

CDR SUMNER K. MOORE, USN(ret)
308 MANSION DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302
703-549-8739
sk48moore@aol.com

CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

DECEMBER 2005

This year is hastening away and I will not spend any words here in the front of the column, except to remark that it has not been a standard year, if there is such a thing.

Let's start with an update on the San Diego Reunion, Sunday May 14 through Wednesday May 17, 2006. It has been moved to the Hilton Harbor Island Hotel, waterfront with fabulous views, since the US Grant Hotel will not have completed its renovations in time. The good news is that the new venue offers lower room rates and more competitive prices for our food and beverages. Over 100 people have signed up so far and attendees names are posted on our website www.usna.com/classes/1948 along with needed information. We hope that the new location and lower price will encourage "fence sitters" to join the fun. Reservations remain open until 1 March 1006. Call **Chuck Gorder** (619-287-3559) or gorder2@cox.net.

The Gorders reported attending the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of Fran and **George Goodwin** in Santa Fe on 10 September. Photo shows the Goodwins cutting the cake with George's original navy sword used at the wedding in 1955.

Natalie and **Keith O'Keefe** post a new address having just moved into the Air Force senior citizen spread at 9002 Belvoir Woods Pkwy, Williams East #109, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, 703-781-4540.

I have no details, but I feel you should know that **Carlos Villarreal's** younger son, David, died in Winchester, VA, as a result of a tragic motorcycle accident on 7 October 2005. I am sure all hands join me in lamenting with June and Carlos their terrible loss.

I have this from **John McMahon's** son, Michael. "I am saddened to report the passing of my father on 29 September 2005 at home in Santa Rosa, CA. He retired from the Navy in 1951 after an automobile accident. He met my mother, Elizabeth (Betty), an ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps during his hospitalization. He spent the balance of his professional career in the defense industry with GE's Missile and Space Division, initially in Philadelphia and later at Lockheed's Sunnyvale CA facility. He is survived by Betty and four children, John III, Michael, Paul, and Patricia, and four grandchildren. His remains will be inurned at the Naval Academy Columbarium. The McMahons settled in Santa Rosa in 1986 where they enjoyed the wine country lifestyle with many friends from the Bay Area. John was a regular golfer at Oakmont and enjoyed wine tasting, travel and fishing.

Hal Jesse (CDR Harold W., 1st Company) died 27 September 2005 in Lebanon, NH, of heart failure. An aviator, he earned an MS in Electrical Engineering at PG School and was a pioneer of airborne electronics. After retirement from the Navy, he lived in Amherst NH for 28 years and was co-

founder of TME, Inc, of Hudson NH. His first wife, Alice, died in 1997, and Hal moved to Jekyll island GA, where they had often vacationed. In 1999 he married Helen Daigle of Keene. He had a lifelong passion for contract bridge and cribbage and became an avid golfer, belonging to the Nashua Country Club, Jekyll Island Golf Club, and Hooper Golf Club, Walpole. He left his wife, three sons, and nine grandchildren.

Ah the wrinkles of advancing age. Bill Bartow reports that he has installed in his and Peggy's town house in Old Town Alexandria VA, one of those nifty chair lifts that cranks up and down the stairs, so as to ease their transport upstairs and downstairs.

Here is a tale from **Jim Welsh** who lives in Pau, France.

“One might wonder how an American residing abroad may pass a special evening far from his country. Voila! A unique experience. In Pau on 1 September, my 80th, my lovely wife, Claude surrounded me with the stars and stripes and 50 highly valued French, English, and Canadian friends in a banquet hall where all hands were treated to a sumptuous buffet complete with American wine, champagne, dance music from a spanking new hi-fi unit, and a cheerful folk songfest provided live by a prominent ensemble from the French Southwest. Recalling my younger days, Claude established the US Navy as the theme. Each of the tables bore the name of a ship in which I had served as a midshipman or junior officer. At the center of each table stood American and French flags on staffs anchored in a big red apple, representing the city of my birth. My table was USS Salem, marking some of the best years of my life. The festivities began

when I entered the blackened hall followed by a burst of lights and the traditional “Happy Birthday”. Anticipation of a quiet evening for 2 had thus been disallowed.”

On 2 October 2005, **Gene Spalding** (Capt Joseph Eugene, USN(SC), 16th Company) passed away in Ft. Myers FL of complications from diabetes and congestive heart failure. Coming out of Hiawatha, Kansas, via U of Wisconsin and Kansas State, he joined the Class of 48, graduating in 47. He served in a variety of Supply tours, including shipboard in Piedmont (AD17), Duncan (DDR874), Castor (AKS1) and Supply Officer in Saratoga (CVA60). Ashore, he served in many locations, San Diego, Pusan Korea, Long Beach, Hastings NE, Sigonella Sicily, Brunswick ME, Norfolk, his final tour was Director, Material Management Division, NAVAIRSYSCOM, Arlington, VA. Retiring in '75, he worked for VSE Corp in Alexandria for 9 years. Gene was a fixture in the beltway bandit gang of the time as well as the Army Navy Country Club. His first wife, Julie, passed away in '83. They had two sons, Chief Radioman USN Brian Spalding and CDR Bruce Spalding USN, '73, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Gene always gave the impression that he was quietly enjoying life to the fullest. A great sense of humor and a slow breaking smile and chuckle were characteristic.

As you will see **John Fry** is both lucky and photogenic. Mid February last year he and Toni were at their winter digs in Palm Springs and John was at the local high school track training for a half marathon. On hand were the HS cheer leaders all decked out for a photo op. Noticing the handsome runner, they invited

him to pose for a photo with them and the result is fine, although better in full color and size.

Paul Early reports that **Jim Gildard** has moved to an assisted living facility in Chapel Hill NC. After a major stroke in March, he has progressed from top-notch therapy and care at the UNC Hospital into assisted living at Carolina House, which is gorgeous and homey, just a few blocks from son, Rick's house. He is receptive to phone and mail at Carolina House #302, 100 Lanark Rd, Chapel Hill NC 27517, (919-370-7749). Paul reports further that he and Vi continue to have a good time traveling and seeing family. They don't see many Navy people any more, but are quite comfortable about 10 miles from the sea, on high ground. Bridge tolls are becoming fierce. They are still in their old house in Manhasset NY.

I just heard from **Jim Ward**, that **Larry Marsolais**, Capt Lawrence D., 19th Company, died on 3 October 2005 in Australia from a heart attack while on a trip with his wife. There is no detail available at the moment, Jim having heard from Larry's son. Larry was 82, was in the 10th Company plebe year, a big redhead who seemed to know his way around and was not bluffed by the upperclass.

Beth and **Jack Bowers** write with a great photo from Myrtle Beach SC taken on their 50th wedding anniversary. Life has certainly agreed with them!

Before I close out, here is a mid-October update on Jane and me. Our summer started coming apart at the seams early on, but September 19 it took on a severe twist with the emergency implant of a heart pacemaker on that Monday morning, following a series of passing-out on my part, through the summer, but

culminating that day with a bunch of 'em. Anyway, emergency room, fast implant operation, a couple of days in the Newport Hospital, and a urinary tract infection picked up therein. I am still recuperating from all of that with low energy level, and a catheter I will have to keep until some fix is executed back in Alexandria. My usual end-of-summer swims in the ocean, which stays warmer than the air, have ended prematurely.

A late note from the Gorders and the Reunion. They attended a black-tie event at the new reunion hotel, October 15, and checked out the orchestra and ball room where we will be, and were delighted with the music and ambience. "We left the hotel around 9:15, 60 degrees, a little nippy for San Diego; crossed the road with the wind in our hair, and looked across the harbor to the wonderful sights of downtown, the Coronado Bridge, North Island. We were excited and we live here! Come and join us at the reunion. You won't be sorry!"