

Christmas Newsletter for FM Class of 1956

Holiday greetings to all my fellow members of the Fayetteville-Manlius Class of 1956!!

Well gang, we've come a long way since our graduation out under the old oak tree on June 22, 1956, haven't we. Many of us have had wonderful lives and have had a multitude of ups and downs, maybe some more than others. At this time of our lives we can be thankful for all the wonderful experiences we've had and for all the wonderful people who have shared our lives, especially our high school classmates. Think back on those snowy Christmas and New Year's holidays, as I especially remember the cold and snowy school bus ride to Watertown for the basketball playoff game, yeah! We lived in an era of wonderful events and we can look back with a big smile, right?

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No", replied Johnny. "How could he with just two worms."

I received a short email from Bob Stillman who lives in Berlin, Germany with his wife Ingrid. He sent a couple of photos in the email. The following is Bob's email:

"Auf Wiedersehen.

Hi Stew.

Got your mail. Here are a couple of latest photos.

My step brother and his girl friend were with us for a few days in May. They are both musically talented. I have two guitars and a keyboard, and on their last night here, we partied down 70's style. That's me on the right. It was early morning when Ingrid took the pic.

The other photo is of us saying goodbye to them as they left. *(sorry the photo is rather blurry)*

Peace----Bob"

Bob seems to be quite content living in Germany and I receive emails from him (with photos) from time to time. It's nice that someone stays in touch that lives so many miles away, yet for those of us that live right here in the USA we, somehow, don't stay connected. It's too bad, 'cause there's nothing like old friends. I feel pretty comfortable 'cause many of you stay in touch with me; however, many just live their own lives and keep to themselves, which is their prerogative.



Another “peach” heard from lives outside of Atlanta, GA. Yeah, that would be Audrey alright. Here's what she had to say:

“Good day, Stew:

I wish I had something exciting to report. Good news is that I am in good health and really enjoying life. I live in a gated community about 1 hr from Atlanta...in the No. Ga. mountains. The only traveling I do is from Atlanta - Jasper, etc. My three(3) children and three(3) granddaughters all live there.

Anyway, the purpose of this email is to say THANK YOU for your helping Jay through the good and bad times.

My best to you and your wife.”

Dick Marshall didn't elaborate very much on the cruise he and Elaine took this year other than the fact that it was a 35 day cruise and they hit plenty of ports both in the northeast and across the pond to Europe. I mentioned it to Jay in an email and he came back to me asking if Dick had mortgaged Elaine to pay for the trip. I had to chuckle with that comment. I know many of you traveled during the year but none of you let me know where you went or what you saw so I can't very well tell anyone about it. My wife and I flew to Denver for Thanksgiving but, luckily, there was no snow yet; however, a couple of days after we got home I went out to put my Christmas lights up around the door and windows on the front of the house and felt a few snowflakes coming down. Yeah, Arizona, right?

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!" (Looking back, I think we have all said that prayer more than once.)

Well, to be truthful, I can't think of much more to put in this newsletter. Most likely this will be my last bit of composition for the class so let me wish you all the best of health and may you all cherish the days we spent together at FM. Weren't the 50's grand – I wish we could go back to the simpler way of life that we all enjoyed. We lived, we loved, we partied, we danced, and during the following 55 years we learned; some maybe more than others but that's life folks. As you can see, I just had to throw in a couple of jokes – hope you enjoyed them.

Although there is no more Class Association, the website is still in operation for your viewing pleasure and can be visited at www.fm56.org.

It's about three weeks 'til Christmas and I ask you all to keep Christ in Christmas which is what it's all about. Never mind what the so-called “politically correct” want to call it – just “Happy Holiday”. No, it isn't just a holiday darn it, it's Christmas and I wish they'd all get their heads (and hearts) straight and just say it - **MERRY CHRISTMAS** to you all and may 2012 be the best **New Year** you've every had. I love you all and that's a fact

