.

Published by Worcester Telegram & Gazette from Feb. 10 to Feb. 14, 2018.

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Cynthia B. Guertin (57) Porter - Sept. 4, 1939 - July 23, 2020

ALMYRA, PA - Cynthia B. (Guertin) Porter, 80, died of natural causes July 23, 2020, in Palmyra, Pa. Cynthia was born in Leominster, Mass., Sept. 4, 1939. She was the second of seven children born to Henry Guertin Sr. and Rita G. (Gagne) Guertin. Cindy, as she was known to her friends, lived a full and active life. She lived in Japan, England, and many places across the country as her family relocated to her father's various assignments in the United States Army. She relished her father's service to the nation and regarded her childhood in a military family as a wonderful educational experience.

Cindy graduated from Mineral Wells High School in Mineral Wells, TX, in 1957 and was the first in her family to attend college. She began her college days at Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus, Miss., majoring in English. While in school she met and married Thomas (Tom) E.

Porter. She finished her degree at Mississippi State University in 1962. Shortly after graduating the couple moved to Wardell, Mo., to teach in the North Pemiscot School District. After a few years they relocated to Caruthersville, Mo., where both Cindy and Tom worked in the Caruthersville School District. Cindy dedicated her life to education.

She spent many years teaching English. After receiving her master's degree in Education from Memphis State University she worked as a guidance counselor both at Caruthersville Junior and Senior High Schools. She spent the last few years of her career as the high school principal. Cindy was active in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church as a Lecture. She loved to read and do cross word puzzles.

After retiring she and Tom travelled to Europe, Russia, and Egypt. They moved to Louisiana in 1995 to be closer to their children. Cindy continued working in education at St. Mary's Catholic School as a teacher and temporary principal.

She is survived by her two sons, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Porter, Alexandria, Va., and the Rev. Christopher G. Porter, Jonestown, Pa., and their spouses, Stacey and Nannette; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; four siblings, Ann Mitchell of Bedford, Texas, Susan Dagg of Silver Springs, Fla., Sherri Guertin of Georgetown, TX, and Michelle Roy of Milbury, MA.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and two siblings, Henry Guertin and Coralie Lajoie.

Funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Aug. 5 with interment following in Little Prairie Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorials be given to Caruthersville High School.

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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](#)



Letters to the Editor



From: Diane Lund (58) McMahon

Hello Bill and Pat -

Just a note of thanks for keeping our newsletter going. I appreciate your perseverance in getting out interesting issues every month. A daunting task--and you manage it well.



I recently finished reading “Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour” by Lynne Olson. An informative read about WWII, and Bushy Park is even mentioned!

Sure would be nice if we could have another reunion...

Diane (Lund) McMahon

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From: Nettie-Grace McClellan (58) Dunsford

Thanks again to you and Pat for all you do. We ALL appreciate you both. Anthony Taylor's recent remarks about accidentally meeting Rosemary Roman reminded me of a similar event I had years ago. A candid conversation with an English girl sitting by me at a friend's party in Orlando led somehow to schools we had attended in Britain. She and I had both been accepted to the very prestigious Milam Ford High School in Oxford when I would have started 8th grade (1953). I might have been just barely bright enough to pass the rigid entrance exams and the several rigid interviews and tests to which the kind staff subjected me, but I obviously wasn't smart enough to catch up with the French and algebra which my class had already taken for a year or more. What a humbling experience!! After 3 or 4 months of constant studying, I convinced my mother to allow me to go to the dependents' school at Upper Heyford. I was already enjoying the new class when Dad returned from a 6-week Air Force Program in London and asked how my French tutoring was going. Knowing he would be disappointed; Mom had not even told him yet! The young British lady I met in Orlando was obviously much brighter than I and was proud to tell me she stayed at Milam Ford and graduated. I have never regretted leaving that school, in part because one of my best life-long friends, Joyce Booth Merino Smith (1940-2016), was at Upper Heyford with me and became my mischievous roommate at Bushy for 9th grade during the 54-55 school year.
Cheerio, Nettie-Grace McClellan Dunsford (class of 58)

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From: John "Mike" Kelly (61)

Hi Bill, I was hoping our mini reunion would include my brother Jerry but things never turn out as they should - blame goes to the Covid-19 mess and our senior age. Mike Perkins & I were friends at CHS, played football together, later friends at Beale Air Force Base, again at Fort Bliss, Texas, and a couple of get-togethers in Utah. CHS & the Military = lifelong friendships. I just discovered my CHS letter certificate (flag-football) while going through old photos, etc.

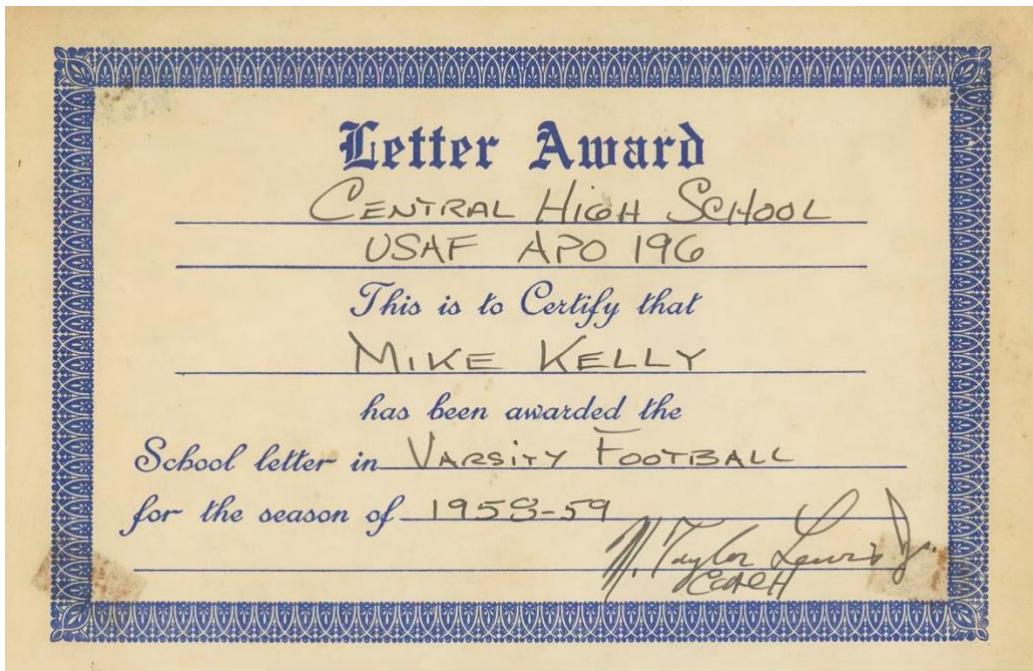


I included a photo of Vietnam Vets I met with at the Museum of Forgotten Warriors just outside Beale Air Force Base. This was quite a group and the BS stories were flowing. Check it out at: www.museumoftheforgottenwarriors.org. If any classmates are visiting the Marysville - Yuba City area, a visit to this museum is worth it.

It's been a challenging 2021 and I'm sure all classmates are hoping for a better 2022.

Cheers, John "Mike" Kelly
Class of 61





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