



From the President's Pen - -

My, oh my, what a grand time was had by all that attended the Golden 50th Anniversary Reunion! Thanks to everyone who attended and made the event so very special. Also, special thanks to all those who, even though they could not personally attend, sent messages of encouragement and gifts of support. This issue is dedicated to the wonderful memories created by that reunion.

The excitement generated at the reunion lives on! The class of 1959 is planning to host an All-Class Reunion to celebrate their 50th in **2009**. Because of the limited class sizes in the early years, the class of 1959 has invited the classes of 1957 and 1958 to join with them – sort of the 50th reunions for the classes of the 1950s!

I have also gotten wind of local or regional gatherings being planned. As soon as any of you have your planning under way, send us an article outlining the particulars – dates/time/events/invitees and we will try to get it out in the newsletter. Remember to allow enough time for us, and for those you hope to invite, to make our plans and respond.

I'm looking to seeing those that can attend the 4th FMSA Annual Meeting on Saturday, the 21st of October 2006 at the DeLand airport. As before, gather for lunch about 11 or 11:30 at the Sky Dive restaurant and convene to Steve Nash's hanger for the meeting at 1:00. The class of 1965 has something special up their sleeves for this meeting.

Thanks to all who have phoned to say how much they enjoyed the reunion, what they have

heard on the grapevine, some ideas for the future of FMSA, and their plans for the 4th FMSA Annual Meeting. Please keep me posted and send me any changes in your contact information. AND: If you know of any other FMSers that we don't have, please send me their contact information!

50th Anniversary Reunion

The 50th Reunion was held at the Holiday Inn in Deland on August 4-6th, 2006 and it was a big success. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time. The months of preparation paid off. Everything ran like clockwork. 228+ people attended this year and there was representation from almost all the classes, even Sky Harbor Academy. This time, Col. Ward was more relaxed and seemed to really enjoy visiting with everyone.



Registration began on Friday and the arrivals continued on through Saturday morning. All attendees got a nametag, and a goodie bag that contained among other things a new Directory, a commemorative tile and a small bottle of FMSA labeled wine. Soon after registering, cadets were absorbed with the displays in the Hall of Memories and the FMSA items that Harry Silvis offered for purchase. The DVD of old film clips

that Harry put together was an instant hit. Guys were quickly transported back to their cadet days when they saw the scenes.



Cadets were generous in their donations toward the Raffle and the items quickly multiplied.



Trudy Bulat,

wife of Pete ('66) quickly became known as the "Pumpkin Lady" as she circulated with her purple pumpkin selling Raffle tickets. She and Pete organized the extremely successful Sunday morning Raffle after breakfast.



For those that arrived on Friday, the evening offered many opportunities to renew friendships and make new ones. Several class groups planned casual evening dinners. The Class of '65 had their gathering at Tom's Pizza. Yes, it is still there and thriving, even in the days of Pizza Hut and Dominos.



The Class of '59 also gathered for pizza but at another location. There were many other smaller gatherings at dinner time as well.



After dinner, many gravitated to the Hospitality Suite to visit and enjoy the snacks provided by Bob & Babs Hart ('66). As with any gathering, the old tales were told and many laughs were shared.



For those who might wonder, Deland still has many of the old landmarks that you remember. The downtown streets where you marched in parades, the Athens Theater, and the Holiday House are still flourishing.



Saturday morning, we were greeted with Coffee & Doughnuts in the Hospitality Suite sponsored by Rex & Rose Riley ('70) before heading off to the various activities.



The day was perfect for a trip on the river and 80 of the group were off for a lunch cruise on the Beresford Lady.



The Ghost Tour was inside this time and it was very popular. Harry Silvis did an excellent job of recreating the picture boards for the various stops along the way. Some hardy souls actually took a self guided tour of the actual site, in spite of the August sun.

A historical narration was presented by Bill Dreggors, who we know as "Henry DeLand" from our historical trips in 2002. Again he was able to keep us entertained as well as informed. He celebrated his 80th birthday the prior week by taking a tandem jump at Sky Dive Deland. We didn't have any jumpers this year in our group, but maybe next time. Guess we just aren't old enough!



The food was great and the views were spectacular, but soon our cruise came to an end and we headed back to see the action at the Pool Party.



The big feature at the Pool Party was our Duck Race. These cute little guys made quite a hit.



As the race time approached, the crowd grew restless with anticipation

Dave Tooker (('63) did a great job selling his ducks, and soon they were all gathered for the beginning of the race.



It was over in a flash but we did have a happy winner, and FMSEA made a 50/50 split of the winnings.



Meanwhile, the gabbing continued in the Hall of Memories, the hallways, the Hospitality Suite, the Lobby and the cocktail lounges.



There were also serious talks, such as this one of Alex Nelson ('63) with Faculty member Alda Earp.



. Col. Ward requested we have a receiving line at the Banquet so each class year was called and cadets were able to greet the Colonel formally



A big surprise for Col. Ward was the appearance of a young man wearing the nametag of David Raulerson ('65), a cadet who we know as deceased. Yes, it was David Raulerson, but not the cadet. It was his son. He and his mother, and her husband were part of the reunion festivities.

The cadets and their guests were seated by class groupings as many requested. The stories continued non-stop and everyone had a wonderful time. We were joined by many faculty members and even some parents.



After a short break to rest and refresh, we were back for the cocktail party sponsored by Charlie Mussalem ('69), Bill Tugwell ('63) and Tom Crutchfield ('60).



This occasion was not only the anniversary of the opening of the school; it was also a celebration of Col. Ward's birthday. The FMSA Board presented him with a special birthday cake and a framed photo that was autographed by the members. We all serenaded the Col. By singing Happy Birthday as well.



Following the presentation, Col. Prentiss spoke and shared a few memories of his days at FMS.



He then introduced Col. Ward and more memories were shared. The Col. Even shared some things we never knew as cadets. It was a moving experience for all.



Following this serious, but entertaining part of the evening, the dancing and more visiting began.



David Raulerson's mother, Mrs. Kennedy was ready to "cut a rug" and Bob Hart ('66) was a willing partner. Mrs. Kennedy and her husband were part of all the weekend activities.



Col. Ward visits with Harry Silvis.



And he greets Ed Peck ('71)



And then takes the floor to enjoy a favorite past-time.



Sunday morning, we headed back to the Ballroom for a buffet breakfast, our meeting and the long awaited Raffle.



By now, Max was really enjoying the festivities and was more relaxed since he could see that things were really running smoothly.



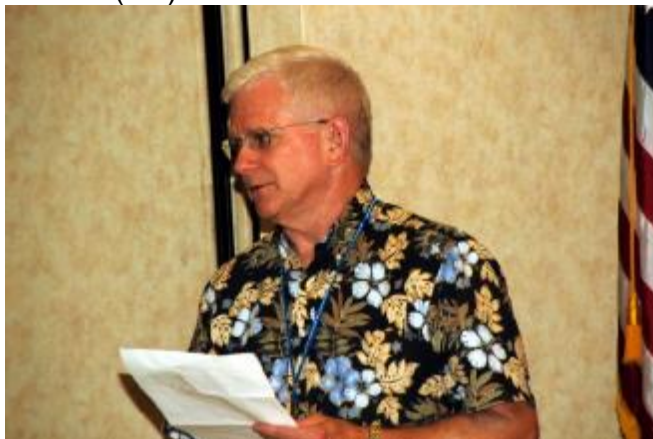
He turned the program over to Lee Hansen ('63), who proved to be an excellent auctioneer. First, he and Trudy Bulat drew the lucky numbers for the baskets, gift cards and other wonderful prizes.



Then came the long awaited drawing for the Sword. E.J. Jones ('65) was the lucky winner.



Old Testament Readings were given by David Tooker ('63).



But, E.J. surprised us all! He donated the sword back to be auctioned off. The bidding was amazing and financially a boost to FMSA. When the dust settled, Bob Green ('66) managed to outbid Jim Lucas ('66) for the sword.



The New Testament Readings were given by Stephen Eyre ('67).



Reflections followed by Jerry Metzdorf ('59).



After a short break, we all returned for a solemn ceremony, our Memorial Service. As we entered the room the Wall of Remembrance with all the photos of those who have departed greeted us. The service was coordinated by Thornton Ridinger ('59).



As Amazing Grace was performed by the Canadian Scottish Regiment Pipes and Drums, class representatives read the names of their fellow cadets. The faculty names were read by Chaplin Dinkins.



Taps was played to end our service.



This was the official end to our reunion, though many remained for much of the day, reluctant to see it all end.

OTHER Scenes at the Reunion

Bill Bradford, a faculty member attended.



Col. Ward greets faculty member, Chaplin Dinkins at breakfast.



A local reporter interview Col. Ward for a story in the Forum, a local paper. He gave us an excellent article The Daytona Beach News Journal also did a nice story about the reunion.

Max Elliott ('58) FMSA President, and his Reunion Coordinator, Jeff Fawsett ('60) congratulate each other after a successful reunion.





Still photos were taken by Rex Riley ('70) and these along with many others will be offered for purchase by Harry Silvis our official vender. See the FMSA website for details.

“The School That Refused to Die”

Thoughts shared by Rodney Stork,
Cadet '64 and Faculty

It is rare that individuals return for a reunion, and their school no longer exists.

Col. Ward and Lt. Col. Prentiss took us all down “Memory Lane” and revealed secrets of the past, and present.

Dormant emotions were revived and “Espirit De Corps” again resurfaced in regards to times past.

Regardless of year, class, rank or company we all came together as “brothers” remembering the unique experiences that each and everyone of us shared.

Even though there are just “bits and pieces” of FMS left, our school lives in the hearts of cadets, and faculty, forever.

We all use daily “Lessons Learned” in our formative years, without realizing it.

Col. Ward always made us be,” accountable to a higher standard,” and that confidence has grown within us through the years, and made us excel in life’s challenges.

On a personal note, it was so enjoyable seeing, and talking to “old friends,” again.

May the “Good Lord” continue to bless us all with Health and Wealth until we meet again in three years.

Reflections from an FMS Mother

Saturday, August 5th, 2006. My friend, Norma Jones and I spent a wonderful evening at the 50th Anniversary Reunion of Florida Military School.

We were not a part of the alumni; however, we were the parents of Scott and Susan Jones and Timothy and Tina Marie Taylor, who attended the elementary school at the Florida Military School campus. (Sky Harbor Academy)

Our children were very impressed with the cadets. They enjoyed watching them march.

It was so great to see Colonel Ward and his sons, Paul and John. They would come home with Timothy and spend the night. We loved having them. They were always polite and kind.

Colonel Ward and Colonel Prentiss still have their intellectual minds, recalling all the facts and figures about the school and the cadets. The stories about the cadets were hilarious.

A great big thank-you to Sue & Max Elliott for the wonderful job they did in planning the entire evening.

Lois Taylor

The FUTURE of FMSA

Our future is so much brighter these days after the generous out flowing and generous gifts at the reunion. We are more financially secure and it appears that we will be able to keep the Association afloat until the next official FMSA sponsored reunion gathering in 2009. The '57 and '58 classes were too small to sponsor their 50th, so they will be joining the '59 Class who will be sponsoring the next official gathering for everyone.

Meanwhile, we will continue to hold our Annual Meetings in October in Deland; and we will publish our newsletter on a quarterly basis. Harry Silvis will be working with Sue to print and mail this newsletter. Harry's available technology elevates this task from a two man, or shall I say, one woman and one man team of Max & Sue folding, stuffing, sealing, stamping and labeling, to a team effort with Sue formatting and putting the newsletter together and Harry printing and sending it out. AH, progress!

Meanwhile, Max Elliott will continue maintain the official FMSA roster and mailing list. We have already made many changes and updates since the printing of the last Directory and have also added several new names to the roster. Efforts will continue to locate those still missing and get them added to the roll. It is extremely important that you continue to notify Max of any changes in your contact information (physical address, mailing address, telephone, or your email address). If you received this newsletter, then you know that your information is current.

Max's contact information is:

Max Elliott
P.O. Box 5
Pierson, FL 32180
386-749-4031
sgcourtney@att.net

Reunion Plans:

Thornton Ridinger '59

Planning for the next FMSA sponsored all-class reunion has begun. The event, scheduled for 2009, will include special recognition for the three graduating classes of the 1950's -- 1957, 1958, and 1959.

Anyone interested in serving on the planning committee should contact Thornton Ridinger. He can be reached by telephone at (386)677-2312, by e-mail at tridinger@earthlink.net, or by mail or in person at 1 Tomoka Oaks Blvd. #114, Ormond Beach, FL 32174.

As with the other reunions, it will take a concerted effort by many individuals to make it work right. Please volunteer your time and talent to this effort. Even if you can't serve on the planning committee, please send us your thoughts and fresh ideas to get us going in the right direction. Beating the experience of the Golden 50th celebration will be a huge task. Help us do it.

Treasurers Report

Thornton Ridinger '59 FMSA Treasurer

Last August, we had \$1,230.38 in the bank. We come out of the reunion with \$6,958.99 in the bank with all the bills paid (we think). If there are any more, they will be small ones. A complete treasurer's report will be given at the Annual Meeting.

Total costs associated with the reunion were \$20,778. We took in \$14,106 in registrations and fees, made \$4,490 on the raffle and auction (and the rubber duckie race), and received a whopping \$7,608 in donations from our very generous members. As you can see, a reunion of the quality of ours cannot be put on within the constraints of the registration fees that were charged. It took a great deal of generosity from many people to make it work. Thank you so much.

Again thanks to you, we are an ongoing concern. We are looking forward to the next get together. Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on October 21st.

THE FMS WINE by Harry C. Silvis, Class of 65'

Each "Goodie Bag" at the Golden Anniversary Reunion contained a 187ml bottle of Merlot wine with the FMS label on it. The funds to purchase the wine were donated by the members of the class of 1965 & 1966. If you wish you can have additional FMS wine by contacting the winery. The only thing is you must purchase the wine in cases of 24 and there are some states that they can not ship the wine to. (That will not stop me from

shipping to you) The following information is about the winery that produced our wine.

Boutier Winery was established in Acworth, Georgia, in 2000. What began as a hobby grew into a fully licensed and bonded enterprise located in beautiful historic Acworth, Georgia.

Boutier wines are crafted from the highest quality grapes, carefully selected from the finest vineyards, including the recently acquired Boutier Vineyards. Each of our wines is crafted and aged to perfection.

Boutier Vineyards is situated in the temperate Piedmont Region of Georgia. With the long growing season and constant breezes, helps keep fruit and foliage dry and encourage rich, ripe fruit and healthy vines. The nearly 32 acres are planted in Vinifera and French American grape varieties, with the oldest vines at about 13 years of age. The current crop includes Charadonnay, Abernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Viognier, Syrah, Chambourcin, and Vidal Blanc and will be expanded to include Mourvedre and Grenache.

The wines at Boutier Winery are always great for gift giving, and they can be even more meaningful with a special message on the bottle. Personalized custom labels are perfect gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays or any occasion. Let us add your business name or logo to a bottle of our wine and you will have the ideal token of appreciation for your important clients. Choose from a number of greetings or create your own - the possibilities are endless.

To contact them to answer any questions that you might have, or to place your order.

Boutier Winery Phone: 770.529.0490
4500 S. Main Street, Suite 101
Fax: 678.290.8613
Acworth, GA 30101

Please feel free to call them at 770.529.0490, email them directly at info@BoutierWinery.com Or visit their web site at www.boutierwinery.com

New FMSA Directory

If you didn't attend the reunion and receive one in your goodie bag, the latest edition of the official FMSA Directory is available. It is current as of the end of July, and there is space available for you to keep it updated.

A feature section included were the recopies from the FMS Dining Hall. These recopies from "George" were kindly provided by her daughter, Carlene Evans Despard. So if you have a craving for her chicken or something else, here they are. There is even a conversion chart so you don't have to feed an army of hungry teenage boys.

Copies are available for \$10.00 and may be obtained from Max & Sue Elliott, P.O. Box 5, Pierson, FL 32180. Get your copy today while they last.

CD's, DVD's, and Such

At present, work is underway to make copies of all the still photos of the reunion available for purchase from Harry Silvis, our official vender. He will be posting information on the website as to costs and what is available soon. Harry also has many of the other articles from the reunion available. He is always at the Annual Meeting with a selection of his wares as well. It is not too early to consider an FMS item for a Christmas present, too. Contact Harry at:

Kennesaw Graphics
2690 Summers St. Ste.D
Kennesaw, GA 30144
(770) 421-1415

kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net

The video DVD of the Reunion events was done professional by GoldRush Productions and you will find their order blank elsewhere in this issue. We have previewed the DVD and it is a great memory of the weekend. It is very well done. The talk by Col. Prentiss and Col. Ward are offered on a separate DVD in their entirety.



Video Tape Order Form
Florida Military School 50th Reunion
 August 5th & 6th, 2006

TAPES & DVD's ARE COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL. NO DUPLICATIONS ALLOWED. We accept Check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

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Orange City, Fl. 32763

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Double Set of 50th Reunion plus Colonel's Address: \$34.95

Above price includes SHIPPING & FLORIDA SALES TAX

Florida Military School
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