

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, Tallahassee Tumbling Tots, and Friends New-Newsletter
September 2013 (Seventy-third Edition) <bcudebeaton@gmail.com>

A lifetime of bragging rights

"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	62 years, 63 in April, 13	Bill & Carol Beavers	44 years, 45 in July, 13
Don & Patsy Rapp	58 years, 59 in May 13	Steven & Adriane Zindell	43 years, 44 in August 13
Carmine & Daneen Regna	58 years, 59 in August, 13	Wayne & Heather Thompson	42 years, 43 in January 13
Jim & Marlene Jackson	57 years, 58 in July, 13	Derek & Nancy Lawler	40 years, 41 in 2013
Sam & Topsi Bailie	56 years, 57 in June, 13	Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	40 years, 41 in December 13
Roger & Tamara Tucker Webb	55 years, 56 in November, 13	Andy Anderson & Curtiss Long	38 years, 39 in December 13
Beverley & Bill Beaton	52 years, 53 in September, 13	Joe & Dottie Taylor	36 years, 37 in September 13
Yoshi & Haruyo Hatano	48 years, 49 in October, 13	Jimmy & Janie Hanks	35 years, 36 in November 13
Terri & Cheri Morris	47 years, 47 in 2013	Carrie Englert & Curtis Zimmermann	34 Years, 35 in 2013
Dick & Susie Gutting	45 years, 46 in June 13	Thom & Linda O'Connor	33 years, 34 in May 13
Jay (& Ellie) Schwarzman	Were married 50 years	Karsthin (& Lennart) Malmelin	Were married 47 years
Almira (& Jack) Sharp	Were married 48 years	Claire Essig (& Dick) Traynor	Were married 43 years
Jon & Boots Culbertson	Were married 53 years	(Benny) & Carolyn Wallace	Were married 59 years,
Don & Connie Holder	Were married 63 years		

We begin this 73rd New-Newsletter with Mike Mann's account of the unveiling of the first of two stained glass windows honoring the first FSU Gymnastics teams and the Gymkana show troupes over the years on the first day of this year's reunion. What timing! To be congratulated for their dedication and efforts in seeing this project come to fruition are many, including Bill Beavers, Chairman, and his team. We are grateful to all of you.

We also thank our Webmaster Mike Mann for taking on the task of mailing this to you at the last minute given that Jack is having some problems with his computer. { ... bcb & jmm }

Mike Mann: On Friday, May 10, the first of two windows commemorating FSU Gymnastics teams and the Gymkana show troupe were unveiled at FSU's Werkmeister Heritage Protocol Museum. The window titled "First Champions", highlights the accomplishments of the former FSU gymnastic teams and was presented by the FSU gymnastic alumni as part of their yearly reunion. The FSU Gymnastic team of 1951 won the very first NCAA National Championship not just for Florida State but for the whole state of Florida. It was the very first NCAA championship from any college or university in any sport in the state of Florida. In addition, it won the second in 1952 and also went on to win three NAAU championships in 1951, 1953 and 1955. Two team members, Bill Roetzheim and Don Holder, were the first two students from FSU to earn a spot on United States Olympic teams while brothers Rafael & Fernando, FSU Team members, represented Cuba. Gymnastics was discontinued as a varsity sport in the early sixties but teams continued to compete on a club basis under the "FSU Gymkana" designation into the seventies. The team coach, Dr. Hartley Price, also began the Tallahassee Tumbling Tots in part to provide a base of talent for his future teams.

The gymnastic alumni and many members of the early Tots Program have been meeting for a reunion for several years at the home of former team member Barbara Withers on Alligator Point. A core group of around fifteen make it to every reunion with a more flexible group adding numbers that has varied the total between twenty and around forty from year to year.

About five years ago several people suggested a campus project to commemorate the former teams' accomplishments for future generations. "First Champions" and the future "Gymkana" window is the culmination of that project. These can be seen at the top of the next page.



The second window commemorating the Gymkana show troupe is expected to be added at a later time. Gymkana, an innovative idea that was years ahead of its time, was begun by Dr. Hartley Price during his time at the University of Illinois and who continued its development during his years at FSU. Gymkana showcased not just gymnastics and acrobatics but talent from all across the campus. There was a yearly "Gymkana Queen," musicians, dancers and singers taking part in the show. Others worked in marketing, business management, advertising and other functions that were not on display. Today's best example would be Cirque du Soleil. In fact, many have referred to Cirque as, "Gymkana on steroids," or "Gymkana with a decent budget." The Gymkana shows were accomplished entirely by volunteers from across the campus. The team members also did well on the academic front, at one point being the campus organization that was second only to Phi Beta Kappa in total member GPA ratings. The team produced two medical doctors, one dentist, four military officers ranked Major and above and sixteen Ph. Ds.



Attendees Left to Right: Gail Sontgerath-Whitney, Mike Mann, Sandy Miles Hennessy, Don Holder, Dick Gutting, Tamara Webb, Larry Bestmann, Beverley Cude Beaton, Roger Webb, Jack Miles, Barbara Withers, Vince Treacey, Bill Beavers, Jim Fadigan

Carrie Zimmerman: Good Evening, Mike. You are a wonderful man to take on the task communicating to many people on many levels. The window looks spectacular and the digital snapshot of the festivities is well done. Thank you, as always, Carrie.

Bruce Davis: Dear WAS Membership, I was informed today that World Acrobatics Society Legend (2005) Don Tonry has died. Don was a member of two gold medal Pan American Games gold medal teams in 1959 Chicago and 1963 San Paulo. Don was the number one gymnast on the US 1960 Men's Olympic team. Don was a member of the University of Illinois NCAA Championship team. Don was also an excellent illustrator and produced many charts of gymnastics skills. Don was a long time employee of Yale University of New Haven, Connecticut.

Don coached me during my years at Southern Connecticut State University. He was a detailed explainer of skills. Don's wife Barbara, a seven time NAAU tumbling champion, is also an employee of Yale University. Barbara is also a WAS legend. Click on the link below to learn more about Don's accomplishments in gymnastics.

http://www.usghof.org/files/bio/d_tonry/d_tonry.html

Sincerely, Bruce Davis, WAS President

Jack Miles: I had a really nice 4th. With my youngest son, Chad, and his visiting girl friend, we had dinner with my wife's cousins' family at a sidewalk Cafe before going to the Fireworks display to be held off the Fort Lauderdale Beach. It was a beautifully balmy late afternoon so we decided to walk from where we were to the beach. And even though it was over two miles along a tropical boulevard, the walk to and over the Intracoastal Waterway bridge would be easier than trying to drive in the bumper to bumper heavy traffic. Even at that, finding a place to park would be very questionable.

The walk went along fine and we found a good spot on the beach sand among the blankets near - but not too near - a musical bandstand. Fortunately the music was very nice and slightly Southern and not that far out Rap Crap, etc.

The fireworks display was shot off from a barge off shore and was really long, loud, and terrific.... patriotic music played throughout from the bandstand speakers. And there was a nice tropical breeze coming in over a calm ocean. It couldn't have been better. The breeze was coming from the southeast where we could see dark clouds and occasionally lightning way out there on the horizon. I mentioned to all that experience has shown me that that storm was heading our way.... But we had plenty of time to spare.

After the last "Boomer", we joined the thousands of people walking back to the mainland. At the point where we were again crossing the Intracoastal bridge the wind really started to blow strongly. and then light drizzle started to fall. We still had a few miles left to walk. At the base of the bridge it then came down in all its magnificence. ... and Wow! did we get soaked! Chad kept an eye on me to be sure I was handling it all because of the Parkinson, but I was fine. That walk was a real adventure. The rainwater was warm and we all eventually made it back to our cars OK. As a matter of fact, I was singing, "Singing in the rain just singing in the rain what a glorious feeling" towards the end. - shades of Gene Kelly.

The 4th was a real "keeper" and will be remembered as one of my best.

Just had to share this with you....Treasured moments in time.

I pray you also had a great time with your loved ones. Fondly, Jack {This is a story that produces visual images, auditory images and a sense of being there with all of you. I even felt just as drenched as you were at the end of your July 4th celebration. ...bcb}

Beverley Beaton: Toward the end of July, Jack and I thought it might be fun to hear from anyone who would care to send us a few words about anything special he or she took away from this past reunion and share it with the rest of us. I set a time frame for this, which I shouldn't have done, because a few things came up in my life that delayed my own work on this New-Newsletter. I learned that deadlines only add unnecessary pressure and will do my best to avoid repeating that since we are now well into September!! Sorry! Following are some of the responses we were happy to receive. {...bcb}

Larry Bestmann: Beverley, I was delighted to see Roger Webb at our May reunion. I hadn't seen him for 55 years. It was great to talk to him about what he had been doing in the lengthy interim. Larry Bestmann {Congratulations, Larry! You win Gold! You are the first to respond to our "Special Request". You've made a powerful statement about the value of these reunions and the connections we all have and are maintaining still in spite of time racing by. If others keep this up, we'll have a huge amount to read, remember and treasure. Thank you bcb}

“Mighty Group”: taken by Larry Bestmann at end of this year’s reunion:



Standing Left to Right: Bruce Davis, Bill Beavers, Joe Gusic, Patsy Rapp, Carol Beavers, Sharon Lawson Waldron, Tamara Tucker Webb, Roger Webb, Gail Sontgerath Whitney; Don Rapp, Claire Traynor, Bill Whitney, Jim Fadigan. Seated Left to Right.: Beverley Cude Beaton, Don Holder, Barbara Withers, Jack Miles, Dick Gutting. Left Front: Larry Bestmann, Photographer

Jim Fadigan: Bev: As they say: "Old age is not for sissy's". We may have accomplished a number of things in our younger lives but age continues to present us with new challenges and some are just nasty. But we really do have something few other people have to help us get through these inevitable periods - each other and our special, very special memories.

On the lighter side, isn't it interesting how our delusional states can be put to good use. As I get older I notice that I tend to perceive myself as that 'same ole person' at least mentally. Young in mind and heart in spite of age insidiously taking its toll on my physical capabilities. Wonder how others see me? I briefly see the effects of age and the toll it's taking on me and others but at the reunions magically that is quickly masked out by those so special good memories and the good feelings they allow me to relive.

The reunions serve as the oasis as I cross the difficult territory of the age desert. We have a unique opportunity to re-cycle a special stash of those 'forever young memories' that can only be shared with the people that made them possible. Oh yea, we also recycle some of the old biases and just human immaturity but that, along with age, proves we are only human even if we did accomplish some superhuman things (at least in our own minds).

So special thoughts your way and you know where they are coming from. Wow! Do we still have some special things to share with one another. Luv, Jim, Arlene & Zoe {We sure do, Jim. Many thanks for this insightful message.bcb}

Roger Webb: Dear Beverley, We finally made the reunion this year, enjoying the opportunity to get reacquainted with folks from our years at FSU, Gymkana, and the gymnastics team (1955-59). Special highlights for us included meeting and learning about spouses, children, and grandchildren; and meeting others whose names were legendary from other eras at FSU. The hospitality at Alligator Point was overwhelming, with Barbara and others making the extra efforts to provide low sodium foods that Tamara's diet requires.

Alligator Point has certainly changed since our days. I enjoyed race walking on the road each day, cooling off in Gulf of Mexico, and watching Bill Beavers maneuver his Kayak through the waters of the channel or cove.

The gathering at Dodd Hall to celebrate the installation of a beautiful stained glass window in honor of the gymnastics team was especially meaningful. Genuine thanks are due to all those who had a part in making this possible. Dodd Hall was the library at FSU during my first year (1955-56), and I have always remembered the inscription over the door, "The half of knowledge is to know where to find knowledge." That Dodd Hall now houses the Heritage Center, and we are part of the heritage is sobering.

Following the reunion, we visited a friend in Gainesville, where Roger took his doctorate at the University of Florida in 1969. Our reunion trip concluded with an overnight stay at Wakulla Spring Lodge and State Park, followed by another tour of the FSU campus and Tallahassee. At Wakulla Springs, we took the river tour which was wonderful, and I visited the diving platform, reminiscing of a day when I summoned up the courage to do a one-and-a-half from the top platform. We were disappointed to learn that "Old Joe" had been killed, and is now an 11-foot 2-inch stuffed alligator on display at the Lodge. In Tallahassee, we revisited the campus and parts of Tallahassee, looking for churches, restaurants, etc. from the 1950's. We did find the apartment on West Lafayette Street which Roger shared with Joe Gusic, Rafael Lecuona, Jamile Ashmore, Juan Lopez, and Don Powers. Like us, the apartment building has seen better years, but it is still there. Roger and Tamara {You two sure made up for years gone by! bcb}

Claire Traynor: Hi Bev, Hope this is not too late for the Newsletter: What a wonderful time we had again at Barbara's Beach house in May! I always look forward to the Reunion each year. It is always great to see everyone and this year especially Don Holder. Thanks to Dick Gutting for bringing Jack and Don and the South Florida crew up to Tally. If it were not for him we would not see some of these guys. I especially enjoyed this time seeing several old friends. It was great having some of the old Tumbling Tots show up this year. They were amazed on how much fun we have had. Those of you who do not come do not know what a good time you are missing! Claire {I join you in the thanks due Dick and hope the 'Tots' return as well...bcb}

Roger Webb: “Special” afterthought: Once a Tot, always a tot. Given Charlie Christian’s quote: “Once teammates, always teammates”, the above afterthought reflects our experience at the Reunion. We enjoyed meeting, talking with, and sharing memories with the Tots who joined us. Tamara and Roger {Agreed! To see the ‘Tots’ chattering amongst themselves, and so easily with the rest of us shows that the reunions are all about bringing friends together, no matter the age!....{bcb}}

Beverley Beaton: Our reunions, the very first organized by Jack Miles, and most of which I have attended have been an integral part of my life. They have allowed me to enjoy over and over again the long ago friendships I made during my university years at Florida State and to make new ones since. Back in 1959, I had left sorrowfully thinking that it was most unlikely I would ever see any of you again. So thank you, Jack, because it was at that first reunion that my kinship with Barbara Withers truly blossomed. This best friend of mine began inviting me to spend my March Breaks with her and her family both in Tallahassee and at Alligator Point. All have been memorable and so much fun. Thank you, Barbara, for always meeting me at the airport and for just as consistently dropping me off there for my trip back to Montreal. It didn’t phase her one bit that some of the timings were ghastly, and right in the middle of her busiest time of year.

This year I was captivated by the time we spent at Dodd Hall. Besides being there for the unveiling of our beautiful stained glass windows inside, I also got to sit outside the main entrance much as I had done time after time as a student so long ago. I loved to relax there in the sunshine and gaze at the beautiful stained glass and timeless inscription above the imposing front doors. I had never seen anything like that. {We share a common memory, Roger!} This time I captured those words that I have never forgotten in the photo below:



In the ensuing days we enjoyed our familiar camaraderie. This year, another first occurred since 2005. It rained! Previously, all reunions had enjoyed totally sunny weather. However; on this year’s Saturday afternoon we heard some guests approaching. At the same time suddenly the wind whipped up, rain came down in torrents, the sky having opened like a waterfall! From my vantage point on the top step facing the deck door, I saw the deck umbrella literally take off airborne toward the east at the very moment that Bess, flanked by daughter Sandy and son Mike, made it to the deck entrance. Bess’s umbrella was on its way to inside-out and they were thoroughly drenched! Welcome to our reunion! Along with some former Tumbling Tots and other guests, we had a huge, happy crowd for several hours. These reunions are the highlight of each year for this Canadian.

Jack Miles: Dear Bev: Your FSU Gymnastics New-Newsletter is magnificent. I am honored to get out of the way and let a real Pro take over the job. You readers should be told that doing the job she is doing is a real “Bear” and can only be done with Love. For us readers it is a joy and enables us to relive some of our best times on this Planet. (Even though some of us we know are from another Planet.) {I enjoy carrying on with the work you started and carried out for so many years. Thank you, Jack. bcb}

I also enjoyed reading about the present FSU Girls Club Team: (Sidebar...I see where the U of F won the girls National Collegiates this past year. FSU won Nationals in the 50’s and finally a Florida Team wins a half century later. I hope our FSU girls team members stay as closely connected as we have. The rewards are phenomenal.)

The past reunion (Thanks to Barbara) was a joy and had its interesting moments. I head counted that forty one people had attended the reunion with over a half being friends and relatives of the Gymnasts and Tots. Yes, as was said formerly in this New-New, out of the rain, thunder and lightning symbolically my ex-wife Bess showed up with two of our beloved grown children. It was great to relive old wonderful memories with our “gang” and Holder and Bess never seemed to run out of memories to talk about.

Which reminds me that Don Holder injured his leg and we old timers bandaged him back together for the trip to the hospital by Dick Gutting and TTT Sharon Waldron in the middle of the night. Our FSU “medical Team” received accolades from the hospital staff for our First Aid work. Don is well. {Jack didn't specifically say so, but he is the one who got a clean shirt of his own, ripped it into strips, and carefully and securely bound up the nasty wound. He knew exactly what to do. ...bcb}

Bill Beavers as a National Kayaking Champion and Roger Webb as a competitor in Speed Walking make us all so proud of them. Meanwhile, I just found another positive point about getting older. You see my wife brought us a new small adorable Maltipoodle dog. As I walk with the characteristic “Senior Shuffle”, the dog is quite safe from being stepped on by me. My feet just boot it into a roll across the floor.

Speaking of Senior happenings I just put two eggs on the stove to hard boil while I wrote this. And I just heard a loud “Pop” so I now have to go clean exploded egg off the walls. Oh well Nuff Sed {Not quite! Jack has a new phone number: (954) 533-5596 bcb}

Brittany Morgan: Jack, Hello, my name is Brittany Morgan and I am the new president of the FSU Gymnastics Club. I was browsing through the website fsugymnastics.org and noticed the section for FSU's current club gymnastics was a little outdated. If it is possible to make changes, I would be happy to provide you with our current information and photos of the team. Please let me know if you are interested and thank you for your time and support!

Sincerely, Brittany Morgan, FSU Club Gymnastics

Jack Miles: Dear Brittany, I was very glad to hear from you and I am sure others in our group will be also. I am forwarding your email to our website Master, Mike Mann fsugymnastics.org and our New-Newsletter's Editor, Beverley Beaton <bcudebeaton@gmail.com>. I am sure you will hear from them soon. Have a fun day. Jack Miles

Brittany Morgan: Beverley, Thank you so much for working with me. I have sent Mike some information and pictures of our club team from this past year. Looking forward to this coming season I hope to share with you our events and activities that you can hopefully share with the FSU Gymnastics community. I find it fascinating that there is a history of gymnastics at FSU and that the love for the sport never dies. We compete for the NAIGC (National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs) and their motto is "For the Love of the Sport" which I find to be so true in so many of us. As a club team we will meet back up in the Fall and I plan to keep you updated on our events. Thank you again for your cooperation! Please let me know if you would like any more information at this time. Sincerely, Brittany Morgan, FSU Club Gymnastics {We are pleased to have you and your team within our ranks, Brittany, and look forward to any further news you have to share once your 2013/14 season begins. Welcome! ...bcb}



Photo "EmoryMeet1": Meet with Emory in Atlanta; Front Row L to R: Rachel Crouch, Amanda Lee. Back Row L to R: Sarah Carey, Katie McElroy, Allie Brannan, Rachel Morris, Allison Frankiewicz, Britney Byfield, Ashley Carreiro, Brittany Morgan, Andrea Bress.

Bill Beavers: Mike, Hope you are better today. Jack, I brought back two gold, one silver and two bronze from the US Masters Sprint Nationals at Ok. City. The silver was because I let up at the finish line thinking I was well in the lead, but got nosed out by 2 seconds. Was most proud of the 5,000 (3.1 miles) meter race that I won in my age category. The bronze medals were mainly for just showing up! {Bill, you are doing what you love to do, you obviously must train with purpose and deservedly reap outstanding results. You have a right to feel very proud! ... bcb}

Jack Miles re:

Dave & Judy Carmolli	57-59	Carmolli, Gutting, Beavers, Mann
----------------------	-------	----------------------------------

Had a nice long talk with Dave Carmolli and was interested to learn that Dave, originally from the Boston area, is a Musician. He played Oboe and Tuba in several orchestras and bands during his High School years. While at FSU, like Dick Gutting, he played in professional groups and even today plays the French horn in concerts around central Florida near his home in Sebring, Florida.

You might remember Dave as the guy who made and gave those great commemorative Tee shirts for us all which we distributed at one of our Reunions five years ago. He is still in that business of printing Tee shirts. If you ever need a bunch of decorative shirts give him a call. [\(863-382-7977\)](tel:863-382-7977) He can do all your drawing designs & coloring needs in his own company.

And like Bill Beavers he has always been an ardent rower/paddler on the waters in boats since his youth in the Boston area. He races in a "Skull" while Bill paddles "Kayaks".

It is interesting to me that Dave worked the trampoline like Gutting and Bill and Mike worked the apparatus as gymnasts and most of us never knew of their other talents and interests. I am proud to know them all...Multi talented guys...jmm

{I have worn my shirt each summer since, and even have another still in its package awaiting its turn. I must say it draws many, many favourable comments! Thank you, Dave bcb}

Remember this? Bill Beavers: Jack & Bev, Ran across this old 35mm slide taken at Blue Sink in the late '50's. Couldn't get a good clear copy, but will try another machine at a future date. Enjoy, Bill
{Sure do remember that, Bill, as well as other trips to Wakulla Springs, sinkholes, and the fabulous Gulf! You were all so kind to include this otherwise campus bound student in your excursions to these wonderful places. It meant a great deal to me.....bcb}



Brittany Morgan: Hello all! I thought I would give you an update on our club! We have recruited some new members and it looks like we will have about 11 girls for the Fall roster. We are expecting more to join by the Spring. We will begin practice at Trousdell Gymnastics Center on Tuesday, September 17th from 8-9pm and will practice every Tuesday and Thursday from then on.

Also, we are hosting our first fundraiser this Saturday, September 14th on FSU's campus called Flips for Tips. We will ask tailgaters if they would like to support FSU Club Gymnastics and in return we will perform some flips. If any of you will be on campus for the game, look out for us around noon!

Our second fundraiser will be a car wash planned for Sunday, September 22nd from 12:30-2:30. It is planned to take place at the Tires Plus on 1917 West Tennessee Street.

(9/11)

Other things involved in the club include designing Tank Tops to sell, ordering new competition leotards, and planning to host our own meet this year. It is going to be a busy and exciting year! Thanks for your continued support!

Sincerely, Brittany Morgan , FSU Club Gymnastics {Thanks, Brittany, for this contribution. Your fundraisers will be over by the time we all see this. Hope they brought in a good amount of cash for your club. You are a busy group with lots of good ideas, energy and talent. Good luck this year, and please keep in touch.bcb}

Mike Mann: Headed for the back of the house, looked out onto the screened porch and see what I spotted. Went back around to the office and slipped out onto the porch to open the screen door at that end out onto the deck. Back around, opening door from kitchen to porch, planning to run it down the "wall" to the open door at the other end and out. The snake had other ideas, took off diagonally across the floor toward an inside corner. Worked my way around and could see the tail sticking out from behind a packing box that was there. Jiggled the box, tail disappeared behind it. Moved the box, AND no snake! I can only assume that it slipped behind the moulding beneath the door.

That happened a few years ago. Found one in the house, managed to get it out onto the screen porch only to watch as it disappeared behind the moulding which didn't seem to even have a 0.0001 inch crack. There is no way out, the house/floor is a concrete slab. I guess they hide there until they think it is safe to come out again. {Yikes! The best thing is that you saw this visitor a few years ago. May it have decided to move on and didn't leave behind any relatives! ...bcb}



Jack Miles: (excerpt from a letter I sent to a relative)

Back when I was in High School one of the gyms I trained in was, The Philadelphia Turnverien. In German the word Turnverien meant Gymnastics hall. We "Turner" gymnasts of both sexes trained there three evenings a week together. After the workouts and after our showers everyone moved downstairs for German Beer & Knockwurst with Sour Kraut in the beer hall. (I didn't drink).

Olympic gymnasts of both sexes trained together in the gym. There were three USA woman Olympians who trained among us for the 1948 Olympics, Clara Schroft, Helm McKee, and Marion Barone Twining And many Coaches, including mine, at that time were of German extract complete with accents and stern training techniques. In the Turners, YMCA's, and High school we trained six days a week for over ten years.

Back at that era women trained on vaulting, swinging rings, floor exercise, and those even Parallel Bars you will see in the video. At that time they didn't have the Balance Beam or Uneven parallel bars in competition yet. In the Olympic trials the gymnasts performed one "required/compulsory" routine on each apparatus, which the Olympic International Federation made up, and then one "Optional" routine that the gymnast made up. The scores were all added up and the performer with the most total points/scores combined came in first, second etc.

In the video I was also very impressed, as I knew very well the routines the woman in the video performed. Trick for trick.... she was executing the 1948 Olympic Compulsory routines....These were the same routines that the older women in the "Philadelphia Turners" were working on over and over. I remember them also for another reason. As a beginning High School gymnast I also tried to perform them as a training method. The men's routines were too hard for me in those early formative years. I just could perform the men's but sloppily.

Side note. In that same Turners Hall there was a swimming pool in the basement where I swam with John Kelly who won Olympic Gold Medals in Sculling (Rowing). He was an international swimmer as well. And his sister, Grace, became Mrs. Prince Rainier from Monaco. John became President of the USA Swimming Federation in later life. He was a very handsome, almost pretty, man who could have been a movie star. Next to him I was a wiry scrawny little kid.... he was a grown musculature man.

Incidentally, The word "Gymnastics" was from the ancient Greek Olympians, which means "To exercise in the nude". Never tried that for fear of accidentally grabbing and hurting something really important while on the apparatus and sweaty hands would cause a fall. Those Greeks were braver than I.

It is raining hence I had the time to sit and send. Hope your day is great. Always wonderful to hear from you. Fondly, Jack {Just for fun, our coach in Noranda had us do swinging rings. I loved it...so free! ...bcb}

From: "Werner Schumann" <w.schumann@comcast.net>

Sent to Jack: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 8:03:44 AM

Subject: Fwd: 86 Year-old Gymnast

ALL I CAN SAY IS "WOW"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!There are two parts to this short video - a bar routine and a floor routine.

Please click on the given link to view the video: (even though it's not blue!) OR copy/paste OR type it into your browser's URL. <http://safeshare.tv/w/cdaBSBkGKr>

Collage by Lawrence Bestmann, Photographer

{Thank you, Larry, for this which summarizes our 73rd New-Newsletter in a special way,...bcb & jmm}

