

# 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 (d. 2024)**

**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 (d. 2024)**



**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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## **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](#)



**From: Sherry Porter Gregory (53) Carson and Wayne Carson (husband)**

My wife, Sherry Gregory, was a senior at Bushy Park in 1953. I have been trying to get her info on the school while she was there. You may have seen all these photos before? Sherry and I met at Fairford AFB in England right after her graduation. Her father was stationed there also. We got married in 1954 and went to London on our honeymoon. We have been married now for 70 years.

Sherry will be 89 in November. Sherry is a cancer patient now for over 12 years and doing ok. We both appreciate what you and others are doing to keep Busy Tales going.

Best regards,  
Wayne Carson

*[Editor's Note: Wayne sent over a dozen photos of pages of the Class 1953 London Central High School yearbook. The exact same pages and more are available to all at the following link: <http://bushypark.org/Class 1953>. Below all of the class members' names, there is a link to the yearbook. [Click on the yearbook cover!](#)]*



Wayne also sent photos of a few pages from the March 26 and June 21, 1953, issues of “The Stars and Stripes” newspaper. One shows graduation classes from England, France, and Morocco. Another shows a picture of the basketball team in 1953. See below:

# Yanks Graduate in England, France, Morocco



Twelve young people ended their high school days in the Paris Dependent High School. They included (left to right): Front row: Carol Young, Jane Terry, Jeannette May, May Emma, and Marian Newfield. Back row: Ewald Vlasberg, Anthony Smith, Dennis Keet, William Macintosh, John Dink, Nelson Hunt, Jr., and William Murphy, Jr.

June—The traditional month in the States for graduations and weddings—is no exception at overseas bases where American forces are stationed. From Busby Park in England to Newkirk Air Base in French Morocco to Munich in Germany, American two-ages received their diplomas and went out "to face the world" like their counterparts in high schools all over the U.S. this month.

The physical school plants varied from grandiose new buildings in some of the cities of Germany to joint barracks in huts on the hot sands of Morocco. But the systems were similar and quite comparable to those in the States—thanks to the dependent school systems of the various commands.

Many of the schools graduated only first classes this year—and others had their largest graduations since the school system was

established late in 1902. In the States, some students might have to travel a dozen miles to more to attend high school—but many here come some miles travel and live—few counting away if their parents are stationed at an isolated outpost.

Many students from France, for instance, go to high school in France in Paris and Chateaufort, six not large enough to handle the full enrollment. In England, too, high schools at Busby Park and Burtonwood practice all the disciplines from home in England and Scotland.

But whatever the problems, American two-ages are receiving a high school education equal to their friends in the States and getting practical lessons in geography, history and languages as well. Other graduation parties will be held in today's Feature section.



Chateaufort Air Base High School had two graduates—Paul T. Davis, II (left), and Richard A. Engert.



Busby Park, England, Central High School graduates (left to right) include: Front row, Nellie Johnson, Sherry Gregory, Arden Alkerson, Sandy Park, Kay Green, Jackie Brown, Debbie Roberts, Anne James and Dore Talbot. Second row, Pat Feltz, Alma Robinson, Marjorie Walton, Lois Fontaine, Mild McCarty, Barbara Hays, Pat Eddy, Corie Eichen, Cecelia Carpenter and Ruth Vestal. Third row, Dick Mangrove, Reed Malloy, Sam Nicks, Kay Rogers, Principal Leonard, Harold Baldwin, Kevin Carroll, Pete Gonzalez, Euday Linn and Henry Munnich. Not present but pictured, Pete Gonzalez, Polly Nelson and Gene Cain.



Another new high school is "Le Normandie Air Base" in French Morocco. Graduates include (left to right): Pat Currey, John Hancock, Jane Throckmory, Don Simmons, Marvin Gardner and Ronald Miller.

Graduating seniors from Burtonwood, England, Dependent High School include (left to right): Michael Tirkin, Louise Collet, and Robert T. Oliver.

Thursday, March 26, 1953

## Central High School Cagers



**BUSHY PARK.**—The Bushy Park Central High School basketball team which finished its season recently with an impressive showing for a first year club in the European High School cage tourney in Germany. Front row, left to right, are Scott Short, manager, Bobby West, Dick Strum, Pete Hazzel, Giles London and coach George Kohut. Back row are Charles Clemens, Sam Neves, Bob Lyle, Don Pohl, Ronald Bowers, Manual Neves and James West, manager.

(Photo by M/Sgt. Jim Berryman)

## Letters to the Editor



**From: Mike “Willy” Perkins (59)**

Bill--Here's a seamier side of adventures in London.

Mike Perkins Class of '59  
aka "Willy"

### **TEDDY BOYS**

I think I know how the enmity between me and the Teddy Boys began. I normally avoided those velvet collared, ruffle-shirted hooligans when I lived in England. They could be dangerous as they carried switchblades and one of their well-known habits was razor blades pressed into the edges of their collars. And they normally moved about in gangs, I initially kept my distance from them as they did not like Yanks.

I hung out with a group of Central High guys who liked to roam around London and one night we stumbled into a dance somewhere near Wembley. It was enjoyable as we danced with the local girls but apparently our appearance was disturbing to some Teddy Boys. A ball bearing was flung across the dance floor and caught me on the side of my head and not soon after we were challenged by a group of 5. We went outside and in quick fashion we disposed of them. They simply did not know how to fight.

A week or so later we baited a small group of Teddy Boys, fought them and sent them running. We began to believe ourselves unbeatable. Over the few months we had a few more fights and won. But we were careful to avoid the large gangs.

In the summer of 1958, I was at a basement bar on Bayswater Road, not far from the Columbia House. I was with Randy Crane, flirting with girls, as I heard a disturbance. He grabbed me and shoved me towards the back entrance. He said that some American servicemen and Teddy Boys were fighting at the front entrance. We got out of there fast, up the dark stairway to the sidewalk. A large crowd was moving towards Marble Arch away from the fight, but I stopped to see what was happening. A group of about twenty Teddy Boys surrounded a bloody figure lying on the pavement. They were kicking him as he lay in a spreading pool of blood. Randy grabbed me and pulled me away as he realized that if they saw us, we'd be their next victims. As we quickly walked towards the underground station at Marble Arch a group of Bobbies passed us, running towards the fight. On the long ride home on the Tube I began to have doubts about fighting the Teddy Boys.

About a month later, Vere Timmons and a couple of others were with me in a fight with 3-4 of them. We had put them down when I heard shouting and looked up to see about twenty of their mates running at us, about 50 yards away. I yelled at my friends to run, and I immediately headed towards an underground station about 2 blocks away. I never ran faster in my life and when I reached the turnstile, I leapt over without paying. The attendant yelled at me and as I turned to explain, the leading antagonists jumped over. I ran down the stairs, just as one of the cars was beginning to close its doors, I jammed my fist between and pushed myself inside. As the door closed behind me, half a dozen Teddy Boys banged on it. I had escaped, perhaps with my life. I regarded it as a miracle. Monday, at Central High, I met with Vere and the others. They had escaped when the entire group chased me. We decided that our baiting and fighting of Teddy Boys was over. And it was.

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*[From Editor:*

*The iconic SS United States is set to embark on its final journey – not across the Atlantic, but towards a new life as the world’s largest artificial reef.]*

<https://www.cruisehive.com/plans-change-for-americas-flagship-in-preparing-to-become-a-reef/149127>

<https://search.app/CgGFtg2oZePflMH38>

[https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2024/10/21/florida-us-united-states-artificial-reef/5571729188001/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2024/10/21/florida-us-united-states-artificial-reef/5571729188001/)

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