



## From the President's Pen:

**Max Elliott**  
FMS Class of 1958

The **2006 Golden 50<sup>th</sup>** reunion countdown is at 8 months and counting! It will be held in DeLand, Florida on the first weekend in August (August 4-6) 2006. This newsletter will go out before Christmas in December, 2005. Immediately after that will be January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Years day, 2006. Whew, a blink of the eye. I'm really looking forward to it and I hope you are also.

I'm trying to update all information for the **2006 Golden 50<sup>th</sup>** reunion as soon as possible on our website - [www.fms-assn.org](http://www.fms-assn.org). If you are able, please check out the site when you can. Of course, I will update the information in each newsletter right up to the reunion. At the end of this newsletter are listings of the current status of our Event and Gathering Planning and Coordinators.

This newsletter also contains a report of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, an article by **Lee Hansen (1963)** on Major Dinkins, a Cadet Feature by **Sue Elliott (1960)** with the spotlight on **Charlie Mussalem (1969)**, the Spin the Web by **Asa Dean (1960)**, a staff spotlight (again by **Sue**) on **Ed "The Butcher" Grove**, the Treasurer's Report from **Thornton Ridinger (1959)**, and an article by **Sue** on our continuing search for Cadets, Faculty, Staff, and Friends (note the efforts by **Harry Silvis (1965)** in compilation of a "Master List").

I intended to include details and instructions on registration procedures in this newsletter, but, that will have to wait until the next one. **Sue Elliott (1960)** and **Thornton Ridinger (1960)** volunteered to pitch in and are now busily preparing the registration procedures. Again, the information will be fed to our FMSA website as soon as it is available and will be updated in forthcoming newsletters. Many, many thanks to all those whose generous contributions have allowed the continuation of these newsletters!

Displays will be set up in various locations throughout the Holiday Inn facilities. In a repeat of his greatly successful continual slide show from **The Lollapalooza, Andy Staley (1968)** will set up another one for the **Golden 50<sup>th</sup>**. Additionally, **Rex Riley (1970)**, has agreed to capture the history of the **Golden 50<sup>th</sup>** in still photography. Those who attended **The Lollapalooza** will, I'm sure, will remember the excellent job done by **Rex** there. Thanks to the largess of **Tom Sperling (Faculty)** the FMSA Museum should be upgraded in time for the 2006 reunion. A lot of folks are doing a lot of things for this reunion and I look forward to seeing you all there!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



The third annual meeting of the FMSA was held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Deland Airport. There were 22 in attendance when the meeting was called to order by President Max Elliott. We were pleased with the turnout since we were in competition with the FL-GA game and many of our members were still recovering from Hurricane Wilma in So. Florida. Only 5 classes lacked representation, and Ms. Alda Earp represented the faculty. She was presented with a framed picture of FMS shield and her photo from an FMS annual, for having faithfully attended all three years.



The meeting was once again held in Steve Nash's hanger. Two new board members were announced, Asa Dean (1960) and Lee Hansen (1963). Those attending received an FMS 2006 calendar prepared by Harry Silvis and a handout outlining the Golden 50<sup>th</sup> General Information and Event Planning. The events were discussed and volunteers were solicited to act as event or gather coordinators.



Treasurer Thorton Ridinger reported that contributions received will facilitate the continued publishing of the newsletter up to and through the 2006 Golden 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion and will help fund the Golden 50<sup>th</sup> planning activities. These contributions have allowed FMSA to function without requiring dues or membership fees.

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Following the general business meeting, Charles "Spyder" Byland (1963) showed 8mm films taken during the early years of FMS. Some attending were able to recognize themselves in the films. Spyder is having the films covered to either a CD or DVD and we will hope to be able to show them at the Golden 50<sup>th</sup>. FMSA is going to try to preserve as much of our recorded history as possible.

## Faculty -

### Major Dinkins Found FMS When It Found Him

*By Lee Hansen, class of 1964*

The year 1959 was a good one for Chaplin Dinkins. He'd just earned his bachelor's degree in Education at the University of Florida and landed his first teaching position without even looking for it.



"The university Personnel Department had a job placement service," the former FMS instructor explained in a recent interview. "Colonel Ward called there looking for prospective instructors. They gave him my name and he called me."

One thing quickly led to another and Chaplin Dinkins became Captain Dinkins. "I was young. I was right out of school. I was trained and I wanted to work. To me it was a challenge," he recalled.

He began in February, 1959, teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade civics and English and taking up residence in Howard Hall. After his first year on the job Florida education requirements changed and he switched to teaching cadets American and world history.

The school fit the new instructor and he fit it. "During the 1960's Florida Military had many talented, creative and dedicated faculty and staff members and I enjoyed working with all of them." And the cadets, many of them in the earlier grades, warmed to the captain's easy-going manner.

But all life situations change. After nine years of teaching and a promotion to Major and commandant of Allyene Hall, Chaplin Dinkins knew the time was at hand to prepare to assume responsibility for the family farm and garden business his grandfather had begun.

Both he and Major Pendarvis resigned from FMS in 1968. "I taught history at Sanford Naval Academy for two years and then took over Dinkins Service Store in Dunnellon in 1970," he said. He is the third generation of his family to own and operate the retail store in the north central Florida town. He runs the business with Mary Virginia, one of his two sisters.



MAJOR CHAPLIN A. DINKINS III

"I live a quiet life," he reflected. "I enjoy gardening and going to movies. I also do a lot of volunteer work for my church."

And does he ever hear from any of his former FMS students? "Oh, yes!" he said with obvious pleasure. "Every year some of them will stop by to see me."

If you'd like to call Chaplin Dinkins, he can be reached weekdays at Dinkins Service Store, 352-489-2340. He asks that you call before 10 a.m. Or write or stop by and see him. The store address is 11907 N. Williams Street (US 41), Dunnellon, Florida 34432. He says he'd love to hear from you or meet you again.



And will he be at the Golden 50 Reunion next August. "You bet!"

## CADET FEATURE -

### Charlie Mussalem

*By Sue Elliott*

"Charlie who?", you say. Charlie was an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at FMS in 1965 and was only at FMS for one year, but he is a success story that is worth telling. Charlie describes himself as "young,

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dumb and full of come”, a tough guy but you would never think that today. As a retired teacher, looking at his annual photo, it would be easy to describe him as a fun-loving, handful...but then weren't most of the boys at FMS?



Charlie is a fifth generation member of a large family that have been committed to bring the best quality, service and value to its many clients and friends. Today, Charlie and his brother operate the Mussallem Galleries in Jacksonville and Tucson, Arizona. These galleries are an eclectic array of museum quality fine arts, antiques, objects d'art and oriental rugs. But this is a gallery like no other you have ever visited and it is on a par with the most famous in the world. And so are his customers.

On a recent visit to Jacksonville, we were treated to a tour of these exceptional galleries. Yes, the art is for sale but the variety and beauty are overwhelming. And where else will you find a full bar and cigar lounge right in the middle of everything? You can take your own tour by visiting their website: [www.mussallem.com](http://www.mussallem.com) or better yet, plan a personal visit.

In addition to managing this beautiful gallery, Charlie has also written a book., Abouot Life..A Philosophy of Living” by Charles S. Mussallem, III. “To my readers, this book represents life experiences and stories that have been learned by me, lived by me, and told by me. It is my wish and desire to impact those who read these words, in the same profound manner, as these words have impacted my life.”



*“Adversity enhances character as tempering strengthens steel” (Charles S. Mussallem III)*

And the man behind this philosophy? Charlie greeted us in casual shorts and t-shirt, a man entirely comfortable with his place in this world. A well-spoken, straightforward man, with a warm and gentle nature. It is evident from talking to

him that family is very important to Charlie. Oh yes, the tour also include a visit to his private quarters, themselves part of “the Loft Gallery”, that he has created in a former rug warehouse. A far cry from a warehouse today, and is rightly a true “Mussallem Signature Gallery”.

Charlie has served on the board of many civic, educational, cultural and charity organizations. His travels have taken him to all corners of the world and he has rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous, yet he is a totally down to earth person. He believes you should not just live life but truly experience it.

It was a delightful experience to sit and visit with Charlie and it was difficult to leave all that beauty and re-enter the commercial world outside.

Oh yes, ask Charlie about “finding your orange”...It's an outstanding story and one to live by.

## Spin the Web



by Asa “Ace” Dean '60  
FMSA Webmaster

Florida Military School Association's (FMSA's) official World Wide Web Site can be seen at this URL: <http://www.fms-assn.org/>

### Other Sites

This is not the only web site available for FMSA. I know of these that follow (please tell me if you know of any others).

**FMS Photo Site** by former FMS Cadet **Andy Staley '68**:  
<http://fmsphotosite.tripod.com/index.htm>.

**FMS Site** by former FMS Cadet **Tim Tyndall '68**:  
<http://www.ediscountheaven.com/fms/> .  
<http://www.ediscountheaven.com/fms/Lollap.htm>

**FMS Forum**, a new chat-room style site on Yahoo! that **Steve Fulford '60** has developed. To become a forum member, email Steve Fulford ([sheffield42@yahoo.com](mailto:sheffield42@yahoo.com)) and request an invitation to join.

See the Links page on FMSA's web site for these and other web sites of interest. And, if you will permit me this plug, FMSA's web site has been donated by my company, Asa Dean Computing <http://www.AsaDeanComputing.com>

### Questions & Comments

Send me your questions, comments, criticisms (ouch!). [IRAPilot2@cox.net](mailto:IRAPilot2@cox.net)

## Does this bring back memories?



Does this man look familiar?



MR. ED GROVE  
School Barber

Many of you nicknamed him "the Butcher", but his real name is Ed Grove and he was the school barber for many years.

Ed is still living in Deland and he continued to barber after he left FMS. He worked for another military school in Sanford for awhile but soon returned to Deland. Ed began to get a complex after several other locations where he worked closed down and decided that was a sign that he too should close down so he retired.



He lives close to Stetson University and is an avid follower of the various Stetson teams. His hobby is true crime stories and has quite a collection. To prove he hasn't lost his touch, he had Max climb into "the chair" for old times' sake.



Since Ed is so close, you will probably get to see him at the 2006 reunion.

## MONEY \$\$\$ TALKS...

Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer  
FMS Class of 1958

Treasurer's Report for the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Following the annual meeting in October, 2004, \$2,359.01 was received from our former Treasurer, Andy Staley.

During the past year, we had 7 donations totalling \$2,815, and sold one directory for \$5.00

On the debit side, we printed four newsletters for a total cost of \$1,208.73. Also, we spent \$100.00 on NASCAR Archival Research expenses, researching the FMS - NASCAR connection. The annual corporation fee of \$61.25 was paid to the State of Florida, and \$44.20 was spent for postage for mailing information and newsletters to newly found alumni.

The bank balance, at the time of the annual meeting, was \$3,764.83. This amount should enable us to carry the work of the Association through the Golden 50th Reunion and to provide a first-class gathering that will make everyone proud. It's going to be an exciting time.

Your financial support is very greatly appreciated and we intend to recognize our donors at the reunion.

## The SEARCH CONTINUES

- No stone left unturned.

Sue Elliott, FMSA Secretary

October 2004 - we had approximately 520 on our mailing list. This number does not reflect those identified as deceased, or lost.

Another more recent search has produced another 25 cadets and faculty. We ran out of time but have very definitive leads on most of the faculty members. We will be following up on these leads in the near future. There are also a stack of cadets to be called, and we have been experiencing a high rate of success. Our only limitation is time. We can only make calls in the early evening or on weekends, so as not to interfere with meal hours, church times, or work. We will continue.

A big problem has been the number of people we lose every time we do a mailout. People are moving and forget to update their information with us. Since we get approximately 30 returned on each mailing, we no longer remail their newsletter. Rather we update their information in our file and they get the next mailing. At \$.37 per newsletter to remail, it was draining our resources too quickly.

At present (October 2005) – our total mailing list is now approximately 613, not counting those we have lost or who are deceased.

A master list of anyone who ever attended FMS is in the process of being compiled. At present, through the help of Harry Silvis, who entered names for many classes, a rough list has been compiled. Now we are attempting to cull out and consolidate duplicate entries of the same person with different names, or hometowns, etc. Then all staff and faculty members will also be entered.

It is hoped that as part of the 2006 Directory, a copy of the completed master list can be included. The 2006 Directory will possibly be altered to include only a minimal biography, but Geographical and Class listings will still be included.

Hopefully when we mail this issue out we will not have as many "returns" as we have had for the past issues. Max updates our mailing list just before every mailing but still there are those who

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move or change their address in some way and their newsletter gets returned.

Please forward your information to:  
**Max Elliott**  
135 Deer Lake Circle  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174  
Phone: 386-672-8686 or 386-749-4031  
[sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net](mailto:sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net)

## AUGUST 2006 – Happy 50<sup>th</sup> FMS!

### Golden 50<sup>th</sup> General Information

Florida Military School officially opened in the fall of 1956 with a total of 63 cadets in attendance. The year 2006 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the opening of Florida Military School. "Golden" is the term used to denote the 50<sup>th</sup> event of a series. We are calling this reunion the Golden 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion, or the **Golden 50<sup>th</sup>** for short.

The Golden 50<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Holiday Inn in DeLand Florida on the first weekend in August 2006 – Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup>. (Please note that the Holiday Inn has said they will offer the special rates to those who wish to come on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and to those who wish to remain until Monday the 7<sup>th</sup>.)

Check-in will be held in the Holiday Inn lobby 1-5pm on Friday afternoon and 9-12 on Saturday. After that, check-in instructions will be posted. The Stetson Suite (6<sup>th</sup> floor) will again be used as our Hospitality Suite. The Suite will be mainly for socializing since we have obtained a large room on the main floor for static displays, videos and Harry's Store.

Friday will be mainly self-directed activities. There will, of course, be gatherings in the Stetson Suite as well as on-going presentations and displays in various designated places at the Holiday Inn. Their pool, restaurant, and lounge will be available. They will offer a special "early bird" Friday night in the restaurant and Cash Bar on the pool deck from 5-7pm. Downtown DeLand also hosts a number of fine shops, restaurants, and activities.

On Saturday, in addition to the on-going presentations, displays, and gatherings, various organized events will be scheduled. In planning are Historical Tours, River Cruise, Shopping Tours, etc. A pool party is also planned for Saturday afternoon. Saturday night will be the informal dinner/dance held at the Holiday Inn.

On Sunday morning, at the Holiday Inn, we will have our breakfast and FMSA meeting. There will be door prizes and raffle drawings. Following the meeting, the 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary Reunion will wind down and come to an official close, although you may wish to participate in other local activities throughout the day (or even Monday - remember the Holiday Inn will extend our special rates through Monday).

## Event Planning

At 9 months out from the Golden 50<sup>th</sup>, this represents the current status of the events in planning. The Holiday Inn, which hosted us for our 2002 reunion, has been instrumental in our overall planning process and invaluable for the events occurring at the Holiday Inn itself. In addition to facilitating the presentations, displays and gatherings, they are providing maximum support for the Pool Party, Ghost Tour, Dinner & Dance, and the Breakfast Meeting. Of course, the Holiday Inn Rhythm Street Lounge will also be available to us for other get-togethers.

For more information on the Holiday Inn DeLAND, see:  
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hd/delnd>

### Historical Tours:

As he did for the last reunion, Mr. William J. Dreggors, Jr., in the persona of Mr. Henry DeLand, will conduct historical tours of the city of DeLand. The tours will include our own Florida Military School exhibit located in the DeLand Memorial Museum. We are planning two tours for Saturday. Each tour will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.

For more information on Mr. Dreggors, see:  
<http://www.delandhouse.com/dreggors.htm>

And for more information on the DeLand Memorial Museum, see:  
<http://www.deland.org/Parks/delandmemorialhospital.htm>

For general information on Volusia County history, see: <http://volusiahistory.com/>

### Shopping Tours:

We are in the process of setting up shopping tours for downtown DeLand. We are working with the MainStreet DeLand Association to accomplish these local shopping tours. They provided a great deal of support for us on our 2002 reunion and we are looking forward to working with them again on our Golden 50<sup>th</sup>. There may be Friday night activities downtown, as well as the Saturday Shopping Tours. Stand by.

The MainStreet DeLand Association web is located at:  
<http://www.mainstreetdeland.com/index.html>

### River Cruise:

There will be a 2.5 hour Eco cruise along Lake Beresford and the St. Johns River on The Beresford Lady. This wonderful two hour cruise will take place on Saturday 11:30 to 1:30 and will include a lunch aboard ship. You really have to see this incredible vessel to appreciate it. It is truly a unique, one-of-a-kind side wheelerboat with a 90 foot ferro cement hull. As The Beresford Lady has an 80 passenger capacity, reservations will be on a first-come first-served basis.

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For more, including pictures and history, on The Beresford Lady, see: <http://www.beresfordlady.net/>

### **Pool Party:**

A Pool Party will be held at the Holiday Inn pool Saturday afternoon 2:00 to 4:00. Island drinks and beer will be available at poolside via a cash bar. More details will be forth coming. There will also be an open bar on the pool deck Friday night 5:00 to 7:00.

The pool area can be seen on the Holiday Inn DELAND web site photo tour at: <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hd/delnd>.

### **Ghost Tour:**

At our last reunion, there was a walking Ghost Tour at the site of the school. This reunion will be held in August and it is predicted that the heat will be a bear! Accordingly, the tour will consist of a pictorial display in the air conditioning of the Holiday Inn itself. Pamphlets will be also provided for self guided tours for those who wish to walk the actual site.

For more information on Florida Military School, see: <http://www.fms-assn.org/>

Of course, one of the main events of the Golden 50<sup>th</sup> will be the Saturday evening Dinner & Dance. Dress will be informal. Preceded by a cocktail party from 6:00 to 7:30, the dinner will begin at 7:30 and be followed by dancing until 11:00.

### **Breakfast Meeting:**

The other main event will be the Breakfast Meeting beginning on Sunday 9:00. There will be door prizes and raffle drawings. A memorial service is also planned for that time.

### **Gatherings:**

It is anticipated that various groups will plan their own special interest gatherings to share their unique memories. For example: Sports (football, basketball, etc), Band Company, Co-eds, Elementary, College, Class years, or other. Types of Gatherings would be Friday night Pizza, Coffee Hours, Beer & Pretzels, Saturday Breakfast, etc. We will put out the information for these Gatherings as they are received.

## **Golden 50<sup>th</sup> Event Coordinators**

### **Registration:**

Sue Elliott ('60) & Thornton Ridinger ('59)

**Raffle:** Volunteer needed

### **River Cruise:**

Asa Dean ('60)

**Historical Tours:** Volunteer Needed

### **Shopping Tour:**

Randy & Deborah Mueller ( both '70)

### **Pool Party:**

(David Tooker ('63)

**Ghost Tour:** Volunteer needed

### **Dinner & Dance:**

Dennis Eyre ('59) & Jim Turner ('59)

### **Breakfast Meeting:**

Lee Hansen ('63)

### **Memorial:**

Thornton Ridinger ('59)

## **Golden 50<sup>th</sup> Gathering Coordinators**

### **Faculty:**

Jerry Alleyne ('57)

### **College Cadets:**

Harvin Carter (College)

### **Athletic Groups:**

Tom Bresnahan (College)

### **Sky Harbor Academy:**

Lisa Lane ('78) & Tim Taylor ('78)

### **Female Cadets:**

(Robin Kolb ('74)

### **Ward Family:**

Carlene Despard ('75)

### **Class of 60:**

Steve Fulford ('60)

### **Class of 61:**

Tommy Register ('61)

### **Class of 63:**

David Tooker ('63)

### **Class of 65:**

Harry Silvis ('65)

### **Class of xx:**

(TBD)

### **Classes of xx-xx:**

(TBD)

VOLUNTEERS are still needed - to act as event coordinators or gathering coordinators. Most of the effort on your part will be required at the reunion itself.

As an event coordinator, all information necessary will be provided to you and you main job will be to see that your event "happens" as planned.

Gathering Coordinators will also be assisted with names, addresses, etc and hopefully you will contact your "gathering" folks and encourage their attendance at the 50<sup>th</sup> and

plan some sort of special get-together for just your group.