

Bushy Tales

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



Issue #10

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Volume #26

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

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



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



1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen
nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net

1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote (d. 2024)

1959 – John “Mike” Hall (d. 2024)

1955 – Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)



1960 – Ren Briggs
rpbjr42@gmail.com



1956 – Edie (Williams) Wingate
WingW@aol.com



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

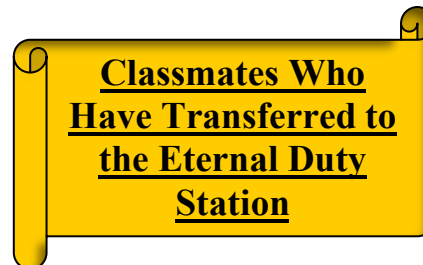


1957 – William Douglas
rwmdouglas@gmail.com



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.



Michele Roberts (62) Jenkins
February 11, 1944 - March 25, 2021

Michele Roberts Jenkins passed away suddenly on March 25, 2021 in Melbourne, Florida. She was 77 although many who knew her thought she was much younger due to her long devotion to a healthy lifestyle.

That her physical heart failed was painfully ironic given the enormous strength of her figurative heart.

Michele was born February 11, 1944 in Durham, NC to Robert A Roberts and Irene Hill Roberts. Michele came into this world during her father's service in WWII and thus began the childhood of an "Army brat". She and her younger brother, Bob Andy, lived in NC, OK, AL, GA, IL, Washington DC and finally in London where she finished high school at Bushy Park Central High - a school for children of American military families.

She attended MacMurray College in Illinois for one year before transferring to Auburn University in Alabama where both sides of her family had deep roots. While at Auburn she married Eric Yost and gave birth to her only child, Gretchen.

She moved with her young family to Melbourne, Florida in 1966 and was soon challenged to survive on her own as a single mom. She accepted an assembly line position at Radiation Inc. and quickly moved into other roles as her strengths were discovered and her skills improved. In 1973 she married Bill Jenkins and they moved to Tampa.

Michele seized the opportunity to finish her education and graduated in 1974 from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. The second marriage ended and she once again devoted herself to the role of single mom raising a young daughter. She worked as a professional for a few Tampa companies always defining herself by her ethics and beliefs rather than her job title.

During those Tampa years she met and married Bob Mahoney and their love has endured and strengthened over their 46 years together. They moved to Palm Bay in 1984 where they both worked for Harris Corporation and where Bob is currently an L3Harris Director.

Michele enjoyed 26 years of retirement, but was in no way idle. She was fiercely devoted to those in her inner circle of family and friends and was an activist for causes she deeply believed in. Animal welfare was her greatest passion and she celebrated all actions that led to the alleviation of their suffering. One of Michele's defining attributes was a steadfast aversion to

people or animals being dismissed as not of equal value. In many ways she championed the marginalized. Michele couldn't abide a world where the strong hurt the weak, where the bullies ruled the schoolyard, or where the powerful rigged the rules. An avid reader, Michele worked to balance the convenient history she was taught as a child with the realities of today. This enabled her to lend her voice to the needs for criminal justice reform, voting rights, reproductive rights and the elimination of racism.

Michele always referred to herself as an introvert, preferring the company of cats, but all who met her were completely charmed by her grace and effortless ability to make you feel like the most interesting person in the world. She was always humble and kind with an easy way about her. She believed in prompt thank you notes and birthday cards with hand written sentiments that took time to construct in order to affect the most warmth. Everything she did, she did with care. She never cut corners on tasks, the responsibilities of friendship or showing her love. Michele is survived by her husband, Bob Mahoney, and her daughter Gretchen Yost and son-in-law, Norman Doggett of La Puebla, NM. Her cats - Duma, Julius, Peepers and Buddy - will miss her devotion and neighborhood backyard raccoons will miss her soft voice as she chatted with them over meals of scattered peanuts. In memory of Michele, a fund has been set up to help feral cats via TNR and to assist in the foster care of neonate orphaned kittens at the animal shelter where her daughter Gretchen is a veterinarian: Espanola Humane, 108 Hamm Parkway, Espanola, NM 87532 - www.espanolahumane.org

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Memories of Bushy Park

Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at this link: 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

From: Gretchen Yost

Dear Pat,

With great sadness I am writing to let you know that my mother passed away suddenly on March 25, 2021. The Bushy Park newsletter meant so much to her and she always forwarded it to me. She recalled that being an army brat was sometimes difficult with having to move so much - but those years in London were the exception. Her father was assistant Army Attache during those years and she, her younger brother Robert and her mother were able to travel to many places.

This newsletter is so much work to produce, but I know it brings much happiness to many. Thank you for all of your work and for making my mom smile for the last two decades.

Gretchen Yost

**



Gretchen - I'm so sorry for your loss.

Although I didn't know your mother, as I graduated in 1958 and left England in 1959, I know that the camaraderie that we all had transcended the years, and I could go to a reunion, see people I didn't know, and somehow we always bonded. It was a wonderful experience.

Like your mother said, going to England, or even Europe, was an experience, as we were able to visit many countries during our time there.

Would you like to receive the next Bushy Tales, as it will have the information on your mother? I can continue to send them to you if you'd like. Just let me know.

Take care. Pat

**

Dear Pat - I just read your latest newsletter. I so appreciate all of the years of dedication and work to produce this each month. It has given me a connection to my mother and I will miss it in my Inbox. What a special experience Bushy Park was.

In 2023, my stepfather, husband and I made a trip to London and spent a week seeing the sights and celebrating one of mom's favorite places. Of course we visited Hampton Court Palace and walked the Park afterward. I printed out one of your newsletters which described a reader's trip back with diagrams of where the school was. It was an afternoon I'll never forget.

Know that you have brought smiles and joy to many. Thank you and enjoy your publishing retirement! :)

Gretchen

**

Gretchen - I'm so glad that you enjoyed the newsletter through the years. Pat

###

From: Patti Webb (58)

Thank you Bill and Pat, I agree.

Patti

**

Hi, Patti,

Thank you for your email response to our notice.

We wish you well going forward.

Bill

###



From: Jerry Berry (55)

Hi Bill/Pat, et al:

Sad to hear the closing news, but I understand it. Here's a brief bit that I was going to send last month; famous last words.

The photos attached are from a Vintage Fashion Show at St Andrew's Village, the facility where we live. Vintage was anything over twenty years old. Linda, my XYL, produced and MC'd the show.

Jerry Berry (1955)



Photo 1 is Jerry Berry, with Linda
 Photo 2 is Jerry wearing his with Senior Scout Beret from 1954,
 and Coach Cannon's Jacket, same era.
 Photo 3 Jerry (55) Men with Mink from 2020, preferred uniform
 when outside the secure area in winter.



Photo 4, Jerry modeling the Central High jacket.

**

Hi, Jerry,

Thank you for your email response to our announcement. Thank you, also, for your photos. Love seeing the Central High jacket and your Senior Scout Beret from 1954.

You and Linda look great! In which St. Andrew's Village are you living? I see there are a few around the country.

This will be in the October newsletter.

Thank you for each of your posts for the newsletter over the years. They have been very helpful and interesting. My brother, Pete Rumble was in your class.

Kind regards,
 Bill

###

From: Robert Kulesh

Dear Bill and Pat,

As the line in a very old song goes

"say it isn't so.."

Thanks to you both for all of your efforts and successes keeping all of us older critters connected..

Greatly appreciated from me and many others...

My one and only year at BUSHY Park certainly helped to create the person I became..

Both the good and the bad...

MUCHAS GRACIAS Y MUY BUENA SUERTE!!!!

Bob

**

Bob,

Thank you for all of your very kind words.

I think that the majority of those who attended Bushy Park would agree with you regarding the way it impacted our lives going forward. It was a truly unique experience.

De nada, mi amigo!

Bendiciones para ti y para tu esposa.

Bill

###



From: Bill Douglas (57)

Bill,

I suggested that I would extract some of what I am doing as a mini biography for "Bushy Tales", that could be related history to our classmates, so here's an excerpt:

We arrived in England in the summer of 1953 in time for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II which was pretty spectacular to see! Before entering CHS in London in 1954, I spent what would have been my 8th grade year in a British boy's school in Amersham which was my first exposure to learning in a different cultural environment (and the teacher discipline in the classroom)! Erasers could fly, and you could be grabbed by the ear! The school complex was the former home estate of the William Penn family, so there was actually an American connection! I did make friends with a few of my classmates and spend some time visiting in their homes during breaks, which was a valuable lesson in learning to share our differences and respecting theirs.

However, the school experience that lasted the longest time wasn't learning to play cricket, soccer (football), or rugby (sports every afternoon!), but learning to shoot. The school had turned a former WWII bomb shelter into a .22 caliber rifle range. I learned not only to shoot there, but the standing, kneeling, and prone positional shooting used in competition. When after CHS I entered AFROTC in college, one of the first questions was whether anyone was interested in trying out for the rifle team. I was one of the few who knew the positional requirements and was quickly firing high scores. Turned out that the George Washington University also had a varsity rifle team that I was soon asked to join and lettered in the sport all four years. Later, on active AF duty, when I was assigned to Whiteman AFB, it turned out that they needed an officer to lead the base rifle team. With my experience, we developed a good enough team to win Missouri and Iowa State matches and be invited to the SAC Championships. My individual performance there led to being selected as part of the SAC International Rifle Team for the National Matches at

Camp Perry, Ohio in 1967. This included taking my wife and first daughter along for a camping vacation in a nearby state park while I managed a range and competed. It was absolutely one long-term experience that started in England!

The other experience from that school that lasted a lifetime came from my membership in the school aircraft modeling club. One afternoon we needed supplies for modeling, and the teacher asked if I'd go into town with him to fetch them. My ride to town turned out to be his MGTD and the most exciting ride of my life (to that point) down English small roads. I was hooked and started learning everything I could about sports cars. Then on British TV came watching the Le Mans Race in France and the sleek Porsches winning. It took time much later on, going through a TR3 and then an MGA, but in 1971 I purchased my first Porsche, a '66 912, and there's been one in the garage ever since!

Cheers! Bill

Attaching my shots of: Coronation Coach, My British schoolboy uniform at the Queen's RAF Review, Shooting Awards Shadow Box, My '66 Porsche, and British School Brochure cover.

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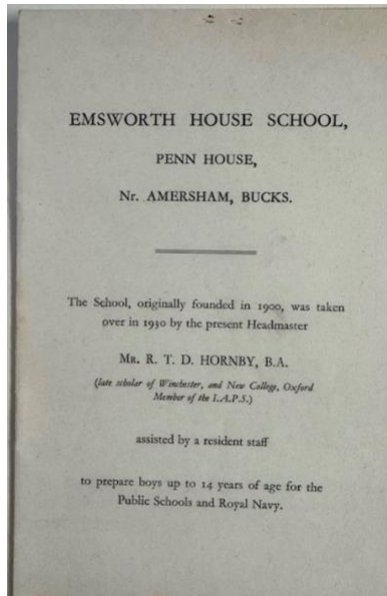
Bill,

Thank you for your response to our notice. We look forward to your biography. I am sure it will be interesting.

Going forward, certainly, if we receive something from any of our readers that we think should be shared, we will do so. We are still here! I will note this in the next newsletter.

Kind regards,
Bill R





###

From: Alan Phillips (55)

Bill. Pat,

Thanks for keeping the wheels on for so long. I looked forward to the "Tales" every month - alas no longer. I pray that you both are in reasonably good health.

Alan Phillips, '55. (Dec 54 - Jun 55)

PS Some time ago you discontinued including the addresses of all recipients on your emails, I assume for privacy reasons which I understand. Too bad.

**

Alan,

Thank you for your email. We are in reasonably good shape. The age of our group has taken a toll through deaths, age-related issues, and declining abilities.

Yes, the inclusion of all members' email addresses is a security issue. Are there specific people who you would like to connect with? I can arrange to give you their email addresses.

It is hard to believe that it has been over 70 years since we were at Bushy Park.

Kind regards,

Bill

###



From: Carol Albert (57) Yacovone

And you guys have all done a fantastic job for all these years; it did not go unappreciated, but I fully understand. It's time for you to take a break, and we will just continue to add mileage to our growing years. Best regards.

Carol A. Yacovone

**

Hi, Carol,

Thank you so much for your kind words. I appreciate your support and your responding this way to our decision.

I remember meeting you and your brother at the Houston reunion. I think we met in an elevator!

We have had a wonderful experience at Bushy Park and sharing our experiences with other attendees and graduates of this unique high school.

I wish you a great rest of your life!

Kind regards,
Bill

###



From: Rosemary Romans (62) Neff

Dear Pat,

My name is Rosemary Neff nee Romans class of 62. This is the first time I am writing to you. I found out about Bushy Tales from a much earlier graduate I met at Starbucks in Washington State. I have been following it since then for about 4 years. I did not know about my being in the last class for decades. I want to thank all of you for helping me feel connected to my high school, which wasn't in existence for many years. I enjoyed my years there although it was an hour ride by school bus each way and Lord help you if you missed the bus. It was a tube ride, train ride, and long walk.

Thanks,
Rosemary Neff

**

Rosemary – thanks for the kind words. You can pick up back issues of the newsletter by going to bushypark.org. Take care. Pat

###



From: Yvonne Penny (57) Parrish

Hi Bill, this is Tykie Parrish(Yvonne Penny). Just wanted to say that I hope your wife is much better and hope you are feeling well.

Thank you for all the time you and the others have spent all these years working on the Bushy Park newsletter. I sure miss those years at Bushy Park. I'm now 87 (yikes) and grateful for all the memories. We will see everyone again up in Heaven. God Bless you.

Love, Tykie

**

Hi, Tykie,

My wife is doing much better; thank you for asking. I am doing okay for an old man.

It has been an interesting ten years for me working on the newsletter. Like you, I miss my time at Bushy Park. Even though it was only 18 months, it was a unique and amazing experience. Living in London, as we did, was equally unique. The time that we were there, so soon after the end of WWII, England was still far from what it is today. Our high school, with the small number of students and the amazing teachers, was the best public school experience of my life. The reunions that I attended were equally fun and reinforcing in our memories of Bushy Park. Seeing everyone again in Heaven is a wonderful and reassuring thought. Thank you for this.

And may God bless you,
Bill

###



From: Robert Harrold II (60)

I have a limited email list, so I ask, if you will, that you distribute the attached September 2026 LCHS '62-'62 newsletter to other LCHS Alumni who may not have received it.

Bill Rumble and Pat Owen have an important announcement in the attached newsletter ...please, read it.

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Re: the History & Legacy of the Alumni & Staff of LCHS Classes of '53-'62, London Central High School, RAF Station Bushy Park, Kingston/Teddington (Hampton Court), London, England UK: I will continue to host the <http://BushyPark.org> website online, in its entirety, until I too go to the Big PX in the Sky.

Robert (Bob) Harrold, Class of '60

###



From: Edward L. Brown (58)

Hate to see our newsletter end. Enjoyed it for many years. Thanks for keeping it going for so long. ED

**

Ed,

Thank you for your note and all of your kind words. I think it was a good run. We all can only do what we can do.

Bill R.

###

From: Penny Ohrman (61) Bernstein

Thank you both for all your work over the years. I think Pat knows I did Bitburg, Germany for 28 yrs. Started out with a one page type written letter and then each Christmas did a wrap up of the yr. I'm attaching my last one which wrapped up all the yrs. Like you, so many have died or moved on to just trying to take care of themselves. I did '56-63. The school opened in '56 and I was there June '58 to Oct. '59 when we came to Charleston AFB here in CHS. I've been back here now since '99 but in and out before that.

We started out thinking we'd have 15 in my backyard in Waldorf, MD for crabs, had 110 at the first reunion in June '88 and then every three yrs from then on except once we went to 4 to get off cycle from the 63-70 crowd. All of us met many great new friends through the yrs. One fellow recently called me from FL. His father, like mine, is buried at Arlington and I've been to his father's grave and taken a picture. He was a sportscaster in NYC for CBS his career. He said he missed the letters and keeping up w/people. He has a friend here in CHS, ex-footballer player and we will get together whenever he comes up. I've had many through the yrs visit us in CHS and Kiawah.

We all lived a very special time in history, were lucky to be able to live overseas during those yrs and even luckier to maintain so many friendships. My husband went to all 12 yrs in Salisbury MD and is in touch w/maybe one or two. He went to the reunions which were only 4 hrs on a Sat night and that's it, every 5 yrs. For Bitburg, we did a Friday night event, Sat big dinner, and Sunday morning breakfast. Had things planned throughout the weekend depending on which town we were in. Even did an add on week cruise to Alaska from the Seattle reunion - 55 went on the cruise. Of course the true Homecoming for 10 days in '92 was terrific. Took me two yrs to plan and at the time the General in charge of Transportation and the General in charge of

Safety for the AF were both friends of mine. After 5 days at October Fest and touring that area, we bussed via Heidelberg for lunch to Spangdahlem/Bitburg for another 5 day. That's when the AF bus took over for us at no cost and got all of us to Frankfurt for the flight home. One of my husband's HS classmates owned a travel agency and she booked the tickets for us. The airlines went down by \$100 a ticket before we left. I got that money from her and as they boarded the plane, I gave them each an envelope with that inside. One girl said that for her it made all the difference. Our tickets were \$792 to \$1095, depending on where you were coming from. That included your flight, 10 nights of hotels, all ground transportation that wasn't a tour you were personally taking, all breakfasts, a tour of Bitburger Pils - the President, also gave us lunch at their hotel in Bitburg and then on to Trier where we had a walking tour of the city and an 8 course dinner that night after shopping in town. On behalf of our group I had had the American flag in their honor raised at the US Capitol and a certificate. Dr. Dietsch was thrilled when I presented it to him. That Sat night we had a sock hop at the Officer's Club with an Elvis impersonator and Bitburger Pils gave us all the beer and wine for the evening. He was a guest there too.

Good memories, as I know you two have had through the yrs. It's a time, an era gone by but oh, the fun and memories along the way.

Penny Ohrman Bernstein

**

Penny,

Thank you for your email and your kind words. Yes, the experiences we have had as attendees at overseas Defense Department Schools have been unique for each of us. This is also true of our lives growing up, moving frequently. I am grateful for everyone I have met during that time and since then through reunions and the newsletter itself.

Thank you also for sharing your last newsletter for the Bitburg group.

We wish you a wonderful life going forward.

Bill

###

This is a Notice of the End of the "Bushy Tales" monthly newsletter, after the December 2026 issue.

Over the newsletter's 25+ years, we've received a wonderful flow of input from our readers. We appreciate each one of you who participated and all of the readers who, for various reasons, did not contribute. Each of our experiences at Bushy Park was unique!

During the past year or two, the number of participants has declined. This is due to several factors, the largest being our ages. Our coverage period is Class 1953 through Class 1962. Thus, we are each now in our low 80s to our low 90s. This alone limits our ability to actively write articles for the newsletter. Factor in health issues as we age, and the limited time we have each day, and it has become harder for us to participate as we did in the past.

This month, we have received nothing for the September newsletter. Last month's newsletter was essentially a single email exchange. Pat Owen and I discussed this and concluded that it's time to end the monthly newsletter. We will continue over the next few months, publishing whatever we receive as input.

BushyPark.org will continue to provide access to an incredible amount of information about these Bushy Park years (1953-1962) and those who attended then. The information might be updated from time to time.

With love and regards to all our readers,
Bill Rumble (57), Co-Editor of "Bushy Tales"
bushytales1@verizon.net

**

Bill - I've been thinking for a while that it was time to close down the newsletter, but as long as we were getting participation, there was no problem. However, it is a lot of work, especially on your part, and we're both getting older (as are our classmates), and it's getting harder to work it in with everything else going on in our lives, especially our health.

I was going to suggest that maybe close it down at the end of our 26th year, but I don't remember when we started it; maybe the December issue should be the last one.

I've enjoyed working on the newsletter, but after 26 years, it's getting harder and harder to get people to become involved.

Over 400 of our classmates are deceased, and over 800 have never been located; and don't know how many said they weren't interested, and many have apparently moved and didn't give us a new email address when they changed it, so many aren't getting the newsletter.

I think it's time.

Pat Terpening (58) Owen, Co-Editor of "Bushy Tales"
nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net

If anyone would like to contact [Pat Terpening \(59\) Owen](#) or [Bill Rumble \(57\)](#) after December 2026 regarding any of their memories of Bushy Park, please feel free to do so.

--FINIS--