

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, Tallahassee Tumbling Tots, and Friends Newsletter, Mid- May 2010
(Fifty-Four Edition) jackmmiles@bellsouth.net

“Once teammates, always teammates” by Charlie Christian.

Visit your Web-Sites <fsugymnastics.org><tallahassee tumblingtots.org> Mike Mann, Webmaster
 (Which also includes all back copies of the FSU Gymnastics Newsletters)

FSU Gymnastics Records (<http://www.nolefan.org/summary/index.html>) Robert Perrone, Webmaster

ANNIVERSARIES

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Chick & Jennie Cicio | 60 years, 61 in April, 11 | Terri & Cheri Morris | 43 years, in 2010 |
| Don & Connie Holder | 59 years, 60 in August 10 | Bill & Carol Beavers | 42 years, 43 in July, 10 |
| Benny & Carolyn Wallace | 57 years, 58 in May 11 | Dick & Susie Gutting | 41 years, 43 in June, 10 |
| Ed & Jean Fernald | 57 years, 58 in June 10 | Wayne & Heather Thompson | 40 years, 41 in January 11 |
| Don & Patsy Rapp | 56 years, 57 in May 11 | Derek & Nancy Lawler | 36 years, 37 in 2010 |
| Carmine & Daneen Regna | 55 years, 56 in August 10 | Gail & Bill Whitney | 37 years, 39 in August 10 |
| Jim & Marlene Jackson | 54 years, 54 in July, 10 | Harmer & Magdalena Weichel | 37 years, 38 in December 10 |
| Sam & Topsy Bailie | 53 years, 54 in June 10 | Andy Anderson & Curtiss Long | 35 years, 36 in December 10 |
| Jon & Boots Culbertson | 52 years, 53 in June 10 | Joe & Dottie Taylor | 32 years, 33 in September 10 |
| Roger & Tamara Tucker Webb | 52 years, 53 in November 10 | Jimmy & Janie Hanks | 31 years, 32 in November 10 |
| Beverley & Bill Beaton | 49 years, 50 in Sept. 10 | Thom & Linda O'Conner | 31 Years, 32 in May 11 |
| Yoshi & Haruyo Hatano | 45 Years, 46 in Oct. 10 | Carrie Englert & Curtis Zimmermann | 29 Years, 30 in 2010 |
| Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher | 45 years, 45 in Dec. 10 | | |
| Jay (& Ellie) Schwarzman | Were married 50 years | Karsthin (& Lennart) Malmlin | Were married 47 years |
| Almira (& Jack) Sharp | Were married 48 years | Claire Essig (& Dick) Traynor | Were married 43 years |

Plan to attend the 2010 reunion – days away

Friday May 21, Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23, 2010
At Barbara Withers' Alligator Point Beach Home

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **The current reunion form**

“Folks -The current reunion form is on the web site at reunion information,

Registration Form

You can click it here or there to load it into MS Word, you can then use word to fill it in, and either save it and attach it to an E-mail to Barbara or it can be printed from there for snail mailing. Mike”

Charlie Christian | 55-57 | **The Gardener**

“Jack, Thank you. I basically sent the message because I am so tired hearing about and seeing the lines of **Feed the Hungry recipients who will not hit a lick at a snake to help themselves. Why make an effort when they receive free handouts?**

It makes my heart feel good to see vacant lots in communities being donated to groups with a leaders who will teach hungry families (including the children) to till, plant, fertilize, cultivate and pick to feed themselves. It's a community effort which creates pride in what the not so well off can accomplish if given a chance.

This year our county volunteers planted, picked and donated 7.5 tons of vegetables to the Feed the Hungry. As you can imagine, not one of the recipients have ever offered to pitch in and help the volunteers in any way.

Bill Cosby and Herman Cain have sent messages to their brothers and sisters.....*We don't owe you anything. Get off your butts and do something to deserve it. This country wasn't founded or exists to provide free handouts to citizens who do nothing to contribute.*

Last year I planted two tomato plants which provided tomatoes until frost plus filled the freezer. Approximate cost? About \$5.00 plus a little time and effort. Of course a little gardening know how and knowing how to freeze helped a great deal.

This morning I received an email from my Son Alan saying his 6 year old Son Lex planted and put the cages around their tomatoes last Sat. Like Father like Son. See the **attached picture from 1971.” (Charlie sent some great pictures of him and his son planting vegetables. And now that son is teaching the Grandson. It touched my heart.jmm }**

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 |

“Jack - In at least one of your mailing please tell everyone that attends the reunion to please get copies of any photos to me so that I can post them on the web site as I have done in previous years.”

See; 2009 (http://fsugymnastics.org/Photos/Reunion%202009/FSU_Reunion%202009.htm)
2008 (http://fsugymnastics.org/Photos/Reunion%202008/FSU_Reunion%202008.htm)
2007 (http://fsugymnastics.org/Photos/Reunion%202007/FSU_Reunion%202007.htm).

Bill & Carol Beavers | 57-61/69-70 |

“Jack, btw, we will be going to Calif. Tues and not be back until May.

Been working on the house on the river so much, I've not competed much. I have passed up 6 or 7 races in FL since last Fall. I did a 8 mile race in SC a few weeks ago and just passed a 30 year old within 4 tenths of a mile from the finish line in Beaufort Harbor and flipped the boat. Had to be rescued by the safety boats. Just in time, a big barge went through just after. Not sure if they would have seen me in the water! How humiliating! Did better in a 13 mile race in Rome , GA last Sat. However, I got so cramped in my hamstrings and glutes, that I couldn't get out of the boat easily. Time to start training again!
Bill”

Later E-Mail

Jack,. “You must not have received the e-mail below. As it turns out, this meeting in Omaha has some problems with others that planned to get together. So if things change you can be sure I will try to make it down for our reunion. Carol is off to Mobile tomorrow to do some more work with the BP people. Bill

Below E-Mail

I regret to inform you all that Carol and I will not be attending the reunion this year. One of my best friends and the one who got me started in gymnastics will be in Omaha to see his daughters and grand kids at the same time as our reunion. I have not seen Jim since I was in his wedding (1st wife) back in 1958. Although we talk on the phone and e-mail occasionally, we have not been together since '58. Also the remainder of our 1956 National YMCA runner-up team (two others) will be there as well. (We were second to Abie and his West Side Y Juggernaut)

I'm sorry this mini-gymnastics reunion will conflict with this years FSU gathering. Perhaps I will give you all a call. I know it will go well and you will have a great time. If things change, I will be there to help pick up oil balls on Barbara's beach!
Perhaps of interest, Carol is handling the emotional trauma of 7 of BP's platform survivors. That has kept her busy since just after the incident. Love to all. Bill

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | **Reunion**

“Yep, I'll be there, Jack...only 2 weeks to go. Heather is giving my ticket for my birthday. She travels so much, she accumulates air miles quickly. She has been in Hawaii until today, so hasn't had the chance to check what's available. I'm hoping to arrive May19 and leave the 26th (or May 18th, leaving the 25th) to give Barbara hand a few days before and after. Also to enjoy my favourite place, and best friends. I wish I could stay even longer, but I have a commitment to the 3 girls I tutor, and their exams come up the second week in June. Will have to schedule the sessions they'll miss before or after my trip.

See y'all soon, eh? (Can use "y'all" in you're part of the world. It'd raise eyebrows around here). "Eh", I use everywhere, as does every Canadian I know. Just for fun, some days I keep track of how often I hear that... it's a surprisingly large number”
{Historical fact: The expression “y'all” comes from the braying of a mule, “Y'all, Y'all”....only the “Y” is pronounced “E”....jmm}

Barbara Sheehan Withers | 54-62 | **Reunion**

“Dear jmm, you have again put together a remarkable piece - so much news from so many people and so interesting! Can't wait for the reunion and to see everyone again. Got Joe Gusic's registration in the mail today...things are looking up! Looking forward also to seeing Chad and Nancy when they come for orientation/registration/whatever. Tax season - at least the initial part - is over and I now have time to breathe. And play tennis...my last team match today (A-6 doubles) at Killlearn, won 6-3, 6-2 against some very young opponents which makes me feel really good. Love, Hugs and more hugs. Barbara”

Carrie Englert & Curtis Zimmerman | TTT | **Off to see another world championships**

“Hey Jack. Wonderful to hear from you. I am thrilled to hear Chad is heading to FSU. They will be lucky to have him:) We are leaving for South Africa on June 8 for World Cup. I am so sorry we will miss you both. Obviously, ya'll have more reasons to head up this way, so please know you always have a place to stay. Also, once Chad gets situated, if he is ever looking for a job which can be flexible around his schedule, just let me know. We have runners and some other goffer positions for college students. Just keep it in mind. Hope ya'll are well. Remember the offer always stands. Love, Carrie”

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | The blessings of old age

“{Hunting for a few blessings that come with old age I discovered that a problem I have had from early childhood has finally been

corrected. I have always been so hyperkinetic, nervous and jerky which felt like, “My skin was on too tight” (I even declared that revelation to Don Rapp at the last reunion). Consequently, I have always...as many of you know....bitten my finger nails right down to the stubs.

Well, Walla...now with the slowdown of many (but not all) bodily systems I am now the proud owner of a full set of manicured finger nails and I am now one of y'all. I had no idea what I was missing all those years. Nails are great....for a discrete but speedy scratch or two and mostly for “picking”. i.e. picking up dimes has never been so easy....jmm}.

FSU - 2010 ATTENDEES. (05-12-10)

When each attendee will arrive and leave is attached

Barbara Sheehan Withers
Beverley *Cude* Beaton
Bill Beavers*
Bruce & Rita Davis
Claire *Essig* Traynor & Guest
Dick Gutting
Judge Jim Jonas & Possibly Bob Perrone
Gail Sontgerath & Bill Whitney
Jack Miles
Jane Baesman
Jim & Arlene Fadigan
Joe Greene & Guest
Joe Gusic
Larry Bestmann & Dorie
Leigh Heisinger & Wife*
Mike Mann & Fran Millians

*Bill Beavers and M/M Leigh Heisinger expressed that they might be free to attend...uncertain obligations

Beverley *Cude* & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | Cirque du Soleil and Re. Last Newsletter

“Hi, Jack, Bob Bollinger, a former

paramour??? Not exactly....our one (first and last) "date" was that infamous horseback riding event. I didn't want to go in the first place, never having been on a horse. But I was persuaded to try it since I would be given a gentle horse, just right for a beginner. So much for that: my gentle horse picked up speed heading straight for a fence. Bob, too, sped up.... to the rescue, I presume. Unaware of anything else, I just bailed out...off that horse and rolled safely on the ground. Bob? I don't know, because I didn't see it, but somehow he ended up with a broken leg. Our trip back to Tallahassee was just as scary because I didn't know how to drive, but had to. Somewhere in a former newsletter, this escapade is documented.

Lastly, Cirque du Soleil, April 23rd: WOW! (What else???) This production is very different from any other I've seen. The setting: at once a smoothly changing pond, dried up basin, lake, ocean, with calm shimmering water, rippling waves, breakers rushing in threatening to spill over onto the audience. A simple backdrop of tall reeds was stunningly realistic. Such visual effects are reminiscent of those used at the Opening Ceremonies of the recent Vancouver Olympics.

And now, because my own wording would not do the creators justice, I quote from the Cirque's program (which I will bring to the reunion) to more accurately give you the theme:

"TOTEM: The odyssey of the human species. "Totem" encompasses all of the potential we carry within ourselves. Totemism refers to the animal in Man. It contains the very idea of evolution and our bodies are living exemplars of it, because our species carry traces of all species. This evolutionary journey is the thread that runs through TOTEM."

"TURTLE: World-bearing totemic animal. An island to be explored....The show unfolds on a stage in the shape of a giant turtle, which symbolizes Earth in many creation myths. When TOTEM begins, a dried-up turtle shell reveals the world of primordial beings living underneath."Neanderthals, Cro-Magnons, primates and men in suits set out on their evolutionary quest for knowledge. This interpretation is the line that runs through the show."

The finale was exuberant. The troupe danced and cavorted in tune to lively, uplifting music. Their faces beamed, partly because of the audience's noisy approval, but mostly, I think it was because they were having so much fun themselves. Entering the tent earlier entertained a feeling of curiosity, excitement. Leaving it was more sobering, but the magic remains. What a show! Bev”

Harmer & Magdalena Maggie Weichel | 48-53/59-61 | Re: Former Student in Curlew Job Corp.

“To: Tejada, Carlos
Subject: Curlew Job

Corps“Carlos, I received Jack Miles email about you just a few days ago. What a coincidence and surprise. Thank you for your kind remarks. It really makes me feel good to know I influenced a student. I don't know what I said or did that helped you but something clicked. I am 80 now and you must be about 60. With your age and experience you now understand what a tough job it was to be a Job Corps teacher. We all tried hard because we knew what was waiting for you guys in life w/o an education. Ralph Watson and Martin Holzman , teachers, passed away over the years. You may remember them. Willy Canty, teacher, visited Curlew last year to see who was left. I remember the day I took you guys hiking and someone made the photos. Hiking was one way to help Corpsmen have some healthy positive experiences. Currently I am in Daytona Beach, Fla. taking care of my 100 year old mom. I am also married and live with my fine wife in Cherokee, NC. I am sure you have a great wife and family and even grandchildren to whom you are trying to pass on some values. Curlew was a long time ago but a great time. I still think about the center and the people I once knew. Drop an email if you get a chance. I see you have an office phone #. You must be an executive. Peace Harmer Weichel”

Harmer & Magdalena Maggie Weichel | 48-53/59-61 | Response to above.

“Mr. Harmer Weichel:

What a pleasant surprise !!!!.....I am glad to hear from you and to know that you are in good health and doing well. I like to thank Mr. Jack Miles for sending you my e-mail and pictures.

I am in contact, e-mailing back and forth with Therrelly Worsley (Aka... Shannadoah) and as we were looking and exchanging pictures from 1966 Curlew, we remember the times in the gym, when you did different gymnastic routines, has you try to teach us how to flip, twist and jump.... (“By the way I almost broke my neck”)..... Just Kidding

We remember that you mention graduated from Florida State University (FSU) and that is how Shannadoah found Mr. Jack Miles articles and I found the pictures on FSU Men’s Varsity Gymnastic Teams 1950 AND 1951. Here Attached. We have very good memories from Curlew Job Corps Center and talking to each other we set out to find has many friends has we can from that era.

We both have our profile with pictures of 1966 Curlew JCC Alumni in FACEBOOK.

Have about 60 pictures from Curlew Friends but our problem is that can’t remember names of all the group. You will find a picture of Camp Director Mr. Orval O’Way (We think that’s the name) standing next to Tex. I will be adding your e-mail on my FACEBOOK PROFILE, so that you can help us put names to so many faces of friends that we can’t remember their names. Mr. Weichel, you influenced so many youngsters there at Curlew just by talking and dealing with us, on a one to one bases.

Living among us, in the same base, teaching us (24 / 7) 24 hrs. 7 days for a whole year. Giving up your personal life and interest to give direction and education to all of us. All of us were from low income, under privilege families. Most of our parents if not all, had good family values but not enough money to spend on education. We found it, a good place live and an education in Curlew JCC. Excellent and admirable teachers / instructors / advisors / counselors and down to earth human beings.

I got so many good things, experiences and memories from Curlew that it would take many hours, if not days or months just to describe in details how I was influence and educated by your teaching and all the rest of Curlew Staff. After graduating from Gary Job Corps Center with a Heavy Equipment Repair and Diesel Mechanic Diploma and also my G.E.D. , I got drafted in the U.S. Army. I serve and was discharge with Honorable Discharge and Letters of Commendations.

After the army I took advantage of my GI Bill and continue my education.

Associate Degree.... Accounting

Associate Degree.... Draftsman-Designer Technology

I continue to become a Mechanical Engineer. I work in the Oil & Gas Industry. Engineering, Designing and Fabrication of the Offshore drilling platforms and on land drilling rigs, for Drilling and Exploration. Offshore and on land.

With your permission I would like to stay in contact with you and I will follow up with pictures of my family, lovely wife, my children and grand-children.

Give my Kind Regards to your mother and wife. Receive my best regards, respect and admiration. I will follow up with more in the near future. Carlos P. Tejada”

Jim & Arlene Fadigan | **52-56/58-62** | **Email from Jim recruiting for the Reunion** “Pam: We, and you were a big part of that, the gymnasts and Gymkana people from FSU have the most participated in and fun reunion every year at Alligator Point. This reunion is special since so many of the people, including you, that made that happen are getting - yes - older. Accommodations are great but the spirit of what all of us are about is abundant. Better vibes than a round of gold. Bring friends. Call me about this because it is really special. Jim”

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **Letter from Mike’s daughter** {Note. Tim is Mike’s grandson....jmm}“Hey, Daddy. Thought I’d send these out. Tim’s gymnastics gala was tonight, and this is the first year that he told us about it before it started! It turns out he is one of the top 2 boys in the class. In the handstand contest shots, his are the black socks sticking up in the air (In accompanying photos only the black, sock clad feet were visible over the heads of the crowd-MM). He won all of those. He was the only one who demonstrated on the pommel horse, the other top guy demonstrated rings. Afterward, Tim showed us some of his rings work.

Also, we got his grade report recently, and he got two Bs (one in gymnastics, one in science, which is an AP course) and the rest were As, including Math. He’s come a long way from nearly flunking the first semester last year. On the state testing he earned a “commendation” for his reading ability. I don’t put too much stock in the testing. He earned a commendation last year, and independent testing showed that he read at a 5th grade level. I guess if you set the standards low enough, everyone passes, right? Thank you, Bush. He has started reading for pleasure, though, so that is good. Joanna”

{Mike. You must have done something right.... Beautiful family Mike..... So it seems your grandson will follow in your footsteps. Jack & Almira Sharp’s grandson, a Jet pilot, married a gymnast. Cicio, Signorelli & Guttings sons were all gymnasts. Bob Murray's son became an actor/director, Bollinger's son became an artistic director for Cirque. Words that are said by us around our off-springs borrow down deep inside. We are sending out vibes of which we are not even aware....jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **Yearly web site activity report** “Visitor statistics though May 8, 2010. Some highlights;

1. We have about 1,000 unique visitors per month.
2. Google or otherwise search with "FSU" and "Gymnastics" in any combination and our site turns up at the top of the list. "Tallahassee Tumbling Tots" and/or "Gymkana" search will be at or near the top of the list.
3. Most visitors are in the afternoon between 1pm and 5pm and most in early to mid week.
4. Most visits are 30 minutes or less, a few over an hour.
5. Top connections to site are directly from Google, Google (images), Yahoo.

I forgot to mention as one of the highlights is that a number of "lost" gymnastic team or Gymkana show members have been found via the web site. They have sent E-mails to either me or Jack and have been added to his newsletter mailing list.

I few months ago I heard from Steven Zindell from Beavers' sixties teams. He had stumbled onto the web site and sent me an E-mail. He had planned to make this year's reunion but later had to back out for this year. He lives north of Chicago and I suggested that he contact Gusic and arrange to travel with him and avoid needing a car while here since Barbara usually arranged transportation from and to the airport. We hope to see him next year. Mike