

“Once teammates, always teammates” by Charlie Christian.

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 (Which also includes all back copies of the FSU Gymnastics Newsletters)

ANNIVERSARIES

Chick & Jennie Cicio	57 years, 58 in April, 08	Beverley & Bill Beaton	46 years, 47 in Sept. 07
Don & Connie Holder	56 years, 57 in August, 07	Claire Essig & Dick Traynor	43 years of marriage
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	53 years, 54 in May, 07	Yoshi & Haruyo Hatano	43 years, 44 in Oct. 07
Carmine & Daneen Regna	51 years, 53 in August 07	Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher	42 years, 43 in Dec. 07
Jim & Marlene Jackson	51 years, 52 in July, 07	Dick & Susie Gutting	39 years, 40 in June, 08
Don & Patsy Rapp	51 years, 52 in November 07	Bill & Carol Beavers	39 years, 40 in July, 07
Sam & Topsis Bailie	51 years, 52 in June 08	Terri & Cheri Morris	38 years, 39 in 08
Jon & Boots Culbertson	50 years, 51 in June 08	Wayne & Heather Thompson	37 years, 38 in January 08
Jay & Ellie Schwarzman	49 years, 50 in September 07	Derek & Nancy Lawler	35 years
Jack & Almira Sharp	47 years of marriage	Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	34 years
Lennart & Karsthin Malmlin	47 years of marriage	Jimmy & Janie Hanks	28 years, 29 in November 07

Bob Christians 58-60 /61-62 “Was hoping to make the re-union this year, but today was called to be out-of-the-country on Flying Trapeze business during the dates. Please give my best to all of the Team, Bob “

Dave & Judy Carmolli 57-59? Reunion review “Jack, I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the weekend with old friends and colleagues from the gymnastic team of the 50's. It was awesome! It made me feel great that so many of those attending remembered me. The stories (memories) that many spoke about (*embellishments and all*) were really fun to recall. It is truly astounding that the reunion even takes place as it does. It is more meaningful to me than any class reunion and I am already looking forward to the next get together whenever or wherever it might be.

Jack, I commend you for the work and energy that you have contributed to making all this happen, and I am grateful to you for doing it. Your newsletters are really a hit!
 The attachment, Gymkana on Steroids was *something else!!* Unbelievable if not actually seen with my own eyes. I love this stuff!!
 Anyway, it was great seeing you last weekend and look forward to the monument project moving forward. Dave” “Carrie Zimmerman sent the Gymkana on steroids and blew the minds of so many...jmm}{The total order for more T shirts went in tonight to Dave.....jmm}

Larry Bestmann 55-58 Reunion review “Hello again, Jack. It was really zane (Arabic for good) seeing a contingent of ole FSU gymnasts, some of which haven't appeared for 50+ years. This was my second attendance and I have come to the following conclusions:
 1. A three-day, over-the Memorial Day week-end is too brief for any long conversations.
 2. I recommend that we extend the reunions for at least six months so we can better catch up with all the fantastic things we all have been doing and other lies.
 3. Maybe we can convince Barbara to adopt us. Larry B.
 P.S. I'm attaching an image featuring J. Miles receiving his most noteworthy award.
 {A beautiful poster of the coming Olympics in China photographically reproduced by Larry....jmm}

Ed & Christine Jonas 69-71 Re. Email to Mike Mann Reunion & the Statue Fund “Mike, it was so great to see you at the reunion and tell you how important this web site effort has been to keeping everyone connected. THANKS! I think that the enthusiasm shown by everyone at the dinner and Barbara's was very high and the amount of money that was pledged was beyond my expectations. I hope you see that your efforts supported this trust that everyone has that we can see this thing through to reality.
 I can get Gerald Ensley to do this article as he and I talk frequently and have been friends for many years. I think Fran is right about pursuing a feature article and Gerald is THE MAN at the paper. I'm off to NYC tomorrow early and won't be home until next week so this will have to wait. In the mean time if we could get some good pictures from whomever was shooting that day it would be important to have these to pass on to the paper as well as some historic photos. Again it's great to work with you and I'll be in touch, Ed “

Bill & Carol Beavers 57-61/69-70 Reunion Review “Jack, Great reunion!!! Most of last years attendees plus the addition of Jon & Boots, the Carmolli's and O'Conner's, Miroslav, Nancy, Sandy, Mike and Bess, Chick....wow I'm in a time warp (instead of my usual body warp).Also the enthusiasm for a memorial to the past had great support! I am shocked! More on strategies for that later. Great time, great people! bill & carol”

Jim & Arlene Fadigan 52-56/58-62 Reunion being graded “Your Emails denote your level of activity - congratulations Mike and Jack. Thanks for the weekend all! Jim, Arlene & Lillie”

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **From Fran**

“It was good have a few minutes to chat at Barbara's. It's a pleasure to see the high regard and respect all of you have for each other. You and Mike do so much to make it possible for everybody to stay in touch. That's a real gift to the group. And they seem to know it. Fran”

Jack Miles | **50-58** | **I think I'm going to cry**

Upon my return, Nancy told me that after listening to a Sunday sermon on "God's purpose".... she asked or son Chad, what he thought was his Dad's purpose in life. Chad replied ... "To make people happy".....I was blown away.....and yet an ex-wife of mine said it was the little things I keep doing that bothered her so much.....like breathing.....jmm }

Oscar "Bob" Brock | **58-61** | **Repeat: 1950-1951 Tally-Ho's**

{Oscar called and told me he has a 1950 and a 1951 TALLY Ho for sale. I might be a treasure for one of you. Check the mailing list I sent. He lives in Lake Helen, Florida.... 386-228-3910 or 904-228-3910....jmm }

Benny & Carolyn Wallace | **51-55** | **Vacation & Anniversary trip to Philadelphia**

“Jack Got back yesterday from a wonderful trip. More later but I need to know when you were there last so I won't tell you things you already know. I always write up our journeys for the children and grandchildren so I'll send you a copy. But the good news is that we loved the place and had one of the most successful visits in a lifetime of great trips! BCW

Jack, I know all big cities have bad areas but what we saw was a joy. I'll send a few shots to help you remember. B.
All:

We have just returned from one of the most successful trips we've ever taken. Everything worked out beautifully and we were delighted with Philadelphia. We were immediately aware of the cleanliness of the streets. There is a virtual army of uniformed street sweepers walking around! The weather was near perfect and our hotel was four star and located right in the center of everything. We spent two days travel and seven on the ground.

On the first day we took a taxi to the Visitor's Center and took a trolley tour to get our bearings and gather maps and brochures. We were delighted to find that the excellent buses and nearly all stopped at city hall, just two blocks from our hotel and some stopped right on the corner. They run very frequently so we made good use of them. We were astonished to find that seniors ride free during from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM and all day on the weekend, which suited our schedule very well. And we had another free ride that bears mentioning. We were at a bus stop one chilly morning and a limousine was parked nearby. The driver came over and asked if we would like to wait in the limousine. When he found out our destination he said that his boss was in a meeting for two hours so he drove us out to the museum! It's that kind of a city.

Our focus, as usual, was history and art and the city is a jackpot in those two categories. We spent a total of about fifteen hours during three visits to their world class Philadelphia Museum of Art and several more hours in the smaller Pennsylvania Museum of Fine Arts and excellent Rodin Museum. We visited every room in these fine museums and ate our lunches there as well.

We spent two days in and around Independence Hall where the National Park Service has done an outstanding job of preserving the buildings, displaying the artifacts and conducting tours. Everything is free, well organized and beautifully landscaped. We toured three restored colonial homes including Betsy Ross's as well as Franklin's grave site and two very old and historic churches. Among all of this are large shady parks with lovely spring flowers. We left with a new appreciation of the Park Service and our great country.

At one point we took a tour of city hall, gleaming white in the sunshine, and then went up on the imposing tower, topped by a huge statue of William Penn, for a magnificent view of the area. After that we decided to take a roundtrip ferry ride across the Delaware River to New Jersey but saw no reason to get off since Camden didn't look too inviting.

As you have probably noticed, we had a great time. And aren't you glad that you asked!!
Cheers, B.and C.

Hope you enjoyed what we sent as much as what we did.

You will see in a photo that I am using a cane but I only do it when a lot of walking is involved, as it certainly was on this trip! I have a problem with my right hip but can still "motate". The cane is an asset on airlines because we both are always allowed to board first. Even so, I always have to remember to limp! To paraphrase an old pilot saying, " Yesterday I couldn't spell it; today I *are* one!" Benny and Carolyn {Born and raised in Philly, I had the good fortune to take many, many "Filed Trips" at my school to all the areas Benny mentioned.. History and the arts came alive for me. And for several years I sat on a bench right in front of Independence hall eating my lunch and could see the Liberty Bell when they left the large entrance doors open in the Summer. The bell has been moved and Philly, especially the waterfront and the historical area have been restored.so much to talk about. You have to visit it..Benny, I'm glad you didn't get off in Camden, New Jersey....Nuff sed.....jmm }

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **Reunion photos and video's**

“There are new links on the "Photo and Video Gallery" to the 2007 Reunion Photos and Videos. I have added photos from myself, Bill Beavers and Don Holder and three videos from Saturday by Frank Dennard. Each of the three videos is about ten minutes.

There is a new link on the main page, "Legacy Walk Commemorative Fund Status" page. If you have looked this before you may want to check it again. I have added a Legacy Walk write up by Bruce Davis, a couple of photos from the walk and links to Edward Jonas site and the FSU Legacy Walk information and map pages.

I expect to receive and be adding more photos next week so you might like to check back then too. Mike” {Also, If you've heard about but have never seen Swinging Rings performed, Mike took some films I had and transferred the footage to the Web-Site.....jmm }

Jack Miles 50-58 Forwarding "I don't "forward" many emails along. I leave that job up to Chick Cicio and Larry Bestmann. They are fanatical about forwarding.....even though their mail boxes are always overloaded." {"Dig me" out of this one guys...jmm}

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton 55-59 Her bus trips and review of my "Human Interest" story on the reunion {At the reunion I was fascinated hearing the stories of Beverley, bus trip mostly to and from Noranda, Canada so I asked her to send them to me for the Newsletter.....jmm}

I will add to the bus trip part of the story you've already written which is great! What a tremendous amount of mind gripping and entertaining information you have provided....proof lies in the fact that Bill thoroughly enjoyed it....was interested in Mirek's pictures...said I should get copies, and was pleasantly surprised to see that Mirek had already given me 4 also....he had fun finding me.....and being a hunting fan himself, was fascinated by your efforts to get wild life for food :-)

Now: BUS TRIP: Re the bit about my 45.5 hours on the bus....that wasn't the whole trip! It started from my home in Noranda, Quebec (400 miles north of Montreal). From there I traveled by train overnight to Toronto (about twelve hours), then took a Greyhound Scenicruiser bus straight through to Tallahassee (therein lay the 45.5 hours on the bus)....I became most adept at grabbing the front row seat on the right of the elevated section so that I could see out all around me....at every stop, I piled my sweater, jacket, books on the available aisle half of my seat...leaned against the window and feigned sleep. Never once did anyone disturb me to ask if I'd share the seat! During that long bus ride, I went through 6 or 7 different bus drivers.

I was once treated to a trip by train, which I much preferred, all the way from Noranda to Tallahassee. There was small problem. My train ride ended in Thomasville, Georgia at something like 4 AM. Oh well, there must be a bus to Tallahassee, I surmised. I never found out. When I made my enquiry of the train stations ticket agent, she gave my question some thought, and responded, "The mailman will be leaving soon for Tallahassee. I am sure he will take you there." And so it was. He and I had a pleasant trip, chatting all the way. Upon reaching Tally, he insisted on taking me straight to my dorm, Florida Hall. On top of that, he waited outside in his truck to make sure that I got in safely. Southern hospitality reigned supreme!

I promptly, though exhausted, showered and put on fresh clothes. I grabbed my books and made it to my early morning class on time. That professor took one look at me and decided, I assume, that I looked terrible. Upon asking why I was so pale and dragging, I explained. He sent me packing back to the dorm, merely asking me to make up the work and to hand it in the following class. There is another example of Southern generosity. No wonder I kept raving to those at home about how wonderful life at FSU was. To this day, I feel the same about and in my "other life".

Use that vignette if you like, anytime. As for the trip to the National AAU in Chicago in 1957, I can write about that too, if you wish. I do think that I described that in my own "history".....(yikes...never considered myself as "history").....but if you want it for a newsletter which may reach more people, then I'll write another for you if you like....just let me know.

As for being "history", it has happened to me once before.....upon applying to teach at ECS, I was asked to provide both university and high school transcripts of my grades. The first was easy. The latter was another question. My records from Noranda High School had been forwarded to the Provincial Department of Education in Quebec City. I wrote to the appropriate department, and got nowhere. My next move was to drive to Quebec City, look those concerned in the eye, and emphasize that I needed these records. The jolt occurred when I was informed that they could be retrieved from the "archives". Woe was I to learn that, I had already been relegated to such a category. The trip in person did, at least, get me a copy of those grades. Once again, I succumbed to a reluctant resignation to the facts of life. (Listening to Bev talk about he trans USA jaunts, was like a leap back in time. But that's nothing compared to what she and the girls went through to get to the nationals I 1957..more on that another time,...jmm}

Bill & Carol Beavers 57-61/69-70 Statue Project Chairman email to the statue committee "Thanks to the vision, politicking, challenges, and efforts of Mike, Jack, Ed, Barbara, Jim and others we have a goal and purpose to our group other than annual reunions. I was surprised and impressed by the magnitude of what those in attendance at the 2007 reunion thought they could give financially to the statue or memorial project. Here are a few thoughts and suggestions going forward to build upon the \$25,000 already committed:

We need to actually put some \$ in the account FSU will set up with clear steps on how the money contributed could be returned if the plan is aborted in its early stages.

We need to poll the non-attending gymnastics alumni and newsletter recipients on what they might be willing to contribute.

I or the committee needs a list of potential outside donors such as wealthy individuals who may have some connection to the sport, or are personal friends of anyone in the group.

We also need to build a list of potential business or corporate donors. I would use caution in approaching any corporation on your own at this point for the following reason:

I was involved in several large projects during my years at Ga. Tech that required large chunks of money from corporate donors. Our Development Office probably operates in a similar fashion to FSU's and did not appreciate anyone independently approaching a corporation for donations for any campus project. The development staff cultivates relationships with large corporations and may be simultaneously working with them on other and probably bigger projects. We may squash a big donation to FSU by "pestering" them for relatively small donations. I feel any approach to a corporation should have the blessing of the FSU Development Office before we make a pitch. In fact, perhaps the development office would approach corporate donors on our behalf once we have actually donated money toward the project.

This brings up another point some of us talked about at the reunion; what would a corporate donor want in return for a large

donation in terms of recognition/advertising??? Would we want the RJ Reynolds or the Halliburton memorial gymnastics statue?

Worse yet, would we want a "that was easy" button on our plaque?

I'm sure the FSU Development people would have much experience in this arena, and that if a further reason for them to approach and negotiate with potential corporate contributors

We still need your suggestions and need to build a list. If you have personal contacts in the corporate world or just have some ideas of corporations we should approach, send them to us.

Lastly, perhaps we can use the relatively new Alumni Directory to locate Gymkana participants for possible contributions via mail. I do not know if the Alumni Association would have a problem with this and they probably should be asked to approve such a solicitation. Of course the alternative is to go ahead and then apologize! On this project, perhaps we can build an alphabetical list from old Gymkana programs as a first step.

Let me or anyone on the Statue Committee hear from you on any of this. Your thoughts, volunteerism and money will always be appreciated! bill" [I emailed a list that I had compiled of every gymnast Gymkana members, Tots et al. (1950-1971 @290 persons), The challenge now is to obtain contact numbers from as many as possible..jmm][That list emailed upon request – on one page }

Terry & Sheri Morris | 66-70 | Lost but found Great to hear from Terry & Cheri

“Hi, Jack! Cheri and I will take two T-shirts, one large and one extra large.

I have not weighed in to the FSU gymnastics/Gymkana dialogue but do read the emails and appreciate what you have created. I was at FSU from the fall of 1966 to June of 1970. You taught me my high bar dismount, a reverse fly-away with half twist on one of your infrequent visits to Tallahassee. Our paths also crossed in Ft. Lauderdale a few times at the winter (December) gymnastics sessions that were held there each year.

Cheri and I met on the gymnastics team, which was club status by the time we arrived. Cheri was a tumbling tot in her youth while her father finished his doctorate at FSU following his retirement from the Air Force. Cheri went to high school at Stranahan in Ft. Lauderdale. I taught the Tallahassee Tumbling Tots for a period while in school.

We celebrated our 38th Anniversary earlier this year with a trip to St. John, VI. We have two children, three grands (4, 6 & 8) by our daughter, Kristen. We all live within a mile of each other here in Atlanta, just a couple miles north of Bill and Carol Beavers. We have been close friends of many years now. Their oldest son, Michael, and Kristen are the same age. Bill was our gymnastics coach at FSU when Bill was in grad school. Eddie Jonas was on the team with us at that time while aspiring to become the artist that he is today.

When I couldn't find a gym in my early thirties, I started rock climbing, a natural for any gymnast who appreciates heights and likes risk, a natural transition after four years of doing the "tables and chairs" act in Gymkana. No spotting belts in those days like Cirque. We were not any better, just not as smart, in hind sight.

Our address is 45 Stewart Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30342. I'll send our check to the address below. How much should we add for shipping? Hope our paths cross again some day. Best personal regards, Terry {Thank you Terry & Sheri we shared many paths and am so glad to have you aboard.....jmm }

Chick & Jennie Cicio | 54-59 | Reunion Review

“ Enjoyed the reunion and all the memories. Some of us looked the same others a bit different. I found our bodies have changed and our hair

grayer BUT our personalities were the same. Bev {He means Barbara..... Barb & Bev, the “Wow Wow” Girls, or sometimes called the B&B girls, are always mistaken for each other.....jmm} is quite the lady, she could have rented her houses with ease for the Memorial Day weekend.

The organization was good as it seemed by the assignments that were given as who did what etc. I helped wash dishes and tagged along to help buy the food. Next time I'll get more involved. Take care & ciao.....Chick”
{Talk about the deal of the century. \$30.00 for the event, all the great food and drink you could want for up to three days and then get a free unique T shirt worth \$15.00, plus enough hugs and handshakes to help you make it until the next reunion...And that's not counting the screamingly low room rates, beachside offered by Barbara....unbelievable.....jmm }

Jack Miles | 50-58 | Reunion review and human interest story

First of all,,,,,,tonight I just received a great and well done video of the reunion put together by Claire *Essig* Traynor's son

from pictures she took at the reunion. {My God, who are all those old people looking at the camera with their mouths wide open trying to get a word in?}. I only met young, lighthearted friendly people there. She sent the video to Mike and Mike told her that he will be putting it on the Web-Site. It is a must see. If you weren't there you'll go nuts trying to figure out who you are looking at.

Secondly, At the Saturday Night Dinner, at which forty-one people attended, there were several special guests. I had the honor of introducing my ex-wife, Bess, to the group and thanking her for helping raise our two wonderful children, Sandy & Michael, who the group had a chance to meet that day at the Barbara's beach house. And before the story gets out, yes, as I introduced her I got choked up in gratitude. That came as an unexpected shock to me. As I introduced her as we moved along the banquet tables (Knowing she would not recognize many of them) they treated her like a queen in that most of them knew her when our children and we all played together back in the mid-fifties.

.Also present at the reunion and sitting with Ed Jonas was Donna McHugh, VP Community Relations, FSU, and Francis Conaway, Director of Special Projects FSU who came to meet the group.

Besides being very gracious and professional they were both very cute (I had to replace the batteries in my pace maker after meeting them) ---no, no there really isn't a pacemaker, but they were better to look at then looking at the rest of the bunch.

Anyway, where was ?. I was "gressing" regressing, digressing, and now progressing to the point.

I wrote a "Human Interest" story about the reunion. Fran Millians proofed it and brilliantly suggested the closing sentence. I then sent it to several people for review. Let me quote from an email I sent to Donna and Francis:

"Dear Donna and Francis:

I was very nice to meet you both at the "FSU Gymnastics Reunion". I apologize for when I failed to properly introduce you both to the group after standing up and starting to blab away. Nevertheless, be comforted in knowing that absolutely everyone knew you both were there and that they were excited by the honor you bestowed on our group by your presence.

Francis, I was baited by a comment you made to Donna where you said that you were impressed at the annual gathering by the fact that so many FSU gymnasts and friends have been meeting regularly after a half century of friendship... and that the uniqueness of it all would make a good article of "Human Interest"

After returning back to South Florida, I jumped out of a bubble bath, wrapped a towel around myself and sat down at the computer (Now that's a sad picture isn't it?). I had idea on how to create such a story. You can find it here as an attachment. Hopefully you will enjoy it and I would appreciate hearing of your reaction. Be brutal. I won't cry that long.

To quote from an email I sent to one of my Newsletter recipients, for a review, I wrote: "This article was meant to be a precursor to the fundraiser effort before it was actually decided what the "Statue" would be, estimated total cost ,and all the important details needed before to fund-raising push was offered up to the general public. That is why I held off on introducing the "Statue" efforts until three quarters of the way through the article. It is just a sneak peak. My goal in writing is always to make it very conversational, interest the reader at the beginning - keep the rhythm religiously going (when read out loud to myself), keep the reader hooked and only breaking that rhythm when there is a pertinent point that need be stressed. Hence all the foreplay at the outset.

However the article is used, or finally published, is academic to me. I had always planned to attach it to my Newsletter in the hopes that the 50% of the people who did not attend will catch the same spirit as we felt at the reunion and join in. It means much more to them then it would to the readers at large. Jack".....Donna and Fran you have my best of regards, Jack Miles

Like a producer of a Broadway Show I waited for the critics reviews.

Fran Conaway: "Dear Jack, This is a great story. I have some ideas for its use and will let you know. Thanks.--Fran

Ed Jonas: "Jack, That was a great story and I am proud to be included with everyone mentioned. You put a great frame on it and really underlined the bonds that hold that group together, several of those stories I have never heard, WOW! Something will be done with this, I am sure!"

Fran Millians, To Mike "Well, I do like Jack's article. It needs some editing; he takes a full page and at least 1/3 more to get to the current push for the statue. Maybe that's not a bad thing, either. It's heartfelt and well expressed, the same things you feel about the group. You may tell Jack that I will start having bubble baths if it'll make me write like that."

Fran Millians to Jack: "You have captured the sense of close connection, love, and respect you all have for each other. Whatever I do to the article, please don't change that tone."

Bill Beavers: "Jack, This is really a cool story and a great slant. I'm going to start doing bubble baths!"

{The reunion story is attached. It serves a great purpose in that it was written for you Newsletter readers. Francis Donaway , Ed Jonas, and Mike Mann have contacts that would also be interested in the story for other publications.....jmm}.

Merik & Anna Ceska	55-60	And	Claire Essig (Mrs. Dick) Traynor	59-62	And who has been sleeping in my bed?
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The story goes like this. Merik had been a visitor at Barbara's for several days. When Claire arrived Barbara asked if he would mind sleeping in another room and let Claire sleep in the room Merik was vacating .

Merik of course agreed and everyone settled in for the night. In the middle of the night Merik had a senior calling and feeling his way down the dark halls found the bathroom. While he was in the bathroom, Claire gets up for the same reason and finds her way into the other bathroom. While she was in there Merik, works his way down the hall back to his bed. Groggy and sleepy he accidentally goes back to the same room he had been in the few days before Claires arrival and climbs under the covers to go back to sleep. The stage is now set.

Claire now returns to her assigned bedroom and in the dark starts to climb under the covers with Merik. No screaming, but a lot of jumping straight up, mumbling, apologizing, embarassment and confusion until they finally settled in for the night in their assigned rooms. – hearts beating wildly. It was said that Merik had such a hard time trying to get out of the room once Clair had discovered that he was there that he was still exhausted from the struggle the next morning.....but he did escapejmm