



## **AHS63 August 2021 Newsletter**

*The Plot Thickens However We Want Edition*

*Northern Outpost, 72 degrees and sunny (hahahaha). We've been mulling what we remember and what we probably don't. As a rule, we all try not to commit *alpha error* ... holding out something as true when it's not isn't usually a good way to go. And *beta error* isn't all that smart either—thinking something false when it's actually true. But aging comes into play, and who can tell from "reality" these days anyway? Really. What suddenly came to mind yesterday, driving a dreamy country Maine road between tall trees, were the words "a #2 with a #5 sauce." We kept the car out of the trees, but it's a lurch when stuff like that just wanders into your head. Barton Springs road, Holiday House ... and a moat with a real alligator in it. Nah. It was plastic. *Why on earth would there have been a live alligator—?**

But a lot of things don't make sense when we actually think about them. And a lot of people don't know gator from a pile of crock these days either, so it doesn't really matter how we tell that story does it? HA. We can just make it up. *Beta Schmeta*. The longer we live, by cracky, the more it happened *whatever way we say it did*. How fun is that? Not a bad trade for having to creak around. We bring this up because last week we got a hot tale from Harvey Fox, who had been visiting with John Neal, who had recollected a prank in chemistry class. Sam Boyd was involved. Hooboy. Now *there's* a man with a fun memory. So we wickedly jotted off a note to get *his* version of the event ... which, not surprisingly, veered off into a colorful backstory. And there it was. Two realities, same story. GREAT FUN STUFF. *And that damn alligator liked french fries.* ~Q



Hi Terry,

I recently spoke with our friend, **John Neal**, about a prank in our junior year that was done in Mrs. Weisser's chemistry class on one of the rare days we had a substitute. As the substitute attempted to start the class, John and **Sam Boyd** interrupted and said they had to give their "research report" to the class. This was all impromptu as they took turns talking about isolating a new chemical called "mistleleet" from mistletoe trimmings. They spoke of its properties such

as melting point, freezing point, taste, color, and potential medical properties. I recall they also thought it would make a good glue!

The substitute eventually realized the prank but seemed to enjoy it and let it proceed as the class laughed and giggled.

I don't remember what, if anything, Mrs. Weisser said about the report—  
**Harvey Fox**

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*[Haaaaaaa. WELL DONE HARVEY! We want LOTS more stories like this!!! And here's how Sam "recalled" it ... ]*

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Terry, it hurts me to break my promise of confidentiality to such a good friend, but then we were never really that close. *[HA!]*

As the story has a hint of familiarity, I must correct the record. First, this sort of conduct would be out of character for me. *[mmft! giggle]* But, this was clearly right down John's alley. John and I were debate partners for a year at AHS, and I do seem to recall a bit of the rascal in him.

So, this prank was absolutely compatible with his personality. Moreover, I was aware that John was doing "dark ops" lab work at UT on mistletoe. His father, Professor Neal, evidently arranged access for John on weekends in the Zoology Lab. Harvey has apparently cleaned up the story to make it appear that John's project was 100% about science.

Actually, and upon risk of breaking my oath of confidentiality to John all these years, Mistleleet was referred to at the time as MistleRock. John reported some private success by adding it to sodas for his dates at dances to make them dance like crazy and kiss like foxes. *[OH LAAAA!]*

Sorry, John, about breaking my vow to you, but I have to defend my reputation. Nonetheless, I always respected you for refusing to bring any of your MistleRock to Ms. Weisser, as she demanded, after she received full disclosure of your work and heard about the approving peer reviews.

Sincerely,  
Sam Boyd, Your Friend

*[HEH. Wouldn't we just luv to hear back from John on THAT doozie of a variation ... ]*

*Another hot new author also writes in ...*

Terry:

In your never ending search for truth, justice, and the American way (while leaping over tall buildings in a single bound [—yeahyeah] ) and skillfully executing the duties of the Queen of the North (A la Go T [*now we're getting somewhere*]), I have an item that might provide some conversational fodder for the next barrage of the newsletter. [*barrage???*]

From the desperation of the covid lockdown and the ill-considered advice of friends and family, I decided to attempt a novel. As of July 5, it is published. The book is entitled “Mending,” a slight play on words and ideas that may be meaningful for the reader who reads the story closely. It is available at:

- BookLogix BookStore: <https://www.shop.booklogix.com/Mending-23441-POD.htm>
- Amazon eBook: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0992PJS6V>

The characters are recognizable for many of us, but not modeled on anyone specifically—*[we don't believe that for a nano]*. The situations they encounter are ones that many of us can embrace in some way. A young man finds his way into maturity with all its warts, pimples and joys in spite of a dark background, which has allowed him a lot of potential but never quite successfully delivered a fully functioning person. His journey is sustained through business experiences, friendships, familiar sports as a vehicle to achieving a smattering of confidence, and crisis as a catalyst for personal progress. A little mystery, a little romance, a bit of introspection, and imperfect but overall likable characters ... I think. Just a good story with something to say, but no obvious or emphatic moral, which I sincerely hope is a good read.

Perhaps some of our classmates will find it enjoyable and provide favorable reviews on the sites above. It was sufficient fun to write that a second book in the series is under way.

I hope this is newsworthy for the newsletter and it gives some cause for our classmates to raise an eyebrow and give “Mending” a read.

Warm regards,

Ted Parrish

*Raised eyebrow response: Who knew we'd have so many fun authors in this class? It's a thrill a minute some days for an editor to open the mail, and this time it was a free book. So we read it. Omigosh. For a finance/flyfishing type turned author, it's a brainy sportsy plottwisty read. Nice job there, Ted.*



## August Birthday Kids

04 Mina Hawkins Doshier (45)

07 Michael Pendley (45)

08 John Calhoun Miller (45)

15 Carl Beck (46)

18 Bob Schoen (45)

22 Roxanne McCown Keel (45)

23 Nancy Douglas Moore (45)

23 Jo Ann Johnson Weston (45)

28 Mary Jo Culp Parker (45)  
30 Georgia Lochridge (45)  
30 Kathy Shive Matthews (45)

*We are soooo grateful we were not too late for the first birthday listing ...  
and if your birthday isn't in here somewhere for August, it's one thing we  
DON'T make up, so send it in how 'bout it? We LIKE reviewing whoall is  
entering codgerhood.*



***LOYAL FOREVER, Y'ALL***





You are on this list because you are brilliant & still drink from the fountain of youth known as Loyal Forever  
- the AHS Class of 63

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