

Bushy Tales

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



Issue #5

May 2021

Volume #21

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

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



1953 – Marcia (Craver) Thomas
txstarmt@aol.com

1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote (d. 2024)

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 (d. 2024)



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.



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

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](#)



Letters to the Editor

*[I am showing this piece from Bill Douglas (57) again this month. When I included it last month, I mistakenly included his introductory email, rather than this detailed history of Bill Douglas and his, lifetime good friend Bill Cooper. I apologize to Bill Douglas and to all of our readers for my error.
Bill Rumble, Editor]*



From: Bill Douglas (57)

Bill,

I believe it was in the February Issue you asked us to identify military careers. For me, failing to meet the vision requirements for the Air Force Academy, I ended up pursuing AFROTC at George Washington University in DC. As luck would have it, one of my best friends from CHS was doing the same at the University of Maryland: Bill Cooper, also '57, continuing then what became a lifelong friendship. Both of us met our wives during those college years, and upon graduation Bill went on to pilot training and I went to the 22nd BW (SAC) at March AFB, both arriving at our first assignments with our new wives.

I continued for a 20-year career, but Bill got out after four years and took a job with NASA in Greenbelt, MD. When I was assigned to Andrews AFB in 1974 and then stayed in the DC area for the remainder of my career, we were able to reconnect with our families and remain close friends.

There were weddings where he taught my kids and grandkids to hang a spoon from their nose, celebrations of family milestones, and weekend trips to local wineries.

As a member of the First Flight Society, I got him to come along with us to the Century of Flight celebration on December 17, 2003. Bill2 (to prevent confusion with me, Bill1, the older) had folded a paper airplane of his design, and at the historic 1035 hour launched it successfully on the grounds of that first powered flight (the replica Wright Flyer didn't). Thus, was born the "Team Cooper" lapel pin with a silhouette of that successful flyer, and a memento he gave to many family members and friends in the following years.

Bill2 passed away from cancer in 2017, and my wife Eileen and I sat with him in his living room during his last days in home hospice care, much of that time reminiscing about our CHS days and our mutual love of aviation. Which brought me to the thought for others of us still kicking around, how many others of us managed to keep a long-term connection to a fellow CHS friend? Want to tell us about it? This was our story.

Best,

Bill '57



Bill2 in his Aviator mode



Bill1 as a Missileer



4 '57 Military: Bill1, John Soulé (Army)
Bill2, & Karl Phaler (Navy)



The Team Cooper Pin



Bill2 & Toni at our 25th
Wedding Anniversary



Visiting His Dad's grave in
Arlington Cemetery in 2008



Bill & Eileen in 2014
after a dinner somewhere!



John Soulé, Sherry Burritt, and Bill1
hanging spoons after Bill2's funeral

A SILLY VERSE FOR THE EVENING OF MY DEMISE

They'll be hanging spoons all over the world tonight
For a poet who had the habit of doing so.
And I must say it seems both fitting and right
In so far as any memorial gatherings go.

I can tell you for certain he wouldn't have wanted a wake
Full of weeping and somber maunderings and such.
He was ever given to laughter and did not take
To gloom or even seriousness overmuch.

So among the things the participants well might do
To please his ghost, which I've no doubt will be there,
Would be to pause for just a moment or two
And, spoons still in place, offer this simple prayer:

Now let us give thanks for all of the silly stuff,
For harmless persiflage and frivolous good,
Remembering well, as can't be said often enough,
That silly once meant holy, as still it should.

T. W. Cooper

W W Cooper
19 June 2007 aD
And Still Hanging In There

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