



Reunion was a Smashing Success !

Tim Tyndall
FMS Class of 1968

To try and describe the highlights would be to describe every moment of the weekend. From Check-In time on Friday thru Sunday around noon, the spirit of F.M.S. was definitely present in DeLand (especially on our former campus grounds)



With even a little recollection, you could almost hear the cadences of marching platoons at drill (left, right, left), some senior yelling "GET OFF THE GRASS!!!" (that would have a whole new meaning today). The thought of walking the campus and knowing (for sure) I'm not restricted this weekend; "Column-Left - March!"; Wiborg strategically rotating between Major Moore and Major Pendarvis' offices and the resulting echoing of the character-building pats on the back (I believe Major Pendarvis called it that). Our "Free-Time" which was spent anyway we wanted, as long as it involved shining shoes or brass; "Tap - Right Shoulder Arms" (pre Col. Henry days); the Saturday Night Movie in the Gym - usually "SHANE"; Soupee in the Mess-Hall (some of which resembled what I saw Thursday in the Painter's Studio, which currently occupies our former Mess-Hall), and you could picture Gene Johnson or Rex Riley coming out of the back with a tray full of something Willie didn't serve us; Frank (I won't mention his last name) observed that there is no longer a ditch for the cannon to - uh - well let's not go there; and of course (you didn't really have to listen that carefully) you could almost hear Robert Mouro on the telephone.



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LETTER FROM Col. WARD

Head Master – Florida Military School



Dear FMS Alumni Association and FMS Cadets:

I sincerely appreciate your invitation to participate in the Reunion in DeLand.

It was wonderful to see so many former cadets who have achieved so much in life. My only regret is that I was unable to spend more time with each of them.

The plaque dedication was especially moving for me. The plaque itself will be reminder of our honor-rated school and all we accomplished together.

Shaking hands and looking into the eyes of the former cadets made the event one of the greatest moments of my life. It was such a pleasure to learn how FMS positively affected so many men.

My sons and I commend you for your superb work in making the Reunion so memorable for all of us. Every detail was nothing short of fantastic.

Thank you for the wonderful experience.

Col. Ward

Did You Know That You Are A Museum Piece?

DeLand Memorial Hospital Museum

Thornton Ridinger
FMS Class of 1959

We are a museum . . . well, part of a museum . . . well, part of a museum room, anyway. Through the generosity of Tom Sperling and the City of DeLand, the Florida Military School has been given a section of a room dedicated to the DeLand Naval Air Station located in the DeLand Memorial Hospital Museum.

Thanks to donations from several former cadets and Colonel Carl Ward, we have a display of uniforms, plaques, newspaper articles, pictures, brochures, and related items (including a sword and a class ring) for all to see. Many of the participants at the Lollapalooza All-Class Reunion took a tour of DeLand, which included a stop at the museum. If you missed it, the next time you are in the area be sure to stop in.

Although we have pretty much all of the uniforms and paraphernalia that we have room to display, if anyone would like to donate something, you may get in touch

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Reunion

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Friday, in to the early evening - uh - make that in to early Saturday morning we all enjoyed reminiscing about non-pre-selected topics while munching on some good old Tom's Pizza, provided by the Class of 1968. Some of us visited the old



Tom's Pizza and had Steak & Onion Subs, while others visited other eating establishments in the DeLand / Daytona area. Charlie Jenkins was starting to think maybe an Orlando Restaurant started sounding good and how about those bugle-calls? Every time we went to formation they played the same song. Why not go to formation occasionally to other music like "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida"- I mean really how hard can that be to play on a bugle?



Saturday was a full day of ghost stories (so to speak). This was very strange visiting the former Florida Military School Campus and seeing an Industrial Park where Alleyne Hall, the Mess Hall, Howard Hall, the Bull-Ring, the Canteen, the Drill Field, Administration Building, Classroom Building, Dress Parade Field, Gymnasium, Laundry, and Pool formerly resided. But even though there was no indication of their presence, I think their presence was felt and realized, very much (as was the purpose of the Ghost Tours). Next to where the Laundry was - is a tavern? Now here's where timing comes in to play - I think we could have lived without the Laundry being there (had the Tavern been there instead) and speaking of the Laundry, I'm still wondering where they got that Industrial Strength Starch - remember trying to get in to those white-duck pants before parades? And then when you finally got the pants on - good luck being mobile at all, but not only did we have to eventually break the crease so we could walk - uh - march - but we also had to figure out a way to put our shoes on and tie them.

Saturday evening, as we entered the chow hall for dinner, in one of the hangers at Sky Harbor Station, we were greeted by: Col. Ward, Lt./Col.

Prentis, Major Pendarvis, other Faculty and Staff and the Reunion Committee. You could see in the faces and expressions of both the Greeters and Greetees the appreciation and gratitude for all the work that it took to put this Reunion together and all the work it took to both build and maintain Florida Military School to be the significant DeLand landmark that it became, and continues to be, to former Cadets and the city of De Land.



I don't think any of us would disagree that Florida Military School was a school that built character and instilled a respect for correct social behavior (some of us needed one more than the others), but the attitude toward Florida Military School varied, especially during its existence. This was called to my attention Thursday (10/10/02) when I stopped by the campus on my way to Lakeland. I saw a gentleman working at the old Mess Hall and told him F.M.S. was having a reunion this weekend starting tomorrow. The gentleman appeared to be about my age, and he said, "Oh yes, I remember Florida Military School. I can't tell you the number of times my Dad said if I didn't straighten up, he's going to send me there!!!" Gees!!! Well, it's nice to have a legacy.



Well, at any rate, Saturday evening we had an excellent dinner and entertainment afterwards. I think I recognized the band from my Senior Christmas Dance



Then it was time to go back to the barracks - uh Holiday Inn and watch LSU - or was that FSU - well if you were watching, most of it seemed to be LSU :-)



Sunday morning began with a delicious breakfast buffet at the Holiday-Inn from 9am and a final Dedication Ceremony would take place at 11am at the brick columns, which were the entrance to Florida Military School. We drove over to where the dedication was to take place, and many of us were still kind of in disbelief - "I would have never thought 35 years ago - I'd be here 35 years later on the former Florida Military School Campus."



Well, about 11:00am Chris Bolton made the infamous call "BATTILION - TENCH - HUT"; after which Thornton Ridinger began the ceremony for dedication of the plaque by introducing Col. Ward. Col. Ward spoke to us for several minutes regarding the formation of Florida Military School and how he surrounded himself over the years with outstanding educational and administrative talents that either complemented his own talents or added to the talents required to form and maintain a well-disciplined Military School with a high standard of academic achievement. Well, Col. Ward, I think it's safe to say, "You achieved the objective you were striving for - with the talents you have - and the talents you surrounded yourself with".



After Col Ward's talk, he unveiled the plaque, which is mounted on the right column at the entrance. The plaque is a memorial and indicates that this was the home of the Florida Military School.



The final portion of the ceremony featured Thornton Ridinger reading the names of former cadets who have passed away - and Andy Staley placing their picture on the wall of the column. Taps was played (with an echo - thanks Charlie Jenkins) and the ceremony was over.



We all retreated back to the Hotels and had lunch, said our so-longs, but with the response and enthusiasm of the group, I have a feeling they weren't good-byes :-)

"Til we meet again....."

Don't Be Left Out

Max Elliott
FMS Class of 1958

Max Elliott is keeping the "official" database for the association. Please keep him posted on any changes in your information such as address, phone, and e-mail, etc. Don't assume that your information will be updated if you have told someone else because that is not always so and we don't want to lose you. Max's database will be used for all mailings, and any future directory updates.

If you locate someone who is not already in the database (directory) or if you have a change of information for someone else, please forward that to Max as well. There will be lots of things coming up that we don't want you to miss out on.

Please forward your information to:
Max Elliott
135 Deer Lake Circle
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Phone: 386-672-8686
sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net

Note: Max moved across the street so house number is different.

Museum

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with Thornton Ridinger to arrange it. One thing we don't have, and it would be a great addition but much too expensive for us to purchase, is a male mannequin to clothe in a dress uniform. If anyone knows of where one might be available, please let us know.

Also, if anyone wants to donate their yearbooks, that would certainly be appreciated. (However, I would note that I'm not going to donate mine. Maybe I'll leave it to the museum in my will.)

Our thanks to the City of DeLand and Tom Sperling for recognizing the importance of Florida Military School to the history of DeLand.



A Word from the Treasurer

Andy Staley

FMS Class of 1968

For those that do not have access to the Internet and our Florida Military School website (<http://fmsphotosite.tripod.com/index.htm>) you should know that we are in good financial health. Our current account balance is \$4766.07, which is far above where we expected to be after the Lollapalooza. The tremendous response to the Lollapalooza, and in particular the saber raffle, we came out in a very favorable position. Also contributing to the positive financial position is all of the hard work finding deals and bargaining for services that the committee lined up for the reunion.

The Association officers would like all former cadets faculty and staff to know that the money belongs to each of us and all of us. Expenditures must be approved by two of the three officers of the Florida Military School Association. Currently, the only planned expenditure is the mailing of this newsletter; which is significantly higher than usual because we wanted to share some of the most memorable pictures with those that could not attend. This newsletter is larger than previous and planned newsletters, causing an increase in copy and mailing costs.

Although we are currently in a sound financial condition, we still encourage donations to keep the operating funds at a level that enable us to maintain the Association and the benefits we plan to continue to provide to you, the members. In 2003 we will be reviewing the Association that will include the consideration of a membership option in the Association. By charging a nominal

annual membership fee, we might not have to solicit donations and we could provide benefits (newsletters, notice of upcoming events, etc.) to only those that are truly interested in maintaining a relationship with the Association.

As the Treasurer for the Florida Military School Association I would like to thank everyone that has planned, attended, or financially supported the Association. The Association financial books are available for review by any Association member by contacting one of the Association officers.

A Note from The Chairman..

Max Elliott, Chairman, FMS Executive Steering Committee

After thousands of phone calls and countless man-hours spent locating alumni and planning a reunion, it was truly a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment of those that were able to make it to The Lollapalooza last October in DeLand! What a grand time we all had!

I would like to bring you up to date on our progress since The Lollapalooza. At the end of our reunion, it was decided by all in attendance to keep this effort alive by establishing an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to spearhead the formal establishment of a Florida Military School Association (FMSA).

The ESC is comprised of myself, Max Elliott (1958) as Chairman, Andy Staley (1968) as Treasurer, and Thornton Ridinger (1959) as Secretary. Our job is to appoint committees, which will then organize and staff FMSA. Among our goals are to incorporate FMSA, have officers elected, committees formed, and then to dissolve the ESC. In the meantime, we will keep the spirit alive, keep the corps informed, maintain records, and coordinate FMS reunion planning and activities.

So far, we have established committees as follows:

- Communications Committee - Rex Riley (1970), Chairman
- Internet Committee - Andy Staley (1968), Chairman
- Legal Committee - Ingo Kozak (1960), Chairman
- Archival Committee - Thornton Ridinger (1959), Chairman
- Membership & Directory Committee - Max Elliott (1958), Chairman

We also have:

- An FMS museum in DeLand
- Newsletter activity
- An FMS Reunion Cruise being planned
- Internet sites up and running
- A plaque on the FMS pillars
- FMS memorabilia available through our Official Vender (Harry Silvis, 1965)

Volunteers would be gladly welcomed. Groups of volunteers would even be more welcome. For example, a group from Orlando could decide to band together and work on the conduct of elections. Or a group from Jacksonville could sponsor a reunion or regional get-together. Or a particular class or group of classes could sponsor a dinner or dance. We currently need

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A Note
committees for:

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- FMSA Officer nominations
- Elections
- By-law formulation
- Reunions and events

It would also be great to have class representatives designated for either each class year or even for a cluster of years. Please contact us if you are interested in helping organize our association or sponsor reunion activities! Additionally, if any of you would like to submit articles for future newsletters, please contact us.

In closing, your excitement and exuberance are powerful inducements for all of us that have been and continue to work on your behalf in resurrecting the spirit of FMS.

JUST CRUISING..

FMS Plans a Cruise

Sue Courtney , Honorary Cadet
Cruise Coordinator



A suggestion was made that our next FMS activity be a cruise. General consensus was most people wanted a 7-day trip to the Caribbean. So armed with that information, a contact has been made with Tracy Speller, Senior Travel

Consultant with My Travel Co., a national travel agency. Using the demographics of our group she has found the following cruises for us.

Cruise A - November 15th – 7 nites

Port Canaveral, eastern Caribbean to Nassau, St. Thomas and St. Maarten
Inside stateroom - \$610 per person + taxes (\$1280.44 per 2)
Outside - \$610 per person + tax (\$1580.44 per 2)
Balcony - \$760 per person + tax (\$1880.44 per 2)

Cruise B - November 15th – 5 nites

Ft. Lauderdale, at sea, Grand Cayman, Ochos Rios, Sea

Inside - \$369 per person + tax (\$785.50 per 2)
Outside \$439 per person + tax (\$925.50 per 2)
Balcony \$649 per person + tax (\$1345.50 per 2)

Cruise C – November 16th – 4 nites

Port Canaveral, Freeport, Nassau

Inside - \$279 per person + tax (\$620.44 per 2)
Outside - \$319 per person + tax (\$700.44 per 2)
Balcony - \$659 per person + tax (\$1380.44 per 2)

These offer us the best group deals with on board incentives, etc. We need your immediate feedback as to interest in a cruise, and which type in order to secure a good selection. **Before we can proceed, we must hear from you. BY MARCH 1st** sooner if possible – please indicate to us : 1) if you want to participate, and 2) your first and second choices for a cruise. We must have 8-10 cabins committed to get group rates, etc.

Reply to:

Max Elliott

135 Deer Lake Circle Ormond Beach, FL 32174

E-mail: sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net

Call: 386-672-8686

Fax: 386-677-8379

If we do not get a good response, we will not be able to proceed so please reply immediately.

Déjà vu –



Persistence pays. Several cadets who remembered the old FMS sign began digging through the jungle like underbrush and lo and behold, there it was.... the original sign. A little worse for wear but still proudly standing. It is located on some property presently owned by Mr. Roger Davis, who owns a local trucking company.

Mr. Davis noticed the “boys” digging around and came out to investigate. When he learned their mission, he sent his men with heavy equipment to clear away the brush and expose the sign. Because of his efforts, the sign was proudly visible during the Sunday morning memorial service.

Mr. Davis indicated that as long as he owned the property our sign would remain. He was not adverse to its restoration. Should we decide to do so, it should be restorable with a minimum of effort and expense. Some paint, new letters, and a bit of landscaping, and it should be good as new. It was suggested that a small addition “Former Site of” be added at the top of the sign.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, contact Max Elliott.

FROM THE RANKS.....

The Lessons of FMS... What FMS Taught Me

Peter Bakos

FMS Class of 1964

Because of the distance I did not go to the reunion.

Had I been in Florida I probably would have had serious trepidations about going, I was not the best cadet that ever lived. I had few contacts with anyone afterward.

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From the Ranks continued from page 5

It took me a long time to learn some humility, but the lessons started at FMS.

It took me a long time to learn how to dress (I still remember one of the guys from College Company saying something to the effect that if I put on a tuxedo it would look sloppy in after about five minutes of just standing there), but now at least I can keep the tux looking good, at least until the meal is served. But the lessons on taking pride in your appearance began at FMS.

It took me a long time to learn how to not just be clean, but to be neat, and to value those practices in others. The lessons started at FMS.

Unfortunately I still haven't learned much about women, with one divorce and one failed long-term relationship, but those lessons never began at FMS, at least not when I was there.

It has also take a long time for me to learn that people have different ways of caring about you; I began those lessons at FMS and I hope that someday I can once again meet some of those guys from 1963 and 1964 who made my life a little bit miserable, but did it because they were trying to make me a better man.

Here's to friends long unseen, and halls long gone but always remembered.

Former Cadets Visit Riverside Military Academy

The Dress Review

Harry C. Silvis

FMS Class of 1965

(12/15/02) Kendrick/Silvis left the comfort of their warm homes and drove 2 hours to Gainesville, GA to watch the dress parade at Riverside Military Academy. It is grades (7-12) and has about 415 cadets. It was a nice day, in the mid 50's with a little wind blowing. They left in plenty of time, planning on lunch at the best BBQ joint in Gainesville, according to the Internet. Atlas, that was not possible, as it is now a bare lot!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Was it a fire? They will never know.

Arriving at 12:45, the former cadets found their seats in the football stadium and waited. At 1:00pm they heard the band start playing and they started leading the Corps followed by the Regimental staff, A, B, C, D Companies, the color guard, then E, F, G, H Companies. They then formed up on the field and did their ceremonies. Even though the school is twice the size of FMS, the Band was very small and the drum line was limited. The director did not have the presence of our own Don Campbell, as he led them. The companies were not formed by age, so you had all sorts of sizes that were not sorted by size. By FMS standards a real rag tag bunch. They did carry the WWI Springfields. The Color Guard did not have a second rank and the cadet on the left did not carry his weapon on the left shoulder. Col. Ward would have gone crazy at the small attendance of only

about 50 people. Nice brick buildings that were all connected, with a big building project underway. The campus sits on the edge of Lake Lanier, and they have a very high-end pollution control plant on campus. The pool is in-doors and they have a rather large field house. The athletic fields were about the size of the FMS main campus. Kendrick had to check out the school cannons, which were chained up as he inspected the quadrangle. Cost for a year there is \$24,990. +

And who was that leading G Company, they swore by his shape that it was THE BORG!!!!!!

Thanks for the Memories...

Tim Tyndall

FMS Class of 1968

" Once again, thanks for everyone's enthusiastic participation and the attending Faculty and Staff Members' involvement(s). Who (among us) would have ever contemplated 31 to 46 years ago that such a weekend of camaraderie could or would have occurred 31 to 46 years later??? But who would have thought I would have invested \$50.00 to win a bottle of "Lancer's" and a Holiday-Inn table knife??? - but I digress - Seriously - thanks for the Memories of times, which I've never really pictured myself looking back on fondly. Some of the times weren't so hot, but they're kind of amusing to reminisce about now and NOW, I think you would agree with me (especially after this weekend - and some of us might have already realized it) but there is the realization that Florida Military School was a major contributing factor to our education, respect, and behavior as adults.

Thanks again.

FMS Memorabilia

Harry Silvis, our official FMS Vendor writes...

We still have LIMITED quantities of: License Plate (\$10.00 each), lapel pins (\$5.00 each), Iron on patches (\$4.00 each), black hats with patch ironed on (\$7.50 each), computer carriers with patch (\$20.00) and canvas tote with patch (\$7.50) We can make double matted frameable pieces with the "then" picture from annual as well as company guidon and color picture of school's colors (\$25.00). The most popular product at the reunion was a double matted two-color Ariel photo of the school from pre-1960. (\$15.00) Pictured is the patch & pin matted and framed \$(30.00)



Email: printers@bellsouth for orders or for Harry to email you a picture of one of the items.

Harry C. Silvis

KENNESAW GRAPHICS

3166 Cherokee Street, Suite 101

Kennesaw, GA 30144

770.421.1415 - fax 770.421.1745

Regional Gatherings

We know not everyone likes to cruise, and some people can't travel long distances, so the logical answer is to have regional activities. Just glancing through the geographical listings in the directory, informal clusters can be formed.

To keep the FMS spirit thriving, these informal gatherings are a necessity. They don't have to

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Gatherings

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be anything elaborate. Even a phone call to say "Hey, some FMS guys are meeting at the XYZ restaurant for dinner on the XXth at 00 pm. We sure would like you to join us."

Now all we need is for someone in each general area to take the point and run with it.

Remember the camaraderie of the Lollapalooza? Dig out your directory and get the ball rolling.

Reunion Photos

All photos in this publication came from the Reunion CD prepared by Rex Riley (FMS Class of 1970). They are just a sampling. Rex did an outstanding job of recording the events, people and atmosphere of the Lollapalooza. If you weren't able to attend, you can vicariously attend via this CD.

If you are afraid you won't recognize people, don't worry. Rex tried to capture nametags with the photos. Available for \$10 from Rex Riley.

Cadet Profile -

Jerry Alleyne

Class of 1957

Then

Now



Jerry Carlyle Alleyne (1957) was a cadet at Carlisle Military School (CMS) when Col. Ward (then Capt. Ward) was a CMS faculty member. Jerry, among others at CMS, was recruited by Ward to form the initial cadre of FMS. Jerry was a basketball player at CMS and Col. Ward was his coach.

Jerry also holds a unique place in the history of FMS as he was not only one of the original cadre, but he was a member of the first graduating class and he later returned to FMS as a faculty member. There were five cadets in the original graduating class and two (William Howard and Kenneth Hewitt) have since deceased. Jerry's attendance at the Reunion enabled us to meet our goal of having members of every FMS graduating class present.

Jerry holds advanced degrees in Education and Education Administration. Jerry and his wife,

Dee, a CPA and financial director at Spendthrift Farm (race horses), currently raise and train Border Collies on their farm in Kentucky.

At The Lollapalooza, Jerry was the head of the receiving line, introducing the participants to Col. Ward and he is actively helping to form the Florida Military School Association.

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee is in the process of formulating a slate of officers to present for a vote of the Corps. If anyone desires to submit a name to be considered for an office, this is the time to do so. The officers to be elected are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Member-at-Large

Please mail verified (consented to by the nominee) nominations by **March 1st** to:

Max Elliott

135 Deer Lake Circle

Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Scenes from Our Museum

