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CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

APRIL 2006

There have been some rumblings centering around the Alumni Association Board of Trustees and the method of electing members of that august group, especially the Chairman. The nominations for trustees, the size of the Board, the composition as to the number of Chapter and Class Trustees, and the Regional Trustees, have been the subject of ongoing discussion, change, and some controversy over a several years. The inner workings of these things have been generally kept within the Board, its committees and general meetings. Within the last year, however, there has been a lot of noise, dissension, misconception, and email traffic, among a small group of Alumni, seeking to effect changes in these somewhat arcane processes. I am reminded of national politics around Washington within the Beltway and outside thereof. The vast bulk of Alumni are probably content to allow the system to roll ahead, knowing that in the end, the right Alumni will find their way to the Board, the work will be done, the money raised, and Shipmate will be published. Having attended biannual Trustee meetings and Class Presidents meetings for many years on your behalf, I am of that opinion.

Ken Wilson checks in saying that he and Shirley are ensconced in the Crosslands CCRC (part of Kendal Corp.) in Kennett Square PA most of the year,

but also spend some time at their 160 year old Vermont retreat in the summer, and at a Stuart FL time-share for 5 weeks late Feb and March. So they keep on the go and plan to continue for a few years yet. Randy and Josie Zelov live nearby in PA and keep in touch. He and Ken went to the same high school nearby, as well as being Classmates at Navy.

Bill Doddy asks that I pass along to you that his wife, Kay, passed away on 30 January 2006 after a yearlong fight with cancer. Her remains were shipped to Antioch ILL for a funeral mass and interment on 7 February. I join with Classmates and friends in expressing our sincere sympathies to Bill on his great loss.

The Shipmate folks have found through social security numbers via an organization devoted to such things, the fact that **Benjamin Gilchrist Allen** (21st Company) died on 3 March 2004 in Jacksonville FL. He was survived by his wife, Dorothy, a son and daughter, and 2 grandchildren. After retiring on 20, Ben worked for the State 17 years. He was an avid golfer and fisherman with a unique interpretation of sporting rules and gamesmanship. He was known as a fun loving, gentle, and endearing man who could always make sport of any situation.

We have recently fielded lists of Classmates whose email addresses are missing or just plain wrong, and have had some answers. **Ben Conroy** replies as “resident curmudgeon” in pen and ink that he is sorry to be among the missing, but he does not have EMAIL. Otherwise he is in good health and fair spirits, using 37 cent stamps.

Frank Manganaro's son, Bill ('73), sends a rescue email from Issaquah WA after noting his Dad's name on our email delinquent list. He updates us stating that Frank and Carol moved to Ginger Cove in Annapolis (retirement center) from Sun City FL after some 15 years there. He retired in 1980 as Vice Commander Naval Sea Systems Command, and became VP for admin and safety for General Public Utility Nuclear. Both are doing well and enjoy the unencumbered living. Carol travels whenever she can with help from second son John ('82) who flies for American Airlines. Daughter, Linda, lives in Annapolis with husband, Jim Rodrock ('83), and owns Great Harvest Bread Co. there. Daughter, Mary, lives just outside London with husband James Adkins ('85). Frank's troops are obviously Navy. I note that local Classmates are aware of the Manganaro Annapolis digs, and that Frank and Carol have done a luncheon or two, but we appreciate son, Bill's concern.

Walt Spangenberg reports that he discovered in October that **Peter Duncan** (13th Company) had passed away on 19 August 2005. We seem to have no further information, although the Register shows him in San Diego.

I am sad to report that **Robert W. Crouter** (14th Company) died 27 January 2006 from congestive heart failure in Charlottesville, VA. His son, Mark, reports that in keeping with Bob's wishes there was no memorial service, and that his ashes would be buried at sea, preferably from a submarine. Mark notes that his father's association with the Naval Academy and his Classmates was a point of honor and pride. Bob was a navy junior (his Dad was '20). He entered the Class having attended Yale, graduated in 1947 and became a submariner as

soon as possible. He served in the submarines Threadfin, Raton, Corsair, Bluefish, Tusk, Spikefish, and as CO of Sea Cat. He was naval attaché in Santiago, Chile, served with the Navy's RDT&E Command Key West. His last tour was Director of Undersea Intelligence for ONI. Retiring in '67, Bob settled in Amherst NH where he supported numerous environmental, historic, and open-space preservation organizations, and was an avid traveler. In 1990, Bob received a heart transplant at the UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville VA, and he was one of the oldest surviving heart transplant patients. He leaves his second wife, Alyce of 33 years, and four children by his first wife, Margaret, who died of cancer in 1970.

On 27 September 1987, almost 20 years ago, the Class dedicated the Class of 1948 Memorial Gate, which enhanced the old Gate One area, and has been a highly successful improvement to what has become the main gate entrance to the USNA. Phil Rogers reports that in the last 3 or so years, the need to improve security in the Yard and improve flood protection after 2003's disastrous storm, *Isabel*, have dictated some extensive physical changes, and that Gate One especially has suffered ongoing changes which have altered drastically our carefully planned and executed gift to the Academy. At present, the walks are torn up, all our benches, pedestal, and associated material reside across the Severn in storage. Phil has provided a comprehensive report, including an article from the local paper, showing a plan of the projected gate area, which will be on the Class Website by the time you read this. Give it a look.

Phil Rogers has been keeping an eye on the gate since 1987 with a practiced eye, maintaining communications with Public Works, Supe's Office, Alumni Association, contractors, etc., maintaining a Class protective position, given that we have no funds dedicated to or responsibility for maintenance of the gate area. He has been able to maintain a firm Class position, primarily by being persistent and nose. He has worried this problem along, I'm sure, to good effect. In his own words, "I deeply regret that it was not possible to salvage more of our original design. Every Classmate had hoped that our gate would be a lasting tribute to the ingenuity and generosity of 48. One plus is that the two large swinging wrought iron gates rebuilt by 48, will remain, as will the two bronze Academy crests Bill Wagner created and placed on the gates in 1986."

Well, so much for progress, which for us older goats includes unwelcome change, especially the passing of Classmates, old friends, and kinfolk. Meanwhile, keep me up to date with all the good news, too.