



Florida Military School

Alumni Association



Vol. 3 Issue 3

December 2006



From the President's Pen - - Max Elliott '58

Twenty-one people attended the FMSA Annual meeting. Once again, **Steve (1965) and**

Sydney Nash provided their hanger at the DeLand Airport. Our heartfelt thanks go to them for their gracious hospitality for the fourth year in a row! I should mention all their help and support for the 50th as well as on many projects – FMS historical projects, overhead photographs, etc.

Some recent developments in the planning for the 2009 reunion are that the classes of 1957-1960 will host the reunion which will commemorate the actual 50th reunion for the class of 1959 and will serve as the 50th for the other three classes. The reunion will be held in DeLand at the Holiday Inn sometime in early August. According to **Thornton Ridinger (1959)**, the Holiday Inn has already been contacted and negotiation of prices is underway. He is waiting for the rate quotes. Thornton is currently in the process of setting up committees and allocating responsibilities.

A committee has been formed to meet with **Charlie Mussallem (1969)** to discuss concepts for publishing a “coffee table” book covering the history of FMS. A meeting has been scheduled and the results of that meeting will be covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sue and I will, of course, renew our efforts to find those who have never been found and to re-find those who have been found previously and then lost again.

Initial contact with **Bill Dreggors, Executive Director of West Volusia Historical Society** indicated that he would intercede for us concerning the safeguarding and display of the FMS Museum exhibits.

Again, concerning local or regional gatherings, send us an article outlining your particulars – dates/time/events/invitees/who to contact 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 respond. Don't forget to include your contact information. In this way, FMSA can help you contact others and save on mailing costs.

Thanks to all who have phoned (too many to list) to say how much they enjoyed the reunion, what they have heard on the grapevine, their ideas for the future of FMSA, and their thoughts following 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!**

If you have a chance, please visit our web site (www.fms-assn.org) and see the fine job that our Web Master, **Asa Dean (1960)**, is doing for us! Many thanks, Asa!

We have **Breaking News**. The project to restore the entrance column has been completed! What started as a “Black Bag” clandestine operation to be carried out in the dark of night morphed into a city approved official project and took off with a mind of its own. This most impressive job is recorded later in this newsletter. Congratulations guys on a job exceptionally well done!

FMSA Official Website:
www.fms-assn.org

FAREWELL, TOM

A big supporter of the FMSA left us Thursday, October 19, 2006, when Thomas "Tom" Sperling died at home.

Tom, 78, had been in and out of the hospital during the past month, due to heart trouble. He came home for the last time on Monday, October 16, and died three days later with family members gathered around him.



Tom was instrumental in getting us many of the items needed for the 2002 Lollapalooza, and for getting permission to erect our Memorial plaque on the brick columns on Yorktown Blvd. at the Deland airport.

Tom Sperling was hired as the first Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Deland in 1961. Prior to that, he was athletic director and head football coach at FMS.

Tom also arranged for FMSA to have space in the Deland Hospital Museum for our FMS Museum. He and Bill Dreggors worked hard to give FMS its rightful place in the local history.



You will be missed, Tom.

FMSA 4th ANNUAL MEETING

DeLand, Florida
21 October 2006
MINUTES

1100 to 1300 hrs: Social Time & Lunch at Skydive DeLand

As the members signed in they were presented with a FMS "Goodie Bag" (Compliments of the 50th reunion) containing an FMS calendar (designed and published by

our official vendor, Harry Silvis), an FMS engraved key chain, and the Annual Meeting Agenda. Also, Harry had a sampling of his FMS wares laid out for members to peruse. (Attendees were also given another FMS 50th Anniversary Ceramic Coaster during the conduct of the meeting.)



The meeting was, once again, held in the Steve Nash's hanger at the DeLand Airport. Steve, we sincerely appreciate the generosity and graciousness of you and your wife, Sydney, in hosting our Annual Meeting for the fourth year in a row!



1300 to 1400 hrs: Conduct of Meeting

FMSA Board Members in Attendance:

Max Elliott, President
Sue Elliott, Secretary
Thornton Ridinger, Vice President/Treasurer
Dennis Eyre, Member at Large
Lee Hansen, Member at Large

FMSA Members in Attendance:

Harry Silvis (1965) and Zora
Steve Nash (1965) and Sydney
Richard King (1964 & College)
Alda Earp (Faculty) (Has attended every annual meeting)
Robert Mouro (1966)
Robert Green (1966)
Terry Hollingsworth (1966)
Earl Lamar (1960) & Sue
Jim Lucas (1966)
Troy (Elton) Fletcher (1959)
John Bulat (1966) & Trudy
Ronald Brinkenhoff (1959)
E. J. Jones (1965)
Michael Turrisi (1965)
Jeff Fawsett (1960)
David E. Scarborough (1965)

Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Max Elliott, President, who gave the welcome and presented the board members. He discussed the events of the Golden 50th. All who attended seemed to really enjoy it.

Steve Nash informed us of the recent death of Tom Sperling (Faculty). Tom was one of our greatest supporters. The Lollapalooza represented the personal touch of Tom. He arranged the use of the hanger, the caterer, the entertainment, and much more. Tom was also the benefactor of our FMS museum space. He was loved by many and will be missed by all.

Reports:

Thornton Ridinger presented the FMSA financial report and status of the Museum. He presented the results of our recent audit. Thornton said that contributions have offset the debts from the reunion and will enable us to continue publishing the newsletter for the next 24 to 30 months. His report will be published on the FMSA web site, in the next newsletter, and the information will be made available to members upon request. Thornton also discussed the future of the FMS museum. It was decided to move the research items to the West Volusia Historical Society and to store the other items. Once again, the contributions will allow FMSA to function



without requiring dues or membership fees.

Thornton, and other representatives of the class of 1959, said that they would coordinate the next official FMSA all-class reunion in 2009, which will also commemorate the 50th reunion of their graduation. It would be held in DeLand and the Holiday Inn will be contacted next week for a rate quote. It was also noted that all Association sponsored activities will be open to all members. Any class-specific activities, as in the past, will be the responsibility of those classes participating. Current plans are to have a special event for the first four graduating classes, possibly the day before the general reunion begins.

Sue Elliott gave the Secretary's Report. She discussed locating members we have never found. In response to questions about another FMS cruise, she said she would try to find out how many were interested for one in 2008.

Harry Silvis (1965) gave an overview of his products and emphasized the DVDs that he has compiled from various films donated by members.

Special Report:

The Class of 1965 conducted special recognition ceremonies for E. J. Jones and David Raulerson, Jr.. E. J. Jones was presented an engraved sword, furnished by FMSA, to honor him for his efforts at the 50th reunion. E. J. was the one who picked up and paid for the sword to be raffled off at the reunion. E. J. was given a check by FMSA to reimburse him for what he paid for the sword.



E. J. drew the winning number in the raffle for the sword. Then E. J. donated the sword back to FMSA for the auction! The sword was bought at the auction by Bob Green.

After being presented the sword, E. J. then presented FMSA with the original, un-cashed reimbursement check from FMSA. Thanks E.J.!

The Class of 1965 then presented, in absentia, an engraved sword, furnished by the Class of 1965, to David Raulerson, Jr., in honor of his father, a deceased cadet (1965). David was unable to be at the ceremony, due to travel difficulties.

Open Floor:

During the open floor, Robert Mouro stated that a planning meeting was held in Jacksonville at the Mussallem Galleries for an event to be held in Jacksonville sometime in 2008.

He said it was his understanding that Charlie Mussallem (1969) was interested in FMSA working on a book of the entire history of FMS, from inception to closing.

An independent group said they were going to study the condition of the FMS sign and entrance columns.

1500 hrs: Meeting Adjournment

TREASURERS' REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2006

At the 2005 Annual Meeting on October 28, 2005, a cash balance of \$3,764.83 was reported.

Income for the past year totaled \$21,576.95 as follows:

Donations	\$ 7,638.45
Reunion registrations	\$13,938.50

Expenses totaled \$19,799.34 as follows:

Newsletter expenses:	\$ 1,390.42
Reunion services:	\$15,405.52
Supplies – annual meeting & reunion	\$ 2,742.15
Corporation Annual Fee:	\$ 61.25
Dues –W. Volusia Hist. Society	\$ 100.00
Gift to the Elliotts (for work on reunion)	\$ 100.00

For the year, income exceeded expenses by \$1,777.61

Our current bank balance is \$5,542.44

In accordance with the FMSA by-laws, the financial records were reviewed by two people, Andy Staley and Nancy Staley. The financial review found no discrepancies or irregularities. The report certifies that the financial records provided to them were accurate, reasonable, and legal in accordance with the FMSA by-laws. A copy of their report is available to any member and will be placed on the FMSA webpage.

Respectfully submitted,

Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer

FMS PROJECTED THREE - YEAR BUDGET

- **Newsletter Mailings**

4 per year x 3 years = 12 issues

Costs per issue:

Postage –650 @ \$.39 =	\$253.50
Printing, folding & mailing -	\$300.00

Total costs per issue = \$553.50

Total Costs for 12 issues = \$6642.

- **Annual Meeting Notices –**

1 per year x 3 years = 3 times

Costs per meeting:

Postcards - \$77.98

Postage – 650 @ \$.24 = \$156.00

Total cost per meeting = \$233.98

Total cost for 3 years = \$701.94

- **Annual Corporation Filing –(State of FL)**

3 years x \$75.00 = **\$225.00**

- **West Volusia Historical Assoc.
Membership fee –**

3 years @ \$100 per year = **\$300.00**

New Member Searches

-(possible 50 new members)

Postcards - \$29.95

Postage – 200 @ \$.24 = \$48.00

Miscellaneous postage - (\$.39) - \$20.00

Total costs = rounded off = \$100.00

**TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS for 3 years =
\$7968.94** - 4 issues per year

**TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS for 3 years =
\$7968.94 - \$1660.50 = \$6308.44**
- 3 issues per year.

WEST POINT CADET SWORDS

Harry C. Silvis 65'

Are what became the "official FMS Sword." They normally cost \$245.00. We have found a direct importer that has them currently on special for \$159.50 mail order or \$143.55 if you pick it up at the warehouse in Conyers, GA. The company is Atlanta Cutlery Corporation, 2143 Gees Mill Rd., Conyers, GA 30012. 800-883-0300. Fax 1-770-388-0246 - www.atlantacutlery.com The p/u price when all is said and done is \$153.60. The internet price delivered by UPS is \$180.00+ depending on your location. Choose a size 28", 30", 32", 34". You will save money framing the 28".

When you receive your sword, if you choose to have your initials engraved on the disk what you need to do is contact the oldest jewelry store in your city and ask them if they can still get hand engraving on metal. A yes, will cost you between \$25-\$50 for your initials. (I paid \$2.00 each in 1964)

If you do purchase one from them please drop a check with some of the money you saved to FMSA, to use for the newsletters.

CLASS RINGS

We have had a couple of cadets ask about having school rings made. We suggest that you visit your local Wal-Mart store or look on line. The jewelry department has the information on having your very own class ring made. They cost from about \$80. to over \$400. depending on the style and materials that they are made from. They are the same rings we had!

WANTED

COPIES OF FMS THE LANCE

At the reunion we were able to acquire and copy several issues of The Lance Newsletter. The Lance contains very interesting information about the cadet's and the school and we would like to share this information with everyone. You can scan and email them too kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net, fax to 770-421-1745 or copy and snail mail to Kennesaw Printing, 2690 Summers Street, Suite D, Kennesaw, GA 30144.

STUDENT RECORDS

A while back, some of the guys wondered if there were any remaining records from Florida Military School. Others were interested in obtaining copies of their transcripts or diplomas. I started by calling the Florida Department of Education offices. I learned that many of the department offices use answering services but never return calls. When someone actually answered, I was referred to yet another office. After many months of frustrating attempts, I sent an email to the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education. To my surprise, I received a response from the Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice stating they had been asked by Commissioner Winn to respond on his behalf. What they said was that when private schools close, the records are transferred to the local public school district. If the records are not transferred, they are considered lost.

I called the Volusia County Superintendent of Schools and was referred to Archives and Records Management. They said that there were records from Florida Military School in their files. That is all they would tell me. One would have to fill out their form – Student Records Release Authorization – and attach a check for one dollar to receive transcripts or proof of graduation. I did that and a couple of weeks later received my check back with a form letter which said “NO STUDENT RECORDS

FOUND.” I am now waiting for a call back from Archives and Records Management so I can ask more questions. I'll keep you all posted on this saga.

If you want to get the form off of the internet, go to www.volusia.k12.fl.us and select Student Records. Then select Archives and Records Management. Then select Student Transcripts. Then select Student Records Release Authorization. Copy the form, attach a one dollar check and send to:

Archives and Records Management
Volusia County Schools
P.O. Box 2118
DeLand, FL 32721-2118

COMING SOON –

A coffee table type book about Florida Military School. This project has been undertaken for presentation at the 2009 Reunion. The idea was presented to us by Charlie Mussalem and the committee feels that this would be a most worthwhile endeavor. This would be an opportunity for us to capture the entire history of the school along with pictures and news clippings that might be lost along the way.

At present the committee is developing the outline for the book and will soon be enlisting input from those in the various classes. We already have a wealth of photos so it is the memories and day to day activities at the school that needs to be included.

The target date for this project to be presented is August 2009. Stay tuned for further information and updates as this project evolves. Your input can be directed to Max Elliott .

RE: BREAKING NEWS

The following report covers the rise of the FMS column project from start to finish. As mentioned in the report, the financial output for this project far exceeded the donations received. Although we do not like to solicit donations from our members, if anyone would like to contribute to this project to help defray the costs that were involved, we are sure the guys would appreciate any help. Contact Jeff Fawsett or Dennis Eyre.



BEFORE

2002

Like the proverbial phoenix, the FMS entrance pillars have once again arisen. Thanks to the concerted labors of Jeff Fawsett '60, Steve Nash '65, Terry Hollingsworth '66, Lee Hansen '64, David Scarborough '65, Dennis Eyre '59 and Pete Bulat '66, the missing pillar is now restored to its former state. For those who might not remember, FMSA placed a memorial plaque on the pillar at the 2002 reunion. Late in 2005, a semi-truck failed to negotiate the turn onto Yorktown Rd. and demolished the right pillar that held our plaque. While we were worried that someone might steal the plaque, we never imagined that someone might actually mow it down the column.

The idea for the restoration grew out of discussions at the 2006 reunion and the 2006 FMSA Annual Meeting. This entire project was spearheaded by Jeff Fawsett, Dennis Eyre and Steve Nash and done with donations of time and money. Jim Lucas '66 started the financial donations off at the Annual Meeting and soon others (Jeff Fawsett '60, Terry Hollingsworth '66, Bill Parrish '61, Gary Aitken '60, Thornton Ridinger '59, Steve Nash '65, David Scarborough '65) joined in.



2006

Despite this show of support, at last count, the group is probably well short of the monetary support that had to be put forth. Finding the matching aged bricks was a major project that was successfully handled by Terry Hollingsworth. The bricks alone were \$390, not to mention the cost for 75 concrete blocks, 19 bags of concrete, 39 bags of mortar, plus wood for forms and 7 pieces of rebar, and not to mention the scores of other minor items necessary for this huge undertaking.

Roger Davis, our neighbor next to the site, who also has allowed us to restore the school sign on his property, was also instrumental in the success of this project. He donated storage space for the materials as they were collected and ferried in over a period of several weeks and a most important factor, a source of water.



Professional guidance was provided by Terry Hollingsworth, who brought Bogdan "Bo" Bladek, one of his employees, who was the only paid worker on the job.

Max & Sue Elliott and Steve and Sydney Nash provided housing and nourishment for the "Worker Bees". Several of the guys arrived Friday night and spent the night at Max & Sue Elliott's guest house in Pierson, so that they could get an early start on Saturday, November 18th. The others joined them in the frosty hours of Saturday and the work began.

The pillar slowly began to take form as the clear, sunny day progressed.



Bucket after bucket of cement was mixed and wearily lifted to the platform as this was done.

Before the two other cap stones were placed, a time capsule was prepared and placed inside the column. Photos of the column, a narrative and photos of the cadets involved, plus other items about FMS were sealed into a capsule that was carefully set under the final cap stones.



As the day began to wane, the final two cement caps were hefted into place.

THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETE!

By sundown, after much toting, mixing and hauling, when darkness forced the work to stop, the column was nearly two-thirds of its original height.

Several of the "Dirty Half Dozen" headed to the Pierson guest house, and after a congenial meal of Chili topped off with warm apple pie a la mode over



at the Elliott's hit the sack. The others retired to a warm meal and warm bed at the Nash's. The weary bodies were soon ready for rest. Not being accustomed to this extreme, physical work, several wondered if they could even move, yet they managed an early start on another frosty morning.

Brick by brick, and soon the full height of the column was reached. The cap stones were the next step. The smaller ones were formed and poured at ground level, but the larger, bottom one had to be formed and poured in place.



AFTER



The column is a match for its twin and as soon as it has been allowed to cure completely, the plaque will be restored to its rightful place. Hopefully it will remain in place for years to come and maybe someday, someone will find the time capsule and the memory of FMS will be passed along.



Florida Military School Alumni
c/o Max Elliott
Post Office Box 5
Pierson, Florida 32180

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ADDITIONAL PICTURES OF THE RESTORATION PROJECT



THE GATES & SIGN WERE A GIFT OF THE CLASS OF 1965

