



*GHP*

*Wreadin' Writin' 'n' Wreminiscin'  
Local 'n' Regional  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition...01 July 2003*



Ron **BRANDER** . West Chester . PA  
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Thank goodness for a couple of sunny days and some irises. In this year of depressing rains, a couple of yellow flowers had to come in the house.

Bill **CHRISTIANSEN** . Old Lyme . CT  
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I recently ran into Tom **GORIN** here in Old Lyme. He just built a home here. When you build a new home, the first place you shop is the local hardware store. Guess who owns that local hardware store? I'll give you a hint, the name of it is, Christiansen Hardware. Presumably he told you about this and gave you my eMail address. He did mention that you were doing this directory. I do not live in Dania, FL., nor have I ever lived in Dania, FL., I don't even know where the hell Dania, FL. is. Your first job will be to update my address. Anyway, it was interesting to go over your directory. I see a lot of familiar names but have a hard time putting faces with

many of them. After high school I went to business school and college. From there I did a tour with the United States Navy. Upon my return to civilian life I took a job with a major hardware wholesaler in New York City. I worked there for two years and then took an outside sales position in upstate Connecticut when it became available. I survived twenty-six years with that company, just long enough to get my gold watch. I have lived in Stonington, East Lyme and now, Old Lyme, Connecticut. I live with my wife Nancy of twenty-six years, shortly to become twenty-seven years in July of 2003. We have a son Brian, now twenty-four years old who lives in Boston. He was graduated from the University of Connecticut two years ago and is pursuing a career in the computer field. My wife Nancy and I purchased a hardware store nine years ago and along with four other employees do our best to run it. That's about it Bob, hope this helps a little. Feel free to contact me at [wgc55@aol.com](mailto:wgc55@aol.com) anytime, naturally that goes for anyone else who might be interested. Oh, one other thing, I still play the guitar. I put it away for about thirty years and then found a local 16 piece swing band. When I heard them I just had to play again.



George **DEVOL** . New Canaan . CT  
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I've been married for almost 34 years (August) and have been living with my wife Leslie in a 200 year old house in New Canaan since 1991 (Darien prior to that for about 20 years). The house needs a lot of work and we put on an addition (hired Rick **HVOLBECK** of course). Main attraction was the big old red barn. It is now filled with four "fun" cars (I still like working on them), a 1940 Chevrolet coupe, a 1950 Frazer (the type of car you wouldn't have been caught dead driving in

1962), a 1962 Corvette (the one you wanted to drive in 1962. I've owned it for 30 years. It is the maroon color), and a 2000 Corvette (great power can comfort and it gets almost 28 mpg!) For the past 23 years I have been publishing a newsletter about cruises, called Ocean & Cruise News. I've been on over 160 cruises, a dozen or more trips to shipyards to see new ships being built, and to most places in the world I've wanted to visit. No it isn't very hard work, but has been a great way to making a living. I'm looking to retire soon and spend some time with Leslie and our mini dachshund, Otto, traveling around the U.S. and seeing all that this great country has to offer. I'll fill in more detail on the 60s and 70s in a future newsletter, plus my rather odd transition from one career to the next.



Here's something for what I call:

## *Famous Quotes and Observations*

A few years ago when Doug **MOROSO** was in town (he's living in Fla. now) I happened to mention to him that I thought 95% of people today are either stupid or idiots (of course, all GHS graduates, other friends, Doug and I are not included). In Doug's wisdom he quickly responded "No, I did a study and the figure is 97%!" What we were both referring to is how the average person today can no longer reason things out, or have any street-smarts. If the computer locks-up, seemingly so does their brain. Any one else notices this?

Tom **GORIN** . Old Greenwich . CT  
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I run (and will shortly own) Cleveland, Duple & Arnold the 94 year old Greenwich real estate firm, formerly owned by Todd Moger's mother... My wife, Heather, and I have just built a house in Lyme, CT, which won some kind of AIA award, and will be featured in the next CT Magazine. We have welcomed all these intrusive



photographers because it's the least we can do for the guys who made it happen... McKee ("Mack") Patterson of Austin Patterson Disston in Southport designed it. He's a Yale guy, about 50 now. A Scully student, our place is a very cool 1910 style shingle boat or carriage house, only 2200 square feet. We loved doing it. Oh yes, I have been playing music professionally for over 40 years. (Editorial Question: "When do you find time for all this?") When it feels like you are running out of time, it's easy. Check out [www.newsousaband.com](http://www.newsousaband.com) and go to Florida 2000 tour pictures. Ken **WENDRICH** drove across 3 states to try to catch me doing a bass sax solo with the Sousa Band, but didn't make it... Do you know Bob Fox? (Fox & Fowle) Nice guy, bought a listing of mine next to my mother (93!) in Riverside. I hear he's on his own now.

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I was impressed with the first issue (Bob, you obviously have too much time on your hands), so I thought I'd submit something. I think seven of us went out to Michigan State. Chuck Hayes, Bill Morgan and I became fraternity brothers - Pete Hens and I were teammates. Following college came the army and Vietnam. I began to realize that there was more to life than sports and girls - or at least more than sports. After grad school and living as a bachelor in parts of New Jersey, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan, Sandy and I met in a bar in Cleveland (good things can come from there) in '73, we got married a couple years later, and moved to our current house in Connecticut in '77. (Take that run-on sentence Mr. Cunningham.) We've had three kids. John is an aspiring artist and teaches at Brunswick School in Greenwich. Dan is in college and Julie has another year in H.S. All three are jocks. Sandy likes to garden and is retired from driving the kids

around. My partner likes to call us merchant bankers, even though I'm still not sure what that means. I've continued my involvement in soccer, but now only as a referee and spectator.

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I open with a view from one of my more recent projects. The Studio House on Hope Estate, Bequia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines... That's another Grenadine in the distance... called Mustique... The end photo in this will be from the deck of the Main House along the shoreline of Hope Bay on the Eastern Coast of Bequia. When I started my Freshman year at Pratt... I entered a profession that has never had a boring day over my last 37 years in it. We were taught to breathe in the smell of wet cement and damp wood... yet retain a taste for the finer things in life... even if in the many years of practice... you will never be able to afford any of them. The finer things are for your clients and you get to create those fine things... It's "great" in a sort of vicarious way. My Profession has taken me to many places and I have experienced the lifestyles of people on each of the Continents... except Antarctica... But I

ain't dead yet... so I am holding that one open. In a recent eMail to Tom **GORIN**, I listed a few projects, ranging from a (smallest) garden Pergola for the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. to the (largest) Capital City of Tanzania at the foothills of Kilimanjaro. Among the more Famous Projects are The Crystal Bridge and the Botanic Gardens of Oklahoma City, Grand Central Terminal and Ellis Island National Monument in New York, The Ford Center for the Performing Arts, The Denver Arts Center, and Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in the New York Botanic Gardens (da Bronx) and the city of Reston, Virginia. In all about 150 +/- buildings and still counting. Not bad for a kid from Byram.



Okay Now for My Sales Pitch on the Next New sletter... Write, w rite, and w rite until your fingers "bleed"... w e need articles for the August Issue... Officially to be herein known as the Back to School... Way Back to School Issue...

*Coming in August..... GHS*

*Wreadin' Writin' 'n' Wreminiscin'*

*Way... Back To School Issue*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Edition... 01 August 2003*