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Dutch & Megan Hostler Turn Back the Folk Clock

Megan Hostler posted on FB that Megan & **Dutch** enjoyed a fantastic concert by The Kingston Trio at the Hawaii Theater Center, a gorgeous old theater with wonderful acoustics. Megan, being a child bride, didn't know most of the songs, but Dutch did. As Plebe roommates, **Andy Shaffer**, Dutch, and I relied heavily on the Trio for "Fallout fodder" – Andy on guitar, Dutch writing masterful spin-off lyrics of Trio songs that likened us to cadet life, and me getting to hum along. The concert reminded the Hostlers of another concert when they saw the original Kingston Trio performing. While chatting with the new Trio members, Megan learned that one of the members was born in Hawaii, his great uncle was the architect for the Hawaii Theater Center, AND his Dad was a June '43 USMA grad, who started out flying biplanes and went on to pilot B-52s.



[Photo #1 – “Dutch & Megan Hostler with the current day Kingston Trio in Hawaii”]

Lees Celebrate 54th Wedding Anniversary



In case you missed it, Dwight & Donna Lee celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary with family last week. Note: this blurb is not to be confused with another bit of news in this submission regarding Lee and Library.

[Photo #2 – “Donna & Dwight Lee at The Library in Myrtle Beach celebrating their 54th”]

Eric Kunz Among First to Get Good News About Dick Shipley

After leaving their get-away home in Washington state, whirlwind visits with friends in the Washington, DC area, a Kansas hunting trip, and a stop-off to see the kids, **Dick & Kathy Shipley** settled into their San Antonio, Texas home to prepare for their next trip to visit Ship's

medical team at M.D. Anderson and stay with **Bob & Carol Shimp** in Houston. Kathy, not only a planner but a fan of the impromptu, saw an opening in their busy schedule to not only get a preview of Ship's medical tests and boost his spirits by inviting old pal Eric Kunz down from Ohio for a visit prior to the the MDA/Shimp powwow.



[Photo #3 – “Dick Shipley and Eric Kunz after lunch in San Antonio”]

Jim & Kaew Carman Send Greetings from Thailand



Jim & Kaew Carman are currently escaping the winter bluster of Carlisle, Pennsylvania in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where they are visiting Kaew's family and kicking back until next February. They built an apartment by Kaew's brother's home several trips ago use it as their base of operations while in Thailand. One of their first orders of business was to celebrated Jim's 77th birthday with Kaew's family. Jim reflected that it was a great party with obscene amounts of great food and drink, a chocolate birthday cake, and even fireworks. Kaew will celebrate her birthday on December 15th, although the current plan is to combine the party with New Years. Next on the agenda was for Jim & Kaew to cook a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the family – only to substitute chicken for turkey, as their local turkey source dried up, and turkeys must be imported, and the current going rate is about \$115 for an 11 pound bird. They'll be taking some longer trips after the Christmas holidays. Now, it's anything but business as usual -- relaxing and enjoying their time with family and huge amounts of delicious food, and making short visits to places they've never been or that they'd like to see again.



[Photo #4 – “Jim & Kaew Carman at a small resort atop a mountain that's the home of many Mon villages (Hilltribe people) not far from Kaew's family home.”]

[Photo #5 – “Jim & Kaew Carman during a day fishing for tilapia at a local fishing spot”]

Classmates Still Use Army Sports to Meet



Thanks to **Dale Hansen** for keeping football attendance notes. He saw **Dave Martin** and **Tom Jewell** at the Army-UConn game on 19 November and managed to get a photo of **Ray Puffer** leading a half-Rocket.

[Photo #6 – “Ray Puffer at the 2022 Army-UConn game”]

Victor Farrugia Helps a Classmate with Family Thanksgiving

For those of you who attended and participated in the Class Remembrance Weekend last June, you may have run into **Vic Farrugia** talking about expanding his career interests from “just” law to real estate and tourism. He inherited four 100 year old “shotgun cottages” and has refurbished them. From the outside, they look like googled “doors of New Orleans” and they are comfortable, new, clean, and located a couple of blocks from the St. Charles Streetcar, Magazine Street shops and eateries, and the World War II Museum. While we were in The Big Easy for Thanksgiving with our kids and grandkids, I had lunch with Vic to find out what’s new. Some of the “new” included personal law practice bests and comparing notes on how families tend to look forward to getting together. When the conversation turned to cadet and army days – as it normally does – we shared who we knew classmates like **John Wing** (he was Vic’s Beast roommate and in my battalion and regiment) and **Fred Johnson** (again, one of Vic’s room and company mates while Fred and I go back to USMAPS). If you’re looking to go to New Orleans and would like to stay in a piece of history, call Vic and ask him how to get the classmate discount.



[Photo #7 – “Vic Farrugia and Orca the Scribe after lunch in New Orleans”]

West Point Receives Manuscripts of Books by Gus Lee

Gus Lee wrote that he was deeply honored by the decision of West Point's Library and Associate Dean Christopher D. Barth, Director of Libraries and Archives, to receive the original manuscripts of his eight books. Gus mused that, “Years ago, as an immature poker-playing Cadet, I often used the USMA Library not to complete required reading, but to devour novels and to study arcane archives. Meanwhile, CPT Chester Joseph Stanley Piolunek, my wounded, war-hero English prof, via *To Kill a Mockingbird*, was stealthily teaching me how to write. My modest writing collection is currently half novels and half-non-fiction. West Point selected one from each category to become examinable required reading by West Point Cadets, to lamentably include the course that produced the lowest average grades. West Point later forgave me my low grades and named me its first chair of character development. Now, the Academy Library has added my writing to its illustrious permanent historical collections. I absolutely know that only in America could a sickly, blind, self-doubting kid from a poor, broken immigrant family learn to become a novelist at [the] renowned service academy. Only in the USA could military service have given me skills of the spirit to strive, however imperfectly, to provide value, however small, to all others regardless of the person's background and regardless of feelings.”

Greg Camp Gets What He Wanted for His Birthday

When asked by his kids what **Greg Camp** wanted for his birthday back in Mid-November, he told them that he wanted a family picture. As a show of love and respect, they came through and Greg shared a couple of photos on his Facebook page.



[Photo #8 – “The 2022 Camps (L-R): Sister-in-law Julie, grandson Wyatt, son Matthew, daughter-in-law Seema, granddaughter Julia (6), daughter”]

Jennifer, **Joanie**, Greg, son Scott, grandson Coleman (15), granddaughter Kendall (17), and daughter-in-law Jessica”]



[Photo #9 – “Greg & Joanie Camp flanking their grandchildren Wyatt, Coleman, Kendall, and Julia”]

Jim Orahood Continues Keeping Classmates Close and Family Closer

Since his plane was rented out, **Jim Orahood** had to scrounge a new ride Florida to “shoot some ‘golfs” with **Jack Reid** at Jack’s villa in The Villages. Jim loves the local course that is surrounded by his favorite airfield and has a great Jamaican chef, Jim’s “best beach,” is there and it is a haunt of **Mike Noonan**, and home to **Marty & Barbara Bowling**. When not coveting the lifestyle of classmates in Florida, Jim finds way to stay close to his son and grandson. His latest acquisition and family project is a demilitarized High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV)! He got it from a USMC veteran who “demiled” it by removing crucial armor plating and radios. Since it came in to inventory after Jim had retired, the



[Photo #10 – “Jim Orahood and Jack Reid shooting golfs in Florida”]
[Photo #11 – “Jim Orahood working at restoring the family HMMWV”]

family is learning about it as they go – he marvels at they get parts! They plan on taking it to local air or car shows and driving it in a local parade or two. All the Orahoods agree that it’s a BEAST.



McKennis – Home and Away



Brian McKenna forwarded a couple of photos to show that he and **Karen** don’t always travel with **John & Frances Dallen** (although they missed them). In early November, Brian & Karen returned from a two-week journey through France. They started out in the Loire Valley where they hit several of the many beautiful chateaus – then it was on to Bordeaux where they discovered that they really like their wines. After Bordeaux, it was on to Sarlat and some of the most beautiful small French villages the McKennis had ever seen. While there, they also toured the famous caves throughout the area where the wall paintings looked brand new but were painted over 20,000 years ago. They enjoyed France so much

that they're already planning a return trip – with the Dallens – next July for a Rhone river cruise that they've been trying to take since 2019 BC (Before COVID). After the McKennas' return, **Pres & Clem Miller** drove from their home in the Phoenix suburbs down to Tucson to visit the McKennas. Pres said that Brian & Karen have a beautiful home and an amazing view on the east side of town toward the mountains. The Millers were so fascinated by the McKennas' tales of their extensive travels with the Dallens that they figured it would be unique to share a photo of the McKennas with someone other than their usual travel companions.

[Photo #12 – “Brian & Karen McKenna at Fontevraud Abbey (largest in France)”]

[Photo #13 – “Pres & Clem Miller with Karen & Brian McKenna at McKenna Manor in Tucson, Arizona”]



Don Jones Honored for Continued Service



Don Jones continues to set the example of a true patriot and professional for all to emulate by serving with his bride, **Stephanie**, as teachers at Cottage Hill Christian Academy in Mobile, Alabama. The school has a Veterans' Day ceremony each year and Don plays a prominent part. Don & Stephanie are both doing well – except for a pesky AWOL situation with the cartilage that's missing in Don's right knee. He's scheduled for knee replacement next summer if it does not return... In the meantime, he's putting in as much bike time as he can tolerate.

[Photo #14 – Don Jones in front of the banner used at his school's Veterans Day ceremony”]

Classmates and Brides Celebrate the Life of Claude Johnson

Rick Rhoades shared photos of the celebration of life of **Claude Johnson** that was arranged by Mother Nature, Claude, and Claude's bride, **Tina** on a sunny and warm day in early November at West Point. **Paul & Claire Joseph** and **Bob Swedock** attended the function but missed the photos. All in attendance echoed that they felt lucky to have known such a kind, nice, and generous man.

[Photo #15 –

“**Hank Gregor, Steve Caldwell, Valerie Nahorniak** (widow of **Nick), Mike**



Dauth, Tina Johnson, Christine & Myles Crowe, Rick Rhoades, Glen & Michele Hewitt at Claude's Celebration of Life”]

'68 Well Represented in 38th Annual Army Ten-Miler



Jerry Hansen and **Tom Vollrath** reported to the Pentagon parking lot at 0700 hours on 9 October along with about 20,000 other Army runners to be a part of the 38th Annual Army Ten-Miler (ATM) spectacle. Believe it or not, the Army band was playing “Old Thumper” as the first wave starting cannon went off at 0800. Both Jerry and Tom have a long tradition of running the annual ATM with their sons and this year was no different. While their sons finished well in front of them, they did the Class proud with Tom finishing 1st and Jerry 5th in their Male 75-79 age group which has slowly attrited

from what was once a large Company-size group down to a Squad of 13 runners. Tom said that he was fortunate to have his youngest son to go to with any running questions – he's a dedicated Ironman (70.3 & 140.6) and training is almost a lifestyle.

[Photo #16 – Jerry Hansen and his son prior to start of the Army 10 Miler”]

[Photo #17 – “Sheryl, Tod, and Tom Vollrath after this year’s Army 10 Miler”]



Mike Potter Makes 2,248 Mile Motorcycle Ride in Seven Days

At the end of last September, **Mike Potter** set off from his Oregon “hobby farm” with four others on a 2,248 mile, seven day motorcycle tour of Idaho, Montana (as far East as Beartooth Pass) and Wyoming,. He said that, “The ride was epic, but mixed.” They endured temperatures as high as 108° F, got drenched from Red Lodge, Wyoming to Western Yellowstone, and made a decision to avoid Stanley, Idaho since they didn't have a place to stay and the temperature was forecast to be 20° F. He further reflected that the fellowship was awesome.