



Bushy Tales

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



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Volume #3

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

Class Representatives

1953 - Jackie (Brown) Kenny

JKYKNY@aol.com

1954 - Betsy (Neff) Cote

betsycote@charter.net

1955 - Nancie (Anderson) Weber

nancieT@verizon.net

1956 - Glenda F. Drake

gfdrake@swbell.net

1957 - Celeste (Plitouke) Brodigan

Mbrodi1939@aol.com

1958 - Pat (Terpening) Owen

nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net

1959 - Jerry Sandham

Jerry.Sandham@aig.com

1960 - Ren Briggs

renpat1671@unedspeed.net

1961 - Betsy (Schley) Slepetz

sbslepetz@erols.com

1962 - Dona (Hale) Ritchie

DonaRitchi@aol.com

Roster Changes

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Her e-mail address did not change

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Jim Heck (60)

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Email addresses no longer valid: If anyone has a current email address for any of these people, please contact Pat Terpening Owen (58) at nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net

Al Koltermann (57)

George W. Bishop (60)

Herbert "Chip" Delap (61)

Kathleen Knopke (62)

Steve Ladd (62)

Address no longer valid:

Julie Douglas Roth (58)

Sold her house and moved to FL where there are waiting for their house to be finished (next month).

Look Who We Found

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Not interested in reunions.

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Classmates Who Have Transferred To The Eternal Duty Station

Our love and prayers go out to the family and friends of our classmates who have gone on before us. We will miss them, yet we can find comfort in knowing that one-day we all will join them for the greatest of all reunions.

From Susan Peters widow of Gary Peters (60)
redwood1@attbi.com

I must apologize for not answering your inquiry of this spring about my husband, Garry C. Peters---the only excuse I can offer is slothful good intentions to answer, but a tendency for habitual procrastination. A fellow Mantecan did drop by at your request last month to inquire, so I can assume that he did pass on the information that Garry died a year ago in April of a short but virulent bout of lung cancer. I can tell you that he certainly would have responded to your inquiry and would have been happy to be included in any effort to get together with the alumni of Central High School----he had very good memories of his time there.

Memories of Bushy

Robert "Budge" Lynn Hedman (53)
hedperson@sbcglobal.net

I read your latest this morning and the May newsletter. Very interesting...all these years I had no notion. A couple of points: please forgive that I'm not paraphrasing-haven't

figured out how to do it yet. I was glad to learn that you folks have apparently located Sherry Gregory (among others from '53). I liked her a lot but didn't get to know her until very late in the school year...at the senior prom to be exact. It was held at the annex of the U.S. Embassy (Hutton House in Grovesnors Square as I recall). The school made the mistake of asking my mother to be one of the chaperons. About half way through the evening my mom got bored with that, grabbed me, Sherry and my pal Gene Cain ('53), announcing that we were going next door to the embassy for cocktails. We had a pretty good time until it was time to board the bus back to Bushy. Sherry wrote in my yearbook

"To Budge,

I think you are one of the sweetest boys in school. Be good and remember all of our gay times." Presumably that one night I reckon, cause we never dated...darn it. Would love to hear from her.

A couple of other things: The boy's dorm in '53 was in Surbiton, with the freshman girls in an annex building next door. Seems like an odd arrangement ...I learned how to pick lock because the girls were forever losing the keys to their lockers.

I got back to the states Sept '53, joined the USAF, e-school at Keesler, posted to UK '55, back to US '59. Which reminds me... I went to school in Biloxi with Mariann Walton. Was surprised to meet her again at Bushy. One might expect us to be tight, but no. Ah the life of a service brat.

This is wonderful. Plenty more stories if you're interested. Like who booby-trapped the lights at the dorm one night when the guys got back from a basketball game. I think the statute of limitations has expired.

Budge Please don't call me Robert or Bob. Robert is the name on my birth certificate (payroll signature), but one of the nurses at the hosp. where I was born in Chicago thought I resembled the chief of her Sioux tribe, Budge. Ma thought it was cute and kept it. Wish she'd made it legal, but it does have advantages: I get junk calls from people saying "Hi, Bob" and I know they don't have a clue.

From Anthony "Tony" Ackerman (60)
ackerman@shout.net

I went to the 8th and 9th grades at Wethersfield and then to Bushy Park for 5 or 6 months. Reading the last Bushy Park thing about the squirt gun on the bobby and the ruckus it caused. I think about my brother and Ted Smith getting into trouble and my brother going home early because of it. Kid stuff and they made a really big deal about it. Sounds like some of the Brits didn't like us much to make such a big deal about such little things. I went to England in 1984 and stopped by Wethersfield AFB. So sad. I had the cabbie drive me around the base and it was so relaxed and unmilitary. Braintree was like a racetrack. Apparently a highway ended at Braintree and the cars just got off and raced on. I stayed at the Old Hotel the Hart and something and it was interesting. Sure felt odd. Being someplace that I remembered so well and knowing no one. I asked everyone I met how long they stayed there and they all had moved there since I left in 58.

Mini Reunions

From Susie Talbot Cameron and Lois Fontaine Pinkney (both Class of 1953)

Susie and Lois invite any interested LCHS Alumni to join them for a mini-reunion to be held on a QEII trans-Atlantic voyage (South Hampton to New York). Dates of sailing are

August 26th - September 1st. Susie and Lois plan to arrive in London on August 21st, hotel arrangements are still pending as of this writing. It has been our lifelong dream to take this trip (on the QEII) when we reach age 80 but the Cunard Line has announced that this is the last year for trans-Atlantic sailings for this ship and so it was decided to sail now in celebration of our 50 years since graduation. Please contact Susie at billsue@mindspring.com or Lois at Lloispink@aol.com for more details. We'd love to be joined by other LCHS alumni!

From Ruth (Lund) Bethea (55)
rbethea@cox.net

It was an interesting mistake that caused me to be in touch with Noel Ahlbum Bailey '59 (Canon Bailey). Good things often happen "by mistake"

I told Pat Owen '58 that I was looking for information about St Petersburg, Russia since I would soon be stopping there on a cruise and wanted to maximize my visit. Pat responded that she thought Noel was going there or had been there and might be able to help me.

Upon contact with Noel I found that she had been to Costa Rica but sadly had no plans for St Petersburg. I wrote Pat again and she said it might be Donna Gillespie Fricke '61. I found that Donna is going to St Petersburg in October to report on a virtual language lab her team set up to aid in pronunciation of Maritime English (isn't that awesome!). She hasn't been to St Petersburg before.

I felt "a pull" towards Noel and after a series of email notes (and looking at her Costa Rico photos online) she told me she is a priest in the Episcopal Church. I was shortly going to a wedding that would take me near her area so we decided to meet.

Upon arrival we talked for a bit and then walked into town to get lunch. On the way we stopped to see her church, which is lovely. We got lunch and decided to take it back and eat on her deck (while a hummingbird kept us amused when we weren't chatting).

I was fascinated with her story and enjoyed our visit. In two hours I felt I had made a new friend and hoped she would attend the San Diego reunion to meet up with her old school chums and so I could see her again.

Wait until you meet her.....



Pat Terpening Owen (58)
nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net

Ren Briggs (60) and his lovely wife Pat, stopped by in their 5th wheeler to spend a couple of days visiting us. We had a great time and fortunately I was able to keep most of the bad weather away while they were here (although they were quite close to the tornado shelter at the RV Park, had one been needed).

Dale Morfeld (61)
dale_morfeld@member.afa.org

Vicki Brown Tidwell ((61) contacted me and lives near, so my wife and I had dinner with her and her husband last week. I think we dated once in London. Along with some other kids we went to see "The Ten

Commandments." She didn't remember, sniff!
Anyway, it was nice that we got together.

Again, I appreciate your efforts and remember that even though I don't always seem appreciative, I am, a lot. I know what it is like to work in the blind, wondering if anyone cares. I know several do care.

This and That

From John Mercer (63)

I am sending this message to let you know of the sad demise of an LCHS institution - the Fox and Geese at West Ruislip has become a sports bar called "Champions". I know this news will sadden many Bobcats as plenty of them had their first drink in this pub, myself included.

Comments From You Our Readers

Jim Gouveia Stein (57)

J.steinsr@att.net

(Note from Pat Terpening Owen (58) - Jim wrote a short book about his experiences in England which he was kind enough to send me, and I wanted to just let other classmates know he'd written it. Many of you might not remember Jim as he wasn't at Bushy long, and then contracted polio shortly after Easter that he was at school and spent many months in the hospital before returning to the States. Some of the people he mentioned in the book are listed below (in the book he didn't use any last names of classmates, so they aren't readily identifiable). If any of you might have remembered Jim and think you might be one of the people mentioned, please contact him at the e-mail address above.)

This from Jim -

Hi Pat, The book sure got there quick. Glad that you enjoyed it. Yes, it was written for therapy. Also Gouveia was my mother's fourth husband. He was a Sargent in the Air Force and we were stationed at Manston AFB in Kent. I have thought about re-writing it and expound more on my activities over there. The name of Bill has left my memory, but Ray Bernard I remember. His family lived in Ramsgate and town west of us. I met Ray about three years later. He had joined the Air Force and was going to school at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS where we were living at the time. He was married and still the same old cocky self. (Smile). When we talked about our escapades over there he had a memory laps so that was that and I have not seen him since.

My results from my polio were not very serious. My right leg is about an inch shorter than my left but I have learned to compensate for that. I play a lot of tennis and am very good at it. I have always been an athlete all my life and I contribute that to my speedy recovery, (4 yrs.) Also to the fact that I had a great team of doctors and medic's who worked with me. I Dated Kathy Brooks for a time but my attitude and playing around killed that in a hurry.

In closing as I said, I wrote the book for therapy and not for sale although I did sell some to a local bookstore. Due to the lack of pages it was told to me that it would not be a marketable book.

From Robert Stephenson II (59)

Rstephen2@hotmail.com

Happy 4th of July 2003. Well, for what it is worth, you found the "right" Robert L. Stephenson II. I did attend Central High School, and by some twist of fate graduated in 1959. I won't go into my life history since then, except to say that the years since then have gone by without my ever forgetting those

years in London, and the many experiences in school there.

The powers that be chose to spare me from the horrible accident that took the lives of many of our former classmates in Munich, on December 17, 1960, in the Air Force plane accident that killed 53. I had attended classes at the University of Maryland, Munich, during the 1959-60 school year, but stayed in London for the Fall Semester of 1960, because my father was very ill, and had to be medically evacuated back to Walter Reed National Army Medical Center. I am certain that if he had not been ill, I would have also been on that plane. In some ways I have always felt that I had to do a little more, try a little harder, because I survived and they did not.

Randy Crane (59)

I have another Newsletter in my inbox that I am looking forward to reading. I can't express my appreciation enough to you and Gary for the loving effort that shows in each and every issue. Thank you. I feel like a greyhound chasing a rabbit. I see the rabbit (retirement) but I don't seem to be getting any closer. If we get a chance I will bore you with the details. Not too much longer now, but I will not forget to give you ample time to change my e-mail address and I will give you the new mailing address.

I received an email from Noel (Ahlbum) Bailey this morning. She is reconsidering attending the Gathering. I sent her all the info and a little more encouragement. I can't take any credit. She told me she had a visit from Ruth Bethea '55, and now Noel is looking more seriously at attending. See you in October!

From Mike Murphy (58)
OLDSALT1223@aol.com

Judy Risler and myself just got back from

Biloxi for the 4th of July. We saw Frankie Valle, Tony Orlando and Hot Rio Nights, went water sliding (at our advanced ages, over 60 and had an absolute ball. If the reunion is half as much fun, I wouldn't be able to stand it. We also went dancing almost every night. I appreciate the efforts of Pat Terpening in finding our old classmates and friends. I really enjoy the newsletter...keep it coming

Hugh Pell (60)
hughpell@yahoo.com

The Internet is a most interesting thing. Just imagine if we had had it forty years ago. We would have never lost contact with friends and acquaintances no matter how far we were separated. I have been contacted by a guy I bagged groceries with at Wethersfield in 1957! It's really amazing. Want to tell you what a great job you are doing with the Bushy Park newsletter. I look forward to it every month. My Dad passed away in 1982. I am a computer service representative. I live in Slidell, LA. which is about 25 miles northeast of New Orleans.

From Ron Jaskowiak (60)
KAIWOKS@aol.com

Hello from Ronald Jaskowiak (Bushy Park, 1958), class of 1960. Your letter arrived last week and I was pleasantly surprised that people are looking for me. It's unlikely that I would actually come to reunions. It's nice to know that we are having them. I had not thought much about Bushy Park recently, so the first thing I did was find my yearbook and see who you were. I think I actually remember you. I was there only one year, stayed in the dorm, but went home for weekends and missed all the weekend activities. However, my experiences there are the most memorable of my high school years. Your letter prompted me to do an Internet search for "Bushy Park High School". I can't think of a word to

describe my reaction! The amount of information is truly incredible. I easily found my roommate's (Hugh Pell). We have had no contact with each other in 45 years.

From Jack Fisher (61)

Jack@IsleOfMaui.Com

Here's a link to an article I wrote, which was recently published on Ashtanga.com an international yoga website, about how my 24 years of yoga practice saw me through to a full and vibrant recovery from a complex open heart surgery involving a mechanical aortic valve replacement, double bypass, a stroke which affected eight parts of my brain, and a massive seizure.

<http://ashtanga.com/html/JFarticle.html>

I've received many heartwarming responses to this article from around the world. Perhaps it might be of interest to fellow Bobcats who have faced a physical challenge in their lives?

Aloha from Maui

From Jim Heck (60)

Wiggily2@attbi.com

Sent these websites. Thought someone might enjoy looking at them. They show several of the air bases in England that have been closed since we all were there.

www.ghostbase.org

And, check out, USAF Ghosts at:

<http://worldzone.net/technology/mike1087/ghosts/index.html>

From John Odle (60)

JODLE@compuserve.com

Bingo! Just returned from some extended travel in Europe and found your letter upon our return. I don't know how you found me, but you did, (probably from the internet) and I

attended Bushy Park in 1957 for just one year, then returned to the States, and went to Ann Arbor High (MI), for one year, then moved to Cincinnati and went to Wyoming High for two years, and on to Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and graduated in 1964.

I met my wife (Marti) while at school and we were married in 1964, and we have two grown boys with families etc....

I work for a public company, RTI International Metals, Inc (NYSE) and we produce titanium and specialty metals....I am the Executive V.P....

We live in Ohio (Youngstown) and we are fortunate to also have a cottage in Maine that we visit as often as we can.

From William Michael Perkins (59)

perks@citlink.net

Pat--Received your welcome letter. I did attend Bushy Park and graduated in '59. Have only been in contact with 2-3 old chums from Central in the 44 years since graduation. Met one in Vietnam. I'm a school teacher (15 years) and for 25 years I was a Green Beret with 3 1/2 years in Vietnam.

Mike Perkins (used to be called 'Willy' in high school days).

Delores Antonioli (61)

Delores.Antonioli@motorola.com

What a wonderful surprise to receive the correspondence from you!! So many years have passed and I have lost touch with all of my former classmates. I would love to see them again and would certainly be interested in attending a reunion.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts. It is very much appreciated. My daughter is planning her 20th high school

reunion and I know the amount of work that goes into it.

George Phillips (brother of - Pat Phillips Neafie (59)

George@epix.net

Susan Myers Candler (59) called my sister Pat and they arranged to meet in New York August 8th. I want to thank you again, without your help Susan and Pat may never have arranged to get together or contacted each other, your efforts have help bring great joy to my sister and may re-established a friendship that was formed over 45 years ago. With much gratitude.

Judy Burks Schroeder (59)

BandJinNe@aol.com

Thanks again for the July issue of the Bushy Tales. Even though I don't remember most of the people who contribute to it, it is such fun to hear that most of them still hold the fond memories of Bushy and England that I do...and as one said, spouses do not understand (unless they were military brats as well, which mine wasn't)... but he is very patient with my thinking back over all those good years.

Jack Fisher (61)

jack@isleofmaui.com

Thank you so much for publishing my "post" about the yoga article. I have received scores of responses from all over the world (prior to the latest edition of Bushy Tales), and I am both bumbled and deeply gratified by the messages.

You guys do a wonderful service for all of us, out of love and compassion and a sense of "family."

Doane Gilson Wylie (62)

DWylie@apu.edu

This is a message that Doane sent to Gloria Tyree Talbott (61) Gloria – I was glad to see your note at the end of the newest Bushy Tales. I don't know if you remember me. When you all went up to Lakenheath for the 60-61 school year (Lakenheath's first year I think) you were one of the first members of the National Honor Society. When it came time to charter your new chapter there, several of you came down to Bushy Park for the ceremony. You stayed overnight at my house in Surbiton. Others stayed at other Bushy Park students' homes.

I, too, had remembered the Munich plane crash but couldn't remember any names from it. They were a couple of years older than I, and I hadn't been at Bushy Park long enough to form any real friendships with any of them. But every time I read one of the Bushy Tales another name seems familiar. I can't recall the faces though, which doesn't really matter because 40 yrs. tends to change one enormously. I look at pictures of my mother when she was 58 and I look just like she did then. From a teenager's perspective I'm ancient.

Can you imagine trying to bring this reunion of such spread out individuals about without the current technology? At least if we had lived in the same town most of our lives and gone to school with the same students for 12 years, there would have been more family and neighborhood connections as resources. Kudos to Pat.