

STM '61 NEWSLETTER

(The Quarterly Miracle)

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL, 2009

Government Reveals Cover Up: Members of STM '61 Likely Beneficiaries of Vast Financial Interests

Chicago – *STM '61 Newsletter* exclusive

While doing research for this issue of the *STM '61 Newsletter* members of the writing staff uncovered questionable circumstances surrounding the late '40's and early '50's sale of Farmer Duff's vast property holdings located on the south end of St. Thomas More Parish. Some "Pioneer" members of the parish who were interviewed for this article (most in their 80's and 90's) recalled that Duff's original property was bounded by 83rd and 87th

Streets on the north and south, respectively, and California Avenue on the west and the B & O railroad tracks on the east. "In the late 1940's and early 1950's the Duff Farm had a thriving



produce stand during the summer and early fall," one STM octogenarian stated, "and everyone shopped there. Then it seemed that overnight it was gone and houses were being built there." Some members of

STM '61 also remember Farmer Duff's property well. "Until about the third grade we used to go there all the time because it had a pond called the B.A.B. ("bare ass beach") and we'd pick and dry the cat-tails and then smoke 'em." Another recalled, "In the hot summer months we'd go there to swim. We'd catch the crayfish and frogs. Sometimes we'd put a lady finger firecracker in a frog's mouth, light the fuse and then watch as it hopped away. It was something when it exploded – sending body parts in all directions."

Duff - page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

50th Anniversary	2
Class Directory	3
MIAs	4
Keep in Touch	5
Whatever Happened To	6
Transcripts	8
Pop Quiz	8
In Memoriam	10
Going Forward	10
Mystery	11
We Want You!	12

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of our Class *Newsletter* is to find more ways to bring us together, to rekindle old friendships, make new ones, and just enjoy our shared memories. This has been happening over the last few years in the form of our 60th birthday party (a huge success by the way), small dinners, committee meetings (good excuses for food and drink), lunches out with other classmates and on and on.

Those involved in this initial edition of the *Newsletter* have enjoyed many laughs and fond memories in bringing this project to fruition. Here comes the fun part! Your mis-

sion, should you decide to accept it, is to faithfully review this *Newsletter* upon receipt and then join us in making it a Class of '61 collaboration. Contributions can be a story from the past, information about one of the missing, any old photos that will make us smile and remember.

We anticipate these photos and



memories will run the gamut and since we want to be able to share them with our children and grandchildren (Yikes, does anyone have great-grandchildren yet!!!!) they, of course, will have to retain a modicum of good taste.

So start digging! Pull out those boxes of photos or plan a night out with a few friends from Tommy More to jog your memories. Dig deep into the night of the sleepover in the attic. We have it all in our heads and old photo albums. Let's get it to the *Newsletter*!

Duff - continued from page 1

I think that's how I acquired my taste for lightly sautéed frog legs." None of the boys of STM '61 could be reached for comment about what they remember.

Irregularities in the real estate transaction documents of the Duff property prompted the *News-letter* investigative team to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the federal government. Its recent reply to this request, given exclusively to this publication, contains stunning information that will require more detailed analysis and will, in all probability, lead to protracted litigation. Commenting on the basis of strict confidentiality, a panel of leading trial lawyers assembled at the request of this publication predicted, *"If successful, this litigation will favorably affect the financial well-being of every member of STM '61."*

At this time, it can be reported that some of the highlights in the government's reply (supported by thousands of documents kept secret by it for the past 60 plus years) include the following:

- During WWII the Department of Defense (DOD) implemented a wartime plan that required its acquisition of large tracts of land near strategic resources (such as steel plants and airports) in major U.S. cities;

- Farmer Duff's property was chosen because of its proximity to both the South Chicago steel works and Midway Airport (then the world's busiest). Since aircraft landing radar beacons for Midway were already located and in use on his property, Duff's land became all the more valuable. Duff, acting on his own and without the aid of legal counsel, vehemently resisted the DOD's effort to acquire his property (which, contrary to popular belief, extended beyond California on the west all the way to Kedzie). He



questioned not only the need of the taking but the price per acre he was to receive. In early 1945, the government established its need to acquire all of Duff's property leaving only the matters of the date of acquisition and remuneration to be determined. Documents show that this was to have been done in December of that year and that Duff would be allowed to continue to farm the land until remuneration was made. Victories in Europe and over Japan, however, caused some members of the DOD to rethink the wartime plan and, consequently, the need to acquire the Duff property;

- With the end of the war Farmer Duff renewed his efforts to maintain ownership of his property. For reasons only now made clear from the government documents, the DOD redoubled its effort to acquire his land due largely to the efforts of one man - Joseph McCarthy. This is the same McCarthy who would later gain infamy for his, *"I'll find and fry every 'pinko commie' in our country"* campaign;

- In 1946, McCarthy was running for a Senate seat from his home state of Wisconsin. According to a report dated September, 1946, he and an unidentified member of his campaign staff made an unannounced on-site visit to the recalcitrant Farmer Duff's property a month earlier. At the time of the visit, Duff was harvesting tomatoes in an area west of California Avenue (later to become Charles Carroll Park). As McCarthy approached the working farmer he made overtures about the importance of the site becoming a part of the "U.S. Government neighborhood" and Duff's need to show his true allegiance to his country.

Duff - page 3

Save The Date

April 15, 2011
April 15, 2011



A group of our classmates have been hard at work preparing for the Golden Anniversary of our graduation. They report the party will be held at the Oakbrook Double Tree (formerly the Hyatt) and promise much more information will follow. If you have any questions please e-mail:

Nancy Walsh Ryan at nryan2519@sbcglobal.net



Where is Everybody?

Class Directory

Contact information for all “found” members of the Class is now being organized and made ready for a directory to be made available to each member of the Class. The projected distribution date is early 2010. It is anticipated that updates will be made available annually or as otherwise necessitated based upon information, new

and/or revised, that is received.

The directory will be made available electronically via email (free of charge) and in written form via snail mail (for the cost of production and mailing).

The privacy of each person is of utmost importance. To protect that privacy each Class member who wishes

to appear in the directory and receive a copy of same must (1) agree to be included in the directory and (2) agree the directory will be for their personal use only and will not be used or disseminated to others for any other purpose.

Unless you opt out, you will be included in the directory.

Duff - continued from page 2



Senator McCarthy denouncing Duff

In response, Duff flattened McCarthy with a quick left hook to the jaw and intoned a threat that would echo from that particular site for decades: *“Get the hell out of this neighborhood and don’t come back or I’ll come to your neighborhood and find you and your mother and kick both your asses.”* As the visibly shaken McCarthy was

helped from the ground and making an unsteady retreat, Duff pelted him with rotten tomatoes. When he was well out of range of Duff’s wickedly accurate right arm, McCarthy vowed loudly, *“I’ll get you, and your land, you ‘pinko commie’!”*;

•Thereafter, Duff fought valiantly to retain ownership of his property but with post WWII sentiment clearly in favor of the government and the Cold War beginning to heat up he enjoyed no chance of prevailing. Moreover, McCarthy’s threat became real. At the urging of now Senator McCarthy (he had won the 1946 senate race), the DOD, ultimately, did take all of Duff’s land by late August, 1953. Minutes of secret hearings of the Senate Committee on Un-American Activities chaired by McCarthy (received as part of the FOIA request) show that Duff was charged with being both a communist and, unbelievably, a threat to the U.S. government.



McCarthy conspires against Duff

The insidious depths of McCarty’s actions, however, might never have come to light except for the remarkable talents of this *Newsletter’s* investigative team. In their review of public documents (recorded in the Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office) transferring Duff’s property to the U.S. government they noted gross variations in the signature of Farmer Duff. Comparison of Duff’s signature on court documents filed with the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1945 to the recorded deeds and other documents of conveyance after 1947 simply do not match.

Faced with this overwhelming evidence which was substantiated in the many documents produced via its reply to the FOIA request, the government has now admitted that in 1947, at the direct order of Senator McCarthy, members of a highly secret military team covertly descended on Duff’s property with orders to hold him both under house arrest and *in communicato* “for as long as it took” for him to transfer ownership of all his property to the government. Further, they were to work the farm and tend the seasonal farm stand until the mission was complete to allay any suspicion of the government’s activities. Totally isolated from the outside world (Duff, like both his parents, was an only child and a life-long bachelor who lived alone but was known to hire farm hands to help with his planting and harvesting) and subject to constant physical and mental abuse, he eventually capitulated to the demands of his “captors”.

MIAs

Members of the Locator Committee have been making a concerted effort to locate all of our classmates. They are committed to their motto: “No one gets left behind”. At the time of the Committee’s formation (June, 2008) there were 76 MIAs out of a class of 196. To date, we are missing only the following:

Lynn Bowman	Raymond Halagera	Willaim Kovac	John Murphy
Janet Brunner	Joseph Hale	Beverly Kukulski	William O’Brien
Karen Callahan	Jeanne Halloran	Laurence Lebda	Dolores Puch Redman
Thomas Collopy	Edward Hartney	Thomas Lorden	Donna Richter
Hilary Jean Dajkowski	Michael Higgins	Thomas Lucas	Joyce Ryan
John Dietz	Terry Hinz	Timothy Masterson	Timothy Savage
Patricia Doyle	Lawrence Kaluzny	John McDade	Maureen Stankus
Gael Filter	Eileen Johnson Kinsey	Richard Mensik	Nancy Timke
Mary Gabler Stoor	Susan Joyce	Glen Mertes	Carol Wendt
Betty Gasparotto	Jacqueline Keser	Philip Muellner	Kathleen Young

You can help. If you have any information about any of these persons (e.g. high school or college attended, a sibling or other relative that you know of, knowledge of a recent death of a family member, etc.) please forward it to the Locator Committee in any mode of communication (please see page 12) most convenient to you. Remember - “No one gets left behind”. With your help that will be the case.

Duff - continued from page 3

By late August, 1953, the now broken Duff signed his name to the last of the deeds and was released. The total acreage of his farm that he conveyed under duress to the government was more than 240 acres.

Unbelievably, and per McCarthy’s order, the government gave Duff 30 days to vacate the premises and leave the country. He was to receive remuneration in the meant to be punitive amount of \$50.00 per acre but, only upon his exit from U.S. soil. And, perhaps most draconian of all the terms of his release, he could not discuss the matter with any other person or organization until such time as he had left the country and his failure to abide by this term would result in his immediate arrest and trial on charges of espionage.

Official documents reveal government agents surreptitiously kept Duff under constant surveillance after his release from house arrest.

Written reports of the agents conducting the surveillance indicate that he appeared a subdued man who took to

roaming STM Parish. Significantly, a number of reports indicate he would stand across from STM School and watch the children coming and going in the morning and afternoon. A report dated late September, 1953, indicates:

“...Duff entered the St. Thomas More School building and remained therein for several hours. Upon leaving the school Duff proceeded to the

‘beanery’, a public restaurant located in the gray clapboard hotel in the railroad yard used by railroad men located on the north side of 79th Street at California. This field agent kept the premises under surveillance from across 79th street. After waiting an hour for the subject to reappear I entered the restaurant to confirm his presence therein. A thorough search failed to reveal the presence of Duff. After calling for and receiving assistance from other agents a thorough search of the entire building and the complete rail yard facility failed to disclose the whereabouts of the subject. It is assumed Duff hopped one of the passing freight trains.” Sadly, that was the last recorded contact anyone has had with Framer Duff.

Duff - page 5

Duff - continued from page 4

In their effort to account for all of Duff's actions in the final hours of their surveillance of him, about a week after his disappearance federal agents questioned the principal of STM School, Sr. Anisasia, who



Sr. Anisasia seen here with a 1st grader.

confirmed her first and only meeting with Duff had occurred approximately one week earlier. As shown in an official report produced under the FOIA request, an agent wrote, "She stated, 'Mr. Duff appeared calm and thoughtful throughout our entire meeting which lasted several hours. He explained that he had no formal education as he had always worked his farm with his father and mother. Both his parents were dead and, he said, like both his parents he had no siblings, and he had never married. He said he wanted to make a donation to some of the children in the school but he knew no individuals by name. He asked me

who the youngest pupils were in the school. I replied, 'the first graders'. He asked me if they would still be in school 7 years hence. I advised that at that time they would be the 8th grade class – the graduating Class of 1961. At that point he asked if I would help him draft a will. I was hesitant at first but he seemed so earnest and intent that I couldn't help but agree. It took only about 30 minutes and it was done. In essence, it stated that he had no family and that whatever property, real or personal, he owned he was leaving to any person who graduated from STM in June, 1961. At that point, I had three of the other sisters come into my office and witness him as he signed his "Last Will and Testament". It so happened _____ that our music teacher, Alice Doney, was in the school and _____ since she was a notary public she notarized the document. After the others had left, to my surprise Mr. Duff asked me to hold onto his Will until such time as he came back to retrieve it. I agreed.' Upon learning these facts I took possession of the Will and instructed Sister Anisasia that she was to tell no one of either the events or the document. Shortly after my interrogation of the principal she went

back to a place called the 'Mound' and promptly died."

Given: (1) its need to fully and truthfully reply to the FOIA Request, (2) the fact that Duff almost certainly signed the transfer documents under duress which calls into question any right of the government to re-convey the farm property, (3) the existence of Duff's Last Will and Testament which was in its possession (a copy of same was in the documents produced to this Newsletter) and the granting therein of all his property interests to members of the STM Class of '61, (4) the fact that Duff has not been seen since 1953 (far longer than the 7 years required by the Presumption of Death Statute), (5) the fact that no monetary consideration (paltry or fair market value) was ever received by Duff or his estate for the taking of his property, and (6) the vicious and erratic behavior (now universally condemned) of Senator McCarthy coupled with the complete lack of integrity of his campaign to protect the U.S. from "pinko commies" - the government now wants to put this despicable situation to rest.

Duff - page 8



KEEP IN TOUCH

Remember, if you move or have any information that you wish to share about yourself or other classmates you have several options to get that information to either the NEWSLETTER or the Class website. Please see contact information listed on page 12.



Whatever Happened to...

James Joslyn

Father James Joslyn is a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He was born September 14, 1947. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University Chicago, June of 1969. He was awarded a Masters of Divinity degree from the University of St. Mary of the Lake and was ordained a priest in May 1973. In September 1975, he began a thirteen-year career teaching European History at Quigley Preparatory Seminary North, the Archdiocesan High School Seminary. In August 1980, he was awarded a Masters of Arts degree in Modern Euro-

pean History from the University of Notre Dame. He attended DePaul University, Chicago, University College, Dublin, Ireland, Harvard University, and Loyola University, Chicago for post-graduate studies.

He was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Chaplain Corps in the Naval Reserves in February 1987, and served on the staff of the Navy Chaplain School, Newport, Rhode Island, June through August of 1988. He was recalled to active duty in September, 1988, and has served in the following duty stations: Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; the USS New Jersey; the USS Midway and Operation

Desert Shield/Storm; Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego; Chaplain recruiter for Navy Recruiting Area Five; Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy; NAVCENT, Fifth Fleet Staff, Bahrain; Service School Command, Great Lakes Naval Training Center; BUPERS as Chaplain Corps Detailer, Millington, TN; Command Chaplain Naval Station, Rota, Spain. Currently he is serving as the Regional Chaplain, Navy Region Southeast, NAS, Jacksonville, FL.

His personal awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, five Navy Commendation Medals, and two Navy Achievement Medals.



Proudest Moment:

In first grade we were being taught to share. It was my turn with the round-topped scissors, but another kid thought otherwise. Next thing I knew, he stuck the scissors in my nose and I was bleeding. The teacher took me to the bathroom to stop the blood. This was the great part! She took me into the girls' bathroom. As far as I knew, I was the only guy in first grade that got to go

into the girls' bathroom. Can we say bragging rights for a first grader?

First Love:

In fourth grade there was a band of brothers who were among the lucky few to get into Sr. Duchene's class. I think every boy in fourth grade had a crush on her.

Funniest Face:

In sixth grade, we were lined up to leave Sr. Beatrice's classroom. She was giving some last minute instructions. Apparently, I made a face and the next thing I knew

she was telling me that I had a loud face and I had better shut it up. A loud face? That explains why I've never been any good at poker.

Best Dance Move:

In seventh grade we used to go to the dances at Carroll School. Most of the boys stayed on one side of the gym and the girls stayed on the other. We had to be dragged out on the dance floor...well, most of us. I can think of a few classmates who got out there on their own. I still remember that the best part of the afternoon. It was going all the way over to Kedzie to eat French fries at some little restaurant. Can you say 'pre-fast food'?

Oxymoron Moment:

In eighth grade, I was a patrol boy. In fact, I got the prestige corner, which was the northeast corner of 81st and California. I felt like big stuff, but it didn't last long. I was pulled off the corner by Sr. Nicola and stuck in the alley behind the school. I was accused of being too sociable. I think it backfired though. There were more people to talk to in the alley than there were on the corner.

Joan Parsons



Joan Parsons Hoffmann was born November 28, 1946 (probably the oldest in the Class). She graduated from Chicago State University in 1969. Joan taught for four years in Burbank School District 111 and recently retired from

teaching elementary school in School District 140 in Tinley Park, Illinois.

Whatever Happened to...

In 1970, Joan married Joe Hoffmann (Palos Sports, Alsip) and they have two grown children: Joe Hoffmann (Enterprise Car Rental) married Jenelle Malesh (Speech Plus) and they have two children: William Joseph, 2 years & Ryan Patrick, 1 year. Julie Hoffmann Hannigan is their daughter (a teacher in Frankfort 157C) who married Patrick Hannigan (B2B Computers) and they have a son Brady Patrick, 18 months.

Now that Joan is retired she spends much of her time playing with her three grandsons, which is a laugh a

minute. With the downturn in the economy, she has become quite interested in following the stock market (learning how to trade & is up for the year). Learning about government and concerned with social issues, she is toying with the idea of running for political office because she feels she could balance the state and federal budget more effectively than most incumbents. Her platform: "Waste not want not," which she learned while growing up in St. Thomas More during the 1950's.

First Fib:

The nuns at times confused me with Patricia Wertz, so when my mom went to conferences, she often heard what an outstanding student I was. Some of Patricia Wertz's "A's" ended up on my report card, but of course I never disclosed the minor error to my parents. But I did confess that venial sin to Father Auer because he wouldn't yell at me or give me unreasonable penances.

Favorite Book:

Ms. LaRue was my favorite teacher of all. Reading the book, Beezus and Ramona by Beverly Cleary was the highlight of the day and I hung on to every word. In all my years of teaching, never a year went by that I didn't read that book to my class.

First Impure Thought:

"Pelting" was the only word I ever looked up in the dictionary without being forced. In 8th grade, Sister Eriginia came storming into the classroom and yelled, "Who was that girl pelting that boy out on the playground?" You'll never know what immoral visions appeared in my mind while hurrying though that Webster. Would I need to see Father Auer again?

Biggest Challenge:

Miss LaRue also gave me four "L's" on my report card and I was angry! Cursive and history were two of them as I remember. Too bad I wasn't confused with Patricia Wertz that year. Shirley, I mean Miss LaRue, made me study for the first time in my life. Being that I was left-handed, she would not allow me to twist my arm and write upside down like the majority of left-handers. Thanks Miss La Rue wherever you are!

Vocational Void:

When the nuns talked about having a religious vocation

I was certain that I was not one of the "Chosen Ones." I would look around the tiny but crowded classroom and see tongues of fire looming above the heads of many of my classmates like Jimmy Joslyn, John Daley, Patrick Brennan, & Patricia Wertz. No tongues of fire ever appeared above mine though. I would keep gazing upward, but never a tongue did wag. At ten years old, when you don't have a religious vocation and you think no one would ever marry you, life seemed pretty futile.

Most Embarrassing Moment:

I remember in 7th grade being at the 10:00 Mass wearing a black pillbox hat. Except for the dishwater blonde hair, Jackie Kennedy and I could have been twins. Half way through Mass, I sneezed and my hat flew three rows up. An eighth-grade boy retrieved it off the floor and snickered as he handed it back to me. Vatican II did not come too soon for me. No hats!

Second Impure Thought:

Walking to a Carroll dance one Friday, I met up with a female classmate (who shall remain nameless) and she began talking about how she and her boyfriend were "making out" the previous evening. She described in slight detail being in his basement and "making out" on the couch for hours while his mom and dad were upstairs. I had absolutely no idea what she was talking about, but again, my vivid imagination ran rampant. Poor Father Auer, I sure kept him busy.

Bathroom Embarrassment:

In first grade I was in the girls' bathroom and a teacher came in with a BOY screaming and bleeding from the nose. Horrified, I would not leave the stall, and have a boy see me in the washroom. Now fifty-eight years later, I find out it was you Jimmy Joslyn! Who would have ever thunk it!

Duff - continued from page 5

In an effort to forego lengthy and embarrassing litigation concerning both the cruel and unusual punishment received by Duff and the very real interests of the members of STM '61 that may exist in the Duff property (research is currently being done to support a class action law suit to be filed on behalf of the members of STM '61) the Department of Justice (DOJ) included certain settlement terms in their reply to the FOIA request with the sole caveat they are subject to the approval of Congress. Anticipating skepticism on the part of the members of STM '61 as to its good

faith in this regard, the DOJ sought to bolster its intentions with the aid of the White House.

In an exclusive interview with the *Newsletter*, a source close to President Obama confirmed that the Chief Executive is aware of this "regrettable" situation. *"Although there is nothing that can be done to remedy the great wrong done to Farmer Duff, the president is prepared to use every available resource of the federal government to insure that all members of STM '61 receive full and proper value for the interest denied to them for so long."*



The *Newsletter* also received a telephone call from the chief executive just moments after he learned of what he called, *"an outrageous and wholly unacceptable situation."* During the call he showed himself to be an historian of some note and an astute lawyer of equal note when he rephrased the immortal words of this nation's founding father, *"Millions for retribution, not a penny for defense."*

Here, then, is the U.S. Government's unbelievable initial settlement offer:

(A) *An outright, tax-free cash payment to each member of the Class, or his heirs, in the amount of \$500,000,*

-OR-

(B) *If a simple majority of the members of STM '61 do not want to accept an outright cash settlement then the U.S. Government will take, via eminent domain proceedings, all of the original property included in the Duff Farm. Every building on the property will be razed and every other above-ground improvement will be removed. Each member of STM '61 will be granted an interest in the property. The Class will be allowed, as a single unit, to present a unified plan for the redevelopment of the Duff Property to the Federal Government. All reasonable elements of the plan accepted by the government will be paid for by the government.*

Upon receiving this stunning news, the editorial board of the *Newsletter* hastily assembled a small group of individuals from STM '61 to discuss these dramatic events. Expertise of these Class members represents real estate, law, banking, accounting, health care, public administration and the building trades.

Duff - page 9

I Did



That???

So you think you're so smart, huh? Now you have the opportunity to prove it. You can request a copy of your STM Transcript with little trouble. There is more information than just grades on the transcript that may surprise you!

Please visit the Class website (www.stthomasmoreclassof1961.com) where you will find the request form required by the Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Simply print it out, fill it in and snail mail it to the address on the form with the \$10.00 fee included.

For those who do not have access to the internet, you may call the STM '61 NEWSLETTER hotline (312.606.8679) and request a transcript form.

Pop Quiz



Win the respect and approval (maybe) of your classmates by being the first one to list all of our 8th grade teachers. A separate prize will be awarded for winners in each of the three modes of communication (via email to the Class website, via telephone to the Class hotline and via snail mail to the NEWSLETTER P.O. Box). So HURRY and mail, hail or sail your answers ASAP. Winners to be announced in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER. Sorry, the same person can win in only one mode of communication.

Duff - continued from page 8

As a result of this initial meeting, those gathered were able to fashion a reply to the government's settlement offer in the form of a list of demands. These demands were forwarded to the DOJ and within a period of only 10 days this publication received the government's reply. It can be reported at this time that the following initial demands of STM '61 have been **agreed to in principle** by the government:

Extent of the Duff Property (240 acres) as seen in satellite photo provided by the U.S. Government



(1) All of Duff's real estate holdings are to be held in trust by the U.S. Government for the beneficial use of the members of the Class of STM '61 for life. In other words, a life estate interest (LEI) in each member of the Class will be established in the whole of the property and upon the death of the last member of the Class all interest in the property will revert to the government;

(2) The property is to be developed by the government to meet the reasonable specifications of STM '61. Further, all costs for maintaining the property and all improvements thereto or thereon will be paid by the government until the last LEI ends;

(3) During the time of any LEI, the government will be responsible for all security, upkeep and maintenance of all the property including improvements thereto at no expense to any LEI. No LEI will pay any cost associated with the property including real estate taxes (the *Newsletter* is informed this is somewhat similar to the American Indian Reservation model);

(4) To insure the privacy of this land, the entire property will be enclosed with eight foot wrought iron fence. Access to the property will be via several strategically placed entry points guarded by members of the U.S. Marshall's Service;

(5) Initial improvements are to include the following:

(A) New single family homes, townhouses and condominiums will be constructed according to a plan now being designed by architects of the Class in conjunction with input from those in the building trades. Each Class member will choose what type of residence they prefer to live in;

(B) An 18 hole championship golf course to be designed by Tiger Woods will be constructed and run throughout the property. A club house with state of the art outdoor recreational facilities is to be constructed;

(C) A wildlife preserve (only pheasant hunting will be allowed in season) will be established on the southern border of the property along 87th street from the B&O Railroad tracks on the east to the current easterly property line of Luther High School on the west;

(D) The current Luther South High School building will be gutted and remade into assisted living residences with a 24-hour health care clinic and an acute emergency care facility. Ambulance service for transport to local hospitals will be available when necessary. A helipad will be constructed to accommodate helicopter service for transport to other hospitals (and for transport to and from both Midway and O'Hare Airports for the non-medical convenience of Class members). All of the healthcare professionals, including helicopter pilots, will be members of the U.S. Armed Forces. All of their services will be provided at no cost to resident Class members, their spouse or significant other, and any dependent adult child who qualifies.

†††††In Memoriam†††††

Please keep our departed Class members in your thoughts and prayers:

Marcia (Bartosik) Arger
Kathleen (Condon) Swoope
Claudia (Olund) Powers
Michael Croke
Rev. John Daley
Martin McGinnis
Thomas Plutz

Duff - continued from page 9

(E) Parts of the Charles Carroll School building will be demolished. The remaining structure will be either restored to its 1961 condition or remodeled to provide state of the art educational and recreational facilities. More specifically, the lower level will be restored and the Friday afternoon socials will resume from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. It is anticipated each social will begin with a brief prayer, the pledge of allegiance and playing of the mandatory first song "Poetry in Motion". Whether spouses or significant others of Class members will be allowed to attend is yet to be determined given the very strong opinions articulated by certain members of the representative group at the initial meeting. "Why do they need them there - to protect them?", inquired one member, "What do they think we're gonna do, take advantage of them?" "Yeah," said another, "We're all adults now and we can take care of ourselves. Why do they have to be such sissies about this?" None of the boys of STM '61 made any comments in response to these statements;

(6) The property is to be known as "Happy Land" and the song of the same name (performed by the 1960's group known as Harpers Bizarre) will be its official theme song;



(7) The radio antennas to the north of Luther High School will remain but will serve only Happy Land. The call letters will be changed to WSTM (196.1 FM). Negotiations are

currently in progress to have Dick Biondi manage radio operations. A cable T.V. station featuring STM '61 news along with 1555 other entertainment channels will also be provided.

A full list of other demands too numerous to include here (such as: moving the Tastee Freeze building across Kedzie Avenue onto Happy Land property, and rebuilding both the Green Door Novelty Shop and Irish Herman's Pizza Parlor in Happy Land) have, also, been **agreed** to, in principle, by the government and will be published in a later issue of this publication.

Of particular note, however, is the government's reaction to the Class' demand that the entire project, with all improvements, should be ready for occupancy by fall, 2011: "Why does STM '61 want to wait so long?"

The *Newsletter* is seeking reaction from Class members. If a simple majority want to accept the outright monetary settlement (\$500,000 tax-free to each member of the Class) the government will consider that the accepted settlement. Without a majority in favor of the monetary settlement, however, we must receive comments and suggestions from members of STM '61 as to how the property should be developed and used. All comments and suggestions received will be considered. Also, please indicate your willingness to serve on one of the many committees now being formed to implement whatever settlement is chosen.

Of course, the *Newsletter* will continue to report to you the status of this situation.

Going *FORWARD*

Future issues of the STM '61 *NEWSLETTER* (a quarterly publication) will continue to be distributed free of charge via e-mail to all members of the Class. And, all issues will be published on the Class website (www.stthomasmoreclassof1961.com).

Classmates who do not have access to the internet, or those who simply want to have hard copies suitable for framing to show their friends and neighbors, will be able to have future issues sent to them (via U.S. Mail) for the cost of publication and postage.

If you would like to purchase a subscription for 2010, please send a check payable to STM '61 *NEWSLETTER*, in the amount of \$16.00, addressed to: STM '61 *NEWSLETTER*, P.O. Box 64494, Chicago, IL 60664-0494.

"BY JOVE, WATSON, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?"



Rare photos have recently surfaced of one of our classmates

During recent discussions concerning recreational improvements to the Charles Carroll School building located on the Duff property (See, "Duff" article above), a number of STM '61 members expressed great interest in a "natural light" painting and sculpturing studio. *"I think we should have the ability to allow members of the Class to pose in the nude as live models to really help cultivate our artistic talents be they in the form of paint or clay."* *"I couldn't agree more,"* said another, *"Many of us already have a pretty good idea of what others in the Class would look like in that condition as we have had over 50 years to think about it."* *"In fact,"* said yet another Class member, *"I began sculpturing while a student at STM and I had a classmate pose for me right before we graduated. I lost contact with that classmate for over 45 years but we reconnected at the Class 60th birthday party in April, 2007. Shortly after that we had a second session and here are the photos to*

prove it." None of the boys of STM '61 in attendance responded as none could find his voice in the gaping hole in his face.

Copies of the photos produced by the still unidentified female classmate were made when another enterprising "Tekkie" classmate took photos with his omnipresent Blackberry. And now the challenge to solve this mystery is on. Who posed for these photos? And, who was the sculptress? And, where did they meet to "pull this off" (any pun discerned is intended).

Please, anyone with information about "who" and "where" should send it to this *NEWSLETTER*. While the identity of all persons sending information will be kept confidential at the sender's request - all information suitable for printing will appear in the next issue of this publication.



WE WANT YOU!

The talent that abounds in the diversity of the St. Thomas More Class of 1961 is something that should be tapped into and put to good use. More than just a few good men and women are invited to make contributions to this *Newsletter*. New ideas for articles, information on current or past events or anything else that you would like to see included in future issues is welcome. Remember, this *Newsletter* belongs to all of us. Be an **active** part of it!!!

How To Contact the *Newsletter*:



Via Snail Mail:

STM '61 *NEWSLETTER*

P.O. Box 64494

Chicago, IL 60664-0494



Via Email

to the Class Website:

(info@stthomasmoreclassof1961.com)



Via hotline:

NEWSLETTER hotline:
(312.606.8679)