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CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

JUNE/JULY 2006

The issues this year have been switched by the SHIPMATE staff for arcane reasons, such that this is a June-July issue with an August issue to follow, rather than the usual double July-August issue following a single June issue. Of much more import is the fact that Jane and I have switched north to the summer quarters and for all communication with us use the above Portsmouth RI address and phone until 1 November 2006.

As this is written, the San Diego Class Reunion, the 58th, is under full sail. Jane and I were signed up and everything laid on for the trip out and back, finally using some of those frequent flyer miles garnered for so long, but we had to cancel due to Jane's gouty arthritis acting up. The Reunion will be a banner affair, organized and engineered by Rhona and **Chuck Gorder**, with the help of a sturdy committee of Classmates. The Moores are sorely disappointed not to be there. I hope to have some detail for the next column, and **Dave Carruth** will surely bring back some pictures.

Navy baseball, never the headliner football, lacrosse, and some of the other notable sports are, has always had the faithful support of those who played the game at

Navy. They have stuck together and have over the years managed to gather from time to time. This year, in honor of the baseball coach of our era, Max Bishop, for whom the newly improved and renovated Navy baseball stadium is named, a baseball reunion was organized, and an attempt was made to gather the team captains of the era and as many players as could be dug out. Our **Andy Frahler**, **Jack Gaffigan**, **AG Wellons**, and **Jim Callahan** made it. Pitcher, **Ron Burton**, who has been on the Class long-lost list, was actually located living in Fairfield CT, by Ed Sutter's daughter by probing the internet. Ronny is glad to be among the living again, but could not make the party. The big Saturday event, a double-header with Army, with Andy as team captain in '47 and '48, throwing out the first ball, was thoroughly rained out, but they went on to a splendid banquet in Alumni Hall. Sunday, Army and Navy moved to the Baltimore Camden Yards stadium, and played a double-header. The pre-designated for the record Army-Navy game unfortunately was taken by Army. That night, there was another dinner at the Navy Football stadium in the new **Jim Carrington** room, which is the site of the Lacrosse Hall of Fame, dedicated this Spring. Andy reports that space is wonderful, and worth a visit.

The April 18 inurnment at the USNA Columbarium of **Herb Kline**, who died 11 March (see the April column), is reported by **Bob Styer**. It was an impressive service attended by herb's wife, Patricia, family, friends and Classmates, followed by lunch at the Officers Club with camaraderie, toasts and speeches. Bob and Herb were roommates for four years and close friends. Bob says his short speech went through 62 years of circling the globe with our paths frequently crossing from Japan to Hawaii,

California, Texas, Florida and several encounters in Europe and the Med, and up and down the East Coast.

We are most sad to report the death of **Ellis M. Zacharias, Jr.** (10th Company) on 17 April 2006 in Tulsa, OK. A navy junior, son of a 1912 rear admiral, with a brother, Jerry, Class of 52, Zach's family moved about from California to the Philippines and Hawaii. He graduated in 48 and served in USS Missouri off Korea, opting for subs and serving in Redfish. He resigned a few years out and spent the next 20 years in New Jersey, picking up a masters at Stevens Institute of Technology and working for Bell Telephone Labs. He held 19 patents, none of which matured into marketable products. 1975 saw the Zachariases settling in Tulsa where they remained. He spent 35 years in ultrasonics, leading a number of companies. Ellis was a fanatic photographer, being named one of the top 25 amateur photographers in North America by the Photographic Society of America. He frequently traveled about the country showing fotos and speaking on photography. He lent his boundless energy to many worthy organizations and activities in the Tulsa community. He is survived by his second wife, Patsy, 3 sons, and 4 grandchildren. He supported the Tulsa chapter of the Alumni Association. He will be missed.

Over the years, **Ed Meyers** has not hesitated to switch home sites as the need suggests, in the last few years leaving Block Island RI, where he holds cemetery plot, to Sanibel, and now, closer to family, back north to 14 Liberty Dr., Mansfield Center CT 06250. He and Lois, after 58 years of marriage, have 3 daughters, with advanced degrees. Of the grandchildren, 4 men range from 6'2" to 6'7". They also have at least 5 great grandchildren. The Meyers plan lots more travel.

On 28 April, a large family contingent from California and the East Coast gathered at the Academy Columbarium for the inurnment of the remains of John R. McMahon, Jr. Included were a brother and sister, children, grandchildren and close friends. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon at the Alumni House.

I am sad to note that **Bob Hemmes** (6th Company) died 21 March 2006 in Menlo Park CA. Bob although smart and educated, was basically light-hearted. Classmate **J.B. Ferris** notes that Bob was not only a connoisseur of the grape, but was one of the more non-reg Classmates 6 decades ago. JB says, "I write as one of the small group of (USNA) oenologists who made the wine in an old pickle barrel." Bob joined the US Department of Transportation when **Jim Beggs** was Secretary under President Nixon and **Carlos Villarreal** was Director of Urban Mass Transportation. I excerpt an obituary by the San Francisco Chronicle for interesting details. Bob's 20 years in the Government included a stint with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to Carlos, while with DOT Bob accomplished more in four years for transportation than any previous R&D administrator, using advanced technology. After the USNA, Bob took a master's from MIT and a doctorate from Stanford. His fields of interest included industrial engineering, fluid dynamics, programming, budgeting, and decision making. These fields he taught at George Washington and Stanford. His wife, Adelaide, remarked that someone who is really smart and funny attracts a lot of people, and that she came along at the right time. He is survived by Adelaide; daughters Linda Griffith of LA, and Keira Alexandra of Brooklyn; son, Robert, Junior, of Baltimore, and 2 grandsons.

Bob Slater ruminates from Charleston about South Carolina license plates, where they now have one for WWII vets. Wanting to apply, he thought back to 1948 when he tried to apply for the Ohio WWII bonus (\$5 a month for domestic service, \$10 for overseas service). He goes on: "I applied on the basis of my USNA time. The only sticky issue was that they asked for my service number. I gave them my file number, but they turned me down, saying that the file number was not issued until 1947, and they were exactly right. The only number we had at the USNA was our laundry number, so I reapplied using that, and was promptly approved. That \$65 or \$70 bonus was really welcome, as it just about doubled our net worth! I always wondered whose file number was 1710. He probably graduated about 1870 or so. When I told my wife, Claire, I was going to apply for one of those WWII licence plates, she had only one question. Did I remember by laundry number?"

Bob finally took his USNA Association register and showed the state DMV officials his entry therein, and they gave him the benefit of the doubt. At least it appeared authentic.

Well, the Washington area Classmates May luncheon fielded on the 12th at the Army Navy Country Club. Our featured speaker, **Al Van Metre**, was due to expound on the upcoming Newport to Bermuda race, in which he was to participate, and about which he has a long historical background. Sadly, he was on the binnacle list and could not make it. So, the following folks enjoyed a nice day with sea stories and companionship, anointed with spirits and good chow. The next luncheon will be the second Friday in September, and Carolyn and George Ball will open house with the traditional Summer Splash Party the last Sunday in August. On hand with wives

were **Bill Reed, Ball, Buhner, Bartow, Deeley, Carruth, Cab Davis, Corley, Rasmussen, Beggs, O'Connor, Conable, and Tony Duncan.** Widows **Diana Keenan** and **Rosemary Hogg** were there. Singles were **Graham, Ghormley, Prichard, Morgan, S. Moore, Borlaug, Andrus, Ed Welch, Olson,** and **Nick Castruccio**, who was in town all the way from St. Croix, looking tan and fit. Anne, although with him could not make the lunch.

All hands received a letter from **Bob Ghormley** requesting tax-deductable donations for the Class fund which provides for flowers and memorials for departed Classmates, and also funds in support of the 24th Company USNA Wardroom at Bancroft Hall. Response has been OK, but not overwhelming. If you are delinquent, please send as check made out to "Class of 48 U.S.Naval Academy", and mail to CDR R. L. Ghormley, Jr, 5408 Christy Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816. Thanks.