

Greenwich High School  
Wreadin Writin n Wreminiscin

Weekly Wreader

06 May 2005



## From 62 to 62



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### **ARE YOU ALREADY RETIRED, IF NOT, WHEN DO YOU PLAN ON RETIRING?**

I am not retired as yet, although I will be in 2008

### **HOW DID YOU PLAN, OR HOW ARE YOU PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?**

I enrolled in the Government FERS retirement system which is the same one that Congress and others (in the Federal Government have) have for retirement which allows a percentage (the amount is up to you) to be put into the account and the government matches it to a percentage and then it is invested by the plan administrators, there are five plans ranging from the ultra safe G fund which is guaranteed 5.5% interest through the risky and very risky. You can split your donations, I am in the G at 40% and the F at 60%, the F follows the Standard and Poor's index and has averaged anywhere from 12% to 29.5% interest over the years. This has all built a very tidy nest egg for the future.

Plus beyond my government job I have a small consulting business that deals internationally with airport lighting and nav aids, plus I am president of Clan MacMillan Society of Utah and a Clan Elder and Trustee of the Clan Headquarters of Finlaystone, Scotland (Volunteer work)

### **THOUGHTS AND APPROACH ON THE RETIREMENT YEARS?**

My thoughts and approach on retirement years will be vastly different than the throngs, because I do not have years, in 1986 I was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and although at the time, my wife and I were told that I would have 10 more years at the most, I vowed not to let this thing get me and I have now proven the Doctors totally wrong, in lasting almost 20 years, it is progressing, I know it, I see it, and I feel it, I thought I would go long before my brothers but I have lost my oldest brother and I hope my younger brother lives for many, many more years, my approach is to make life for my wife as comfortable and worry free it can be, our large home in Utah is totally paid for and has been for 10 years and we are free from all debt.

### **A SECOND HOME OR A MOVE TO A DIFFERENT AREA OF THE COUNTRY?**

No, we will stay put in Utah, it gives us all that we love, fishing, hunting, the outdoors and the four seasons.

## **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT YOU PUT OFF UNTIL RETIREMENT?**

Not a thing, we have traveled to every state in the United States, each many times, we have been to Europe 10 times, Asia 2 Times, South America 4 times, Central America 2 times, Canada 10 times and we have lived in Europe for three years, now its time to relax enjoy the United States and family of which we have five kids who have given us 13 grandkids so far (youngest son needs yet to be married)

## **ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO RETIREMENT, OR IS IT SOMETHING THAT SCARES YOU?**

I have either fought in or directly supported three wars, Vietnam, Kosovo, Desert Storm I and II and Iraq, I have been awarded many of our nations medals for combat (26) while in the U.S. Marines, I have seen enough pain and hurt ---I look forward to it, where I can devote time to my hobbies and be peaceful.

## **WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS WE FACE IN THE RETIREMENT YEARS?**

I believe that one's health will be one of the biggest problems, as we live longer; we need to take better care of ourselves and also STAY OUT OF DEBT.

## **An Editor's Note**

Phil is my brother and this is a side of him which I have never known. In fact there is little, that I know about the "Illusive Lug" since he left Greenwich perhaps 40 or more years ago, and as you all read this, I will be re-reading this long after many of you have left it behind. I would like to thank my brother for sharing this with all who read it. We McMillan boys are far apart, both in geographic location, as well as mind and spirit. We have used this separation as an excuse not to communicate. This too, shall change.

## **On the Lighter Side**



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Ok, here are a few goodies for the next paper...some stuff I've picked up that I think is funny...

## **A FEW OF THE THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM LIFE...**

1. I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy every minute of it.
2. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
3. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
4. Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.
5. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
6. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
7. I'm not a complete idiot. Some parts are missing.
8. Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
9. God must love stupid people; He made so many.
10. The gene pool could use a little chlorine.
11. Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.
12. Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
13. Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!

14. Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.
15. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance
16. They call it PMS because "mad cow disease" was already taken.
17. He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless dead.
18. The original point and click interface was a Smith and Wesson.
19. I smile because I don't know what the hell is going on.

### **A LADY FRIEND SENT ME THIS, BUT IT APPLIES TO US "GUYS" AS WELL!**

This is not a hoax. This is a heads-up to those friends who haven't experienced it yet, and an explanation to those friends and family who have. Most of you have read the scare-mail about the person whose kidneys were stolen while he was passed out. Well, read on. While the kidney story was an urban legend, this one is not. It's happening every day.

My thighs were stolen from me during the night a few years ago. It was just that quick. I went to sleep in my body and woke up with someone else's thighs. The new ones had the texture of cooked oatmeal. Who would have done such a cruel thing to legs that had been mine for years? Whose thighs were these and what happened to mine?

I spent the entire summer looking for my thighs. Finally, hurt and angry, I resigned myself to living out my life in jeans and Sheer Energy pantyhose. Then, just when my guard was down, the thieves struck again. My butt was next. I knew it was the same gang, because they took pains to match my new rear end (although badly attached at least three inches lower than my original) to the thighs they stuck me with earlier. Now, my rear complemented my legs, lump for lump. Frantic, I prayed that long skirts would stay in fashion.

It was two years ago when I realized my arms had been switched. One morning I was fixing my hair and I watched horrified but fascinated as the flesh of my upper arms swung to and fro with the motion of the hairbrush. This was really getting scary. My body was being replaced one section at a time. How clever and fiendish. Age? Age had nothing to do with it. Age is supposed to creep up, unnoticed, something like maturity. NO, I was being attacked repeatedly and without warning. In despair, I gave up my T-shirts. What could they do to me next?

My poor neck disappeared more quickly than the Thanksgiving turkey it now resembled. That's why I decided to tell my story. I can't take on the medical profession by myself. Women of the world wake up and smell the coffee. That really isn't plastic that those surgeons are using. You KNOW where they are getting those replacement parts, don't you? The next time you suspect someone has had a face "lifted", look again. Was it lifted from you?

I think I finally found my thighs... and I hope that Cindy Crawford paid a really good price for them! This is not a hoax. This is happening to women in every town every night.

I must say that last year I thought someone had stolen my breasts. I was lying in bed and they were gone! As I jumped out of bed I was relieved to see that they had just been hiding in my armpits as I slept. Now I keep them hidden in my waistband.

(A Side Bar from Jim: I, personally, have seen my beautiful six-pack abs on Brad Pitt...I'm still not sure how they got there!)

### **BECAUSE MOTHER'S DAY IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER...**

My Mother taught me about:

ANTICIPATION... "Just wait until your father gets home."

RECEIVING... "You are going to get it when we get home!"  
 LOGIC... "If you fall out off that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."  
 MEET A CHALLENGE... "What were you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you! Don't talk back to me!"  
 MEDICAL SCIENCE... "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."  
 THINK AHEAD... "If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job."  
 HUMOR... "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."  
 BECOME AN ADULT... "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."  
 GENETICS... "You're just like your father."  
 ROOTS... "Do you think you were born in a barn?"  
 WISDOM OF AGE... "When you get to be my age, you will understand." And last but not least...  
 JUSTICE... "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you....Then you'll see what it's like!"

## Who's New In the Playpen

It has been a very busy week, after the flow of eMails during the vote for or against Mickey Sherman; we can report that the poll run by The Greenwich Time was in "FAVOR" of having Mickey speak as the Commencement Speaker at this year's GHS Graduation Ceremonies. After receiving 1700+ votes, the poll registered almost 2 to 1 in favor with a minor amount "Uncertain".

## Vintage '59



Joyce **LANTERNA** Tracksler (1959)  
 Kittery Point. Maine  
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Joyce has started off on a great leap and a bound to set into the running, (Kentucky Derby Time) a newsletter aptly named Vintage '59 a tribute to the grape and those who savor it. (I will head down to the depths of the wine cellar and see if I have any of that year) BRB (Be Right Back).

Joyce's Readership includes several of our own as well as a large group of what we have come to call:

## New Kids on the Block

Most are members of the year 1959 unless noted otherwise:

Karen **SCHMIDT** Scott (1964), Anthony **GINISE** (1953), Alice **WOLFERT** Bonatt, Angela **LAMONICA** Perillo, Buddy **ISAACS**, Burr **HENEMAN**, [Carlota@flamenco-vivo.org](mailto:Carlota@flamenco-vivo.org), Carol **NIZLEK** Lindstrum, Carol **WEEKS** Wister, Charlie **PRESTO**, Craig **CONNOLLY**, Craig **NEWHOUSE**, Cynthia **SHOCKLEY**; Dave **PARTICELLI**, Dave **REEVES**, Diane **MEYLER**, Doc **MORRIS**, Doris **WRIGHT** Kabureck, Frank & Barbara **ACCURSO**, Gail **GALLAGHER** Cousins, Gaye **JACKSON** Wilhelm, Ginny **VOUGHT**, [Hankmo@massed.net](mailto:Hankmo@massed.net), Hugh **OSBORN**, Janie **WHIDDEN** Ostheimer, Jill **CLEVELAND** Malony, Jack **MURPHY**, Joe **BIASE** (1958), Joyce **LANTERNA** Tracksler, Joyce **STEGER** Jordan, Judy **BELMONT** Billick, Judy and Bill **FERDINAND**, Karen **GUSTAFSON** Stewart. Lee **RUSSELL**, Liz **ROWE** Lapham, Leslie **RUSE** Janes, Marie **COVIELLO** Romaniello, MaryLou **MANGINI** Campisi, Midge **HERBERT** (1957) & Joe **GERARDI** (1958), Mike & Linda **LOPARCO**, [moelo@optonline.net](mailto:moelo@optonline.net), Neal **HARMON**, Pat **RICE** Herman, Peggy **CHIAPETTA** Silverman, Phil **MOORE**, [Providence.ZUMBO@pharma.com](mailto:Providence.ZUMBO@pharma.com), Prudy **MILTON**, Richie **WONG**, Rick **ABBOT**, Rick **SOMMER**, Ruth **CLUETT**, Sam **McCLENDON**, Sandi

**MARTENS** Baker, Sandy and Phil **STARR**, Sue and Eddie **CASEY OLSEN** (1960), Sue **WOLOSHAK** Webster, Tony **CARVETTE**, Jasen **JASENSKY**

## A Taste of the Vintage

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1959

VINTAGE '59

FIRST OFFICIAL ISSUE

May 2005

Congratulations to all of us.

This is IT!!!!

The Brand-New, Official, GHS Class of 1959 Newsletter, and congratulations to Leslie Ruse Janes, who won the newspaper Title Naming Contest. A neat prize awaits her. Jack Murphy, bon-vivant and philosopher extraordinaire, made the astounding remark that almost all of the names suggested for the newsletter made some reference to "the grape". Hmmmm? What does that tell you? I think it says, loud and clear, that we are a bunch (get it? bunch?) of old friends, aged to perfection and only getting better.

For me, this exercise of finding one another after so many years, enjoying each other's stories, life histories, good times, sad times, delightful times, has been terrific. I'm delighted every time I get an e-mail announcing that yet another old classmate has been tracked down.

I will try to put out an "issue" at least once a month, more, if it seems that the news is forthcoming. But I am only the conduit. The news has to come from you. No news from you guys means I have nothing to tell you! So, please, let me know what is going on in your life and we'll all share in your triumphs, family, travels, kids, pets, jobs, military history, and life stories.

I am trying to figure out how to use my computer to be able to mix photographs along with this text (I have to get instructions from my son ...isn't that the truth!), so soon, we'll have a better format for all of this. Until then, bear with me. I think most of you are able to receive the newsletter on your e-mail program. If you have dial-up, you might have some problems, but we'll work them all out one way or another. And for you who only have snail mail, we'll send you your copies by letter.

One of the sad moments of finding out what's happened to all of us, is finding out that a few of our numbers have died. I know that those listed below are only a partial listing and if you have knowledge of a classmate, who passed away, please share it with us.

### IN MEMORIUM

Jim Helsel  
Elsie Sjöholm  
Peter Nelson

Cole Kortner  
Susan McBain  
Geoff Wells

Joan Yesenko  
Phil Fairfield  
Tom Clark

Elizabeth Leutz  
Amerigo DiNardo  
Barbara Murphy

Welcomes: Sandi Martens Baker has been amazingly prolific in finding "lost 59ers". She certainly gets the Sherlock Award. Sandi's success is mirrored by that of Leslie Ruse Jane's. Almost every day, I get an e-mail from them announcing "You're Gonna Love This One!" Just last week, Sandi dragged in Bud Isaacs (see his letter below...BKAYE@WEST.NET, Lee Russell (don't know her new last name?) but e-mail is [Clippyj@aol.com](mailto:Clippyj@aol.com), We applaud Burr Heneman's success in marine management and conservation ([burr@igc.org](mailto:burr@igc.org)), Carol Nizlek Lindstrum found Joyce Steger Jordan ([joycemjordan@aol.com](mailto:joycemjordan@aol.com)), Richie Wong ([richbarwong@cox.net](mailto:richbarwong@cox.net)), Neil Harmon ([nharmon@midmaine.com](mailto:nharmon@midmaine.com)), Gaye Jackson Wilhelm ([gaywilhelm@bellsouth.net](mailto:gaywilhelm@bellsouth.net))...you don't have to be from the Class of 59 to be included herein...other classes from GHS are very welcome too...Neil sent us Rick Abbot ([mabbot@bestweb.net](mailto:mabbot@bestweb.net)) but this e-mail address is wrong, I think. Neil is doing a newsletter about the grammar school kids from Riverside and OG. From Pat Rice, I got Doris Wright Kabureck ([G.Kabureck@aol.com](mailto:G.Kabureck@aol.com)), Carol Weeks Wister ([CWister@comcast.net](mailto:CWister@comcast.net)), Ruth Cluett ([RHJH@comcast.net](mailto:RHJH@comcast.net)), and Prudy Milton, ([PPrueRobby@aol.com](mailto:PPrueRobby@aol.com)). Also Joe Biase (Class of '58) ([UJEB77@aol.com](mailto:UJEB77@aol.com)), Sue and Eddie (Casey) Olsen (Class of '60) ([SUSESOLSEN@aol.com](mailto:SUSESOLSEN@aol.com))

Who did I forget? Send along your links and we'll soon have everyone attached.

Speaking of links, some of us HAVE gotten together here and there. Pat Rice Herman and Charlie Presto and spouses got together in Santa Cruz for a few glasses of wine and much gossip...Last night, my husband Jack and I hosted a dinner here in Maine with honored guests Dr. Jack Murphy and Janie Whidden Ostheimer - we got The Compass out and pored over each and every picture - so much fun. Next week, Jack and I will have dinner with Dr. Biff Morris and his wife, Carol. Unfortunately for us, but nice for Biff and Carol. They are leaving Maine to go to Virginia Beach, Va., and this will be a goodbye dinner.

SUMMER MINI REUNION - About 4 years ago, Jill Cleveland Malony started a terrific thing. She invited me and Karen Gustafson Stewart up to her Chebeague Island retreat here in Maine for a weekend of beachcombing, eating, drinking, sailing, fireside talk, and remembrances. The following year, I hosted a slightly larger group at our house in Maine. Added to the original group were Leslie Ruse James, Gail Gallagher Cousins, Biff and Carol Morris. The third summer, Karen Gus hosted the party in Georgia and this year, the traveling circus is going to the Virginia/Maryland part of the country, being hosted by Leslie, Gail and Jack Murphy. All are welcome to join in.

## From the Greenwich Post

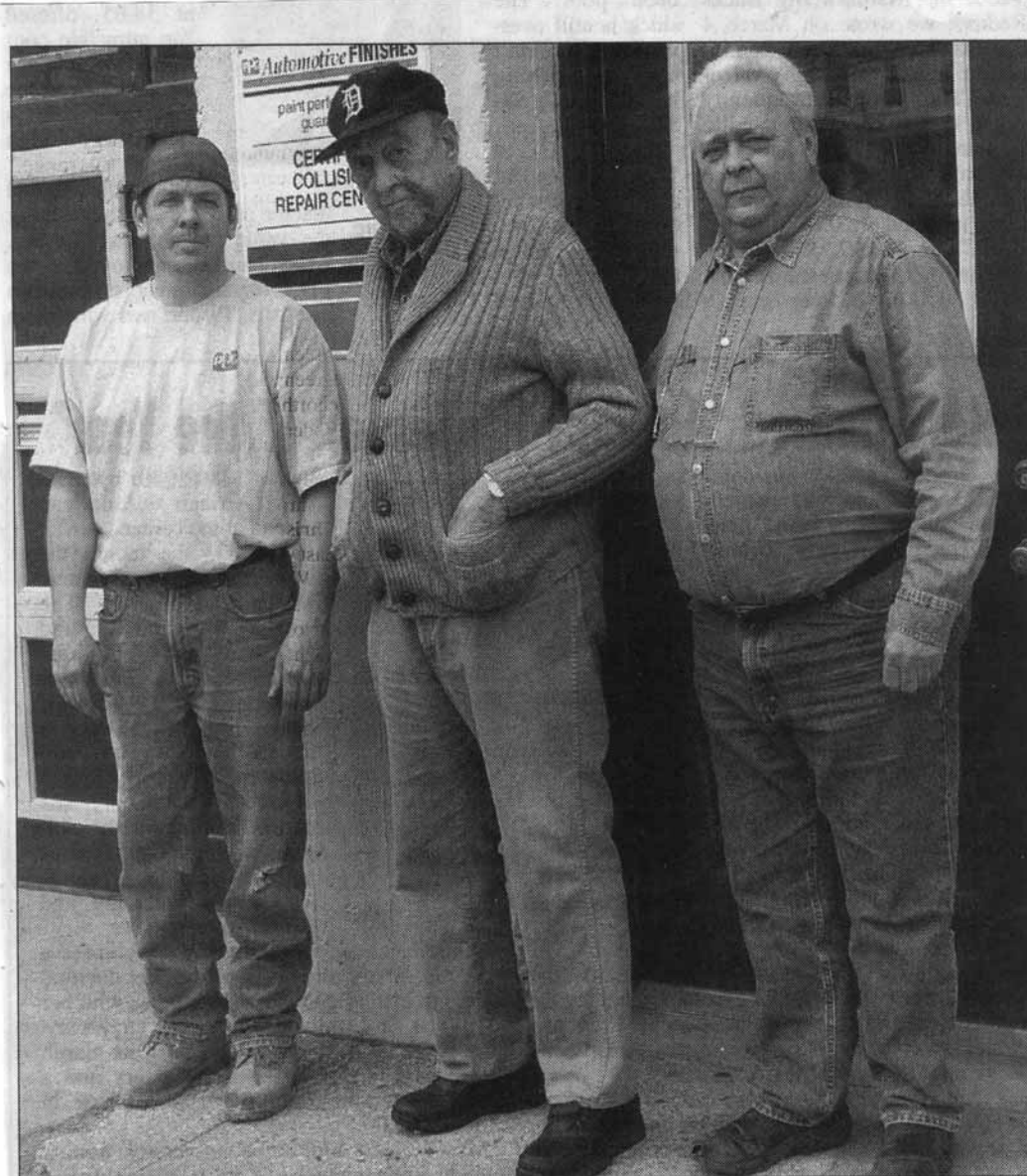


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Bruce sent this along and I will try my best to make it clear for all to read. It was published in the Greenwich Post in April of this year:



# Cunninghams auto body: 91 years of service



Three out of four generations of Cunninghams are still around today to continue the tradition of autobody work at Grover C. Cunningham Auto Body Shop Inc. —Kristina Berlin photo

By Kristina Berlin, Staff Reporter

**B**ruce Cunningham, owner of Grover C. Cunningham Auto Body Shop Inc., runs his business with 91 years of experience in Greenwich. This is because Mr. Cunningham, 61, is the third Cunningham to operate the business. His father, Evan, and grandfather have shared all of their knowledge with him. More recently, his son Gary has learned the trade and works at the shop too.

Bruce learned from his father, who learned from his grandfather, "If you can't fix it and do it right, don't do it at all."

"I won't fix your car any different than I'd fix my own car that I put my grandkids in," he said.

Integrity is a word that Bruce says means a lot in the auto body business, and it's something he's learned over the years. It can be tricky for customers to navigate through insurance companies and quality standards that differ from shop to shop, he said.

His shop is a fixture among local customers who have been coming to 74 North Water Street for generations, too. The town is also a regular customer, sending its trucks to be spruced up and its police cars to be painted. They do very little advertising except for when they want to make donations to kids' organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, or sports leagues.

"The kids are getting something out of it and that's what counts," he said.

It all began in 1914 with Grover Cunningham's radiator shop, which grew into an auto body shop on a plot of farmland at the Byram River's edge. The shop was heated with potbellied stoves and had wide expanses of windowpanes that had to be painted black for the blackouts during World War II.

Around the time the paint was scrubbed off the windows and son Evan came back from the war to take over the business, a fire destroyed the shop.

Paint, oil, lacquer, a sedan and a milk wagon were among other damaged goods, and the total cost was estimated to be \$6,000. Evan suffered second degree burns trying to rescue the shop, which had to be evacuated until it was rebuilt.

Friends and neighbors helped reconstruct the shop to twice its previous size, and had parts for the new building floated down the river. One such item may have been the solid wooden beam that stretches across 100 feet of the shop.

As Evan raised his son in the house just a 30-second walk from the autobody shop, he encouraged Bruce to go to college and find another occupation, but Bruce said he wasn't interested.

"I liked it here, I liked doing the work," he said, though Evan demanded that work begin at 7 a.m. sharp, break at 12 p.m. and continue until 5 p.m.

"One of the hardest things to do is to work for your father," said Bruce. "You don't do it consciously but sometimes you ask for a little too much."

Now that Evan is 86, he doesn't work at the shop anymore but still lives in the house just 100 yards from the shop where his father lived. Bruce took over around 1980, and brought the business several new technological advancements.

"As cars got more complex, more equipment had to be bought," Bruce said. Twelve years

ago, he bought two high-ticket items to keep up with car innovations. There was the unibody, that aligned cars just so in order to make exact repairs, and there was the downdraft spray booth, so that different paint finishes and subtle differences in colors may be applied and baked on at high temperatures.

"When I started, it was all air dry paint," he said.

The dawn of the electronic age also brought computerized estimates, e-mail and digital photos of car damage and parts. But one of the biggest changes was the fourth generation's arrival on the scene — Gary, now 37, made the decision to work with his father in the mid-80's.

Gary isn't subjected to strict hours and isn't docked for five minutes lost here and there, said Bruce, but he added that Gary was well trained and would be able to take over the business any given day.

When it was Gary's turn to find a career, Bruce made it very clear that there would be no hard feelings if Gary didn't choose to continue the business.

"I told him, 'Don't feel you have to have to come into this business.'"

Gary attended technical school in Rye to study plumbing, explaining that he would likely

have auto body experience at the family shop, and wanted to learn a different trade while he was in school.

As it turned out, a car accident in 1984 was the beginning of Gary's training in auto body repair. Just after earning his driver's license, Gary crashed a 1973 Chevrolet pick-up truck on Hamilton Avenue, but grandfather Evan seized the opportunity to show Gary the ropes.

"The truck would have been totaled for anyone else," said Bruce. The two pieced the truck back together bit by bit that summer, and Gary even learned to use lead, a technique no longer used on modern cars.

He hasn't taught his children much about cars, though his oldest is still only 12. He said they are busy doing other things and haven't shown much interest in cars, preferring video games to hanging out at the shop. Gary, who also works as an assistant hockey coach at Greenwich High School, has his three young children learning hockey and figure skating, and said he hopes they will go to college and do something other than come back to the shop. But for now, the Grover C. Cunningham Auto Body Shop Inc. remains all in the family.



## Picnic at the Point

The first of our kick-off meetings was held last Sunday at JoAnn Tripodi Loparco's Tom E Toes in Wilton and we got off to a fresh start, looking at the event for this year. So keep the following dates open. WE will be sending out all the details as the season draws near. Our reservations are made and all we need now is enthusiasm. Last years event is a first for us... and proved a success. Let's make this year even better.

Saturday

24 September 2005

## Pizza Ladi's Saturday Night

Tom E Toes - Wilton Connecticut

+

Sunday

25 September 2005

## Picnic at the Point

The Second Coming - Tod's Point

