

# Bushy Tales

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



Issue #12

December 2023

Volume #23

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

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

**1953 – Mariann (Walton)  
McCornack (d. 2022)**



**1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote**  
[betsycote@Atlanticbb.net](mailto:betsycote@Atlanticbb.net)

**1955 – Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)**



**1956 – Edie (Williams) Wingate**  
[WingW@aol.com](mailto:WingW@aol.com)



**1957 – William Douglas**  
[rwmDouglas@gmail.com](mailto:rwmDouglas@gmail.com)



**1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen**  
[nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net)



**1959 – John "Mike" Hall**  
[MGHall446@gmail.com](mailto:MGHall446@gmail.com)



**1960 – Ren Briggs**  
[rpbjr42@gmail.com](mailto:rpbjr42@gmail.com)



**1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz**  
[bslepetz@comcast.net](mailto:bslepetz@comcast.net)



**1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie**  
[Dona.Ritchie@att.net](mailto:Dona.Ritchie@att.net)

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**A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen [nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.**

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

Bill - received the following from Dana Allan Gross, David's daughter. They were both class of 58. They went by their stepfather's name at Bushy Park (Lawrence). Althea kept the name, but David went by Gross after he left Bushy Park.

Pat Terpening (58) Owen



Althea Elizabeth Gross on 1/24/1941 in New Orleans, LA and died 11/28/2019 in Las Vegas, NV. My dad was born David Malcolm Gross on 1/22/1940 in New Orleans, LA and died 10/5/2004 in Riverside, CA

They both took on the last name of their stepfather Israel Lawrence, whom I believed adopted them.

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## **Memories of Bushy Park**

*Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at [BushyPark.org](http://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](#)*

*Nearly every newsletter published since 2001 is there to be seen. A few of the earliest ones are not there. Bob has added a several new features to this website's home page that are worth checking out. It is all one click away!*

*Thank you, Bob, for all that you do for us.*



**NOTICE: Over the past several weeks, Bob Harrold (60) has been arranging to move the servers for the [BushyPark.org](http://BushyPark.org) website to a friend of his, George Seymour, in Panorama City, CA. George ran the website before Bob took over running it over seven years ago. The transition is occurring now, and since the last week or so of September. Anyone trying to access the site during this period of downtime may be/have been frustrated. I know I have been! As I write this, not every page or link on the website is available. Over time, not too much longer I hope, everything will be up and running faster than before! Be patient, please.**

**At this new location, the servers ultimately will be capable of operating at 100 MB - In and Out! This will speed up the functioning of the website for all who visit it. This is 5 times faster in and over 16 times faster out!**

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## **Letters to the Editor**



**From: Edwina Edwards (61) Whitehead**

Dear Pat,

I recently found a list of questions you sent out some time ago, but procrastination set in, and I just haven't followed through. Here is my best effort to rectify my slow response.

### **What did you do after Bushy?**

My parents and I left England in June of 1958. I remember wearing a wool suit and landing in a heat wave in New York City. We stayed in a hotel with no air conditioning for several days because my father had to buy a car to drive all the way to Del Rio, Texas. After a nice visit with family in Meridian, Mississippi, we finally made it to Del Rio in August. West Texas was in the throes of an 8-year drought at the time, so my impression was not favorable, especially since the town had an invasion of black crickets that clung to streetlights and carpeted the sidewalks.

Within a few days of our arrival, we rented a house off-base. The girl next door, who was a twirler, came over to meet me, and we became good friends throughout high school and beyond. I was cheerleader again during my junior and senior years and head cheerleader in my senior.

Dance had been a major part of my life since I was 7, and, in England, I had studied ballet with the Royal Academy of Dancing graded system, where I had taken all the exams. This fresh knowledge placed me in a unique position to be asked to be an assistant teacher when I enrolled in a local dance school. As it turned out, I taught all through high school and beyond and attended Texas Christian University as a Ballet-Theatre major for two semesters before falling in love and becoming engaged during the summer break.

As a side note, I met Bob Overton in the cafeteria one day at TCU. He and I did not run in the same circles at Bushy Park, but we knew of each other. I didn't learn about his participation in the movie "Lolita" until years after that meeting.

I married in 1963 to a West Texas rancher, and we had 3 children, Heather, Forrest, and Kelly. My husband, George, was born and raised in Del Rio, and we raised our family there until 1988 when I decided I wanted to go back to college. We moved to San Antonio where I graduated from St. Mary's University. Now widowed, I live just a little north of San Antonio where I am still teaching ballet.

### **Did you ever return to Bushy/England?**

My husband and I made several trips to England over the years at which time I visited my English girlfriends and my dance teacher in West Drayton, Middlesex, my home from 1955-58. I am still in contact with two of my girlfriends. On one of our trips, we took our three children. I was so excited to show them where I had lived as a teenager and a different world from their small Texas town, but I think it was wasted on them. They fought in the back seat of the small car and remembered only the London Dungeon, the Chamber of Horrors, and the Tower of London.

### **What are your fond remembrances of England/Bushy, etc.**

When thinking back, there are so many memories that they would fill a book. So, I'll just touch the highlights. Mr. Shermer in 7th Grade will be the teacher I'll remember forever. The whole class was a handful, especially the boys (Dirk Metzger, Phil Musgrave, etc.). Mr. Shermer used his stick a lot. We went on many field trips that expanded our knowledge of England and the world, and Mr. Shermer conducted many discussions on the military and the war that bolstered our patriotism and pride in our fathers' service.

In 8th Grade, Mrs. Kelly was a favorite, as she was for so many. In addition to sponsoring me as head cheerleader that year, she learned about my interest in ballet and encouraged me. Age 14 is an especially difficult age for girls, so her attention to me was critical. Now that I teach girls of that age, I often remember how much it meant to me to have support at such a critical time.



I regret that 9th Grade was not my best year at Bushy. Yes, I was varsity cheerleader, but I didn't quite fit in. I was the youngest girl and a "townie". All the other cheerleaders were "dormies" and had more in common with each other. While the other cheerleaders were nice to me, especially Lois Thomas, I just didn't share much of the same interests with them. I was too busy outside of school with my ballet/dance business.

Nevertheless, I have especially good memories of that final year at Bushy Park, including going to the '58 prom with Bill Perkins.

Pat, feel free to use as much or as little of this as you need. Best wishes to you and all Bushy Parkers.

Edwina Edwards Whitehead (61)

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**From: William Michael Perkins (59)**

Good to see Edwina again. She was stunningly beautiful and every boy at Central was smitten by her. She is still beautiful and vibrant.

Willy Perkins (1959)

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**From: Sean Carr (58) McMahon**

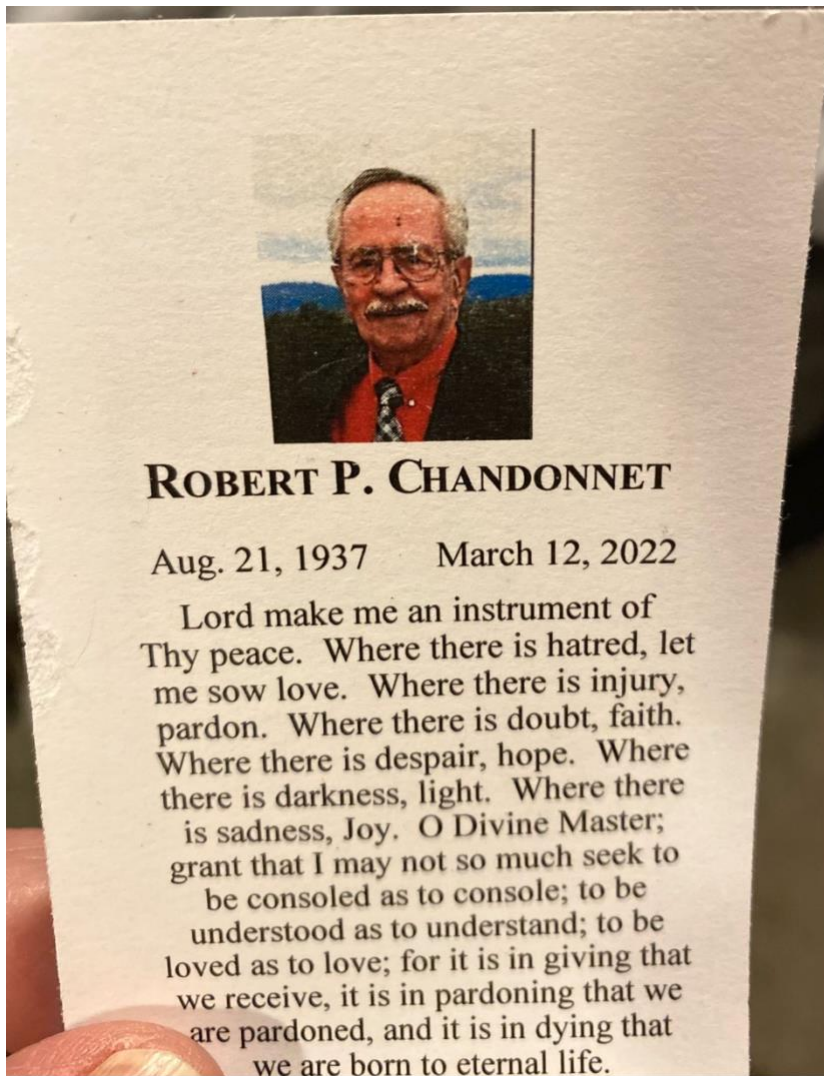
I remember Bob CHANDONNET very well. He was a BMOC. indeed. (For those too young to know, that was a big man on campus!). A senior when I was a sophomore, he was tall, mature, and nice and hung out with all the cool guys. I hope he did well. It is fun remembering.

Sean Carr Jowdry McMahon (58)

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**From: Raymond Henry Chandonnet**

My brother:



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**From: Robert E. Kulesh**

Hey Bill,

Thanks again for all of your hard work each month. Greatly appreciated by me and I am certain, many others.

Our family of six made the Atlantic crossing on the SS United States - MUCH too fast - as only five days for the crossing.

We left the ship at Le Havre and then drove to Paris for 2-3 days and then on to our new hometown of Lugano, Switzerland.

I was at Bushy Park from Sept '53 to June '54 and then, because I had too much fun at Bushy Park, I was sent to a military school in upstate New York...which was NOT much fun at all... I returned to Lugano in 2015 for the first time in 50 years. Very nostalgic trip for me.

I did see the SS United States rotting away in a shipyard near Philadelphia a few years ago. What a shame.

I have been very fortunate because I have been able to revisit London at least once a year for the past 20-25 years.

I was invited to a dinner party 10 years ago at a colleague's home which overlooks Bushy Park. No major complaints other than growing older SUCKS!!!!

All the best,  
Bob

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**From: Liz Griffiths (62) Jackson**

Sarasota, Florida is home to several Class of '62 members and we got together recently for lunch. L-R: Kathlee Knopke Bryan (who drives down from Tampa) and the rest of us from Sarasota: Patty Jones Lawrence, Anne Cable Gringas, Liz Griffiths Jackson. Any other Bobcats in the area for a January lunch? Email me for an invitation [ljackson262@msn.com](mailto:ljackson262@msn.com).

Liz Jackson,



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**Editors' Note: A couple of additional subjects for future newsletters:**

**How many of you continued in the military family and served, in what branch, etc?**

**How many of you continued in the military family and married someone in the military? How many different places did you live during your military time, etc?**

**Continuing with the USS United States, how did you arrive in England - ship, plane, naval ship or civilian, military plane or civilian plane, some other way?**

**--FINIS--**