



Florida Military School

Alumni Association



Vol. 4 Issue 2

JULY 2007



From the President's Pen

- Max Elliott '58

Since the last newsletter, Sue and I have had an active schedule. Between working on our vineyards, public service, and personal lives, we have been kept busy. In May, we took a trip to Alaska that included a land tour and a cruise. Also, FMS activity seemed brisk and time consuming.

Of course, upcoming are the FMSA election and Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on the 13th of October. For the election, the current board will be presented as a slate. If no other slate is proposed, the current board will remain and no other action, other than informing the members via a newsletter, will be necessary. If another slate is proposed, ballots will have to be sent out and due in by the first of September to be processed by the Election Committee. If a new board is elected, members will be informed of the results via a newsletter and the handover will occur at the Annual Meeting. The new board will then take over the official duties and functioning of FMSA, which include the 2009 Reunion planning and conduct.

Thornton Ridinger (59), Sue Elliott (60-HM) and I plan to meet with **Col. Ward** sometime in July for lunch at the Holiday Inn. Hopefully, we can also meet with our Holiday Inn contact, **Lillian Hess**, at that time. We will discuss the 2009 reunion plans.

I have had e-mail or phone contact from **Paul Ward (71), David Laing (67) Wesley Leake (60), Jamie Crane (67), Robin Robertson (65), Roland Wiborg (66), Jerry Harrison (63), Alex Nelson (63), Bill Dubberly (60), Jim Turner (59), Robert Mouro (66), and Andy Staley (68)**. Of course, I have also been in

touch with all of the board members and our Official Vender, **Harry Silvis (65)**. Additionally, we are pleased to have made contact with **Joe Leer (63)**. Sue is profiling Joe elsewhere in this newsletter. If I have left anyone out, forgive me and let me know and I'll put it in the next newsletter. If you have news, please contact Sue or me and let us know.

Work continues on the coffee-table book and we are actively compiling information. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please let us know. We will gather as much as possible and then edit it down to a manageable level. So far, we envision something like a yearbook format with advertising sections where one can place appropriate personal comments. The advertising will, we desperately hope, fund the project.

The FMS historical plaque has been restored as much as possible without going to considerable expense, and will be remounted very soon.

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. Please don't get lost! Keep us apprised of your mailing address changes. Again, 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 the FMSA web site (www.fms-assn.org) and see for yourself the fine job that our Web Master, **Asa Dean (60)** is doing for us! Again and always, many thanks, Asa!

FMSA Official Website:

www.fms-assn.org

MISSING CADET LOCATED - DOWN UNDER

After many attempts, we finally were successful. Joe Leer ('63) was located. In a roundabout way, contact was finally made. We received his email address from Robert Mouro ('66) which was forwarded to him by Tim Tyndall.('68) after Joe found Tim's website. Joe's response was like so many others when we finally located them.

"I am still a little gobsmacked from suddenly having contact with very strong, old memories. I am honoured to be asked to tell about myself, and feel a little foolish doing so."



Joe was the Cadet Colonel in 1963 and a Sixth Year Man.

"After leaving FMS I attended Florida Southern College for 4 years, obtaining a B.S. in science, with minors in English and music. After graduation I worked at Cape Kennedy in the Bendix gas analysis lab while waiting to go to medical school.

My parents then decided to retire to Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, where my mother was from. So I entered the University of Queensland finishing with an M.D. Now, I am mainly in private practice, but also conduct cardiac investigations at a hospital, and teach at Bond University.

My other interests are classical music, playing the piano, gardening, collecting wine, and reading murder mysteries. I live on an acreage in Currumbin

Valley, which is 15 minutes from the Gold Coast beaches. The latter being Australia's main holiday destination. There is a large area of gardens surrounded by creeks and rain forest. It is abundant with native flora and fauna. And yes, there are 2 small wallabies that occasionally grace me with their presence early in the morning out in the meadow. I enjoy regular travel to Asia and the South Pacific.

FMS left an indelible mark (as I guess it did on most of us), and I often think of the school and the people I knew, wondering what happened to them.

So I reflected, and these are some things that came to mind:



Dr. Joseph Leer, Medical Practitioner, Bond University Tutor, Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine (relaxing on vacation in Bali.)

Within weeks of starting 6th grade, Col. Ward asked some of us to enter his office, only if we had clean socks. Robbie White stayed outside.

One day, when we ate in Howard Hall where the library eventuated, Col. Ward was very cross, telling everyone to stay off his lagustrums - whatever they were.

The heartsink feeling of fear and awe when General Orders were read: "Florida Military School, Sky Harbor Station, Deland, Florida etc."

The Sunday Dress Parades, the Lancers, Mother's Days, and the time the Air Force Academy Marching Band came and entertained us with "Everything's Coming Up Roses".

The time the Vienna Boys Choir stayed and performed.

Those grey buses and long trips for parades or athletic events. The sheer quality of our military precision/marching compared to everyone else including the real military. ROTC at FSC was a joke and I easily got a trophy for best cadet.

Those awful bivouacs: long marches with blisters from new boots, and freezing nights sleeping out in the open.

SOS for breakfast - god we were hungry.

Capt. Evans teaching us spelling with a chair slat on the hand.

What ever happened to Thomas Bokor - he was outrageous in class.

Nelon and Tooker's cleverness and artistry.

And especially Col. Prentiss' Arts and Ideas Course which gave me a taste for and start at the arts.

Now I've talked too much. I still have my dress uniform and sabre.

Cheers, Joe"

Editor's Note: We decided to let Joe tell his story in his own words, and to include his reflections on his cadet days. These are the kind of reflections we would like to hear from others.

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Through many avenues, we have been able to locate several other missing cadets since the last reunion. Those located are:

John Allen Hudson - '60
Eugene Harry Blair - '63 deceased
William Earl Lamar - '63
Joseph R. Leer - '63
Charles E. Perry - '63
Allen Wise - '63
Paul Eskew - '65 - deceased 1/03/01
Robert Grantham - '65 deceased 1/16/06
Rutland D. Beard - '66
Terry Hollingsworth - '66
Charles Robert Ross - '66 deceased
Alan Scott Bremer - '67
Jamie C. Crane III - '67
John P. Sawyer III - '67
Jim Wahl - '70
Douglas Rankin - '75
Micky Thomas - '75
Greg H. Thomason - '75
Craig Morton - '76

If you want to search for a former roommate or friend, we will gladly give you all the search information we have for that person to assist you in your search. If you have any idea as to a person's profession, location or status, we can also work from those clues. Now is the time to launch renewed searches so that these missing people do not miss out on the 2009 Reunion opportunity.

BOB LEE

FMS Staffer Dies

In a previous article we featured Robert "Bob" Lee, a Deland resident and former flight instructor at FMS. He was a flight pioneer and operated his own airport, The Bob Lee Airport, in Deland. He was a real character and much loved by his friends and family. His daughter, Ann, married Tim Sweeney '60, who was a day student at FMS.

Robert M. "Bob" Lee lived his life the way he wanted for 90 years and then got a great send-off. He left behind 6 children, 12 grandchildren, 6 great-grand-children and a host of friends. Many of these friends flew into his airport for the occasion of his memorial service. A banner proclaimed "Goodbye, Bob Lee" was flown at his memorial service on May 27th, 2007, as his ashes were flown into space.



FMSA 2009 REUNION - UPDATE

As we reported, the dates are July 30th, 31st, August 1st, 2nd in 2009. Everyone has enough lead-time so they can make their plans to attend. You will note that we are starting on a Thursday and running through the Sunday this time. Thursday will focus on the 1957, 1958, 1959 & 1960 classes, as it will serve as their 50th Anniversary. This day would also be an opportunity for other classes to plan a special activity for their classes as well prior to the general Reunion activities that will commence on Friday. With advance planning, this could make a great family vacation as well.

The Holiday Inn has guaranteed us our 2002 rates of \$59 for a single/double or a Triple/Quad, and \$99 for a Jr. Suite. They are really working with us on keeping the costs low and by selecting the dates during their "slow" period and by signing so far in advance; we are able to have the use of the entire property for our meetings, etc.

Since the last issue, our friend, Lillian Hess, who worked with us on the last reunion, has been promoted to Sales Manager for the Holiday Inn. She is very supportive of us and we view this as a positive thing for both Lillian and FMS. Now we can be assured that this will be a first class affair.

Thornton Ridinger, ('59) is coordinating the plans for the Golden Reunion classes (1957-1960). Special activities for those classes will be planned for Thursday. By adding the extra day, it allows more time for small group gatherings. If there are other classes that wish to arrange a special event, there is time to do so. We will gladly report these activities as we are informed about them.

It is not too early to begin to formulate these plans. The way the time flies, 2009 will be here before we realize it. The committee would welcome any suggestions or ideas that you might want to contribute. This is your reunion and we want to include the things you want to do.

FMS BOOK

Plans are underway for a quality, coffee-table edition of the Florida Military School history. The work has begun to flesh it out with the outstanding developments of each year in the school's history. The best of photographs and news clippings will be included, as well as pertinent comments from cadets. Every class year will be represented in this volume. Cadet comments and memories can be submitted. Excerpts and snippets will be used as part of the narrative.

If you have any outstanding photos to submit for consideration, they will be treated with care and safely returned to you. They should be sent to Max Elliott at PO Box 5 in Pierson, FL 32180.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since the last report in the March newsletter, the following transaction has occurred.

On March 1, 2007, we had an account balance of \$5,294.12

There has been one debit of \$549.60, for the production and distribution of the March newsletter. There have been no deposits to the account.

The ending account balance, as of July 15, 2007, is \$4,744.52

Respectfully submitted, Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer

FMS COLUMNS UPDATE

The Memorial Plaque has been returned to the original contractor and he is attempting to repair the minor damage to it. Without a considerable expenditure of our funds, it could not be completely refurbished but he assures us he will "buff it up" and make it look nice.

He will soon be reattaching it to the new column so that it will appear as it originally was at the Lollapalooza. We hear from cadets frequently that they cruise by the columns when they are in the area. They are a fitting memorial to both the school and the cadets who attended.

FMSer's Socialize

FMSA board members Dennis Eyre('59) and Thornton Ridinger ('59), Max Elliott ('58) and Sue Elliott recently had the pleasure of getting together for lunch and then visited with Bill Dubberly ('60) and his wife Judy, at their home in Pierson.

Thornton Ridinger ('59) also had dinner with Jim Turner's ('59) wife, Wanda, their daughter Stacy and son Bill when they were in town for the Pepsi 400 Race in Daytona.

One of the greatest things about FMSA has been the opportunity it has given us to re-new old friendships and to make new ones. Hope the rest of you are doing the same. We would love to share the news with others if you keep us informed.

FMSA ELECTIONS

In accordance with the FMSA By-Laws, it is time again for the election of officers and directors. President Max Elliott has appointed a committee to handle this task. Heading the committee is Harry Silvis 65' and the other members are E.J. Jones 65' and John Kendrick 65'. The committee members have conferred, read the by-laws and looked at the way it was done in the past and have decided to run this election the same way as in the past. The existing slate is nominated for re-election.

Anyone wishing to nominate another slate please contact Harry Silvis 65' on or before noon EST on August 10th in writing with the names of the slate you wish to nominate (in accordance with the FMSA By-Laws). The nominator must certify that each person on that slate has been contacted and has agreed to be on the slate and is able and willing to perform the duties required of them. The committee will then evaluate the slates submitted to make sure all nominations are members of FMSA and wish to serve. The membership will then be mailed a ballot on August 17th and the ballots will be due back on September 1st by mail. On September 7th the committee will meet in Kennesaw, Georgia to count and certify the election and inform the Secretary of the outcome of the election and post it on the web site ASAP. If no other slate is nominated, ballots will not be sent. Slates may be sent to Harry @: fax 770-421-1745; kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net; Harry Silvis, Kennesaw Printing, 2690 Summers Street, Suite D, Kennesaw, GA 30144

2007 FMSA ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 13th, 2007 has been selected for the date of our 2007 Annual Meeting. As in the past, we will gather at the *Perfect Spot*, at Sky Dive Deland, beginning around 11 a.m. Harry Silvis, our FMS Official Vender will have a display of his wares, and we will have time to visit and eat before we proceed over to Steve Nash's hanger for our business meeting. The meeting will commence at 1 p.m.

Each year we have a good turn out and usually see a few new faces each year. The meeting is brief but the fellowship time is as long as you wish. This year there will probably be discussion of the 2009 reunion plans and the progress on our coffee-table book. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

FLORIDA MILITARY VIDEOS NOW ON YOUTUBE

YouTube is the popular free video sharing website which lets users upload, view, and share video clips. Founded in February 2005, by three former employees of PayPal, the San Bruno-based service utilizes Adobe Flash technology to display video. The wide variety of site content includes movie and TV clips and music videos, as well as amateur content such as videoblogging and short original videos. The site is praised as one the most user friendly sites on the internet. Unregistered users may watch most videos on the site while registered users have the ability to upload an unlimited number of videos.

You now may watch parts of the Golden 50th Florida Military School Reunion on YouTube. You only need to go to the site www.youtube.com. Once there you do not need to register to see the 7 minutes posted there. Move to the bottom of the page and type in Florida Military School and it will take you to the video. If after watching the short clip you want to order the entire video on CD please contact Max Elliott.

We again must thank Asa Dean 60' for putting the video on to YouTube. Our own Web Master Sergeant Major has again done the impossible for us mortals!

Florida Military School Alumni

c/o Max Elliott

Post Office Box 5

Pierson, Florida 32180

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FMS PILLAR HISTORY

The Twin Pillars and FMS sign were a gift from the Class of 1965. They were built during the summer of 1965.

FMS PILLAR HAS PLAQUE ADDED

During the first "All School Reunion" in 2002, the brass plaque was added to the pillar by FMSA.

FMS PILLAR DESTROYED IN 2005

Early one morning, in 2005 an 18-wheeler destroyed the pillar holding the plaque.

FMS PILLAR RESTORED 11/18/06 BY

Jeff Fawsett '60, Steve Nash '65,
Terry Hollingsworth '66, Lee Hansen '64,
David Scarborough '65, Dennis Eyre '59
and Pete Bulat '66