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January 2023

Bart McLellan Creates a “Field of Dreams”



Tommy's in the Center

While I was crashing on Notes, I received an email from **Bart McLellan** asking for **Tom Krieger's** email address. After digging up and sending an address, Bart wrote back to relate that he had unearthed a “trip down memory lane for Tom. He found a photo from 1967 that he superimposed on a night picture of today's much improved Doubleday Field that he titled “Field of Dreams.”.

Dwight Lee Celebrates Third Hole in One at Home



While combing Facebook for classmate news, I found a photo of **Dwight Lee** looking giddy with the news that he recently chipped his first hole in one at his current home course at Pawleys Island, South Carolina. An “ace” is accomplished about once in every 3,500 rounds. Now I know why **Donna** has a t-shirt that says, “My husband is a golfer. If you see him, tell him I love him.”

Dwight Lee celebrating ACE number three

Bob Shaw Rallies the Troops to Fight Parkinson's Disease

Bob Shaw is spreading the word to help people close to us deal with Parkinson's Disease. He reports that at least 11 of our classmates and one bride are currently known to have this affliction. In addition to amassing a of information to help people diagnosed with Parkinsons to understand how to cope with the disease and make their lives more comfortable, he has unearthed a couple of facts that might raise a few eyebrows – of the eleven known stricken classmates, three are from the same company (D-3) and six are from Third Regiment. Two of the eleven known classmates have already passed away (one died at age 75 and the other at 76). The Disease's major risk factor is age. Most diagnoses are made after the age of 60. While the disorder itself is not fatal, the complications can reduce normal life expectancy by one to two years. Unfortunately, for various reasons, we do not know who else among us has been diagnosed with Parkinson's. **Megan Hostler** has created two listserves through West-Point.org to share Bob's info with those afflicted, their care takers, and for those who wish to help. As I understand it, the listserves will be populated by **Dave Clemm** (dcsurveypcb@gmail.com) and Megan. Dave will also report on this project at our reunion in May.

This is what a 78-year-old Jim Orahood Looks Like



After all the hoopla about how old **Bill McCauley** was (reported earlier), **Jim Orahood** admitted that he knew he had a birthday coming up in March (Duh!) but he was off (on the low side, naturally) by one year. While **Bill & Cindy** remained snug in their new vacation home in Flat Rock, North Carolina, **Jim & Rene** were at their winter home in Osprey, Florida, traveled to a restaurant befitting a birthday in Sarasota. Rene gleefully reminded Jim that,

“this is what 78 looks like!”

Skip & Joan Greeby Keep on Truckin'

As part of his celebration – which started in early January – of escaping entrapment from inside of a woman's (his mother's) body after 80 years, **Skip Greeby** took **Joan** in tow to continue their travels outside of Illinois while body and soul allowed. Their first stop was to the vicinity of Madison, Wisconsin to visit with **Bruce Sweeny** (E-2 roommate and Ranger buddy)



and **Susan**. Skip & Joan meet quarterly with Bruce & Susan for lunch or dinner. One luncheon date was Army/Navy game day, so their Class colors were proudly on parade at the restaurant. Bruce noted that he was diagnosed with AFIB (Atrial Fibrillation) two years ago. After trying meds, he was still coming up short of breath and after an echo-cardio gram, hospitalized for eight days. New meds seemed to do the trick, and as evidenced by the photo.

Bruce Sweeny with Skip Greeby at lunch

The next trip was to visit with **Jock & Malena Merriam** in Palm Beach Gardens,



Florida. The Merriams rolled out the red carpet during the Greebys' short stay with them — 'er, that's red wine carpet! After assaulting numerous dockside bars and restaurants, Jock & Malena both still are looking good — preserving their same looks from cadet days. We should all want what they're drinking!"

Jock Merriam with Skip Greeby

During the Winter, Bill & Cheryl Jeffries Enjoy What Winter Brings

Bill Jeffries dropped a note and a few photos of some family fun. Bill & Cheryl, along



with a few of their kids spent some quality family and ski time in their favorite home away from home – Deer Valley, Utah – where Bambi goes, nothin’ grows. **FOUR HUNDRED INCHES OF SNOW** – the most in over 40 years. Bill is proud to report that the old legs still work on the powdered and groomed slopes.

Bill & Cheryl Jeffries with some family members chillin’ at Deer Valley

Half of the West Point Four Back at Sea



In February, **Jim Thome** shared that he and **Pat** hooked up with **Bob & Ann Sweeney** and embarked on an eight-day cruise of the ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao) in February. They were happy to report that the weather was great throughout the cruise and excursions on the three islands were fascinating and very informative. Jim reflected that the time spent with great friends on a Royal Caribbean ship seeing beautiful islands and gorging on great food was truly priceless.”

Ann & Bob Sweeney with Pat & Jim Thome enduring tropical breezes and smooth seas in the Southern Caribbean

Jack & Meg Miller leave Lake Gatun behind them

Jack Miller proudly reported that he and **Meg** recently returned from a cruise to Central America and re-counted that the journey through the Atlantic locks of the Panama Canal was the highlight of the trip – that is after the daily cuisine served on board the ship. Jack noted that Meg had found a perch (similar to a crow's nest) on the top deck of the ship and stayed there during the entire time while the ship navigated through the three locks. Since it was a hot day, Jack periodically brought Meg mimosas to keep her hydrated in hot weather. Meanwhile Jack moved quickly from bow to stern trying to get photos of all the aspects of the maneuver. Any scenes he failed to get on the first pass through, he was able to get on the second pass through (the ship still had other ports of call in the Caribbean Sea, so after “cruising” on Lake Gatun for



two hours, the ship went back through the same locks). Jack clarified that a close second highlight of the trip was a leisurely ride on a bamboo raft on the Great River in Montego Bay, Jamiaca. Oddly enough part of the ride included a foot massage which turned out to be soothing for his well traveled feet. Jack said if anyone is wondering about the entire “message” on his shirt in the photo, you can find out what it is at our 55th Class Reunion in May where he promised to wear it randomly during our time together.

Jack & Meg Miller leaving the locks at Lake Gatun as part of their Panama Canal cruise

E-3 Golf in February but not Valentine's Day

Joe Guignon gave a cyber report about the famous February golf gang gathering in beautiful Palm Springs, California for a week of golf, food, beverages, and tall tales of days gone by. The weather was ideal for this time of year considering from where some of gang us traveled. **Mark Spelman** came in from snowy Buffalo, **Jess Gatlin** from South Carolina, **Bill Flowers** from nearby (same state) San Francisco, **Jack Bussa** from Wisconsin via Florida, **Joe Creeden** from Atlanta, and **Earl Newsome** flew in with Joe from Houston. They played on some very exclusive and high-end courses, and wished they could have done their company and our alma mater prouder with lower scores. Joe lamented that no one shot his age unless he stopping counting after 14 or 15 holes. These guys have been doing this gathering/reunion for over 20 years. They even managed to do it during the COVID years but then they had to settle for meeting in Naples, Florida. Joe was happy report that they are all doing well and (as crazy as it sounds) "looking forward to the next 20 years."



Mark Spelman, Joe Guignon, Earl Newsome, Jess Gatlin, Joe Creeden, Jack Bussa, Bill Flowers

Tillerys Gather for Christmas in Hawaii

Gordon Tillery forwarded a photo of the Tillery tribe during their most recent Hawaiian gathering. In the past, the family took up residence at the Hale Koa Hotel every three years (or so) over spring break. As many of us know, with older grandkids, schedules are very hard to coordinate, but Christmas worked for all this in 2022.



Pictured at the Hale Koa luau: Gordon Tillery, daughter Stephanie, grandson Matt, granddaughter Natalie, son-in-law Jeff, Elsie Tillery, daughter Allison, son-in-law Matt, Megan's friend John, daughter Megan, and grandson Luke.

Pres & Clem Miller – Still Hosting and Still Serving

Pres & Clem Miller continue their annual tradition of hosting the West Point triathlon team during its spring training junket while the Academy gets pummeled with snow. The Millers have watched the team eat everything in sight for over 10 years. This year, the team devoured a record number (29) of wood fired pizzas. Pres & Clem are quick to say that they enjoy hosting these talented and beautiful future leaders of our country.



Pres & Clem Miller almost flanking and hosting the West Point triathlon team



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Dave Martin is First to Share Founders Day Report



Dave Martin fired off a Founders Day report the morning after he attended the West Point Society of New Jersey dinner and celebration. The guest speaker at the event was Alejandro Villaneuva ('10) – Ranger, three tours in Afghanistan (one with 10th Mountain Division, and two with the 1st Ranger Battalion), was the speaker. In an earlier time, Villaneuva was the tight end at Army. He went on to start as offensive left tackle for the Steelers for seven years (before one year with Ravens). He's 6'8", and his NFL weight was 320 pounds. He's now a Fox NFL analyst. You may also remember him as the only Steeler to step onto the turf outside to stand for the National Anthem prior to a game. Dave also noted that there were only seven grads at the celebration older than him – he sees an "Oldest Grad" speech in his near future...

Dave Martin with Alejandro Villaneuva ('10) at the WPS of New Jersey Founders Day dinner and celebration – and yes, he's as big as he looks

Bob Beahm, Henry Riser, and Bob Stroud already got caught in the Oldest Grad trap in Maryland. The Annapolis, Baltimore, and Northern Chesapeake West Point Society Chapters combined their Founders Day celebrations to get a speaker of some renown – Mike Pompeo ('86). **Dale Hansen's** New York WPS got David Petraeus ('74). '68 was the senior class at all three Maryland chapters. Rather than quibble over birthdays and time zones, Bob Beahm spoke about all the things that our class did last and first, except Christmas Leave, which Henry covered, and Bob Stroud focused on what we had to endure to "earn" a radio and a hi-fi/stereo in our rooms compared to the present where all cadets have their phones, tablets, and computers. As a follow-up to what we didn't have, Bob Beahm reflected on taking some friends on a tour of West Point a few years back during New Cadet Barracks and seeing most of the New Cadets at the McDonalds in Highland Falls...

More Founders Day From Further South

Bill Jeffries reported that he and **Cheryl** spent a delightful evening at the Charles Town Race Track celebrating our Founders Day hosted by the West Point Society of Northern Shenandoah. There was no mention of a guest speaker, -- though it might have been the person who invented the random letter generator used by Big Pharma to create current medicine names. They said that it was nice to meet up again with couples with whom the Jeffries sailed the Danube River and attended the Passion Play in Oberammergau Germany last Fall. Further south, **Jeff & Carlie Rogers** and **Al & Grace Catron** attended the Founders Day Dinner hosted by the

Space Coast West Point Society in Melbourne, Florida. Their guest speaker was COL Rick Johnson ('99), the USMAPS Commandant

Carlie & Jeff Rogers with Al & Grace Catron at Space Coast Founders Day



Classmates Celebrate Rugby Legacy Weekend



As soon and **Pres & Clemm Miller** got back home to Arizona from West Point, Pres fired off an AAR regarding the fun events at this year's Army Rugby Legacy Weekend at West Point. Pres said that it was really a fantastic event although the cold and rain slightly dampened their outdoor activities. On Friday evening of March 24, it was Army vs. Navy with a big crowd and a good supply of adult beverages. Unfortunately, the Middies prevailed; however, the Cadets gave a good showing.

Jack Reid, Bob Hensler, Pres Miller, and Bill Robinson at the Army Rugby Legacy Weekend in March

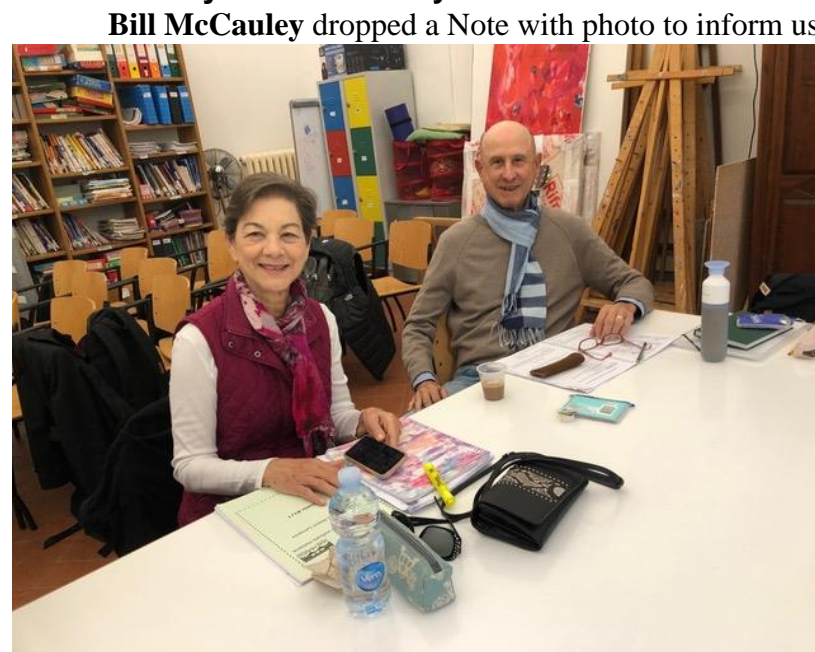
The next morning, the Old Gray played the Old Blue and (amazingly) the old Rabble triumphed 15-14. Pres modestly noted that the few minutes he played didn't make much difference in the score but it gave him a war story, boosted his ego, and gave him a few scrapes, scratches, and a bruise just to prove he was there. More than one person (including Clem) questioned his sanity. The main event was an enormous banquet in Ike Hall attended by over

300 old Ruggers and friends to honor this year's Distinguished Rugby Graduate – our own **Bob Hensler**. It was a huge deal and Bob gave a memorable speech. During his Cadet days and active duty career, including a stint at West Point in the Dept. of Physical Education, he coached and mentored hundreds of Ruggers -- many of whom he recruited for various teams. About 50 of those that Bob boosted along the way were there to applaud him. Along with Pres, **Bill Robinson** and **Jack Reid** were also there to support him and cheer him on. The next day, the assemblage all headed home with some great memories – and mild hangovers.

Press Miller suited up to uphold the honor of Army rugby



Bill McCauley's 80th Birthday Celebration Continues



Bill McCauley dropped a Note with photo to inform us that, while continuing to

celebrate his 80th year on earth, he and **Cindy** are spending two months in Italy. In March, they are in Florence studying Italian. On April 1st, they headed to Rome for a month, hoping to practice what they have been learning in Florence. After that, they will return home and re-pack for our 55th reunion in May.

Cindy & Bill McCauley in their classroom in Florance before their morning grammar class and taking boards

Puffers Check Off a Major Bucket List Item



Rather than attend a Founders Day event, **Ray & Robin Puffer** celebrated the big day by checking off a major bucket list item that most of us had instilled with a Hit Parade song – seeing the pyramids along the Nile... In addition to the Ciaro Museum and pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, their eight day odyssey included flying from Cairo to Aswan, three nights on a boat on the Nile, staying at a wonderful hotel on an island in the middle of the Nile, excursions to, Luxor and Karnack, touring many temples, the Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, markets, etc. Since tourism is Egypt's number one industry and source of income, there were armed security guards everywhere. Check, check, and check.

Ray & Robin Puffer get their private tour of the great pyramids

Dallens Continue Their World Travels Taking Big Bites

John & Frances Dallen also missed Founders Day festivities in the US while they toured Brazil by water which included going from Rio de Janeiro to Recife, Natal, Belem in the



Atlantic Ocean and up the Amazon River to Manaus and further. They got to see pink river dolphins, close-ups (too close) of snakes falling out of trees into their boat, other snakes as big as logs, and catching their own dangerous meals (Piranha which are quite tasty when deep fried and served with a special sauce). As usual, John has provided a very complete narrative of their travels at an encompassing website – <http://dallen.posthaven.com>.

Frances & John Dallen getting their fill of jungle adventures

Geroge & Sharon Ziots Exchange vows

George Ziots sent a couple of emails filling us in on the happy news that he got married on February 9 in Las Vegas (at the Mandalay Bay wedding venue) to **Sharon** (nee) Schultz – a longtime friend who lost her husband in January 2022. The bride's three daughters were all bride matrons and traveled from Hawaii, California, and New Jersey. George's best man was his nephew from Missouri. He also had friends and relatives attending who traveled from Oregon, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Nevada as well as his home in Lake Havasu City. George's second order of business after the wedding was to contact **Megan Hostler** to change his Reunion reservation to a party of two. If you are attending our 55th Reunion celebration in New York, the George & Sharon will also be in attendance and would be happy to meet you.

Newlyweds Sharon & George Ziots





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May 2023

Bill Mulvey Returns to the Appalachian Trail



Bill Mulvey returned from Bonaire and started – where he left off – hiking a new section of the Appalachian Trail and meeting fellow professionals who are also hikers. His plan is to hike 85 miles from near Luray, Virginia, in Shenandoah National Park to Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia, in 11 days. His attached photo is after 8.7 miles of hiking with Chris “Ocho” Troyer, an active duty Air Force F-15 pilot. Unfortunately, this year’s hike ended early when his hiking partner fell and broke her arm after the second day and passing the 600-mile mark, while gathering firewood. Bill’s group was “rescued” by the owner of the Stumble Inn in Front Royal, Virginia. They hiked almost two miles down the mountain to a dirt road where the rescuer picked them up and took us to the hospital emergency room.

Bill Mulvey on a new section of the Appalachian Trail with a new friend

Travel Buddies At It Again

Skip Greeby dropped a note to remind us that **Skip & Joan** and **Bill & Jane** Bachman have been travel buddies for the past 15 years. To keep the string going, they visited Florence, Italy for 10 days of sun, wine, food, art, Tuscan countryside, and wine. **Mike & Eleanor Peters** just happened to be there at the same time, bunking for two weeks with John Young (‘60) and his wife, Beverly, who rented a place in Florence for the month. John is 86 and past QB for Army’s 150 pound football team. He’s a model for all of us – up at 4:30 in the morning every day and then to the gym – with all of his original body parts. John & Beverly walk everywhere. Mike met John in Santa Fe when Mike was President of St. John’s and have continued their friendship since. Speaking of models, Bill & Jane Bachman returned to Old Lyme, CT on April 28th and left 4 days later to visit their son and grandkids in Japan. They are returning back home for our 55th reunion. Talk about jet setters! Next up for the Bachmans, Peters, and **Jock & Malena Merriam**



– a seven -day canal cruise in France this October! This gang’s travel credo - let’s do it while still able!

Travelers Skip Greeby, John Young, Mike Peters, and Bill Bachman trying to act like they don’t mind their brides are in back of them at the gold market

Classmate Friends of Dick & Kathy Shipley Celebrate Ship’s Encouraging Numbers



During the last decade, we have been reporting the battle **Dick & Kathy Shipley** have not been enduring to the degree it should have been. Just prior to our 45th reunion, Ship was diagnosed with an advanced stage of prostate cancer that had metastasized.

Charlie & Janet Lieb, Margie & John Hedley, Kathy & Dick Shipley, Bob & Carol Shimp, Dave & Barbara Gerard, and Karen & Henry Riser gather for supper at a Chateaux near Bordeaux, France



Kathy & Dick Shipley celebrating with a little PDA during the evening's entertainment aboard the VikingForseti

When **John Wing** got word of Ship's condition, he contacted friends at M D Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and **Bob & Carol Shimp** opened up their home – as they have for all classmates and other friends in need of treatment at M D Anderson – to the Shipleys to make things as easy and restful as they could while Dick was going through treatment. As time went on, there were dark days – google “Wipple procedure” that required lots of time to hopefully heal. Last year came another nail biting visit to M D Anderson for treatment and evaluation. All tests came in with flying colors! To celebrate, Ship asked us if we had seen a recent Viking Cruise Lines ad about a one week Chateaux, Rivers, and Wines around Bordeaux tour. We had and said, “Let's go!”

Ship said OK – but only if the Shimps could go. Bob & Carol are long-time Viking cruisers, had already been on this particular tour, and were in. As long as we were traveling, we



asked two other classmate adventure-coordinating couples – **Henry & Karen Riser** and **John & Margie Hedley** – if they could go. The Hedleys cleared their calendar and the Risers gave a conditional OK as they reminded us how much fun we had with one of Henry's roommates, **Charlie Lieb**, on the Tahiti and Mediterranean cruises and last year's Remembrance weekend when Charlie auctioned off most everything at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. **Charlie & Janet** also cleared their calendars. OK – so there were six couples – the guys of which are from all four Regiments, and the couples (whom have attended reunions and other class functions) but really didn't all know each other – about to overrun a Euro-trash speaking boat line.

Dick & Kathy Shipley, Henry & Karen Riser, John & Margie Hedley, Barbara & Dave Gerard and Janet & Charlie Lieb outside their hotel in Paris

Henry set up a What's App chat group for coordination that we still use. Carol and Margie brought enough meds to open up their own drug store. Janet and Kathy coordinated places to eat in Paris during the add-on stay there. Henry, Karen, Dick, & Kathy could also get us to bathrooms and order food with their command of French, and Bob could put an international translation into wine and barrel production due to the experience they've acquired with their vineyard in Mendoza, Argentina. The last time John had been in France was as an Army Brat with his Dad. John vaguely remembered being stationed in the area we were about to visit. It was quite a moment when he asked one of our guides about locations he could conjure up and she



said that she not only knew of where he was asking but she lived there now and would be happy to take him there. Guess who's going to France next year with his sister to be escorted through their childhood past? During one evening's entertainment, we played a musical trivial pursuit in which a song would be played and we were to name the song, artist, nationality of the artist, and decade that it was a hit. We got 20 extra points when Herman's Hermits "I'm into Something Good" was played and we could produce the homecoming queen. Speaking of Janet, she brought along her advanced copy of *Another Side of the Wall – Reflections by the Spouses of the West Point Class of 1968* and shared it. The book was a great vehicle to get to know each other since most of our brides had contributed.

Henry Riser, Dave Gerard, and John Hedley outside of the French Military Museum and Napoleon's tomb in Paris

And Speaking of Our Brides' Latest Book

Linda Ambrose, Tony's bride and one of the key persons to bring up the idea about the wives of the class writing about their reflections, dropped a note about life without **Tony**. His ashes were returned to the family much sooner than anticipated and members have begun planning for his return to West Point. After accommodating all family members' and the cemetery's schedule, his interment service at West Point will be on July 17. More information will follow as the date approaches. Linda said that, "Anthony was always much better at organizing things - just hoping I can keep all these balls in the air." As we approach our 55th Reunion, his passing prior to the release of the book becomes even more painful. Linda wishes us all safe travels and a wonderful time at the Reunion. Linda will not be attending – rather, she will be participating in her and Tony's grandson's graduation from William and Mary around that time and loving the chaos with the family in Williamsburg.

Golfing Grads Gets Bigger and better

Chick James reported that 11 members of the class stepped up to participate in the 2023 annual Golfing Grads tournament held at the Mission Inn and Resort at Howey-in-the Hills, Florida – rated in the top 25 of US Courses and top 10 in Florida. As the number of classmates participating grows, the guys also hone their experience. **Ken Hauck** designed the hat for the team – it keeps the sun out of the players’ eyes and the shade in their faces so they can pose incognito for pictures. Also, next year, they have voted NOT to tuck in their shirts for photos.



2023

Golfing Grads: Bob Keller, Chick James, Lee Outlaw, Tom Beierschmitt, Mike Palone, Dick McClelland, Jim Stanley, Dwight Lee, Bruce Korda, Bill, Robinson, and Ken Hauck



Mary & Tom

Beierschmitt, Jim Stanley, Dwight Lee, Bill Robinson, Lee Outlaw, Bruce Korda, and Dick McClelland resting at this year’s Golfing Grads tournament



Chick & Carole

James, Beth & Ken Hauck, and Bob Keller

Bart McLellan's Photo of Tommy Krieger Morphs past Field of Dreams

Marty Bowling was so taken with the photo in the January-February 2023 Notes of



Tommy Krieger and baseball team mates forwarded by Bart McLellan that he contacted Bart to see if he could do a similar photo of Kevin Durbule ('23), this year's Army baseball team (Patriot League regular season champs) Captain. Bart told Marty that his daughter actually did the creative photography and Bart graciously go her to do such a photo for Kevin. Marty calls this photo and the one included, the "Fields of Friendly Strife." Marty worked with the Department of Admissions and AAA in Kevin's (and Army's) behalf as a candidate in 2017 and 2018.

Kevin Durbule ('23), this year's Army baseball team Captain, and Marty Bowling

Marty kept the themes going during the 2023 Founders' Day celebration in Naples, Florida. This photo is the "Past Present, and Future of West Point". Marty represents the past while the Supe and some the cadets he has sponsored represent the present, and those not in cadet uniforms are Marthy's candidates for the Class of 2027.

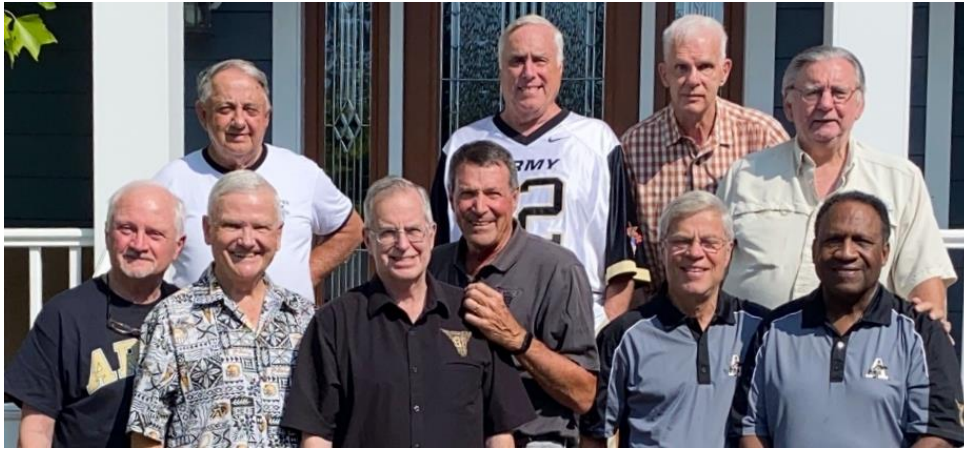


Past, Present, and Future at Naples, Florida Founders' Day

B-2 Holds Third Company Reunion

My apologies for not including the following post from **Mike Sheaffer** sent back in February. As a repeat from 2015 and 2019, **Paul & Cindy Lovett** hosted the third Company B-2 reunion September 15-19, 2022, at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Besides the hosts, attendees included **Greg & Joanie Camp, Lorraine Des Jarden, Dave Ford, John & Gayle Frinak, Gary & Patti Halstead, Dale & Joyce Hansen, Steve & Sherry Harper, Larry & Nannette Jordan, Sharon Knitt, Ronnie Joe & Harriet Lane, Mike and Anne Sheaffer,** and **Al & Kathy Vitters**. The main events commenced Thursday evening with a dinner at the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel and a presentation by Bob Stevens ('57) on his meeting with the Japanese pilot who shot down his father during World War II. On Friday the Bulldogs enjoyed a ferry ride to Cape May, New Jersey, a tour of its Vietnam and Aviation Museums, and a trolley tour of the town. On Saturday they assembled for lunch at Lovetts' home to watch Army run over Villanova 35-10. Prior to the game, **Don & Louanne Johnson** joined the group in a short Zoom meeting from their home in Colorado. That evening the group reconvened for dinner at the Cultured Pearl

Restaurant. Sunday morning Paul Lovett, Greg Camp, and Al and Kathy Vitters proved they were still young enough for a bicycle ride around Rehoboth while the others demonstrated their West Point skills by staying in bed. Following an afternoon on the beach, the crew assembled



again for a farewell dinner at Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant and a final drink at the Boardwalk Plaza bar. A few members had to leave early, but most departed on Monday.

B-2 Group Photo Without Wives – Front: Steve Harper, Gary Halstead, Dave Ford, Paul Lovett, Greg Camp, Larry Jordan. Back: Mike Sheaffer, Al Vitters, John Frinak, Ronnie Joe Lane. Not present for the photo: Dale Hansen

Robby Robinson Honored at Awards Luncheon

Larry Stevenson dropped a note to report that he, along with **Dick & Paulette Steiner**, accompany **Robby & Lynne Robinson** to an awards luncheon for the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado where Robby was presented with a UVC Special Award for his service to the veterans' community in Colorado. Here is his citation:

“Robby Robinson has been one of the prime advocates for Veterans since his retirement from a distinguished career in the United States Army. He has been the Deputy Director of the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs and is currently Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Veterans Community Living Centers, representing that Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs on that Board. Robby is the Co-Chair of the United Veterans Coalition's State Legislative Committee and, along with Co-Chair Shelly Kalkowski, has been most successful in advancing Veteran Legislation.”



Since he had a microphone in his hand to acknowledge that he was now getting to see, from the other side of the table, the impact that his and others efforts could have, Robby took the opportunity to note that his award plaque would have to be re-made as his name was spelled wrong and was “given credit” as “Col, USAF”. Still – a nice gesture

Lynne & Robby Robinson at the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado Award Luncheon



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June 2023

Our 55th Class Reunion – Another Best Ever

This is the ninth time I have attempted to capture the greatness of a USMA Class of 1968 reunion. Each time, I searched for superlatives and felt that the reunion I was reporting on couldn't get any better – and each of those times (including this one), I've been wrong. Each reunion had its nuances. This one had a few less in overall attendance – but the noise and laughter was just as intense if not greater. It could have been that there were more folks in the Grand Ballroom and the enhanced size and availability of beverages in the Snuffy's hospitality room making the acoustics different, or there were more hearing aids. There were a few extra canes and wheelchairs, but the users turned lemons into lemonade by justifying how they got to go to the front of the line during air travel. During early morning bus trips, CPAP strap marks were a little more noticeable, but we were able to fall asleep in a hurry just like the old days. Everywhere we went, there was at least a buzz – and laughter. I would have attributed the buzz to tinnitus, but it stopped when **Megan Hostler** and **Tom Margrave** yelled at us to stop talking.



A typical time in Snuffy's hospitality room during our 55th reunion

Class President **Dutch Hostler's** June 6 email (sent out by West-Point.org in Megan's name) was an inspiration for me to get to work on Notes and a real eye opener. I visualized an organization chart with a horizontal collection of about 25 sub-organization boxes with lines going to one box with Megan's and Dutch's names in it. The Hostlers had it all worked out including this issue of class Notes. They had **Andy Shaffer** post all of the photos submitted by the professional photographer as well as all of the photos taken by classmates and guests of the reunion. Due to my flagging memory, I had asked classmates at the reunion, emailed them as follow-ups, and got zero responses. The adage of a picture being worth a thousand words holds

for our reunion. If you haven't seen the reunion photos on the class website, I urge you to take a look at <https://www.westpointclassof1968.com/> .



At Snuffy's, Dick Bowers took a seat that a guest had vacated after finishing a can of beer and wondered why no one was coming up to talk with him

While You're on the Class Website....

On our Class Website, go to the menu (three horizontal lines in the upper left of the screen), scroll all the way down to, and click on CAREGIVERSUPPORT. You will find a comprehensive and self-explanatory set of links that will help Classmates, spouses, and caregivers find resources in areas such as Parkinson's, ALS, Alzheimer's, and other serious maladies for themselves AND their loved ones, as well as the importance of connecting with The



Veterans Administration to take advantage of new PACT ACT rules that provides enhanced disability opportunities. This site is only useful if used and if the classmates advise spouses that it is available to them as well. Questions about this undertaking can be sent to Megan (megan.hostler.1@gmail.com) or David Clemm (dcsurveypcb@gmail.com).

At the right, Jerry Hansen giving Bill Dickerson a helping push at the Alumni Exercises Wreath Laying Ceremony and Cadet Review

More New Faces From A-2/D-2/G-2/H2

Past Reunions have been well attended by a bunch of guys who started out in A-2 that became D-2 and fragmented into G-2 and H-2. This piece of news is because I was a member of the Happy Company and I didn't want them to become snubbed due to favoritism. Beginning at our 15th reunion (the first one I attended), there has always been the core of classmates – **Rick Wright, Andy Shaffer, Carl Woessner, Pete Wallace, Dutch Hostler, Joe Fowler, Rich Witherspoon, Bob Alexander, Vic Hiatt, Bob Lower, Gary Roberson, Dick Shipley, Phil Sameul, and Chris Ohlinger...**

Over the years, a few have dropped out due to family schedules or health issues, but there were always new drop-ins – **Larry Hart**, **John O'Neal**, and **Mike Mears**. Once **Dave Drummond** started coming, he wished that he had started earlier. I thought we had peaked out last year at the Remembrance gathering in the Washington, DC area when **Peter Lopes** showed up, but – once again – I was wrong. Rich Witherspoon spent quite a bit of time and effort cajoling and pleading never-beens **Johnny Johnston** and **Steve Shaw** to attend. **Dick Shipley** was ecstatic to see these two old friends – Johnny and Ship were the only two in the class to have Shelby Mustang Cobras thanks to a sweetheart deal cut by Johnny's dad who was a Ford dealer in Texas. Steve and Ship spent many weekends hunting on the reservation and in Oregon.



Phil Samuel, Gary Roberson, Rick Wright, Orca, and Dave Drummond



Jim Bodenhamer, Steve Shaw, Johnny Johnston, Rich Witherspoon, and Dick Shipley together again

Read Any Great Books Recently?

If you say “No,” *You haven't read Another Side of the Wall – Reflections by the Spouses of the West Point Class of 1968*. If you attended the reunion, it was part of your “Swag Bag” of souvenirs and important instructions that would have made you and Megan Hostler's lives easier if you had read and heeded them. While many of our brides contributed to the make-up of the book, they also persuaded us to buy more as presents to our kids, non-grad/non-spouse folks who were mentioned in the intriguing stories in the book and others who have links or interests in our class and the era we helped to shape. There is consideration being given to providing copies to our Legacy Class of 2018 to let families know what legacy young(er) grad families underwent and undertook. In the past, the early *Both Sides of the Wall* editions have been put up for sale at

the Cadet Bookstore and Amazon Books where they are snatched up by historians and non-fiction buffs. If you think that you would like an extra copy or so, contact Andy Shaffer (oldgrad68@swbell.net) now.

Dave Ohle Keeps Car Tradition Going



Dave Ohle with his grandson, Liam ('24 – and only owner of a Corvette) with John Hedley at our 55th reunion)

One of **Dave Ohle's** guests at the reunion was his grandson, Liam. Liam is a Firstie in I-4 (my old TAC company) – the “I-Beam” and last Company in the Corps in the “Lost 50's.” Years ago Dave promised Liam that if he would get an appointment to and graduate from West Point, Dave would buy him a new Corvette – one of the most popular cars purchased back when we graduated. Our Class purchased over 150 Corvettes. The Class of '24 bought one!!

Mayers Excused For Joining Late Ranks

On the first night the class met for its 55th reunion, **Jack & Kathleen Mayer** were absent – for a good reason. They traveled to Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland to cheer on the Army Lacrosse Team as it engaged in a slugfest against Penn State in the NCAA quarter finals. When they did show up, Jack immediately assembled an attentive group as he related the exciting, leave it all on the field last seconds of the game. Both sides celebrated. Penn State's bench came out on the field to celebrate a win. Army players raised their arms in celebration of what they thought was the game-tying goal. The officials reviewed the play. Upon review, it was determined that the Army star player released the ball after the clock hit zero. The call was “no goal,” and the game ended with a Penn State victory, 10-9. It took at least a half hour to describe the action.



Lacrosse teammates Charlie Lieb and Jack Mayer, Annapolis resident Henry Riser, with Dave Ohle and Greg Camp recounting the NCAA Lacrosse quarterfinal heartbreak earlier that day

Lyle Pirnie Re-Introduces a Friend – and Picks up Where Chris Ohlinger Let Off

The first thing **Lyle Pirnie** did when he showed up at the reunion was grab one of **Chris Ohlinger's** many expression and story-filled hats. The next was to visit the beverage counter at Snuffy's hospitality room. After that, he introduced to those assembled his fiancé, Elizabeth Scholl. They dated for three years while Lyle was a cadet. After graduation, he went away for a while -- more military schooling, Reforger 1, and Vietnam. They went on with their lives – she was married for 37 years until her husband died. Lyle was married for 50 years until his my wife died. They got back together and realized they still have feelings for one another. The plan is to



get married in Weddington, North Carolina on September 9, live in Massachusetts for a few years until Lyle finishes his employment contract. Then, they'll relocate, probably to South Carolina. Elizabeth knows a lot of Lyle's E-2 and G-2 classmates and wives from their West Point days. They celebrated a reunion in more ways than one!

Elizabeth Scholl & Lyle Pirnie celebrating a reunion in more ways than one

Pat Jonas Adds to *Lift a Glass to '68*

At our 50th reunion, **Pat Jonas** introduced a song he had composed for the class. On the last night of our 50th, Pat recruited a gathering of classmates who could carry a tune to lead the rest of us croakers in the song's choral debut – "Lift a Glass to '68." The song was sung to what Pat said was "The Engineer Song" ("Come all ye gallant soldiers and the story you shall hear of the trials and tribulations of an Army engineer...etc.") with the chorus from somewhere in his brain. Being far from an Engineer, I thought it sounded like Johnny Horton's 1960 hit "Sink the Bismarck." This year, Pat showed up early to recruit some more singers to learn more lyrics. The only production that could have outdone that song was would be for **Elwood Cobey and Hank Toczyłowski** to teach us in Squad Drill. The updated lyrics are under "Reunion Documents on the home page of our class website (<https://www.westpointclassof1968.com/>)



This year's Pat Jonas Glee Club Singing "Lift a Glass to '68": George Ziots, Ray Rhodes, Stan Sharples, Pat Jonas, Lee Outlaw, Ron Feher, Steve Nyquist, Frank Robinson, and Ray Puffer



Elwood Cobey and Hank Toczyłowski ready for Cadet Drill



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July 2023

Jack Miller Ponders the Possibility of Another Parade



Jack Miller shared a photo of Dick Steiner that he got while following him around during his magic presentation at the 55th reunion departure breakfast and caught him at the conclusion of his special card trick.

While returning from reunion headquarters to Sweet Home Alabama – a 900+-mile road trip -- Jack & Meg got to thoroughly enjoy the CD provided by Dick Steiner. It conjured up lots of fond memories of days gone by. Jack also shared that during periods of silent reflections along the route home, he pondered that since Meg had planned surprises for previous milestone birthdays in the past, that maybe as his 80th birthday approached he might be treated to another “birthday parade.” For those who are unfamiliar with what a “birthday parade” is, a la Meg style, you will find a complete description starting on page



37 of *Another Side of the Wall*. As it turned out, Meg and their daughters surprised him with a dinner party at their favorite local rock-bound highland club, The Ledges, attended by family and friends who celebrated his 80th with him. After dinner, his granddaughter gave him a special video that she had put together. It consisted of birthday greetings from a collection of A-2 classmates, some of whom Jack had not seen or heard from for decades. Jack admitted that that was truly “icing on the cake” for the celebration. In case you were wondering, Jack is the ninth oldest in the class.

Gordie Tillery Sure Knows How to Show His Bride a Good Time

After our 55th reunion, **Gordie Tillery** took **Elsie** to Mount Washington, New Hampshire just to see it. They took a cog train to the summit (6288 feet). While Mount Washington is not as high in elevation when compared with Mounts Hood (11,249), Ranier (14,410), or Whitney



(14,494), its sign at the top hints at the weather extremes – “The highest wind ever observed by man was recorded here.” At the time the Tillerys visited the summit, the wind-chill was zero. Luckily there was a warming car up top. Recovery lasted through the next day that included a short drive to Portland, Maine, for a lobster dinner!

Gordon & Elsie Tillery at the top of Mount Washington

Classmate Participate in Reception Honoring Valor

When he got home from the frozen northeast, **Gordie Tillery** checked his snail mail and found an invitation to classmates in the DC area to attend and participate in a brief ceremony at the Mount Vernon (Alexandria) Recreation Center sponsored by the Friends of Rocky Versace Foundation and the *Alexandria Gazette* newspaper on June 17. The guest of honor was Colonel (Ret) Paris Davis, the most recent Medal of Honor recipient (March 3, 2023 -- Citation at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Davis). Our class was invited because our classmate, **Hank Spengler's** name appears on the Rocky Versace Memorial to fallen veterans from Alexandria, Virginia (<https://www.westpointclassof1968.com/spengler.html>). **Rick Rhoades**, **Bob Balog** and Gordon attended. Rick had been then LTC Davis' S3 in 2nd Bn, 10th SF Group in Vietnam. Our classmates all agreed that it was an inspiration and honor to go watch Rick and COL Davis interact at the event.



Congressional Medal of Honor recipient COL Paris Davis and his old S3 Rick Rhoades at a reception honoring heroes

Saying Good Bye to Claire Joseph

Bill Gardepe noted that several CMs attended a mid- July memorial service for **Claire** – bride of **Paul Joseph** in Chester, Virginia. **Glen Hewitt** remarked in an email that included a photo of classmates in attendance, "Despite the sadness of the occasion, there was great joy in joining the beautiful celebration of Claire's life, in meeting the family and friends who loved her and whom she loved, and in sharing the fellowship of caring classmates. We were honored to be with PJ at this time as his friends."



At Claire Joseph's celebration of life in Joe Guignon (up from Houston). Pattie OKeefe (down from MA), Ralph Tuccillo, Glen Hewitt, Jack Reid (kneeling), PJ, Dave Ohle, Gordie Tillery, John Cruden, and Bill Gardepe

A couple of months ago, Paul sent me a note and photo of a happier times when he and Claire took a trip to Maryland to visit their son as he was celebrating the fifth anniversary of the

establishment of the Cheverly Baptist Church where he is the Lead Pastor. The family picture was taken at their grandson's basketball game later that day with John and his four kids. While there, Paul also had a chance to have lunch with **Bart McLellan**.



The Joseph family under happier circumstances: *Knox, Caroline, Grace and Jack) with Claire, Paul, and Paul's and Claire's daughter Laura*

A Part of Saying Good Bye to Chuck Mahan

Dave Clemm reported on members of the Zoo, and other companies throughout the Corps who frequented Snuffy's, attending a celebration of life of **Chuck Mahan** and hosted by his bride, **Jamie** on the Palm Coast of Florida in Mid July. **Bill Robinson, Charlie Beckwith, Tom Beierschmitt**, and Dave were able to share a few fond and maybe a few better-forgotten memories. The previous week Janie scheduled another Memorial Service in Sparta, Georgia where Chuck grew up. In addition to friends from high school and friends of his family, a number of classmates and friends from the Army were also present. Chuck's final resting place will be in Arlington National Cemetery at some time in the coming months.



Chuck Petruska, Charlie Beckwith, Tom Beierschmitt, Mike Palone, Bob Shimp, Bill Robinson, Tom Pence, and David Clemm at Chuck Mahan's Celebration of Life in Palm Coast, Florida

Saying Good Bye to Tony Ambrose

Dave Martin reported that **Tony Ambrose's** Memorial Service in the Old Cadet Chapel and columbarium at the West Point Cemetery was well attended despite the chore of getting onto West Point after record rains and flooding a couple of days before. Roads were closed from the south, forcing participants to come in from the West via Harrison and the Camp Buckner road. Tony's bride, **Linda**, said that, "Anthony's sendoff was everything I'd hoped it would be. The services were handled with respect and caring and I think that with the help of the chaplain and our daughter's eulogy everyone there was aware of who the man we were honoring was." Classmates in attendance mostly knew Tony from every Beast March back and delivering their kids, and were given chores like ensuring the Class Flag was present, and the Cadet Prayer and



The Corps were properly recited and sung.

***John (Tony) Dodson, Lee Outlaw, Dave Martin and Dale Hansen** at the reception hosted by Linda Ambrose at the Hotel Thayer after Tony Ambrose's interment at the West Point Cemetery*

Saying Good Bye to Howard McElroy

Pat Jonas shared a photo of classmates who met in Mid-July in Abingdon, Virginia to



celebrate the life of their dear friend and classmate, **Howard McElroy**. For the most part, they were from company L2/E4 USMA. **Bob Brace** was with Howard in G4. **Jim Stanley** arrived just after this photo was taken.

***Malcolm Murray, BG Weeks, Bob Brace, Pat Jonas, and Nelson Laughton** celebrating the life and friendship of Howard McElroy*

Al Vitters Keeping up with Classmates

Al Vitters dropped an email to share that he and **Kathy** hosted **Paul (B2) & Cindy Lovett** for a few days of heat relief at their home in Northport (Long Island). There were trips to the local village for sights and to historic Stony Brook. Attending Jimmy Buffett's "Escape to Margaritaville" musical at the Engeman Theater was also on the agenda. Earlier, Al mentioned



that he and Kathy had visited **Chuck Gantner** in Auburn, Alabama where Chuck continues to swim competitively in Masters' meets

Parrot heads Kathy Vitters with Cindy & Paul Lovett in search of air-conditioning

Chuck Gantner with Al Vitters at the Auburn University pool where Chuck continues to compete



Bill McCaley Stays Close to the Beach



Jim Orahood forwarded a photo of **Bill McCaley**, who continues to enjoy his life as an octogenarian and disciplinarian along east coast beaches. In the photo, he's doing his best impersonation of a Wizard of Oz Tin Man after admonished a bunch of teen-aged guys for playing football at the Outer Banks of North Carolina.



August 2023

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Mike Sheaffer Recounts His Reunion Adventure

Mike Sheaffer has some special memories from our 55th reunion. While his Toyota Camry Sport rental car was parked under a light directly in front of the main entrance to the Westchester Marriott, all four wheels were stolen, and the car was left on cinder blocks. The incident was discovered by hotel security about 9 am on Monday, May 22. One of our classmates told Mike that when he arrived at the hotel Sunday night about 9 pm, the wheels were gone. Mike last used the car on Saturday afternoon so the exact day of the theft is not certain. No cameras were available, and any nighttime security checks were obviously of little value. A recovery driver arrived on Tuesday. Using the spare tire and three steel wheels with multi-pattern holes, he was able to winch the car onto a flatbed. The hotel manager comped several nights on Mike's bill, provided some wine, and arranged for a driver to take Mike & **Anne** back to Newark International Airport after the reunion. The rental car was charged to a credit card that provided primary insurance coverage. Mike calmly reported that although the claim process took three months, most of which was the time the rental car agency prepared a detailed damage assessment, the process itself was very efficient, and the full amount of the damage was paid by the credit card services. A few weeks later Mike was offered the same type of car at Philadelphia International Airport. He opted for a Chevy with standard wheels.

Risers Return to New York as Part of Anniversary Celebration

After hearing from **Charlie & Janet Lieb**, **Pres & Clem Miller**, **Dick & Kathy Shipley**, and **Bob & Carol Shimp** about how great *A Beautiful Noise* (the story of Neil Diamond in a new musical featuring his hit songs) was, **Henry & Karen Riser** jumped on a train to NYC last July to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary by taking in the show and wandering around the city. Everyone who has seen the show says it brings back wonderful memories, and if you close your eyes, you'd swear that you're at a Neil Diamond concert.

Henry & Karen Riser hitting the rails from Annapolis to NYC to see A BEAUTIFUL NOISE and celebrate 55years of fun and adventure



Jack & Meg Miller Accessorize with Reunion Memorabilia -

Jack Miller reported that he and **Meg** used items from our latest Class Reunion (his hat/shirt and her scarf) to accessorize his roadster (which is 24 years old in “car years” – meaning the car does not have any navigation devices). The photo shows them heading out for another escape road trip. He said that during the pandemic lockdowns, they would head out in the roadster (top down, of course) to escape lockdown ‘fever’. The technique used was to drive along a major Alabama thoroughfare and then hang a left or a right until they did not know where they were and then try to make their way back home (by not retracing steps, of course). Jack indicated that these “escapes” took on average about 2 hours with the exception of one. On that occasion, they were completely lost because Jack passed the same barn 3 times. Probably like other males, he never stopped to ask for directions and this time was no different. But he did find it useful to stop and let his navigator (Meg) ask for directions. It Turned out that they were close to the Tennessee border and found a major highway about a half mile away, so they were back



home in under an hour. Jack said that when his daughter, Samantha, found out about their misadventure, she insisted on them getting smart phones with navigation applications. After a year of trying to use the new phones, Jack said he put a new item on his Christmas wish list – a “Make My Phone Dumb Again” (MMPDA) phone. He further related that he and Meg had another memorable road trip with international intrigue way back in 1969 – details of that adventure can be found starting on page 186 of *Another Side of the Wall*.

Jack & Meg Miller accessorizing their black and gold roadster to the max for their next adventure

Dale & Joyce Hansen Stayed Mobile This Summer

Just when I thought that going to NYC for a show and tooling around Alabama were great ways to beat our long hot summer, the professionals checked in. Since May, it appears that the only reason that **Dale & Joyce Hansen** were at home in NYC was to wash and change wardrobes. Prior to celebrating with us at our class reunion, they were off on a RoadScholar tour to



Joyce & Dale Hansen in the wine region of Portugal

Portugal encompassing Lisbon, Estoril, Sintra, Porto, and the Douro Valley.



Joyce & Dale Hansen enjoying the culture of Portugal

In June, they boarded the National Geographic vessel *Resolution* in Oslo, Norway for an Arctic cruise in the Svalbard area (between mainland Norway and the North Pole) to witness polar bears, walruses, reindeer, arctic foxes, and seals in their native habitat – and the midnight sun. In the photo Dale sent, I noticed that they were in a position to look over each other's shoulder so one of them would have the edge to run in case he or she spotted a polar bear.

Dale & Joyce Hansen trolling for polar bears on Svalbard



Joyce & Dale Hansen on the lookout for walruses and seals near Svalbard



On their way home through London, they took a self-guided tour of Wimbledon and found there was no problem with getting court-side seats. Once home Dale left Joyce at home with the laundry to participate as a New Cadet in an R-Day rehearsal – a dry run for the Cows and Firsties on 1st Beast Detail. He confided that the experience brought back some memories of our own R-Day -- many of which he found much more humorous than he did on 1 July 1964.

Joyce & Dale Hansen at Wimbledon

Dallens & McKennas Can Always be Counted on for Travel

John & Frances Dallen and **Brian & Karen McKenna** once again joined forces and palates to test the theory that food tastes better the closer one gets to the Alps. The initial portion of the research lab – from Lyon to Turin to Tirano, Italy – proved true. Therefore, Brian & Karen declared victory, booked passage for home and left John & Frances to further their exploration. Frances viewed an ad about Switzerland’s Bernina Express, declared to be one of the most beautiful train rides through the Alps. They then set up a whirlwind circuit that took them from Turin to Milan, eventually to Chur and Zurich Switzerland and back to France where they were picked up for an adventure aboard *he barge Saroche* – a motorized water craft with three cabins that transited a section of the canal system in Burgundy. The owners of the vessel are also the



cooks, wine providers, and pilots. This further research substantiated the previous research to the point they have found their new favorite city and mode of transportation for eating and imbibing.

Brian & Karen McKenna (background) and Frances & John Dallen

flanking Brian’s sisters and brothers-in-law doing extensive research in Turin, Italy

Frances & John Dallen in their Italian culinary laboratory



Birthday Musings and News

August 7 brought considerably more emails, phone calls, snail mail, and in-person visits than usual – to a point that I began wondering if my latest physical exam had been posted on Facebook – un-nerving. It turned out that **Dick Shipley** was on a weekly classmate zoom call, Barbara just called a bunch of folks (which brought an in-person visit from **Henry & Karen Riser** from Annapolis, Maryland to beautiful town-town Terrell), our daughter made a Facebook post directed to her friends who met me while they were in high school and college, and **Megan Hostler** used her super-duper class email list urging folks to wish me a happy 80th birthday. Rather than waste a perfectly good email, some used the opportunity to pass along some news. **Rick & Pat Goodell** are enjoying retirement on the west side of Portland, Oregon. They have a daughter who married a Brit and lives in London, where they traveled a week after they emailed me to visit her and three granddaughters. In October, they will travel to Cabo, Mexico to enjoy a week with other relatives. Needless to say, they do keep busy traveling and staying close to **Pete Swan** and **Ralph D'Alessandro** who they will also visit next month in Phoenix, Arizona (send photos). **Don Davis** reflected that he is living by a Toby Keith song he wrote after asking Clint Eastwood what kept him so active – Don't Let the Old Man In. Don is doing well and feels that he has been very blessed. He's looking at a hip replacement in the fall but, in an effort to keep his priorities straight, he's doing an elk hunt with his son (a USAFA '92 retiree) in mid-September in northwest Colorado, at 9,500 feet. In addition to a great second career as a software engineer, Don's son has gotten into serious biking -- his idea of fun is a 100 mile road bike race thru the mountains. The best case scenario on the elk hunt for his son is that Don asks him to carry his



rifle and pack. The worst case scenario is that Don maintains possession of his rifle and pack and just climbs on his back. For what it's worth, I couldn't even make it into the top 10 of our oldest classmate but I feel honored to share August 7th with **Walt Curl**, **Leonard Wallin**, and **Tay Yoshitani's** bride, **Becky**.

Tay & Becky Toshitani celebrating Becky's birthday on August 7th

The Class Still supports the Marchback

In his belated birthday email, **Craig O'Connor** confided that birthday wishes were the farthest thing from his mind as he, along with **Bill Brown** and **Press Miller**, was forming up for the full Old Grad Marchback at 0230 hours at Buffalo Soldier Field to be bussed out to Lake Frederick for a wonderful breakfast! Note: No more sleeping overnight at Camp Buckner! According to **Press Miller**, who has been on of the Marchbacks, it was the wettest one ever. **Dutch Hostler** added that Bill Brown lost the soles from his hiking boots at around mile seven and rode the five remaining miles to the ski slope in a trail vehicle, but fell in with other old grads and marched "solelessly" for the final 2 miles. The weather cleared for Dutch, **Dale**

Hansen, Jerry Holderness, Dave Marten, and Terry Wildrick, who hiked in from the ski slope.



Dale Hansen, Pres Miller Dave Martin, Dutch Hostler Terry Wildrick, Craig O'Connor, Bill Brown, and Jerry Holderness mugging it up at the ski slope in preparation for the final two miles of the march back



“Soleless Bill Brown showing up at the end of the Marchback

E-2 Supper in Dairy land

With **Bruce & Susan Sweeny** now living in Fitchburg, Wisconsin, **Skip Greeby** reports that he and **Joan** have been dining with them quarterly at a restaurant half-way between the Sweeny’s home and the Greeby Chicago suburb abode. Bruce is happy to relate that his new AFIB meds now have his body and heart under control, so all in the photo are in good health. As you may also see in the photo, the Sweenys and Greebys dined at the Duck Inn Supper Club – a Wisconsin style institution. Unfortunately, they missed “prime rib night,” so they were all “forced” to order in a more sensible and healthful way. Next supper will be “Steak Night” with accompanying big bites!



Skip & Joan Greeby with Susan & Bruce Sweeny keeping the red meat industry in business

Colorado Gang Prepares For Fall and Winter Activities



Les Krohnfeldt dropped a note to let us know that our class (with brides) assemblage of the Colorado Front Range area held its annual Fall Picnic at the AFA FamCamp to count heads, discuss how it's going to enhance the Army-Air Force game on November 4, and give thanks for one another. Not pictured were attending wives of absent classmates **Ann Wooten** and **Joyce Canella** (Chuck is still recovering from recent surgery and was unable to join the gathering).

Colorado Front Range classmates as seen from the bottom of a Coors bottle: Front row Robby Robinson. Back row Mike Hart, Bob Hensler, Mike Fay, Chuck Jones, Joe Henry, Larry Stevenson, and Less Krohnfeldt

Class Sponsors Tour of Scotland

Prior to Labor Day, at least 19 classmates, brides, significant others, and special guests flew to Edinburgh, Scotland for at least a week of left-hand of the road touring, excursions, comradery, and a combined sampling of a few drams a Scottish nectar. The trip was concocted by **John Hedley** (a West Highland Oban aficionado) and **Dutch Hostler** (a Speyside Glenlivet devotee) with the help of Mike Healy ('69), the tour guide who put together our Ireland mini reunion in 2024 at the direction of **Henry Riser**. Mike helped the gang discover that there was more to Scotland than whiskey – like golf, castles, lochs, music, breakfast, and historic cities.



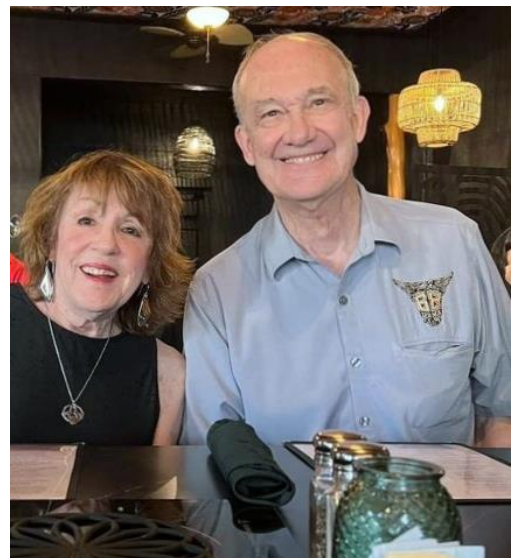
The Class Tour of Scotland Gang: Ray & Mary Jane Rhodes, Dick & Paulette Steiner, Alvie Kimball, Megan & Dutch Hostler, Margie & John Hedely, Lee Ourlaw & Veronika Krejc, Deanne & Charlie Beckwith, Reed & Mary Fraley, Cindi Kimball, Bev McCormick (friend of Dick Shipley and frequent traveler on overseas class trips, and Lisa Marshall (friend of Dick Shipley and frequent traveler on class trips)



John Hedley at his scotch epicenter

Andy & Betty Shaffer Beat the Heat – Texas Style

Since temperatures in Midland, Texas this summer have rarely gotten below 100°, **Andy & Betty Shaffer** “escaped to Fredericksburg, Texas to visit friends for a long weekend. Both couples belong to the Becker Vineyard wine club and they took the opportunity to stock up on Becker’s fine wines – and a shaded garden that’s a nice place to share some recent offerings. They also tried out a new (fondue) restaurant that was featured in the *Texas Monthly* as a break from brisket or tacos.



Betty & Andy Shaffer beating the heat in Fredericksburg, Texas

Classmates Reflect on Army Football

At least five classmates – **Dale Hansen, Larry Jordan, Dave Martin, Ray Puffer,** and **Gary Roberson** (there as a scoutmaster for Scout Day) – attended the September 9 Army football rout over Delaware State. Ray was the first to voice that this game was much more fun than the disaster last week muse – a corollary “it’s just a game” and “It doesn’t matter whether you win or lose...” All agree that it’s going to be a tough year.

*Ray Puffer “hydrating” with “frozen lemonade”
at the Army Delaware game*





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September October 2023

Dan Adams Sends Travel News Via Late Ranks

Our last Notes that reported on classmates traveling and meeting spurred **Dan Adams** to dig up a couple of photos that he had been meaning to share. As residents of The Big Easy, along with Dan, **Vic Farrugia** and his son, Michael, are members of the Mardi Gras Krewe of Babylon. Last February they participated in the annual Babylon Mardi Gras parade in which Vic and Michael bonded by throwing beads.



Dan Adams and Vic Farrugia flanking Vic's son, Michael, during the NOLA Babylon Mardi Gras parade



This summer Dan spent a short week in NYC taking in shows, enjoying food, watching transplanted migrants try to assimilate, and wandering around his favorite haunts. Then, he began his favorite way to travel to Europe by making himself comfortable aboard the Queen Mary II which was followed by a Chunnel ride for a week in Paris and on to the chateaux region with friends.

Dan Adams this summer in Paris at Mont Martre

More Classmate Use the Queen Marry II

It appears that more classmates than Dan Adams enjoy indulging themselves sailing on the Queen Mary II. After their tour of Scotland, **John & Margie Headley**, **Dutch & Megan Hostler**, and **Ray & Mary Jane Rhodes** traveled to Southampton to board this last true ocean liner on the seas for a seven day transit to NYC.

Ray & Mary Jane Rhodes with Margie & John Hedley at Loch Lomond prior to returning home on the Queen Mary II



Fifty Fifth Reunion Flashback

Skip Greeby also joined the Late Ranks with photographic evidence that the Supe is willing to speak with class members – as long as it doesn't have to deal with the state of the Academy. After the cluster of a supposed barracks tour, Skip's happy group of classmates and brides ambled out of North Area and headed for the buses back to the Marriott. On their way, they passed the Supe's house, and while in the process of encroaching on his front porch for



photos, he drove up in his Mercedes-style golf cart. After bolstering the relevance of the group by telling them that he was born in 1968, he insisted on a group photo and some glad-handing.

Joan Greeby, Jack Reed, Tom & Stephanie Kurkjian, LTG Gilland ('90), Skip Greeby, Craig O'Connor, and Dale Hansen.

Dave Martin Shares Another Flashback

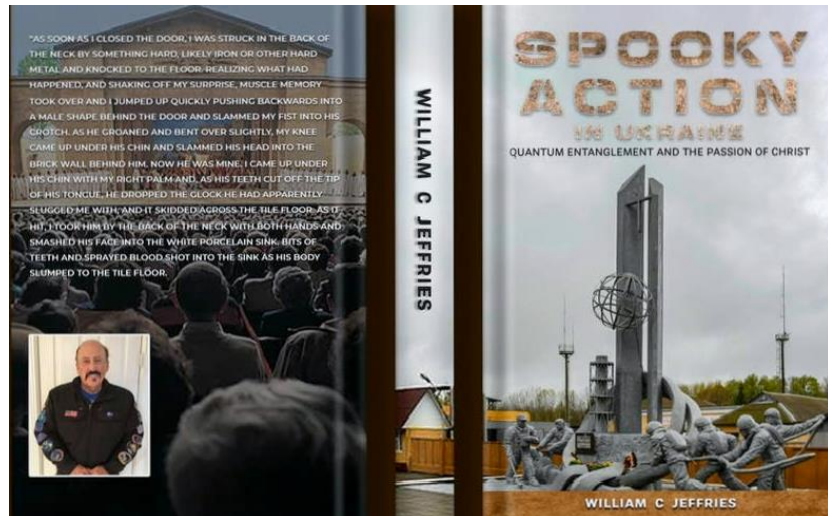


While on a family vacation to Helen, Georgia, for the start of OctoberFest, **Dave Martin** set out on a day trip to Dahlonega. He hasn't been there since most of us were there in the summer, autumn, and winter of 1968! Once there, he didn't recognize anything and figured he had to hike up into the woods to recall any memorable adventures. He says that he also didn't remember how many pounds he lost over those 8 weeks and 1 day. He shared a photo of what he hopes will bring back pleasant memories to all our classmates...

Dave Martin at a mountain retreat in the Georgia mountains

Bill Jeffries' Latest Book Hits the Barnes and Noble Book Shelves

Bill Jeffries is happy to announce that his most recent novel, *Spooky Action in Ukraine – Quantum Entanglement and the Passion of Christ* has just been published by Barnes and Noble and released in ebook, paper and hardback versions. What is Quantum Entanglement, what Einstein called SAD (Spooky Action at a Distance), and what does it have to do with Russia's invasion of Ukraine? If you are interested in physics, theology, politics, the Ukraine war, and classmate writings, check out Bill's latest book.



Army-Delaware State Game Revisited

After reading the classmate recount in our last set of Notes, **Gary Roberson** and **Julia Bodenhamer** added to the report. Gary connected with the Bodenhamer/Biggerstaff clan after the parade. Juliana Bodenhamer ('05), daughter of **Jim & Julia** married Adrian Biggerstaff ('05) and Gary reports that they have three delightful sons. Adrian is currently stationed at West Point and will take his family to Hawaii next summer for his next assignment. Gary was at West Point on a Boy Scout outing. He told the Scouts that the cannons would fire on every score. They were

very concerned that the game would be low scoring. With 57 cannon blasts plus one more at game conclusion, the Scouts were more than satisfied!



Gary Roberson catches up with the Biggerstaff family prior the Army-Delaware State game

Orahood Males Continue a Tradition

Jim Orahood sent some photos reflecting tradition. Jim's Dad was a pilot in WWII, and when Jim was about five, his Dad began taking him to the National Air Races in Cleveland, Ohio. Later, the event moved to Reno, Nevada due to population encroachment, and Jim and his Dad continued to go until his Dad was in his late 70s. Now, Jim and his son, young Jim, also a helicopter pilot like his Dad, have continued the tradition. In an earlier day, Jim flew CH 47As, Bs, and C's (Chinooks) in Alaska. At this Air Races the Jims came across a CH47 L display. Three crew chiefs at the display at first thought the two Jim Orahoods were named Orvil and Wilber and wanted autographs but were content to know all about the CH47 A!! The L model has 3 hooks on the bottom, can aerial refuel (because it is fast as a refueller), has a cockpit like a Boeing 777 – and doesn't leak hydraulic fluid all over the cargo door!!

Past meets present – Jim Orahood with CH-47L crew chiefs at National Air Races in Reno





Jim Orahod in front of an airplane that his Dad flew and was an instructor for

Jim Orahod Cleans up His Act with a Civilized Photo of Bill McCauley

When **Jim Orahod** sends news, it's usually about his good friend since Poop School, **Bill McCauley**. Bill has to like Jim a lot and have a great sense of humor since some photos Jim sends me are not the most flattering of Bill. This is a calm one of Bill & **Cindy** with **Wally & Sue Magathan** – a lot of sanity, education, and travel experience here – three of the four are lawyers – and all live in South Miami most of the time. Part of the dinner catch-up conversation included recent travels to Orlando, for Wally & Sue's visit **Bob & Carol Shimp**, Sue's early September trip to Wales to celebrate her sister's 80th birthday, the McCauleys' return from a "cool" summer in Flat Rock, North Carolina, and a pending McCauley adventure to Greece.



Sue & Wally Magathan with Cindy & Bill McCauley at supper in South Miami

Southern Californians Gather together

Recently, **Steve & Linda Childers** and **Harold & Donna Timboe** met in Southern California for a lake cruise and dinner reunion. Steve & Linda live in a lake community at Lake Mission Viejo in Mission Viejo. The Childers have a 21-foot pontoon boat docked at the lake



Misters Timboe and Childers in an earlier day

and partook of Mexican food at Hacienda on the Lake restaurant. Harold and Steve both received their appointments to West Point while at Millikan High School in Long Beach, California. They travelled together to Washington, D.C. and the Hotel Thayer before reporting to West Point. The Timboes came west from Arkansas to visit a 94 year old aunt and stayed with high school classmates of the Timboes and Childers who live in the area. Good times reliving very old memories were had and relived the old adage that when the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A. During the visit, no pictures were taken but Steve dug into a photo of a much earlier day.

Andy Shaffer Carries His Bride South for a Birthday Celebration

In yet another effort to cure the travel bug brought about by COVID, **Andy Shaffer** rushed his bride, **Betty**, off to a luxury Yucatan peninsula spot where they could celebrate Betty's birthday by indulging themselves in breakfasts, sun, snacks, shade, lunch, private pools, afternoon snacks, wandering pools, munchies with margaritas, coatis, cooking classes, cats, meals under the stars, wine, desserts, and at least a dozen ways to say "Happy Birthday" (more like "birthweek) with food, towels, paper scrolls, and friendship – all suitable for framing. By the time they got back to Midland, their Peloton coaches had an APB out on them and they're still doing punishment tours.



Andy & Betty Shaffer snacking in Mexico

Dave Clemm Gives an Update on Classmate Families Helping Classmate Families

Dave Clemm sent a note complimenting everyone for their support and hope and that we all will continue to share positive things that are happening as a result of your involvement. A few things worth mentioning that have come to Dave's attention:

1. Twenty classmates have asked to participate in a video conference with **Ralph Tuccillo** regarding dementia and Alzheimer's. The classmates could be the ones with the disease or it may be their spouse, but both plan to participate if possible.
2. Several spouses have reached out for help and are currently getting support from the Point of Contact leaders who are in some cases teaming together to provide help and information. **Jim Furr** contacted the spouse who needed help and made sure she had the information she needed. **When Steve Maracculli** learned of a spouse who had no idea where to turn, he raised the red flag. **Dennis Rosenberry** took over, made contact, surprised her with timely information, and then recruited a classmate to go to the VA with her and provide guidance.
3. Several of you have reported that classmates have been surprised by the support and compensation they have been provided and that could be made available to their spouses once they went to the VA to register and review their benefits.
4. The daughter of a classmate who recently passed away is putting together information to share with those that are interested. Her father asked for the family to share his journey with medical problems and the support he received from the VA. Hoping to get this available in the near future.
5. A classmate's nephew impacted by burn pit exposure needed help trying to get medical care. Within a few hours, information was forwarded to him by **Pres Miller** and **David Clemm** so he knew who to contact for direct support in Arizona and what was required to gain coverage.
6. **Jim Jennings** continues the tradition of calling classmates and spouses within his former company who are in difficulty or have faced difficult situations. Most recently, a classmate in the company and his wife volunteered to drive about eight hours to visit a classmate with ALS.
7. Could anyone have done a better job than **Anne Marie Keane**, wife of **John**, in being willing to share to any interested party her healthcare battle?
8. **Janet Lieb** and **Karen Riser** have stepped forward to lead the formation of a new group of spouses, Ladies of the Class. We hope to recruit a spouse for each of the 32 companies that we believe will be an extraordinary adjunct and additional support arm that might more easily deal with spouses than any classmate. Be forewarned that they might need your help to accomplish this, but for now **Megan Hostler** will try to use her list of spouse email addresses to gain support.

Dave is certain this is the tip of the iceberg so please feel free to share with all of us things that are being done to make a difference. Please continue to share things that are working and how we can do a better job. Dave hopes that you all recognize how many appreciate your effort You have and will continue to make a difference if we work together.

Another Worthy Task That Can Get Easier With the Right Attitude

Dale Hansen has been toiling for years on a number of projects for the class, AOG, and West Point. One very important – seemingly never ending but finite – project is to get Memorial Articles completed and published for our classmates, their families, and to uphold our class motto that we took on when we were young(er) and learning about duty, honor, and dealing with hard and not always absolute issues and tasks. Through the hard work of Dale has carried on the work of **Greg Camp** and **Gary Halstead** who coordinated article writing and has found useful obituaries of classmates and relatives in periodicals and his relationships with AOG, research professionals, and determined classmates, many memorial articles have been completed. Companies like C-1, E-2, and D-3 already broke the code. They knew that giving back to each other, the class, families and posterity was a task that must be carried out. They set to work to record accomplishments, but didn't let it go at that – they inserted what made a departed classmate part of us. Not every classmate – living our passed – gives the same thing – but we all give something positive. To date Dale has whittled down the need to complete unfinished memorial articles to six. He has noticed that a company classmate often takes on this task – but not always a First Class company mate who may have been scrambled into a company firstie year. We are seeking a classmate who knew this person and wants to embark on the task. It's possible, and can be quite rewarding, to take on an article for a classmate we might not even have known. Next of Kin can be most helpful and appreciative, regardless of how well we knew their husband, father, brother, sister, son or daughter. Dale is looking for lead researchers and authors for our following classmates:

- **Paul Vincent Baerman** D1 – Paul's bride, Kerry, has moved to Anacortes, WA, so there might be a little time-distance issue here , but there's a wealth of professional history that he helped make.
- **Neil Cowperthwaite** A1 – Neil passed away last spring. He wrote **Donny Colglazier's** memorial article while other company mates were in shock, trying to get themselves and their troops to a safe place and move on with their careers and lives. About 30 years later, **John Dallen** (C1) presented our Paul Martin's *Bond of Brothers* print to Donny's parents and family. Neil's bride, Pam, lives in Maine so maybe we can get a classmate in the area to help. An obituary is available
- **Gary Schappaugh** E1 Bride, Pat, lives in Texas. An obituary is available.
- **Don McLane** H1 Lydia still lives in Colorado. Donny passed away last January. Impressive obituary available. He has always been shy but he and his family shouldn't have to suffer for that.
- **Art Ackerman** A4 – Yeah, yeah. I knew him at USMAPS and can provide some reflections. His family lives in Las Vegas as does at least one other classmate who is steady and great with people. What we need is someone to tactfully describe Art. A mutual friend stated, "We all know Art, but he's our Art."
For more information, contact Dale at dalewhansen@gmail.com.



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Fred & Mary Johnson Gather with Part of the Colorado Contingent

Fred Johnson made a second try at sharing a photo taken in mid-August at The Perfect Landing restaurant in the Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colorado. The occasion was arranged by **Lynne Robinson**, **Robby's** bride. It also happened to be **Dick Steiner's** birthday – not that anyone counts those anymore... Others in attendance were Fred's bride, **Mary, Gary & Patti Halsead**, **Dick & Paulette Steiner**, and **Larry Stevenson** and his fiancé **Tamara**. It was agreed that Robby's holding his own with a lot of help from Lynne. Larry & Tamara announced that they were about to leaving on an Alaskan Cruise prior to their wedding in September.



(seated) Lynne & Robby Robinson and Paulette Steiner;

(Standing) Gary & Patti Halstead, Tamara with Larry Stevenson, Mary & Fred Johnson, and Dick Steiner

Speaking of Birthdays

The fact that a few of us in the class have turned 80 in the last 14 months has caused a lot of chatter on cyber lines and caused a way to put all this in perspective – like, what's REALLY old. To put this in some proportion, **Bob Hunt, Fred Johnson, Bill McCauley, Skip Greeby, Frank Audrain, Steve Herman, George Shoener, Bill Dyer, Jack Miller, and Kent Trexler** are all older than Mick Jagger. To lend even more gravity to this state of affairs, all these guys, plus **Bill Nash, Nick Dienes, Bob Lorbeer, Mac Mac Vittie, Dave Carraway, Bill Kunzman, Mickey Vennum**, and yours truly are older than Keith Richards. To sooth the situation, we're all younger than Willie Nelson...

Larry Stevenson Brings Some Joyful News

Hoping to insert some joyful news among some of the sadness that we've had to accept lately, **Larry Stevenson** announced that he and **Tamara** tied the knot in mid-September with the help of several classmates. **Les Krohnfeldt** took on the duty of Best Man and did a great job of holding Larry up at all the right times. Les was ably assisted by **Dick Steiner**



*Tamara & Larry Stevenson
with Larry's support staff
Less Krohnfeldt, Dick
Steiner, and Gary Halstead*

(who refused to pull anything out of a hat during the ceremony) and the ever-smiling **Gary Halstead**. **Joe Henry**, **Greg Johnson** and **Bob Hensler** accepted the roles of ushers to get everyone properly seated. In all, Larry's new family is his beautiful bride, Tamara, and his equally beautiful new daughter, Hannah, who also served as Tamara's Maid of Honor. The show stealers were two of Tamara's grandnephews who deemed it not appreciate to carry a little pillow down the aisle, so (unbeknownst to Larry), they were sworn into the Secret Service (wearing black suits and dark glasses, and carrying gleaming silver brief cases) for the day and carried out their mission without incident. The happy couple got the royal treatment at their reception. Eight seasoned grads demonstrated their ability to still get a saber above their heads, and Larry managed to make it through the ritual with both ears still attached. Les welcomed Tamara officially into the West Point family with a "saber pat."



*Larry & Tamara Stevenson's Ushers Joe Henry, Greg Johnson,
and Bob Hensler*



The royal guard (mostly in defilade) L > R, Jay Francis, Joe Henry, Chuck Jones, Ken Rackers('78) and [right side] Gary Halstead, Mike Fellows, Robby Robinson and (in what might have been his last participation with the class), Don Johnson

Jim & Pat Thome Making up for Lost Time

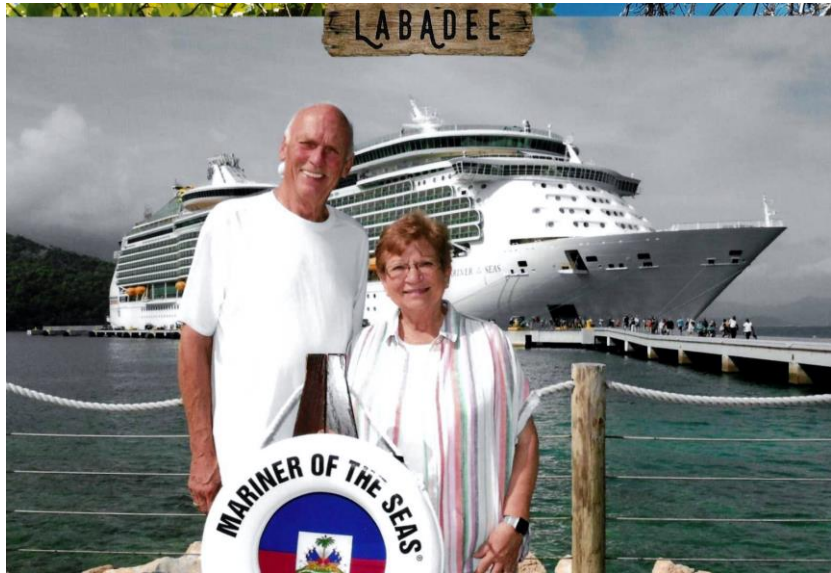
In September, **Jim & Pat Thome** embarked on a three-week vacation, which included two seven-day cruises split by a week at Walt Disney World. Week one started with a cruise



Pat & Jim Thome during a a monster Caribbean Cruise

aboard the largest cruise ship the World – the *Wonder of the Seas* – 1,188 feet long with a 215 foot beam. It boasts 2,867 staterooms, that carries just under 7,000 passengers. The ship took its happy travelers to Cozumel, Mexico and Roatan, Honduras. The Thomes marveled that as large as the ship was, they never felt that the ship was crowded. Twenty-four guest elevators made navigating pretty easy. As usual, the food and entertainment was fabulous.

The next leg of their journey was a seven-day visit to see Mickey & Minnie and visit all four Disney parks while staying at a Marriot timeshare and treasuring a great week of fun. If that's not enough, the Thomes embarked on cruise #47. No need to ask if they enjoy cruising. The *Mariner of the Seas* was a much smaller ship but still had all the amenities except the "Central Park" of the Wonder. The *Mariner* took them to Labadee, Haiti and Falmouth, Jamaica. Excursions in Haiti were very informative about its history and struggles to become independent. Jim & Pat are already looking forward to 2024 and more adventures.



Jim & Pat Thome visiting Haiti

Jim & Pat Thome Making up for Time Lost Due to COVID

In October, **Jim & Pat Thome** linked up with **Bob & Ann Sweeney**, another quarter of the traveling "West Point Four" couples, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina for an all too short four-day visit and excursion. They started with a great lunch at the West End Café. Then they visited the Reynolda House Museum of American Art – a beautiful mansion with an accompanying garden that was the 1917 estate of R.J. and Katharine Reynolds.



Pat & Jim Thome and Bob & Ann Sweeney at Reynolda House Museum

Next, they spent a day in Old Salem (a smaller version of Williamsburg and originally settled by the Moravian community in 1766) – where they got an idea of what life was like in the original town of Salem. Jim & Pat thoroughly enjoyed the fabulous short trip arranged by Bob & Ann.



Bob & Ann Sweeney and Jim & Pat Thome on Old Salem

Teammates Attend Army-Navy Soccer Match

In mid-October, **Al Vitters** and **Mike Palone** hooked up with Army Soccer teammates



Joe Casey ('67) and **John Veenstra ('69)** to attend the Army-Navy Soccer match at Subaru Park in Chester, Pennsylvania. These teammates have fond memories of Army soccer in the 60s which had four “Final Four” Division 1/ NCAA appearances, -- the “glory years of Army Soccer”. This year, Army played well with spirit and determination but had to settle for a 1-1 tie. In another game played Yearling year, we learned what that was like.

Al Vitters, Joe Casey ('67), Mike Palone, and John Veenstra at this year's Army-Navy Soccer match

Henry Riser Tries to Sugar-Coat Army Football

About a week after the Army-Navy soccer match, **Henry & Karen Riser** traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to watch the Army-LSU football game with his brother at his brother-in-law's river house (home of magnificent Louisiana food and fine adult beverages). Prior to discovering that the Army team might have well have missed its flight to Tiger Stadium, Henry had lunch with Danny Johnson, classmate **Denny Johnson's** brother. That's my brother in law, Beezer Roussel on the right. The last time (which was also the first time) Army had played LSU, was on November 7, 1931 and Army beat the Tigers 20-0. It appears the school carries a grudge...



Denny Johnson's brother, Danny, is flanked by Henry Riser and Henry's brother-in-law in Baton Rouge

Jim Orahood finds a New Toy to Celebrate our 2nd Amendment Rights

Jim Orahood sent an email with a photo that he titled "Our latest acquisition." We know it as "Ma Deuce" – the heavy machine gun designed near the end of World War I by John



Browning and used by the Army longer than any other firearm except the .45 ACP M1911 pistol, which was also designed by John Browning. Jim sounded almost giddy when he found a range that would accommodate it. All was fun and games – until he found out how much the rounds cost and how uncomfortable the spent cartridges became when coming to rest in one's lap.

Jim Orahood with his "Ma Deuce" providing more protection for his ears than his lap when firing

Bill & Cindy McCauley Wind-up Greece

As a follow-up to our last Notes, **Bill McCauley** sent an email to inform us that he and **Cindy** finished their trip to Greece where they visited most of the usual archeological sites. On their way back to the new Athens International Airport, they were surprised when their bus made a roadside stop for a photo-op. If you don't recognize the location by the photo, you will certainly remember it from "Art." They are at Thermopylae in central eastern Greece standing below the modern-day monument to King Leonidas of Sparta who, in 480 BC, along with the now famous "300" (Spartan warriors and others), lost his lives while holding off Xerxes' invading Persian "immortals" and giving Athens time to prepare to defend itself. Now, THAT's the sign of a complete tour for a grad.



Bill & Cindy McCauley at Thermopylae

Bachmans, Merriams, and Peters on a Real French Wine Cruise

Bill Bachman sent proof of finally – after schedule and COVID hampering – accomplishing a true wine lover’s French wine cruise. Last month, **Bill & Jane, Jock & Malena Merriam, and Mike & Eleanor Peters** completed a 10-day journey cruising on an elegant barge through the canals in Burgundy, and enjoying great wines, food, and company.



Eleanor & Mike Peters, Bill & Jane Bachman, and Jock & Malena Merriam by their cruising barge that uses bottles of wine for ballast in France



Bill Bachman with Mike Peters sporting their barge uniform as for sipping in the barge salon



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November December 2023

Bowlings Combine AOG Trip With West Point Visit

Marty & Barbara Bowling took the AOG trip in late September to cruise all the Great Lakes. After debarking in Toronto, they spent time in Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City before returning to the US to visit friends in Northern Vermont. They also took in the Army-Troy State football game at West Point. Marty lamented that the game against Troy was not memorable and

the terrible play in the driving rain and cold during the game added to the gloom. On the bright side, they were able to visit a number of the 35 cadets currently at West Point that Marty helped gain admission. He sent along two photos, one of which is of his Marty's former candidates – a member of the Class of '07 who is the youngest person in the world to climb both K-2 and Mt Everest in the same year as well as holds both personal and commercial helicopter pilot licenses. It sounds like this young stud needs to meet **Chris Ohlinger's** son, Mack ('15). The other photo is of Marty former Ukrainian Ambassador, William Taylor ('69) at his recent lecture in Sarasota, Florida.



Cadet Chase Merriam ('27) with mentor Marty Bowling

Ambassador William Taylor ('69) with Marty Bowling



Classmates Gather in Colorado for Interment of Art Sands' Ashes

Larry Stevenson shared some thoughts about the occasion of **Art Sands'** Memorial Service in Vail, Colorado in late October. **Hank Gregor** provided a surprise addition as he joined classmates in attendance. Hank delivered a very touching as well as humorous eulogy for Art. Classmate attendance involved an hour and a half snowy drive each way from the Denver area to Vail – all glad to do it. The service was held at an outdoor area for such occasions with Art's ashes being buried at a site within the Memorial Gardens adorned with a boulder inscribed with "The Sands Family". A very touching service.



Larry Stevenson, Gary Halstead, Chuck Jones, Joe Henry, and Hank Gregor at Vail, to witness and participate in Art Sands' Celebration of Life

News That Came out of Claire Joseph's Interment Service at West Point

Paul Joseph reported that the assembled friends, classmates and family had a good day for **Claire's** service held on a cool but bright morning on November 8th. The AOG provided superb support for the families throughout the two days that they were at West Point. Classmates in attendance included: **Dale Hansen, Tom Jewell, Bart McLellan, Tom McNaugher, Mike Noonan, Lee Outlaw,** and **John Westerlund**. Also in attendance was **Tina Johnson, Claude's**

widow, who noted that the Johnsons and Josephs will be neighbors at the Columbarium.



Dale Hansen, Tom McNaugher, Lee Outlaw, Paul Joseph, Bart McLellan, and John Westerlund at Claire Joseph's interment at West Point

Ironically, the afternoon service on Claire's day was for a Class of '70 friend of Paul's John Greenwalt -- **Frankie Bennet Cummings** is John's daughter's mother-in-law. When I reported on Claire's July memorial service in Virginia in earlier Notes, I had also mentioned that **Chuck Gantner** and his pacemaker. Paul went in for his pacemaker the day after I had put out the information regarding Claire's interment.

Army-Air Force Game Brings Out Loyal Classmates and a Glimmer of Hope

Our Colorado area '68 contingent made a good showing for the Army-Air Force game at Colorado Springs, as well as drew some out of towners, Locals included: **Mike & Becky Fellows**, **Mike & Janean Hart**, **Gary & Patti Halstead**, **Joe & Carla Henry**, **Chuck & Gayle Jones**, **Less & Cindy Krohnfeldt**, **Dick & Paulette Steiner**, **Larry & Tamara Stevenson**, **Bob & Lyne Uhler**, and **Robby & Lynn Robinson**. Out of towners consisted of: **Jack & Marilyn Bussa** from Janesville, Wisconsin, **Bill & Lisa Easton** from Saint Petersburg, Florida, **Bill Flowers** from Moraga, California, **Kim & Rachel Hinningsen** from Jefferson, South Dakota, **Tom & Gretchen Jewell**, from Haganan, New York, **Jim Kimball** from Chattanooga, Tennessee, **Ed & Molly Lorentzen** from Cedar Park, Texas, **Dave & Susan Ohle** from Falls Church, Virginia, **Paul & Kathleen Ptasnic** from Shawnee, Kansas, **Larry & Barbara Rapisarda** from Middletown, New Jersey, **Bob & Carol Shimp** from Houston, Texas, and **Tom & Sheryl Vollrath** from Jeffersonton, Virginia. There was a rumor that **Jack & Bobbie Munson** had also attended the game but they were in Colorado to visit their daughter who is the current Vice Chief of Staff at NORTHCOM. The tailgate – conducted before and after the surprise Army win – provided time to catch up, fist bump, and celebrate with classmates, and interact with our affiliation class of 2018.

Fred Hoblit Shares Photos of His Brother's Memorial Service

Fred Hoblit started a flood of photos from his brother, Jerry's, memorial lunch that he & **Nancy** hosted at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. Fred credits his niece, Heidi, as pivotal for the Arlington Burial details. The family suspects Jerry is one of – if not the most – decorated USMA '58 grads (Air Force Cross; 4 Silver Stars; and all the service related medals awarded to an O-6). Arlington Cemetery included an F-16 Missing Man fly over plus “a nickel on the grass” toast by an F-105 Wild Weasel retired brigadier retired pilot. All in attendance doubt that that type of tradition is no longer favorably looked upon by today's leadership.



Fred Hoblit flanked by his sons Noel & Brian and grandson Zach at the Army Navy Country Club lunch in honor of Fred's brother, Jerry ('58)

Hoblit family and Fred's brother's Jerry at Arlington National Cemetery



Army-Navy Game

Skip Greeby wrote to inform us that our class was well represented at this year's Army/Navy game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. **Lyle Pirnie** backed him up by adding that he and **Bill Bachman** and their brides also tagged along. In addition to the photo of the motley crew that both guys submitted, **Dave Ohle** and family sat nearby



Skip Greeby, Bill Bachman, and Lyle Pirnie braving the cold



Gretchen and her hubby Tom Jewell are always there to cheer on the Army Team

Skip didn't mention that **Dale & Joyce Hansen** and **Dave & Suzanne Martin** were also present as part of the AOG contingent, as were **Tom & Gretchen Jewell**. Skip related that, after the Army goal stop at the 1" line, heart resuscitation

paddles were put away, and nerves were soothed and resoothed with cocktails before and after. After all these years, this game still has meaning, if not now only for bragging rights. In our day, it was a fallout 'til Christmas. Now that the Plebe System is history, not sure what anybody gets with the Army victory.



Dale & Joyce Hansen in a warmer area of the Foxborough stadium

Lyle reflected that we graduated from West Point over 55 years ago but the fire hasn't gone out. He also shared that, Dan Shaughnessy, a well-known Boston sports writer, ran a column after the game stating that the game was great – even though it wasn't an "Alabama class" football game. Dan received a lot of criticism for praising a lousy game. To whomever criticized the game: Eat it! You've never done anything for anyone but yourself, and have no idea what service above self means. Amen Lyle. Whatever, we'll take the Army defense victory!



A long time Army fan & Dave Martin enjoying an Army win

Mike & Kathy Grygiel ventured out from their home in Richland, Washington to share in the fellowship of the game in Foxborough with their Navy second classman grandson and the whole East Coast family.



Kathy & Mike Grygiel wondering why their grandson is smiling

Classmate Families

This has been a big year for catching up – while the Scribe has fallen behind. Outfits like Shutterfly and Simplytoimpress certainly have done well and Christmas letters take on a Facebook and Lake Wobegon theme "...where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average. Sadly, for far too many, this has become a season of firsts – on which we would rather not reflect. So, for your viewing pleasure...



Gwynne & Dan Taylor with their sons and sons' families enjoying all of the best of North Carolina



Here's the 2023 edition of what Mary-Lou & Elwood Cobey produced

John Cruden continues the joy of traveling with his family



Walt & Kay Curl with their family at Shaker Village in Kentucky over 2023 Thanksgiving – all getting bigger – and older

The 2023 ever-changing Jack & Bobbie Munson clan



The always traveling Janet & Charlie Lieb with Massimo, Valentina, and William

Lisa Greenberg Delivers a Concise Year in Review

Jim Greenberg's bride, **Lisa**, created one of the most concise (for a Scribe) holiday letters I can remember. They began 2023 with a trip to California to see their cutest two-year old granddaughter ever and returned to Maryland to tend their chickens, honeybees, garden, and volunteer by setting up refugee apartments, teaching reading, and managing supplies for a food pantry. Jim met up with many friends at his 55th West Point reunion who passed on to the Greenbergs their cases of Covid, and they sold Jim's cherished sailboat-*Pura Vida*. In the last half of 2023 they spent three weeks in Ireland and Scotland and attended a Greenberg family wedding (another Greenberg woman lost to the Scots!). A month was spent in East Africa and three weeks in California. They visited the operating sites of Biochar Life in Kenya, Malawi, and Tanzania (Jim is Chairman; <https://biochar.life/>) and thanked the Carmelite Order of Nuns for their help in training and managing small farmers in making and using biochar. In Tanzania they not only saw thousands of wild animals but were inducted as honorary members of the Hadza hunter gatherer tribe. Jim hit the target with the tribe's hand made bows & arrows (one female and one male) and Lisa was a champion balloon rider over the Serengeti. Then they were off to California for Thanksgiving where their granddaughter had become even cuter and had learned to

talk and sing. I'd like to share some of the photos but I could not figure out how to copy and paste those that they passed along.

Jack & Meg Miller Tie for First Place

Jack Miller reported that he & **Meg** tied for first place in their 2nd Annual Christmas T-shirt contest. For clarity, Jack added that it was a dry T-shirt contest, not a wet one. Jack indicated that he had been randomly gifting family members with T-shirts containing capricious quotes for several years. Then, last year, he decided to get with Santa and ensure all family members received a T-shirt either keyed to each one's personality or containing a politically non-correct expression of the day. This year, he repeated the same collaboration with Santa except that he arranged to announce a winner. Jack admitted that sometimes it is best not to rock the boat too hard, hence the tie. Apparently, nepotism is alive and well in the Miller household. He said that he is



planning to continue the tradition next year, has already has picked the winning T-shirt, and hopes that Santa will arrange to have it gifted to...well, we all know who....

It appears that someone in this photo is contemplating sudden death rather than a tie for first. BTW, you're not going blind... Jack's shirt says "Before we work on Artificial Intelligence why don't we do something about Natural Stupidity"

Rick Wright Recounts the Year

In his Christmas Letter, **Rick Wright** echoed the retirement axiom that he is so busy that he doesn't know how he ever worked at a job. It's because he's having so much fun doing stuff that he wasn't able to do while working. Part of that stuff was to become a member of his Army Residence Community's Board of Directors. As part of his community, he also helps build ramps for handicapped people in San Antonio that need access to and from their homes. In addition to visiting family and friends around the USA, he was also involved in stimulating traveling like going on a three-week African safari in Kenya and Tanzania where he saw thousands of wild animals and became immersed in local village life and activities. Later on, he took a Grand Circle River Cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna and a pre-excursion to Bruges, Belgium.

More News From Donna Lee's Grave-side Service at West Point

In the past, two class brides (**Donna Lee** and **Carol Shimp**) set their family Holiday Letters to rhyme. This year, **Dwight Lee** kept up the tradition; however, the lone signature – Dwight – on both card and letter was a stark reminder. **Jim & Lucille Swinney's** Holiday Letter added more realism by recounting Donna's service at West Point and her Celebration of Life in the Thayer Hotel's MacArthur Restaurant and Patton's Tavern. Dwight & Donna's daughters planned for services at the West Point Cemetery in late September. It rained most of the time the Swinneys were there but cleared just in time for the brief service before the rain returned (hence the Celebration of Life at the Thayer). The Swinneys also gave a shout-out to **Bill & Clare Barkovic** for opening their hotel/quarters to the Swinneys for the weekend. On a separate issue – but still on the subject of giving and helping – Jim mentioned that he and Lucille helped Tony Whitlow (the Curator at the *Those Who Served War Museum* in Princeton, West Virginia) get The Veteran of the Week posting up on FaceBook for **Dave Sackett**. See <https://www.facebook.com/warmuseum.wv/>

Shimps and Shipleys Have Spent a Lot of Time With Each Other

Dick Shipley and **Bob Shimp** didn't know each other while we were cadets – they were from different parts of the country, in different regiments, but shared an interest in pushing the “system”. The closest they ever were together was in our *Howitzer*. Later on, Dick was an infantry aviator and (even later) an Army dentist while Bob was a Field Artillery aviator (but they flew different aircraft) and opted for other pastures. They both married wonderful, giving, caring, and supportive women. Even later, both couples followed a lifetime of service. Bob retired as Associate Director at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and he and **Carol** opened their homes (they had four in Houston) to folks who needed a place to crash while undergoing treatment at M.D. Anderson. Dick was diagnosed with cancer. The class telegraph went to work and Bob & Carol met Dick & **Kathy**. As decades have passed, they found more areas in common. The guys liked to gamble, they all liked wine, and they all are very giving. This last year alone, they were part of the “Bordeaux 12,” (six classmate couples celebrating their 55th wedding anniversaries on a Viking tour in France) and attended our 55th reunion while sharing a rental car and B&B in Hyde Park, dine at the Culinary Institute of America, and attend *A Beautiful Noise*, on Broadway (all with the Shipleys). Bob & Carol also visited the Shipleys at their Washington compound.

Dick & Kathy stayed with the Shimps during Dick's MDA treatments. Bob & Carol later joined Dick & Kathy at their home in San Antonio for New Years 2024. During this time, these two couples have grown together and it has been a complete pleasure and honor to watch them interact – always living above the common level of life and continuing their lifetime of service.

Kathy Shipley, Carol & Bob Shimp, and Dick Shipley on the River Walk in San Antonio as part of 2023/4 New Years celebration



Dick Shipley with his newly acquired pet Cobra

Andy Shaffer Picks up on Christmases Past

Andy Shaffer's bride, **Betty**, relates that since Andy was in high school he loved music. He played the banjo, the guitar and the mandolin. He even had the opportunity to play once with the forerunner to the group that became the Mamas and the Papas. He was crazy about folk music. He brought his six-string guitar with him to West Point and played it for fall-outs on steak nights. He dreamed of owning a twelve-string guitar, so he sold his six-string and banjo to other cadets and combined what he got for them with savings to buy his "perfect" guitar – a Goya twelve-string. He named it Judy, for Judy Collins. Betty remembered Andy sitting in her grandparents' kitchen in Austin, Texas and serenading her grandmother as she would prepare Christmas dinners. When Andy & Betty were married, they were definitely "Army Poor" and there wasn't any extra money for entertainment other than Andy and Judy music. When Andy was transferred from Ft Belvoir West Point, they were stunned with the painful truth that the stereo equipment that Andy had bought in Vietnam and Judy did not make the household goods trip. In later years, when they had a bit of expendable income, Betty would ask Andy if he could get a replacement, but he had been so devastated at the loss of Judy that he just seemed to have lost the

desire to play. So the last time that he had played music was in 1976. Fast forward to this year when the Shaffers participated in The Texas Size Garage Sale – one of the major fundraisers for Meals on Wheels. A couple of weeks before the sale, the board



members were invited to go and shop the pre-sale and Andy found a guitar that had a broken bridge that he could fix. Fixing and playing the guitar reignited a flame that grew into a motivator to seek out another twelve-string. When Betty learned of Andy’s hunt, she told him that that the best Christmas present for her would be for him to get the guitar. It has been over 40 years since he has even touched a guitar. Her name is... rightfully enough... Judy II and the music in the house has transitioned from Christmas Carols to folk rock. Fall out, Andy. Take big bites.

Andy Shaffer rekindling a past passion

Pat Jonas – Still in Transition and Still Serving

Pat Jonas announced on Facebook that he was vacating his in office based Family Medicine after 44 ½ years. He admitted that he loved being a Family Physician and is looking forward to a career shift to start five practices of other Direct Primary Care Physicians. He will continue at Open Arms Free Clinic while he’s writing a book, and he’ll also resume his podcast as Dr Synonymous. He’ll continue doing Telehealth visits, make a few house calls, and continue to follow a few patients for COVID related problems, Low-dose Naltrexone (LDN) prescribing, Plasmalogen and Prodrome Lab Reviews until the end of February. On his “last day” in Family Medicine, he pondered the joy felt through all the years and all the patients (over 250.000 encounters in office, bedside, training-room, sideline and home) as he finished with his last home visit.



The beloved Dr. Jonas & Family