



Florida Military School

Alumni Association



Vol. 5 Issue 3

SEPTEMBER 2008



From the President's Pen -

- Max Elliott '58

In this issue, we have news on the Annual Meeting, Reunion, museum and members. We will tell you about our upcoming October 18th Annual Meeting,

The Return of the Knights in 2009, our FMSA museum Grand Opening in September and some member information.

Since the last newsletter, in addition to the FMSA Board members and our Official Vender, I have heard from Alda Earp, Jeff Fawsett, Joe Leer, Jim Wahl, Bob Speir, Steve Nash, Robert Mouro, Bill Andrus, Steve West, Warren Barley, Lev Hartnup, Art Fisher, Ron Brinkerhoff, James Maros, Alex Nelson, James Gaberle, Troy Fletcher, and Tommy Register. Thanks for the input and I enjoy the communication.

The planning for the **FMS Reunion 2009, The Return of the Knights!** is underway. I really am looking forward to seeing everyone there. As you recall, the five initial classes, 1957-1961, will use the reunion to celebrate their respective 50th reunions, hosted by the center class, 1959.

I know that Thursday, **July 30th 2009** seems a long time away, but, from my point of view, it is now **LESS THAN ONE YEAR AWAY!** Start making plans and note the dates on your calendar.

Much closer in time is the **Florida Military School Association 6th Annual Meeting**. It will be held **18 October 2008** and, as usual, at the DeLand Airport in the hanger of Steve and Sydney Nash (1965). We usually gather early to lunch at Skydive DeLand. Thanks, in advance, to Steve and Sydney Nash for the use of their hanger!

As before, **If you know of any other FMSers that we don't have, please send me their contact information or have them contact me!**

And, as always, I invite you to visit the FMSA web site (www.fms-assn.org) and see for yourself the fine job that

our Web Master, **Asa Dean (60)** has done and continues to do for us! We can't thank Asa enough! Keep an eye on the site for all the latest on the **FMS Reunion 2009, Return of the Knights!**

FMSA Official Website:

www.fms-assn.org

11 months to the next reunion!!

FMSA MUSEUM OPENING

As we reported in our last newsletter, our FMS Museum has a new home and it will be having a "Coming Out Party" in conjunction with the West Volusia Historical Society Ice Cream Social at the DeLand Hospital Museum on Tuesday, September 16th. We were invited to debut our exhibit to the group that evening, and we are working to get things ready to show .

Since our last newsletter, we have received some more clippings and Commencement Programs and other such items to add to the exhibit. In our collection of FMS Commencement programs so far we have 1957, 1959, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969. If anyone has any of the others that they would be willing to donate, we certainly would like to have them. Of the Cadet Handbooks, we have received 1962, 1963 and 1964. We have also collected the Recruitment catalogues for 1964, 1965, and 1966 as well as two of undetermined dates. We even uncovered a good copy of the 1956-57 Cadet Life (annual) for the first graduating class. But we always have room for more. We would like to leave behind the most complete history of our school's existence as we can, so dig into those long forgotten corners in your closets and attics and see what you can turn up.

We have the console television and the set of DVD's

but we still lack the DVD player to put them to use.



The clippings we have on hand have all been laminated to preserve them but there are still quite a few pictures that need framing. We can purchase ready-to-assemble frame parts through a discount outlet for a price, but we are still scouring the junk shops for useable frames at a much cheaper price. The pictures may not all be framed for the Debut but we will do a few at a time as we can find the parts.

We do have a complete set of yearbooks and they will be stored in the West Volusia Historical Society Research Library over at the Deland House Museum. Bill Dreggors also oversees that museum and they will thus be available to people doing historical research. The West Volusia Historical Society is feeling the financial squeeze from local and state budgetary cutbacks so we urge you to support them by visiting the Deland House Museum and purchasing their videos, books, and other gift items, or even sending them a contribution. They are providing us the museum space for our exhibit at no cost to us.

Both of these museums are open to the public so you will be able to stop in and visit when you are in Deland. The docent is on site at the Hospital Museum Tuesday through Saturday, and will be available to open our room to visitors.

Our exhibit continues to be a work-in-progress but even now, it is quite impressive. Be sure to stop by and see it!

FMSA REUNION 2009 “The Return of the Knights” COUNTDOWN

Sue Elliott

Remember when a 2009 Reunion seemed so far in the future? Well, the final countdown has begun. It is less than a year off so now we are counting months and soon weeks and days. The dates are July 30th, 31st, August 1st, 2nd in 2009.

It's time to plan those class gatherings you were thinking about. Now is the time for action. Has your class gotten organized yet? Don't delay too long or all the great meeting places will be taken. Need some suggestions? Contact us and we will help. We will even help you contact your classmates.

You will note that we are starting on a Thursday and running through the Sunday this time. Thursday will focus on the 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 & 1961 classes as it will serve as their 50th Anniversary. Thornton Ridinger is coordinating the plans for that.

The general Reunion activities will commence on Friday. We are working on activities like historical tours, shopping tours, boat trips and other out and about type activities. Sadly our Beresford Lady riverboat is not in operation yet. The tornadoes really torn her up. But our cruise director on that trip, Ruth, is now doing trips on another smaller river cruise. We will be working with her to set up some possible cruises for the weekend.

We are also working with the downtown *Mainstreet DeLand* people to set up a special evening downtown for Friday evening as well. They have a new director and he is very enthusiastic about promoting downtown activities. You will be surprised by some of the positive changes downtown. There are a lot of new places to visit and lots of sidewalk cafes, etc. If there is a special type of activity that you would like to see planned, now is the time to let us know.

Special times will be set aside on Saturday, for quiet talks with the Colonels...Col. Ward and Col. Prentiss.

While the men are occupied with this, we are planning activities for the ladies, such as shopping and activities around the pool. As promised, we will

not have speeches and such at the Saturday evening banquet. Yes, dancing will be available, too.

The Holiday Inn has guaranteed us our 2002 rates of \$59 for a single/double or a Triple/Quad, and \$99 for a Jr. Suite. They will gladly help you make your reservations and to plan this as a family vacation as well. Lillian Hess, our contact there has moved to another Inn and we are really going to miss her assistance but our contract is still in place.

Thornton Ridinger, ('59) is coordinating the plans for the Golden Reunion classes (1957-1960). Special activities for those classes will be planned for Thursday.

Volunteers will be needed for many of the activities both before and at the Reunion. If there is something you would especially like to work on, now is the time to step forward. It will save us so much time if you come to us instead of us having to search for volunteers. There are things like the Auction, the Duck Race, the Pool Party, the Cocktail hour, the tours, the registration table, hospitality and many others. Let us hear from you.

The committee would welcome any suggestions or ideas that you might want to contribute. This is your reunion and we want to include the things you want to do.

FMS BOOK

Sue Elliott

The FMS book (coffee-table edition of the Florida Military School history) suffered a major setback with the computer meltdown but Sue Elliott is back at work and the book is moving forward.

We plan to use some excerpts from several publications and clippings and letters to and from cadet families as part of the history. Key pictures will highlight the narrative.

So far a few cadets have offered comments or snippets to be included. This is your opportunity to be included in history so please submit your comments and memories, and photos as soon as possible. Every class year will be represented in this volume.

They should be sent to Max Elliott at PO Box 5, in Pierson, FL 32180.

FACULTY NEWS -

Ms. Earp

We received word recently from Ms. Earp that she was now home from the rehab center and getting around on her own. She sent the following message to "her boys":

August 7, 2008

Gentlemen,

This is the way I addressed you in class, and it is how I see you now.

Your thoughtfulness and kindness while I was in the hospital and Oakhurst meant so much to me, and I know that everything you did for me helped in my healing process.

I am now walking with a cane after only 3 1/2 months, & surprise the doctors!

Alda Earp



Ms. Earp has been a regular attendee at our October Annual Meetings. We hope that she will be able to ride down this year with one of "her boys". And just because she is at home doesn't mean that a card or call wouldn't be welcome. We are so pleased that she was able to "surprise" her doctors.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous balance was \$4,082.73.

Expenditures were:

\$ 40.55 for flowers for Ms. Earp
\$ 61.25 annual corporate fee
\$417.96 newsletter expenses
\$ 80.00 for a museum mannequin

Current balance is: \$3482.97

Respectfully submitted,
Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer

FMS RIFLES LOCATED



A note from Alex Nelson ('63)

There's another reunion involving David Tooker and me that might be of some interest to you.

For a very long time – since the 70s – there has been a lot of speculation about what might have happened to the rifles the Army provided for our use at FMS. There are still pieces of the puzzle missing, but David and I have recently acquired the first rifles we were issued as cadets and this is how that came about.

The Army was no help at all. My first letters were sent in about 1980 and were unanswered, probably because I had no idea where to start or how to proceed. In the mid 80s I was living in Atlanta and again sent letters and made phone calls to CENTCOM (Central Command), located at Fort McPherson, Georgia, headed by a General named Colin Powell. No answer, no information; the people I did manage to speak to had no idea where to begin a search. I had never heard of a program called the Department of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) that had been organized early in the last century to promote marksmanship training and, incidentally, distribute (read that “dispose of”) of surplus, out-of-date, military weaponry.

Fast-forward to 2002 and mention of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) in a magazine article. I was intrigued. I had been shopping for an M1 Garand like the one I carried at FMS but the prices at gun shops and at gun shows seemed high to me. The CMP, it turned out, is the successor organization to the DCM and is much more active in the marketing and sale of surplus rifles. There are qualifications, which I met, so I ordered a service grade M1 and a late serial numbered 1903 Springfield. Both were delivered to my door by UPS and both were in remarkably good condition. The light bulb came on and I began a correspondence with the CMP, searching for two rifles by serial number: the rifles first issued to David and me at FMS. This went on for over 4 years. Poor CMP, they must have grown tired of the bi-monthly emails, but they, too, became interested in finding these rifles.

Finally, in November, 2007, David's rifle turned up. Now, when I write “rifle” I am really describing a serial-numbered receiver; almost all these rifles have been “arsenal refurbished” at one time or another, where they arrive at a facility, are stripped of their parts, the parts

sorted into bins and inspected and the rifles are re-assembled using available, serviceable parts from those bins. They are not original in the sense that they have all their original parts, much like George Washington's hatchet (“We've replaced the blade a couple of times and the handle three or four times, but it's George's original hatchet”), but they are serviceable rifles. David's was a barrel and receiver only when it was returned to the Army from a lend-lease program with Greece and had to be rebuilt up from parts by CMP armorers. The condition was listed as “Field Grade”. The definition of Field grade as it appears on the CMP website is: “ ... Most of these rifles have been refinished or rebuilt at least once while in military service and will likely have some parts from other manufacturers. **Fair to good condition.** ...” Actually, David's rifle looks pretty darned good. He has some work to do on the wood, but he likes doing wood work (he did a great job on an old Mauser stock of mine) and it's in good shooting condition.

Alas, the whereabouts of my rifle was unknown and would remain so for another 6 months – not long when you consider how long I'd been searching, but when the end is not in sight, it's forever. In late April, 2008, CMP wrote that a large number of serial numbers were found to have been lost in a database malfunction. You know how database malfunctions can make your day. They began a recovery process that finally yielded some old DCM records and my rifle turned up in a sale record from 1990. Following that lead, CMP found that the buyer still had the rifle and was open to discussion! I was elated, but would he want to part with it? We began our correspondence and phone calls cautiously and the upshot was a trade of sorts that resulted in my receiving my first-issued M1 Garand on June 18th! The condition is very nearly pristine – the result of good care and not too much time in actual service.

I'm going to speculate a little. Our FMS Garands (and carbines) were taken back by the Army and then distributed by the Army to various sponsored schools (NDCC and ROTC), National Guard units and lend-lease programs until they were rounded up again and put into the DCM (later CMP) program for sale to the public. We know David's went to Greece; mine, I believe, went straight from the Army storage facilities to the DCM sometime before 1990 – there just wasn't enough time between FMS and the sale of the rifle to my new-found friend in Illinois for it to have been in military service. DCM was notoriously slow in processing orders – some took over a year – so I believe my rifle was “arsenaled” and just languished in a crate somewhere for all that time.

The CMP doesn't advertise its serial number searches. If anyone is interested in buying an M1 Garand or M1 Carbine, the CMP web site can be found at www.odcmp.com. There are, as I wrote above, some qualifications that have to be met and those are listed in the web site.

COUNTDOWN to 2009!!!!

IN MEMORIAM

FMSA has lost three former cadets in the past few months. Two of these men lived in the Jacksonville area. Charles Mussallem III ('69) died suddenly on August 24th and Robert Hartman ('61) died unexpectedly on September 1st. The third reported was Arnold Segel ('62) of Tampa. who died September 1st.

HARTMAN Robert Lester Hartman, 64, died unexpectedly Sept. 4, 2008, at his home in Ponte Vedra Beach. Born to Lester J. and Margaret Hartman on Sept. 22, 1943, in Jacksonville, he grew up in the Ortega area and was graduated from Gordon Military Academy in Georgia. He attended Florida State University, worked for the General Electric Co. in Seattle, Wash., and then spent five years in the Army, including a stint as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, where he was injured. After leaving the Army, Mr. Hartman began a long career with Merrill Lynch, moving with that company from Orlando, Fla., to Jacksonville, Toronto, Canada, New York City, Stamford, Conn., Miami and, in 1989, Ponte Vedra Beach. Among his numerous positions with Merrill Lynch, he served as President of Merrill Lynch Commercial Real Estate, Chairman of Merrill Lynch Mortgage Backed Securities and Chairman of Merrill Lynch Huntoon Paige. Mr. Hartman was an avid reader, especially in the areas of business and the U.S. military. He loved to fish and spend time with his many friends, some of who go back to elementary school days. In addition to his parents, his younger daughter, Allison, preceded Mr. Hartman in death in 2004. His two sons survive him from his first marriage, Robert L. Jr. of Keystone Heights and Michael C. (Kathleen) of Valrico, Fla.; his wife Kathy, their two surviving children, Amanda "Mandi" and Stephen; his brother John (Margaret) of Jacksonville, and his beloved granddaughter, Amanda.



ROBERT HARTMAN
Florida Military School
1959



MUSSALLEM Jacksonville - pioneer and very successful businessman, Charles S. Mussallem, III, passed away on August 24, 2008. Charles was a lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Florida. He was 57 years old and the president of Mussallem Oriental Rugs and Galleries, an institution in Jacksonville since 1897. He was also the director of their manufacturing company, NoMuv Corp., Inc. with a textile plant in Dalton, Georgia. Charles was on the Jacksonville Port Authority, Zoning and Planning

Commission, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Metropolitan Planning Organization, International Relations and Marketing Development Commission, the North Florida Regional International Affairs Commission, and the Industry Sector Advisory Committee on Textiles & Apparel. He is predeceased by his parents, Charles S. Mussallem, Jr. Johnny and Marie Herro Mussallem. He leaves behind his wife, Dawn M. Mussallem; seven children, Tori Mussallem, Anna Mussallem, Cristina Mussallem Haddad (Michael), Charles Mussallem, IV, Michael Mussallem, Cecelia Mussallem and Sophia Mussallem; siblings, Rosemarie D'Amour, Joanne Herro, Linda Herro (Kahlil), James Mussallem (Kristi) and Marlene Jabour (Jay). He had numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, other family members and friends.



CHARLES MUSSALLEM
Florida Military School
Company D in 1965



SEGEL, Arnold A., 64, died September 1, 2008. Arnold was born in Charleston, W.Va., and moved to Tampa with his parents, Irving and Lorraine Segel, when he was 14 years old. He attended the Florida Military School in Deland and was active in the ROTC when he graduated from Plant High School. He served in the National Guard, and was an active member of the Civil Air Patrol and a member of Congregation Kol Ami. Arnold was an entrepreneur, and built a number of successful and remarkable businesses, including a security and protection dog service, concert promotion and security services, real estate investing, private investigation and, until his passing, was in the process serving business in which he was an active member of the Florida and National Associations of Process Servers. He had a world of friends, a great sense of humor and could always put a smile on your face. Arnold is survived by his sons, -Mark Seijerand his wife, Kelly, Sean Segel and Hayden Segel and his wife, Tiffany; his daughters, Shanna Segel and Valerie Segel; two grand-daughters, Jennafer Segel and Ilana Segel; and his sister, Carolyn Wayne.



ARNOLD SEGEL
Florida Military School
1960

Max Elliott
PO Box 5
Pierson, FL 32180.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FMSA ANNUAL MEETING 2008
Saturday, OCTOBER 18th

SKY DIVE DeLAND
In Steve Nash's hanger

11 am Registration, Lunch and socializing

1 pm Meeting in Steve's hanger

Discussion of upcoming 2009 Reunion