

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, and Friends Newsletter June 2006 (Seventeenth Edition) 06/20/06

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Within reason the Newsletter follows this word content per single entry (Times New Roman, 10 font sizes)

New entry: Resumes/history since FSU = Twenty-two (22) words per line, Twenty two (22) lines

Second, third etc. entry..... = Twenty-two (22) words per line, Eleven (11)

Welcome our new slogan, **“once teammates, always teammates”** created by Charlie Christian.

It will head all the coming Newsletters

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Jack Miles | 50-58 | Repeat of a special email I wrote to email users ...now for those who only receive US Postal service

{It is with deep sadness and shock that we, who loved him, learned that Dick Traynor, the husband of Alma Claire *Essig* Traynor passed away. We were blessed that we had just been with Dick at the recent FSU Gymnastics Reunion and had a chance to talk, laugh together, and share a hug as we all said our goodbyes. In all of their forty four years of marriage Claire and he have been a loving, strong part of our forever friends group. He was always; soft-spoken, smiling, kind, and cheerful. He was a great friend to us all. He will be greatly missed. God Bless Dick, Claire, and his family. ...jmm}

Almira (Mrs. Jack) Sharp | 51-53/60-62 | The Iraq War

“Grandson, Stuart, returned from his second tour in Iraq in April on his second son's first birthday, so that was great”

Jack Miles | 50-58 | My working History

{When reminded by several people that I have never included my resume in the Newsletter, And after seeing Joe Taylor’s “History” I decided to keep mine simple also and by listing just my work history (small pica type to conserve space)...jmm}

Jobs I have had in my life (Often more than one job at a time)

- Delivery Man - Furniture
- Stock Boy to Buyer - Gimbel's Dept. Store, Philadelphia
- Face Sketch Artist – Beach, Atlantic City, New Jersey
- While Attending FSU Tallahassee:
- Filing Clerk - Business office FSU
- Building Maintenance & Repair – Dormitories - FSU
- Audio-Visual Technician -Showing Educational Movies in classes - FSU
- Grocery Check out Clerk - Tallahassee
- Insurance Investigator - Retail Credit Company – Tallahassee
- Graduate Assistant – Gymnastics Coach & Teaching Kinesiology plus Physical Education Courses - FSU
- Night Manager - Lake Ida Motel, Tallahassee

Post Graduate:

- Training Manager - Ivey's Department Store Orlando
- Draftsman, Illustrator – Florida State Road Department
- Statistician – Florida State Milk Commission
- Promoter, Spokesperson -Traveling Exhibit, Florida State Tourist Department, USA & Canada

Moved to NYC, New Jersey & Traveling USA

- Sound/Light Technician – Steel Pier, Atlantic City
- Manager – Traveling Diving Horse Show – State Fairs, USA, Canada
- Announcer - Emcee National Trade & Travel Shows, Philadelphia, Ontario, Et al.
- Design & Set Construction – New York based film & television, IATSE Union, NYC
- Fine Jewelry Sales – Macy's NYC
- Photographer – Gyorfey's Composites, NYC
- Encyclopedia Sales – “New World”, Brooklyn, Queens NY
- Entertainer – Traveling-Broadway Shows, “Carnival”, NYC, & East USA
- Acrobatic Adagio Team & Trampoline – “The Dominics & Jack & Annie”, Steel Pier, Radio City, Carnegie Hall, State Fairs
- Stunt man Actor – Movies, Commercials, Off-Broadway Shows, NYC & Miami (Sinatra, Randall, Schatner, et al.)
- Stand Up Comic – NYC & Florida Clubs
- Athletic Director – YMCA, Highland Park, Brooklyn NY

Returned to Florida

- Writer – Short stories, Argosy, Boys Life, Etc.- Ft. Lauderdale
- Owner/Operator – Miles Gymnastics School – Ft. Lauderdale
- Supervisor Special Events & Department Director - Parks & Recreation Department of Ft. Lauderdale
- Spring Break Promotions Co-Partner, Probe, Inc. w/ Jack Penrod, Ft. Lauderdale
- Director - Night Clubs & Hotels, “Entertainment & Dining Association”, Ft. Lauderdale
- Evening Manager – Penrods Night Club, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
- Motivational Speaker – “Gold & Goals”. Ft. Lauderdale
- Owner – Exergon Inc. Design & Manufacture of Weight Training Benches and Machines
- Business Manager - Unity Christian Church, Ft. Lauderdale
- Human Services and Housing Manager – Think Link, Inc. Aids Organization
- Handy-man
- Poor retired old bag of wind – I finally found my true calling

{Don't blame me you asked for it. It's an ego thing. My autobiography title should be..... “What to Hell was that all about?”...jmm}

Benny & Carolyn Wallace | 51-55 | **Re: Harmer Weichel' story 16th Edition**

"I was captivated by the tale (no homophonic pun intended) of Harmer Weichel's colonoscopy and the issue that arose (again, no pun intended) during one of the exams. My mind boggles at the vision of him bent over while a female P.A. conducts the necessary probe. At his age, and with his back to her, I suspect that he was, fortunately, too hard of hearing to detect the laughter. And to automatically bow at the sight of a doctor? I can see him now, blundering into a medical convention and spending the evening grabbing his ankles! There is no end (no pun, etc.) to what old people will tell about their bodily functions, or lack thereof. This Newsletter is better than Oprah!...Benny Wallace"

Jack Miles | 50-58 | **DUI Check Point**

{After leaving the reunion at Barbara's. Chad and I were stopped by a Wakulla County Sheriff's road block. With huge signs stating "DUI Check Point". It was real cool. There were about twenty officers in a row and they would let thru 20 cars at a time. Each of us to our own officer. There was a mobile home office/ jail and with so many cruisers with light flashing it was intimidating... Officers were very efficient. The funny part was that there were five cars pulled over out of line with interiors and trunks open and being checked. Old clunkers and packed full of broadly smiling Mexicans who didn't see any problem at all. Or, too full of Tequila to give a gringo dam. They looked like they were having a blast...I laughed at their demeanor...I looked for Ashmore. He must have escaped...jmm}

{I just found a frozen Milky Way in the refrigerator which I put there about a week ago and forgotten. Wow! Isn't life great...jmm?

Charlie Christian | 55-57 | **Newsletter Sponsorship**

"Jack, (you can post this one!). I agree with Benny regarding compensating you for all the time and dedication you have done for us by putting together such a superb newsletter. I feel everyone will be more than happy to send you \$25.00 annual dues. Mine will be in the mail tomorrow. It's the least we can do to show our appreciation. Thank you for keeping us updated on the accomplishments of our teammates. I am truly amazed at all the commentary. I don't think anyone will ever top Jimmy Tanaka. His bio. reads like an encyclopedia and still going! My best, Charlie Christian"

Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher | 50's TTT | **Lost and now found**

"Hey Jack....this is Nancy (Lamb) Durocher..... I'm sure you don't remember me from Tallahassee Tumbling Tots but I remember you & Don Holder....also, Dick Gutting (sp??)..... anyway, thank you for including me..... Carole Laing Terry gave you my email, I think....anyway, I appreciate it and I was sorry we weren't able to make the gathering..... Bob.....my hubby of almost 43 years and I live on Lake Talquin..... we lived near Gainesville for 31 years and decided to move back home..... LUV following our Noles... football, basketball, baseball, swimming (Bob came from NY on a swimming scholarship in '60).... anyway, it just feels great to be back....wow.... didn't mean to ramble on sooo long...thanks again....Nancy Lamb Durocher" { Nancy, We all remember you very well and your name comes up often when we talk about the TTT's – which is often....expect comments from some of our readers....Jmm}

Don & Connie Holder | 51-57 | **Whale of a story**

"Sounds like you enjoyed the whale story. Here is ours. Many years ago (15) we (sons Tim, Terry) along with one of my former Gymnasts, Dave Yoham, were fishing for Mahi Mahi. Off in the distance we viewed the spray from whales. First time this happened. We charged over only to have the whales sound for several minutes. Soon they surfaced close to our boat, a mother, father and baby. The smell from the blow hole was enough to gag you. Since Dave had an underwater camera, we decided to venture into the water to photograph the family. Upon getting close, the father began jawing and blocking our path. At that point we all felt it was too dangerous to even stay in the water. It was still a thrill to be in the water with such magnificent creatures. Don"

{I'm envious; God I would love to of had that experience.....the swim that is.....not the smell...jmm}

Oscar "Bob" Brock | 58-61 | **Fox Movietone Short Subject, "Gym College"**

Subject: Re: Roots, "Hi Jack, Back in 1956, at the Beacham Theatre in Orlando, a brief "short" on FSU gymnastics was shown between features. Some of the perhaps ten minute film was taken on Landis Green and featured tumbling and some apparatus work. Other scenes were apparently in old Montgomery Gym. Definitely pre-Tully scenes; probably 1955. The only individual I remember from that little film is Jamile Ashmore. That could be due to the fact that my late mother's maiden name was Ashmore. But whatever became of that old tape and was a video replication ever made? That one brief film inspired my switch from pole vaulting to gymnastics. It must have made similar impressions on other young men and women. Best, Oscar Brock"

Reply {Hi Oscar: I have a copy of that film somewhere."Gym College by RCA" One of the thousands of "Things I will do someday" is to have it converted into a DVD. Actually, I wanted it as a DVD for my children and grandchildren. Along with several other bits and commercials I have done I already have it on CD. I am going to put your comments in the next Newsletter - should stir up some dialogue.....jmm}

Response "Jack, Glad to hear you still have that old, circa 1955, FSU gymnastics film. Maybe you can have it converted to DVD, as you suggest, and show it at the next FSU gymnastics gathering. Also I recall your 1957 orientation for us fledgling gymnasts in an upstairs classroom at Tully Gym. You showed us a '56 Olympics gymnastics highlights film with Russian Gold medalists Albert Azarian (rings), BorisTchaklin (all around) and the Japanese Ono, etc. Inspirational performances. I was a rank beginner, serving the next couple years as prop man for Gymkana and road trips. I never performed in events as I mention in earlier of my missives. Still, I value my association with FSU gymnastics. On my own, I later became a pretty good lawn tumbler and still did snappy rows of back

Handsprings well into my fifties. Back trouble finally intervened. My point is that you, Jack, inspired us and I thank you. Cheers, Oscar Brock”

{I was informed that Oscar was, fortunately, on high ground watching the laying of eggs from a Cooter Turtle in the pouring rain from the storm. He had to help it back over the fence on her way back to the ocean....{Oscar the Mid-wife...”That warms the cockles of my heart”, as my Irish Granddad use to say....jmm}

Chick & Jennie Cicio	56 years, 57 in April, 07
Don & Connie Holder	55 years, 56 in August, 06
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	53 years, 54 in May, 07
Carmine & Daneen Regna	51 years,
Jim & Marlene Jackson	50 years, 51 in July, 06
Don & Patsy Rapp	50 years, 51 in November 06
Sam & Tpsi Bailie	50years, 51 in June 07
Jon & Boots Culbertson	49 years, 50 in June 07
Jay & Ellie Schwarzman	48 years, 49 in September
Jack & Almira Sharp	47 years of marriage
Beverley & Bill Beaton	45 years
Claire Essig & Dick Traynor	44 years of marriage
Lennart & Karsthin Malmelin	44 years, 44 in May, 07
Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher	42 years, 43 in Dec. 06
Bill & Carole Beavers	37 years, 38 in July, 06
Dick & Susie Gutting	38 years, 39 in June, 07
Wayne & Heather Thompson	36 years, 37 in January 07
Derek & Nancy Lawler	35 years
Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	34 years
Jimmy & Janie Hanks	27 years, 28 in November 06
Fernando & Linda Lecuona	18 years

Bob Hicks | 52-59 | Bob and the Bean Stalk

{Will wonders never cease? Bob sent me a picture of him climbing a rope which he continues to do on a regular basis under the picture is this caption: “Current..... Bob Hicks rope climb much harder than 1950-52 and 1957-59”.....amazing...jmm}

{I have been making some very large wall shelves compete with drawers using paint and my best faux technique. You might ask does he really want us to believe that at his age he still knows how to Faux. ”I want’s you ta now I show do. Eyes a lil slower but Eye’s get’s dah job done.....or I thinks I do.....what waz dee questin?Oh yez, we been talking bout fauxin.”...Well neber mine”....jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millian | 57-67 | Re: DVD great filming by Frank Dennard taken at the Reunion

“Jack - I just spent about a half hour on the phone with Frank Dennard and he is sending me the DVD so you don't have to worry about it. He also said he had gotten in contact with the guy in California that had the rights to the Ted Mack Amateur Hour. He said he had just gotten a copy of a video from him of he and Bob May doing a hand balancing act in, I think he said, 1963”..{Remember Ted Mack you guys and gals?...jmm}

Stu Goldberg | 58-62 | The reunion

“I did hear from Rick {Miller} he was on his way to the Reunion. So it was too short a notice for me as I was into major work here, But I wanted to make my presence known however, so I had him give me Barbara’s phone # and began from there. It took a lot of calls here and there as I couldn’t send the fancy telegram I had in mind, she’s so far out in the boonies I discovered, that it couldn’t have been delivered until the following Monday. Too late. But in calling and asking all the very nice people who wanted to help me there in Florida, I found out about Two Blondes Liquor and Gifts, right down the road, about 7 miles. And when I told Jason, the manager the lady’s name, Barbara “whatisname”, he said her knew her. I figured why not, since it was probably the only retail place around. The long and short of it was that I arranged for him to deliver the best gift basket he could put together, with some wine and cheeses, etc. I sure hope it was worth the effort.”{It sure was worth it. The basket came as a surprise and all crowded around the large beautiful basket to, discover that it was sent by you. There was a group picture with your basket as the central focal point. Very nice work Stud...jmm}....”Did I ever send you a shot of my pal, Jeri? {He did...jmm} She did the great stunts for Kirsten Dunst in the new Spiderman flicks. {I told my son after seeing the movie that whom ever did the stunt work really knew what she were doing. She moved like a gymnast or circus flyers in very fluid movements....jmm} She and her new husband Jack just bought a new home and built a terrific Gym next to it. I’ve visited and worked out with them several times at Santa Monica Pier (every Sunday Muscle Beach) and also at Bob Yerkes place in Northridge (he and I were in the Clyde Beatty Circus at the same time back in the 50’s). Bob has been a stunt man ever since that time and knows about everyone in the business. So I’m looking forward to some kind of life down that way in my later years where I can still up-end and turn over with like minded people, maybe teach some. All I can do up here is the 24 hour workout gym nightly with a few handstands thrown in...no place to bounce. I miss it. Still gives me a thrill even though both shoulders have torn rotator cuffs. Hope the stamp gave you a laugh. Little things like that knock me out. Love and kisses, Stu”

{Stu sent a letter where he said he had finally "made it". I couldn't figure out what in "bejesus" is he talking about? Then I laid down the envelope and letter and finally saw that the stamp was a head shot of Stu in a clown pose.....very humorously clever...jmm} {Every time I write in the name "Stu".....the computers "spell check" wants me to change it to "Stud"..Do you think the computer knows something about Stu that I don't?....jmm}

Charlie Christian | 55-57 | Re: To the Whale story

"Thanks so much for the whale story. I am a big animal lover. A few minutes before I turned on the computer I looked on the deck, which is 10 ft. above ground, and saw a beautiful 6 ft. Black Racer. Do you think I tried to harm it? Heck NO. It was only searching for food. Hopefully it will find a few chipmunks for dinner"

{My response...jmm}

Your Black Racer brought back a funny story. My #2 son, Michael, was with me as we went hunting for snakes around Tallahassee. We would collect them and I would sell them to Ross Allen Institute for \$5. Walking at the edge of a field, I saw the shine of a black snake's skin in the weeds. Quickly, I stabbed and pinned it down with a forked stick I had just cut that morning. Like an explosion from under the grass and littered branches, about four feet from my son, this snakes head shot up about three feet high and stared at us. Just like a King Cobra this was one hell of a big fat black snake swaying in the air. I had but a small bit of the last part of the tip of his tail pinned down. To say it was an electrifying experience for my son and I was an understatement. When I relieved pressure {on the stick that is} it was out of sight like a freight train crashing thru the woods. Man our mouths and hearts were going full throttle after that. He and I still talk about it and laugh at our complete lack of "machismo". Jack

P.S. If you readers didn't receive the "Whale Story" let me know and I will get it to you. It is great...jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millian | 57-67 | Re: Mike emailed Newspaper reports on the Hydrilla weeds clogging up Wakulla Springs

{Mike: I just finished all the Wakulla releases. It reminds me of how the coal miners use to take a canary down with them as a warning because canaries were more sensitive to the poisonous fumes than we humans were and would pass out. Wakulla and other springs are the modern version of the "canary". Thank God the tell tale effects of pollution happened so near where the politicians live in Tallahassee.....FYI... My roof is dried out and is covered with tar paper. At least I have rain protection. Now for the rest of it to go on and then the inside. Eight months of living in a house with plastic covered furniture in the center of the rooms....Fences still blown down....Bummer!...jmm}

Jim & Arlene Fadigan | 52-56/58-62 | Dialogue between Jim & Mike with me listening in

Jim Fadigan:

I spoke to Don {Holder...jmm} and explained your need for his photos on a CD and he agreed to send as such.

Mike Mann:

I had an e-mail from him yesterday, said he had burned the CD and would mail it to me today. If they come in full strength as I expect I will send him copies of both versions of one as I did with Bill's so he can see the difference it will make in what we are able to send out.

Jim Fadigan:

I will send another reminder out to the gang for additional photos.

Mike Mann:

If you haven't already sent this out you may like to add to it. I guess since Don sent those photos from a couple of previous reunions, and old Gymnastic and Gymkana photos that I have already started a collection of historic photos for our next CD. I have added my photos from the Alumni - Varsity Meet and the eighties reunion at Barbara's to Don's for use on the later CD. You might also mention that in addition to this year's reunion photos I am also collecting photos of FSU Gymnastics & Gymkana activities and previous reunion photos that will make up a second CD. Also mention that they should also send any videos they have so that they can be included. Note: That if we get enough now we can go ahead and make the second CD, mail them at the same time and cut down on the mailing cost. Two or three CDs can go in a mailer and it wont cost any more for the postage. A hundred mailers are \$99.00 a hundred blank CD's, about \$30.00.

Jack Miles:

Mike I have so much stuff, pictures, newspaper articles, etc. I have no idea what you would want for the second CD. It might be worth it for me to carry it all up to you. Just had another thought. Leigh is coming down here in the near future. He could carry it back to you. That is if you want it at all. Mike, you're accepting a huge undertaking.

Mike Mann:

Have Leigh bring it up if he will and I will just dig through it and scan it all if necessary. "If folks only have prints from standard cameras and no way to get them into a digital format they can send to me, I'll scan them in and return them along with a CD of just their photos to keep. Mike Mann, 91 Doe Run, Crawfordville, Fl 32327-1427. For more than ten photos,.....if less than ten photos, they can e-mail to (MikeM@Townbeacon.com)

Jim Fadigan: Mike you're doing an exceptional job with the photos and I and many others will benefit from your hard work. Thanks!

{Thanks to the both of you, Jim, from all of us...jmm}