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CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

NOVEMBER 2005

This column marks the return of the Moores to winter quarters, Alexandria, VA, so please use the above address and telephone number through May 2006, all things being equal. Email remains the same.

Bob Bonnell writes from Baltimore (where else?), extolling the virtues of the retirement community he and Barbara have joined, Roland Park Place. He provides a story from a retirement magazine which gives an upbeat peek at Roland PP, including a photo of himself. He goes on: "For your records we, at the latest count, have 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren, spread from California to Baltimore and all in good health. Barbara and I are having a ball. In the last year she retired from four boards on which she served for 23, 25, 34, and 43 years. She now serves as an officer on only 3 boards. What a gal!" Bob, as head of a group of retired executives, works on improving Baltimore high school graduation rates. Otherwise he is on the golf course and hits 90,000 practice shots a year. They don't give his handicap.

Jim Ward, from Santa Rosa, CA, updated me on **John McMahon**, also of Santa Rosa, who has suffered from cancer over a long period, and is now in hospice care at home. I spoke with Mac a couple of days ago on the phone, and he retains his keen sense of humor, always a trademark. An old friend, we were

in the 20th Company, where he was forever relaxed and viewed the fun side of life. We wish him and Betty, Godspeed. They have four children, John in Kauai, Michael in Naples, Paul in Sparks, NV, and Patricia in Scotts Valley.

Daniel K. Bloomfield (20th Company) died 12 September 2005. Dan lived in Champaign, IL, and was the founding Dean of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease. He had a brilliant career in medicine. Having injured his knee just before graduation, he was delayed reporting to his destroyer, where he served 3 years before resigning and pushing on to 4 years of med school, 3 years of residency at the Harvard hospitals, a 2 year post-doc fellowship at Harvard, and a second post-doc in London. He did a lot of doctoring and teaching, and documented his 14 years as Dean in a 1300 page book. He stepped down as Dean in 1984 and remained a professor until retirement in 1996. His wife, Franny, predeceased him. They had 3 children and 7 grandchildren. His comment from our 50 year book: "In summarizing the 50 years from 1947, I found there was life after the Navy, a lot of it."

Bill Reed writes of the annual 18th Company (48A) reunion with wives in August, this time at **Joe Shoemaker's** in Denver. The group enjoyed 4 days of hospitality with Joe and Penny and their 4 talented children. One highlight was an evening of "punting" (in imported English punts) on Cherry Creek and the South Platte through central Denver in a park-like setting that Joe created as head of a local foundation. The accompanying picture shows, left to right, **Bob Jones**,

Gordon Meriwether, Dick Dempsey (partly hidden), **Joe Shoemaker, Bill Reed, Bill Clifford**, and Tom Dawson.

The DC Area Classmates first seasonal luncheon happened at the Army Navy Country Club, Friday 9 September. Jim Cheever, Curator of the Academy Museum, provided a riveting discourse covering a wide area. 55th Reunion folks will remember his talk on the history of the Academy. A great talk, chow, fellowship and drink were widely enjoyed by these couples: Fry, Deeley, Carruth, Villarreal, Cab Davis, Ghormley, Heid, Tony Duncan, Reed, O'Connor, Ball, and Rasmussen. Singles were Graham, Manganaro, Andrus, Sibert, Goldman, Corley, Welch, and widows Diana Keenan and Rosemary Hogg. Next luncheon on 11 November.

Don Behrens checked in with a new email address via his third computer. He says, "I took my first computer course in grad school (1956). TRW was building the first transistorized computer for the Air Force. I first earned my living designing special digital systems. Then I worked over 20 years at Aerospace Corp supporting the Air Force and CIA on reconnaissance satellites. At that time, most high ranking technical managers knew nothing about computers. You could tell by looking at their bookshelves. At the Academy I took Russian. At Aerospace, I took a noontime course from a technical Russian language supporter, a native Russian who survived as a German prisoner of war for 4 years. He had served as an interpreter for the CIA. I have traveled in Russia and China, but was restricted from entering those countries until 5 years after my retirement."

Pete Poteet's widow, Kitty, died in October 2003 in Ormond Beach FL. The information was received from their son, Alonzo III, by the Alumni Association, which was able to find an obituary on the internet. She was also survived by a daughter, Terri Hull of Dayton OH.

William Chester Brewer (2nd Company) of Jackson MS, died 14 August 2005. He entered the Academy via Woodberry Forest School, Orange VA, and the University of Virginia. He resigned after the Korean War and settled in Clarksdale MS where he was a founding member of the First National Bank of Clarksdale. He moved to Jackson in 1967, and summered in Woodstock, VT. He was active in various churches and was a skilled craftsman, making model ships and furniture. He is survived by his wife, Lillie, three sons and a daughter.

At this writing, our world is full of Katrina news and its accompanying distress. Efforts on my part to contact Classmates living in the area have been ineffective because of communications failure and the scattering of folks from their homes. Through Dave Carruth, I have contacted Helen and **Baylor Lansden**, who live in New Orleans and who evacuated early to a daughter in the Baton Rouge area along with 5 dogs and another family. Word that a tree had fallen on their house and admitted a lot of rain was a worry, but no flooding, and they were about to be allowed to return. We will be hoping to hear of other Gulf area Classmates soon.

Emma and **Jack Park** have headed south. As of September 20, they will have moved into a patio house at 5304 Fleet Landing Blvd, Atlantic Beach FL 32233, 904-241-5898, in the Fleet Landing continuing care community next to

the Mayport Naval Base on the coast 10 miles from Jax. Classmates welcome, they have a guest bedroom and bath. They plan to catch the Stanford game at Annapolis, and son, John, will drive them down and fly back. Emma says, "I'm looking forward to a new home, one floor vice 2, and maintenance free! We will miss Navy football with our dear friends, the Buhrers, and our wonderful Classmates." Jack adds, "Mixed emotions while leaving Ocean City and Navy football. We've seen every Army game but 2 since 1942. Emma says we can fly up for it, but I don't think so. We'll certainly think often about the Great 48."

Hey, Sunday 28 August saw Classmates splashing up to Carolyn and George Ball's Alexandria digs for the traditional 48 summer party. Things have slowed a bit. There were canes in evidence, no swimming, and most sat vice the normal KT party standing around. Not a lot of drinking although the keg was full, and unlike earlier days, right after supper people began leaving. No group singing (Rasmussens weren't there). As always, Carolyn and George's children, grandchildren, and friends carried the logistical load. On hand, having a whee of a time, were Heids, Geigers, Harkins, Reeds, Carruths, Gene Kellys, Conables, Buhrers, Cab Davis's, Tony Duncans, Shockeyes, Frys, and Balls, Grahams, and Ed Sutter.

Robert Van Horn (8th Company) of Des Moines, IA, died 23 August from a reoccurrence of cancer. Bob was in the V12 program at Iowa State, where he met his wife, Eileen, and moved on the the USNA. Graduating in 1947 he left the Navy, founding Van Horn Plastics in Des Moines in 1948, innovating plastic fabrication techniques, and continued to produce creative plastic products

over 50 years. He also founded Foam Molding Co., pioneering structural foam products and processes. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Tony Duncan provides a heads up with info he gathered from his usual varied sources. The Stadium renovation, second floor banquet facilities, etc, will include the Willis Bilderback-Dinty Moore Navy Lacrosse Hall of Fame. The **James Carrington** Room will display lacrosse photos, trophies and memorabilia representing the proud tradition of Navy Lacrosse. **Dick Scott** confirms all of this, pointing to a dedication some time in October. Well deserved, Jim.

George Wright, while sending in his revised email, notes. "I am still in Tuscaloosa AL, having retired after 34 years as US Bankruptcy Judge. My 3 daughters are giving me an 80th birthday party 15 October. Hurricanes Ivan, Cindy, Dennis, and Katrina have left me with trees down here, but a condo badly damaged at Perdido Key FL.

Similarly, **Tom Galbraith** confirms his email with, "All is well with Mary Ann and me. No major disabilities yet though I can talk the pill talk with the best of them. We are splitting our time randomly between Vero Beach and the Abacos, enjoying both places equally. This year's biggie was 3 weeks in Turkey, where I was Asst ALUSNA for 3 years in the mid-80s. Great trip, but could not believe the changes.

In the annual Annapolis 10-mile Run, 30 August, **John Fry** took the "Fastest Old Goat" award for the second year, having shared the distinction last year with **Ben Moore**. See photo.

Although a full column precludes many photos. We will try to squeeze some Carruth pics from lunch and splash.