



*GHS*

*Wreadin Writin n*

*Wreminiscin*

*Holiday Bulletin Board*

*21 December 2003*

*Sleddin Skatin n Skiin*

In response to a Competition of the Hills, there w as an “Avalanche” of responses, they appear in order of receipt. There is clearly “No Winner” in this competition, except that w e all take back the prize of great memories as w e revisit the many haunts of our childhood.



James **NOWLAND** . Phoenix . AZ  
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Talk about sleigh riding...w e used to walk ALL the w ay over from River Lane to the Milbrook CC...they had an AWESOME hill there...and there w as another place, as I

recall, behind, or up near w here the Jr. HS is in Cos Cob. ....another golf club...I think it w as the Greenwich CC...they had some awesome



hills too...w e'd get there EARLY, around 8, all bundled up, and slide for HOURS until it got dark, then painfully trudge home, soaking w et, frozen, but REALLY refreshed. I'm sure our parents liked it too, because w e were all played out and didn't get into trouble and w ent to bed early...not to mention w e were out of the house all day.



I also remember skating at Pinetum. But the best place to skate w as in Cos Cob...the name of the place escapes me, but it w as an

estate ow ned by some rich guy w ho would let anyone come there and skate all day. I remember Chips Strudw ick lived there...his dad w as a movie star of some note...they rented the "gate keepers" place. We used to play hockey there ALL day.



And it WAS 3 beeps of the fire horn, as I recall, signifying no school. **Editor's Note:** The question of 3 or 4 “blasts” on the fire horn, is still up in the air – pun intended -. Ken Moughty and George Staby have been asked to verify the number, and w e have yet to receive any responses



Donna **TENNANT** Miklaszewski . Sandy Hook . CT  
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My sincere wishes for the most joyous and meaningful holidays to all---and my deep appreciation to Bob (whom I remember as "Little Mac" because, even though he was an inch taller than his older brother Phil (whom I remember as Ruthie, for some unknown reason-somebody help me out here) I think he weighed less and, therefore, was the little guy- (Okay, I've now figured out why I consistently lost credit on essays for Mr. K. because of run-on sentences)

**Editor's Note:** My brother Phil--stationed in Rammstein AFB Germany- when asked about the name "Ruthie", responded in true military fashion with something along the line of a three word subterfuge "Ruthie is Jack", trying to throw the investigation onto my other older brother who is deceased for several years. Donna has confirmed that Phil has written in her Yearbook and signed the note with "Ruthie". This like the fire horn blasts, will be followed up on in future newsletters.



Anyway, on behalf of the CLASS OF 62- Thanks for all those hours and keep up the good work, Bob, Big or Little Mac! Merry Christmas to all.



P.S. To me, that blast of the fire siren signifying no school meant ice skating at Robin Martin's, on the Mianus River.



John **MITCHELL** . Lake Oswego, OR  
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Greetings from the left coast-I hope that everyone has a great holiday season. Out here Christmas is heavy rainfall. Yesterday about 1.5 inches. I have only been to Greenwich once since the 15th reunion in 1987. On that trip, I took my wife to Manero's for the garlic bread and ran into Suzie Smith. Since graduation from college, I have been living in Idaho and Oregon working as a professor first then as economist for US Bank in Portland. Sue Mitchell (Lewis) and I are going to become grandparents in April when our youngest, Kiandra, has her first child. Sue lives in Colorado Springs. I talk to

Howard Hoover periodically in San Francisco. He was for a while the audit partner in charge of the bank. If anyone is passing through Portland please call at 503.697.8936.



**SUE LEWIS MITCHELL** . Colorado Springs . CO  
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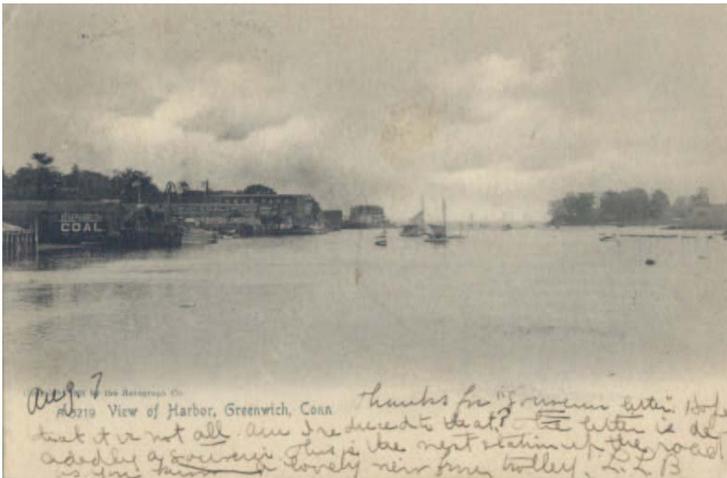


George **DEVOL** . New Canaan . CT  
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**Editors Note:** Yes we finally have a photo of George Devol III. This photo was found by Gene Davino. The "Davino Collection continues to amaze me. Thank you Gene.

Good Grief Bob, I'm late again as usual. No detention please, I would skip out on that anyway just like at GHS.

I'd like to wish all, a Happy and Healthy Christmas and Holiday Season. I don't recall if it was the winter of '61 or '62 that we had a real cold and snowy stretch from about Christmas through the end of January. I remember it being so cold that the section of Greenwich Harbor between Grass Island and Steamboat Road froze over. Charlie Sheppy (class of '63, I think) rode a bicycle across the frozen part - bet that was the last time it was done.



Hope to see as many old GHS friends as I can, in 2004. I have a number of memories about sleds, skates, and skis while growing up in Greenwich. Where I lived on Brookside Drive, we had a great area for sledding. It was either down the long driveway on the property, or down one of the hills next to the driveway. The only other place I remember sledding was at Greenwich Country Club which had some great long hills.

For skating, first I was not a good skater, spending more time on the side of the skates than the



runner. Of course there was great skating at Bruce Park, but closer to where I lived we used to go skating at Edgewood Schools where they would flood one of the fields each winter. Also nearby was the Field Club on Lake Ave. Mike Schreder's father was a member and Mike and I would often go there to play hockey - I was terrible, Mike was very good.

Skiing came later, after I was out of college. Again, I was not the best. I could stay up and go like crazy, but I had a problem with stopping. I would either run out of hill, fall down, or grab a hold of the nearest person.



One other thought about frozen ponds recently came to mind. Back in the fall I came to Greenwich for a haircut (I've used the same barber for over 40 years!) And had some time to kill. I parked the car on Church Street and decided to walk over to Julian Curtis School where I attended from K-through 3½ grade (went to North Street when it was finished). I walked a route up the Putnam Ave and down Milbank Ave just as I had done many times when going to school. As I was walking I began to wonder if a stone marker was still there. As I got closer to the school, just to the right of the main door in front, I saw the marker. It was in memory of Ross Francis with a date from about Feb 1948 to March 1953. I knew why it was placed there and began to wonder if anyone else remembered. How many people

have gone to Julian Curtis over the past 50 years, looked at it and gave it any thought. I do remember

because Ross Francis brother, I think his name was Russ, was a casual friend of mine during the early years at Julian Curtis. I remember a few times going to his house to play. He lived in an area between North Maple Ave and North Street. I don't remember the name of the road, but they were typical middle-class houses for Greenwich during that time. I can still picture the kitchen which overlooked the back yard and a large pond that surrounded a number of the houses. I remember because in early March of 1953 Russ' younger brother Ross was walking on the pond and fell through the ice and drowned. The memorial marker at Julian Curtis was placed there in his memory shortly after the accident. I don't recall that Russ transferred to North street. It's possible the family moved from Greenwich shortly after that. Hopefully there are a few others who know the meaning of the marker. It made me wonder how many other memorials around Greenwich are long forgotten over time.



Lionel **RAYMOND** . Manassas . VA  
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Well, it's time to weigh in here!

The mention of Pemberwick Park in the winter does bring back memories. Since I lived a block away from the park (and within 25 yards of the Byram River...but that's the next story), I spent a considerable amount of time on the sledding hill, always coming from the top and cutting the first corner, after the rock edging, on the hill that dumped out into the ball playing field. Unfortunately, Nancy, you may not have gone the OTHER side of the park, by the maintenance building, where we a couple of us "saucer" guys made a curved run from the top of the hill to an

area behind the building. The run had a jump built into it at the bottom. Only made it over that jump successfully twice. Success being defined as landing with the saucer under you.

As for the Byram River...it seemed to freeze over nicely (there was a "lake" up at our end of the river) between the ages of 14 and 18, so all I had to do was put on my skates in the basement and walk across the road. Dawn to dusk skating and playing in any pick up hockey game I could scare up. We skated up and down the river at times when it required spacing between the skaters of 10-15 yards to keep from going through the ice. You can actually skate on a little more than one inch of ice...if you weigh 130 pounds. I think you can get Gerry and Mickey Sherman to vouch for this. We did it many times. We also did some (now that I look back on it) dangerous rafting back in '57-'58 on that "lake".



We would travel to other areas too, for good sledding. But Bob never invited us over to Byram Shore to share his hill. Did you ever try the hill at Comly Avenue where the "Wards Castle" is located? Nice hill. Ugly bottom.



Merry Christmas everyone.

**Editor's Note:** When asked if he had ever sledded on the Hill at Glenville School, Lionel wrote:

I know the hill you are talking about. Steep and, I believe, stepped about 1/2 way down. Never tried it. Didn't realize it was a sledding Mecca.

**Editor's Note:** When asked if he had ever skated on the Mianus River, Lionel wrote:



It's going to be difficult to beat the Mianus River as a skating venue. Wide, long and the home of Dorothy Hamill. What more could you ask for. The few times that I



made it to that side of town we did "wind skating". For the timid that would be holding your coat open and blowing down the ice. For the adventurous...very similar to wind surfing or ice boating, but with skates under you. Also went to the Country Day School area a couple of times and played pick up hockey with Bert Parks' twin sons.



**Bob McMILLAN** . Scarsdale . NY  
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In my eMails to Lionel I responded to his questions concerning the Hill at Comly and the responses to the "Competition of the Hills"

I know the hill at Comly, The Cartoon Castle replaced Ward's, but that hill was only a legend to the Byram Kids... Many of us didn't have the available "transportation to cruise around trying Hills... The "word" has it, the best hill was in Glenville behind the baseball diamond... so far no one has said anything about it, and so we'll see. We have hills checking in from all over town... Cos Cob, Country Clubs and Millbrook and Skating Venues... Ponds in Cos Cob and the Dam on the Mianus... This is going to be big time competition...



**James R. JOHNSTONE** . Lake Bluff . IL  
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Mianus River hockey, too. Sledding at Innis Arden GC, skating at Binney Park, hockey on the Byram River. What more is there?





Marylou **EICKMEYER** Coe . Traverse City . MI  
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OK, in front of Julian Curtiss School - actually in front of the observatory - is a small hill where we used to sled as young kids. It was far too wimpy for teenagers, but it was great fun to take my kids back there some 30 years ago. (How'd we all get so old?) Living now in the Mid-West we do have sledding hills, and even one former "downhill" slope that's used for tubing in winter. And the cross-country and snow-shoeing out here is great. Come on out!

Happy Holidays to all, Marylou Eickmeyer Coe



Maureen **BREUEL** Bohning . Cos Cob . CT  
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Yo Muckety Muck! The best Christmas gift this year was to hear the words... "WE GOT HIM", now anything else is just icing on the cake. Hope everyone has a beautiful and healthy holiday and new year.



**Editor's Note:** As can be expected from the "Girl" selected both as "The Joker" and "The Unforgettable", Breu took the "Signature Line" of the eMail to heart and not only corrected my spelling of Muckity Muck, but harkens to the events of the day. For Breu... we offer the ultimate winter personal sacrifice... and the title... Snow Angel of '62



Harry **NEWMAN** . Alexandria . VA  
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I think I can add some recollections here.

Our home was on Loughlin Avenue in Cos Cob. The street ran from the pond off Route 1 in Cos Cob to the Cos Cob railroad station. So,

my travels and discoveries radiated out from that point.

For sledding, Loughlin Avenue right outside my house was great as it was a long hill just before it dipped down towards the station. The neighborhood kids would position lookouts at the bottom and top of the hill to warn of approaching cars. Other popular sledding and skiing spots were the sixth hole of Milbrook golf course, adjacent to Indian

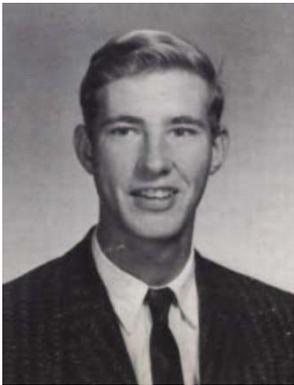


Field Road. That was great for skiing and heavily used, but, I think it has long been fenced off from the public.

For ice skating, the Cos Cob Mill Pond in the center of town was popular, though you had to be careful of thin ice due to the tides. Also, very popular was the pond at the Wertheimer estate off of Orchard Street in Cos Cob. I wonder if there is still public skating allowed there?

A little further back in northern Cos Cob, the narrow lake at Montgomery Pinetum was another skating spot. That was popular with kids playing hockey. Right, now, I can almost still feel the chill as I biked back home in the cold darkness from those places.

Of course, there was also Bruce Park and Binney Park with large crowds of skaters. Those were reserved for weekends when you had a longer playday and could get rides there.



Robert **HOWARD** . Guilford . CT  
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Guy Carden lead Paul Disario and me into construction of ice boats for use on the Mianus. Guy figured out that re-grinding the shape of the blade on cast-off hockey skates was necessary, so we modified some, fastened to scrap wood, somehow affixed Sailfish spars and sail, and created a, well, creation or two. These things had to be small enough that the pieces could be carried on our bicycles. We pushed the iceboats up and down the river, occasionally getting the apparent wind angle right and seeing the boats

fly away. I don't recall any of these boats being successful, as in predictable, controllable, stable, etc. But they were fun.

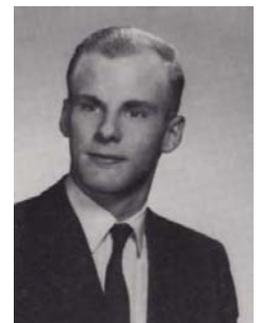
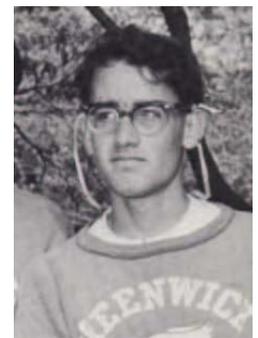
Probably the greatest success of them was that the three of us are doubtless destined to forever have small hineys, since we truly froze them off while bicycling to the river, setting up boats, getting windblown for a while, then peddling home (always into the wind).



Binney Park Pond (BPP) was the better skating place for those who lived in Riverside and Old Greenwich. The Mianus was large and generally smooth, but the constant wind made skating less pleasant. BPP was somewhat protected from the wind, and someone kept a fire going in the stone house at the upstream end of the pond. Having moved to Riverside from Richmond, I knew nothing of ice skating or its perils. Early in my first CT winter, I was on

BPP with Jeff Ferris, Peter Coombs and others from Eastern Jr HS when a blade caught in a crack and pivoted my chin onto the ice. Transportation to Greenwich Hospital was by cop cruiser. Exciting ride, with lights and sirens.

Addison Bacon, who worked at Sterling Watts hardware, was the preferred sharpener of ice skates. Addie had retired from the Fire Department, some years earlier. He was a tiny, bent-over mechanic who could mend anything, and kept WQXR tuned on his radio. He taught us curious kids how, "back in the old days",



valve assemblies could be removed individually from fire truck engines, so that they could still respond to fires even though running on only seven of their eight cylinders. Addie could mend or make anything. It might have been he who reground the ice skates to make iceboat skates for us.

Weston Hill Road (WHR) had two pretty good slopes. One was on the hill from top of Riverside Ave into the marsh that drained down beside WHR, past Chuck Staelin's house and on into Greenwich Cove. Chuck's older brother Rick, who drove a 1947 Hudson, owned a toboggan. We used that to condition the snow so sleds could navigate it even faster. The real adventure was pouring water onto Weston Hill Rd itself, icing it, and then sledding down the road into a barrier of Christmas trees at its intersection with Riverside Ave. We were advised by the friendly officer on several occasions that this was bad practice and not to be engaged in.



These days, participants would probably be noted in the police blotter printed in the newspaper. We were just told to go home, get sand for the road, and watch until we did it. It was a different time.



Nancy **POWELL** Petherick . Hampton . VA  
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You dooooooo dredge up the memories.....

I used to skate on the Byram River at Derby's Pond, and also on Hubbard's Pond.....most fun w hat Hubbard's because it w as "private!"....w alled, gated, the whole bit...and w e would climb over or w alk through the w oods from Derby's Pond to it...but they had these huge Great Dane dogs and they'd start to bark

and come after us....fun, but scary...w e always went back and had some fun times. The River w as scary...especially at night...w e'd go dow n one of the roads off of Pemberw ick Road, and often build a fire to keep w arm....anyone w ho has skated at night knows that the ice makes cracking sounds that seem to be louder than in daylight...of course you can't see, so you



"wonder," and it is fun and exciting...and scary.... Derby's was the regular place and we went there a lot... again often a fire got built and we stayed warm...we walked to all these places and walked home...carrying the skates over our shoulder...we were so fortunate to have these places around to do that then...great fun.... I'm sure that many of you who lived around these three skating ponds remember them....Also, I remember ice skating at Playland in the Winter.....that was soooooooooooooo much fun....different...indoor, and fun!!!!!!!!!!



Kent **REMINGTON** . Micanopy . FL  
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The Pond on the Pomerance property in Cos Cob was hockey central to many Cos Cobbers, and when it wasn't covered with snow was always as smooth as glass. Bruce Park was a far second, but the town did the shoveling!



Marion **HOPKINS** Engstrom . Tucson . AZ  
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**Santa hats are placed on the Saguaro with care,  
hoping the wind will let them stay there.**

**There's snow in the mountains but none on the ground,  
here there are pansies and roses abound.**

**Instead of lights placed in the trees,  
luminaries are lining each driveway to please.**

**The evenings get chilly, 40 degrees,  
but during the day the dress is short sleeves.**

**We do miss the snow but for only a minute.  
Cuz, I remember the shovel and the pain that goes with it!**

**Season Greetings to everyone from Tucson Arizona**



Nancy **SCHMIDT** Lambert . Somerset . CO  
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For sheer "Currier and Ives" beauty it was hard to beat Binney Park, especially on a clear night with the fire burning in the little stone gazebo on the island. I never was a good skater but it was worth the fear and freezing to be a part of that picture.

I also remember the fabulous Robin

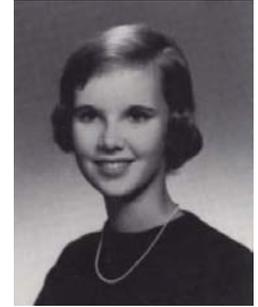
Martin doing spins and figures on the Mianus River... she could just fly on those skates!





Kolbe **PITKIN** Smith . Toledo . OH  
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The hill on Bayside Terrace in Riverside starting behind Sheila Rice's house is what I remember most. It was great fun and a great challenge to miss trees and various objects in other peoples yards. It was always fun and also a great meeting place. Mr and Mrs Rice were always very welcoming. There was always a crowd. Of course there was skating on Binney pond in Old Greenwich and the fireplace in the shelter.



Penny **HAYMES** Cox . Boulder . CO  
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There was a Christmas... maybe even Christmas Eve?... way back when. A group of us from Chorus, a small version, sang in a candlelight service at a small

church in north Greenwich. Starwich... Dingleton? It was snowing heavily as we arrived in our red robes, tromping through the snow up to the open doors. It was a very Currier and Ives image, beautiful and deeply satisfying, a Christmas memory highlight for my whole family.



I wish all my fellow classmates a Happy Christmastime... good company, good food, good health, good spirits.



Eugene **DAVINO** . Greenwich . CT  
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I remember sledding at the old Glenville School and Ward's Castle (Comly Ave), but I would say the biggest and longest hill is on the entrance road to Greenwich Country Club. It was and still is long and steep (if they still let you in there).

Ice skating was on the multi-colored Byram River, Bruce Park and Mianus River.

The attached site has a snow globe and sleigh-riding, etc., might be something for your next issue. [http://ak.imgfarm.com/images/snow\\_globe/globe.swf](http://ak.imgfarm.com/images/snow_globe/globe.swf)