



GHI

*Wreadin' Writin' 'n' Wreminiscin'
November Nocturne. Volume I
27 November 2003*

Earth, Wind 'n' Fire



Penny **HAYMES** Cox . Boulder . CO

vivipenny@aol.com

Yesterday it was 83° and blowing hot, dry Chinook winds, up to 75 mph gusts all night and day. Lots of limbs down, and wildfires let loose north and south in the foothills. Eight miles NW of my house a downed power line ignited the kindling and within hours 600 acres exploded, causing massive evacuations and intense smoke for miles. The wind made it impossible to fight the fires... no air support and completely unpredictable conditions. This morning it's 31°, the winds have calmed considerably and there's a dusting of snow. I haven't heard yet, but hopefully this will have laid the fires down some, and allowed the crews to gain some control. Very scary stuff... and just a fraction of what they're having to deal with in California. Mother nature can sure throw things into perspective in a hurry.



Marianne M. **McLEOD** Adams . Morrison . CO

Maggie500@aol.com

I don't know if you've heard from Kevin - even though the fires came fairly close to where he works and lives, he's just fine. His dealership, the courts (Rebekka is a defense attorney for the county) and schools were closed for several days as were some of the roads - but we all think that the worst is over. What a horrendous catastrophe for so many, many folks!!! We had a couple of fires here in CO as well but not near to where we are living. Even so, it makes you sit up and take notice! We've got so many trees in our area and a couple of dead ones on our property - they will be taken out ASAP.

Out 'n' About



Patricia **ROSE** Bishel . Colchester . CT

geminipat@webtv.net

We toured Copenhagen the day we arrived in Scandinavia with the couple whom we met in Oklahoma at the National Square Dance Convention. He is a square dance caller in southern Sweden and she is a nurse.

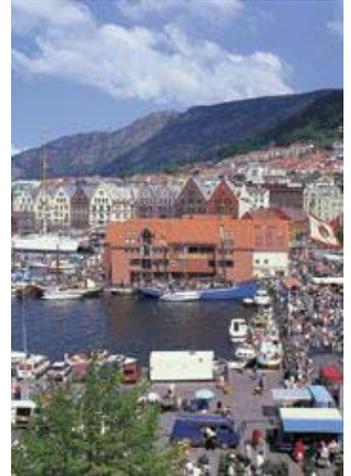
We ate the Copenhagen version of "hot dogs" - a skinny long wiener on a bun half the length of the hot dog, with lots of mustard and ketchup. We sat on the edge of

the canal and devoured them. Next we took a canal tour on an open boat around the islands, of which there are hundreds.

Dinner was a buffet at a Turkish restaurant, so we had all sorts of goulash things, unusual vegetables and fruits, and probably dessert... Ann and Leif left us around 6:30 so they would have time to buy some 3 cases of Danish beer before their trip back across the bridge to Sweden. Apparently, it is much cheaper than in Sweden.

After Copenhagen we spent 6 nights in Norway, starting in Bergen, seeing the fjords and high mountains with the lovely cascading waterfalls all over. As we made our way to the east of Norway, the scenery changed from mountains with tiny farms carved out wherever they could, to rich, flatter farmland and towns.

We arrived in Oslo, where we enjoyed this beautiful city, which was not crowded or too busy, just a very pleasant place with the star attraction of sculptures in a gorgeous park depicting the various facets of life of humans, by Gustav Vigeland, who died in 1943.



We spent two nights in Stockholm, and we visited with my "fifth" cousin and her husband. We had dinner in a little place called Fem Sma Hus (5 small houses). Stockholm has grown a lot in the past few years, and compared to Oslo, it is very crowded and littered. There are also a great number of immigrants there from poor and war-torn countries.

Next we visited Helsinki, arriving by overnight cruise boat. It's a lovely place, and we were given a tour of the city, stayed at an excellent hotel with terrific food, and had a great time. We spent a day in Estonia, going by a fast hydrofoil boat that took only an hour and a half. We had a nice tour there, which showed the Russian influence with the churches and other buildings. We even found a McDonald's! They had open air markets, and the general atmosphere was that the people are rather poor. However, Estonia is joining the European Union, and in a couple of years they will adopt the Euro, so it will be greatly to their benefit to do so. We bought wool sweaters for a great price! Gorgeous handwork.



It was a worthwhile trip, and we crammed a lot into two weeks, but well worth it. Our next adventure is planned for next Fall. We hope to do an Atlantic crossing on a five-masted sailboat called the Royal Clipper, as it travels from its Summer place in the Mediterranean to the Caribbean, probably about a 3-week eating session!

We just found a bobsleigh for our horse, so we hope there is a little snow this Winter!

The Family Hour



Vincent **PANTAS**
Washington Crossing . PA
sailvtp@aol.com

Vince sent along this photo entitled:

Let's Dance...

Vince's Grandson James "Jamie" Lee Pantas and his mom.



National 'n' International



Peter **HENS** . Salem . SC
pwhens@innova.net

During 1996, in four separate incidents 2 months apart, we lost Kathy's mother, my mother, Kathy's brother and our best friend. We looked at each other and wondered who would be next. New Year's eve 1996, after twenty years living in West Norwalk, working in/from Manhattan, Wisconsin and home and routinely traveling worldwide, we decided to retire to either California or South Carolina. The purpose for moving to either state was to get a little closer to the kids than the accustomed 1000-3000 miles. We pledged to make this move only once and not follow children around until we couldn't follow anymore. After extended on-site visits, SC won hands down. We drew a 40 mile circle around my daughter's house

and, pledging not to move inside the circle, landed at Lake Keowee.

Retirement suits us well and, having been at it for 4 and 7 years now, we have settled into a routine that is as unlike our previous (mostly business) routine as you can imagine. The biggest change is that our focus has done a "180" from rush, rush to "smell the roses"; from trains, planes, buildings and pavement to birds, blooms and waterfalls; from suits to shorts; from cold(er) to warm(er) days, from hustle and bustle to "hmm" time for a nap. However, we're not asleep. We are still very busy, just with different things.

This does not seem to work the same for all. A friend tried it at the same time we did and went back to work within six months. He said that his wife's "honey-do" list was driving him crazy, golf had lost its allure after having played 4 times a week for several months and he missed the give and take of a stimulating business environment. In other words, he had no real interests outside of his work and when that stopped abruptly, he tried to fill the void he felt with chores and golf. Now that he is back at work he feels "whole" again. He claims that he cannot now envision himself retiring "anytime soon".

Why this did not work at all for my friend and works so well for us, at least in this case, lies in having interests outside our lives in business. Where we had many and diverse interests outside our business lives, he had few. And when it came time to quit and he rushed to fill his life with chores and golf, we found a whole new world out there with fly fishing, arts, crafts, domestic travel, golf, animals, hiking, photography, children, grandchildren and so on.



Several of our fellow classmates confessed that their experience at GHS was wrought with unhappiness, self doubt and anxiety. That they sometimes hated to go to school because the social pressures made them feel uncomfortable. I find this disturbing and unfortunate because that time of your life is supposed to be gratifying and fun. I know it was for me and I still look back fondly and relish in the memories.

OK, gulp, here's a recent picture that looks nothing like my '62 Compass' mugshot. Who else dares to update?



Nancy **ROSAN** Roblin . Frederick . MD
nancy.roblin@komferry.com

Dear Everyone: It is great to be able to get back in touch with people from GHS through the Web.

Let's see: I have had a great life, thus far. I went to Vassar after GHS, and then married a Harvard scientist who lived across the street from us in Riverside. We have two grown children. Our daughter is a lawyer, married and living in Boston; they have a totally captivating little daughter, whom we adore. We adopted our son from Korea, as an infant. He is now 30, married, owns his own successful company, and is the proud father of a new and adorable baby boy. So we are very blessed and besotted grandparents. Our son and his wife live right in Frederick, Maryland, where we live, so we see them a great deal - and, of course, provide lots of free babysitting for baby Kirin.



I have had a double career. Went through graduate school twice in music performance in organ and choral conducting, following the path of my old mentor and dear friend Gerry Mack, who is, of course, married to Nancy McGee, our former classmate. We see each other once a year at conventions, so I have very much enjoyed following their very successful life together. I need to get their email address for you; they are living in Nantucket in the winters and in Lake Winnepesaukee in the summer. Obviously they have a very tough life!

Gerry Mack taught me enough about choral conducting so that it has been my life-long hobby, profession, and obsession. When we moved to Frederick 27 years ago, I started a select chorus which has been thriving ever since as The Frederick Chorale (www.frederickchorale.org). We perform all over the world and have had a wonderful time making great music together. I am privileged to direct this enormously talented





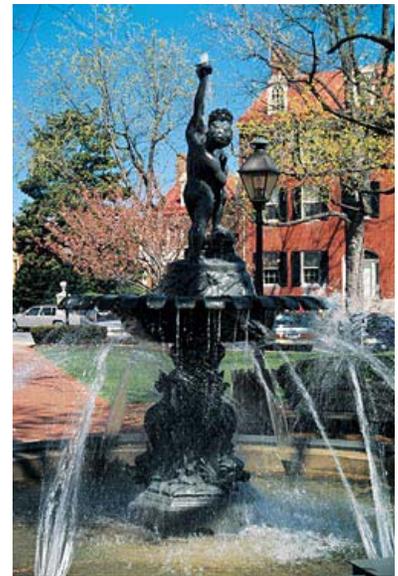
bunch of people. The other profession is headhunting. As we got into our thirties, we realized that our combined incomes from music and basic research science were going to keep us in semi-poverty, so back in the late 70s I went into business and learned the search profession. I am now a partner in the largest executive search firm in the world - Korn/Ferry International. I specialize in filling top telecom executive positions, and you all know what's happened to the telecommunications industry in recent years. Plop! Thud! and Crash! However, the boom was fun while it lasted.

My husband, Dick Roblin, has been a cancer researcher, a biotechnologist, an entrepreneur and now - of all things - a government employee. He's had a wonderful career in science and business, but was called last year by his good friend Leon Kass to become the Science Director for the ultraconservative President's Council on BioEthics. So at age 65, Dick is commuting to downtown DC each day. As the only Democrat in the entire Council, he provides some balance and perspective, and somehow serves as a liaison to the world scientific community, which of course just despises

Bush and the Neocon philosophy, obsessed as it is with abortion and the status quo! I don't know how he stands it, but he does somehow!

We live in the beautiful historic little city of Frederick, Maryland, about 45 miles northwest of Washington, just below the foothills of the Appalachians. If you're ever down this way, please let me know. We have fallen in love with our new, chosen state of Maryland - the "Middle Way." It's a great place to live, with many of the same advantages of Connecticut - with the Chesapeake instead of the Sound, and the Catoctin Mountains instead of Connecticut's little hills. We have history here too, but it's mostly the Civil War variety. While we don't have NYC or Boston, we DO have Washington and Baltimore. And the weather is much warmer and milder, except for the occasional tornado, it's true. A great place to live, all told. It will be interesting to find out where all of our classmates live now, and why.

That's about it, in a nutshell. I look forward to reading others' news.



Nancy's Brother Rick

My brother Rick is very well and simply THRIVING as President of the Urban Land Institute, in DC. He was based in NYC for many years, and after heading City Planning for 4 mayors of New York, he was the President of the NY Real Estate Board for 5 years. Really built and modernized that organization. Then he worked for one of the biggest developers in the city for a few years - Larry Silverstein, now infamous because he owned the WTC. After the '87 market collapse, however, the big Times Square Project Rick was developing could not get its funding from Prudential; thus he finally left the NYC scene and joined ULI. He has turned that into a global powerhouse in urban planning and land use, so he travels non-stop to destinations all over the globe. I just spoke with him a few minutes ago, before his plane left for Japan. He'll be away for the next 3 weeks and just came back last Friday from a week in Europe and Eastern Europe; a very typical travel schedule. He is 61 and I don't know how he keeps this pace up, but he just loves his job. He and his wife Nancy (another one!) have 3 great kids, and have had a marvelous and very prosperous life. They live in a huge home in Northwest DC and also own a gorgeous home on the Eastern Shore. Rick, my sister Wendy and I now share the ownership and management of our parents' magnificent estate which is next to Rick's waterfront home, so we have lots of fun together and the 8 cousins all see each other very regularly. Now it's just a question of figuring out how to keep up an 18th century mansion on 10 acres and not go broke!