

“Once teammates, always teammates” by Charlie Christian.

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Almira (Mrs. Jack) Sharp | 51-53/60-62 | Pre Christmas....Great grandchildren “Thank you for another great year of keeping in touch with the FSU gymnasts. It is a real joy for me.I'm off to Wichita today to be with daughter Joan and family, including grandson AF Capt. Stuart and his wife and 2 sons. We will have a four generation Christmas there. Love, peace and joy, Almira”
{Almira got me thinking. I wonder how many of you are Great-Grandparents?.....jmm}

Bob Christians | 58-60 /61-62 | The Acrobatic Kid “Merci, Jack. Great hearing from LEIGH HEISINGER. (note) Leigh, I had nothing to do with RBB&B stealing your Wheel Act!!!... was performing Club Dates & Theater late 60's and early 70's doing the Double Horizontal Bars Act (the Cory's), and the "Grinn & Barrett" Portable Casting Act, however... do know something about "piracy" still performing here at Club Med internationally. Happy Holidays everyone. Ciao, Ciao, Bob Christians “

Ed & Christine Jonas | 69-71 | 'The Statue’ “Hey Guys, Merry Christmas, Just to keep you all in the loop, Donna McQue, Asst. Vice President of University Relations, said that she and I could get together to select an appropriate location on campus and discuss the Universities assistance in providing a tax deduction status for donations to the project. We'll probably meet after the Holidays.

As to Don's enthusiastic idea, all that's missing is the kitchen sink. Needless to say, this concept wouldn't be appropriate nor tasteful, though I do love his energies.

What we will do is to begin with a "rough" concept for the piece and then develop it through line sketches which will give everyone a chance to have some input and provide those who have a difficult time envisioning dimensional objects something to think about. We want EVERYONE'S comments and support so this development stage is important and it is the manner in which I have always worked. We'll get there, eventually! Happy Holidays to all, Ed.”

Bill & Carol Beavers | 57-61/69-70 “Jack, Your jokes and puns finally motivated me to finish the long promised bio-sketch. You don't have to print it in the newsletter this late date, just enjoy. Only you will get some of the references. Bill”

“Of all of my achievements and awards during my nearly 68 years, I believe being selected “Person of the Year” by Time Magazine is the most prestigious. Born on a small farm on the wind-swept plains of Nebraska, who would guess that I would be on the cover of Time! I guess I should write a brief bio-sketch for the awards ceremony they will undoubtedly have on my behalf. This can also serve as a fulfillment of a request for same made long ago by Jack Miles.

Destined to become a farmer, a divine intervention (my Mother’s insistence) I go the “City” rather than the “Country” high school. This made all the difference in my life. It was a difficult transition from a two room elementary school with outhouses, a steel tornado shelter, and hitching posts for students’ horses to a three story school with more than two teachers, and real girls! Best of all they had a boys gymnastics team which I “stumbled” into. The gymnastics team led me to travel to exotic places outside of Nebraska, like Dayton, Ohio.

It was in Dayton that our four person Omaha YMCA team was second to the powerhouse West Side Y ,in NYC, with Abie Grossfeld as their leader. Also competing was Jack Ryder. Our paths would cross many times thereafter. Our leader and main scorer was the 1st of the great Nebraska U. gymnasts, Bruce Riley, also my mentor and original scuba diving partner. It was also in Dayton I witnessed a death on high bar. Now all of my teammates know why I was such a wuss on HB.

Winning the Nebraska state championship in All-Around, Horse and P.Bars, I had my ticket to another exotic city, Tallahassee. It was there I learned to smash beer cans on my forehead (Lennart) and some of the things you say to girls to make them like you (Miles), and how to say in Spanish “You are the Most Beautiful Girl in the World” , and to light farts. (Fernando). I also learned a high”V” (Miroslav) how to iron socks (Gusic), and a Russian Moore (Raphael). I learned how to find arrowheads (Harmer), how to bowl (Carmine Regna), how to be a good teacher (Don Holder), and a good parent (Don & Connie). Joe Taylor taught me to drink beer responsibly, appreciate Swing Music and to never cover my body in gold glycerin and try to work rings! Fadigan taught me to be cool, Chick to be humble, and Leigh Heisinger helped me learn how to get the last breath out of an empty scuba tank! Wayne taught me adversity could have a touch of humor, and Mike (Mann) that perseverance will get you where you want to be. Miles helped me develop lots of respect for underwater caves and SNAKES! Jon Culbertson taught me a valuable lesson in child rearing.....it is probably not a good idea to play a trombone fanfare in the bathroom after your child goes to the potty by himself for the first time!

Joe Taylor helped me land my first real job where I ultimately met my first wife Carol. (Jack always says introduce your spouse as your first wife....”keeps ‘em on their toes” Carol was the first female “professional” level hire at the State agency where Joe & I worked. One of Carol’s first comments to me was “nice pants” We now have two great children in their 30’s, married and living in Atlanta. (not to each other of course) Notice I didn’t mention any of the girls in my Tallahassee learning years, makes my first wife jealous!

team for a couple of years. Just as I was finishing, Lyle Welser of GA. Tech informed me of his impending retirement & wanted me to apply for his job at Tech. He was such a great guy! He and Doc were the pioneers of the sport in the South. In fact Ga. Tech preceded FSU as the first collegiate team in the South. When I decided to give up coaching at Tech in 1987, Tech was the last southern team (not counting Wm & Mary in VA).

Although I was hired to coach the team at Tech, I was not paid for this until much later, (when the famous football coach and AD, Bobby Dodd's Granddaughter got into gymnastics, and I began coaching her, I started getting paid and the team got its first scholarships). I was full time on the faculty and I became Asst. Dept head my first year, and Head of the Dept. shortly thereafter. I was in charge of the PE Dept. as well as Intramurals, all club sports, and most indoor and outdoor facilities. Also during my tenure, I helped design, oversee construction, and manage a multimillion dollar recreational facility. I developed a health education course that became a graduation requirement. When I retired in 2000, I was teaching over 700 students per term. It was like trying to be Jay Leno, with power point. Also at Tech I developed the Wellness Center which was part of Student Health Services. We also planned all health and treatment services for the Olympic athletes for the 96 games, as the Olympic Village was on the Tech campus. After my retirement I taught for a term in New Zealand & got to see that beautiful country as well as diving in Tahiti . My most fun at Ga. Tech was of course coaching. We had tough academic standards, and very limited resources, but always had a winning record . We were able to qualify 4 athletes to the NCAA's and place fourth in the East in '78. I had the pleasure of coaching over 100 bright, creative, devious and fun kids during my 17 years of coaching.

Since retiring, I have taken up kayaking and kayak racing for fitness and fortune. I get to race and train at the '96 Olympic sprint kayak venue and was on the Lanier Kayak club team that won the Sprint National Championships this past summer. I also won two golds and two silvers in the Masters Nationals in my age category (nearly deceased)

Carol, (my first wife) who also did her undergraduate and masters at FSU, and later her Phd at GA. State continues to do executive coaching and crisis management work so that she can keep me in the style of living to which I've become accustomed . She learned these skills, not from college, but from living with me all of these years."

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | December from Our Canadian Bureau "Most important of all, though, Jack, is to wish you and Chad a Happy, Merry Christmas. Have a great time! (We don't have a flake of snow....what freaky weather...well above average for the whole month of December....grass is still green (probably greener than yours)...people are golfing (dressed warmly)....and it looks weird...no snow in forecast either, and look at what hit out west in Denver! ...almost 4 feet....a whole lot better for skiers out there than here!

Re your message "Short but Very Sweet"...true enough!...there was nothing but a blank space! Doesn't get any shorter than that! {Humorously reprimanded, I sent the email again...jmm}
And thank you for the link re Statue "team"....still don't know what I am supposed to do from up here, but am glad I was asked!
So,.... Happy, safe holidays...from the not so North Pole, Bev"

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | A baby is born. Mike Mann, midwife for (<http://tallahasseeumblingtots.org/>)

"The new site is not quite ready for "Prime Time" but I think it is probably in better shape than most new sites. Most of the material was previously prepared for the FSU Gymnast web site and has just been moved from there and reorganized. FSU Gymnast link for the TTT now points to this new web site

. Take a look at (<http://tallahasseeumblingtots.org/>) If you don't like something, please don't just e-mail your friends or bitch to them on the phone. This is a solicitation for criticism, recommendations, and new ideas from you so please contact me directly so I can fix it. Most contact information is below in the signature.

If you think this is all I have to do on Christmas Eve then you are wrong. Also worked on my scooter lift so it will now carry both my big and small scooters. That should make it easier for us going in to movies, events at FSU, doctor's appointments and the like. I also cooked up an excellent Green Chile/Chicken soup and we have enough for several meals. If you don't know the flavor of Green Chile then you just don't know what you are missing, it is almost as good as sex. Mike"

{I won't touch that, so I'll move on to what I did early Xmas morning, First I feed small bread balls to the fish around my dock after I had scared a three foot Iguana off into the water. Then I picked a bunch of bananas off the canal side stalks. The bananas are small and have a fantastic taste like a mixture of strawberry and banana. You can't buy them in the stores. South Floridians know of these home grown delicacies. Then I cooked a huge ham and had a great day with my family. It was a Norman Rockwell "keeper"....jmm}

Howard "Beans" Stephens | 50 | Editors error & tasteless humor

{I just found out that in a past Newsletter 25/1&2 (25th Edition pages 1 &2) I duplicated the entry for Howard "Beans" Stephens.Well...(Tat, ah Tat, ah Tat, - Rim shots on the snare drum) . Beans always do have a repeating effectgroanjmm}

Jack Miles | 50-58 | To each is own kind of Hell

Knowing my history with women, a dream I had the other night really has me worried. In the dream it seems that I had just died and gone to heaven..... but they didn't have my name on their list... so they sent me down to the other place. There I was in front of the devil...He was all in red...in a flowing cape, standing facing me and I could also feel the presence of someone else standing next to me. I was staring at his horns, and his beard, and his moustache as he opened a large red book held out in his hands. He looked me straight in the eye and said in a very deep ominous voice, "Jack, do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded.....". Aaaaaaggghhhhhhhhh!!!! I woke straight up, wide eyed, trembling, and panting hard before he had a chance to finish.....Boy, .that was scary

Jimmy & Sanjuanita Janie Hanks | 52-56 | **In keeping with the above** “How ironic that the shortest sentence is "I am," and **the** longest sentence is "I do. "TEE HEE!!!!!!.....JimHay it's a joke." {Hey Jim Is Sanjuanita laughing?.....Humble Pie time, baby.....or is this a joke that **she** sent me?.....jmm}

Which reminds me.....

Wedding Anniversaries

Chick & Jennie Cicio	56 years, 57 in April, 07
Don & Connie Holder	56 years, 57 in August, 07
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	53 years, 54 in May, 07
Carmine & Daneen Regna	51 years,
Jim & Marlene Jackson	51 years, 52 in July, 07
Don & Patsy Rapp	51 years, 52 in November 07
Sam & Topsi Bailie	50 years, 51 in June 07
Jon & Boots Culbertson	49 years, 50 in June 07
Jay & Ellie Schwarzman	49 years, 50 in September 07
Jack & Almira Sharp	47 years of marriage
Lennart & Karsthin Malmelin	47 years of marriage
Beverley & Bill Beaton	45 years
Claire <i>Essig</i> & Dick Traynor	43 years of marriage
Nancy <i>Lamb</i> & Bob Durocher	42 years, 43 in Dec. 07
Bill & Carol Beavers	39 years, 40 in July, 07
Dick & Susie Gutting	38 years, 39 in June, 07
Wayne & Heather Thompson	37 years, 38 in January 08
Derek & Nancy Lawler	35 years
Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	34 years
Jimmy & Janie Hanks	28 years, 29 in November 07

Almira (Mrs. Jack) Sharp | 51-53/60-62 | **After X-Mas, Great Grandchildren** “Some fun! Just got back from Wichita and holidays with the family. It was a very busy blast. There were 9 of us in the house, so I got a chance to do some cooking again. I loved it, especially having my 2 great grandsons there. Love, peace and joy, Almira”

Dave & Judy Carmolli | 57-59? | **Er: Response to Itzhak’s story on email & resume summary** “What a beautiful and amazing story this is! As a horn player I can relate to Itzhak's predicament but can not fathom it as it related to him. Amazing, and what a moving and great story. Thanks for sending it to me.

I feel bad and guilty for not communicating with you and my former colleges at FSU. {You should.....jmm} I recently started another business here in Sebring and am playing in four different orchestras and ensembles plus occasionally doing solo work. Keeps me busy or rather it *drives* me!! Briefly, over the years I have had an eleven store candy and manufacturing businesses, a Marina, An Ice Cream manufacturing and retail business, a childcare center licensed for 148 children and an apparel business. I moved from Miami to retire and ended with an apparel decorating business. *Just a brief summery of my last 30 plus years.*

Anyway, you are doing a great job with the newsletters; I love them and appreciate what you are doing. Best wishes to you for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Dave Carmolli”

Jack Miles | 50-58 | **I’ll never forget.....“Behind” the scenes** “As the business manager for a church I usually stood at the back of the church and quietly counted church attendance for the records. Everyone was in their pews in anticipation of the service being conducted by a visiting minister who the congregation had been told, the prior week, was an all inspiring and dramatic speaker.

Suddenly, there was a loud roaring sound throughout coming over the hall’s P.A. system and then the minister strutted out onto the alter area. A business associate next to me whispered, “That was very clever, he used the sound of a space rocket taking off from Cape Canaveral to herald his entrance.”

I almost burst out laughing and had to scoot outside and couldn’t stop laughing because I knew there was a private bathroom just before the door to the podium area...and I realized that the Minister must have visited it prior to coming into the hall .All the time unknowingly leaving his lapel microphone in the “on” position and when he pushed the commode handle down he created that glorious “rocket lifting off sound”. I’m still chuckling about that and very grateful about NOT hearing what else could have been amplified.”

Don & Connie Holder | 51-57 | **Party at the Holder’s** “ It was after 12.00 at night that Connie and I greeted Diana and Rafael Lecuona at the Miami Airport, which for the last several years has been a nightmare due to constant construction to all roads. For the next several days it was non stop, trips to the Florida Keys to visit with our sons homes, restaurants for Cuban food, parties and much conversation concerning the fifty three years we have been friends.

We tried to have a mini reunion with all our S, Florida Alumni, unfortunately several were out of town due to the holidays. We did manage to contact one my former Cuban students, Police Officer Carlos Arguelles ,who was obliging enough to be able to contact a cook for a huge platter of Pia. Attending were Dick Gutting, Jack Miles, Roland Lopez (one of my former Gymnasts), neighbor Kelly Rivero, sons Patrick, Terry , Janis Signorelli (Pat's daughter), Carlos Arguelles and of course Connie and I

Unfortunately, Diana and Rafael had to cut a few days off the stay with us due to news regarding Fernando, Rafael's brother, who is not doing well. Our prayers go to Fernando. It's always rewarding for Connie and I to gather with our dear friends to strengthen the bonds which holds us all close to one another."

{That was a great night. Don & Connie's house is very charming and it was all decked out festively for the Holidays. The food, drinks and laughter was "Top drawer" as the "Brits" say. Pat Signorelli was represented by his beautiful daughter and like my pretty daughter these girls took just one or two parts of their dads looks to claim ancestry, but smart enough not to take the whole package.

Don was glad to have Rafael's talents as an interpreter which helped Don move more freely throughout his neighborhood and the super market Raphael was saying to everyone, "Ello feo gringo es mi amigo". Everyone smiled and was very courteous to Don who seemed grateful for the Raphael's introductions.....jmm }

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **E mail to neighbors daughter**

"Charlotte -I am not sure if you are aware that I am doing two web sites for my old gymnastics friends (<http://fsugymnastics.org/>) and (<http://tallahassee tumbling tots.org>). I just got a bunch of new material from one of the old Tots, Brent Pichard, yesterday. In it was the attached clip. So far I have not been able to find anyone that knows if the movie was ever made or released but the clip says that it was to be released by Paramount. There was another movie short, an RKO "Sportscope" from 1955, and we have obtained about half of and it that is available on our web site and would like to add this one too if possible.

I did an imdb search on "Grantland Rice Sportlight" and came up with a listing of about a dozen, most before 1946. Dr. Price did not come to FSU until 1948 or 1949 so it could not have been before then. There were two items from 1953 but neither had anything to do with FSU, Gymkana or the Tallahassee Tumbling Tots.

Can you; 1. Find out if it was ever made and/or released

2. Find out if we can get a copy on tape or DVD so I can convert and upload it to our web site?

Thanks. For the folks in the cc list, Charlotte is our next door neighbor's daughter and she works for Paramount. Mike"

{Any of you Newsletter readers have any ideas?.....jmm }

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **Dr. Hartley D. Price, Ph D**

I have forgotten where or from whom I first heard it but it has been a constant recurring theme in e-mails and conversations. Dick Gutting said to me recently, "These guys seem to have forgotten about how they used to carry on about how horrible Dr. Price was. I came to FSU somewhat older and more mature than most and was able to appreciate him more." This has been a recurring theme in conversations and e-mails, "Now that I am (getting) older; I can appreciate/understand/realize better what he was trying to do/accomplish and just maybe I was wrong at the time." This has been said in reference to how the Tots were handled, the Gymkana show, the gymnastic team, and any number of other things Doc dealt with. It is such an overwhelming theme that I am going to have to step out of place as "Webmaster" and add a similar personal statement to one of doc's entries. That is, unless one of you steps up and does it for me, as you should, because you knew him a hell of a lot better and longer than I did. It will also do you good to confess your sins even if they occurred fifty years ago. Mike"

Gene Abrahamson | 51-53 | **The animal lover**

While talking with Gene Abrahamson, who had moved into the "boonies" of Minden, Nevada with all the cows and sheep, I asked had he any problems adjusting to living way out in God's country he answered,..... "Only one..... zippers scare the sheep".

{Editor's note: If you ever see a name at the heading of a Newsletter entry that is not in "Bold" print as an example =

Gene Abrahamson

It means that slacker, who ever it is, has never sent me a resume of their history since FSU. Does that scare you, Fadigan & Gusic?}

Claire Essig (Mrs. Dick) Traynor | 59-62 | **Re:Tots pictures I sent to Mike Mann**

"Jack, where did you get those "Tumbling Tots" pictures back in the 1950's? Oh boy, what memories it brought back to me! It brought chills to my spine... I remember those silly red and white costumes and of course, all the other Gymkana people and costumes, too. I also recognize a dozen or more of the "tots" from the latest pictures. I am right there in the middle! I do enjoy your newsletters. Keep up the good work! Alma Claire"

{The pictures were given to me by Doc Price's wife, Billie before she moved to spend her last few years up north. I just found them after they had fallen down behind the drawers in one of my filing cabinets. Also, former Tot, Brent Pichard sent a bunch to Mike for the Web-site. Yes, I noticed you always seem to have taken the front row center spot in the pictures – Hard to miss that impish face beaming out.

This is a perfect spot for me to request stories from you former tots about yesteryear or today. Since you have been reading these newsletters you can see the human interest type stories that make up the Newsletter. You Tots will be amazed on how well you are remembered by the coaches and FSU gymnasts that flipped you around.....jmm }

{Computer trick: Bothered by people sneaking on to your address book and leaving their email address? One solution: When you enter a new friend to your mailing list always enter their phone number. If you don't know their phone number put a question mark (?) where the phone number goes. Now when you pull up the list for quick review the "sneaker on" will have a blank spot where the phone number goes and very easy to spot enabling you to delete easily.jmm }.

Visit your Web-Site <fsugymnastics.org> (Which also includes all back copies of the FSU Gymnastics Newsletters)
And the New Tots Website <<http://tallahassee tumbling tots.org>>

“We share the same shadow” Fondly, Jack