

# Bushy Tales

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



Issue #11

November 2023

Volume #21

Gary Schroeder (55), Founding Editor (1936-2016)

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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**



**Shem R Miller, Jr. ('62)  
August 6, 1943 - November 9, 2020**



Shem R. Miller, Jr., age 77, of Browns Mills, NJ passed away suddenly on Monday, November 9, 2020, at Aspen Hills Healthcare Center, Pemberton, NJ.

Born in Phoenix, Arizona he has resided in Browns Mills since 1963. Shem proudly served for 37 years in the US Air Force achieving the rank of Chief Master Sergeant before his retirement.

He was predeceased by his loving wife Catherine in 2017.

He is survived his son Shem R. Miller, III; his daughter Sommer Jamiot (Dennis) of Ohio; a grandson Shem R. Miller IV of Kentucky and 1 great grandson Mason Miller of Kentucky

Military Honors were held on November 23, 2020 at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ.

Arrangements entrusted to and condolences for the family may be left at [www.moorefuneralhome.com](http://www.moorefuneralhome.com)

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Shem R Miller, Jr. please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

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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 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!**

###



**From: Raymond Henry Chandonnet (54)**

First timer responding to Bushy Tales: graduating in class of '54!

Arrived in England on 10/8/52 and reporting to Wethersfield AFB, family found out that family could not register 2 schoolers because no funds were available to cover meals at school!

My Dad was a Staff Sergeant with 6 children! Thus insufficient funds for 2 students at Bushy Park!! Over the next few months, my father found help that resulted in I – a Senior and a brother in the Sophomore class !!

We were enrolled for 1954 and 1956 by us working in the dormitory supply room for our meals! I graduated in '54!! Brother later in '56! Not certain if any others were in the same type of need. Maybe some other grads could add to our type of situation? Re: myself and brother Robert P. in class of '56.

I believe!!!!??

## Letters to the Editor



**From: Vicki Brown Tidwell (61)**

Daddy was stationed in Mt. Home, Idaho in 1957 when we were transferred to England. Daddy's new base was South Ruislip. We rented a house in Harrow on the Hill, and I attended 9th grade at Bushey Hall. To reach England, we crossed the Atlantic on the SS America and encountered a storm in the North Sea. Everything was tied down and many got seasick during the storm. I made some friends on the ship, and before they shut down the swimming pool on a lower deck, we got into innertubes and rode the "waves" as the ship rolled from side to side—it was a blast.

I thought England would be gray (from the black 'n white British movies, I suppose) but the countryside was beautiful as we rode the "boat train" from Southampton to London. I attended Bushy Park for my 10th & half of my 11th grades.

The Air Force sent us back to the states (Texas) in Dec. 1959 on a turboprop, which wasn't near as much fun.

A few years back, I researched the SS America, and she came to a sad end. She was built in 1940 for the United States Lines and was used as a troop carrier during the war. After decades as a commercial cruise ship for the United States Lines, she was owned by different countries and was eventually wrecked as the American Star in the [Canary Islands](#) on 18 January 1994.

Vicki Brown Tidwell (61)





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**From: Penny Ohrman (61) Bernstein**

I thought some who remember Edwina Edwards (61) Whitehead would enjoy this. She was a cheerleader at Bushy Park. I attended there in 8<sup>th</sup> grade then went to Bushey Hall its first year. Edwina came home one weekend with me, and my mother got us tickets to Sadler's Wells Ballet in London. When I found Edwina so many years ago, she found the program from that day.

Edwina and her late husband, George, surprised me after all those years from Bushy to the early 2000s and came to Las Vegas where I was doing a reunion for the Bitburg HS group. What a treat and surprise. She and George were then our guests at a San Antonio reunion for Bitburg 8 years ago.

Below is the note back to me from Edwina to allow the attached photo to be put in the Bushy newsletter. Like so many of us, Edwina is now 80, BUT, unlike most of us, she is still teaching ballet and Pointe 6 days a week and does the Nutcracker for the classes each December. She recently gave up instructing 6 exercises classes a week.

Penny "Cris" Ohrman Bernstein '61

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Sure, Penny. Send it if you like. I've had so many good intentions for letters to Bushy but never follow through. I'm working on something about my dad's service during the war but still have a lot of V mails to go through. I just keep putting it off for more immediate projects.



Hi Pat,

I need to correct some of what Penny Ohrman told you in her email today. I don't teach 6 days a week, but I do teach 6 classes per week, plus one Nutcracker rehearsal class. I recently had to give up an exercise class that I taught 2 days a week, not 6 per week. So, please don't make me sound like Super Woman as Penny described. Penny is a joy to my life, but I think she typed in haste. Thank you for all you do,



Edwina Edwards (61) Whitehead



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**From: Ron Crowe (64) and  
Edythe Williams (56) Wingate**



“Last year, this school system outperformed all 50 states on reading and math scores for both eighth graders and fourth graders. Before the pandemic, the military schools did well but were not ranked No. 1. The schools also have smaller learning gaps between white and both Black and Hispanic students than other schools have.

“If the Department of Defense schools were a state, we would all be traveling there to figure out what’s going on,” Martin West, an education professor at Harvard, told Sarah.” “*New York Times – Morning*”, October 10, 2023

[New York Times Article on Department of Defense Schools](#)

***[Editor’s Note: Well worth reading this article. Reinforces my assessment of my time at Bushy Park.]***

###



**From: Pat Terpening (58) Owen**

Hard to believe that it's been almost 40 years since I got involved in the "Bushy Park Search".

I think I almost always was looking for former classmates. When my daughter was in pre-school, they had a reading session at the local library and I'd take her every week, and while she was in her "Curious George" group I'd check the phone books that the library had, and they had a wall-full from all over the country, for classmates. Never found any, but I'd look every week.

Then, somehow, and I don't remember how we connected, but I'd just gotten my first home computer and I believe that was in 1985 – an Apple IIE, and I found Charlie Andrews (56) and he had the names and contact information of a few people that he'd kept in contact with and I had a few names and contact information of a few people I'd kept in contact with and we combined them and I think we had about a dozen names.

Over time Charlie set up a chat room. Where we'd e-mail and talk to each other. One time someone somehow got into our chatroom and next thing Charlie asked us all to stand by and when he came back on, he said that the person thought it was a 'porn site' and he had to disabuse them of that. We all got a laugh out of it.

I don't remember how Wanda Castor (60) DeVary got involved, but it might have been through Charlie's chat room. I think I gave her the names of all the people we'd been able to contact, and she put them on the map.

Then Gary Schroeder (55) started the newsletter, and we divided the classes up between ourselves, so that we were each sending to about the same number of found classmates.

When the internet first started, several classmates put their email addresses on it so was easy to contact some of our classmates, others I wrote to. I'd send out about 100 letters a month. Some responded and others didn't, and some wrote back that they just weren't interested.

When Gary started the newsletter, he thought he might send out 3-4 issues a year, but it took off right away and he was publishing it every month and except for when Gary passed away in 2016 and until Bill Rumble (57) took over the reins as publisher, we've been publishing the newsletter every month ever since – over 20 years now.

Of the approximately 2,400 students who attended Bushy Park from 1953-1962 (when it closed), we've been able to locate approximately 1,600. Several I've contacted I'm sure were Bushy classmates, but never got a response back.

Pat

*Editor's Note:[Pat's response to the question Bob Harrold (60) asked in the October newsletter.]*

--FINIS--