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CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

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Although fall is upon us, one reflects on the receding summer and takes note how advancing age, which recedes not, seems to tolerate less and less the sticky, humid weather. We are happy to be able to escape the mid-Atlantic area, although with no air conditioning here, when the sea breezes poop out, we are not that happy. This has been a tough summer for us with the death in Richmond VA, in July of our eldest son, Kitt, whom many of you knew, from a long term brain tumor. He was tough and uncomplaining...a strong believer... and lived 4 and a half largely productive years, when the medical profession offered him less than a year. He had a fine Navy career, nuclear subs and back-to-back tours at Pearl Harbor, staying in the reserves after 7 years of active duty, and retiring as a Captain, USNR (Supply Corps), coming from UVa NROTC, 74. We are grateful for the many kind words and prayers we have received.

This column finds me with almost no input at all. Not to worry, next month I will complain about not enough space.

Shipmate does provide a good and lively encounter with the goings on in the Yard. The financial prowess of the Alumni Association and Foundation are well covered, and the Supe's endeavors as well. So, I am relieved of adding to all

of that. There is a lot on email from those organizations, so that those on line probably get more than they need.

Speaking of our email list, **Dick Scott** just came in with this item, which I consider newsworthy, as it is such a rarity.

“**Tom Alexander** and I recently had conversations with newly surfaced Classmate, **Cecil Duffee**, now living in Georgia with his lovely wife, Martha, who is most anxious to be included in Class communications. Duff’s home address is 14 Bon Air Lane, Carrollton, GA 30117, cduffee@earthlink.net. He and Martha are planning to attend the San Diego reunion. You’ll remember Cecil as a budding football star who was stumbled with a leg injury, causing his resignation Second Class Year. He lived with **Doug Lawler** back then. He hasn’t been in touch with many Classmates since then, and is craving to get back into the circuit.”

This encounter brings to mind a lot of fine Classmates who departed Youngster or Second Class year. I sometimes wonder what happened to some of them. One of these days I might find the knowhow to plumb the internet and see what might pop up with specific names.

In the July/August column I wrote of a conversation with **Bobbi Bendel**, Ben’s widow, in which she provided a new address. At the time I prepared the column, I recall trying to read my writing taken while on the phone to Bobbi, and deciding what I thought was the street name looked funny. I tried to call her, but was unsuccessful and I had run out of time. So, I went with my hunch. It was

wrong. She called me last night. Please refer to that column and correct her address to 720 Manzanita St, Carlsbad, CA. (760-930-5060).

The West Coast Reunion, scheduled for Sunday May 14 through Wednesday May 17, 2006, needs more participants. The current acceptances are fewer than the Planning Committee are comfortable with. We can still take new folks, although the Registration date, 1 September 2005 has passed. See the Class Website at www.usna.com. You should all have received Chuck Gorder's letter sent in August. We are making phone calls to shake the tree. Contact **Charles F. Gorder** at 5526 Toyon Road, San Diego, CA 92115 (619-239-8700) or (619-287-3559).

Now with useful input pretty well exhausted, I entreat all Classmates to send me some copy. You remember back in grammar school, the first day back in the fall, the teacher asked everyone to stand and tell what they did during the summer, or maybe required a composition be written. This time, send it along to me by email or USMail. I accept phone calls. Some of you have been reading this column for many years and I have yet to hear from you...Beat Army!