

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of

`53 Newsletter

Late June 2007

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 tid-bits 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 access to our `53 Website (www.cga53.org), 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 appears on our `53 website, and 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.*

In Memoriam

Pete Hall

December 11, 2006

On June 15th, we received this note from **Pete's** widow, Melna: "I'm sorry to tell you that Peter died on December 11, 2006. He underwent what was to be a simple cardiac catheterization looking for plaque. The plaque was minimal but he never recovered. We all miss him terribly, it is hard to believe he is gone." Melna can be reached at P.O. Box 218, Waitsfield, VT 05673. Pete's *Golden Tide Rips* "bio" is on the reverse.

Bugles Across America (BAA)

Ted Smith advises that anyone aware of a veteran's funeral or memorial service that desires a live bugler for Taps can contact: Bugles Across America (BAA), buglesacrossamerica.org or Tom Day, BAA founder, at 708-484-9029. Notices for a BAA volunteer go out on the internet giving the name, place, time, contact, etc. of the service to volunteers within geographical proximity, who then respond and commit. If a service honor guard is provided, by family request, they often do not include a bugler. The BAA bugler meets the honor guard and funeral director before the ceremony and coordinates his part in the service. There is no charge, but contributions to BAA are gratefully accepted. Ted added, "I have found great emotional appreciation from the families for this personal honor to the veterans. I hope some volunteer plays a live Taps at my service, with my trumpet!"

Don Hintze's Memorial Service and Burial

Classmates **Wendell Driggers, Jim Grabb and Helen King** attended a beautiful memorial service for **Don** held on May 5th which featured a great slide show of **Don's** life that was put together by one of his grandchildren.

On June 19th, **Don's** remains were buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Our classmates **Bill and Ann Clark, Wendell Driggers, Jim Grabb and Bill Kohl** were able to attend.

"Joan Cope's Day at Woodland Park Zoo"

Attached is a copy of a beautiful e-mail which **Ed Cope** sent on June 20th.

`53 Tennessee Mini-Reunion 67% Full

As of June 19th, 30 of the available 47 seats on our tour bus will be taken by these classmates who have already registered for our "See Tennessee with Fifty Three" Mini-Reunion (September 17-21): **Paul and Donna Arnold, Roger and Shirley Bascom, Bill and Ann Clark, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Ed and Becky Daniels, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Ralph and Diane Hill, Bernie and Peggy Hoyland, Bill and Andree Kohl, Bob and Iris Lynch, Roger and Juanita Madson, Bill and Fran Plummer, Bill and Mickey Reilly, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, and Wee and Jane Smith**

To reserve any of the remaining 17 seats, please send your registration form to Wee Smith, *as soon as possible* or if you need a registration form, contact Wee at: 19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339, Tel. 860-464-8425, or e-mail: jdsbridge@aol.com. **The deadline for reservations is August 1st.**

For questions concerning the format, contact **Roger Madson** (163 Saloli Way, Loudon, TN 37774, Tel. 865-458-2305, e-mail: jawanada@charter.net).

Misc. Bits of News

Ed and Becky Daniels e-mail address is now bedan@ec.rr.com.

Ted and Colette Wojnar's grandchildren have just finished outstanding athletic seasons. Jeff, a sophomore at Babson College, was a 2nd Team All-NEWMAC Conference pitcher; Jeff's younger sister, Lisa, a junior at Episcopal H.S. in Houston, TX, was selected as the school's Female-Athlete-of-the-Year and her softball team won the Texas Independent Schools State Championship; and grandson, Bryan, won the Virginia State High School 500 meter freestyle swimming championship breaking the National High School record for the event that was set back in 1994.

PETE HALL

Waitsville, VT, originally from Marblehead, MA

Wife: MELNA

Occupation: Builds wood furniture to order; former Merchant mariner, Naval Officer,

Hobbies: Skiing, Sailing

Children: John, Elizabeth, Cynthia, Nancy, and Abigail

Grandchildren: Allison, and Kaitlin

After leaving CGA in '51 I worked delivering coal for my cousin's fuel company for about a month until I got a job at Graves boat yard building wooden boats. Later, I quit the boat yard to crew on a boat in the Marblehead to Halifax race, after which I reported to the Maine Merchant Marine Academy in Castine, Maine as a "Mug" in the Deck Department.

Two days after graduating with a Third Mate's license in 1954, I went to work as Third Mate on D. K. Ludwig's "BULK PETROL", the world's first super tanker (30,000 tons) running between various ports in the Persian Gulf and Marcus Hook, PA.

Later in 1954 I was drafted so I picked up my Reserve Ensign Commission in the Navy. I was then assigned to a C-2, the USS CAPRICORNUS, in the Amphibs out of Norfolk, VA, on which I served one year as boat group commander and one year as Navigator.

In Jan 1957 my time was up and I went back to work in the Merchant Marine out of the Masters, Mates, and Pilots union hall in Norfolk, VA working various night mate jobs and relief jobs on coal carriers. One job on the USNS CUMBERLAND went around the world and another on a States Marine Co. Victory Ship went to Thule, Greenland in October (30 degrees below zero and sunset for the Winter!) In 1959 I moved to New Jersey with my first wife and three children and took a shore job in marine insurance but continued to night mate on the North River piers.

After a few months of a desk job, I took a job as packaging production supervisor on the midnight shift

at the F&M Schaefer Brewing Co. in Brooklyn. Subsequently, over 18 years, I worked at various jobs in packaging at the breweries in Brooklyn, Albany, Fogelsville, PA, and Baltimore until the brewery closed. When I worked in Baltimore I knew the brewery would close, so my wife, Melna and I sailed my boat to Chesapeake Bay and I lived on board for two years, while Melna continued to work in New York. After the brewery closed I went to work for Pepsi in Brooklyn and Long Island City, Queens.

By then we were living in a limestone which we owned with a partner on West 9th Street in Greenwich Village. Melna and I had five children between us and when the last tuition was paid in 1980 we quit our jobs and moved to the Mad River Valley in Vermont where we had been skiing on weekends since 1966. We bought a local ski bar "Gallaghers", built a 100 seat restaurant on the first floor and ended up in "Playboy" magazine's list of 15 Best Ski Bars in the U.S. After 10 years of this we sold out on April Fools' Day in 1990.

Since then we have been making and selling custom furniture from a stand in the local Farmers' market. We're still skiing and spend stick/mud season in a condo on Grace Bay, Providenciales, T.C.I., BWI.



Not too long before her birth date, Joan asked to go to Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo for her Birthday. As the date arrived, it became a logistical impossibility and that is why we had her Birthday party here at our cottage, with her family & her absolutely favorite meal ... the "Hot Dog"!

As you know, she did not make her Birthday, so it was especially important that Mat, Leslie & I handled it when, where and in the way that we did. It was a grand little celebration with her holding forth, with her children & families, and her opening small presents & cards, she savored every moment.

After her passing, we decided it would be appropriate that we celebrate her life by taking her "Spirit" to the Zoo for a "Joan Day". She loved animals so much, how better to honor her. So, Saturday, 16 June was set as the day. All of my children were now in town, so we mobilized our clans and a few special friends. Mat, his friend Mary Kay and Leslie put the plan together.

We all departed for the Zoo, planning to arrive soon after 10 AM. The day had all the markings for a typical gloomy, drippy Seattle day as we hit the Freeway for the rendezvous.. As we approached the Zoo, the clouds started to dissipate and the sun began to show its rays! Joan was not to be denied her "Day".

We had a wonderful time. After lunch we gathered in a quiet place and Mat, Leslie, and I had a few notes, from the more than 100 remembrances received, to share with those gathered. It was a teary time, mellowed by smiles brought by vignettes of her life. Leslie and Mary Kay had made up small "seed packets" to distribute and send to others, to plant and produce flowers in many places around the U.S.A., in her honor.

Along the way, longtime friends of mine, the Dave Irons family, took photos of groups and several collective shots of all of us. I have attached one. As the afternoon waned, hugs and quiet shared words brought the day to a close. The sun began to disappear and the clouds began to reappear. Joan was happy with her "Day" and let us know it was OK to start back to our homes.

Not included in the sharing of notes, mostly because I was not prepared to handle it, was a poem I had found in her personal file. It was a surprise to find it but I recognized it as one printed in the Memorial service for her very good friend from University of Nevada days ,Mena Porta, 5 years before. It was obviously meaningful to Joan and ones to embrace with her leaving us:

Don't grieve for now I am free.
I am following the path God laid for me. I
took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
to laugh, to live, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I've found my peace at the close of day.

If parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy. A
friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah
yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not bothered with times of sorrow. I
wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My
life's been full, I've savored much:
Good friends, good times,
A loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now,
He set me free!

Thank you for sharing this time with me. I look forward to continuing the friendships I have had for a long time, those that have come in recent years and, also important, those that Joan brought into my life.



To those interested, names of people in photo; LEFT TO RIGHT"

- Mike ElkinsLeslie's father-in-law
- Emma Elkins Leslie's 8 yr old daughter
- Tommy ElkinsLeslie's mother-in-law
- Bruce MoultonCousin of Joan's first husband, Jack Metcalfe
- John McCarthyEd's son-in-law
- Nola McCarthyEd's daughter
- Kelly Cope (back) Ed's son
- Dave Irons(front) longtime Coast Guard friend of Ed's
- Doris CopeKelly's wife
- Scott Cope(way back) Ed's son
- Cydni Cope Scott's daughter, Ed's grddaughter
- Mat Metcalfe(back) Joan's son
- Jan Irons (on wheels) Dave's wife
- Erica CopeEd's daughter
- Mary Kay McClure(back) Mat's girlfriend
- Leslie ElkinsJoan's daughter
- Sam ElkinsLeslie's son !! 10 yrs (tall eh?)
- Eric ElkinsLeslie's husband
- Ed Cope

Hope it helps ED