

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, Tallahassee Tumbling Tots, and Friends Newsletter, August 2010

(Fifty-Seventh 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

Chick & Jennie Cicio	60 years, 61 in April, 11	Terri & Cheri Morris	44 years, in 2010
Don & Connie Holder	60 years, 61 in August 11	Bill & Carol Beavers	42 years, 43 in July, 11
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	57 years, 58 in May 11	Dick & Susie Gutting	43 years, 44 in June, 11
Ed & Jean Fernald	58 years, 59 in June 11	Wayne & Heather Thompson	40 years, 41 in January 11
Don & Patsy Rapp	56 years, 57 in May 11	Derek & Nancy Lawlor	37 years, 38 in 2010
Carmine & Daneen Regna	56 years, 57 in August 11	Gail & Bill Whitney	38 years, 39 in August 11
Jim & Marlene Jackson	55 years, 56 in July, 11	Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	37 years, 38 in December 10
Sam & Topsi Bailie	54 years, 55 in June 11	Andy Anderson & Curtiss Long	35 years, 36 in December 10
Jon & Boots Culbertson	53 years, 54 in June 11	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	30 Years, 31 in 2011
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

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | Tribute to Barbara Sheehan Withers {“We have collected over the past month twenty- four emails of testimony, love, and gratitude and compiled them into a “Tribute” to Barbara for all she has done for us, and them, from those who had attended one or more of the annual reunions. Many former attendees were on vacation (some physically – some mentally) and could not meet our deadline...Nonetheless, I can easily & gladly add their testimonies at a later date. I sent the four full page collections via email to those former attendees. If you did not receive a copy and would like a copy please let me know and I will email you a copy right away.....jmm }

Benny & Carolyn Wallace | 51-55 | Pat Signorelli “Friends:

The news of the death of Pat is yet another case of the unraveling of the fabric of my youth. The death of any person diminishes all who knew him or her and, in this case, burdens us at a time in most of our lives when death looms larger each day: "Ask not for whom the Bell tolls ---."

Happily, Pat came to see us a couple of years ago (after around 50 years) so he left us with that great smile of his as he waved and drove away. He was always the good guy and kept the peace among our rampant egos and late night arguments as we consumed what little beer and spaghetti that we could afford. Dick Gutting probably owes his life to Pat for the many times that Pat diffused the epic verbal duels between him and Scotty!

In my business, many friends have died and I know from bitter experience that he will come to me now in my dreams; I'll be young again and we'll sing Italian songs, eat spaghetti and do handstands on anything marginally stationary. Then, sadly, I will wake up as an old man and lie there for a long time trying to adjust to reality. Perhaps you all know --or will know -- the feeling. He taught me a one arm handstand in an era before little girls could do that.

Pat, Gene Rabbitt, Jack Sharp and Scotty Stanton: They all come to me out of the mists of time to remind me of a wonderful youth. I've been just about everywhere and done a lot of exciting things but I suspect that, when the final curtain is about to fall and my life flashes before me, there will be a bit of a pause for those memorable years at FSU. Farewell Pasquale, I'll never forget you.....Benny”

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | Pat Signorelli “ Jack I have “Attached” a wonderful photograph from Don Holder which shows Pat Signorelli and Don & Connie Holder for all our Newsletter readers with instructions on reproduction and printing, Mike”

Gail Sontgerath & Bill Whitney | 62-67 | Pat Signorelli “Jack, I was saddened by Pat’s passing. Some can never be replaced. Take care. Gail”

Barbara Sheehan Withers | 54-62 | Crocodile { Responding to a photo series of a man who had made a 17’, 980 lb. croc his close friend and playmate on land and in the water...jmm }
“Jack, these are amazing! I visited a crocodile farm in Australia last October and this brought back memories of that trip. We were in a boat and they gave us food to throw out and the Crocs jumped out of the water to catch the food - I was scared they were going to jump right in our boat! Thanks for sharing. Barbara”

Benny & Carolyn Wallace | **51-55** | **Tombstone**

{ Benny sent me a photo of a tombstone inscribed with

“Benny Wallace 1932-2032”}

Written below..... “I have recently renewed my pact with the devil and am happy to send the result”

My response..... “I thought you might take over his job”

Benny....., “At my age, not horny enough!”

Jack..... “I bow to a pun by the Grand Master”

Beverley Cude | **55-59** | **“Tribute to Barbara**

“To all who contributed to these letters of gratitude to Barbara:

Credit where credit is due! We must thank Jack for compiling not only this piece of work, but for having kept us in touch throughout each year via his 55 newsletters. He has created another form of history for this group.

Mike, too, is to be commended for his dedication to keeping the FSU Gymnastics website current, informative and so very creative.

Thank you both for your time and commitment,.....Bev”

Barbara Sheehan Withers | **54-62** | **Re. Varicose Veins and “Wave Slamming” Boat Ride**

“Jack, please let me know how your varicose vein

surgery went...I know it will be a great relief when it is completed, I am not laughing!!! Also, your Father's Day boat ride brought back many memories of my own experiences in my former husband's 23' Roballo fishing boat, when I would have been glad to jump overboard and swim with the sharks, vs. bobbing up and down on the seat and almost flying out of the boat (of course this was in my lighter days when I only weighed 108 - probably would not have the problem today).”

..... {I feel wonderful. The operation seemed so simple compared to the one I had twenty years ago – medical procedures have change so much. Operation while fully awake and instead of being wrapped in an ice pack for two weeks I was walking that day and driving on my own the next. The results are amazing - except for a little temporary bruise discoloration I am now able to wear a bathing suit or shorts in public without thinking everyone is staring at my ugly legs..... Don Holder, Beverley, and my brother also told me of similar experiences with the speeding fishing boat on the waves.....we all learned the hard way to be standing up not sitting next time. Surprisingly I feel great. Hernia & Varicose veins now healed. Except for slight soreness in back and ribs (which are much better) I feel fine. Chad said, "You're one tough cookie Dad" .I told him, "I am more like an old leather belt – full of cracks and creases but can still hold up my pants" Love, Jack

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | **55-59** | **Canadian Shake rattle and roll**

“Jack, this is just a brief addend to "our" June 23rd

earthquake that I wrote to you about. The following day I heard from daughter Kath in the St. Sauveur area where she lives (about an hour's drive north of Montreal). They got hit on a scale of 5.5 . Their home is in a wooded area, built on a slope. She and 2 daughters were in the house at the time, and she says the whole place shook so violently that they rushed outside as fast as they could. They watched as the shaking continued for the same long 5 minutes that we felt it, fearful throughout although when it was over, no drastic harm had been done.

Everyone here who experienced that event was quick to relate to the horrendous earthquake that devastated Haiti and so many lives. How lucky we are to have ended up with only a brief conversation piece.

This leads me to a YouTube video,(link below), and a song, "Wavin' Flag", put together by several young Canadian performers in the hopes of raising funds to help those Haitian victims. One of the last singers is Nikki Yanofsky, who lives nearby and attends a school just a few blocks away from "my" ECS. She is only 16, but her talent was first recognized when she was invited, at the age of 12, to perform with Oliver Jones at the Montreal Jazz Festival. She is the young lady who sang 'O Canada' at the Opening Ceremony at the Vancouver Olympics, and charmed people again at the Closing Ceremony. She has even been featured at Carnegie Hall. She remains an unaffected, happy teenager who appears to be heading for the big leagues.<http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=waving+flag+haiti&aq=3>

This link lists many responses and sites which carry the "Wavin' Flag" song. Play the first listed which is the performance, and the second which prints the lyrics and credit to each Canadian voice. Nikki appears at the very end, right after the Haitian flag is displayed. She's the one with the long black hair who holds a breathtaking strong note as the others close out the lyrics. I hope you enjoy it.

To hear more of Nikki Yanofsky, just Google her name. You can see her sing at age 12 at the Jazz Festival...and in many other major venues. You'll be amazed at her versatility. One of my favourites is "I Believe", an arrangement designed to support our Olympic athletes this year.

Off topic completely, we're into summer!!!! 88 degrees today with humidex of 94! Apparently Wednesday is expected to set a record high. I will :-)) and that's it....All for now, Bev

Joe Greene 59-61 Reunion “Jack, I am really sorry I missed Barb's reunion, and I even stayed in Gainesville, so that I could be there on Memorial Day. I screwed up and did not put it on my calendar for the week before, which really pissed me off, because I really wanted to make this year I will try and be there next year if I can take the heat in FL. I am becoming spoiled in CA for the summers. I was saddened to hear of Pat's passing. He meant a lot to all of us in gymnastics in south Florida. I hope your back is doing better after your accident. I know how hurtful they can be for all of us.Joe” {It has never been really hot at the reunions. There have been ocean breezes although sunny. This past reunion's weather was perfect....fyi.. Recovery from accidents... doing great...jmm}

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye 50-58 TV History, 55 years ago. Excerpts from a letter I had sent “In 1955, as an USA Olympian in gymnastics from FSU, I was in the 2nd Pan-American Games in Mexico City along with another Olympian from FSU, Don Holder. **Our gymnastics events were caught by TV cameras for the first time in that country** and not shown in the USA. The Pan-American Games gymnastics events were performed in a large TV studio, jammed with cameras and complete with bleachers on the sides of the hall on the brand new, just opened beautiful University of Mexico Campus, Mexico City”.

{I might have told you that Don saved my life there, by giving my back a rubdown in our team quarters because of my having passed out from Montezuma's revenge ,and going down to 115 lbs. Only his rubdowns, relieving the pain in my back, enabled me to move and compete those last few days....That selfless kindness I will never forget. I always say that if I ever save enough money to travel to Mexico..... I'm going to Canada.....To say hello to Bev.....jmm}

P.S.

{While taking Chad to FSU New Student Orientation, Nancy, Chad & I strolled into Montgomery Gym. Floods of memories washed over me as I pointed out this and that. Then I saw a picture display which showed the Tallahassee Tumbling Tots and (our) Clair “spotting” kids going off the Mini-trap...what a neat surprise}

Chick & Jennie Cicio 54-59 The Consummate Thespian “Took a little time off from the theatre, after approximately 33 shows I got a little tired of the rat race....so, will see you all at the next reunion., Ciao & God Bless.....Chick & Jennie”

Mike Mann & Fran Millians 57-67 Cape San Blas' Pristine Beaches “I had a E-mail this morning from my friend on Cape San Blas in response to my note earlier this week asking about the effects of the spill since the cap seemed to be holding for now. She said that they have no oil but the effects have been and continue to be great. A friend with a B&B business is way down. The bay is empty of scallopers which is bad for business in general. Two of their five county commissioners were hired by (paid off by) BP to the tune of \$1,200 & \$900 per day and their friends were the only locals who got hired for BP contract work. Those commissioners now can not vote on BP related concerns which are most of the current issues. It has riled a beast down there. Property values and sales, which were starting to revive a little after the meltdown are now crumpled. In all, it is beautiful, but stressful on the Cape, waiting for the shoe to drop.”

Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton 55-59 Bev's granddaughter the Equestrian Champion, Victoria “Thought you might like this video of which I am very proud. Last Sunday, July 25th, we attended an International event at Bromont, site of '76 Olympics. Featured here is the younger Victoria (17) of our two granddaughters who ride. Vicky entered the 1.10 meter "Mini Prix"....a class of about 30, and a course of around 18 jumps, I think, to qualify. Requirement for the ensuing jumpoff is a clear round, (no rails down & within time required).

She, along with 14 others made it. Jumpoffs are quick...less jumps, with only 7 in this case. Time: 35 seconds & a clear round. When her turn came up, the leader had set 30.57 seconds. Vicky likes speed events....she went for it and came up with 29.24 seconds. You may hear the announcer say something like, "Time on the clock, 29.24 seconds.... we have a new leader, Victoria Weaver" as she rode out. No one else bettered that, so she came up 1st, collected a ribbon, carrots for her horse, Ruby, AND \$300! The day before, she had placed 3rd in a Speed Derby.

Ruby's "show name", which is a requirement, is "Just Imagine". That came from yours truly who was just imagining what these kids might do. Ruby began as Amanda's horse, but Amanda soon outgrew the animal and has another much bigger one, capable of jumping 1.5 to 1.6 meters, although the most Amanda has done is 1.4 m. She is to try 1.35 or 1.4 tomorrow.

Enjoy: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0gVCkaZ_LY Bev”

{NOTE: Coming under separate email cover a wonderful picture of Pat Signorelli and Don & Connie Holder...jmm}