

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter October 2002

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' lives and activities and to provide some tid-bits of trivia and information.

Unfortunately, because not all our classmates are members of the Alumni Association, and not all of our classmates have e-mail, and the deadline for articles for our class notes section in The Bulletin is almost two months before it's published, there will be duplications and gaps in what is included here, what is sent by e-mail or "snail mail", and what appears in The Bulletin.

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.

Our 49er Mini-Reunion

These 21 classmates will be attending our "mini-reunion" in Reno-Lake Tahoe (Oct. 6th-10th, 2002) which Ed and Joan Cope have done an absolutely terrific job of planning and organizing: Roger and Shirley Bascom, Dan and Sue Briganti, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Ed and Joan Cope, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Wendell and Yvonne Driggers, Frank and Jan Frauenfelder, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Ralph and Diane Hill, Jim Hiteshew, "Steamboat" and Adele Lewis, Bill and Dixie Linn, Bob and Iris Lynch, Roger and Juanita Madson, Graeme and Barbara Mann, Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu, Ed and Joyce Nelson, Hal and Sheila Olson, Bill and Margie Russell, Wee and Jane Smith, and Al and Pat Stirling

Our Fiftieth Reunion

We're moving ahead in planning for our 50th reunion at Homecoming 2003 (Oct. 2nd-5th, 2003).

Our planning committee (Bob Benson, Jimmy Irwin, "Steamboat" Lewis, Gerry Lipsett, Graeme Mann, and Wee Smith) will keep your comments in mind as we plan for our 50th!

'53's Golden Tide Rips

Gerry Lipsett, who has volunteered to coordinate the preparation of our *Golden Tide Rips* and to have it in the mail by August 2003, has started receiving responses from classmates for it.

You're reminded that *the deadline for sending him your information is this Thanksgiving!*

If you have any questions about this, contact Gerry at 34 Pond St., Cohasset, MA 02025, Tel. 781-383-9770 or e-mail: byglip@attbi.com.

"Bits and Pieces"

News from our classmates (in alphabetical order):

Paul Anderson's widow, Betsy spent the month of September in Stone Harbor, NJ and is doing

better than she was a year ago with her replacement knee. For those of you who have Target stores in your area, pick up a copy of the Fall 2002 issue of Target's magazine *bullseye*. It has a wonderful article on page 30 about Paul and Betsy's daughter, Malinda, who is an F.B.I. agent.

Paul Arnold's new address and home phone number are: 8932 Amador Circle #1309C, Huntington Beach, CA 92646, Tel. No. 714-374-6352. His e-mail remains paul.l.arnold@boeing.com. Paul reports that he is back fencing after a brief hiatus, "but not in competition, just more fencing lessons". He said he's only using foils, which he describes as "more gentlemanly than sabers".

On Sept. 19th, as a part of Homecoming Weekend, Murray (Mike) Boggs, who won four letters each in football and basketball at the Academy, was inducted into the Academy's Athletic Hall of Fame. He is the fifth member of our class in the Hall of Fame, joining Bill Russell (football-basketball-baseball), Nat Spadafora (football), Ed Daniels (football-baseball), and Rick Cueroni (football-baseball).

Paul and Sunny Breed's new e-mail address is psbreed@rasdoc.com.

Bill and Ann Clark made a Lower Chesapeake Bay cruise on their boat this summer which included stops at Salt Ponds, Tangier Island, Crisfield, Md, and the Tides Inn on the Rappahannock. While at the latter, they got together for a "micro-reunion" with Bill and Helen King, and Darryl and Sheila Babcock.

Sandy Crouch is keeping busy with volunteer work at a local assisted living facility. She also had a busy but enjoyable summer with her children and grandchildren who stayed at the Crouch family cottage in Noank. She said at one point, there were 13 grandchildren in attendance, and all having a grand time.

Ed Daniels broken left wrist has healed. He and Becky were in San Antonio, TX to visit their newest grandchild, Timothy Alexander Burgess-Wise, 6 lbs. 8 oz., who was born on September 12th.

Ed Farmer has now completed about two-thirds of his six month trip from his home in Brisbane, Australia. He arrived in Jaipur, India on June 18th amidst drought and dreadful heat --the rains had not appeared as usual and the entire state of Rajasthan was in a drought emergency. Ed said, "the perceived threat of another war between India and Pakistan with a nuclear exchange seemed to be an exaggeration because these two countries have been 'posturing' for over 55 years with each other". He added that he's never felt insecure there, and the only result of all the speculation in the media was to "destroy the Indian tourism business for the next five to ten years".

Hank and Gloria Fisher attended the Class of '52's Fiftieth Reunion and became the second members of our class to receive their "Fifty Year Medallions" from the Alumni Association. Last year, Hap and Virginia Hazard received theirs at the Class of '51's Fiftieth Reunion.

Ralph and Diane Hill's new e-mail address is 2Hillsensei@earthlink.net.

On September 27th Bill and Helen King left on a trip to Australia and missed our "49er mini-reunion". They'll be home October 14th.

Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr report that "we have finally moved into the modern age (we think). We're still not convinced these electronic contraptions are trustworthy. Anyway, our e-mail address is *bblehr@earthlink.net*." They also regretted not being able to attend our "49er" Mini-Reunion: "We just have too much going on this fall to get away. We are also getting a little weary of combining two households into one beach house."

Gerry Lipsett also missed our "49er mini-reunion" because on September 21st he left on a three-week cruising trip, (from Baltimore, MD to Hilton Head, SC), with his Landfall Sailing Club. Gerry is the club's membership chairman.

Bob Lynch, who had been the city judge in Bisbee, AZ since July 2001, resigned his position effective September 6th. In his resignation letter, Bob said, "Iris and I would like to do some traveling around these great United States to see parts of this incredible nation we have not seen." He also said he wanted the freedom to participate in politics. In Arizona, judicial ethics prevent judges from expressing opinions.

Ed and Joyce Nelson have spent "a lot of time" renovating their master bathroom. Ed said, "It would help if I had any basic carpentry, etc. skills and even more so if we did these jobs more frequently than once every 12 years." In September, Ed had a couple of speaking engagements to TROA (The Retired Officers Association) Chapters in Hawaii, and then he and Joyce stayed on to enjoy a week at the Hale Koa on Waikiki Beach. They along with **Rick and Beth Cueroni** attended a TROA meeting in Colorado Springs, CO a week prior to our "49er Mini-Reunion" in Reno.

In September, **Ernie Rowland** had cataract surgery and both lens replaced. His reaction: "Wow! What a miracle to have 20/20 vision again and reacquaint myself with the brilliance of colors. On the downside, I can clearly see myself in the mirror and am painfully reminded that I'm the oldest man in the class. I had come to believe that I was ageless."

In the attached article, **Ted Smith** describes an unexpected, but wonderful and memorable experience he had playing "Taps" at a funeral.

Ray and Liz Stevens sent their regrets about not attending our "49er Mini-Reunion" in Reno/Lake Tahoe: "We are going to Charlotte, NC in September and Nashville, TN in November, and we'll probably be moving in October."

Last December **Dave Stryffeler** had a detached retina in his right eye. Then in June, he had the same eye operated on for a cataract and he has since gotten new glasses. But, he is still having a problem getting his two eyes to work together.

It's been an "interesting year" for **Gene and Barbara Trainor**. In February he had prostate cancer and the implant cure. While in the hospital in late July, after having the first of two planned knee replacement operations, he suffered a heart attack. Fortunately he was being monitored at the time and the hospital staff was able to stabilize him quickly. Subsequently, his doctors decided to implant a pacemaker. While Gene was in the hospital and later at a rehab center for therapy on his new knee, Barbara, (who was recovering from a broken arm, herself), arranged for their furnishings to be moved into their

new home, (14 Wellesley Rd., Scituate, MA 02066). Their telephone number and e-mail remain the same, (i.e., 781-545-7942 and *jftrain@aol.com*). He's now home with a new knee and a defibrillator/pacemaker and said he's learning to walk all over again. Gene and Barbara put it best when they said, "events like this sure make you put things in your life in proper perspective!" Gene added, "My experience was a wake-up call and I intend to slow down. My doctor said I had about another 30 seconds before I 'bought the farm'. So, I've taken a leave from school and am catching up with all the open items that came up in the last two months. After that we will work on the house and do a little traveling."

Bob West visited **Gene Trainor** several times while he was in the hospital and did a great job keeping those of us on e-mail informed with frequent reports on Gene's condition and status.

On August 23rd, **Glenn Young** had a heart attack which resulted in a cardio cath with a stent implant in the right coronary artery to fix a 100% blockage. He said, "no big deal since the damage is minor and my cardiologist said I should be back to normal before I finish the rehab program. Right now my main problem is remembering the event occurred at all, although I must say that my mental attention to the condition of the body got a sudden fine tuning. I find it interesting and a bit puzzling that I had absolutely no fear or concern about an adverse outcome, but was completely intrigued by the whole ER and hospital routine, particularly watching the "TV show" as the cardiologist skewered my heart to square away the blockage. I believe I may have had a different attitude had a by-pass been necessary".

Whose Class was it that we called "Hector the vector collector and his hour of mystery"?

Bill Burke says, "Everytime I have heard the word 'vector' over the last 50 years, I have thought about that class. The vectors themselves, of course, I have totally forgotten!"

Please send an e-mail or drop a note if you have any information about what class it was or who the instructor was.

TRADITIONS OF GALLANTRY GRADUATES OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The CGA Class of 1943 has compiled and published an excellent collection of accounts of heroism by some Coast Guard Academy graduates.

Included are two of our classmates, **Paul Breed** and **Bill Russell**. Paul for his dramatic helicopter rescue of a Kodiak (Alaska) Airways pilot in 1961 and Bill for a 1960 rescue of 65 passengers and crew of a Northwest Airlines airliner that had ditched in the Philippine Sea.

Copies of *Traditions of Gallantry* may be purchased from the CGA Alumni Assoc., 47 Mohegan Ave., New London, CT 06320 for \$6 each which includes postage and handling.

YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS, BUT.....

Monday, as I was working at my computer, a phone message came in, was recorded, and played back on the computer. A strange voice said she was looking for a Ted Smith she had worked with at the NRC. Her Father, a WWII Navy veteran, she said tearily, was dying, and his dying wish was to have taps played at his funeral. If I could help, would I please call her back?

I called right back and told her she had not found the right Ted Smith, but she had found an old bugler! I suggested she call the Navy Band in Washington, in which I have some friends. I know buglers play at interments at national cemeteries, but she said he would be buried at Gate of Heaven, Aspen Hill, MD. I wished her luck and asked her to call back her results. She called two days later, explained that the Navy would provide an honor guard for a flag ceremony, but they could not provide a live bugler. Her Father had passed away the night before, and, gulp, could I possibly attend his burial at noon, this Friday? I told her I had a lunch date with some old Boeing compatriots, but honoring a veteran and comforting his family was a much higher calling, so, yes, I would play taps.

This week we just saw the Ken Burns documentary of The Civil War, in which a Union general asked his bugler to compose a slower, more mellow call to close the soldiers' day after Tattoo. As an ex-cadet bugler at the US Coast Guard Academy and a sometimes-bugler at AF ceremonies while in pilot training, it seemed totally appropriate for my generation to salute a Navy man who served four years in the Pacific to preserve our freedoms.

I got to the cemetery (which is across the road from the Aspen Hill pet cemetery where we buried some of our pets when my family lived in Silver Spring, MD) early and coordinated with the two Navy honor guards, who said they were pleased to have a live bugler instead of a scratchy tape. The Greek Orthodox priest (Father Theodore!) said his parting words, the guards called for a salute, I faced out over the beautiful open grounds, and managed a nice rendition on my flugelhorn. The guards then performed a precise folding of the coffin flag, handed it to the wife, and the large attendance dispersed to a traditional Greek meal at the church, way down on 16th Street, which I was honored to join. Many family members and friends came up to me after the ceremony, and their emotional expressions of gratitude were a wonderful reward for joining in a beautiful, if improbable, confluence of happenstance. Oh, yes, did I mention that the steady drizzle stopped just as I got to the cemetery, and then resumed with the last note of taps? The Sun then came out when we got to the church! What a memorable day!

Ted Smith 9/27/02