



From the President's Pen:

Max Elliott
FMS Class of 1958

Hurricane Charlie had his input to our overall progress. In fact, we had our FMSA Board meeting on the morning of 14 August, right after the Friday 13th pass-through of Charlie! Andy Staley drove up from Tampa that morning to make the meeting. Andy, you recall, is the one that undertook the massive effort to scan all the FMS yearbooks onto a CD. He has also been our Treasurer since the beginning of time. Andy has contributed his knowledge and skills as well as countless hours and more than a few of his personal dollars to make our meetings and reunions come together for all of us to enjoy. Andy, we all thank you!

Sadly, due to personal commitments, Andy is resigning as Treasurer effective following our annual meeting on the 16th of October.

To date, all of our prior and current volunteers, committee members and board members have freely given of themselves to give birth and life to our association. We owe them all a great debt. Many have stepped up and done their time. However, we all realize that no one can be expected to indefinitely devote the required time and resources demanded by these positions. New (and enthusiastic) blood is needed to reignite our efforts and continue to drive the association onward. This will be one of the foremost agenda topics for our annual meeting. Another item on the agenda will be the presentation of suggested bylaws to cover the potential eventuality of dissolving FMSA. Another item, of course, will be the FMS 50th Golden Anniversary.

Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to get the ball rolling on the 50th plans. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact me. Many hands make light work.

Again, the annual meeting is set for **2pm** on the **16th of October**. Plan to meet at The Perfect Spot, located at Skydive DeLand. We recommend you come early and have lunch at The Perfect Spot. We look forward to seeing you all again! Dennis Eyre was our perfect chef last year – thanks again, Dennis!

If anyone wants to have input at the annual meeting, please call, write, or email Sue & Max Elliott, prior to the meeting, with your input and we will be glad to present your information or place you on the program.

As many of you were in the path of Charley, we hope you all survived with a minimum of loss and discomfort. Take care of yourselves and we look forward to seeing some of you at the annual meeting.

The Case of the Disappearing Plaque –



"In the still of the night..."

It's a mystery to everyone as to exactly what happened, but during one night in July, the column holding our Memorial Plaque was destroyed. By the tracks, it appears that a semi-truck failed to negotiate the turn and it wiped out the southern brick column. There were no witnesses and no suspects...just a mass of rubble.



It was this pile of rubble that was discovered by a City of DeLand Public Works crew. When they reported the accident to Tom Sperling he reminded them that there had been a plaque on that column and they were able to locate it and took it back to the barn for safe storage.



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Tom Sperling has assured us that the plaque is safe. It stood proudly for almost two years. The man who installed it told us that it was virtually impossible to have it stolen because of the way he installed it in the column. But we guess he never thought about a truck running over it.



It is doubtful that the City of Deland will replace the brick column so now we will have to discuss an alternate plan for our Memorial Plaque. So far there have been two suggestions. One is to attach it to the Florida Military School sign that is in the process of being restored, and the other is to put it in the Florida Military School exhibit in the Museum. Any other ideas? This is one question to be discussed at the annual meeting.

Gone, but not forgotten ---



AUGUST 2006 - Happy 50th FMSI

The Lollapalooza is history and also the first annual meeting of the FMSA, Inc. Before we know it, the 50th anniversary celebrations will begin. The first will be in 2006, to commemorate the opening of the school. And then a class will celebrate their 50th every year thereafter.

It is time to begin our planning and be ready to implement those plans by the year end. Will you be part of this? We certainly hope so. It will take the combined efforts of many to make these celebrations a success. **Distance does not preclude participation in this planning.** Thanks to e-mail, snail mail and Ma Bell, we can all remain in the loop. Your input is most important at this stage.

The Holiday Inn has again agreed to be our headquarters for the event and is promising us

super rates on their rooms. The August date was selected because it is a "slow" time for conflicting events, and it is also during the "vacation" time for many people. With this in mind, maybe more people would include the celebration as part of their extended family vacation. An expanded choice of activities will be arranged to accommodate other family members. With the close proximity to the major attractions such as Universal, Walt Disney World, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach and the Space Center a weekend in Deland is a natural starting point.

Not only do we need your ideas for this celebration, we need your personal commitment. A concerted effort will again be made to search out those still missing from our ranks and volunteers will be needed to make phone calls and searches in their areas, or on the internet. As plans progress, volunteers will be needed to guide various activities.

The Annual Meeting in October will provide a platform to further discuss this celebration and the direction we wish to take. 2006 seems like a long time away but it really isn't. We have about 14 months to pull this together. We have heard so many people say they were sorry they didn't participate in the Lollapalooza, and now they will get a second chance. Mark your calendars now...that first weekend in **August 2006, the 4th, 5th and 6th, and plan to be in Deland.**

2nd ANNUAL MEETING FMSA, Inc.

As provided in the By-Laws the second Annual Meeting of the Florida Military School Association, Inc. will be held in DeLand on a **Saturday, October 16, 2004.** This meeting is open to all and everyone is encouraged to attend. We are planning to meet at The Perfect Spot at Sky Dive DeLand again, and holding the actual business meeting in the private hanger provided for us by Steve Nash. This meeting was well attended last year and we hope that more of you will plan to attend this year.

With the 50th Anniversary celebration fast approaching, there are many important items to discuss.

These officers were elected at the Annual meeting last year and unless there are any objections or nominations, they will continue to function in that position, with the exception of the position of Treasurer.

Officers:

- **President:** Max Elliott
- **Vice President:** Thornton Ridinger
- **Secretary:** Sue Elliott
- **Treasurer:** TBD
- **Member at Large:** Rex Riley
- **Member at Large:** Jerry Alleyne
- **Member at Large:** Dennis Eyre

Mark your calendars and make your travel plans now. **Why not make it a mini-reunion weekend? Come early and stay over to visit.**

Faculty Profile: Thomas W. Sperling

Thornton Ridinger
FMS Class of 1959

This is the first of what we hope will be several profiles of faculty officers at Florida Military School. This one features Thomas W. Sperling, who came to FMS from Amarillo, Texas in 1959 to be the school's football coach. He remained at the school until 1961. Since that time, Tom has been employed by the City of DeLand as Director of the Recreation and Parks Department.



Tom and Betty Sperling have been married for more than fifty years. They have two daughters (Cindy and Cari) and two sons (Tommy and Ric).

Tom graduated from high school in Dexter, New Mexico, received his BA Degree from New Mexico Highland University, and an MA from West Texas State University. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force.

The cadets who played football under Tom's coaching are quick to praise him for his leadership and coaching skills. He fielded teams that were highly competitive against comparably size schools.

Since taking the Parks and Recreation job in DeLand in 1961, Tom has become a legendary figure in central Florida.



In addition to his duties as Director, his involvement with related groups and organization have included:

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- President, Florida Recreation and Parks Association 1968-69
- Central Florida Officials Association Basketball Commissioner

- Florida Amateur Softball Association Board of Directors and President
- Florida American Legion Baseball Chairman
- National Conference Chairman - American Legion Baseball 1996

And, as Business Manager of the DeLand Post 6 American Legion Baseball Team, Tom has contributed greatly to a remarkable team record, which has include 4 state championships, 15 state Tournament appearances in 21 years, and 48 boys having received college scholarships from the local legion program during the past 21 years.



His honors and awards have been prestigious and many. They include:

- Lifetime Achievement Award - Florida Basketball Officials Association.
- Daytona Beach baseball Hall of Fame
- Distinguished Service Award of the Florida Diamond Club
- Outstanding Service Award in Florida Recreation Profession.
- Fellow Award - Florida Recreation and Parks Association's Highest Award
- Good Citizen Medal from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.
- Quality Leadership Award - West Volusia Kiwanis Club
- Community Service Award from the West Volusia Council on Human Relations
- DeLand High School Athletic Support Award
- American Legion Regional Legionnaire of the Month, July, 1977
- Florida High School Activities Association Superior Basketball Officials Award (their highest award) 1974-1995.
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Florida Basketball Officials Association.
- Daytona Beach baseball Hall of Fame
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- American Legion Regional Legionnaire of the Month, July, 1977
- Florida High School Activities Association Superior Basketball Officials Award (their highest award) 1974-1995.

In addition to all of this, when he was approached by the committee putting on the FMS reunion, Tom not only went out of his way to provide all the assistance needed, he also suggested the addition of an FMS section to the Museum. At the reunion, he arranged for the location and catering of the dinner, and the band, and arranged for the street closings for our plaque dedication.

It becomes readily apparent that one of the best gifts that Florida Military School gave to the City of DeLand was the arrival of Tom Sperling. His forty year tenure with the community has been remarkable. The large outdoor sports complex located just east of the old FMS campus was named in his honor by the city.

Job well done, Tom. Thanks.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Without Tom's assistance and guidance there would never have been a Lollapalooza like we had, nor would we have an exhibit space in the Museum. He opened doors for us everywhere and provided many of the major elements of our gathering. It certainly pays to have friends in high places. We certainly appreciate his efforts.

FROM THE RANKS -

AS I RECALL . . .

We need **your** input here. This is a section that can only be written by you. Why not share some of your memories with us? As you can see, we didn't get any submissions for this newsletter and therefore the newsletter is a shorter version. Our postage limitations allow us to print a maximum of six pages for the minimum postage. This newsletter is not a one (wo)man project and our creativity has its limits. You don't have to be a professional writer...just share memories or thoughts with us. How about your memories of the class trips, or an athletic competition? We prefer to keep it upbeat with no crass slams or such, but surely things come to mind when you think of your FMS days. Let's pack the next issue with great stories. Send your submissions to Max. We'll even include Letters to the Editor.

MONEY \$\$\$ TALKS...

Andy Staley, Treasurer

FMS Class of 1968

Treasurer's Report

8/13/2004

This version of the Treasurer's Report reflects the results of all activity through 8/13/2004, as

reported at the 8/14/2004 Executive Board Meeting. Expenses incurred since the last Treasurer's Report include expenses for the 3rd Quarter newsletter (\$344.67) Our present balance is \$2,627.54. We are financially solid at present. Projected expenses are those for the Annual Meeting and the next newsletter which will be printed in late November.

As I have submitted my resignation as Treasurer at the Annual Meeting, my final Treasurer's Report will be printed in the next issue of the newsletter.

A complete version of the Treasurer's report has been posted on the website <http://fmsphotosite.tripod.com/>.

DID YOU MISS US? Were You Left Out ??

Sue Elliott

FMSA Secretary

Despite our constant reminders to keep your contact information current, 31 of you were left out in our last mailing. Yes, we had 31 newsletters returned to us because your contact information was incorrect. In prior mailings, we attempted to readdress the returned newsletters and get them out to you, but due to the excessive numbers this time, we did not attempt to resend those that were returned. So, if you did not receive the June newsletter, you may have been one of those "left out". We are trying to stretch our budget so we can continue to operate through the 50th celebration. To re-mail 31 newsletters would have meant an additional \$11.37 in postage, plus the envelopes, etc. We made an administrative decision to just update our records from the returns and attempt to reach you in this new mailing.

Max Elliott is keeping the "official" database for the association. **Please keep him posted** on any changes in your information such as address, phone, and e-mail, etc. Don't assume that your information will be updated if you have told someone else because that is not always so and we don't want to lose you. Max's database will be used for all mailings, and any future directory updates. There will be a lot of important information coming out as we approach the 50th anniversary and you don't want to be left out again. This may well be our final gathering.

If you locate someone who is not already in the database (directory) or if you have a change of information for someone else, please forward that to Max as well. Several new names have been added. There will be lots of things coming up that we don't want you to miss out on.

Please forward your information to:

Max Elliott
135 Deer Lake Circle
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Phone: 386-672-8686 Fax: 386-677-8379
sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net

FEEDBACK would be great! It is discouraging not knowing if we are serving your needs and interests. Let us hear from you. Do you want an organization? Do you want a newsletter?? See you in October !!!