

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
PEEKSKILL, N.Y.

The Dragnet

St. Peter's School

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Free

CLASS OF 1964 REUNITES FOR TWO MAJOR EVENTS IN 2008

Friendship and feelings of brotherly love were palpable back then on that warm and sunny day on June 6, 1964 at St. Peter's School immediately following the graduation ceremony. Amidst mutual backslappings and congratulations for having made it through to the end of four years at SPS were promises to get together "very soon" for a reunion. Despite all good intentions, almost forty-four years would pass before the class would actually get back together for an organized event.

St. Peter's School graduation ceremony, June 6, 1964



The class's first reunion was held in Clearwater Beach, Florida on the weekend of February 8, 2008. Greg and Joy Wells opened their room for a Friday night cocktail party to start off the weekend. Our Saturday night private buffet provided ample opportunities for us to remember and relate SPS stories, some of which evoked warm and sentimental feelings and some that verged on the outrageous, such as when one of our classmates exploded a homemade bomb in the back room of Main House just prior to a Sunday evening chapel service. Other reminiscences left us in stitches while simultaneously leaving our wives in shock. The stories were plentiful and it was amazing to discover how much we could recall memories of those days at SPS. Time was taken to remember Seth Willets, Norm Collins, Nick Scholl, and Alan Wedvick, all four of whom had died within the previous ten years.

Class of 1964 reunion, Clearwater Beach, Florida, February 9, 2008



Front row, left to right: Jimmy Matson, Jamie Hackett, Charlie Berger, Jeff Powers, Greg Wells, Willie Compton (pka Bill Holmes). Back row, left to right: Lloyd Huck, Lew Barnes, Ralph Price, George Garrett, Rodney Nelson, Schuyler Purdy, Richard Henseler, and Grant deMacarty.

During a brief business meeting on Saturday night Rodney Nelson announced that our class had finally obtained sufficient funds from our classmates and school-wide donators to proceed with the purchase and installation of a commemorative marker at a designated site on the old campus. A model of the plaque was unveiled and a ceremony date was set for June 7, 2008 in Peekskill, almost 44 years to the day of our graduation.

June 7th was a beautiful but very hot Peekskill day for dedicating the historical marker that had been recently erected to honor Father Leeming and the 32 years that St. Peter's School was in existence. Almost forty alumni and their family members attended the ceremony out in front of the old Main House and the reception that followed in the old Bishop Gilbert Field House. Rodney Nelson should be recognized as the originator and primary force behind this project. Charlie Berger should be thanked for having mailed out over 400 invitations to alumni addresses gleaned from old SPS lists and directories. Although most of these were returned by the postal service as undeliverable, 50 did come back as valid RSVPs.

Commemorative plaque dedication ceremony, June 7, 2008



The Reverend Domenic Ciannella, class of 1964, delivering the benediction. Rodney Nelson is to his left. The plaque was permanently placed in a conspicuous spot out in front of the old Main House.

Historical marker Inscription:

Obverse: The former site of SAINT PETER'S SCHOOL 1938 to 1970. An Episcopal, college preparatory boarding school that educated up to 120 boys annually in grades 9 through 12. Founded by The Rev. Frank C. Leeming, S.T.D in 1938, the school's dormitories, academic buildings, chapel, sport facilities, and playing fields occupied this 78 acre site that was formerly the Canfield and McFadden Estates.

Reverse: This historical marker is erected as a tribute to the school's founder and to the men and women who shared their talents and knowledge to inspire, guide and educate the hundreds of young men who studied, worked, played, and worshipped on these grounds. WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION. This marker is presented by the Saint Peter's School Class of 1964 June, 2008.

From the Dragnet archives:

Jamie Hackett, '64 - Photo and article from the May, 1964 edition of the Dragnet



The Dragnet article referred to above attributed the perfect record of the 1964 track team's season to the "lettermen" who had returned for their last season before graduating. These were varsity level competitors who were among the best athletes SPS had ever produced. The article mentioned a few of them while citing some of their individual accomplishments, such as Lew Barnes "easily" winning the 100 and the 220 yard dashes in the first home meet of the season against Wooster School, Andy Schuyler taking first place in the hurdles, shot put, and the javelin throw in the same meet, and Dick Henseler tying the school's high jump record in the school's surprising 60 – 40 victory over Haldane High School.