

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Class of '53 Newsletter
September 2001**

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. 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.

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Cal Crouch
(January 27, 1932 - September 15, 2001)

Cal's courageous battle with a brain tumor and diabetes ended Saturday morning, September 15th, when he died peacefully at home with Sandy and their four children (Cal, Jr., Pete, Sue, and Jenny) at his bedside.

See the death notice from the *New London Day* on page 4 of this newsletter.

Plans for a memorial service for Cal are pending. Details will be passed separately as soon as known.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested that donations be made to The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut (200 Boston Post Rd., Waterford, CT 06385) or Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut (179 Gallivan Lane, Uncasville, CT 06381).

Sandy can be contacted at 42 Mumford Cove Rd., Noank, CT 06340, (Tel. 860-536-4373) (e-mail: cands42@aol.com).

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Forty Are Set To Attend Our Fall Mini-Reunion for Fun, Foliage, and Fellowship

All systems are "go" for our Mini-Reunion for *Fun, Foliage, and Fellowship* (Sept. 24th to 27th) at *The Beacon Resort* in Lincoln, N.H. These 21 classmates plus wives and guests are planning to attend and are coming from all over the country. Three from the *Far West* (Ralph and Diane Hill from California; Ed and Joan Cope from Nevada, and Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu from Washington); three from the *Midwest* (Roger and Shirley Bascom, "Hap" and Virginia Hazard, and Clay and Jan Hughes from Ohio); Jimmy and Billie Hiteshew from the *Southeast* (North Carolina); five from the *Middle Atlantic* states (Ted and Mary Frances Smith, Bill and Ann Clark, and Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr from Virginia; and Dan and Sue Briganti and Hal and Sheila Olson from Maryland); and nine from *New England* (Dave and Nancy Howland from Maine; Dick and Jan Bowers, Pete Erwin, Bud Grader, Ray and Liz Stevens, Gene Trainor, and Bob and Mary West from Massachusetts; and Jim and LaVerne Irwin and Wee and Jane Smlth from Connecticut). Planned day-long sight-seeing trips included: a two and a half hour cruise on Lake Winnepesaukee and taking the "Valley Train" through Mount Washington valley.

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The 1951 Football Team, the Academy's first undefeated team, to hold a 50th Reunion.

Fifty years ago on Saturday, November 10th, 1951, CGA beat RPI 35-14 at Troy, N.Y. to become the Academy's first undefeated football team. Our classmates, Darrell Babcock, Mike Boggs, Rick Cueroni, Ed Daniels, Joe Kelly, "Steamboat" Lewis, Roger Madson, Billy Relly, Ernie Rowland, Bill Russell, Nat Spadafora, Charlie Stadlander, and Dave Stryffeler played major roles in that team's success!!

Members of the 1951 team will be coming back to the Academy on **Saturday, November 10th**, exactly fifty years later, on the Golden Anniversary of this memorable football season to *remember, reminisce, and celebrate* with their teammates, classmates, wives, and friends.

The team's reunion will include a pre-game "training table" lunch in the old Cadet mess hall; watching the CGA - Kings Point football game; and attending a post-game Golden Anniversary Dinner in the Academy's Officers' Club.

Non-team members from the classes of '52, '53, '54, and '55, will also be invited to attend and share in the fun of this reunion.

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Classmates Hold a "Micro-Reunion" in Virginia

While passing through Norfolk, VA on Sunday, September 9th, Ed and Joyce Nelson got together for a brunch with Darrell and Sheila Babcock, Bill and Ann Clark, Jim Conrad, Jim and Pat Kearney, Joe and Moira Kelly, Bill and Helen King, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, and Ted and Collette Wojnar.

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News From Our Classmates

Darrell and Sheila Babcock enjoyed a visit from **Joe and Moira Kelly** and **Bill and Helen King** in Irvington, VA. The Kellys motored to the Tides Inn aboard their sparkling Albin cruiser; and the Kings drove down from Montross. Darrell said, "Naturally, the conversation went from grandchildren to sea stories and 'days in bondage'. I believe we covered just about everyone. The change that I noticed was that the party slows down after three beers. Joe also has a change of style by substituting GPS for Dutton and of all things, a 'bow thruster'".

On August 11th, **Mike and Kaye Boggs** travelled to Cabot, Pa. (near Pittsburgh) to help his Mom celebrate her 95th (!) birthday.

In June and July, **Dan and Sue Briganti** travelled to Austria, Hungary, Italy, and Germany with their daughter, Lisa and her triplets, (age 9). Dan said they were great travellers and he managed to attend three Rotary meetings along the way which fit in well since he's the International Service Director for the Annapolis, Md. Rotary Club. This fall, their son, Steve will be completing his tour as Director of the Navy - Marine Corps Intranet Project and will be retiring as Captain, USN. Dan says, "it makes you think a bit when your kids start retiring as Captains!"

Bill and Romy Bruinsma met **Wee and Jane Smith** at the Munich, Germany airport in June. The Smiths were visiting their daughter, who teaches at the Bavarian International School in Munich and the Bruinsmas were on their way back to California after visiting her family in Germany. Bill is especially proud of his daughter, Margo Robinson, who is vice president of Kodak's Health Imaging division which is developing a world-wide full-field digital mammography system.

Beth Cueroni continues to do well in her battle with throat lymphoma. Rick said that her appetite is slowly improving.

Ed and Becky Daniels greatly enjoyed seeing their son, Eddie, take command of the CGC DILIGENCE in Wilmington, N.C. In 1971, Ed was C.O. of the DILIGENCE when she was home-ported in Key West, Fla. (See the article on page 3 of this newsletter.)

Wendell and Yvonne Driggers are spending the month of September on a cruise and tour of 14 European countries. Kermit and Arlene Meade ('51) are on the same tour.

Just before leaving on their cruise, Wendell managed to track down, **Ed Farmer**, who is now living in Australia (89-2 Goodwin St., Kangaroo Point, Queensland 4169, Australia. E-mail: gbishma@hotmail.com). After retiring from the Coast Guard, Ed worked for a convention company as a Floor Manager for a number of years while he decided "how to MAKE a life instead of EARNING a living". He said, "I was searching for spiritual values and did a lot of travelling around. My last stop was India and I instantly realized 'I was home'. I studied under a guru for four years and was finally initiated into the Hindu world as Ganeshwar Bishmapitama. I have been on an upward spiritual path ever since." He went on to say, "Ten years ago I moved to Australia on a Residency Visa, realizing that my retired income was insufficient to live in my own country. My income nearly doubled because of exchange rates which opened up an entire new world of travel experience." Ed said he's away from Brisbane over six months a year and that India has been his second home for 12 years.

Frank and Jan Frauenfelder were scheduled to go to Hawaii this month but they had to postpone it because Frank had some skin grafted from his left thigh to his left ankle to help heal the lingering sore there from his bout with cellulitis. His doctor is encouraged that the skin graft will be successful.

Bud Grader's address is 8 Ferry Lane, Marblehead, MA 01945. Tel. 781-631-0066, e-mail: cgrader@mediaone.net.

Kirk Greiner has moved again. He says it's his "final (well, almost) home". His new address is 18226 Sunset Way, Edmonds, WA 98026-5332, (Tel. 425-640-5137. E-mail cptkirk@maritimeconsultant.com). Kirk said he's still working and added, "being a consultant isn't a full-time job, it's fun, and makes up for some of the stock market losses".

On their way to N.H. for our mini-reunion, **Ralph and Diane Hill** left California in early August and planned to take their time visiting National Parks and sights along the way, visit friends in Toronto, Canada and take part in an Elderhostel in Lake Luzerne, N.Y. During the week of August 19-26, they planned to be senior volunteers, providing an extra pair of hands at Paul Newman's "Hole in the Wall Ranch" for handicapped and terminally ill children ages 6 to 16, then wander around New England and NE Canada until time for the reunion.

Dave and Nancy Howland's address is now 15 Crooked Rd., Bar Harbor, ME 04609. They haven't moved. The Post Office just changed their address.

If you're in the mood to read about Ocean Station duty, **Bernie Hoyland** says, go to the website www.inflightusa.com, click on "Historic Reflections" and the first article is titled "Ocean Station Sugar", a true adventure and vivid memories.

Jim Kearney says he is "doing o.k." with his chronic lung problems.

During our N.H. mini-reunion, **Bill and Helen King** will be in Australia and New Zealand.

Dick Littlefield's new e-mail address is: compmgmt1@aol.com.

Bill Markle continues his battle with pancreatic cancer, and is now staying with his daughter, (Sharon McDonald), at 2316 Honeylocust, Irvington, TX 75063, Tel. 972-401-0115. He said he is being visited by Hospice weekly and has decided to discontinue his radiation and chemotherapy treatments. His comment was "Why have six months of hell just to extend your life for six month?"

In June, **Hal and Sheila Olson** spent 10 days in New England accompanied by their daughters Virginia and Rowena. Their first six days were spent cruising the Maine coast aboard one of the old schooners and witnessed every item in Maine's weather inventory except snow, including a brief but intense hailstorm. The remainder of their trip was spent in Vermont, tracking down the grave of one of Sheila's five time great grandfathers, checking out the marble and granite quarries, a cheese co-op, and maple sugar producers, locating covered bridges, and making a pilgrimage to Ben and Jerry's ice cream plant.

Ernie and Nina Rowland are thoroughly enjoying being in Chemainus, B.C., Canada from 15 May to 15 October each year and can't imagine any place they'd rather be. Nina, who wasn't excited about the Class of '53's "uniform" hats that we had for our 45th reunion, now wears hers constantly in the constant drizzle in B.C. She also dresses as a clown (Ernie says, "just what the family needed ... another clown"), and visits the patients in the local hospitals and care homes as she does in Hemet.

In June and July, Wade "Humpy" Smith spent three weeks in New England, including four days in Plymouth, N.H., near where our mini-reunion will be held. He was visiting his four children, his mother and his brother.

Nat and Dimp Spadafora are fine. She is still working and he's keeping busy painting their house and babysitting their grand children. Their telephone number is now: 425-771-5634.

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We are still missing addresses for these 41 classmates

W.L. Andrews, A.K. Bartlett, R.K. Blackledge, K.D. Boehner, D.L. Boyden, W.E. Burke, R.W. Carpenter, R.F. Clarke, W.W. Dorr, H.R. Eastwood, G.L. Fisher, D.L. Foster, J.D. Freda, J.A. Gage, R.C. Gates, D. Grim, P.B. Hall, K.H. Hardman, W.F. Hausser, E. Higgins, R.J. Johnson, D.J. Kelly, L.M. Lengel, J.C. Malloy, R.H. Mathison, T.P. McGowan, E.D. Morrison, C.H. Nagle, J.P. Nevin, W.H. Newcomb, R.G. Olander, W.L. Plummer, C.A. Rice, R.R. Ross, D.K. Segee, B.H. Shanley, C.B. Spencer, W.K. Sprague, E.A. Stone, R.J. Tallon, and D.F. Williford.

If you have any leads on the whereabouts of any of these classmates, please send them to Wee Smith.

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Inheriting the helm

Change of command on Coast Guard's 'Diligence' involves family ties

By Gareth McGrath
Staff Writer

The new commander of the Coast Guard cutter *Diligence* won't need an extensive tour of his new ship. He's been there before.

Literally following in his father's footsteps, Cmdr. Edwin Daniels Jr. took over command from Cmdr. Paul Schulte during a ceremony on the vessel's flight deck under a blazing sun.

Cmdr. Daniels' promotion to captain comes 30 years after his father ended a two-year stint as captain of the 210-foot cutter, which was then based in Key West, Fla.

Surveying the ship he used to command, Rear Adm. Edwin Daniels Sr. pointed to the funnel midship.

When he was captain, there wasn't a stack because the exhaust fumes used to be sent out of vents at the stern of the ship. The system worked well until seawater flooded the vents and shot the boiler, Adm. Daniels said.

"They then decided it wasn't such a good design," he said.

Adm. Daniels said his son used to love hanging around dad's workplace back when he was in junior high school.

"I've got fond memories of taking Eddie to sea," he said.

Adm. Daniels said he would have been proud no matter what new command Cmdr. Daniels was given.

But he admitted the ceremony on Tuesdays was extra special because of his ties to the Wilmington-based cutter.

"It's definitely special, very special," said the admiral, who now lives in New Bern.

Joking that he probably wouldn't need much time to familiarize himself with the ship, Cmdr. Daniels said he was looking forward to his new duties.

But he admitted he had big shoes to fill – and wished he had paid a little more attention to what his dad was

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doing when he was in command of the *Diligence*.

"I hope I can be as good as he was, or half as good as he was, and I'll be fine," Cmdr. Daniels said.

He added that he was already familiar with Wilmington and the Cape Fear River from his experience as commander of the buoy tender *Gentian*, which is based in Atlantic Beach.

During the change-of-command ceremony, an emotional Cmdr. Schulte said he would miss the special relationship that's been forged between the *Diligence* and Wilmington.

He said the Port City's long association with the Coast Guard plus the cutter's proximity to downtown and accessibility to the public has made a posting in Wilmington the envy of the service.

Cmdr. Schulte, who assumed command in June 2000, will head to Washington to join the Coast Guard's National Distress Service Acquisition Division.

Gareth McGrath: 343-2384
gareth.mcgrath@wilmingtonstar.com

■ CROUCH — Commander Calvin E. Crouch. At this time of National tragedy, this country has quietly lost a gentle hero. On Saturday, Cal Crouch of Noank passed away in his home surrounded by his beloved wife, Sandy, their three children, grandchildren and friends.

Cal was a native of Southeastern Connecticut. He was born in New London on January 27, 1932 the son of Barbara Bell and Ellis Waddo Crouch. He spent a lifetime of summers at the family cottage



Calvin Crouch

at Groton Long Point; graduated from Chapman Tech in 1949 and was a member of the United States Coast Guard Academy of 1953. His Coast Guard career took him around the world, but when he retired in 1982, he began a second career with the UCONN Marine Sciences Institute in Groton and Noank.

He was a simple man who took great pleasure in sailing the waters of Fishers Island Sound, immersing himself in lobster, clam and mussel dinners at the family cottage, reading aloud with Sandy, and wrestling with the grandchildren in his gardens. He is a past Deacon and Trustee of the Noank Baptist Church, a member of the Groton Rotary and a frequent volunteer at the Mystic River Homes.

His memory will live forever with Sandy, their four children; Cal Jr., Pete, Sue and Jenny, eleven grandchildren, his sister Judy Johnson, a community of friends and family and his beloved Eleuthera.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to The Visiting Nurse Association or Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut. Byles-Groton Memorial Home is in charge of arrangements.