

Nov. 2010 Class of '53 Newsletter

About this Newsletter: The Class of '53 Newsletter is published "as soon and as often as we can get around to it." Its purpose is to keep members of our class informed about our classmates' lives and activities, and to occasionally provide some tidbits of trivia and information.

Because not all of 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, from time-to-time, 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 to jdsbridge@aol.com.

Class of '53 Mini-Reunion, Sarasota, FL (May 2-6, 2011)

Roger and Shirley Bascom (4371 Lenox Blvd., Venice, FL 34293, Tel. 941-496-4818, e-mail: rcbascom@comcast.net) and **Ralph and Diane Hill** (494 Circlewood Drive, Venice, FL 34293, Tel. 941-492-3522, e-mail: 2hillsensei@comcast.net) are putting the finishing touches on their plans for a great **Class of '53 Mini-Reunion in Sarasota, FL (May 2-6, 2011)**. As of November 1st, in addition to the **Bascoms** and **Hills** these 53 classmates, wives or widows are in the *probably/possibly* attend category: **Paul and Donna Arnold, Mike and Kaye Boggs, Dan and Sue Briganti, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Dan Collussy, Ed and Roz Cope, Ed and Becky Daniels, Dick and Meris Donnelly, Bud and Jerry Foster, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Hap and Virginia Hazard, Roger and Esther Holmes, Bernie and Peggy Hoyland, Nan Howland, Jim and LaVerne Irwin, Joe and Moira Kelly, Bill and Helen King, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, Gerry Lipsett, Dick and Donna Littlefield, Roger Madson, Barbara Mann, Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu, Harry and Barbara Oldford, Bob and Mimi Schmidt, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, Wade and Sally Smith, Wee and Jane Smith, Dimpy Spadafora, and Bob West**. And, a number of classmates are still to be heard from.

If you have not yet sent your pre-paid post card back to let us know your intentions, please send it back ASAP (or send me an e-mail and let me know what your intentions are, that is: Are you *probably* going to attend? Are you *doubtful* about attending? or Are you **not going to be able to attend?**)

More information and details about the mini-reunion will be sent by "snail mail" to those classmates who think they may be able to attend it.

Misc. Bits and Pieces about our classmates (in alphabetical order):

It was good seeing **Ken and Eve Barrett** who came down from Maine, and their son, Peter and his family who came from New Hampshire to attend Homecoming again this year. Seeing them at Homecoming has become an annual tradition for them and us.

Bob and Beverly Benson's theme song should be "*On the Road Again*" with all their driving trips. This fall, they spent a week in a time share in Atlantic City, NJ (enroute to Atlantic City, they stopped in Long Beach Island, NJ and had a good visit with **Hank and Gloria Fisher** at their beach house); drove to Ohio to see "some friends"; and, and now they're on a trip to Florida to see "some other friends."

In August, **Dan and Helene Colussy** (161 Bear's Club Drive, Jupiter, FL 33477) enjoyed a vacation cruise in New England waters. While in Boston, **Helene** had an appointment with a

doctor at Mass. General Hospital concerning her lung condition. He changed her medications and it has produced some encouraging results.

Ed and Roz Cope are doing just fine. They are enjoying good health; Arizona's weather; and, making occasional recreational "forays" into Mexico.

In October **Dick and Meris Donnelly** completed a Viking three-week tour of Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. They are now at their winter home in southern California (54467 Southern Hills, La Quinta, CA 92253, Tel. 760-289-6532, e-mail: radcesi@aol.com) and plan to be there until May when they'll return to Bellevue, WA.

In August **Hank and Gloria Fisher** enjoyed three days in Vancouver, BC before sailing on a 7-day Holland American Alaskan cruise through the inland passage, stops in Juneau and Anchorage, and two days each in Denali and Fairbanks. While in Juneau, they were hosted by Dick and Pam Knapp '51 with cocktails at their home, a tour of city sites and the Mendenhall Glacier, and lunch at a waterfront restaurant. **Hank** and Dick had grown up in Passaic, NJ where their fathers worked together as City Firemen.

Jan Frauenfelder had a great time on a Grand Circle trip to Ireland in August which included stops in Shannon, Gallway, several places in southern Ireland, and ended in Dublin.

In October, **Kirk Greiner** (18226 Sunset Way, Edmonds, WA 98026, Tel. 425-640-5137, e-mail: kirk.greiner@gmail.com) reported "I joined the expanding list of bionic people with a new knee. I'll get the other one done in October 2011." He added that, "It was done in the orthopedic unit of the Swedish Hospital in Seattle where everything is in a separate building which keeps the infection rate down to one-third of the national average."

Ralph and Diane Hill scored a "*Smith trifecta*" on their fall trip to Massachusetts to see their son and his family. They visited all three **Smiths** in our class, (**Wade and Sally** in Bluffton, SC; **Ted and Mary Frances** in Falls Church, VA; and **Wee and Jane** in Ledyard, CT). And, **Diane**, who has resumed doing art, has entered two of her recent paintings in the Venice, FL Art Center Show.

Gerry Lipsett (13 Hayloft Lane, Marshfield, MA 02050, e-mail: byglip@gmail.com, Tel. 781-536-4016) is in good spirits as he continues his recovery from the broken neck he suffered a year ago February. He's had the plate removed from his throat but during that surgery his esophagus was "nicked". He said "the nick has been fixed" but he still has some difficulty swallowing. He remarked how grateful he is for all the support from his family, friends, and classmates.

In October, **Ed Nelson** (1160 Niagara Ave. Astoria, OR 97103, Tel. 503-325-2596, e-mail: radmed1@msn.com) had a cancerous tumor successfully removed from his stomach. He said that "because of some previous stomach surgeries that I've had, some of my stomach was already 'missing,' and, now it's even smaller." So, he's on a "small-size portions" diet and he has to have an interval of 30 minutes between having liquids and food. And, unfortunately, he cannot have any of that single malt Scotch that he so enjoys.

On the ninth anniversary of September 11, **Ted Smith** (6443 Gerard Court, Falls Church, VA 22043, Tel. 703-538-4588, e-mail: tedmary2@verizon.net) played *Taps* at four different locations in McLean, VA. He said he did it "to remind people about the people who were lost on 9-11. We should never forget -- it's like Pearl Harbor." He said he played at: **8:46 a.m.** (the time that American Airlines Flight 11 flew into the North Tower of the World Trade Center); **9:03 a.m.** (the time that United Flight 175 hit the South Tower) "to honor all citizens of other nations that perished that day"; at **9:40 a.m.** to honor all of the military and civilians killed as American Flight 77 struck the Pentagon; and finally at **10:06 a.m.** (the time that United Flight 93 crashed

in Shanksville, PA) "to honor all of the heroic police and fire fighters who gave their lives that day in order to save hundreds more". Then he played a verse of *America the Beautiful* "to remember all of the innocent citizens that perished as a result of those horrific attacks, and also for those that have since sacrificed their lives for the freedoms that we Americans must never take for granted."

Bob Schmidt (544 Labelle Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066, Tel. 414-567-6846, e-mail: bobmimi@charter.net) reported that he's on the road to recovery after having a six-hour successful open heart by-pass surgery on September 13th. This was his second by-pass surgery; his first one was 15 years ago. That time he had four by-passes, this time only three. He noted that the by-pass surgery and vein-stripping procedures have greatly improved in the last 15 years and that he had much less pain with this surgery than his first. Also, **Bob** also happily reported that "**Mimi** is doing quite well. The effect of the medications, (Carbidopa for Parkinsons) (Methimazole for Hyperthyroid) has been excellent. The improvement has almost brought her back to normal and I'm very encouraged that she is going to be fine."

Dimpy Spadafora has a new e-mail address. It's naspad@frontier.com.

Please keep **Barbara Trainor** (14 Wellesley Rd., Scituate, MA 02066) in your thoughts and prayers. She has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and will be having chemotherapy treatments every other week until January. After that, she may start radiation treatments. She has sold her home and is planning to move to Hingham, MA. Cards and notes should be sent to her present address.