

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

**Joyce Smith Markle
3 December 1931 - 4 February 2000**

While taking an afternoon nap on Friday, 4 February 2000, Joyce Markle quietly and peacefully passed away. She had been battling a weak heart, diabetes, and deteriorating kidneys for a number of years and was scheduled to start having dialysis treatments which Bill said that she was not looking forward to. And, ironically, despite her failing health in other areas, Bill said that Joyce's eyesight had been significantly improved recently so that she had been able to resume doing the cross-stitching and quilt-making which she so enjoyed.

Bill and Joyce had known each other since their high school days together, but they didn't start dating until one time when Bill was home on cadet leave from the Academy. They were married 13 June 1953 with Roger Holmes serving as Bill's best man.

A local funeral service was held for Joyce in Portsmouth, VA. She was then interred at Arlington Cemetery, VA on 14 February 2000 with these classmates in attendance: Jim and Shirley Grabb, Don and Norma Hintze, Bill Kohl, Graeme and Barbara Mann and their son Wilson (Bill and Joyce's God Son) and his wife, Hal Olson, Bill Russell, Keith and Alice Schumacher, and Ted and Collette Wojnar. Jack and Lynn Costello '52 and Bob Williams '46 also attended.

Jim Kearney, Jim Grabb, Graeme Mann and Ted Wojnar coordinated spreading the sad news to our classmates.

Bill Markle's address and phone number are: 4109 Forrest Hills Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23703, (Tel. 757-484-4129). His three daughters, Sharon, Susan, and Catharine are located in Vermont, Florida, and Texas.

Contributions in Joyce's memory may be made to: The American Diabetes Association, 1701 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311-1717.

"Binnacle List"

Arty Striker, continues in his courageous battle with emphysema and still has his wonderful sense of humor. "I know that I'm on 'the slippery slope' but it would be kind of fitting if I can make it to my 70th birthday which will be on April Fools Day!" He and Ilma have greatly appreciated all the cards and calls from classmates. Arty can be reached at P.O. Box 70, Haymarket, VA 20168, Tel. 703-754-7515, or via e-mail at: llmart@aol.com.

Doctor "Skip" Lord reports that his cancer treatments are "going better than I thought they would. I am not experiencing as much pain and my spirits are good." He is participating in a Dana Farber Cancer Center treatment protocol, ("a new way to treat cancer"), and considers himself "a lab rat". He said he has also been keeping busy helping Rich Rybacki '56 prepare for Portland, Maine's OpSail 2000. "Skip's" address is 125 Danforth Street #111, Portland, ME 04101, Tel. 207-774-1559 or via e-mail at Mainedoc@nlis.net

Ann Clark's twin sister, Nancy was operated on for breast cancer in Greensboro, NC on 10 February. Early indications were that the operation appeared to be successful, (i.e., the doctor said that the mass, about the size of his thumb, and some surrounding tissue was removed, and he thought he got it all).

Personals.

Ken Barrett reported, "My encounter with a cardiologist turned out ideally. The tests revealed that I have an abnormal heartbeat which shows up on an EKG and a stress test, but it is not indicative of any problem. I came away from the experience marveling over the fact that modern nuclear medicine allows the doctor to see inside the heart while it's functioning in a completely non-invasive manner". Ken has been elected to a second term as a trustee and treasurer of Portsmouth, NH's Strawberry Banke Museum, and he is also a trustee and

*Kirk + June - We're looking forward to seeing you in Sept.!!
Lela*

treasurer of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. "The result is I spend much of my time trying to look after other people's money". Eve stays busy as chairman of the Warner House, one of the historic house museums in Portsmouth and gets to see their three grandchildren fairly frequently. Ken added, "We sold our last sailboat, and bought a trawler this past season, so I suppose that means we are not getting any younger".

Allen Cousins (1031 S. Stewart - #1229, Mesa AZ 85202 - Tel. 480-835-5880) indicated the reason that he and **Sharon** are undecided about attending our Portland, OR mini-reunion is because: "We may well relocate, I hope nearer the water and perhaps in the East. Ten years waiting for the tide to come in here in Mesa, AZ is far too long." He added, "I had a call from **Bob Lynch** in January. Hadn't seen or heard from Bob since the Academy, but we picked up a conversation we began over 48 years ago. There are priceless and beautiful things about CGA '53."

Last spring **Hank and Gloria Fisher** started converting their Long Beach Island, NJ vacation home from a two family - eight bedroom unit to a one family - five bedroom unit with Hank doing the majority of the work. In December, they sold their Vermont vacation home and in January contracted for the construction of a house on the seventh green of a gated community in Wilmington, NC, (Hank's first duty assignment).

Travelogue.

Ken and June Boehner (101 Rainbow Drive #3772, Livingston, TX 77351) are spending this winter touring Southern Texas, Big Bend National Park, Southern New Mexico and Arizona. They will be heading back to Wells Beach, Maine for the summer.

Wendell and Yvonne Driggers flew from Virginia in mid-December for lands "down under". They first visited Hobart, Tasmania. Wendell was so nervous about driving on the left side of the road that he couldn't enjoy all the scenery. Back to Sydney, where they joined a Globus tour that went to Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Adelaide and Melbourne. Wendell rode a camel, Yvonne snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef and they both went hot-air ballooning. On South Island, New Zealand they saw sheep, sheep, and sheep! They had a beautiful time in Queenstown, Cook National Park and Milford Sound, then to North Island for Rotorua and Auckland, where they saw the America's Cup entrants vying for placement. Thirty days after leaving Virginia, the paripatetic couple arrived home to *shovel snow!*

Bud and Geri Foster spent Christmas with their son, Brian and his family in Tempe, AZ and then went to the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA. They came home to Trinity, TX by way of Dallas/Fort Worth where they visited their son Wayne, and daughter, Diane and her husband. "It was a fun trip, but, it was nice to get home!"

On January 31st **Roger Madson** sent an e-mail advising that he and **Juanita** had loaded their van and were heading to Indian Shores, FL for the month of February. He said, "these past couple of weeks have really been cold for Tennessee. We need to find some warmer weather".

Relocations.

Darrell and Sheila Babcock have completed and moved into their new home in Virginia. (P.O. Box 427, Irvington, VA 22480. Tel. 804-436-8010).

Bud Grader is back home (11 Highland Terrace, Marblehead, MA 01945 Tel. 617-631-0066) from his "tour" with "Afghanaid" in Afghanistan.

Two days before Thanksgiving, **Tom and Gerrie Sing** moved out of their big five-bedroom home of 40 plus years in Smithtown, Long Island, NY to a new town house four miles east (48 Avery Court, Neconset, NY 11767 - Tel. 631-366-1391). In January they went south to Florida with the "snow birds" for the winter (10410 S. Ocean Drive, Jensen Beach, FL 34957 - Tel. 561-229-4073). In both NY and FL their e-mail address is: SINTH01@aol.com.

'53 Mini-Reunions.

"Kick Off the Millennium Cruise".

Roger and Shirley Bascom, Bob and Beverly Benson, Murray and Kaye Boggs, Dan and Sue Briganti, Bill and Ann Clark, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Roger and Esther Holmes, Jim and LaVerne Irwin, Bill and Helen King, Ed and Joyce Nelson, Harry and Barbara Oldford, and Wee and Jane Smith completed their 11-day, 10-night Western Caribbean cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's *Splendour of the Seas*" (28 January-7 February).

Ray and Liz Stevens had also planned to attend, but had to cancel when their new e-commerce business (RStevens@quixnet.net) had expanded so much faster than they had expected.

The cruise turned out to be a grand time for all, but for some, getting to Florida was not without its challenges. A snow and ice storm had hit the mid-west and the east coast from Maine to Georgia on Monday, 24 January. This caused massive delays and cancellations of airline flights and made for hazardous driving conditions.

Sue Briganti sent this SITREP on Tuesday, 25 January, the day she and Dan had planned to fly from Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport to Florida: "Shoveled out the Explorer loaded luggage into same checked with the USAirways phone lines: 'must appear at the airport even tho'..... left for BWI got stuck in the snow and had to have three men and our son-in-law dig us out of the drift call from our daughter to our 'digger' confirmed that BWI was indeed closed until 8:00 p.m. came home BWI closed until tomorrow attempted to re-book attempted to re-book attempted to re-book out of here on a 6:40 a.m. plane on Thursday - thru Tampa took a nap took a Jacuzzi tried to figure what we could eat out of our cleaned-out fridge."

Highlights occurring during the cruise: Rick Cueroni, LaVerne Irwin, and Joyce Nelson celebrated their birthdays; Ed and Joyce Nelson celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary; Bill and Ann Clark won the most *Splendour* "ship-shape" points and Bill won the *Splendour's* miniature golf putting championship; the Cueroni-Smith Team (Beth, Rick, Jane and Wee) won the *Splendour's* team trivia championship; our class had a private guided tour of the *Splendour's* impressive navigational bridge and our class enjoyed a private cocktail party in the *Splendour's* Viking Crown lounge.

A major cruise disappointment was that the photo taken of our entire class by the *Splendour's* photographers on the last formal dinner evening failed to come out.

On the Monday and Tuesday (7-8 February), following the cruise, Dan and Helene Colussy graciously hosted a wonderful post-cruise get-together for the "cruisers" at their magnificent home in Palm Beach Gardens, FL

"Northwest Territory Getaway".

Our next class event will be a mini-reunion in Portland, OR 14 to 17 September, 2000. The planners are: Dick and Jane Donnelly, Kirk and June Greiner, and Ed and Joyce Nelson.

Based on an early "poll" of our class, the following classmates have indicated that they *probably will* attend our Portland mini-reunion: Murray and Kaye Boggs, Dan and Sue Briganti, Dick and Jane Donnelly, Pete Erwin, George Everett, Frank and Jan Frauenfelder, Kirk and June Greiner, Bernie and Peggy Hoyland, Rin and Bert Keyzer, Bill and Helen King, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, Gerry Lipsett, Bob and Iris Lynch, Roger and Juanita Madson, Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu, Ed and Joyce Nelson, Harry and Barbara Oldford, Hal and Sheila Olson, Ernie and Nina Rowland, Bill and Margie Russell, Wee and Jane Smith, and Glenn Young.

The following indicated that they are *undecided* about attending: Bob and Beverly Benson, Gene Bowers, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Allen and Sharon Cousins, Cal and Sandy Crouch, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Wendell and Yvonne Driggers, Hank and Gloria Fisher, Ralph and Diane Hill, Dave and Nancy Howland, Jimmy and LaVerne Irwin, Bill and Dixie Linn, Graeme and Barbara Mann, Keith and Alice Schumacher, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, and Ray and Liz Stevens.

Details on this to follow.

Summary of Recent Class of '53 Directory Changes.

Darrell and Sheila Babcock: P.O. Box 427, Irvington, VA 22480 Tel. 804-436-8010

Roger and Shirley Bascom: New e-mail address: rsbascom@raex.com

Pete Erwin: P.O. Box 996, Fitchburg, MA 01420 Tel. 978-665-9766

Ed and Joyce Nelson: New e-mail address: ednels@pacifier.com

Tom and Gerrie Sing: 48 Avery Court, Neconset, NY 11767 Tel. 631-3661391 e-mail: SINTH01@aol.com

Ray and Liz Stevens: New e-mail address: RStevens@quixnet.net

CGA Class of '53 SA "NORTHWEST TERRITORY GETAWAY"
Portland, OR - Sept. 13th-17th, 2000

The "Northwest Territory Getaway" (NTG) Planning Committee (Dick Donnelly, Kirk Greiner, and Ed Nelson), have put together an excellent program. Their concept in planning it was simple. Offer the attendees some very special and unique opportunities to see and visit in the Northwest and also have it a potential stepping off spot for visiting some or many of the wonders of the Great Northwest either before or after the reunion. None of us is getting any younger, so it is also an opportunity to explore while we still are able to do it.

Based on our earlier poll, these classmates indicated they *probably will attend*: Murray and Kaye Boggs, Dan and Sue Briganti, Dick and Jane Donnelly, Pete Erwin, George Everett, Frank and Jan Frauenfelder, Kirk Greiner, Bernie and Peggy Hoyland, Rln and Bert Keyzer, Bill and Helen King, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, Gerry Lipsett, Bob and Iris Lynch, Roger and Juanita Madson, Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu, Ed and Joyce Nelson, Harry and Barbara Oldford, Hal and Shella Olson, Ernie and Nina Rowland, Bill and Margie Russell, Wee and Jane Smith, and Glenn Young.

The following indicated that they were *undecided* about attending: Bob and Beverly Benson, Gene Bowers, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Allen and Sharon Cousins, Cal and Sandy Crouch, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Wendell and Yvonne Driggers, Hank and Gloria Fisher, Ralph and Diane Hill, Dave and Nancy Howland, Jimmy and LaVerne Irwin, Bill and Dixie Linn, Graeme and Barbara Mann, Kelth and Alice Schumacher, Ted and Mary Frances Smlth, and Ray and Liz Stevens.

A number of classmates did not respond to our earlier poll.

Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved for our class at the **Portland Marriott Downtown** (1401 SW Naito Pkwy 97201. Tel. 503-226-7600). It was chosen because of its location and very competitive price, (\$79/night + tax, single or double). It overlooks the Willamette River and one of many boat moorings in the Portland area; is convenient to the downtown shopping area; has an indoor swimming pool and health club for those so inclined; and we'll have our own hospitality suite. It also has a wonderful catering staff that has created some special treats for our "Northwest Territory Getaway".

To get these rates, you must make your reservations by **15 August!** Call 1-800-228-9290. Be sure to advise them that you're with the "CGA Class of '53". Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

Our Schedule

Wednesday, 13 September:

Hospitality Suite open starting at 1:00 p.m. Arrival dinner at the Marriott at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 14 September:

Leave the hotel between 8 and 9 a.m. on a luxury liner motorcoach (with a restroom!) to three very interesting information centers relating to the eruption of Mount St. Helens and also to the Weyerhaeuser Forest Learning Center where the forest destruction and recovery is explained. We are trying to get an informational video that we all can watch enroute to the park. For those of you who have "Golden Age Cards", please bring them for free admission for you and your family, otherwise you'll be charged \$3.00 each or you can purchase a card for \$10.00. A "Golden Age Card" provides a lifetime admission to all national parks.

Upon our return to the hotel, the Hospitality Suite will be open and followed by an informal Italian dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Mt. Hood Room at the Marriott.

Friday, 15 September:

Purposely planned as an open day for everyone to have free time to explore the city, go shopping (Oregon has no sales tax), play golf, or just relax. The Hospitality Suite will be open most of the day. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. in the Columbia Room at the Marriott.

Saturday, 16 September:

Another luxury liner motorcoach trip -- this one to Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, the Columbia River Gorge, Bonneville Dam and Fish Hatchery, and Multnomah Falls.

Then back to the hotel to freshen up before going to Janie and Dick Donnelly's home for social and dinner. The motorcoach will return everyone to the hotel by 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, 17 September:

"Getaway" brunch at 9:00 a.m. at the hotel.

What to Pack and Local Transportation

Pack for informal activities. No ties for the guys but maybe a jacket for Friday night. Layering is suggested, a shirt or blouse, a sweater and finally a coat or jacket if it gets cold or windy on the mountains.

For those flying in and out, a rental car will not be necessary unless you intend to do some serious exploring on your own outside of the city. (Shuttle bus to or from the hotel for \$15/person or \$28 for a taxi).

For those wishing to come earlier or stay later contact Dick Donnelly (Tel. 503-635-4565; or e-mail RADCESI@aol.com) about the possibility of extending the special hotel rates.

For More Information

Checkout Kirk Greiner's excellent website about our 'NTG' at www.maritimeconsultant.com/CGA53.

Don't delay making your reservations because we're limited by the bus capacity of 47 passengers!