



GHS

Wreadin' Writin' 'n' Wreminiscin'
From the Editor's Desk

16 November 2003

Coming Soon

to an eMail Inbox near you:

November Nocturne... 30 November 2003

Yes, shortly after the Thanksgiving Feast and fun with family and friends, in your eMail inbox will arrive November Nocturne. To date, it is shaping up to be an interesting Issue. We have reports from Colorado on the Aftermath of the Wildfires, both in Colorado as well as the San Diego area of California. We have not heard from anyone in the "zone" of the California fires, but hope that they are among the "unscathed".

On Veteran's Day, we ran a "piece" contributed by Peter D. Breitner of Toluca Lake, CA. The response to this Poet's Corner... Special Edition, was substantial. Two of these responses were in respect to Mr. Allen Kirschner and the E. A. Housman and have been woven into the fabric of the November Nocturne.

We also hear from Peter Hens in Salem South Carolina, Nancy Rosan Roblin of Frederick, Maryland and Clark Sorensen. So it purports to be a well rounded issue, just right to sit back in the "barco-lounger", put your feet up and have the fire stoked to a "blazing inferno" and peruse your latest Download.

In response to my "Essay" test... I am pleased to say, that we have sparked an interest and a number of suggestions for future newsletters. I would like to share some of these ideas with you all to see what the "temper" of the Readership can and want to endure.

Let the Music Play

There is a suggestion that we look closely at the influence that the "Music" of GHS has had on the lives of many of the alumni. Before I go further on this one, I must also say that there was also a suggestion that we have less "focus" on the Senior Chorus and the European Tour. Admittedly, we have two trains of thought, that may well be molded into a common thread. Oddly, the Senior Chorus was the most "Visible" due to the Influence of Gerald Mack. However, as we have found in past issues of the Newsletter, there are many others who went on their own tracks to become professional musicians, or semi-professional and the "Music" is in many of us, even if we haven't been a part of the organized groupings. We have among us, John Abercrombie, Tom Gorin, Bill Christiansen, Gary Derbenwick, Diane Adams French, Vivienne (Penny) Haymes Cox, Nancy McGee Mack and now most recently Nancy Rosan Roblin, who have found the Influence of Music to have a profound meaning in their lives. As Goethe was said "Architecture is Frozen Music"... therefore can "Music be Defrosted Architecture".

Toward a More Controversial Speech

There is a suggestion that we open the newsletter to become an OPEN FORUM for political debate and discourse. Submittals would be free lance to start and rebuttals would generate over subsequent issues. Under this format the Newsletter would be solely a “tabula rasa” for the posting of notices. Personally, I do not wish to participate in this concept. However, if there is an interest in pursuing this approach, I will gladly reassess the stance taken and contact you all concerning any change.

Going Backward in Time

As we all approach the bump in the road going 60, we can expect to be jolted into reality somewhere along the line. However, some of us are reluctant to give up that easily. I can share with you all a few “oddities” about this Newsletter Business... which you may already know ... or even find yourself doing. I really haven't grown up yet. On the outside, it's old and somewhat “misshapen” but on the inside it's still the 17 year old, who is “reading” word for word, and hearing your “voice” speaking the words. At least it's the voice that I remember your having. (For those of you that I did not know well, I put in a voice that I think you would have). Sharing thoughts of our youth is an opportunity to relive the past. There were good things and bad. I have had several persons write about the “feeling of not belonging” and others that have nothing but good memories.

I will share a few thoughts on this subject. Often when I watch the Morning or Evening News, there are events to which my wife and I share our views and often return to our youth for a comparative situation. One of the most obvious ones is an old one liner of... “we never had keys to our houses”. (Even though Elihu Yale created the “lock” there were very few in Connecticut).

The High School Hazing Scandal, (maybe only known about in the New York Region) brings back memories of several equally sordid events that happened during our high school years. If I were to count, on my fingers, the number of times that I was “beaten up” in Byram during Grammar School, and then at GHS; I would need more than my own two hands to complete the count. Hazing and Bullying occurred during every step of the way, and it had nothing to do with being a “wuss” or a “sissy”. As my father explained it... “It's part of Growing Up”. We were taught to stand up and fight.

In “Going Backward in Time” the proposal is to share the “Good” and the “Bad” of the High School Years.

Back 'n da Hood

Grammatically, the title denotes a class structure, and that is really the truth about the Hoods of Greenwich. We would be fooling ourselves otherwise. I came from the New Lebanon side of Byram. I don't remember if the railroad tracks were the dividing line, but I did not go to “Byram School”. In fact, my father called our part of town “East Port Chester” and the Fire Station bore that name as well. Byram was a very strange place in that we had a true cross section of “class”. Along the Shore of Long Island Sound, we had the “Rich and Famous” and on the other shore, the Byram River, we had the Sewage Plant and Lumber Yards and the famous “Multicolored” Byram flowing south from the “Felt Mill” in Glenville. We also had Gaetano D' Antonio and Kenny Pankowsky who took turns “beatin' da sh*t” out of me. (See “Going Backward in Time”). Merriam-Webster defines Peer as:

Main Entry: **1peer**

Pronunciation: 'pir

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English, from Middle French *per*, from *per*, adjective, equal, from Latin *par*

Date: 13th century

1 : one that is of equal standing with another : **EQUAL**; *especially* : one belonging to the same societal group especially based on age, grade, or status.

“Back ‘n da Hood” is where we find the true meaning of “Peer” for it is with those 40 to 50 members of the Class of 1962 (450 in all), that we grew to become what we are today. Perhaps one of the stronger forces in human development, but peer pressure is reality at its best. I want to take an opportunity to thank those peers, that I had the luck to grow up with.

What Have You Done With the Last 41 Years

Continuing to be the most “Beloved” of the themes. We still have a great number of you that have not shared your “Life Story” with the others. Yet we have many who say that they really enjoy this aspect of the new sletter. It really is a very simple “piece to write”. You are familiar with the protagonist, and there needn’t be an antagonist... unless there is one... then it leads to a more complete story. (Now I don’t want anyone suggesting that their spouse take the role of antagonist, for the sake of the story line). I have had a few of you say... No-one would be interested in reading about me!... Wrong!

Brander Galleries and Poet’s Corner

The Creative Juices are flowing and the Galleries as well as the Corner have had several contributors over the past few months. The Creative Arts have the greatest impact on Political, Quasi-Political, Socio-Political and Socio-Economic thought and have long existed as a vehicle to get your ideas across to others. I would ask that any submission to the Galleries or Corner, be self-censored to prevent the use of hate speech or images deemed to be unacceptable by the general public. The WW-N-W Newsletters reserves the right to review and reject any submission deemed to be blatantly controversial, pornographic or demeaning of any person or persons. In essence, (as I was reminded only recently), I don’t have the “b*lls” to print anything too controversial.

Before ‘n’ After

For you guys out there... one of the “Hotties” from our Class... has been looking over the submissions and giving a thumbs up on everyone of you guys... we have all improved. Of course... she has given me the thumbs down for having published the “paparazzi” photo of myself... so I have to get to work on getting a current photo to be published. But this section of the Newsletter is a “Favorite” and we have expanded it to include what will now be called:

The Family Hour

Starting in November Nocturne, we visit with Vince Pantas and his Daughter-in-law for a dance with Jamie Lee. We are open to Photos of our ever growing family.

What’s In It For Me

This is not a category for the Newsletter, but it is a question that I have been asked, as well as a question that I have asked myself. I don’t want to seem selfish or selfless, but yes there is something in this for “me”.

In response to several classmates questions: “I do have a job” and in response to one of our classmates “suggestion”... I do have a “life”. I spend my weekends in a stone Tudor cottage on 2 acres of land in Scarsdale. I work in the City for five days a week and stay in an apartment that has the number “PH” on the intercom at the lobby level, 12 stories below. (I have no neighbors).

I live approximately 40 minutes from my work (by commuter rail) but choose to stay near the office, during the week, as the profession I chose (Architecture) is a service for the very rich. I am their servant and am

"on-call" 24/7. Class Structure... "Can't live with it, Can't Live without it." I have sworn myself to a life time of "waiting on" others. But come the weekend, I break the mold, I can lay back and relax. Sure... I can't escape it. I have to keep busy. I do my laundry. My wife doesn't want to touch my things... "Yech...cooties". I do the shopping and fill the cars with gas, visit the ATM and the Hardware Store whether I need to or not, and occasionally stop by the CVS (That's a drug chain). Putter around the yard, lawn maintenance and leaf "herding" at this time of year. Read the NY Times, NY Post, Local papers and the Daily News Cartoons... On Sunday, I "finish" the Times Puzzle. (God, I am smart). But on both weekend days, I reserve the evening hours to sit down to the computer and compose the Newsletter. And I "LOVE" it.

But what is in it for Me? Okay, I will level with you. How many of you know what I do for a "living"? Here's another Question, How many of you live in or near one of my "creations"? Surprisingly, the response is "Many". I have built a building somewhere near each and everyone of you. For Instance, in November Nocturne I have a photo of the Kelly Business School at the Bloomington Campus of Indiana University, where Clark Sorensen lives. A while back, Pat Rose Bishel wrote of Oklahoma City, where I built the Myriad Gardens Botanical Bridge. For those of you in the New York Metropolitan Area, you may have passed through several Restoration Projects, including Grand Central Station, Rockefeller Center, The Chrysler Building, Ellis Island National Monument, and the Enid Haupt Conservatory at the Bronx Botanic Gardens. Those of you in Colorado have several projects in downtown Denver, with the Denver Arts Center Temple Buell Theater and the Boettcher Pavilion. I could go on... and I will. But to cut it short, (after all this is four pages so far), here's what you can do for "me". Keep me in mind when your local politicians want to build their empires. Talk it up... Network and sell me to your friends.

Vince Pantas, in a recent exchange of eMails, concerning his attendance of an event at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn (my alma pater) went to dinner with a "Brooklyn Developer" by the name of David Valentas. In relating the story to me, he was not aware of the fact that I have been working with David, his wife Jane and their son Jed (all in the family business) for the past 15 or more years. Small world? Not really... Big ego.

I couldn't find a better vehicle for advertising... nor could I find a better audience.

Thank You All

for your continued interest in WW-N-W Newsletters.

That's it for tonight.