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Happy New Year



[Photo # 1 – “Dwight Lee, in perfect “promotion picture” posture celebrates New Year’s Day on Pauley’s Island in 75° weather”]

Jack & Meg Miller “Formally” Celebrate Their 53rd

Jack Miller reported that he and Meg had intended to celebrate their 53rd Wedding Anniversary like most of the others – a quiet evening at dinner for two at their favorite restaurant. However, their 5-year old grandson caused them to do a drastic reconsideration. Last Fall, their daughter spotted an online deal she couldn’t refuse – a tuxedo for her son at a bargain price of \$24.95. Jack’s initial reaction was "what 5-year old needs a tuxedo?" As it turns out their grandson frequently watches old Fred Astaire movies with his older sister and really wanted to party like Fred. So, Jack & Meg planned a small formal party in which their youngest grandson would be “Fred” for a day. Jack admits that after almost two years of being sheltered and/or isolated, it felt good to get dressed up and socialize like days of yore. During conversation at the party, Jack says he found out that his daughter had already purchased another tuxedo for next year. Seems like a conspiracy of sorts.....



[Photo #2 – “Jack & Meg Miller surrounded by their family at their formal 53rd Wedding Anniversary Celebration”]

Jim & Rene Orahod Celebrate Their 52nd in a More Laid Back Way

Nestled on the Georgia coast, midway between Savannah, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida, **Jim Orahod** dropped an email with some usable photos from St. Simon, Georgia to show a more relaxed way to celebrate a wedding anniversary. The kids and grandkids are grown and Jim & **Rene** get to enjoy each other. Jim also sent a photo of **Bill & Cindy McCauley** dealing with life in Key West. Sadly, the camera lens seems to have been coated with SPF 75 sun and focus block.



[Photo # 3 – “Jim & Rene Orahod trying to relax after 52 years of marital bliss”]



[Photo # 4 “Jim Orahod sowing off an anniversary present he bought himself”]

Liebs Provided 2021 Highlights in a Paragraph

Special thanks and shout-out to **Charlie & Janet Lieb** for making my job easier this time of year. While they sent along a big holiday letter with their card, they also provided a Cliff Notes version. They admit that this past year has been a trying time for everyone navigating through the pandemic. They feel grateful to be able to continue doing most of the things they enjoy: golf, pickle ball, riding horses, biking, attending Packer games, spending time with the grandkids in California and spending the winter months in Florida. A real highlight of the year for them was attending the opening home game of the Charleston Battery Soccer team (Charlie, Janet, and their kids are minority owners). The following week, they were thrilled to attend the

PGA Championship on Kiawah Island to watch their son-in-law, Brad Marek (tall guy wearing a big floppy hat), make his debut.



[Photo # 5 – “Charlie & Janet Lieb with their grand kids”]

Families Gather and Work Together

Elwood & Mary-Lou Cobey hosted their ever-growing clan at the family farm in Florida, **Jack & Bobbi Munson** opened their Cape Cod and Delaware homes and **Ralph & Sandy Tuccillo** clustered in Massachusetts and New Hampshire with families to take a break from lock-downs and refocus on the importance of these special groups. From the looks of the family photo album created in a word processing format, I could not access to share any of the photos, **Chick & Carole James** followed suit with many classmate families. While taking a break to read a book or putter, or play, they all gathered to share the load of cooking and washing so all are mutually comfortably drained and remembering how important it is to belong. It’s times like these – during holidays or events – to discover what grandchild is now taller than grandmother or mother. It’s great to say, “Look how you have grown” to the kids and grandkids – not so much the other way around...



[Photo # 6 – “The 2021 Cobey clan in Florida”]



[Photo # 7 – “All because of Mary-Lou and Elwood Cobey”]

Colorado Classmates Gather for Christmas Luncheon

Larry Stevenson sent photos (and corresponding names of classmates and brides) taken at the Colorado group’s annual Christmas luncheon held at the Bear Dance Golf Club in Denver, which opened up just to treat our gang to a great buffet. They all looked so good that they voted to share their fun and attachment with the class. At the time of the luncheon, they had not seen snow in over 200 days, so it was an easy drive for all. My Barbara noted that, since **Patti Halstead** was not in any of the pictures, she was the one wielding the camera. The Halstead holiday letter revealed that she had had knee replacement surgery and she was still recovering. Kari & Jim (Jr) Orahoad still live in Colorado Springs and they have looked after **Gary’s & Patti’s** wellbeing as they take care of “little jobs” to maintain the Halstead Manor. Gary enjoys ’68 Class luncheons, Tuesday Gentlemen’s Club and lots of golf. Army football games have brought a great camaraderie to the B-2 Bulldogs with Gary staying in cyber contact with **Steve Harper, Dave Ford, Ronnie Lane, Greg Camp,** and **Don Johnson** while watching from their respective homes and “pinging” away with texts laced with spirit. Gary & Patti traveled to Georgia to see their son, Scott, and stay with **Greg & Joanie Camp**. December brought Steve & **Sherry Harper** and further gatherings with Don & **Louann Johnson**.



[Photo # 8 – “Colorado Christmas Luncheon: Luann & Don Johnson (best sweater), Paulette & Dick Steiner, Marv & Ann Wooten, and Gary Halstead”]

Mike & Samar Fay did not attend the gathering as they live a little farther away from Denver than other classmates and they were busy preparing their spread for the ebbs and flows of winter. Mike was the Rector of The Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Salida, Colorado where he spent the last couple of years celebrating services virtually and learning the hard way not to even try to lead his congregation in hymns on Zoom. The church did a celebration of Mike's ministry at the end of May and he retired shortly thereafter on June 1. Now, they tend the garden and live off of the land – lots of chard, tomatoes, squash. Samar put up 15 jars of salsa last year and they ate a lot of pesto, Caprisi salad and BLTs on homemade sourdough bread.

Colorado Classmates – Part II

After the Christmas luncheon, the Boulder area was hit with a devastating wildfire. While **Mike & Becky Fellows** kept us apprised of their situation via social media, I had not heard from **Greg Johnson** so I reached out only to find that he had far more going on than dodging wildfires. High winds took out power in his neighborhood; however, his daughter's community was in real fire jeopardy. While she was interviewed and quoted fairly extensively in *The NY Times*, her home survived. During our spotty conversations (commo was iffy), he informed me that he lost his beloved **Donna** in May to an autoimmune disease called Sjogren's Syndrome that she was stricken with in 2001. The disease remained at bay until 2019, when it rose up again. With Covid restrictions coming in the spring of 2020, it was not obvious to many that she had been further weakened. When she contracted a simple lung infection in May of 2021, it became too much for her weakened system, and she succumbed. During the Class Christmas luncheon, Greg met up with **GI Larry Stevenson** who lost his **Cheryl** a month before Greg lost Donna. As you can see, they sat together and supported each other through this first holiday season alone.



[Photo # 9 – “Chuck & Gayle Jones, Lynne & Robby Robinson, Becky & Mike Fellows, and Joe Henry



[Photo # 10 – “Cindy & Les Krohnfeldt, Greg Johnson Larry Stevenson, and Tom & Judy Martin

First Holiday With Family Yet Alone

John Cruden relates to **Larry's and Greg's Holiday standing. This was the first Christmas that John & Sharon** were not together since he was 17. Sharon's passing has bonded their family together – each individual looking after all the others. As a reminder, on Sunday, January 23, at 1 PM, the Cruden family will host a reception and then a dedication of a bench honoring Sharon and “All Army Wives” at the new Army Museum. All classmates are invited and can RSVP to John's and Sharon's daughter, Heather Campbell at heather99campbell@gmail.com.

Sharon Cruden Bench Dedication
1946 - 2021

In loving tribute to Sharon Holland Cruden, an exceptional wife, mother, grandmother, and friend – we celebrate a long and beautiful life filled with adventure, laughter, music, service, and much love. Born in Wyandotte, Michigan, Sharon was a child prodigy in music and was a gifted musician and artist throughout her life. She was the first member of her family to attend and graduate from college. After graduation she married her best friend and love of her life, John Cruden. She continued her passion for teaching and learning by earning advanced education degrees and went on to become one of the first Learning Disabilities Specialists. As a pioneer in the field of Special Education and Learning Disabilities, she became a well-known educator and taught at four different colleges. She helped develop the first program in the State of California for students with learning disabilities.



She was also a lover of adventure and travel. She and her family lived in Germany for many years, where they traveled extensively throughout Europe. She went on many other adventures, including sailing on a ship in the Aegean Sea, snorkeling in the Galapagos, cross-country skiing throughout Europe, and kayaking in Alaska and Canada. In addition to teaching, she had a heart of service to others, serving as a hospital chaplain, founding a prayer shawl ministry, and creating beautiful quilts as gifts for others. In May, a ceremony of remembrance was held at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church. In August, a graveside service was held for her at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. We miss her steadfast love, her comforting smile, her frequent conversations, and her dedication to her family. She is in our hearts now, and her memory burns brightly, guiding us still in our lives.

[Photo # 11 – Sharon

Cruden's Bench Dedication”]

Something to give Thanks For – Wounded Wives Club

Patti Halstead was not the only bride to undergo a knee replacement this last year. If COVID wasn't enough, **Ann Wright** had her international travel curtailed totally this year with total knee replacement surgery this summer. As part of her rehab, she and **Rick** traveled to Southern California to visit family and dodge the Texas heat. This may have been the first year that Rick traveled more than Ann since he is still working remotely for IDA and engineered two trips back to Alexandria, Virginia to meet his new boss and help with the move to IDA's new office building in Arlington – oh, yeah – and to see his two sons and their brides. **Nancy Hoblit's** rheumatoid arthritis is stable but remains a day-to-day challenge. Both Nancy and **Fred** have curtailed their golf and (as good COVID poster children) hunkered down in Nancy's summer home in Traverse City, Michigan. **Carol Shimp** also had leg issues only it was shooting pain brought about by bone spurs on her vertebrae that required back surgery. Her rehab included supporting **Bob** and helping **Kathy Shipley** cheer on **Dick Shipley** after his major surgery. COVID curtailed travel to Mendoza, so Bob & Carol participated in this year's blending via Zoom. To stay active in the wine business, they traveled to Paso Robles, California for the harvest and some “pop-up” pairing dinners. They also cheered on their son's and daughter-in-

law's move from El Paso to his new CEO position at Osceola Regional Medical Center in Orlando, Florida.

Something to Aspire to

As a major deviation to Sick Ranks, **Bob & Carol Shimp** paid a quick visit to Jacksonville, Florida this fall to check on Bob (96 and 94 year old) parents. Who else still has both parents? **Dutch Hostler's** mom is 98 and proud of her gentleman farmer son.



[Photo # 12 “Farmer Dutch’ Hostler on his way out to the North 40 at his spread on Oahu”]

Jim Jennings related to his F-2 Zoo company mates that, on December 9, his Mom, Irene Jennings, celebrated her 100th Birthday in Las Vegas. Jim & **Diana** were joined by their son, John Paul (who flew in from London), and daughter, Anna Marie (who flew in from New York), to celebrate with Irene in Las Vegas, Nevada. For her Birthday celebration, they had some great dinner(s), John Paul sang Pavarotti’s *Mamma* and she was able to participate in her favorite pastime – watching (and betting on) football – in the Sportsbook at Mandalay Bay. A veteran of four Army- Navy games in Philadelphia, she rooted hard for the Army team, but sadly Army lost, as did she – but she won over all and covered the spread. Members of the Zoo wrote back as they recalled the party that she threw at her home in Ohio after the Pitt game our Firstie year – she managed to get most everyone a date for the evening.



[Photo # 13 – “Anna Marie, Jim, Diana, and John Paul Jennings surround Jim’s 100 year-old Mom – Irene – during part of her birthday celebration in Las Vegas”]