

OVERSEAS BAG – AUTUMN 2010

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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I must start this digest of news with an apology to all those OFs who have been keeping in touch with me, for the slowness of some of my responses this year. As they are aware my father was ill early in 2010 and subsequently died and I'm very grateful for all the warm messages I received. Sadly my step mother has also suffered a number of strokes since my father died and I seem to have spent the whole year travelling up the M4 from Bath to Essex! This also meant that we had to cancel our planned 30th wedding anniversary trip to San Francisco, which was to include a cruise up to Alaska and the opportunity to meet up with David Lebell (K41-46) on Vancouver Island.

Despite my tardiness in keeping in touch it has as always been great to keep in touch with so many of you via the wonders of e-mail and I would strongly encourage everyone to ensure that they register their e-mail address on the website, so that we can keep in touch.

Please keep your messages and news flooding coming in, especially with your photos and don't be shy to let me know if you think you or someone else should be included in the Distinguished section of the SOF website.

AUSTRALIA

Phil Bower (G65-74) has as always been in regular touch from Sydney. Earlier in the year he was saddened to hear of the death of Glenys Maulden. He wrote *“Hi Chris, I only just learned of the death of John Maulden's good wife. If it's not inappropriate (after this length of time) would you be so kind as to pass on my condolences, please? I always think most fondly of JM. For a while I was rather sweet on their daughter, Sonia, and we used to socialise a deal more than was generally accepted - nothing untoward, I was still a gent in those days unlike now when I'm just a foul mouthed, long haired, rough diamond who looks at the world and thinks strange thoughts!. Anyway, they were/are a lovely couple/family and all the p... taking I endured (and it was plentiful!) was worth it. They were a gentle and civilised family in an environment that didn't always lend itself to that. He never showed me any favouritism - which is how it should be. I'm really sad to learn of Mrs M's demise but pleased that JM is still much loved and cared for - again, as it should be.”*

Later in the year Phil gave a full update on what he'd been up to, but uncharacteristically started with the weather *“Poms have a habit of talking/complaining about the weather - for the past 10 days we've been under a massive weather system that has brought almost constant rain (of monsoonal quality), turned daytime to night, brought domestic damage par excellence, tornado's (not RAF kind!) yadda yadda. If you look at the map and take an area from the Qld/NSW border down to Melbourne and place it over the UK, then allow for 10 days you'll get an idea of the size of it..... the system probably flew in from Jupiter on the Mars express..... Either that or there's been a large influx of pommie tourists bringing the English summer with them!*

Musically - spent 9 months playing in a band having a modicum of success. Turns out the "leader" is a bit precious and has an easily damaged ego - and there's me with my lead boots! Now looking for a competent drummer to re-start my band. There are tunes on Myspace & Facebook - just look for the Kamikaze Flying Club (KFC!). Bear in mind that the drums are not real.....

Recent shows - worked on Lady Gaga - a couple of shows doing follow spot, a couple doing changeover/sets (there's a lot of prop movements during the show) and had trips to Canberra & Wollongong on the show. A total of 32 semi trailers needed to cart the show so that's a lot of humping. Over 140 points - i.e. chain motors holding everything up. Also worked on Russell Peters (comedian, makes Chubby Brown look like what he is), Julio Iglesias, several shows with the Prodigy (lightshow not recommended for epileptics), Taylor Swift (yawn), Cage Fighting (interesting but sooooo brutal!), Edinburgh Military Tattoo (pissed with rain every night!), Them Crooked Vultures (John Paul Jones - Zeppelin - Dave Grohl - Foo Fighters - and others), Big Day Out (2 day fest with too many artists to remember!), plus a myriad of small one off's around town. Did follow spots for Fleetwood Mac (yawn), Green Day (interesting but predictable), Rob Thomas (Matchbox 20 - more like matchbox the kid's toy), Whitney Houston, Britney Spears (why?!), the Motown Show (bear in mind there's only one "Four Top" alive, it made for an interesting billing as "The Four Tops!"). Apparently we're doing Metallica when they come in November and a friend of mine does the lights for Kiss so I might get to photograph their entire show when they tour here (he designed the stage set which has 84 VL5000's alone - those are mucho clever moving lights - never mind the rest of the gubbins they cart around). Oh yes, I did the Chinese New Year as well the Sydney one!

However, I can see an end to my life as a roadie because I've been diagnosed with osteoarthritis in my right hand so the mind will be willing but the machinery will eventually not be able to function properly. This, of course, presents a very real danger to my colleagues (I do not want to drop a loaded chain motor case in the back of a truck - it has the capacity to severely injure) so I'm now acutely aware of my limitations. After all, if I can't grip securely, then lifting and hooking lights is going to be a problem. And on that note (!), I'll leave to refresh your cuppa. All the best - chin up and enjoy the Cotswolds (someone has to!!)"

Nick Carlton (G63-70) was in touch to see if we were still planning to be on Sea Princess to Alaska in June. Sadly we weren't. He'd recently managed to get hold of a copy of the Brandeston History, which includes a picture of me on the bridge of the Grand Princess with Captain Nick in July 2008. He said *"I'm on leave in Australia at the moment and return to sea on the 20th June on Sapphire Princess to Alaska ... 7 day trips from Seattle. On for 7 weeks and hopefully my wife and son will be travelling with me. Don't think I'll have the opportunity to visit the UK this year as later in the year I'll be returning to Sapphire for the trans-Pacific run. Just had sinus/nasal surgery so a bit banged-up at the moment but hopefully should recover in a week or two and be able to breathe through my nose properly. Think it's a condition I've had for years."*

I heard from Nick again while he was busy in Alaska. The weather hadn't been too good, but his nasal surgery had been a success.

Mike Garnett (R53-55) came over to the UK early in April and while over here played some real tennis at Queens Club. He said *"My first game is 4.30pm on Monday 12th in the Over-70's but, as I am playing the top seed from England I doubt I will go further! My first match in the doubles is 8.30am on Thursday 15th April. When I depart for Israel on Thursday 22 April I plan to 'dump' some of my stuff - in other word I want to travel light. Would you like to have my real tennis racket? If so I can leave it at Queens with your name 'for collection', and you can collect whenever convenient. Thanks for all you have done re. the Distinguished OF section."* Because of my father's illness I wasn't able to meet up with Mike while he was over here, but later on I did pick up his racket for donating to the archives. Read the Distinguished section for detail on Mike's love for the game of real tennis.

When he got back to Australia he said *“My tennis matches did not set the world on fire, but I enjoyed the experience - as you know I left the racket for you at Queen's Club. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Israel, and the tour was well managed with a knowledgeable tour guide. Lots of tourists, but I did not detect many from UK. Just for fun I have attached some thoughts about the country and people which may interest anyone you know who plans to visit there.”*

Neville Marsh (S53-61) dropped me a line when the Newsletter arrived on his doormat. *“Just to say that I was amused to see my photo in the recent Newsletter. The actual story is that I asked Norman to take a photo of me by the door at Brandeston as I have (somewhere) a photo of me by the same door in 1954. If I can find it, I will send it in so the two can be published side by side! Not much news besides: we came over to UK briefly this August for the arrival of another grandchild, the first grand-daughter for 14 years and tomorrow we set off for Melbourne where yet another grand-daughter is about to arrive! Best wishes to you all at Fram etc.”*

Tom O'Donald (S51-57) also dropped me a line when the Newsletter arrived *“Now, no one can't say I don't take a hint after so many hints are dropped so, finally I surrender.*

Not that I have much in the way of news. For some reason known better to itself, the disease has gone into remission and, for the passed year and a half has not progressed. I saw my neurologist yesterday confirmed that there had been no real change in my condition, which, given that I should have been pushing up the daisies several years ago might be classified as somewhat of an understatement. The only thing that is planned for me is that it has been decided that, although my disease has caused a lot of damage to my eyes in as much as the fact that I cannot look down which is somewhat of a pain in the neck when I drop a \$2 coin on the floor and looking from side to side, my eye movement is quite erratic, I will get some benefit. Trouble is I will end up being able to see some of the attractive things that look good at the moment only to find my judgement has been severely impaired.

Strangely, I am actually enjoying life here in this nursing home. I can come and go on my gopher as I please. If I want to be on my own I can and if I don't I can happily mingle and stir up the rest of the place, a skill that I am very good at. My lovely room, which is home, has lovely views of the Adelaide Hills, green in winter and brown/yellow all other times. It used to turn bright purple and yellow thanks to a gentleman who, many years ago found these lovely flowers growing in South Africa and brought them back, planting them on the Adelaide Hills since when they have spread right over Southern Australia. Thankfully our scientists have found a suitable little pest that enjoys eating them faster than they can grow. Hence we are without a colour scheme thankfully.

There is a rumour that Chris and Rebecca [Shaw] may venture south from Cairns and drop in and spend a few days with us. There is a quite unfounded rumour going round that he wants to sample the wines from our local vineyards, which, given that there are some 25 of them just in the Southern Vales and almost as many in the Barossa could lead to an interesting situation. It would be good to return the hospitality that we received from them when we were in Cairns for a day. We have Happy Hour here each Friday afternoon where some quite good reds flow although I do have to remember to limit myself to no more than 3 very generous glasses and then try to clear a jam in my printer. Last time I did this, somehow or other I flew over the side of my chair crashing on to the ground about 3 metres away from where I started and knocked myself out, only to cause a panic on behalf of the staff, lifted up into bed via one of those most embarrassing crane-like hoists looking more like a wale being hoisted up, was undressed by the carers and examined by the doctor who seemed quite amused by the whole thing and ordered me to stay in bed and go to sleep while telling the staff to take 2 hourly neuro observations all night; hardly conducive to sleep.

So there we are. That constitutes my activities for now. I will let you know when I die but until then I shall just go on stirring the other inmates up. Congratulations and thanks for all your work.”

In August Tom was back in touch “Hi Chris. I don’t know whether the Australian Grape Vine has reached you but just in case it hasn’t, I thought I would let you know that I am once again back in hospital where I have been for the past 11 days. They promised to let me out next Monday but they have been telling me that for the past 4 days.

The so and so of doctors conned me beautifully in the ED. I was told that I had aspiration pneumonia, and when I heard that I said that I required palliative care only. That was enough for the doctor to say it might not be aspiration and therefore got permission to commence treatment. Somewhat pointlessly in my opinion, they are gradually fixing it with the aid of vancomycin, which I have intravenously for 2 hours twice a day; great fun as the jelkos keep falling out. They can’t get anymore serious than that.

I can’t say I shall not be happy to get back to my room in the nursing home. At least they let me have my computer here which means I can keep in touch with the world. Let’s just leave it that rumours about my death almost, but not quite, came through. Back to the red wine a.s.a.p. Tom”

I was delighted just 3 days later to hear “They say all good things come to an end and the same is true about all bad things. I’m free having made my escape under cover of darkness last night; a little weary but glad to have escaped. Thanks for all the messages of support.”

Chris Shaw (K50-56) at the start of the year described the journey they were planning to make south “*Our journey south is going to be a marathon, it just grew-like Topsy. Whether we can get as far as Adelaide, I know not, it's a big ask, and no commitment was made to Veronica [Tom’s O’Donald’s wife] when I phoned her. We’ll have to see what time is available since Rebecca, the organiser, has pretty much each day accounted for as far as Canberra, and the whole journey is likely to be in the order of 10,000km.in five weeks anyway.*

We would love to visit Adelaide, and Mike Garnett north of Melbourne, but ageing flesh and the need for a nanny nap, may call for certain limits-we’ll have to see when we get on the road. It must be said that it would be much cheaper and easier to fly directly to Adelaide from Cairns, and we will leave that possibility as a future alternative. Thank you for Tom's letter, I'm delighted he is on hold and still creating havoc with his fellow inmates! Mike comes to Port Douglas, about 50 km north of Cairns, sometime each winter, so I think a trip by us, with Peter and Janet Hughes, to overnight and dine there may be the way to go, always having a photo opportunity in mind! (Shaw, is there nothing you won't do for a glass of red?) “

Fresh back from his trip to see Mike Garnett and Tom O’Donald, Chris wrote to me with this great account and photos “*We have just returned from a 10,000 km driving odyssey, from Cairns to Adelaide and back. The overall thrust of direction was to visit friends and vineyards - a noble cause one might say. Of the huge number of experiences we had, these are, perhaps, among the creme de la creme. By happenstance we found a little village in 'Nowhere, Victoria', and had to go there - as you do. As you can see, Cairns is somewhat warmer than Victoria in winter, which accounts for the Russian hat and the triple layer top, purchased at Norwich market, for polar conditions. I get a tad shivery under 25C. [Photo - You are not alone in the Universe!]*



We eventually made Adelaide and caught up with Tom O'Donald who is in a Nursing Home and giving a large amount of cheek and banter to the staff (and anyone else who comes in range!) Rebecca and I took him out to dinner and, as a Pharmacist, I advised him of the healing and anti-oxidant benefits associated with imbibing a red wine or two. He told me that my advice, though welcome, was totally out of date since he had been following a strict regime for decades!

Anyway, he was in surprisingly fine fettle, and is good for a bottle or two - sorry, year or two, yet! We also caught up with his wife, Veronica for a few minutes, as she was going to spend a few days away with friends. It was great to see them both, and would have been most unsatisfactory not to have made the extra effort of a few hundred 'K'. [Photo - Tom and Chris share a small libation.]



Mike Garnett's name and home town was in the last Fram yearbook and on a whim I looked him up and phoned him. I remembered that he was in Rendlesham and was mad keen on tennis. We had a very good conversation, ending with an invitation from him to visit, if we were at all able to do so. As you can see, we made it. He had just returned from UK where he had been playing in some tournament, and he plays 'Royal Tennis', that which our 'entry of the six wives' played, and was in the middle of the same sort of respiratory infection that I was just getting over! However, his hospitality was warm and caring and we



spent two nights in his company, which included a visit to the 'Hanging Rock Winery'. (Picnic at Hanging Rock is an Australian story which was made in to a movie.) We also discussed the healing properties of red wine and he was persuaded to try a glass or two, and said that it seemed to come second nature to him, can't imagine why. Anyway, a delightful visit and we are most grateful for his hospitality. [Photo - Chris and Mike share a healing 'red [or four!!]'.]

One of the highlights of our

trip was a visit 'behind the scenes' for a day at the Canberra Zoo, where we fed lions, tigers, bears, sharks, otters, snakes, monkeys, chameleons and more. The 'piece de resistance' was getting to pat a cheetah, more so for Rebecca who is a 'felinophile'. [Photo - Chris with Cheetah - in the raw!]



These little fellows were so cute! I never thought I would actually ever say that, but what else do you say, especially since they share 90% + of our DNA! I thought the description of the picture very apt! Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil!



While staying in Newcastle (ours), we visited the Hunter Valley, well known for multiple wineries of great quality, so I had to make a pilgrimage to the Rothbury Estate, pioneered by Len Evans, of OF/Winemaking

and judging/ and all round good egg. It's now called 'Hope Estate' and I was dismayed at the lack of any mention of Rothbury or Len, until we went in to the barrel room. He had signed this rather large barrel just before his death, so he and I were able to make a connection, at last. 'IN VINO VERITAS, LEN!' [Photo - Len's weekend supply!]



The plaque says it all really. The AO is, I believe, the Order of Australia, which together with the OBE makes him a very distinguished OF but you probably knew that. Strangely, some two weeks after my visit here I attended the wedding of a good friend's son, and the reception was 'fuelled' with extraordinarily good Rothbury wines. Many thanks, Len.

Chris, I hope this is useful to you, to keep the Oz - OF connections up to date. I have yet to meet Neville Marsh and Captain Nick Carlson, and have temporarily lost touch with Phil and Dee Bower. Could you help with an e-mail address perchance?"

Chris next copied me in on an e-mail exchange with Mike Garnett on their recent weather "We're told you've had some rain, so this is just a check to make sure you've moored your car safely! I've just checked on the map only to see that most of the stuff has gone past you, but you may have had a bit before that! Let us know you're OK." To which Mike replied "Yes the rains have been unprecedented in my lifetime here. I am not affected personally, but many of the roads from here (say to Kyneton and Woodend) are closed because of flooding or trees fallen down. Its great to see all the small dams full for the first time in years. What an unusual country this is - drought one year and floods the next !!"

Intriguingly Chris tells me that his next novel has just been completed and includes WW1, France/Belgium, hero marries same woman twice, North Norfolk village of Salthouse/Dereham is where action takes place – more later we're promised.

Finally Chris sent me a piece of 104 year old footage of the San Francisco taken immediately before the last major earthquake an immediately after afterwards – see

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=NIN0xRxze9k The driving habits are wonderful!!

Unknown to Chris, my wife and I were due to go to San Francisco just a few weeks later!

Richard Warner (Z88-96) contacted me to say that he was going to be spending some time in Brisbane in February 2011 and wanted to contact OFs in the area to possibly meet up. As a registered user of the website he can find this information via the Directory. I hope to get a report in 2011 of a first ever OF Supper in Brisbane. [Richard currently lives in the UK]

CANADA

Jim Kelsall (Z75-86) contacted Norman with a new address in Calgary, Alberta. Be great to get an update from Jim for the next Yearbook.

David Lebell (K41-46) was sorry to hear that I was now no longer going to be able to meet up with him on Vancouver Island. Hopefully another time.

FRANCE

Brian Rosen (S40-46). I was reminded recently of how small a world we live in. In August 2010 I went walking in Yorkshire and one morning I happened to be standing on Ribbleshead station waiting for a train towards Carlisle when I got talking to a stranger. He said he lived in Ipswich although was born in Ireland. I mentioned that I used to go to Fram and then he said he knew two guys well from Brandeston. Imagine my amazement being in the middle of nowhere and finding someone who mentioned Brian and **Bob Williams (Hon OF)** without any prompting. When I contact them Bob remembered him better than Brian, but what a small world? Brian recalled that he used to live in Carlisle when he worked for British Oxygen on the Blue Streak.

HONG KONG

Ed Marr (G85-92) was one of the OFs at the Hong Kong Supper in 2010. He had written in to say how much he had enjoyed the event and to mention that he had recently “starred “ in the Vietnam episode of Theo Paphitis’s Adventure Capitalist TV Show. Sadly its no longer available in full via BBC iPlayer, but this [link](http://www.oldframinghamian.com/article.php?story=20100624142155824) starts off with a mention and picture of Edward and his goal of pushing new publications in Vietnam. Having watched the programme in full, I can honestly say that Edward comes across extremely well and Theo is very positive about what he is trying to achieve in Vietnam. See website story <http://www.oldframinghamian.com/article.php?story=20100624142155824>

MALAYSIA

Robert Holland (R57-65) got in touch with Norman to say that he had moved a few hundred yards down the beach from their previous home at Sri Golden Bay to Infinity Condominium. He still had contact with **Derek Seagrove (G39-44)** but no other OFs.

SINGAPORE

Graham Walsh (R72-78) is currently in Singapore and contacted me about organising a Singapore OF lunch. I told him there were 4 other OFs currently living in Singapore and hopefully you could all get together at some point. Graham thought that perhaps the F1 Grand Prix meeting September might be a good time. He’s going to be living in Singapore for at least another 2 years so I hope to get news at some point of an OF meeting.

SOUTH AFRICA

Guy Brooke-Smith (S41-44) advised the Hon Sec of a changed in e-mail address and that his wife Margaret was looking for a cure form a Neurologist in Somerset.

Mike Bullock (R55-59) advised me that he was intending to attend the Suffolk Supper in September. He was also going to go on the tour with his youngest son in the morning. He also wanted to contact **Peter Metcalf (R55-60)** while he was over here.

However, the other fascinating thing he is going to do while over here is visit Faulkbourne Hall. This was his family seat from 1637 to 1897. He says *“My grandfather was the last Bullock born there and refused the family commission and took the” kings shilling*”. *There were other matters too. Although we lived nearby our family were persona non grata with the family and the people who bought the Hall were not very accommodating as far as the family was concerned. Now we are welcome back to the Bullock fold and the grandson of the original owner is much more understanding and has invited me to lunch there.*”
Faulkbourne Hall is near Witham in Essex.

THAILAND

John Birt (S59-63) responded to an appeal from me for Overseas Supper Organisers to check that their contact details were going to be correct in the Yearbook. John advised an 8 was missing from his telephone number. He also said *“I was at a nephew's wedding in Woodbridge a few weeks ago and went with my brother Stewart to have a walk around the College. Our old "Scarlet" Study corridor has been converted, we noted ... and we thought that the enlarged Chapel looked very good indeed. We were also impressed by the golf course ... what a pity it was not there in our day ... we might have won a couple of tournaments by now if it had been there!! Best regards.”*

USA

Nick Allan (R59-63) had hoped to get his speedboat (see previous edition of Overseas Bag) included in a calendar but the boat broke down the week before the shoot. He did however send me a lot of other photos of his boat and this is one of the few that is publishable! To quote Nick *“There are advantages to owning a loud, fast, cool boat !!!”*



Peter Ballard (S57-66) wrote an update *“As always receipt of the OF newsletter reminds me that I should at the minimum let people know where I am now. Back in July of 2009 I was asked to transfer to the companies joint venture unit in East Hartford Connecticut. International Aero Engines do cover sales for UK and Scandinavia. I started up here mid July, my Dad passed away at the beginning of August, which prompted a two week absence to UK, not a great start to a new job. My wife joined me after a couple of months due to health issues she had developed at the start of the year.*



We are now living in Glastonbury CT south east of Hartford and welcome all who may be in the area. I still am active with the Morgan Three Wheeler [see photo from an earlier Overseas Bag] that I restored and have won and placed in regional shows with it much to our delight.

Much else remains the same, both boys are now married, the eldest deciding to remain in UK as a Doctor with the British Army and having completed his tour in Afghanistan with 16th Close Support Regiment, a

worrying time for us as it is for any parent with a child in the military at present.

Youngest continues to go from strength to strength as an environmental consultant in the DC area.

It was great to see Mullie Borrett in the newsletter, I often get the chance to see her as I have remained in close touch with her youngest son Tim."

Arthur Cooke (K92-95) advised us that he had moved to Highlands Ranch, Colorado. He had received the July 2010 Newsletter at his old address in Colorado Springs – “very good as always, thank you.” He’ll hopefully provide an update for a future publication.

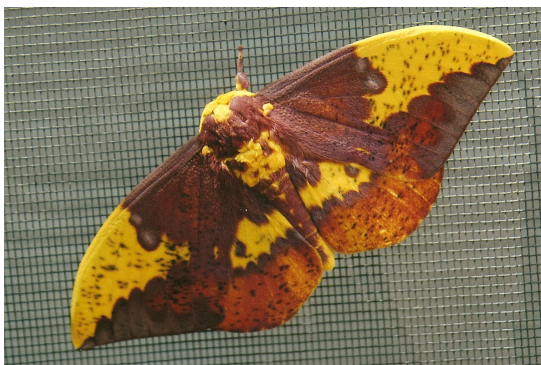
Niall Foster (G73-75), an old contemporary of mine, also advised us of a change of address and an update in August *“I am already in Clovis, the family will join me at month end. I became COO of Dairy America, Inc in June. The role is sorcerer's apprentice as I am scheduled to take over as CEO when the current CEO retires at the end of 2011. Clovis is 2.5 hours drive inland to the SE from San Francisco in the Central Valley up against the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. We are 2 hours from Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.”*

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) sent me a long letter and photos from Shallotte, North Carolina as a result of receiving the Newsletter. Those of you who are regular readers of the Overseas Bag will know that Bryan has a fascinating array of hobbies which I’ve now featured in the Distinguished section of the website. Read and see below his latest passion for moths. Here are some sections from his letter :-

“Spring saw some lovely days and we were able to accomplish some of our priority jobs. I finally stained the outside deck, which took about 9 days using my set of brushes. My sons thought I was crazy, but I prefer not to use a spray or roller!

The front garden has never been as we would like, so after many requests from the “Boss” I did a few sketches and we had it completely re-landscaped. The results I’m pleased to say have been agreeable to all (That’s a relief!).

Early summer saw the successful hatching of some thirty cocoons that had been overwintering in my outside cage [see right]. They were species to be found in this area, but not exactly common. I have included a couple of photos of the Imperial Silk Moth along with others of Swallowtails that are frequent visitors to our garden.



The Imperial Silk Moth [see left] is interesting in that the larvae, which are usually green, can also be brown or tan, even in the same brood.



The Luna moth [see right], of which twenty hatched, is a beautiful

light green with pink-purple margins to the forewings. The back wings have long flowing tails. Their wingspan is about 4 inches.

All the species were released except the one Imperial Silk Moth male, which I wanted in my recording cabinet housing my collection.

Rearing of the Luna moths was done by draping a large sleeve of netting over a branch of the food plant – in this case the Sweetgum Tree. The larvae eventually cocoon among the leaves or sometimes the sleeve itself among any folds in the sleeve.

The Imperial moth I reared on cut branches of young pine trees, stuck in a milk bottle!! When they are close to pupating I introduce some large pots of earth to the cage, so that the larvae can burrow underground for the winter, before emerging in the Spring. [below are pictures of the green and brown larvae of the Imperial Silk Moth reared by Bryan]



[Finally in terms of pictures here are a couple of the male Tiger Swallowtail.]



*We are scheduled to make another trip across the pond to see friends and relations. As usual we are pressed for time to catch up with everybody. However, I hope that I can manage to see **Jim Ruddock (G46-52)** and **Barry Wilson (G48-52)** some time.*

*I was reading **Gerry Hendrie's (K49-52)** comments about the school in the latest newsletter. Gerry was at school with me in Kerrison House. Mr Gladstone was an Assistant House Master under Mr Winstanley. Gerry was a bright and naturally talented musician, more suited I think to the arts than the rigours of a sports minded school. We of course were there in the early years following WW2, when we didn't have the*

wonderful facilities and opportunities for expression and development that the students now have. It seems sad to me to think that there were some who felt their school experience was a drudgery and left few happy memories of years spent in the fellowship of others.

I've managed four pages miracle! Many thanks for all your efforts to keep us informed of the latest news from Fram. Its very much appreciated."

Alfred Molson (K38-43) continues to recover well from the removal of his left kidney last Christmas Eve and another small op during the year. I've usually kept regularly in touch with Alfred via Skype but regrettably I've had little time to this year. Every time I speak to him he has an interesting story to tell from his life, like the time he met the famous tennis player Henri Lacoste while working in Bahamas! He also encouraged me to visit the Houston Rodeo in February next year.

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) was in contact again in March about some rummaging he'd been doing "*I spent yesterday digging through old papers, theatre programmes, scripts etc, all the way back to 1950, very nostalgic! I even found original contracts, one was for leading man at the Theatre Royal, Blythe, for 8 pounds a week! Anyway, I also unearthed some Fram memorabilia, including a picture of Stradbroke House, it looks like 1946 or 1947, taken on The Back. Would that be of any interest? [I asked Bryan to scan the picture]. I even found a crib sheet on which I had scribbled notes for the annual singing torture that was inflicted on new boys, probably from 1946, mentioning such names as Piggy Wilson, Punchard, Gates 11, Gray 11, Hodge, Fred Hamilton, Churchill, and Howden. Lastly, there was special spot for Henderson who was, unfortunately a cherubic young lad, who would always be cast as a girl in any theatricals!"*

He was back in touch to say "*My main computer died, after replacing the HD, the motherboard quit! After figuring the cost of replacing it, my new son in law, who is a computer guy in the Air Force, offered to build me a much better one half the cost if I bought the specified parts. Now awaiting their arrival and hope to be up and running by the end of next week. In the meantime, I'm using my son's computer, which is not attached to a scanner, so the Stradbroke photo will be along later.*

Yes, it was fun travelling along memory lane, but rather sad too, so many of my friends and work partners are no longer with us. I watched a rather stupid film last night, called "Is anyone there", starring Michael Caine, and was surprised to see Leslie Phillips, who starred with me in Charley's Aunt back in 1951, in a very tiny role, not much more than an "extra" really. After the terrific job he did in "Venus", for which Peter O'Toole won an Oscar, it seems quite a letdown.

Next cruise is, hopefully, in October. We fly to London for 4 days, then BA to Venice where we board the Ruby Princess for a 15 night cruise back to Ft. Lauderdale."