

45th Reunion OCTOBER 8-11, 1998

We Held It In Two Acts

Act I

On Saturday of Homecoming weekend, (19 September 1998) these 15 classmates attended our “tail-gate” luncheon at the Academy Visitors Center: Bob and Beverly Benson, Dan Briganti, Bill and Ann Clark, Cal Crouch, Pete and Jessie Erwin, Jim and LaVerne Irwin, Joe and Moira Kelly, Bill and Helen King, Gerry Lipsett, Dick Lipson, Graeme and Barbara Mann, Ed and Joyce Nelson, Wee and Jane Smith, Ray Stevens and Glenn Young. As we “walked-on” the field before the football game, led by our Class President, Jim Irwin and former Superintendent, Ed Nelson, the P.A. announcer read this script: “Now entering Cadet Memorial Field from the south end are members of the Great Class of ‘53. This is an ‘advance scouting party’ from the class which will be celebrating its 45th reunion here in New London next month on Columbus Day Weekend, the original dates for this year’s Homecoming.

The Class of ‘53 has provided the Academy with over \$75,000 in support highlighted by the graduates plaques in Hamilton Hall. They are also proud of their class endowment fund with the Alumni Association which is now almost \$300,000. The ‘53ers are now in their ‘golden years’. They are not ashamed to accept ‘senior discounts’, but they are the happiest when they *have* to show their Medicare cards in order to receive them.”

Act II

Four cloudy and rainy days could not dampen the spirits for our 45 classmates who attended our 45th Reunion in New London (8-11 October). Those attending were Ken and Eve Barrett, Roger and Shirley Bascom, Bob and Beverly Benson, Dick and Jan Bowers, Gene Bowers, Dan and Sue Briganti, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Dan and Helene Colussy, Cal and Sandy Crouch, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Ed and Becky Daniels,



45th Reunion

(Continued)

Ted and Barbara DeYoung, Dick and Janie Donnelly, Wendell and Yvonne Driggers, Pete and Jessie Erwin, Frank and Jan Frauenfelder, Hap and Virginia Hazard, Don and Norma Hintze, Jim and Billie Hiteshew, Roger Holmes, Dave and Nancy Howland, Bernie Hoyland, Clay and Jan Hughes, Jimmy and LaVerne Irwin, Rin and Bert Keyzer, Bill and Andree Kohl, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, Steamboat and Adele Lewis, Gerry Lipsett and Carol Piper, Roger and Juanita Madson, Graeme and Barbara Mann, Bill and Joyce Markle, Harry and Barbara Oldford, Hal and Sheila Olson, Warren and Carolyn Powers, Ernie and Nina Rowland, Bill and Margie Russell, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, Wade and Edith Smith, Wee and Jane Smith, Ray and Liz Stevens, Dave and Isabel Tredeau, Bob and Mary West, Glenn Young, and Dave and Millie Zurzuski. We had an “early bird” buffet dinner at the Radisson Hotel on Thursday evening. Friday’s activities included “wind-shield tours” of the Academy on a school bus we chartered, a luncheon at the O’Club with the Superintendent and his key staff members, and a class-led Memorial Service in the Academy Chapel for our 26 deceased classmates. Ernie Rowland gave a moving “sermon” and Academy cadet singers sang “Crossing The Bar” and “Home From The Sea”. On Friday evening we had a lobster dinner at Unk’s Restaurant on the Niantic River. Saturday was a “free day” for our classmates to individually choose what local tourist attractions to see, (e.g., Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, Nautilus Museum, Essex Steam Train and Boat ride, the casinos, etc.). Our former instructors CAPT Stan Smith and CAPT Eph Rivard and their ladies (Louise and Lois, respectively), were our guests at our class dinner-dance at the O’Club on Saturday evening. Dan Colussy gave the keynote address, in which he reviewed highlights of our lifetimes. We closed out our reunion weekend with a class brunch at the Radisson Hotel. A grand time was had by all!