

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Class of '53 Newsletter
October 2000**

*About this Newsletter: The Class of '53 Newsletter is published "whenever we get around to it." Its purpose is to keep members of our class informed about our classmates' activities and to provide some tid-bits of trivia and information. Because not all our classmates are members of the Alumni Association, some items from our class notes section in **The Bulletin** may be repeated here. Send items for **The Bulletin** and this Newsletter to: Wee Smith, 19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339 -- Tel/FAX 860-464-8425 or e-mail JDSBRIDGE@AOL.COM.*

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Warren R. Powers

14 August 1930 - 22 September 2000

Warren died suddenly on Friday, 22 September from an apparent heart attack while he and his wife, **Carolyn**, were attending a dance in Occaquan, VA. A funeral mass was held for him on Friday, 29 September at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Falls Church, VA after which he was buried in Stafford Memorial Cemetery, where their daughter Suzette is buried. She died in 1996 from asthma.

Ted Smith was able to attend calling hours at the funeral home, and had a chance to visit with Carolyn. Carolyn told Ted that she was offered a blind date with Warren when she was 15 and living in Groton but she declined and went to the dance with her friend, who, she thought had met **Al Cousins**. At the dance, Warren asked her to dance; she told him she didn't know how to. Warren said, "just stay out of the way of my feet". By the end of the dance she said all eyes were on them! She said that's what she'll miss, being held by him and "staying out of the way of his feet."

After resigning from the Academy in September 1951, Warren, who was from Malden, Mass., attended Northeastern University in Boston. He graduated in 1955 with a degree in mechanical engineering and on September 3, 1955 married Carolyn at Sacred Heart Church in Groton.

Warren worked as an aerospace engineer at the Naval Air Systems Command in Arlington, VA for 30 years and retired in 1985. After his retirement he kept busy and enjoyed meeting interesting people by driving a bus for senior citizens and delivering flowers for a local florist. Before his death, he and Carolyn had started a partnership as financial analysts, which Carolyn intends to continue.

In addition to Carolyn, Warren is survived by 2 children, Robert (Woodbridge, VA) and Kathleen (Fredricksburg, VA), two grand children and two great-grandchildren.

Those who attended our 45th Reunion in 1998 will remember Warren and Carolyn as the most beautiful dancers on the floor. It's so poignant that he was sticken when they were out dancing, their favorite activity.

Carolyn can be reached at 2216 Madison Court, Woodbridge, VA 22191-2635, telephone 703-494-7392.

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Thomas R. Fennell

28 February 1929 - 12 August 2000

Tom took ill this past spring, retired on June 30th from Principia College, in Elsah, Ill., where he had taught since July, 1969, and died on August 12th. His widow, **Mary Lu**, said his doctors were never able to pin-point the exact cause of his death.

Tom entered the Academy with our class in 1949, but he ran into trouble with calculus during our third class year and reverted to the Class of '54 in February 1951. Shortly after mid-term exams of his '54 first class year, Tom decided he would rather be a teacher and resigned from the Academy in January 1954. He married Mary Lu Breckenridge, (Conn. College '55), in February 1954 in Larchmont, NY. He attended Western Michigan University where he earned a BA degree in Social Studies in 1955. Subsequently, he earned these additional degrees: MA, Michigan State University, 1957 (Social Studies); PhD, University of Hawaii, 1968 (Asian History).

He and Mary Lu lived in Traverse City, Michigan; Tasmania, Australia; Honolulu, Hawaii; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Peoria, Illinois; and Elsah, Illinois. Tom taught high school in Michigan and Australia and was a college professor at Bradley University and Principia College.

In addition to Mary Lu, Tom is survived by two daughters, Peggy and Carla. Mary Lu, who also has a PhD and who taught at Principia College, has plans to do some writing. She can be reached at P.O. Box 244, Empire, MI 49630.

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On 15 September, the doctors discovered a tumor on the back right side of **Cal Crouch's** skull. On 2 October Dr. Pietmeyer, the head Yale - New Haven Hospital's Neuro Oncology Dept., removed "as much of it as he could", and diagnosed it as Glioblastoma, a "grade 4", aggressive form of cancer. After some follow-up catscans and MRI's Cal will receive some aggressive radiation and chemotherapy treatments. He and Sandy are encouraged by the results of the surgery and the planned treatment.

Cal and Sandy's address is 42 Mumford Cove Road, Noank, CT 06340; telephone 860-536-4373; e-mail: Cands42@aol.com.

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Beth Cueroni had a growth removed from her throat on 20 September in Atlanta, GA. Although some 25 biopsies done before her surgery were negative, the final pathology report showed that she has follicular lymphoma. The good news is that it is a "grade one" lymphoma which is the most treatable and responds very well to established protocols. Her doctors plan to do some additional catscans and bone marrow tests to determine the extent of her lymphoma and what type of treatment will be best for her.

Rick and Beth's address is 115 Grandmar Chase, Canton, GA 30115; telephone 770-754-0880; e-mail: Cuero@juno.com.

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Dick Kott has been battling bladder cancer for almost two years with a chemo treatment known as BCG, which inserts the chemo directly into the bladder. On August 30th, he was elated when, following a cystoscope procedure, he heard his doctor say, "I see no signs of cancer." He will have cystoscope procedures every three months for a year, then every six months after that, and then once a year after that. His doctor explained that the cancer could return, but Dick is encouraged with the prospects.

Dick can be reached at 12805 Berwick Circle, Fort Washington, MD 20744, Tel. 301-292-3296, e-mail rfpk@aol.com.

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On Columbus Day (9 Oct.) **Skip Lord** was in the Maine Medical Center with rectal bleeding caused by the malignant tumors in his stomach, groin, and colon. He expected to be there for the rest of the week in his continuing battle with cancer that started back in the spring of 1993.

Skip said his doctors seem to feel "powerless" in this fight, but he still has great faith in the outcome. Each in March this year Skip sent the following about Palm Sunday.

"I am in the midst of a battle for my life as my body DNA has gone awry with a cancer that may well kill me in time. Oddly, I am not afraid. I seem to be seeing what is important in my life ... love, courage, finding peace and bonding with my two sons, learning about biotechnology, and even looking toward the future with hope ... and behind it all is a choirboy of eleven looking at the man on the donkey. I am cheering him on: 'Right on Jesus, tell me where you want me to be, where you want me to go'. Hold my hand, there is a bit of fog ahead blurring my vision, but my heart leaps with faith in you".

Skip's home address is 125 Danforth Street #440, Portland, ME 04101, Tel. 207-774-1559, e-mail: Mainedoc@nlis.net.

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North West Territory Getaway was a Great Success!

Imagine the interesting conversations that can be generated when you have 18 classmates with these varied backgrounds: six who were from east coast cities when we were cadets in 1949 and who are now living on the west coast; five who married the women they were dating when we graduated and three of whom married Conn. College women; eleven who stayed on active duty for 20 or more years; seven who had outstanding civilian careers; three were CG aviators; one who made Admiral, who served as Superintendent of the Academy and who is serving as a director of The Retired Officers Association; three who are attorneys; one who holds a private pilot license; one who worked overseas in Japan; one who worked overseas in Sweden; one who was an Alaskan bush pilot and a hydroplane boat racer; one who co-developed the bar code and who is currently active in e-commerce; one who was a Kings Point graduate and an Army Major; one who makes beautiful Nantucket baskets as a hobby; one who is a play writer and an actor; one who took three months to drift his way from Mass. to Oregon in his pop-up trailer; three couples who were on '53's Western Caribbean cruise in January; and a couple who were delegates to the Reform Party's convention! Those are the backgrounds of these 18 classmates and 15 wives who attended '53's "Northwest Territory Getaway" in Portland, Oregon September 13th-17th: **Paul and Sunny Breed; Dan and Sue Briganti; Dick and Janie Donnelly; George Everett; Frank and Jan**

Frauenfelder; Kirk Greiner; Ralph and Diane Hill; Bernie and Peggy Hoyland; Rin and Bert Keyzer; Bill and Helen King; Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr; Bob and Iris Lynch; Roger and Juanita Madson; Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu; Ed and Joyce Nelson; Keith and Alice Schumacher; Ray and Liz Stevens; and Glenn Young.

Dick and Janie Donnelly did an outstanding job planning and making the arrangements for this reunion.

Everyone should check out **Kirk Greiner's** outstanding website. It's awesome! You'll see a great report on the reunion, attendees and a photo album as well. It's at www.maritimeconsultant.com/CGA53.

Ray Stevens also has photos of the reunion which he is going to link through Kirk's webpage.

Personals:

Ed Cope retired from "Lightbeam" in April and turned its operation over to his daughter Erica. He planned to marry Joan Metcalf ("who loves sports, and hates to shop") on 23 September in Reno, NV.

Nat and Dimpny Spadafora are well and happy in Lynwood, WA. He said he's only 10 lbs. over his football playing weight as a cadet.

Since playing in the Jay Flanagan -Wee Smith Golf Tournament in May, **Gene Bowers** has been on a "golf merry-go-round" with lots of golf in his home in Buffalo, NY as well as tournaments in Western Pennsylvania and Canada.

Bob and Mimi Schmidt are building an extensive addition to their home in Oconomowoc, MI.

Dean Andrews called **Gerry Lipsett** in August, to say that he plans to summer on Lake Champlain, NY and winter in Texas.

Last fall, **Clay and Jan Hughes** escaped uninjured when a strong wind overturned and totalled their 35' trailer near Brazil, Ind. They have since replaced it!

Paul Arnold reported "My schedule is as active as ever. Working at Boeing in Huntington Beach. Acting Workshop on the weekends. Fencing lessons on Sunday at a local college. I just finished two consecutive plays. The first was an English farce entitled *Cash on Delivery* which I just enjoyed immensely. It was sort of a combination of a Marx Brothers, Three Stooges, type of romp. The second one was a little more serious, *The Miracle Worker* (the Helen Keller story). Definitely a different type of show, but it, too, had its lighter moments. I'll be auditioning for more plays, as time permits."

"Directory Assistance"

Enclosed is an updated directory of all the known addresses for all of our classmates and widows. Because I accidentally erased some of this information awhile back, it may contain some errors. *Please check your entry and advise me if it's NOT correct!*

"Where are they Now??"

As a part of our 50th reunion in 2003, we'd like to find out the whereabouts of those classmates for whom we do not have any address information. *Do you have any information about any of the following classmates:*

W.L. Andrews, A.K. Bartlett, R.K. Blackledge, D.L. Boyden, W.E. Burke, R.W. Carpenter, R.F. Clarke, L.C. Cloutier, W.W. Dorr, H.R. Eastwood, Ed Farmer, G.L. Fisher, D.L. Foster, J.D. Freda, J.A. Gage, R.C. Gates, Don Grim, P.B. Hall, K.H. Hardman, W.F. Hausser, D.G. Heuschkel, E. Higgins, R.J. Johnson, D.J. Kelly, L.M. Lengel, R.H. Mathison, T.P. McGowan, E.D. Morrison, C.H. Nagle, J.P. Nevin, W.H. Newcomb, R.G. Olander, W.L. Plummer, C.A. Rice, R.R. Ross, D.K. Segee, B.H. Shanley, C.B. Spencer, W.K. Sprague, E.A. Stone, R.J. Tallon, and D.F. Williford.

'53's "Great Northwest Territory Getaway"

For those who don't have e-mail, here's Kirk Greiner's written report on the Portland Reunion.

"Wonderful, exciting, tremendous." Those were the accolades heard from the attendees. The weather cooperated. In fact the only thing which marred the mini homecoming was the news that the Rit and Beth Cueroni could not come because Beth was having an operation. Wee and Jane Smith were also unexpectedly absent when Wee had a minor ailment. On a more serious matter, we also learned that Cal Crouch was hospitalized with a brain tumor.

The 18 classmates and 15 wives gathered Wednesday evening in the hospitality room to greet each other before attending an excellent meal at the hotel.

Thursday morning, we all climbed aboard our bus bound for Mt. St. Helens. En route, Dick Donnelly showed an excellent historical video of the eruption. The all day trip took us to the Johnson Ridge Observatory looking into the throat of the volcano, then Cold Water Observatory at the foot of the volcano where we had lunch, and on the way back, to the Weyerhaeuser Forest Learning Center. The weather was warm and clear with some wind around the mountain. The group gathered to have their picture taken at the entrance to one of the observatories. If you click on the photo of the volcano, you can get a live cam shot. It takes a while.

Wine was served on the bus returning to the hotel followed by a delicious. the scenery en route was gorgeous.

The next day was supposed to be a free day but most of us decided to take a luncheon boat trip of the Willamette River which passed in front of the hotel. The trip was scenic and the food delicious. Afterwards, some went to see the Rose Garden and the Japanese Garden for which Portland is famous. Other napped or walked around the city. A salmon dinner at the hotel was enjoyed that night.

Next stop was the Bonneville Dam were we watched salmon climbing the fish ladder and examined the fish hatchery.

The final stop was Multnoma Falls, one of the highest falls in the country. We then returned to Portland and to Dick and Jane Donnelly's house where we had a delicious dinner high above the Willamette river. Their house was the envy of all with its groomed gardens and spectacular view.

Sunday morning, most enjoyed a sumptuous brunch. Several had already left. The others said a fond farewell to their friends and classmates, some of whom they had not seen since the academy. As we left, 40,000 people near the hotel cheered - not for us, there was a marathon being held to support research on breast cancer.

The story would not be complete without an acknowledgment to **Dick and Janie Donnelly**. They were the planners and arrangers. Without their efforts, the reunion would not have been the total success it was. Some who said they procrastinated over coming, stated they were so happy they came because they had a truly wonderful time. We all thank the Donnellys.

We wished the rest of the class could have come.