



From the President's Pen:

Max Elliott

FMS Class of 1958

In our August newsletter, I was lamenting about how Hurricane Charlie had impacted our lives and forward motion. Little did I realize then what was to follow in quick succession – Francis, Ivan, and then Jeanne! In our area, we were “visited” by three of the four. We hope all of you came through with your health intact!

The 2006 Golden 50th reunion is planned for the first weekend in August, 2006 – Friday the 4th, Saturday the 5th, and Sunday the 6th! Mark your calendars and arrange for the time off. All you locals (or even not so local) that can help with this event, please contact Max or Sue and let us know of your willingness to help! We have past the two-year-out mark and are about 9 months away from the one-year-out mark.

After the 2006 Golden 50th, starting with the class of 1957, each year will represent the 50th anniversary of a graduating class. I think it would be ideal if each class, for their 50th would host an overall FMS reunion (with the help of FMSA, of course!). As we represent a finite population covering a relatively short period of time, it is up to us to celebrate, or not, our historical existence.

The future of FMSA is uncertain. The current board is determined to continue at least through the 2006 Golden 50th. We discussed, at the annual meeting, a desire to have a “shadow” board for at least August 2005 to August 2006. Ideally, the “shadow” board would help plan and conduct the Golden 50th and then take over immediately following. Interested parties, please forward your names to Max, Sue, or Thornton.

We had recent notification that David Lusk (1961) is deceased. Also, we have lost contact with Ted Culbertson (1967), William Delcher (1966), John Hartman (1960), Gareth Jones (1960), Bill Mallory (1967), David Mishoe (1969), Richard Owens (1965), Clair Virgil (1964), and Scott Williams (1969). If you have contact with the missing listed, please have them contact me to be put back on the mailing list.

FMS Takes Flight-

Did you know that FMS once offered flight training to its cadets? Well, it did in the early years. We recently had the opportunity to visit with a man in DeLand, Bob Lee, at 87, is still very much involved with aviation. In fact, he operates an airport in DeLand that bears his name. Bob and one of his flight instructors, Capt. Bob Leigh were the FMS flight program during its brief existence. Bob still takes his golf cart out every morning to inspect the runway to assure the safety of those landing there. His grass strip runway is particularly busy on weekends.



We happened to visit just after an air show at the Deland airport the previous weekend, and Bob showed us a US Navy SBD-5 that made an emergency landing at his strip when it encountered mechanical difficulties during the show. This particular plane was loaned by the Navy to the Dixie Wing of the Commemorative Air Force.



We asked Bob how he happened to get into aviation and thus to get involved with FMS. Bob was born in Madison, Wisconsin and in the 1930's his Boy Scout leader took the boys to an air show and Bob was hooked. He built his first homemade glider in 1935 at age 15 and later while at the University he took civilian flight training that was government sponsored and got his pilot's license. Bob was hired as a civilian Air Traffic controller and was sent to Chicago about the time World War II broke out.

Following his training, he was sent to Louisville, KY and in the 3rd region there were 8 controllers hired and Bob was one of the original controllers. During the war he split his time between two airports maintaining the control tower. He also spent a year in Brazil as a controller (civilian) for the Navy.

Bob first built his own air field in Indiana across the river from Kentucky but quickly tired of the cold weather so he sold the field and he and his family decided to head south. Bob had obtained a list of surplus air fields from the government and he and his wife headed south to find “their field”. They landed in their Stinson at the

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

DeLand airfield in 1952. Half of the large hanger was being used by Stetson for its basketball court and the other half was used for aviation. The Navy had left the field in 1946 and when Bob arrived in 1952 it was in extreme disrepair. He rented it from the city and set about upgrading it, by adding a wind indicator, fixing the runway and putting in radio control. Bob and his family lived upstairs in the old Barracks area while he operated the airport. His daughter, Ann, remembered that time. Interestingly, Ann later married a FMS cadet, Tim Sweeny. But that's jumping ahead.

In the later 1950's, Capt. Bob Leigh became one of Bob's flight instructors after he came to see Bob about flying for him. He had his pilot's license and then got his instructor's license. It wasn't clear exactly how the alliance was formed but FMS soon had its flight program. Bob owned the planes and Capt Leigh became the instructor. Bob said there were 10 original flight cadets. (Max Elliott being one of them.) Bob says he still has the log books around somewhere and will get his daughter to hunt them up for us. All went well for about a year with the boys flying those old tail draggers. But the bubble burst in 1957-58 school year with the tragic death of Don Thompson,

Bob had previously purchased 80 acres in the northwest section of DeLand and had been building "his field". The state finally licensed the field in 1960 and Bob and his family moved out to that field. The Bib Lee Airport has been in operation ever since. A serious fire two years ago destroyed 12 air planes and the large hanger they were stored in. This was a severe blow but it didn't knock Bob out. Then came the three hurricanes this year that tried their best to finish the job, but as we toured the area, battered hangers were still standing and planes continue to land. It is the little field that refuses to die.



Along the way, Bob and his wife raised 3 boys and 3 girls...but only one is a true Floridian. Daughters Ann and Melissa care for their father and help him with the airport operations. A visit with Bob is quite an event. He had so many interesting stories to relate about his flying escapades. At 87, you might expect a dottery old man, but that was not the case. Bob's mind is keen and he continues to be very active and knowledgeable about aviation and other issues. It's too bad the FMS program was so short-lived.

Maybe more of you would have had the opportunity to know this dynamic man.

The Case of the Disappearing Plaque - Update!

Like the mighty Phoenix, the FMS Memorial plaque will rise again.

During a recent meeting with Tom Sperling, we received the wonderful news that the City of DeLand has decided to reconstruct the pillar that once held our Memorial Plaque. It is safely stored at present in the City Public Works garage but we asked that it temporarily be displayed in the museum until the pillar is completed. Tom assured us that the work would be completed in time for our festivities in 2006.

We also visited with Mike Bauldauff, the monument maker who originally made and installed our "theft-proof" plaque. He was surprised to hear that the plaque was gone, but relieved to hear that it was not stolen. He will reinstall it on the new pillar for us when it is ready.

This is a historic monument and we hope maybe someone will help us get the historic designation assigned to it so it is preserved for posterity. Here's a good project for someone. Any takers?

FMS MUSEUM - New Acquisition

Thornton Ridinger, Historical Archivist
FMS Class of 1959

Recently an original FMS bass drum head was donated to the museum by E.J. Jones, Class of '65. He brought it with him to the Annual Meeting and presented it to Thornton Ridinger our archivist for placement in the Museum. EJ said he remembered that the drumhead was somewhere in his mother's attic so he found it for us. It is things like this that keep our exhibit growing.



Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

At a recent meeting with Tom Sperling, he stated that now that all the hurricane clean-up is behind, he will try to get the improvements underway on our display cases, etc. He assured us that the work would definitely be completed prior to the 2006 celebration. The exhibit will definitely be open for your viewing that weekend. The memorial plaque is in safe hands and he will temporarily put it on display in the Museum until the city completes work on rebuilding the pillar and then we will reinstall the plaque. Again, all work will be completed in time for the celebration.

Donations are always welcome for the Museum so scour those attics and see what artifacts you can locate. One suggestion was that we place actual copies of the 15 annuals in the Museum, but since the school did not keep copies this may be a real task. Maybe you would want to will your annual to the Museum.

2nd ANNUAL MEETING FMSA, Inc.

Max Elliott
FMSA President

The 2004 FMSA Annual Meeting was held, as scheduled, at 2pm on the 16th of October. We started gathering at The Perfect Spot between 10 and 11am. We had our greeting stand set up outside on the East side of the building where we had an excellent view of the activities at Skydive DeLand.



It was a picture perfect day and the colorful parachutes stood out dramatically against the clear blue sky. At our sign-in table, where we were presenting 2005 FMS calendars to our attendees, Harry Silvis was displaying a selection of his stock of FMS memorabilia ware. A little over 20 people were in attendance. A special note of recognition is extended to Ms. Alda Earp for representing the Faculty at each of our Annual Meetings! Ms. Earp, thanks for making the drive from Ocala, it is always a pleasure to see and chat with you!



At 2pm, thanks, once again, to the graciousness of Steve Nash, we called the meeting to order in his hanger. Status reports were presented by Sue Elliott, Secretary, Thornton Ridinger, Vice-President, Andy Staley, Treasurer, and Harry Silvis, Official Vender.

Discussions covered the efforts on the FMS sign, what to do with the FMS plaque, the FMS museum display, a found FMS bass drum head, the FMS and Daytona 500 connection, the 2006 reunion plans, and the future of FMSA. In honor of his lengthy and selfless service to FMSA, Andy Staley was presented an FMS throw. In the immediate future, Sue and Thornton will serve jointly as Treasurer.



Steve Nash is leading the local effort to restore the FMS sign. Lettering components have been provided by Harry Silvis and John Kendrick. Thornton Ridinger is heading the effort to research proper placement of the plaque and drum head. Jim Turner is coordinating with NASCAR to see if they have any historical records concerning the involvement of FMS with the Daytona Racetrack.



AUGUST 2006 –

Happy 50th FMS!

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

The Holiday Inn has again agreed to be our headquarters for the event and is promising us super rates on their rooms. They have agreed to let us use the large Ballroom for our dinner & dance, and Sunday breakfast, a downstairs room for displays, the pool for a Pool Party and the Hospitality suite. Because of the summer heat, we will try to incorporate more air conditioned or water-oriented events.

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. Contacts have been made with the Main Street DeLand Association to arrange tours and shopping incentives with area merchants.

Not only do we need your ideas for this celebration, we need your personal commitment. We will need chairmen for many of the sub-activities and this is where we can use your help. Also, 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.

2006 seems like a long time away but it really isn't. We have about 18 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.**

FROM THE RANKS -

AS I RECALL . . .

McClenny's Breakfast Prayer

Memories as Written by David Tooker
FMS Class of '65

Sunday's at FMS were either a time of happiness (parents coming over and not on restrictions) or sorrow (100 TBWs and I ain't going anywhere for a long time). Whatever you determined you were going to be, it happened after breakfast. Before breakfast there was no choice. You were going to be miserable. Only in an institutional chow hall could you truly understand the lousy meals that came to life.

Sundays were especially bad because the faculty who normally came to eat with us were absent. Cadets were required to attend church, and there were the devoted and dedicated faculty members who mostly regularly attended with us, but after that, the rest of the instructors chose to lie low and do without that gratis meal. The food was going to be less than high quality: No bacon, no sausage, no pancakes, no extras.

CPT Bill McClenny was our 10th grade English teacher. He was a good English teacher, reading to us and making us write on a daily basis. He was always careful to balance his act between hardy tom foolery and correct etiquette. He taught me to love O. Henry, Damon Runyan and James Thurber. Our nickname for him, (All FMS characters had to have nicknames, it was a rule) was Clink Clenny. Sometimes classes would consist only of him reading to us. After I became a teacher, I came to appreciate some of his style and incorporated his antics into my classroom behavior.

On this particular day, Clink was the OC, and he was expected to deliver the breakfast prayer, before the Battalion Commander seated us, as we stood gazing at the table. Before us, in puddles of greasy water, oozing from within, were piles of gray-brown powdered eggs and dented pitchers of powdered milk. It gave relevance to the word “soupie.”

Needless to say, there was not a whole lot to be thankful for. McClenny stood alone at the faculty table, overlooking us all. He didn't even bother to bow his head. With the rich irony only a master could employ he intoned. “Oh LORD... PLEASE make this food good..... AMEN”

A titter went through the mess hall; the command “seats” was given, and “rest.” To the best of my knowledge, the food didn't improve. I think that Mrs. Evans might have told COL Ward about Clink's indiscretion, but he stayed with FMS for another year and then disappeared off the Radar. The story went into what ever passed for institutional memory, lost within a few years simply because Clink was gone.

If you had never been to FMS, you would think “...what a lame story.” But to those of us who were there, on a dreary Sunday, with no relief in sight, it was a moment when we sort of, might have guessed that some of the faculty appreciated our plight, and occasionally shared in it.

I last saw Clink in 1982 at an Orange County English Teachers' meeting. Orange County had passed a bill requiring all English teachers to give their students a writing assignment once a week. There had been massive complaints throughout the county, and the entire population

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

of high school English teachers assembled at Winter Park High School to be "coached" in the implementation of this policy.

After listening to endless whining from all the teachers for about 45 minutes, I got recognized and said my piece. "What have you been doing as English teachers, anyway? We got class loads reduced and an extra period for grading, and you guys are all complaining. I thought this was what English instruction was, anyway."

There was an audible hissing from the crowded auditorium, and a chubby little fellow down front stood up and said, "What's your name?"

"Tooker, David Tooker. I teach at Oak Ridge." I responded, daring him to make an issue of it.

"Where did you go to high school." Chubby asked.

"Florida Military School, Sky Harbor Station, Deland, Florida." I responded in the rote of our time.

"I thought so." Chubby replied. "I was your English teacher, and you are the only one here who's making any sense."

After the dismissal, he and I got together and talked a little bit. He was not filled with joy about his FMS tenure, but he was glad to hear how he and his efforts had contributed to some of our success. It was his last year for teaching and he was set to retire.

The funny part was that I never really liked old Clink when I was there.

MONEY \$\$\$ TALKS...

Andy Staley, Treasurer
FMS Class of 1968

Treasurer's Report 10/16/2004

This version of the Treasurer's Report reflects the results of all activity through 10/14/2004, as reported at the 10/16/2004 Annual Meeting. Expenses incurred since the last Treasurer's Report include expenses for the 3rd Quarter newsletter (\$332.53), and interest income of \$20.00. Our present balance is \$2315.01. This report does not include expenses for the Annual Meeting and any other miscellaneous items. We are financially solid at present. Projected expenses are those for the next newsletter which will be printed in late December..

As I have submitted my resignation as Treasurer at the Annual Meeting, this is my final Treasurer's Report. It was decided at the Annual Meeting that Thornton Ridinger and Sue Elliott will take over the Treasurer's position for the present and will transfer our funds to a local account. All future financial matters should be directed to them via the address at 135 Deer Lake Circle Ormond Beach, FL 32174.

" It is with much regret that I hereby tender my resignation as Treasurer to the Florida Military School Association, effective October 30,2004. Recent life events leave me with insufficient time

to support the organization as is required and I believe it is a disservice to the other officers and the general membership."

(Andy will be sincerely missed. We hope you will remain an active part of our Association.)

The Hunt is ON -

Sue Elliott
FMSA Secretary

With only 18 months to go until the big 50th Celebration, the hunt is on to locate as many former cadets as possible. Time ran out on us with the Lollapalooza and many leads were not followed up on, but now we have another chance. We don't want anyone missed.

This time we have the records from our previous searches and now we have more technology to use. What we don't have is the manpower. This cannot be a one man search effort. Many new leads have been generated and now we need help in making the contacts. This could be as simple as making a couple of phone calls or dropping a note in the mail. We (Max & Sue) met so many interesting people during the 2001-2002 searches. People are really helpful when you explain your mission and many were able to lead us to the correct person.

We certainly could use your help, either contacting people in your area or if you'd prefer, by contacting others in your specific class. We can provide you with a list of leads on each person and then it would be up to you to check them out and locate the correct person. Then simply supply us with the correct data so we can add them to the list. We will be printing an updated FMS directory for the 2006 celebration and we want to include everyone possible. If you prefer to make the contacts via snail mail, we can also provide you with a format, but we did find that phone contacts were most effective and often yielded more clues if we had not contacted the correct person.

All cadets will be given the opportunity to update their personal data prior to the publication in 2006. This is an organization with a limited lifetime and the only possibility of growth is by identifying other cadets. Unlike schools that continue to operate, our membership is finite, and time is not on our side. Help us find others today. If you have any clue as to the whereabouts of an old friend or classmate, let us know and we will follow it up.

Despite our constant reminders to keep your contact information current, we had quite a few newsletters returned to us again. This can prove to be quite a financial hit for us on our limited budget. We really want to be able to keep sending these newsletters out to you, at least until our 2006 gathering. Please, keep in touch with us.

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.

FMS CADET BECOMES A PUBLISHED AUTHOR

WANTED - MEDIA Correspondents

As the 2006 celebration approaches we will need media contacts in various areas. Haven't you always wanted to be a media correspondent?

It is not as involved and difficult as it seems. We have found in the past that local media were not inclined to accept submissions from people out of their area. We need people that would be willing to take media releases that will be provided and submit them to your local news sources for publication. Most newspapers offer a free "reunion" service and submissions could be made to them. Maybe you can even get your local TV or radio to put information on their community information boards. Getting the word out this way may not only inform people of the reunion itself but we may also locate other cadets as well. People do not need to have graduated from FMS to be included in our directory or activities. Many only attended FMS for a year or less, or maybe had a relative that attended. According to our By - Laws, our membership is open to former cadets, faculty, staff and friends of FMS.

How about it? Don't you want your moment of fame? This will not be a time consuming job but an extremely important one. Contact us today.

FMS 2005 Calendars

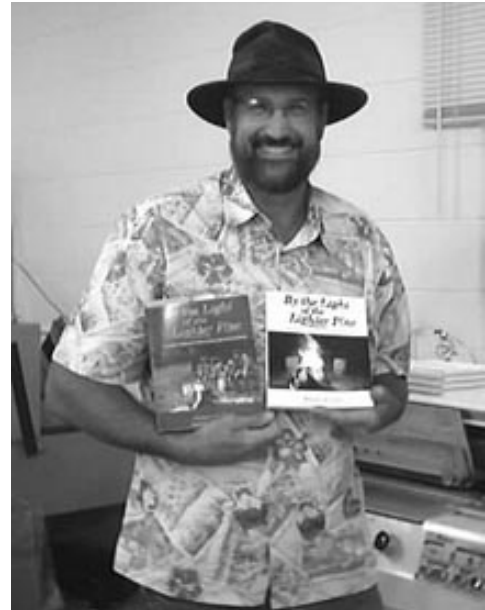
If you missed the annual meeting, you missed getting our official **FMS 2005 CALENDARS**. These calendars were prepared for us again by **Harry Silvis, our FMS official vender**. It is not too late to get a calendar, however, now they will cost you.

Our cost was \$2 per calendar and we would like to break even. Shipping costs would be \$3.85 so we can send you a copy for **\$5**. Harry has done an outstanding job again and we are sure you will want one for your office. Or, if you want to come by and pick one up, you can have it for \$2. (Ormond Beach). What a deal! And our treasury won't take a hit either. As we said, we only have a limited number available, so contact Max soon to reserve your copy.

Christmas is coming and an FMS Memento would make a nice gift.

Contact Harry for his catalog of items.

Harry C./Zora Mae Silvis
> Kennesaw Printing & Promotional Products
> 2690 Summers Street, Suite D
> Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
> 770.421.1415
> Fax: 770.421.1745
> printers@bellsouth.net



Cadet Major William H. " Bill " Good, graduated salutatorian FMS class of **1969**, has recently released the first two volumes in a series of books about Florida. The series is entitled, *By the Light of the Lighter Pine* and is available at the Deland House Gift Shop or from his web site, <http://www.lighterpine.com>

The first two volumes contain twenty short stories set in the pine woods of Central Florida and tell tales of his experiences on his farms in Lake and Levy County, as well as other locations around the state. The book is illustrated by Gene Packwood, the editorial artist of the *Daily Commercial* with guest illustration by his wife, Sandi.

Volumes three and four, *The Coastal Collection*, to be released in 3-4 months, will recount tales of his adventures sailing around Florida from Apalachicola Bay to Fort Matanzas, south of St. Augustine, and tell the stories of the people, places and things that comprise his adventures on Florida's coasts. An adventurer, Bill's travels include traveling in Europe and traveling the entire length of the Amazon River across the jungles of South America. Bill is presently refurbishing a 54 ft. ocean sailing catamaran to set sail to return to the Galapagos Islands, then on to New Zealand and Australia. Having been selected "Most Likely to Succeed" in 1969 Bill seems to be succeeding in having a great deal of fun.

FMS - NASCAR CONNECTION

Did you know that FMS once played a roll in the Daytona 500 Festivities?

In the 1960 Annual, there is a picture of the FMS Lancers at the Daytona 500, and on the same page there is a picture of the FMS race car.

Jim Turner, Class of '59, a member of the FMS Historical Committee, has undertaken the job of documenting this information with NASCAR. A contact has been made and research is underway. You can help. Do you remember any of the activities involving FMS and the Speedway? Do you have any photos or mementoes you could share? Please get in touch with Jim or Max Elliott, so we can pursue this further.