



## FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of FMSA, Inc.

Max Elliott

FMS Class of 1958

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> was a perfect fall day for the first annual meeting of the Florida Military School Association. Thirty two people gathered at the Perfect Spot at Sky Dive DeLand under ideal conditions. Many came early to have lunch and enjoy the on-going show by the sky divers from all over the world.



Harry Silvis, our official vendor, had an interesting array of articles for purchase. He also now has a catalogue of these items available. His display drew the interest of many people who were there to watch the sky diving and by the international divers themselves.



Steve Nash, '65, offered the use of his nearby hanger for our business meeting. This proved to be a wonderful setting for our meeting. Thirty three people were in attendance when Association president, Max Elliott, called the meeting to order at 2 pm. After welcoming those in attendance, the Change of Command took place and we are now officially governed by the Florida Military Association, Inc. and its by-laws. Max introduced the other new officers: Thornton Ridinger, Vice president, Sue Courtney the Secretary, Andy Staley the Treasurer, and Members at Large Jerry Alleyne, Rex Riley and Dennis Eyre.

Thornton Ridinger led the group in a moment of silence in remembrance of our recently

deceased members. Two that were recognized were Bill Bennett '60 and Darol Ray Dennis '66.

Max then reviewed the accomplishments of the organization. A series of informative newsletters have been sent out on a regular basis and our FMS website has been up and running under the leadership of Tim Tyndall and Andy Staley. Our first major activity was the Gathering that was held in December 2001, followed in October 2002 with The Lollapalooza. In conjunction with the October affair, was the establishment of the FMS Museum and the restoration of the Brick Entrance gates and placement of a Memorial Plaque. The formal incorporation of the Florida Military School Association, Inc. was the culminating activity.



But we don't stop there and rest on our laurels. Plans are underway for future newsletters, a FMS Caribbean Cruise, the restoration of the original FMS sign and plans to increase our membership. The biggest endeavor we face is laying the groundwork for the biggest FMS affair of all.....the 2006 Golden Anniversary Celebration.

The weekend of August 4,5,6<sup>th</sup> 2006 has been selected for the Golden Anniversary celebration in DeLand. The Holiday Inn has promised us outstanding discount rates. Committees are being formed for the various functions and your help is solicited. There are plans to make this even bigger and better than the fabulous Lollapalooza. Because of all the advance notice people should be able to plan ahead to arrange their vacation time so they can attend.

Treasurer Andy Staley reported that we are still financially stable and able to fund our newsletters and other activities. (A full Treasurer's Report is included elsewhere in this newsletter.) He also reported that we continue to receive donations and these are gratefully received.

After a period of questions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned. Everyone seemed very reluctant to leave and many stayed to talk while others went off to further enjoy the evening together at dinner. The classes were well represented with representation from all classes except '66, and '67. There were even three members of the FMS College classes and one faculty member, Alda Earp. Wives or girlfriends accompanied many of the members.

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Ms. Alda Earp

The next annual meeting will be in October 2004, and we hope there will be more in attendance.

## FMS Goes CRUISING !

Sue Elliott

FMS Honorary Cadette, Cruise Coordinator

The first Florida Military School Association cruise sailed off from Port Canaveral, Florida on December 6<sup>th</sup> on the Carnival Glory. The group was immediately into the spirit of things as they arrived at the pier and saw their enormous ship, which is one of the newest and biggest sailing for Carnival Lines.



After the check-in ashore they were warmly greeted aboard and ushered to their luxury cabins. With the mandatory boat drill behind them, the group quickly oriented themselves to their new home away from home, unpacked and settled in. As part of the royal treatment each cabin received a bottle of champagne and chocolates from the cruise line.



As they sailed away with the setting sun the fun began. The group soon gathered for their special FMS Welcome Aboard party. This was really the first full gathering of those occupying the eleven cabins in our group. The Association

sponsored the party and provided each member of the group with a special cruise T-shirt.



The first port was Key West and after a busy day ashore, the ship sailed off in the sunset. Everyone watched for the famous "green flash" as the red sun quietly slipped below the horizon. There was so much to do aboard ship that no one could be bored. For some it was the call of the casino or bingo and others were drawn to the spa or the pools. It was easy to fall prey to the lazy lifestyle. If movies were your bag, there were plenty of first runs available.

The art auctions proved to be a real drawing card for our group, and before the cruise ended, ten pieces of artwork were snapped up by members of our group. Who ever thought we had such a cultured group?



No one went hungry, that's for sure. A lazy breakfast on your own balcony, followed by a buffet lunch on deck, and the elegant dinners in the dining room were a big drawing card. If you were hungry in between, there was always something available for snacks like pizza 24 hours, or shushi, the deli, or maybe fish & chips, ice cream or the endless coffee or iced tea. Eating could easily become a full time activity. And every time we left a port, the Sail Away parties were great fun. Everyone soon had their favorite hangout or gathering spot.

The formal nights brought everyone out in their finery and the photographers were everywhere. One night we were treated to the Captain's Reception and Cocktail party with champagne and goodies. We sure had a good looking group and everyone cleaned up real well. The special treats in the dining room made the whole evening outstanding.

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Those who enjoy the nightlife had a selection of activities. Dancing, disco or swing, or maybe a stage show, it was unending. The two special Cabaret Shows were Las Vegas quality and, the girls were spectacular. Not to be undone, the male dancers stunned the women with their rendition of the Full Monty. Cozumel, Belize and Progreso offered a variety of activities. Some headed for the beaches, others preferred the shops and of course, there was the sightseeing. If history was your bag, there were plenty of ruins to visit. Everyone scattered to their various activities and then congregated in the evening before dinner to share their tales over a cool drink.



So soon the days slipped away and we had to repack all our treasures and dirty duds to prepare to rejoin the world of reality. The group gathered on the Lido Deck before dinner our final night to relive our pleasant days and plan for a future trip together. The final morning The Glory quietly slipped into Port Canaveral as the sun made its early appearance and soon we were busy with customs and disembarkation. As we waited to leave the ship, we gathered once more on the Lido Deck for one last goodbye. Another great party was over, and we reluctantly scattered to our cars to head on home. When did you say that next cruise was? We're ready.

### Comments from the cruisers....

*"Best vacation in years."*

*"Great time for all. Can't wait until next time. Don't miss out!"*

*"Meeting everyone and becoming friends was the best! We enjoyed a private tour of Cozumel, the most of all ports...especially eating an authentic Mexican lunch at Senor Iquan's" Tom & Rena*

*"The Art Auction was the best! A very enjoyable, relaxing time. NO CELL PHONES!!"*

*"Any former cadet that wasn't on this very nice cruise was A.W.O.L." John P. Bulat*

*"Spending time with everyone was by far the highlight!"*

**Editor's Note** - Anyone interested in an Eastern Caribbean cruise next year? Let's hear from you. If there is enough interest, maybe we can get another good deal.

## FMS **GOLDEN** ANNIVERSARY...

It's not too soon to start planning. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the school will soon be here. If you thought The Lollapalooza was a bash, wait until you see this celebration. The official opening was September 4, 1956, and plans have begun for a celebration in 2006. We want to include as many of you as possible. We are planning the celebration for early August, so we don't interfere with school opening or family obligations. With this much notice, we hope many of you will plan your vacation to include this celebration.

As with any big endeavor, many hands make light work of the necessary labor. We need your hands and talents to make this another FMS success. A steering committee is being formed and would welcome your participation. Let's hear from you. **Any suggestions** will also be welcome. Is there a special activity you would like to see planned? **Drop us a line or give us a call.** Let's make 2006 special for everyone!

***Don't miss this one!***

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### **Cadet Feature:**

**William S. Bennett**  
**1941-2003**

Tribute by Classmate and Friend,  
**Thornton Ridinger**  
FMS Class of 1959

I am sorry to report that Bill Bennett died on October 1st at the Veterans Hospital in Lake City, after an illness of several months. He is survived by his wife Eileen, and sons Scott and Andy.

Everyone who went to Florida Military School during its first three years of operation knew Bill Bennett. "Beaver" was one of the most popular cadets at the school, and was a stellar athlete, competing in football, baseball, basketball, and track. Jim Turner tells me that Bill and Jim Purucker set a passing record for the Gator Bowl in 1958. It was the most passing yardage in that stadium in a single game at that time.

At FMS, Bill taught me a lesson in leadership that I never forgot. He was my company commander in my first year and one day I walked into the latrine to find him mopping the

floor. I commented that the company commander shouldn't be doing that. His reply stuck with me. "It needed to be done." That "get

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the job done" attitude stayed with him all his life, and hopefully a little of it rubbed off on me.

Many others met Bill since we got back together as alumni. Bill attended all of the get-togethers, and made many new friends (and renewed old friendships) at each of them. His memory was phenomenal and I think he remembered every event and every person from his time at FMS more than forty years ago.

Although not a scholar, Bill had an unceasing curiosity about the world and an interest in people. When you talked with him, you knew that he really cared about you. He continued his lifelong learning about the world and often astounded me with new and exotic information that he had acquired through watching the many educational TV channels. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and particularly enjoyed sharing those activities with his two sons.

As one friend noted when informed of his passing: "He was a fine and decent man and I was grateful to have the chance to meet him again. I remember him as a super athlete at school, as a quarterback, on the track team, playing basketball and able to get along with everyone."

Bill was a good friend and a good man. He will be missed.

**R.I. P.**

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## RESTORATION Project

**Harry Silvis**  
FMS Class of 1965

During the Reunion in 2002, the school sign was discovered in the undergrowth near the school pillars, where we installed the commemorative plaque. Most cadets have never seen the sign, as it was not installed until 1966. There is one report that the class of 1965 gave the sign and pillars to the school. (At this time we can not be confirmed.)



The Roger Davis trucking company that owns that piece of property the sign is located on has cleared the land and will let the sign stand, as long as they own the land. At the FMSA Annual meeting, four graduates of the Class of 1965 took on the task of restoring the sign. Steve Nash and Jim Gibson are going to rebuild the

wood backing as they live nearby. Meanwhile John Kendrick and Harry Silvis in Kennesaw, Georgia are making the wooden letters for the sign. The actual reconstruction will not start until after deer season but all work should be completed before the 2006 Celebration. This picture shows how it may look when restored.



If you want to help with labor or money,

Contact Harry at:  
770.421.1415  
Fax: 770.421.1745  
[printers@bellsouth.net](mailto:printers@bellsouth.net)

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## THE MAN ...

**Col. Carl Ward**

**A three-part interview by**

**Jerry Alleyne**  
FMS Class of 1957, Faculty Member

### Col. Ward: The Present



Travel up I-75 through Kentucky and just before reaching the Ohio River head east on the 275 Cincinnati by-pass. Take the first exit on Dixie Highway and another quick right and you have arrived at Col. Ward's Dixie Heights home in Northern Kentucky, a spacious one-story, beautifully designed with a baby grand piano as the center piece in the living room (his son Clark plays, not Col Ward). The location is not far from where he grew up and only about 2 blocks from his alma mater, Dixie Heights High School. He has lived there since coming back to Kentucky in the late 70's but also spent some time on his 400 acre farm where he raised cattle until just recently selling the farm and now living full time at his Dixie Heights residence.

Col. Ward remains very active. He has recently undertaken the task of refurbishing an older home once occupied by his mother near downtown Covington. He is also quite an accomplished dancer and he and a woman friend attend "big band" dances around Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati several times a week.

### Col. Ward: Pre FMS

Upon graduation from High School Col.



Ward joined the Marines where he served for almost 4 years. Upon discharge he came back to Kentucky and attended Eastern Kentucky

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University where he met and married Mary who was also from Northern Kentucky.

Following graduation from EKU he took a teaching position in Daytona Beach and after a year headed north to Bamberg, South Carolina and Carlisle Military School. At Carlisle he taught American History and coached the basketball team. He said the team had only won a few games the year before he came so he figured there was no where to go but up. His teams were competitive and successful but in the back of his mind he was thinking down the road. Through his contacts in Daytona he knew of the former military base outside of Deland and, after some preliminary negotiations with Deland city officials, made the decision to strike out on his own with a vision of a military school for "scholarly gentlemen".

#### **NEXT: FMS - The First Year**

*To be continued in the next newsletter.....*

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## **A Word from the Treasurer**

**Andy Staley**

FMS Class of 1968, Treasurer FMSA

The financial position of FMSA is still favorable and we can continue to operate the association including quarterly newsletters and support of gatherings at least through 2004. The current balance, as of Monday, December 15, 2003, is not available at press time. Since the last reporting there were several major expenses.

We had budgeted \$200.00 to cover expenses for the 2003 Annual Meeting, and the actual expenses were \$200.00 for the calendars. There was an additional mailing cost for Annual Meeting reminders of \$132.51

\$300.00 was allocated for support of the FMS Cruise and due to additional attendees after our budget meeting, the actual cost was \$359.70.

Newsletter for 3rd quarter cost us \$359.01.

An approximate balance as of December 15<sup>th</sup> is \$3036.88.

Future expenses that are forecast are as follows:

Newsletter for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter     \$300.00

We should finish out 2003 at approximately \$2736.88 in our account. A new budget for the 2004 year will be prepared by the Executive Board at their next quarterly meeting.

While our current financial situation does not reflect any shortfalls, we must begin planning for the financial obligations we will face with the 50th Anniversary gathering in 2006. Any donations to the FMSA operating fund would be appreciated by all members as it will help keep our organization alive and working for each of us.

As a reminder, the officers of FMSA, Inc. receive NO pay for supporting the organization, so this money belongs to you, the members.

## **Let's Keep GROWING . . .**

**Sue Elliott, Secretary FMSA**

FMS Honorary Cadette

With the 2006 Golden Anniversary on the horizon, let's see if we can locate more of our "lost" cadets. Have you found your roommate or best buddy? Now is the time to look. We will follow up on any leads.

Max Elliott is keeping the "official" database for the association. Several new names have been added to the roster in the past year, and many of you have moved and changed your information.

Please keep him posted on these changes such as address, phone, and e-mail, etc. Don't assume that your information will be updated if you have told someone else because that is not always so, and we don't want to lose you. Max's database is used for all mailings, and any future directory updates. Every time we do a mail-out, several of the envelopes come back and this is costly. Besides we don't want to lose you after we worked so hard to find you.

If you locate someone who is not already in the database (directory) or if you have a change of information for someone else, please forward that to Max as well. Also we need to make another concerted effort to locate as many as possible before the Anniversary Celebration.

Please forward your information & corrections to:

**Max Elliott**

**135 Deer Lake Circle**

**Ormond Beach, FL 32174**

**Phone: 386-672-8686**

**[sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net](mailto:sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net)**

## **NewsLetter NEWS -**

Hey, guys! This newsletter is yours and we want to include items that interest you. This is not a "one-man band" and we need you to contribute your "music" to it. If you have news to share, ie: weddings, anniversaries, trips, promotions, retirements, obits, (heaven forbid), or any memories...please send them to us for the next newsletter. We have calculated every fraction of an ounce and we can send three, double-sided pages for each issue at a cost of only one stamp. We are trying to stretch the pennies so we can keep the newsletter coming out to you four times a year. We have calculated that each issue costs us about \$1.25 per person and we don't want to exceed that at present. We will go as long as we can before we are forced to ask for subscriptions.

The important thing is that the newsletter be informative and interesting to you. This is our main means of keeping in communication with each other after all these years. We need your feedback and your submissions. Help us make this the best.

that needed the polishing, to make it correct in my use of Miss MaHaffey's English.

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## FMSA 2004 CALENDARS

The FMSA gave 2004 Calendars to all who attended the Annual Meeting. We had these made up for us by Harry Silvis, Class of 1965. He did an excellent job and has included photos and memories from each class year. It is also a very handy format and since we had about 25 of these left over, we have decided to make them available to those of you who could not attend. The price is \$5.80 including mailing. If you want more than one calendar, additional ones are \$2.00 each. This is purely a break-even price with no profit to us. These will make a constant reminder of FMS all year long. Send your checks, payable to "Andy Staley", to Max Elliott, 135 Deer Lake Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32174. Supply is very limited so don't be left out.

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## Cadet Memories. . .

### Miss Rosa C. MaHaffey

Contributed by Harry Silvis  
FMS Class of 1965

Rosa MaHaffey came to FMS in 1965 and taught Senior English. She volunteered that she was born, "when the earth was cooling." We knew she was old as she had taught Kendrick's brother, David, who is ten years older than John, as well as their father in the Daytona Beach school system. She admitted she had retired from there at mandatory retirement age and ran into the same problem of reaching mandatory retirement in other school systems. Looking back she was probably in her late 70's or maybe even the early 80's, then.

She always dressed to the nines, with high heels, and a bright dress and then there were the hats. They were wild and big. During dress reviews you could spot her from the field with ease on the reviewing stand, with her bright dress, blond hair and a huge hat.

Her class was always an adventure to attend. Her teaching methods were different, yet we learned more from her English class, than any others. Her eccentric manners, made an impact on our young minds. On a writing paper, if you used a contraction such as can't or any other on the paper, it was a letter grade reduction. For book reports you, had to give her the title, author and a quick sentence about the book. One day, she told someone to pick up the trash and throw it in "the hell box." She was asked, Miss MaHaffey, where is that? She then volunteered that was the trash can. There were many others of these odd references from her days on the newspapers over in Daytona. After all these years, I do not remember if she was an editor or a proof reader, but it does not really matter.

Her teaching of the English language both written and spoken has been a real asset to me as a printer for over a third of a century. We have done a lot of wedding invitations over the years as well as gotten copy from customers,

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### "Hello from Venezuela,"

Would like to give a great "HUG" to all of you that I've not seen in the last 50Years!

Best Wishes and Health and God to protect you and your family!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Keep up the FMS Spirit!!

I'm sorry that I can't make it to the Annual Meeting this year, the political situation is not very good here as you might know. Will aim for 2006!

If anyone of you come this way or want to communicate with me, please do:

Home: 58-0212-978-3006

Fax: idem.

Mobil1: 58-0414-366-8759

Mobil2: 58-0414-301-2785

E-mail: [bokortom@telcel.net.ve](mailto:bokortom@telcel.net.ve)

**The Caracas kid, Tomas Bokor, Class of 63!**

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*Max Elliott & Sue Courtney  
happily*

*announce their marriage*

*on*

*Saturday, November 22, 2003*

*aboard the Beresford Lady Riverboat  
Deland, Florida*

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The Board of Directors and  
Officers of the Florida Military  
School Association, Inc.  
Wish each of you the merriest of  
holidays and a Healthy and  
Prosperous New Year.

