



18 AUGUST 2005



## Growing Up Greenwich



Sandra **STEGER** Williams . Chatham . NY  
[ray\\_w3@yahoo.com](mailto:ray_w3@yahoo.com)

If this story had been told when it happened, the teacher in question would have been "let go" from teaching. You may change or leave out names at your discretion. I have had a lot of nicknames throughout my life, but this one "sticks" in my mind.

The sophomore English class I was put into was being taught by a new teacher named Miss Muir. She was rather shy and unsure of herself and soon the boys in the class picked up on this fact. They tormented her and she would frequently leave the classroom in tears. The first time, we waited for her return and when she stayed absent for quite awhile, everyone just left the room. This unsettled me because I wanted to learn and if the teacher kept running away, my grades would plummet.

The next time she left in mid-session, I got up and taught the class. I looked in her planbook and followed her agenda. This happened enough to establish a routine. The same boys who tormented her, tried to do it to me, but I was "thicker skinned".

Just how thick my skin was, is how I got my nickname. They would put thumb tacks on the teacher's chair and I would sit on them and not feel them. Janet Wright was a fellow student and a clever girl. She gave me the nickname, "Spike", for obvious reasons.

Somehow we got through this class with and without the teacher, who knew what I was doing. She gradually took back control of the class. At the end of the year, my classmates gave me a gift...a large nail (spike) painted silver, wrapped in a red ribbon.(which I still have) In fact, Janet wrote in my yearbook, "Don't forget our crazy soph English class & your nickname, "Spike"... and 43 years later, I haven't forgotten.



Suzi **SMITH** Lynch . Atlantis . FL  
[lynchsuzi@yahoo.com](mailto:lynchsuzi@yahoo.com)

Here are a few memories that I have of growing up in Old Greenwich as a youngster. We always played outside, rain or shine. After elementary school was over for the day, I raced home, got my roller skates and ran over to Sara Clark's where we then wrestled our skates on and skated to Bonnie Burdock's and Ethel Tinsley's houses and then if we had enough time skated up Tomac Avenue to Peggy Budington's house who had a huge driveway and we would all skate until dark then skate home. If it rained we skated either in my garage or Sara's porch which wrapped around the front. I bet in our time we skated the distance to the moon and back, it seemed.

When we tired of skating, we jump roped, did cartwheels in Sara's lawn, built leaf houses on my lawn and waited for the Good Humor truck to appear. Life was grand.

As I got older, Pam Holt and I would drive to the Dairy Queen, buy a fruit slush drink, drink a little bit of it and then fill the container up with vodka and drive the BPR (Boston Post Road) for hours. We were lucky to never get caught with liquor in the car and now I realize what a foolish thing drinking and driving was, but youth thinks it is invincible and always will!

I remember in High School, we would sneak out of our houses at night, and walk all over Old Greenwich, usually ending up in Binney Park. The boys from Havemeyer would come down; Edgewater and Shorelands group, Riverside contingency also were there, Sara and me from Shore Road and everyone else in between. I guess looking back on it; we were a very special gang. We could have been called the Innocent Gang because the purpose of getting together was to get together, no hidden agenda.

Kathie Temple remembers walking home from OG Elementary School for lunch every day. I remember sneaking off the school grounds and eating lunch at Kerr's or Mead's or Lake's Drugstores. It was a great feeling to think you had actually done something illegal and didn't get caught at it. Those were the days.

## Jim From Phoenix



James **NOWLAND** . Phoenix . AZ  
[jcncgcn@aol.com](mailto:jcncgcn@aol.com)

Margarine was originally manufactured to fatten turkeys. When it killed the turkeys, the people who had put all the money into the research wanted a "payback" so they put their heads together to figure out what to do with this product to get some return on their investment. It was a white substance with no food appeal so they added the yellow coloring and sold it to people to use in place of butter.

Do you know the difference between margarine and butter? Both have the same amount of calories. Butter is slightly higher in saturated fats at 8 grams compared to 5 grams. Eating margarine can increase heart disease in women by 53% over eating the same amount of butter, according to a recent Harvard Medical Study. Eating butter increases the absorption of many other nutrients in other foods. Butter has many nutritional benefits where margarine has a few only because they are added! Butter tastes much better than margarine and it can enhance the flavors of other foods. Butter has been around for centuries where margarine has been around for less than 100 years.

Margarine, on the other hand is very high in trans fatty acids which contribute to tripling your risk of coronary heart disease. Margarine increases total cholesterol and LDL ( bad cholesterol) and lowers HDL

(the good cholesterol). Margarine increases the risk of cancers up to five fold. Lowers quality of breast milk. Decreases immune response. Decreases insulin response.

And here's the most disturbing fact....Margarine is but ONE MOLECULE away from being PLASTIC. This fact alone was enough to have me avoiding margarine for life (and anything else that is "hydrogenated", meaning that hydrogen is added, changing the molecular structure of the substance. Why not try it for yourself? Purchase a tub of margarine and leave it in your garage or shaded area. Within a couple of days you will notice that no flies, not even those pesky fruit flies will go near it (that should tell you something). It does not rot or smell differently because it has no nutritional value. Nothing will grow on it (even those teeny, weeny microorganisms). Why? Because it is nearly plastic. SO...Would you melt your Tupperware and spread that on your kid's toast?

## New Kids on the Block



John **RUSSELL** . Delray Beach . FL  
[jncrussell@mac.com](mailto:jncrussell@mac.com)



Harriet **HOHMEYER** Iles . Woodstock . NY  
[hatti@netstep.net](mailto:hatti@netstep.net)

## Dilapidated Center E yed for School

By Neil Vigdor  
Staff Writer . The Greenwich Time

Published 19 August 2005

Abandoned in a state of disrepair by the town for two decades, the North Mianus Community Center could find new life as a preschool, town officials and child care providers announced yesterday. Bridges School currently serves about 50 pupils age 5 and under and leases space at the Greenwich Civic Center in Old Greenwich. It is considering buying the 2 1/2-story building and former school from the town.

"We'd like to restore this building to its original purpose as a school," the school's founder and director, Connie Williamson, said following yesterday's Board of Selectmen meeting at Town Hall. The sale of the half-acre property would require multiple town approvals -- including the board's -- which representatives for the school said could take up to nine months to obtain. Williamson would not discuss terms of a potential offer for the property, which also requires the town to accept bids from other potential buyers.

Town officials, who have been looking to sell the property for years and get it back onto the community's tax rolls, embraced the potential deal. "The structure that is on the property right now is a mess," Selectman Peter Crumbine said. "It's a liability and it should have been knocked down a long time ago."

The aging building opened as a school around the turn of the century and was converted into a community center in the late 1920s. Previous efforts to sell the building, which needs a new roof, have failed. In 1995, the Planning and Zoning Commission gave the Greenwich Housing Authority approval to construct three affordable housing units on the site. But the Representative Town Meeting rejected the project two years later because of neighbors' concerns about the nature of the development. Bridges School, which hopes to expand enrollment to 74 pupils, currently pays \$125 per day for the entire school year to lease a lounge area at the civic center from the town, park officials said.

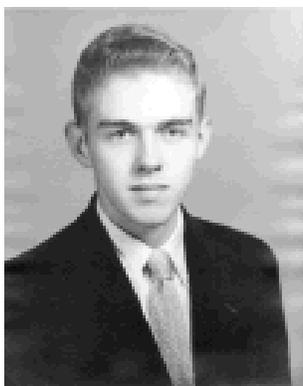
## The Music Makers



Sadly we lost another classmate in recent days. Rudyard McGary, shown here (extreme right) in the Music Makers with Tom Gorin (on the Sax) who sent this photograph as part of his tribute to Rudd.

We will miss Rudd.

## Peter E. Huckel (1957)



Peter E. **HUCKEL** (1957)  
[phuckel@comcast.net](mailto:phuckel@comcast.net)

**Editor's Note:** Another New Kid on our Block, but this kid comes with a full "kit bag" of Goodies in the form of a website, specific to his Class of 1957. I reprint his eMails as we first find him:

I am the hunter and keeper of GHS 57. We are currently planning our 50th in 2007. I set up a web site about a year ago. I saw there were other high schools in the country that had initials GHS so I got the ghs57 domain. So, I set up

[www.ghs57.com](http://www.ghs57.com)

I have lots of work to do on it... it is my first adventure in web design. Even with 40 yrs of computer experience, new things are always around. I also did a bit on Riverside 1953 which is on the ghs57 site. I have gotten folks emailing that haven't seen each other in over 50 years. It is a gas!! I've been working on our list for over 10 years, initially using Compuserve, before the Internet and snail mail prior to that. Have fun in your endeavor and anything I can do, let me know.



**Editor's Note:** When asked if I could recommend his website and spread the word to our class, he responded:

No problem, Bob. I am game for any publicity. May get more sites going. All those graduating classes and not many places to see them. And it may bring clues on the missing. I am continually on the search for our missing. Occasionally I find one. But, then again, I loose one now and then and have to hunt. I use WebStudio 4.0 for site design. I have been programming computers for 40 years but did not really want to learn html or whatever to write the site. So, I am using a package which is not bad.

**Editor's Note:** So please surf to [www.ghs57.com](http://www.ghs57.com) and you may find some surprises, and some fun in locating the brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, and even old flames, that you just missed when you started GHS in 1958. Following are a few Images from Pete's website.



Andy **BELLA**



Andy **VRTIAK**  
Kathleen's Brother



Dick **MANERO**



From the Nose Bleed Section



MR. JOSEPH RUSSELL  
1955 — 1957



MR. J. FREDERICK PFAU  
1953 — 1955

Few  
Familiar  
Faces



Band Practice with Mr. Harrington