

STM '61 NEWSLETTER

The Biannual (Sometimes) Miracle (Always)

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

WINTER, 2013

U.S. Government Lifts Secret Ban on STM '61 Newsletter! We're Baaaaaack!

Chicago - *STM '61 Newsletter* exclusive

The dastardly and sordid acts that prevented publication of this *NEWSLETTER* for more than two years can now be revealed! It will be recalled that in prior issues (editors' note: all prior issues can be viewed by going to the STM '61 website: www.stthomasmoreclassof1961.com), it was reported that U.S. Government documents, gained via Freedom of Information Act requests, confirm that for almost 60 years our government has engaged in an ongoing conspiracy to withhold all knowledge of the interests that the members of STM '61 own in the Duff Estate. These interests, given in September 1953, via the Last Will and Testament of Philander (a/k/a Farmer) Duff, include both his 240 acre farm (in an area that would later constitute the southern part of St. Thomas More Par-

ish) and the incredibly valuable yeast that remains hidden somewhere within that site to this day.

Once this deplorable situation was learned, members of STM '61 formed an Advisory Committee (expertise of these Class members represents real estate, law, banking, accounting, health care, public administration and the building trades) and it had been in settlement negotiations with the Federal Government (via the Department of Justice) for several years. In the last issue of this publication we reported the settlement position of our Advisory Committee:

"Establishing a monetary value of the interests of members of STM '61 in the Duff Property is daunting, near impossible...However, and as a starting point only, the immediate tax-free cash payout

Secret Ban - page 8

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SPRING FLING!!!

A Spring Fling reunion will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2013. It will begin at St. Thomas More Church with a Mass offered for the Class of 1961. Mass is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., and several of the front rows of the church will be reserved for members of the Class. It is requested that those attending assemble on the front steps of the church at 4:00 p.m.

Thereafter, all are invited to gather at Fox's Pub (9240 S. Cicero, Oak Lawn). From 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., pizza, domestic beer, house wine and/or pop will be served at a cost of \$20.00 per person. You can pay at the door or you can mail a check (payable to S.T.M. 1961) to: S.T.M. 1961, P.O. Box 125, Palos Heights, IL. 60463.

SEE YOU THERE!



Grapevine



Remember **Fred Kitz**? Lois's twin...and wasn't that cool!! Fred lives in the southern suburbs and commented he thought the entire south side of Chicago moved out his way. Fred raised three children and had a long, fulfilling career as a carpenter. Fred was able to retire five years ago and he laid down the tools of his trade to give his body a well-earned rest. These days Fred and his wife very much enjoy being grandparents, and it sounds like he is still busy building ...a great relationship with his two grandkids.

In the summers during her career as a school teacher, **Marilyn Bara** took to the heavenly skies and traveled to faraway places. She visited most of the European nations, and many parts of Asia...Viet Nam, Thailand, China, Japan, Korea, Russia. Since her retirement 5 years ago, she has checked Greece, Africa, Egypt and the cruising down the Nile River off of her list. In March 2011, she went down under to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji!!! It was a fabulous trip that she highly recommends, in spite of a brief evacuation in Fiji in the middle of the night due to the devastating tsunami in Japan. Besides exploring the world, Marilyn very much enjoys making music in the adult choir and the hand bell choir at St. Michael's church in Orland. Keep flying those heavenly skies, too, Marilyn!

Remember the happy smiling face of **Mickey Hatzell**? Well, for 15 years, that lady with the wonderful smile brought care and comfort to many as she served her Tucson, AZ community as an oncology nurse. 10 years ago she made a switch, but not too much of a switch, and began working as a hospice nurse. "It's a privilege to be a part of people's life during this time in their lives," Mickey shared. She is their personal cheerleader. And, Mickey wanted us to know that since her cheerleader days at Tommie More, she now spends time cheering for her favorites, the University of Arizona Wildcats basketball and football teams. She has season tickets and says she is an "athletic supporter" - honest, that is what she said...go where you want with that one, but I'd say...think cheerleader! One last interesting thing, Mickey's mom who was widowed in 2007, still lives in her home on 81st Street in St. Thomas More parish.

In 1969 **Larry Lebda** graduated with a degree in Biology from UICC. In 1970 he was a big winner in the Draft Lottery!?!?!? Uncle Sam trained him as a Medic. However, he never did work as a Medic. In his first Duty Station, Fort Polk, LA, he was trained as a Lab Tech. Larry reports that along the

way he became a diener (Have some fun with that one...look it up. It may win the prize for the most odd, interesting...some adjective anyway...job any of us has had.) He did feel the heat of the Vietnam conflict for about 7 months during the end of his service. Larry is now constantly in the heat since his retirement. He says that living through our hot Chicago summers prepared them well when he and his wife, Suzann, moved to Sun Lakes AZ a few years ago, and they are very happy out West.

Lois Kitz Geringer may take the super duper solar prize for the most offspring. Her 5 kids/step kids gave her 24 grandchildren and 6 great grand kids. OK, the challenge is out there. Any one want to claim more and take that honor from Lois? A few years ago, Lois and her husband moved from Orland Park to "Mayberry" (actually known as Minonk, Illinois, which is located between Bloomington, IL and LaSalle-Peru, with a main street that is 3 blocks long.) The move was to be nearer family. Three of their kids and 21 of the grandkids live in the slower-paced, friendly town. She loves her new home, and the extra time to spend with the family.

Sue Joyce Freeman and her husband Ken have lived in Santa Fe NM for 13 years and they love it. Their town is on the west mesa overlooking the Rio Grande and the Sandia Mts. They enjoy geo-caching (look it up!) and on a recent geo-caching adventure in the Jemez Mts. an enormous bull elk "with two small trees" growing out of his head appeared inches from their vehicle (Sue says...think twice the size of a deer...no maybe an elephant... large!!). He did no harm and sauntered on his way. Wild west...wilder mideastern...while dining recently in one of their favorite Santa Fe restaurants, in walked a group of Sikhs from their northern NM compound, dressed in their flowing white robes and turbans. She suspects that in the group were some very important people, as 3 members were carrying uzis. Sounds like adventure around every turn in them thar hills! Sue has two married daughters and 5 grandsons back in the Midwest who are lobbying for mom and dad to return to this part of the country. They miss the kids very much; maybe someday. For now Sue and Ken enjoy their mild four seasons in "The Land of Enchantment" and are happy to be away from the bleak Midwest winters.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Green Door, Bozzi's Christmas lights, the Quonset Hut church, the Legion of Decency, Woodmack Bowling Lanes, CCD and early dismissal for the "publics" religion classes ... all distant memories from the "old neighborhood." Some of us have many delightful memories of those times, some less, and still other's recollections are quite mixed. Regardless, those were the days when we were young, innocent, and forming the foundations of who we are today. In spite of attending school in overcrowded and minimally equipped classrooms (by today's standards) and sharing one bathroom with five or more family mem-

bers in a Chicago bungalow, it is quite amazing that we managed to thrive and survive in our personal and professional lives. While not everyone has stayed closely connected to other classmates, we are all bonded in a time warp of "the way we were." And that, friends, is what this Newsletter is all about. So ideas for articles, information on current or past events, or anything else that you would like to see included in future issues is welcome. Please contact us at STM '61 Newsletter, P.O. Box 64494, Chicago 60664-0494 or send an email to the Class website: www.stthomasmoreclassof1961.com



In Memoriam



Please keep our departed Class members in your thoughts and prayers:

Marcia (Bartosik) Arger
Karen (Callahan) Mowen
Kathleen (Condon) Swoope
William Clair
Michael Croke
Rev. John Daley
Patricia Doyle
Joseph Hale
Barbara Hames
Terry Hinz
Russell Kaminski
William Kovac
Thomas Lucas

Joyce (Klusas) Perkaus
John McDade
Martin McGinnis
John Murphy
Claudia (Olund) Powers
Thomas Plutz
Donna Richter
Timothy Savage
Susan (Schmid) Hanik
Robert Schwab
Joyce (Sefzik) Duider
Catherine (Vergoth) Seitz



KEEP IN TOUCH

Remember, if you move or have any information that you wish to share about yourself or other classmates you have several options to get that information to either the *NEWSLETTER* or the Class website. Please see contact information listed above.



St. Thomas More - Class of 1961
April 16, 2011

STM '61 - 50TH Reunion Celebration Photo

Top Row:

G. Givney, J. Finnie, B Maiers, R. Schober, J. Raba, R. Kaminski, F. Sylves, B. Zielinski, J. Cummings, R. Hicks

Sixth Row:

E. Wojkowski, M. Naughton, F. Dolan, C. Quinn, C. Chatlos, M. Kennedy, G. Zielinski, Ron S. J. Burke, B. Davy

Fifth Row:

E. Dignan, T. Tunney, J. Helzing, B. Geiss, J. Dietz, L. Fitzer, T. Herold, T. Samuel, T. Nowak, J. Sullivan, J. Byrnes

Fourth Row:

R. Halagera, B. O'Neil, M. McGourty, J. Parsons, M. Heraty, N. Young, M. Foertsch, L. Leone, M. Kelly, T. Bogner

Third Row:

Fr. Auer, R. Rose, E. Conroy, M. Meany, A. Butler, M. Farmer, D. Louzak, M. Orbon, M. Creighton, B. Burns, (B. Allgaier, Not a Classmate), D. Quinlan

Second Row:

B. Hames, E. Johnson, K. Horton, R. Hatzell, D. Carbonneau, J. Caesar, N. Walsh, J. Behm, B. Clair, Fr. Bowler

Front Row:

M. Higgins, J. Joslyn, Beverly Kukulski, Carole Shallow, L. Marzano, M. Bara, J. Rogers, M. Keating

HELP! STM '61 DIRECTORY REVISION HELP!

The STM '61 Directory is now being revised. The directory (containing contact information for all "found" and willing members of the Class) is available electronically via email (free of charge in PDF format) and in written form via snail mail. IT IS NOT PUBLISHED ON THE INTERNET!

The privacy of each person is of utmost importance. To protect that privacy Class members who wish to appear in the directory and receive a copy of same must (1) agree to be included in the directory and (2) agree the directory will be for their personal use only and will not be used or disseminated to others for any other purpose. If you have not done so already, please contact either Lois Fitzer Miller (lmillerjc@comcast.net) or Frank Dolan (fjdolan1@gmail.com) to confirm your appearance in the Directory.

Whatever Happened to...



MARY KAY ORBON



I was the oldest of four children and born November 3, 1947 at Illinois Central Hospital. The first five years of my life were spent living across the street from Mount Carmel High School. In 1952, our family built a home on 85th Place which was only a mud path at that time.

I attended Longwood High School with many other girls from Tommy More. I received a degree in math education and taught five years in the Chicago Public Schools.

Paul Tomaska and I met at the Holiday Dance Club at 77th and Kedzie. Paul was drafted and spent a year in Viet Nam. On his return, we married in April of 1971. In 1977 we moved to Oak Forest, Illinois, where I still live today.

My husband Paul worked for the Department of Labor for 33 years, but died suddenly in 2003. However, we were blessed with three wonderful children. Meg (38) is an attorney living in Philadelphia and is married to Scott Budihias. Paul (37) works in the health security field.

Laura (34) is married to a Chicago police officer, Andy Turner, and they have three beautiful children: Matthew is 5, Kathryn is 2½ and Ellie Margaret was born January 20, 2013.

Spending time with my grandchildren is my greatest joy, but when I am not with them, I am playing the game of golf. I am retired now but I worked at Gleneagles Country Club where I often saw old classmates like Bob Esposito and Jim Duhig. Barbara Hames stopped by for an occasional hot dog. My best score is 86 and I carry a handicap of about 20. So Tiger Woods, look-out!

First Grade, First Friend

On the first day of school, I met Muffy Butler in Sister Gemella's class. We walked home together and I invited her in to play. My mom asked Muffy if her mom knew where she was. Muffy insisted that her mom was perfectly o.k. with the arrangement. For hours, the Butler family combed the neighborhood looking for Muffy. Oops!! I guess she hadn't gotten permission after all.

Muff's and my relationship had a rocky beginning, but we have remained good friends for the last 50 years.

Bless Me Father...

In second grade, I remember being frightened of confessing my sins to a priest. Would he react the same way as my parents did? Would my penance be to send me off to my bedroom? There were only two sins I would ever confess to: disobeying my parents and fighting with my brothers and sister. Luckily, my penance never ended up with a trip to my bedroom.

Echoes of Sixth Grade

Listening to the radio in Sister Salvia's sixth grade class was where I heard John XXIII get elected Pope. It the same year our million dollar church opened and when and where we made our Confirmation. Never again would we hear the sound of metal folding chairs collapsing to the basement floor of the school during a reverent ceremony.

MIA's

The Class Directory Committee continues in its effort to locate all of our classmates. It is committed to the motto: "As we go forward, no one gets left behind". In June 2008, there were 76 MIA's out of a class of 196. To date, we are missing only the following:

Timothy Masterson Joyce Ryan Kathleen Young

You can help. If you have any information about any of these persons (e.g. high school or college attended, a sibling or other relative that you know of, knowledge of a recent death of a family member, etc.) please forward it to the Class Directory Committee in any mode of communication (please see page 8) most convenient to you. Remember - "As we go forward, no one gets left behind". With your help that will be the case.

Whatever Happened to...

JOHN "BO" DIETZ

It was a great feeling to have attended the 50th celebration of our 1961 class in April 2011, and to reminisce with so many classmates. My sincere appreciation goes out to Tom Herold for spending so much time searching for me. A possible reason for my absence could have been that in college, I went back to

my given name of John and dropped "Bo".

Family

More than 36 years ago, I married a young lady from a small southern town in East Tennessee. Her name is Wendy Gail and she has been my faithful life partner since 1976. While we were dating, I

came to find out that her family originally lived on 94th & Sacramento and that she spent six of her grammar school years in St. Bernadette's elementary school. We have one daughter, Calisa, who although being trained as an industrial engineer and employed by Ford Motor Company, changed careers and is super happy teaching 3rd graders in

a Rudolph Sterner School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She has given us two wonderful grand-children (Abigail-13 years old & Jack-11 years old), 11 and Jack-age 9), upon which our world now happily revolves.

Education/ Career / Free Time



After leaving St. Thomas More, I spent two years at Mendel and then six years in the Augustinian seminary. Upon leaving the seminary, I received my B.S. in Special Education from Chicago State University and my M.A. and post Master's work from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I have had a successful 35 year career in K-12 Public Education, spending the first five years as a remedial reading instructor for an alternative school program, whose students were adjudicated by the juvenile courts and then spending the next 30 years as the Assistant/Deputy Superintendent of Schools for three different school districts either in Michigan or in Tennessee. I retired in the fall of 2007, but continued to do consulting through 2009. In January of 2010, I had a robotic heart bypass operation for a completely blocked artery. Over the past 30 years, I have spent much of my free time, studying about the "War between the States"; walking Civil War battlefields, obtaining artifacts, and helping to preserve hallowed battlefield land for future generations. My other great

passion is University of Michigan athletics. **GO BLUE!!!**

The Punishing Finger

My most enduring memory of St. Thomas More is Sister Priska's punishing finger to my cheek. It seemed that at least once a week for the entire sixth grade, she would call me up to the blackboard and proceed to drill her fore-finger into my cheek for some inappropriate behavior on my part. And as many of you know, I was not alone, many of my classmates were treated to the same corrective action. That sure taught me to make sure that I now say "YES SIR" or "NO MA'AM" to everyone that I meet.

The Prairie

The vacant land between Sacramento and Mozart ("THE PRAIRIE") was our first playground and route to and from school. We built our baseball diamond there, dug our forts and made our trails to school. I was so disappointed to see that land overtaken with homes and sidewalks. By then, though, we had Carroll Park.

Our Coach, Mr. Farmer

Mr. Farmer, our eighth grade football coach, was one of my first role models and truly someone who I admired. How he took a bunch of energetic and undisciplined eighth graders and developed them into a pretty solid and effective team, has always been one of my most pleasant memories. I recall, especially, the game we played in the snow at South Shore.

Continued from page 1

should have a floor of \$1 Billion. And, that is not to suggest that figure represents the ceiling value, only the floor. Of course, the other settlement terms - the life estate interest in the Duff real property and a percentage of any profits resulting from the commercialization of the yeast - are to stand."

It can now be reported for the first time that within days after publication of the last issue, all members of the editorial board of this *Newsletter* were called before a secret, joint Congressional committee made up of bipartisan members acting as a legislative "grand jury". At the secret hearing, held for the stated purpose of "ultimate national security", we were informed that the U.S. Supreme Court had issued a "Gag Order" preventing further publication of the *STM '61 Newsletter* until no sooner than 30 days past the next Presidential Inauguration (January 20, 2013). And, any violation would be considered an act of treason. Legal counsel representing *STM '61* cautioned the members of the Advisory Committee and editorial board to heed this warning. Consequently, publication of the *Newsletter* was suspended. But, during the forced hiatus of publication, a memo written by a high-ranking member of the U.S. Senate (surreptitiously obtained and given to this publication by "*Shallow Tongue*", a mole in the upper echelon of the Obama Administration who is sympathetic to the plight of *STM '61*) revealed that, "...the intent of this extraordinary congressional measure was to prevent any adverse impact on both the outcome of the 2012 Presidential Election and the failing U.S. economy. At this time, our government simply cannot allow the public to know of its underhanded treatment of the members of *STM '61* and its current settlement negotiations. Especially, since both Houses of Congress unanimously agree, in principle, that \$1 billion is not an unreasonable sum to be paid to undo the terrible governmental conspiracy perpetrated on these innocent citizens."

However, the turn of events of the past 48 hours, which led to publication of this issue of the *STM '61 Newsletter*, can best be described as "astounding"! For during this time, each member of the Advisory Committee has been requested by the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") to return to Washington to resume settlement negotiations! Moreover, it was requested the Advisory Committee bring

with it current contact information for each person in *STM '61*. It was learned that the Advisory Committee intends to proffer the **revised *STM '61 Directory*** (which is currently being compiled) to satisfy this request. While it was not made clear how this information would be used, an unnamed source within the DOJ told this publication that the government is expected to agree to the demand to pay an immediate tax-free cash payout of \$1 Billion, leaving the matters of the life estate interest in the Duff real property and distribution of the percentage of profits resulting from the commercialization of the yeast for future negotiations. It would appear the contact information will be used by the government to send written notification to Class members, or their beneficiaries, to advise of this partial settlement which will net each **\$5,102,040!** This source, also, indicated it would be the intent of the government to make all payments by June 30th! When asked to respond to this outstanding development one member of the Advisory Committee said, "*I couldn't be more pleased. My dream of purchasing the *STM School* building and turning it into a private club for *STM '61* is close to becoming a reality."*

Members of the Advisory Committee, as well as the team of litigation attorneys (in both Chicago and Washington, D.C.) who are assisting the Committee, have asked this publication to urge each member of *STM '61* to be certain that their current contact information is included in the **revised** edition of the ***STM '61 Directory*** which is now being compiled. One of the lead attorneys cautioned that, "*The failure of any person to take the action necessary to insure their inclusion in the revised *STM '61 Directory* may jeopardize timely payment of his portion of the settlement. Indeed, he may find himself overlooked entirely!*"

This publication strongly suggests that each member of *STM '61* confirm that they are being included in the **revised *STM '61 Directory***. At the bottom of page 5 of this issue of the *STM '61 Newsletter* can be found all the information necessary to insure inclusion in the **revised *STM '61 Directory***. Do NOT allow yourself to be deprived of the settlement proceeds which you so richly deserve.

As in the past, this publication has been asked by the Advisory Committee to keep all members of the Class apprised of the status of this situation which, of course, it will continue to do.

How To Contact the *Newsletter*:

Via Email: (info@stthomasmoreclassof1961.com)
 Snail Mail: *STM '61 NEWSLETTER*
 P.O. Box 64494
 Chicago, IL 60664-0494

STM '61 NEWSLETTER STAFF

Diane (Carbonneau) Losquadro (dianejc@comcast.net)
 Frank Dolan (fjdolan1@gmail.com)
 Lois (Fitzer) Miller (lmillerjc@comcast.net)
 Joan (Parsons) Hoffmann (joanhoffmann28@yahoo.com)