

Bushy Tales

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



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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**

1955 – Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)



**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
rpbjr42@gmail.com**

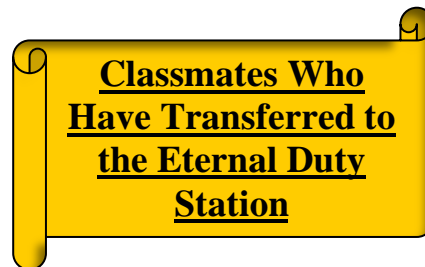


**1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net**



**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.



**James Fred Van Pelt, III, MD, PhD (62)
January 15, 1945 — January 9, 2022**

Son of James F. Van Pelt, Jr. and Susan Hindson, wife Karen Allen Van Pelt, son James F. Van Pelt, IV.

Jim enjoyed teaching James to surf and ski. He helped James with his paper route as a young boy and taking James and his friends to the ranch to ride horses.

Jim was born in Wendover, UT January 15, 1945, while his father was serving in the Air Force (Army Air Corp) with the 509th Composite Group. Jim grew up in Louisiana, Mississippi, London England before moving to Riverside, CA. He spent his high school years at Bushy Park in London, England, while his father was in the Air Force.

Jim practiced Medical Neurology in Orange County, CA and Roswell, NM for 31 yrs. Jim enjoyed skiing, surfing, tennis, travel, breeding, and racing quarter horses. He especially enjoyed road trips across America to the National Parks and toured the Oregon Trail many times. His favorite was Yellowstone National Park, Lamar Valley.

Jim loved his family. So proud of his son James IV.

Jim went to be with his Lord and Savior January 9, 2022, with his wife Karen by his side. Jim and Karen were married for 53 yrs.

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History of Corona [About James Fred Van Pelt, III's father]

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“Captain James F. Van Pelt Jr – B29 “Bockscar” Navigator & Corona Doctor

Last week the movie Oppenheimer was released in movie theatres throughout the country telling the story of genius theoretical physicist, J. Robert Oppenheimer, and the development of the atomic bomb.

What most people don't know is that one of Corona's quietest citizens, James Van Pelt, played a key role in the delivery of Oppenheimer's bombs. Born and raised in Oak Hill, West Virginia, Captain James F. Van Pelt Jr. was personally recruited by Commander Paul W. Tibbets, pilot of the B-29 “Enola Gay” as a navigator for the 509th Bomb Group.

On August 5, 1945, B-29 “Enola Gay”, carrying the first atomic bomb “Little Boy”, was accompanied by two other B-29's, “The Great Artiste” carrying scientific equipment and

“Necessary Evil” carrying photographic equipment. For this mission, Captain James Van Pelt Jr was the navigator on the B-29 “The Great Artist”.

At 8:15am Hiroshima time, the bomb “Little Boy” was released from “Enola Gay” and 53 seconds later a detonation so powerful killed some 70,000 – 80,000 people and wiped out 69% of Hiroshima’s buildings. All 3 bombers returned safely to their base on Tinian completing the 12-hour,13 minute mission and were immediately surrounded by journalists and photographers.

Four days later, on August 9th, the B-29 “Bockscar” was selected to drop the 2nd atomic bomb “Fat Man” and Captain James Van Pelt Jr. was selected to be its navigator. Departing early in the morning from Tinian, “Bockscar” arrived over Nagasaki releasing its bomb at 11:02am. This 2nd bomb exploded again killing 60,000 – 70,000 people.

After the war, Captain James Van Pelt stayed in the Air Force and worked his way up to Colonel. By 1965, Van Pelt retired from his Airforce Career after earning a medical degree from the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas. Dr. Van Pelt and wife, Susan then moved to Corona, California, opening an office as a Doctor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

For 29 years Colonel / Doctor Van Pelt and his wife Susan were citizens of Corona. Their address was 1751 E. Chase Drive, and they had a small horse ranch near the El Cerrito area. Susan was a stalwart member of the Woman’s Improvement Club and the Van Pelt family with son and two daughters were members of the St. John Episcopal Church in Corona.

Dr. Van Pelt died of heart failure in 1994 and is buried in the Riverside National Cemetery. Doctor Van Pelt delivered many children here in Corona. He led a quiet life and very little of Corona’s citizens even knew of his participation in dropping the atomic bombs over Japan. One does have to wonder if he chose a career in the beginning of one’s life after participating in a war that ended so many lives.

History of Corona Note: Special thanks to Debby Smithers for helping with research and giving background to Doctor Van Pelt. It was Doctor Van Pelt that delivered all 3 of her sons.” *Facebook*



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](#)



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Letters to the Editor



From: Connie Newlin (60) Drennan

Might you ask if anyone remembers where Camp Mohawk actually was? I mean, what would have been the nearest town? I know it had to have been not all that far from Salisbury. That is rather vague. Was there a base or some special recreation area there? I was an assistant counselor for girls, the summer of '59. My Mohawk mug sits on a kitchen shelf, near my brown, English tea pots.

Many thanks for all you do to keep “Bushy Tales” going!
Connie '60



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