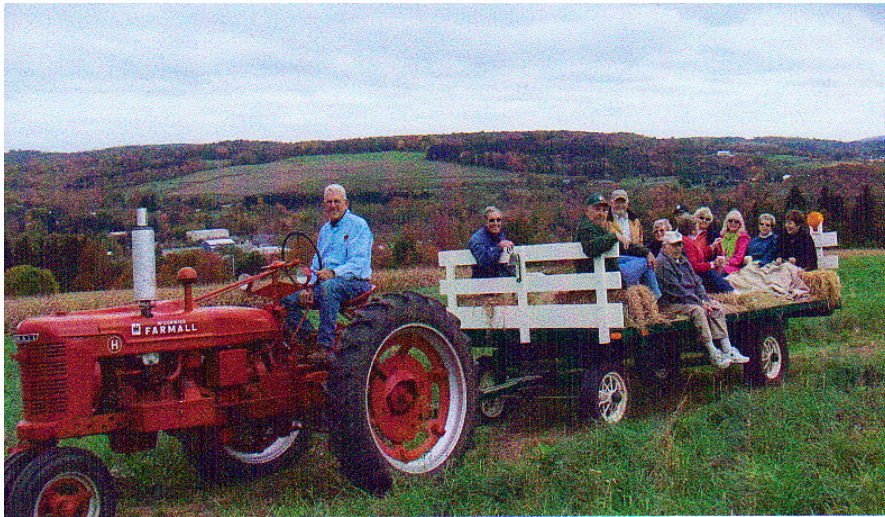




**FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL
1956 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
December 2010 Special Holiday Edition**
On the WEB at: WWW.FM56.ORG - Check it out!!



Now that everyone has had their fill of turkey, and your credit card balance(s) are letting you know Christmas is around the corner, I said to myself "I think it's time for a holiday newsletter to all the gang". So here I am, finally getting to work on it. I know there's been many AA communications over the past year but it's mostly been about the upcoming mini-reunion in Florida - not much in the line of "newsy stuff". Of course, I needed some ammunition to generate this newsletter but I think I can make it with what I have.



I recently received a letter from Andy Dickey (our "Gentleman Farmer") and he enclosed a couple of photos taken at the September 2010 annual hayride that he and his trusty red tractor presided over. It seems like there were more riders in the pictures from a few years past than there was this time (guess that's what happens over time, same as the reunion situation). Oh well, I'm sure everyone that took the "grand tour" in the hay wagon had a great time, as we will in March at the reunion, although it looks like a rather sparse number of attendees are expected. I sure wish I could have been there to ride as I love hayrides and the smell of the hay. Thanks for the photos Andy!!



As most of you know by now I live in the high desert, about 70 miles from Hoover Dam. In case you missed it on the news, the new bypass bridge is now open. Construction began in 2003 and every time we have travelled up to Las Vegas to do our monthly shopping at the commissary at Nellis Air Force Base we checked the progress.

The trouble is that the concrete sides are built so high that you can't see the dam itself, which is about a thousand feet below and a quarter mile off in the distance. I understand that there is a winding trail that leads up to the bridge from the dam parking lot to allow tourists to view the dam from the bridge on the walkway, which is on the other side of the concrete wall separating the walkway from the road. We've marveled at the amount of concrete, the height the men were working at and the overall gigantic scheme of the whole project. The road over the dam will be closed to traffic and will allow only pedestrians on the dam itself – there will be no more through traffic. If anyone is interested in seeing more photos let me know and I'll email you all I have.



Underside of Bridge



Workers on top finally closing the arch



Final completion 2010



Close-up of the arch during construction

LIL' DAVIE

Little Davie attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs, rump and chest. After a few minutes, Davie asked, "Dad, why are you doing that?" His father replied, "Because when I'm buying horses I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy them." Davie, looking worried, said, "Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom". (Lil' Davie doesn't miss a trick, eh what?)

In case you are wondering about the times/locations of the reunion events you might wish to copy the following information: **Friday afternoon (March 25)**

- 4 PM: Registration will be at the entrance to the Resolute Room at the Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center, on S. Buena Vista Blvd. which is only a mile from the hotel. (From the hotel take Lakeshore to Old Mill Run, turn right and at roundabout take first exit onto S. Buena Vista Blvd. Enter the roundabout and you'll see the Rec. Center. If you go to Black Lake Drive, you've gone too far.
- 4:30 PM: Open Bar begins (Beer, Wine, & Soda)
- 5:30 - 7 PM: Dinner will be served. Bar stays open (possible addition of an after dinner drink)
- 8 PM: Party's Over ('til Saturday night)

Based on the choices received, it appears to be either Tuscany Chicken or Stuffed Pork Loin that will be the entrée for dinner; however, there are still some attendance "fence sitters" that need to respond. Until we hear from them with their choices, we'll hold off on finalizing the entrée.

The following evening (March 26) we will gather at The Red Sauce at 6 PM for a sit-down dinner for which everyone will all be responsible for their own individual tabs. The AA will not be covering any portion of this evening's tab. The Red Sauce is located at 1020 Canal St. which is just around the corner from the hotel.

THE PREZ's CORNER

Well, after many "fits and starts", due primarily to ATTENDANCE at R2011, we have finally settled on an approach. There will be a dinner with open bar on Friday 3/25 from 4-8 PM paid by the AA (assuming attendees are current in their dues) and a "pay as you go", i.e. separate checks, dinner on Saturday. Friday will be at The Villages' Miona Recreation Center, Saturday at The Red Sauce Restaurant (Italian American cuisine). Entree for Friday is still to be determined, but it looks like either Tuscany Chicken or Stuffed Pork Loin. Yum !!

Costs are as follows:

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- 1.
 2. EVERYONE pays a \$2.50 registration fee. Cash please.
 3. AA members whose dues are up to date - No charge for the Friday dinner/bar.
 4. Spouses/guests (i.e. non AA members): \$12.50 for the Friday dinner/bar. Cash please.
 5. AA members whose dues are NOT up to date: Balance of dues due for attendance on Fri., then, if paid, free. Cash please.
 6. Saturday dinner: Pay as you go – individual checks.
 7. Hotel: Special rates for rooms with or without balconies. Please call the hotel prior to 1/1 at (352) 753-7535 and mention you are part of the Fayetteville-Manlius Reunion group.
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Anything left in the AA bank account after I close it on 7/1, will go to the schools (Wellwood and the "new" FMHS) as an add-on to our \$2,000 class gift from 2006. Any questions, please contact either Stew or myself.

Hope everyone had a super Thanksgiving with your families and/or friends. I wish everyone a Holy Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year !!

As always,

Jay

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THE VEEP's NICHE

I just want to tell you all how much I've enjoyed being able to publish these newsletters to keep you up to date on what's happening within the class. After the reunion and once the AA ties are cut I only hope that we'll all still stay in contact. I want you all to know that my little house in the high desert is open for a cup of coffee to any of you "tourists" that may travel the distance between Las Vegas and Phoenix or to the Grand Canyon, as it's pretty much the halfway point in the trip.

I hope to see more of you at the get-together in March; however, whoever may be there (many or few), we'll have a great time telling more "tall tales" and showing pictures. 'Til then.....

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I wish for peace and good health to you all.

Stew (your old friend and classmate)

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