

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter Early August 2010

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 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.

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

Roger and Shirley Bascom and Ralph and Diane Hill are putting the final touches on our '53 Sarasota Mini-Reunion. There will be a "snail mail" announcement about it next month. In the meantime, **save the dates!**

News about our classmates (in alphabetical order)

In the *Second July 2010 '53 Newsletter*, **Ken and Eve Barrett** shared their personal experiences with Alzheimers, however, I neglected to include the Barretts contact information for those who may want to follow up with the **Barretts** on their offer to exchange information about Alzheimers. The **Barretts** can be contacted at 16 Captains Way - Gerrish Is., Kittery Point, ME 03905; Tel. 207-439-2034; or e-mail: barret1719@aol.com.

On July 20th, **Roger Britt** (3346 Goldsmith St., San Diego, CA 92106, e-mail: rabritt@cox.net, tel. 619-223-8265) visited **Frank Frauenfelder** in Lakewood, CO for about three hours. (**Roger** noted that airline schedules between SanDiego and Denver permit one-day turnarounds). **Roger** said, "**Frank's** Parkinson's has exacted its price both physically and mentally, notwithstanding, he handled my unscheduled/unannounced visit like it happened every day. His memory of long ago events (aka pre-'53) was good although, as my attorney friends say, 'nostalgia isn't what it used to be'. **Frank's** very interested in his grandchildren, Brandon (about to become a dentist), Brittany (married, in this modern world an unconventional act), Tyler USCGA '13 (shortstop extraordinaire), Molly and Harmony are both mechanical engineers holding up CFM, the company that **Frank** created. Negative was that **Frank** couldn't recall that the *San Diego Padres* were in first place in National League West while the *Colorado Rockies* were 'elsewhere'." **Frank** has been moved to a new care facility. He's now at *Almost Like Home* in Arvada, CO where he will receive more attentive care; he has a larger room and his own T.V. with lots more stations; and, it will be an easier commute for **Jan**. Mail for **Frank** should continue to be sent to **Jan's** home address: 8387 Fig St., Arvada, CO 80005.

Bill Bruinsma's youngest daughter, Marie, who is a manager of nursing at a LA area hospital, started running marathons this year. So far she has run three full marathons including the Los Angeles, San Francisco and Palos Verdes (a hilly suburb of LA). Bill said, "I don't have the foggiest idea of where Marie gets her stamina and endurance. She was a self-declared "wimp" through high school and never participated in sports during college. If her recent success is due to *'intense stubbornness'*, then she certainly must have inherited it from her mother, my *ex-wife!*"

Rick and Beth Cueroni, (5305 Fleet Landing Blvd., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233, e-mail: cue53@bellsouth.net) along with their daughters, Donna and Nancy, are leaving on Aug 26 for a two week cruise on the *Regent Seven Seas Voyager* (700 passengers). The cruise will take them to: Stockholm; Helsinki; St. Petersburg (3 days); Tallin, Estonia; Visby, Sweden; Copenhagen; Oslo; Amsterdam; and, Dover, England. The **Cueronis** will stay in London for three days and then return home. Their grandson, H.S. senior, Andrew Hanson, (son of Robin and Walt Hanson CGA '74) scored a perfect 36 on his ACT test. The chairman of the ACT advised Andrew that "On average less than one tenth of 1% of all test takers earns a perfect score and that in 2009 1.5 million students took the ACT and only 638 of them earned a score of 36." **WOW!!**

On Aug. 9th, **Jan Frauenfelder** departed on a Grand Circle trip to Ireland which will include stops in Shannon, Galloway, several places in southern Ireland, and end in Dublin. Jan will be home Aug 24th.

Bud Grader's dear lady friend, **Rita Mehos** is on a trip to Salzburg, Austria, the place where she and **Bud** first met. **Bud's** daughter, Sarah and her husband, Rick are spending a month at **Bud's** spectacular "retreat" in Sapoda, Spain, the site of our wonderful Class of '53 mini-reunion back in 2004.

While **Jim and LaVerne Irwin** (890 N. Granada Dr., Chandler, AZ 85226, e-mail: jcilmg@cox.net) were east to visit their daughter, Julie in Wilmington, NC, **Jim** experienced some severe back pains. It turns out that he had a fractured vertebrae and the doctors performed a "kyzoplasti" procedure on him to cement the "chips" in place and hopefully reduce the pain. As soon as the doctors say he can travel, the Irwins plan to drive back to AZ.

Bill King (109 Starboard Court. Montross, VA 22520, e-mail: kinge@rivnet.net) and his children organized and hosted an eightieth birthday party for **Helen** on Aug. 8th in Montross, VA. **Ted and Mary Frances Smith**, who are "Northern Neck" neighbors of the **Kings**, attended it and said it was a "well-attended, wonderful, and happy event".

Gerry Lipsett was able to go home from Beth Israel Hospital in Boston following the surgery to remove the plate from his throat and when I spoke to him on the phone, his voice sounded great, just like it used to before he broke his neck. He remarked how grateful he is for all the support from his family, friends, and classmates. Unfortunately on August 6th, **Gerry** had to go back in the hospital because his doctors think he may have a tear in his esophagus. Cards and letters should continue to be sent to Gerry at his homeaddress, 13 Hayloft Lane, Marshfield, MA 02050, e-mail: byglip@gmail.com, Tel. 781-536-4016. *Note:* Gerry's correct zip code is **02050**, NOT 02025, which I had erroneously sent in July's Newsletter.

On September 11th, **Ted Smith** (6443 Gerard Court, Falls Church, VA 22043, e-mail: tedmary2@verizon.net) will be participating in the *Bugles Across America 9/11 Memorial Tribute*. Buglers will be playing *Taps* at locations all across the United States at the same times

as the four crashes occurred on 9/11. **Ted** has been invited to play *Taps* at these four locations in McLean, VA: the Elementary School, the Middle School, the High School, and the Fire House.

Remembering our late classmate, Bill Linn (who died April 4, 2010)

By Bill Bruinsma

Bill Linn was much more than just “a classmate” to me. He was one of the most interesting and adaptable persons I’ve had the good fortune to consider as a friend. We were roommates during most of my 2 plus years at the Coast Guard Academy. In many ways our backgrounds were direct opposites. Bill grew up in the parched desert and mountains of a remote Indian reservation while I grew up in a Midwest manufacturing city on the shores of Lake Michigan. While Bill was the youngest member of our class I was among the oldest.

We also had a lot in common. Or at least our differences did not prevent us from becoming good friends. Looking back, Bill had a very positive influence on me. Over time I tended to share his values. And it was generally a happy relationship.

We were both “poor” but did not even realize it. We made at least two trips to New York City together. We stayed at the YMCA for \$3 a night on our first trip and on our next trip stayed at the Roosevelt Hotel in a shared room for \$5 a night (servicemen’s rates). On one of the trips we obtained free tickets to a live performance of the then famous “Lucky Strike Hit Parade”. Later, probably inspired by songs from the Hit Parade, I recall us walking through the streets of New London together joyfully singing “Tennessee Waltz”.

At the end of a summer home leave I ran into Bill at Michigan’s Selfridge Air Force Base. He had flown in there from Arizona on a free Air Force flight (“hop”). After a very long wait at Selfridge we decided we were never going to get a flight back to the east coast. In desperation we decided to hitch-hike back to New London And we made it back before the expiration of our leave.

Bill was able to conquer adversity and even use it to his advantage. All Cadets were required to pass a test in swimming; a logical requirement for men expecting to spend their careers at sea. Bill, who had grown up where there was not enough water for even a swimming pool, had no idea of how to swim. But he worked very hard at learning and eventually became so proficient as to become a member of the Academy’s swim team, competing against some of New England’s top schools. In intramural sports, Bill was somehow selected to wrestle against a classmate of whom Bill was terrified. Bill had never wrestled before and, in Bill’s eyes, his opponent was bigger and more powerful. I tried to coach Bill as best I could. Bill was relieved and delighted when he pinned his opponent. (The unfortunate opponent, whom I won’t name here, is actually a heck of a nice guy, as were most of our classmates.)

Bill’s parents were a couple of the nicest people I’ve ever met. Bill was plagued with seasickness and dreaded the thought of spending years bobbing up and down on the ocean. His parents persuaded him to stick it out. Their inspiration and encouragement were certainly important factors in making Bill’s life so successful. After leaving the Academy I spent a week as a guest at his parents’ home on the Apache Indian Reservation. They were among the most wonderful couples I had ever met. Bill carried on in the best of his family traditions. He was a good man.

Some Marital Humor
(Sent by **Mike Boggs** who received it from his wife, **Kaye**)

Husband Down

A husband and wife were shopping in their local Wal-Mart.
The husband picked up a case of *Budweiser* and put it in their cart.
"What do you think you're doing?", asked his wife.
"They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans", he replied.
"Put them back, we can't afford them". demanded his wife, and so they carried on shopping.
A few aisles further on along the woman picked up a \$20 jar of face cream and put it in the basket.
"What do you think you're doing?" asked the husband.
"It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful", replied the wife.
Her husband retorted, "So does 24 cans of *Budweiser* and it's only half the price."
Shortly thereafter this announcement was heard on the PA system:
"Cleanup on aisle 25, we have a husband down."