

STM '61 NEWSLETTER

The Biannual (Sometimes) Miracle (Always)

(1953-2013)

60th Anniversary of Farmer Duff's Legacy to STM '61; Dissention in Class Stalls Settlement!

Chicago - *STM '61 Newsletter* exclusive

Just minutes before what was to have been an eventful, albeit secret, meeting with members of the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") negotiating team to discuss a partial distribution of funds concerning the Duff Legacy settlement, a veritable bombshell exploded in the ranks of the STM '61 Advisory Committee.

In prior issues of this publication (editors' note: all prior issues can be viewed by going to the STM '61 web-site:

www.stthomasmoreclassof1961.com), it was reported that U.S. Government documents, gained via Freedom of Information Act requests, confirm that for almost 60 years our government has engaged in an ongoing conspiracy to withhold all knowledge of the interests that

the members of STM '61 own in the Duff Estate. These interests, given in September 1953, via the Last Will and Testament of Philander (a/k/a Farmer) Duff, include both his 240 acre farm (in an area that would later constitute the southern part of St. Thomas More Parish, i.e., south of 83rd Street) and the incredibly valuable yeast that remains hidden somewhere within that site to this day.

Once this deplorable situation was learned, members of STM '61 formed an Advisory Committee (expertise of these Class members represents real estate, law, banking, accounting, health care, public administration and the building trades) and it had been in settlement negotiations with the Federal Government (via the Department of Justice) for several years. In a prior issue of this public-

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

HOLIDAYS, 2013

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SPRING FLING!!!

The **Planning Committee** advises that on April 26, 2014 at 4:30 p.m., there will be a Mass for the Class of STM '61 at St. Thomas More Church.

Following Mass there will be a gathering at Baracco's Restaurant located at 3701 W. 95th Street, Evergreen Park.

All Class members and their spouses/significant others are encouraged to attend.

The Planning Committee will send other reminders at later dates.



Grapevine



Pat Wertz Nafzger says life is definitely an unpredictable journey and, after STM, my neatly choreographed life took an unexpected turn when I corralled my West Texas cowboy, turned social worker, and we moved to Glen Ellyn, IL. I followed him in working at a residential center for emotionally troubled children and adolescents. Wayne was a therapist and I taught Jr. High Special Ed. Together, we raised two daughters and are the really, really proud grandparents of four terrific grand kids ages 13, 10, 8 and 7. While working at Lutherbrook, I completed my Masters in Christian Ministry with emphasis in Health Ministry and Pastoral Counseling at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago. I "retired" after 28 years at Lutherbrook to pursue an internship and residency and am now a chaplain - a currently unemployed chaplain - but hopefully that will change shortly. This June, Wayne retired after 48 years with Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois, sold our home of 42 years and relocated to Louisville, Kentucky, where both our daughters, sons in law and grandchildren live. The boxes are almost unpacked which means it's time to polish up the résumé and get back into chaplaincy, which is my passion. Along the way, we have been privileged to participate in numerous medical mission trips to Honduras, serving the poor, bringing them needed medical care and the encouragement of the Gospel. Additionally, we have invested in the lives of seven youth there, helping them achieve college degrees, thereby becoming productive citizens and sources of support for their families in their impoverished country. So now, we wait in anticipation of where this new phase of life will take us (in addition to the BMX races, equine events, and Chess tournaments where we support the talents and interests of the grandchildren). Life has had its ups and downs, but as Jimmy Stewart once said...."It's a wonderful life!"

In 1979, **Terry Samuel** married another St. Tommie More grad, Mary Lawlor. They lived in Burr Ridge where they raised two kids, a son and a daughter. Terry retired about 12 years ago from the family meat packing business, Amity Packing Company in Chicago's Fulton Market. His son and nephew have taken over the reins, but Terry still keeps his hands in the business. Terry and Mary now reside part of the year in Lemont and part of the year in Bonita Springs, Florida. Terry loves to golf, which he can enjoy year round traveling between his homes. A bo-

nus for him is his part-time job in the summer at Flagg Creek Golf Course in Indian Head Park. Now, that is a passion!!

Joan Behm Dorn graduated from Longwood and then majored in elementary education at Chicago State. Before graduating in 1969, she was married and had son, John. They lived with her parents on Talman, and because of a wonderful neighbor, Mary Condon, who cared for John while Joan was at school, she attained her dream to be a teacher. Joan was so grateful to Mary who displayed that great STM spirit that we all grew to realize was so special in later years. Second son, Patrick Joseph - PJ, was born in 1972. PJ and John are STM grads, too. Joan taught at St. Cajetan for 3 years and substituted at Quigley South for 8 years, and then in 1984 she began her "tour of duty" with CPS. She taught at Christopher School in Chicago, a school for children with physical handicaps and other health impairments. She returned to Chicago State for a Masters in Special Education. Sadly, Joan says, in 1990, she left the Talman house after 40 years, and moved to Alsip. She retired in 2005 after a diagnosis of breast cancer, but has been cancer free for 8 years! She misses teaching, but really loves retirement. Joan spends much quality time with her grandsons Matthew (11) and Nicholas (8), and her fiancé, Frank Casey, and his 7 grandchildren. Joan says "we treasure every day...life has been so good to us." She enjoys gardening, reading her favorite authors' latest books, and traveling. A family trip to Disneyworld this past June "Was the best time ever." Joan had a blast going on all the rides with the kids. "I proved to them that Grandma is a 'young' 66!!"

Dennis Soustek graduated from Lewis University in 1969. For the next eight years he taught school in the Village of Burnham. In 1979 he married Berni, a teacher. Dennis and Berni have two great kids, Meghan who will graduate this spring from the University of Florida with a Doctorate Degree in Genetics, and Mark who graduated from Western Illinois University and is a police officer. He loves spending time with his children, and shares his love of motorcycles with his son. In 1975, Dennis was awarded a graduate degree in School Administration from De Paul University. For the next 29 years he served first as a principal in a Catholic school in Chi-



Grapevine



cago, and then in public school districts in Lansing, Hillside, New Lenox, and Orland Park. He returned to Lewis University and, in 1999, earned a Certificate of Advance Study Degree with a Superintendent Endorsement. In 2006, Dennis became the Superintendent of Schools in Orland Park. He retired in 2010, but went back to teaching, part-time, at Olivet Nazarene University. Dennis really retired in 2012, and can now spend more time enjoying his passion...motorcycles. He is a member of two motorcycle clubs and rides every chance he gets. He really loves the long road trips he takes with his son on their Harleys. He enjoys camping and his many trips to Disney World. (Editors' note: Dennis..."Get your motor running, head out on the highway, look for adventure in whatever comes your way! You keep moving, Dennis...that's the Tommy More spirit...it's our time to be off to new adventures!!)

In 1969, **Ed Fedyniak** graduated from St. Joseph's College. Most of Ed's career has been in warehousing and distribution, but he has spent some time in retail management. Ed says he is thinking about retirement, but is not quite ready to make that jump. Married for 41 years, he and his wife, Marilyn, are diehard southsiders. They lived in Glenwood for 7 years, Alsip for 27 years, and in Orland Park for the past 7. They have one daughter and have transitioned into happy grandparenthood very much enjoying their two grandsons. They are also diehard grandparents, keeping up with their two baseball-playing grandsons. The youngest, Blake, twisted grandpa's arm, and for the last three years, Ed has been an umpire for the Mokena Baseball/Softball Association. Brennan, the older grandson, plays travel baseball for the Lincolnway Blue Demons, so

baseball keeps Ed and Marilyn very busy. But, they love it. They happily arrange their vacation time around Ed's umpiring and the Blue Demons tournaments, which have taken them to Ohio, Wisconsin, and, this past season, to Coopers-town, New York. In late August, after 35 years, Ed reconnected with some of the guys he grew up with from the east and west sides of Fr. Hayes Park. Ed exclaimed, "Geez, did we age!!" (Editor's note...Well, Ed, we are rounding home but we aren't out yet!)

Nancy Walsh Ryan's family moved to 84th Street the summer before she began 5th grade. She hit the jackpot...on that block lived her soon-to-be classmates Carole Shallow, Susan Schmidt, Arleen Shusha, Jack Raba, Kevin Stentson, Maureen Creighton, Jeanne Minarik, and Karen Callahan! Bill Ryan, the guy she's been married to for 44 years, also lived on 84th Street. Although, she says, sadly for him he graduated from St. Killians, as he didn't move to STM until 1966. Nancy and Bill have two children; Paul lives in Dillon CO and Colleen resides in Chicago. Nancy received her under-graduate degree from Chicago State University and her Masters in Early Childhood Education from Lewis University. She taught Kindergarten for 30 years in her home community of Lansing IL. Nancy and Bill, a State Farm agent, both retired when they were 55. They love to travel and have been to Europe 17 times and also on many cruises. They moved to Shorewood in 2007, where they live between trips! Soon to join their home, if not their travels, is a new puppy, Donegal, a soft coated shitzu. And, Nancy wants you to know that, yes, she's the one who sends all the "annoying" emails! (Editors' note - we love your emails, Nancy!!!)

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.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Green Door, Bozzi's Christmas lights, the Quonset Hut church, the Legion of Decency, Woodmack Bowling Lanes, CCD and early dismissal for the "publics" religion classes ...all distant memories from the "old neighborhood." Some of us have many delightful memories of those times, some less, and still other's recollections are quite mixed. Regardless, those were the days when we were young, innocent, and forming the foundations of who we are today. In spite of attending school in overcrowded and minimally equipped classrooms (by today's standards) and sharing one bathroom with five or more family mem-

bers in a Chicago bungalow, it is quite amazing that we managed to thrive and survive in our personal and professional lives. While not everyone has stayed closely connected to other classmates, we are all bonded in a time warp of "the way we were." And that, friends, is what this Newsletter is all about. So ideas for articles, information on current or past events, or anything else that you would like to see included in future issues is welcome. Please contact us at STM '61 Newsletter, P.O. Box 64494, Chicago 60664-0494 or send an email to the Class website: www.stthomasmoreclassof1961.com



In Memoriam

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



Marcia (Bartosik) Arger
Rev. Patrick Brennan
Karen (Callahan) Mowen
Kathleen (Condon) Swoope
William Clair
Michael Croke
Rev. John Daley
Patricia Doyle
Joseph Hale
Barbara Hames
Terry Hinz
Russell Kaminski
William Kovac

Thomas Lucas
Joyce (Klusas) Perkaus
John McDade
Martin McGinnis
John Murphy
Claudia (Olund) Powers
Thomas Plutz
Donna Richter
Timothy Savage
Susan (Schmid) Hanik
Robert Schwab
Joyce (Sefzik) Duider
Catherine (Vergoth) Seitz



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 above.

Whatever Happened to...



JANET BRUNNER



I was born Janet Brunner on April 27, 1947, and Angela “Muffy” Butler and Jack Daley were my roomies at Little Company of Mary’s nursery.

Graduating from Longwood (AOL) high school, I received my Bachelor of Science in Business and Management from the University of Maryland.

Through my husband Michael Chicvara’s 24-year naval career, we were fortunate enough to live in Honolulu, Hawaii, Jacksonville, Florida, Rota, Spain, and Tucson, Arizona.

We love to travel and have been all over the United States. While living in Spain we were able to visit many surrounding countries including: Portugal, Greece, Holland, France, England, Germany, Morocco, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Ireland and the Czech Republic.

I worked for Hawaii Pacific University in International Recruitment for 9 years and traveled to Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Bangkok and Chiang Mai to recruit students for the university.

Presently, Michael and I have settled in Phoenix where we are active in our retirement community and where we founded a Baby Boomer Club which has grown from 43 to 1,000 members! Although we never had children, our lives are busy with volunteering, traveling as often as we can and partying with the Boomers here in Arizona! We are favorite aunt and uncle to 19 nieces and nephews.

My brother, Jim, who graduated from STM in 1962, recently retired and lives in Oswego so we visit the Chicago area frequently.

Memories

The incredible heat in the old Quonset hut church!
Counting collection money from masses at the old rectory so I could catch a glimpse of Father Auer passing by! He was so adorable!

Walking eight blocks home to 80th and Maplewood for lunch, having ten minutes to eat and then having to walk all the way back!

Hurrying to sit down before the bell rang so Gestapo Miss Leone wouldn’t crack the backs of your heels with a ruler as she did quite a bit to Frank Dolan as I recall!

As a treat, getting to stay at school for lunch with your brown bag food and being able to actually BUY a carton of white or chocolate milk!

MIAs

The **Class Directory Committee** continues in its effort to locate all of our classmates. It is committed to the motto: “As we go forward, no one gets left behind”. In June 2008, there were 76 MIAs out of a class of 196. To date, we are missing only the following:

Timothy Masterson Joyce Ryan 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 Class Directory Committee in any mode of communication (please see page 8) most convenient to you. Remember - “As we go forward, no one gets left behind”. With your help that will be the case.

Whatever Happened to...

RONALD "SZCZ" SZCZESNIAK

After leaving Tommy More, I attended Leo HS with Rose, Byrnes, and Croke. I graduated 8th from the bottom of my class, went to Wilson Junior College, won a football scholarship to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and graduated from there with a B.S. in Physical Education.

I married Marybeth Mullin in May of 1970 and we spent that summer hitchhiking across Europe. I taught in the Chicago public schools and coached freshman football for Mount Carmel High School for 25 years, where we had 10 State Championships and a 119-13 winning record. We began Windy City

Silkscreening with a \$200 investment during the blizzard of '79. I left teaching in 1983 to devote full time to the silkscreening business. I did build that!

Marybeth and I have two grown children, Jim and Jeanine, who both work for our company.

They are married and have blessed us with six beautiful grandchildren. Three of them attend Christ the King and the other three attend St. Barnabas.



Presently, I am a retired trouble-shooter for my company of 30 employees, and my wife Marybeth is the President. Over the years, we have printed "hot market" items for the Bulls and Blackhawk Championships.

Some of our favorite things to do are: taking our boat out on Lake Michigan, vacationing in South Beach, running in marathons (seven marathons in all, two of which were 50 mile runs), working out at XSport Fitness, especially doing Core Power Yoga, Hot Yoga, and Sculpt Yoga (none of which are for sissies).

Fond Memories

- Called to the chalkboard and showed the class how to make the letter Z since I had two of them in my name
- Had to fight Jack Raba for the discarded Christmas trees in order to build a bonfire in the prairie

- Got kicked out of the 8th grade May Crowning and had to watch it from the school window
- Scrambled to the bathroom during "ladies choice" at the Carroll School dances and didn't return until the song was over
- Was called down to the principal's office for hitting Mary Kay Orbon with a snowball, but I was absent that day

Words of Advice

Stand up tall and walk fast, it makes you look younger

Don't wear big white gym shoes and high socks

Don't hang around (all the time) with people that look like you

Be lean and mean, not fat and sassy

Think young!

Forget about being in the winter of your life. Live the endless summer...

GOD BLESS AMERICA!



Saint Thomas More
Room 2
1953

THE PALOMAR
STUDIOS
CHICAGO

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ation we reported the settlement position of our Advisory Committee: *"Establishing a monetary value of the interests of members of STM '61 in the Duff Property is daunting, near impossible...However, and as a starting point only, the immediate tax-free cash payout should have a floor of \$1 Billion. And, that is not to suggest that figure represents the ceiling value, only the floor. Of course, the other settlement terms - the life estate interest in the Duff real property and a percentage of any profits resulting from the commercialization of the yeast - are to stand."*)

Some time ago, this publication learned via an unnamed source (known only as "Shallow Tongue", a mole in the upper echelon of the Obama Administration who is sympathetic to the plight of STM '61) the government is expected to agree to the demand to pay an immediate tax-free cash payout of \$1 Billion, leaving the matters of the life estate interest in the Duff real property and distribution of the percentage of profits resulting from the commercialization of the yeast for future negotiations. Based on this figure, each Class member would receive **\$5,102,040!** This source, also, indicated it was the intent of the government to make all payments by June 30, 2013.

It is against this backdrop that members of the DOJ settlement team travelled from Washington, D.C., to the St. Thomas More School building last spring to meet with the Advisory Committee to finalize the first part of the settlement and initiate distribution of checks. However, just minutes before the meeting was to begin, the unthinkable occurred!

Reliable sources, present in the "closed door" session being held by the Advisory Committee to finalize their settlement position on the dollar amount of the initial distribution to be paid to each Class member, report that events started to unfold when a member of the Committee (all names are being withheld to prevent future physical injury to their persons) stood and stated, *"I grew up in a house that was located south of 83rd Street. Both my parents worked very hard and paid real money for that property which is a part of the Duff Legacy. I believe all of those members of the Class who are in a similar situation deserve to receive more of the settlement proceeds."* After some very long and anxious minutes, the eruption caused by equal parts of applause, hissing and catcalls punctuated by the dropping of copious "F" bombs, spent itself. It was at that point that another member addressed those present by exclaiming, *"I was a member of the first grade class in 1953 and attended STM all eight grades. I believe all of those who are in a similar situation deserve to receive a full share of the settlement proceeds and those who did not*

should only get a fractional share based upon the number of grades they attended STM." A deafening silence (during which time most persons present were mentally attempting to recalculate the amount each would receive), again lasting some very long and anxious minutes, was broken when, yet, another member offered, *"Let's cut through it; we can all disagree as to who has what interest in the settlement proceeds and just bring the litigation attorneys into this now. Or, we can all agree to disagree and bring in a mediator to assist us in working this out for ourselves. Seems to me the options are real clear. We can all either get reasonable real quick and mediate, or we can all jump in a bucket of s....!"* Following the wisdom of this latter voice of reason, it was decided to postpone the meeting with the DOJ negotiation team until such time that the issues presented in the Advisory Committee meeting could be resolved.

Shortly thereafter, a well-known mediator was agreed upon and retained to conduct the mediation process. As part of the effort to streamline the process, two representatives of each faction within the Advisory Committee were chosen to represent the position of that faction. Although all agreed to secret proceedings, a few members of the Advisory Committee were disappointed that their suggestion, to petition Pope Francis for application of the "Pontifical Secret" to apply to the proceedings with excommunication to result for any breach, was met with raucous laughter. Most unusual, all participants agreed to be sequestered until such time as an agreement was reached or an unbreakable impasse occurred. The mediation began on June 1st and was held at the St. Thomas More Convent.

This publication can report nothing as to what actually occurred within the mediation process except to say it dragged on to the detriment of Class. The June 30th date of possible distribution of the settlement funds passed without any sign of an agreement. The 60th anniversary of the date (i.e., September 1961) Farmer Duff executed his Last Will and Testament creating the legacy for STM '61 came and went without any break in the stalemate that kept the separate factions apart. However, it can now be reported that just days ago (on Christmas Eve) the arduous mediation process was successful and an agreement has been reached!

"...minutes before the meeting was to begin, the unthinkable occurred!"

Several participants in the secret mediation, speaking to this publication on the basis of anonymity, related, *"The greatest factor contributing to the success of the mediation was the STM '61 Class 'spirit'. At times, it was the only thing that kept us coming back to the table. Ultimately,*

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*Saint Thomas More
ROOM 13
1953*

THE PATOMAR
STUDIOS
CHICAGO

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while agreeing that the multiple seven figures each Class member would receive from the settlement fund is sufficient monetary gain, the big breakthrough came when all agreed an exact replica of 'Miss Muffet's' restaurant (formerly located on the northeast corner of 79th and Western) is to be erected on the Duff Legacy property (editors' note: see Issue 1 for a description of the overall development plan for the Duff legacy property.) In keeping with its original character, it will be a 24 hour restaurant serving all manner of its authentic haute cuisine (i.e. only REAL foods, e.g., eggs, bacon and pork sausage) cooked in REAL ingredients (e.g., bacon grease, butter, lard) are to be served. Of course, there will be no cost to members of the Class who choose to frequent it. And, it is to be the official caterer to the future Friday afternoon socials to be held at the Carroll School."

So where does this leave the matter of settlement negotiations and distribution of, at least, some part of the settlement funds? "Unfortunately, during the past summer

the 'hot' topic became Obamacare. It continues to top the news today. Add to that the current holidays and it is not surprising that attempts made in the past few days to reengage the DOJ negotiation team in settlement discussions have been unsuccessful," said a member of the Advisory Committee. She went on to state, "We are hopeful, however, that negotiations will resume early in January with some distribution of funds to be made before the close of Q1 of 2014. Based upon the intelligence we received from well-placed sources in the Obama Administration, our position that the government should make a "good faith" payment of \$1 million to each member of the Class by March 30th with the remaining \$4.1 million paid by June 30, 2014, will be favorably received."

As in the past, this publication has been asked by the Advisory Committee to keep all members of the Class apprised of the status of this situation which, of course, it will continue to do.

**THE EDITORS AND STAFF OF
THE STM '61 NEWSLETTER WISH
TO EXTEND TO EACH MEMBER
OF THE CLASS A HEALTHY AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

How To Contact the Newsletter:

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