

2010 RUSHFORD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

If there is something about yourself or your class that you'd like to include in next year's newsletter, include a note with your banquet reservation or you can send a note anytime to the Rushford Alumni Association (Box 1, Rushford, NY 14777 – Attn: Newsletter Editor), or send an email to rushfordschool@yahoo.com (please include the words "Rushford Alumni" in the subject box of the email). If you move and change your address, try to remember to keep us updated one way or another. And, don't be shy about submitting something for the newsletter. This is also the way to both help out and welcome next year's newsletter editor, Charles Bliss ('69). Charley is taking over responsibilities for the database too.

If you received this newsletter by postal mail but you previously provided me with an email address, it means that my email messages to you may have been blocked or otherwise perhaps not seen or read by you for one reason or another. Getting the newsletter to you one way or another is the most important thing. If you are not on the email list and you really want to be on it and you truly use email regularly yourself, then send an email to that effect to: rushfordschool@yahoo.com.

This newsletter can be viewed on the Cuba-Rushford Central School website. Go to www.crcs.wnyric.org --- click on "Community" in the row of menu items that runs across the top of the page, next click on "Alumni and Yearbooks" in the drop-down box that appears and then on "Rushford Alumni" at the far left on the page that next appears. When the Rushford Alumni page downloads, go to the bottom of that page and click on "Related Documents – Newsletter". Newsletters are in "pdf" format which uses Adobe Acrobat Reader software to view. You should already have this software on your computer. If you don't, the website gives you a link for downloading the software for free. The CRCS website also has some, but not all, of the RCS yearbooks for 1952 to 1991. Missing are the following years: '60, '62, '63, '65, '68, '69, '71, '72, '77, '80, '81, and '82. Some of you no doubt have a yearbook for one or more of the missing years but very likely you also have personal comments of classmates written over or by many of the pictures. I assume that the website has been using only unmarked copies of yearbooks.

Those receiving this newsletter by email or viewing it on the CRCS website should still use postal mail to make banquet reservations and/or to send donations (Rushford Alumni Association, Box 1, Rushford, NY 14777).

Thanks to Peggy Metcalf Armstrong, Susan Clark Holmes, Bernice Owens Armison and her daughter Grace, and to Sue Corbett Clark for helping to stuff and stamp envelopes for the mailing that was done in 2009. Further thanks to Susan Clark Holmes for doing the photocopying.

Over 150 people attended the 2009 banquet. Thanks again to school janitor David Hatch (Class of 1984) for moving tables and chairs into the auditorium and setting them up. (Sometime after the banquet was over Dave took them down and cleared the auditorium, all without any alumni being asked to help.) Albert Sadler gave the banquet Invocation. Prior to dinner, Andrea Finch, 2009-10 Allegany County Dairy Princess, senior at Cuba-Rushford Central School, and daughter of Tom ('72) and Lorraine Sampson ('87) Finch of Farmersville served refreshments. (Andrea addressed the alumni and expressed sadness and deep concern for the plight of many family farmers like her parents who are being driven out of business by the low price that processors are paying for raw milk.) The buffet dinner that followed was prepared under the supervision of Betty Corbett Gabel who resides in North Collins, NY. Betty is the sister of our Secretary, Susan Corbett Clark. The current slate of officers agreed to serve one more year. Of the classes honored (those whose graduation years ended with a "9" or a "4"), the Class of 1959 had the most members present (10). Next were the Classes of 1944 and 1974 with 5 alumni each. The oldest alumnus in our database was present at the banquet-- Ernestine Austin Whybrew of Sierra Vista, Arizona. (Ernestine celebrated her 95th birthday one month after the banquet.) She was also the alumnus who traveled the furthest distance. Ernestine graduated from high school in 1931 from the former Rushford Academy that existed prior to school centralization. She went on to become a school teacher for much of her life. Her first teaching assignment was the Meadowview School, a one-room schoolhouse north of Rushford. One of her former students was present at the banquet--Lois Buttifant Bruce ('46). The second oldest alumnus attending the banquet was Irene Drew Worthington (Class of 1934). Attendees recognized for coming long distances or out-of-state were as follows: in New York State--Sharon Flynn Wilson ('59) from Pennsylvania--Art Fuller ('53) and Lanny Hackett ('69) from New Jersey--Sandy Albro Munson ('59) from Ohio--Tom Morris ('59) from New Hampshire--David Fuller ('68) from Virginia--Barbara Priday Wilson ('49), Patty Flynn Engh ('63) and her brother Mick Flynn ('65) from Tennessee--JoAnn Kopp Skrobback ('59) from Georgia--Ernest Kellogg ('44) from Florida--Delores Swain Thurber ('48) from Texas--Karen Farwell Forsyth ('60) and Al and Florence Bialy Lee ('53) from Arizona--Ernestine Austin Whybrew ('31). The 2009 recipient of the Association's Albro Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 was Dylan Scott, son of Frank ('83) and Cheryl Scott. Dylan had graduated from Cuba-Rushford Central School in June and was now enrolled at Alfred State College. This was the ninth consecutive year the Association has awarded scholarship monies--a total of almost \$7,500 since 2001. Musical entertainment was provided by Darlene Clark Mason ('75). The banquet concluded with Wilda Williams at the piano and the singing of the old RCS alma mater.

With regard to the Association's financial status, Treasurer Bernice Armison reported to me that as of May, 2010 the Association had about \$2100 in its general fund and \$6933 in its Albro Scholarship Fund.

Last year you may recall a lengthy presentation in the newsletter about the possibility of merging our Rushford Alumni Association scholarship donations with those of the Rushford Scholarship Association. I will not take up your time again outlining the pros and cons of merging the funds and just say that if you were lukewarm or outright opposed to that possibility, look no further than me to blame for initiating the idea. When I presented it to the officers, they felt it was worth exploration but they did not want the issue to become a divisive one that would detract from banquet fellowship nor one that would end up consuming most of the banquet time. And so you were asked to vote for or against a study of the possibility of merging funds when you sent in your dues or your banquet reservation last year. Many of you did not express an opinion one way or the other. Of those who did vote, a majority were in favor of further study. However, some alumni indicated that they were strongly opposed to changing the present set-up. It became evident to me that the issue had become a divisive one and, as I said on this matter in last year's newsletter, the issue was not a right versus wrong kind of thing--deciding to keep the status quo would be perfectly fine. When I informed the officers after the banquet about the feedback I had received, the decision was not to pursue further the possibility of merging the funds.

News From or About Individual Alumni and Classes:

- '39 -- Ora Clark of Lake Amanor, California sent us a note in December and indicated that life for him and wife Lillian in the California mountains has been good. They have lived in their present home for 22 years. He says they golf and fish in the summer and shovel snow in the winter but they planned to spend this past winter in a warmer climate so they could golf and not shovel snow. And what was the distance required to get to this warmer climate? Just 70 miles! (*Pretty much all downhill.*)
- '39 -- Virginia Waite Miller of Huntington Beach, California died in August of 2009.
- '39 -- Betty Ann Hardy Taylor of North Canton, Ohio and for many years a resident of Cuba, NY died in February of 2010. She was the oldest daughter of Rushford's last resident doctor, H. K. Hardy. She herself had been a doctor's wife.
- '40 -- William Yanda of Hume, NY died in October of 2009.
- '41 -- Arthur Hall of Winter Haven, Florida, died in June of 2009.
- '41 -- Wilson Gilbert of Rushford, NY died in January of 2010. For many years he was the fourth generation of Gilberts to operate the family farm.
- '42 -- Eva Smith Alderman died in Corning, NY in September of 2009. Eva was a past secretary of the Alumni Association. She and her husband and fellow classmate Ralph, who predeceased her, lived in Fillmore, NY for a number of years.
- '42 -- Ruth Williams Moranski of Franklinville, NY died in December of 2009.
- '43 -- Kenneth Hall of Chaffee, NY died in February of 2010.
- '44 -- Don Alderman of Olean, NY submitted a poem entitled "The Preview" which appears here as a paragraph:
Suppose one day you went to sleep, then found yourself walking down a fluffy white street intermingled with blue. You meet a familiar looking man in a white robe, waiting for you. He says "Would you like to meet some friends who passed on?" Then evolving were Wayne, Ken, Bill, Marge, Pat, Ed, and Neum. They look so radiantly happy, angelic-like; they seemed joyful, and you felt joyful too. They didn't say, "Why me?" because they knew. Why do so many die so young? So many, too many, we have known. They, fondly loved, it seems so wrong. Then all those reprobates laughing at fate live on and on. Is God recruiting angels for the day to come? Might be, these departed rate better than we do who live on. Stick to faith, it's proven, what reward the alternative? We will leave behind our money, possessions, troubles, pain. Only ONE was able to come this way again.
- '45 -- Philo Furniss was honored in February (2010) by the Town of Caneadea for 34 years of service as a member and Chairman of the Caneadea Town Planning Board. Philo has agreed to continue to serve the Town as it's Zoning Officer.
- '45 -- Phyllis Blackman Preston and her husband, Royal, appeared in a photo in the Olean Times-Herald this spring. They were holding their great-great grandson, Gregory Fisher. The photo hi-lighted five generations and included the Preston's daughter, granddaughter, and great grandson.
- '47 -- Richard Taylor of Elba, NY died in November of 2009. Dick married Lucille Slocum, also a Rushford alumnus (Class of '51) who survives..

- '49 – The Class of 1949 celebrated their 60th year class reunion on July 25, 2009 at the summer home of Barbara Priday Wilson. Also in attendance were Neva Warner Boysha, Duane and Dorothy Davies Kofahl, Jeanette Scott Hermanett and her husband Roger. Unable to attend were Phil and Pat Sampson, Ellen Wixon Pierce, and Elinore Gibbs Chapman. Deceased classmates were also remembered: Lucille Bigelow, Barbara Fuller, Robert Haynes, Paul Martin, Joyce Stubbs Carmichael, Gordon Williams, Robert Guest, Richard Sadler, and Betty Benham Spears. Information on Jim McClure is unknown.
- '50 – Class of 1950 held their annual get-together in July, 2009 at the home of Irene Blom Francis and husband Norm in Rushford. Attending were Jack (& Janet) Finch, Keith (& Arletta) Slocum, Art (& Marilyn) Kellogg, Pauline James (& Don) King, Janette Davies Kofahl, Eldyn Davies, Jess Westfall, Duane Luce, and guests June Blakeslee Clark, Hattie Clark Roskie, and Ed Mitchell. Two other guests were David Vincent and Betty Case who are co-authoring a book they hope to publish soon about the Genesee Valley Canal.
- '50 – An article appeared in a February, 2010 issue of the *Cuba Patriot* about Pauline James King and her efforts to put together a book preserving some of the history of the Rushford Town Band. She is being assisted by Lois Hardy Wilt (Class of '42) and Wilda Williams. The article mentions that Pauline has played trombone for several years in the Band (also in other bands), that her daughter Beth (RCS Class of '73) also plays trombone in the Band, and that her father, Paul, did as well—thus, three generations of participation in the Band. Pauline's father took lessons from Dr. Hardy. Dr. Hardy's daughter, Lois Hardy Wilt, was Pauline's music teacher. Lois, in her eighties, still plays flute in the Band. If you have pictures or anecdotes to contribute or can help out in some other way with the venture, call Pauline at 585-593-4609 or send her a note at Box 35, Allentown, NY 14707.
- '51 -- Alta Foss Pelkey and husband Lyman have moved to Perkasio, PA, which is about an hour northwest of Philadelphia, to live near their daughter. Alta says that they left their former Madison, NY home with much sadness and emotion but the move was dictated by health issues. Her new address is #32A South Main Street, Perkasio, PA 18944.
- '52 – Some of the members of the Class of 1952 were able to get together at the home of Ola Lou Balcom Gordon on August 4, 2009.
- '55 – Arletta Smith Slocum and her husband Keith (Class of '50) of Venice, Florida sent us a note last September and reported that they are feeling young and looking forward to two class reunions in 2010 (60 years for the Class of '50 and 55 years for the Class of '55).
- '56 -- Nelson Warner of Farmersville, NY died in March of 2010. (*Also see item below for '78--Ron and Lori Tomlinson Warner. Ron is Nelson's son.*)
- '59 – Audrey Slocum Malin of Nashville, Tennessee died in August of 2009.
- '59 -- Donalee Baker of Torrance, California sent a note in October making me a bit envious of her southern California lifestyle. (*She and Ora Clark --- see first news item --- may secretly be working for the California Tourist Bureau or Chamber of Commerce..*) She says she's had a pleasant introduction to retirement after working for the Salvation Army. She stays active doing some volunteering, playing golf and bowling, taking advantage of activities at a senior center which is within walking distance, and going to the gym via her bike. (*Many of us will remember that it was Donalee who so ably accompanied the high school chorus on the piano during her high school years.*)
- '60 – Judy Henry Dailey wrote to us in 2009 that she was recuperating from another hip replacement. She also had cataract surgery on both eyes and now does not need to wear glasses except for reading. Judy says "Thank goodness for replacement parts." Husband Terry was doing most of the housework while Judy recuperated. Daughter Jenny has a son who planned to enter the Navy in the fall of 2009. Jenny's two other sons are in college at the University of Buffalo and at ESF-Syracuse. Jenny also has a young daughter, Lily—"a handful"—in early grade school. Judy and Terry's other daughter, Mary, lives in Brewerton and has three children.
- '63 – Jerry Goss of Niagara Falls, NY has been retired from employment with the Carborundum Company. Jerry saw military service after graduation from high school. He and his wife have two children and three grandchildren. (*Jerry attended the 2009 banquet, his first -- it was good to see him again after so many years.*)
- '63 – Class of 1963 (*this news is over a year old but I'm happy to include it here*): Marana Davies Thomas reports that many in the Class were able to meet at the Turfside on August 31, 2008 for their 45th year reunion. In memory of former classmates Linda McLean Rich and Peter Henry, \$250 was collected for the Alumni Association's Albro Scholarship Fund. (*Thanks, Class of '63!*)

'64 -- Jim Francis of North Tonawanda, NY provided the following update. Following graduation from RCS, he graduated from RIT in with an AAS degree. He says that he enjoyed his four year enlistment in the USAF, serving in Japan, Thailand, Guam and South Dakota. He later graduated from the University of Buffalo with a bachelor's degree while working for Trico Products. Jim worked at aftermarket sales in Trico's Advertising and Marketing Departments for 38 years and ultimately became the last Trico employee in Western New York. He retired in 2009. Jim and Martha spend a lot of time in the summers at their cabin near Friendship, NY. They took a trip to Russia late last summer which included a river cruise and visits to Moscow and St. Petersburg. Jim says that it was a very interesting and educational trip.

'65 -- Audean Haskins continues to have health problems and would surely appreciate receiving correspondence. Although she may not be at her house, she receives mail there regardless. Her address is: 8981Main Street, Box 177, Rushford, NY 14777

'70 -- John Jackson of Freedom, NY died in August of 2009.

'78 -- Ron and Lori Tomlinson Warner of Belfast, NY know full well how an accident can forever change a family. In 2009, their son Matt was badly hurt in an automobile accident which left him without the use of his legs. .

xx -- Carmella McElheny, who taught music and 6th grade at RCS for a number of years, died in May of 2010. Her children --- Linda ('66), Tom ('67), Bernard (70), John ('76), and Elmo ('79) --- are all RCS alumni.

xx -- Last Labor Day I met a couple who impressed me by the fact that they had gone on to for higher education after high school but, despite the limited job opportunities in this area and the draw and advantages that other places have for young people, they had still returned to Rushford to make a life. They are Joshua and Evelyn Johnson Thorington. Josh, the son of Paul Thorington ('68), graduated in 1994 from CRCS. Wife Evelyn graduated from CRCS in 1996. After studying landscaping at Alfred State College, Josh started his own business in Rushford---Thorington Creative Landscapes. Kudos to Josh and Evelyn and to all you other alumni who help keep Rushford on the map. .

☺ *"I saw two houseflies in the kitchen today. Both females."
"How did you know they were females?"
"They were on the phone."*

The four stages of life:

- 1. You believe in Santa Claus.*
- 2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.*
- 3. You are Santa Claus.*
- 4. You look like Santa Claus.*

I think it best to conclude on a serious note. From reading the newsletter, we know that each year some alumni (and/or their families) are experiencing a very significant change in their lives. The brevity of words glosses over the depth of feeling brought on by the change. Some of us cope with change better than others. (I know that I still have much to learn on that score.) Recently I came across something that I believe was cut from an annual volume of "Guideposts", a daily devotional guide that my mother liked to begin her day with. Although it tells of a very common example of change in the life of the person who contributed the piece, I thought the message was poignantly written and very appropriate to this particular subject.

This house has been our home for eighteen years, but now that our children are all grown, we don't need this much space anymore. Last night I mentioned to my youngest son John, who has recently moved into a place of his own, that we're thinking of selling the house. His face clouded over. "But Mom, Rusty's buried here, and.... and think of all the marshmallows we've roasted in that fireplace...and what about the long talks we've had together, sitting on the deck after school?"

I understood how he felt. I remember going to my old hometown after Mother moved out of the family house, and realizing that I'd never be able to go home again. It's a sad feeling. And yet, an ending is also a beginning. I asked John to thank God that all those wonderful things that make a house a home are not in the house itself but in our hearts. We'll take them with us into our new beginnings. I hope John can hold onto that, through all his endings and beginnings, his good-byes and hellos, through all the uprootings and replantings of life. I hope I can, too. Thank you heavenly Father, for being my true and changeless Home." (Marilyn Morgan Helleberg)

I thank all of you for your help and patience and for the kind words that many of you have expressed while I have been newsletter editor for the last five years. *Jim Pomeroy*