

# 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: Carolyn "Tish" DeVaughn (56)**

Re: Sammy Meyers

Hi Pat, Tish here (Carolyn DeVaughn class of '56). My sister was Barbara L. DeVaughn and Sammy and she tied for Valedictorian. She took the honors, and I never followed up on him. Correct me if I err but that was long ago. I thought he became a General. I also keep in touch with Pete Laughlin in Des Moines. Make sure he gets the current newsletter, thanks. We are dropping off fast that is for sure.....Tish

*[Note from Pat Terpening Owen (58): Sammy Meyers became a Colonel]*

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**From: Billie Joe Moe (57) Crouse**

Thanks again for another walk down memory lane... Don't often respond, but always read...

Billie MOE Crouse attended in 1955... Bob Dorman and Harold Dreibelbis were a grade ahead of me.... Harold and I rode the bus together...

I am now 85 (next week) and still have the class ring and yearbook.... I only attended my Junior Year...

Billie

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Hi Bill, a little more background...

Bob and I went STEADY for at least 6 months... His dad worked in the Embassy, and I lived in Penn (where William Penn came from). I would take the train into town on Saturday, or he would take the train out to ?? near my house and we would spend the nights at the OTHER's house... I was in the GUEST room at the Dorman's and Bob was in the Valet's room across from my parents' room.

The weekends we didn't "stay over," I would take the train to London on Sunday noon to go to the Embassy for the American Teenage Club meetings/get together.

The house we rented in Penn was one of the homes of Sir Charles Colston - the Director of Hoover

Vacuum. We had tennis court, pool, 73 acres where bullocks grazed. All for \$600.00 a month. We even had a live-in maid and her husband the gardener. My dad was a civilian architect for the US military. He lived in England from '53-'56. He had lived in Japan '51-'53.

When I came back to the states, my parents put me in a girls' school because most of my friends were pretty wild, most of girls already had babies. I had to repeat my Junior year and went there for my Senior year.

Harold and I were both in Calif. and he started at West Point when I was a senior. We got pinned and were pinned for a year. Then with me going off to college, I didn't want to be pinned... Bad choice. Harold was wonderful and probably would have saved me a divorce... Oh Well!!!

My best to you and yours...🙏

Billie

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P.S.: I thought of another funny (but life changing) story of Bushy Park where I got locked in Bob Dorman's locker and his bus was late because of FOG... I became claustrophobic... the story is a bit longer...

Billie

**Younger of Bob Dorman was taken for the Bushy Park 56 yearbook. The bottom one he sent me while he was attending Univ. of Maryland probably '59....**



**Harold Dreibelbis was summer of '57... he was attending West Point, and I had just finished "repeating" my Junior year at Marlborough School for Girls in Los Angeles.**



## Letters to the Editor

**From: Ellis Young (58)**

**1955**

*You're in the Army now*



Dad was a CWO3 and just approaching twenty-two years service as a food service officer. Next thing I know we are packing to leave Westover AFB and headed to Whiteman AFB near Sedalia, Missouri, in our 1957 Ford. I am sure Dad was planning to retire because he is from Lincoln, Missouri. Two years later that's exactly what happened.

Once in Sedalia we rented a house and Dad bought me a '52 Pontiac. I barely passed the driver's exam.

Two months to go before my eighteenth birthday.

This was all well and good, but I wanted to join the Army to better my chances of making my way to England and marrying Sandra Simpson. So, in early November 1958 I went to the Recruiting Office, took a test and the Sergeant said here is a train and meal ticket. Be on the 10 o'clock to

Kansas City tomorrow and check in to the Military Enlistment Center. If you can pass the medical, you will be inducted. I passed. Next the staff prepared a hometown news release, put me in a partial uniform, took a photo, made an ID card and put me on a Greyhound bus bound for Fort Leonard Wood. Once there, fun and games were over.

The first stop was for a haircut. Yes, what you have heard is true. Next a general briefing and fifteen minutes to memorize our service number. RA17534686 sir! Of course, everything we did and everywhere we went was at a run. So, we ran over to clothing issue. In late 1958 the Army was still issuing brown boots and a bottle of black dye. Naturally this has to be accomplished by the next morning formation. None of all this is news to vets. Men were selected for KP, guard duty and fire guard. I was the latter.

Three days later we were transported to our training company C-3-2. All of the things you've heard about basic training are for the most part true. If you ever enlist in the military, early November is good because you'll get two weeks paid Christmas leave. My uncle picked me up and drove me to Sedalia. Good to be home but not any closer to the wedding chapel. So, in early January it was back to training.

Believe it or not the instructors expected us to bivouac six nights in the freezing cold. As luck would have it, cold it was.

Our training company made the five-mile march to the bivouac area only to be greeted by the safety officer who said no, no, it's too cold for training. He was right, January ended up being the coldest on Missouri record.

The final days of basic centered around marching skills and listening to motivational speakers in the Post Theater. As a bonus if you passed a vigorous personnel and barracks inspection you could apply for a three-day pass. My buddies and I made it, and we headed by car to Kansas City. It was a welcome relief.

A few days before graduation we received our orders. I was being sent to somewhere in Texas to Nike missile school. Well, I too had a friend in personnel, and he said he would notify my unit and that I would be a hold-over for not more than two weeks. I asked my Sergeant what should I do

until new orders came in? Oh, just help the newbies with their displays or making their bunks. Just make yourself useful. You can bunk in one of the cadre rooms. In 1958 there were US and RA enlisted men. Even though I was an E2, I had no visible rank. Still, I noticed the newbies were careful around me. Ten days later my orders arrived. I was going one mile away to Unit Supply school, MOS 768.10 for eight weeks.

It was such a relief, no KP, Guard or Fire Guard duty. Just school Monday thru Friday and we could leave the post on the weekends. Remember Waynesville? I was amazed how much goes on in a unit supply (MOS 76000) much less that it took eight weeks to learn it.

Graduation day soon arrived and with duffle bag, meal and train tickets I was taken to the Waynesville train station headed for my new assignment. I had exactly one dime in my pocket.  
NEW ASSIGNMENT HINT: Fort Belvoir, Virginia

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**From: W. Murray Black (56)**

Bill, you have probably done this in the past, and I just missed it. Have you written an article on the history of the buildings that we used for our school? Was it built by US forces for Ike before D-day as his "London" headquarters? If so, that is very interesting in itself. I was there only for my sophomore year in 1953-54. That was only 10 years or so after Ike and the US forces would have been there. It's an Interesting thought!

Many thanks for your dedication to our school and its many memories!

W. Murray Black '56

*[Note from Editor: Murray, an excellent question. I have not specifically addressed this point during my time as editor. Perhaps Gary Schroeder did at some point. I know when I was there in London from May 1954 to November 1955, I was struck by the fact that it had been just 9 years since the end of WWII. Great Britain was hit very hard during the war, as evident by the many destroyed buildings and sites throughout London and many other areas in Britain. Britain was hit very hard financially and struggling to rebuild. Property owners were limited to rebuilding on the original building foundation to limit costs. Life throughout Britain was still very much like it was before WWII. Virtually all cars in use were pre-WWII vintage, in many cases by a lot. I remember seeing workers in London in a ditch in a city street. They were wearing a suit with a vest and a dress shirt and tie!]*

*Below are several links to websites/YouTube videos related to Bushy Park during WWII and Eisenhower's headquarters there. It is now back to a public park with only a few monuments to the WWII days.*

*Thank you for your inquiry!]*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apZB96NG7Ws> Operation Bushy Park video

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme\\_Headquarters\\_Allied\\_Expeditionary\\_Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Headquarters_Allied_Expeditionary_Force)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp\\_Griffiss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Griffiss)

<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/read-watch-listen/operation-bushy-park-plotting-d-day-royal-park/eisenhower-bushy-park>

<https://thedaystory.com/markers/shaef-hq-bushy-park/>

<https://teddingtontown.co.uk/2023/11/05/bushy-parks-vital-role-in-world-war-two/#:~:text=In%201943%20the%20legendary%20US,Expeditionary%20Force%20or%20SHA%20EF%20-%20now>

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**From: Ed McIntosh (64) by way of Ron Crowe (64)**

***The history of London Central HS at Bushey Park & Bushey Hall [After Bushy Park]***

Thanks to Ed McIntosh '64 a look back at Central from the 3rd Air Force photographers and The ITV show "Here & Now."

Here is a YouTube video I created from the film that the school sent me from their archives for the 1988 Reunion. This was uploaded from the VHS video that was shot during the entire event hence the not so perfect quality. There are a LOT of faces in this video that you all will recognize. I suggest that you all send this link to everyone on your mailing lists and an added inducement to come to San Antonio in October.

Ron – thought this might be better coming from you since most of the communications to date are ones you did. Thoughts? Despite the poor quality, this will bring back a lot of memories for a lot of our classmates.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/K7Dyxx-rg60>

**Ed McIntosh (64)**

*"Proud US Navy Veteran....God Bless Our Troops"*

***[Editor Note: The video is all past the time at Bushy Park when those in Classes '53 through '62 were there will remember. The LCHS had moved and became much larger than we recall.]***

--FINIS--