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CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

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This turns out to be the mid-summer column but includes the great 58th Reunion held in mid-May, in San Diego, with we hope, a number of photos of that event.

During Graduation Week (June Week?) the first classmen (now “firsties”) of our own 24th Company scheduled a ribbon cutting opening of their newly renovated Wardroom, inviting firstie parents and members of 48 to the event. **Charlie Heid**, our 24th Company liaison, reports that guests were awed by the comfort, the décor, freshness and utility of the Wardroom. The Company Commander, Mid’n Eric Shuey, was proud to point out that the midships themselves had painted the space and installed the grey high-traffic carpet. 7 new black leather couches replaced the tattered cloth couches. Bulkhead decorations, including the huge numerals “48” with appropriately mounted photos from one of the 48 summer cruises make for a warm professional atmosphere. Charlie says that congratulations are in order to the Company, along with the Company Officer, Lt Oakes, and the Company CPO, Chief Coats. The Chief is retiring and he was presented with a commemorative plaque by the 24th Company. 48 is proud to have been able to assist the effort with a \$2400 gift. Charlie notes that

he was fatigued from climbing the stairs of the sixth wing since the elevator was down, and that **Ben Reams** widow, Nancy, showed up wearing Ben's athletic sweater sporting a huge 48 on the back.

All these fine midshipmen friends have graduated, and a new first class will be on deck in the fall, requiring us to get acquainted a new group, which is fun and a renewing challenge to which we look forward.

I am sad to report that **William A. Speer, JR** (13th Company) died 28 May 2006 at home. Bill and Catherine were scheduled to be at the San Diego reunion. Cancer of a particularly virulent variety believed associated with asbestos intervened. Bill entered 48 from the Fleet and went into the Supply Corps. He went to sea in ALBANY (CA 123), GEARING (DD710), KITTY HAWK (CVA 63), earned a masters from Stanford, and performed a variety of shore duties at Annapolis, Pearl Harbor, Las Vegas, Point Mugu, and DOD, Washington. Retiring in '67, Bill worked for LTV in Dallas for 25 years. Bill leaves his wife, Carolyn and between them, 10 children and a flock of grandchildren. Bill was truly one of the world's good guys and is sorely missed.

Edward J. Ortlieb (19th Company) passed away on 16 May 2006. Ed came to Navy via NAPS, first enlisting in February '43. He escaped USS Hyades (AF28) for sub school and served in Perch, Ronquil, and Trutta. He commanded Sailfish (SS572). He did shore duty at the Naval Academy, BuPers, OPNAV (Deputy Director, Strategic Offensive Systems), Armed Forces Staff College, and he picked up a PG Masters at Maryland in Economics and Defense Systems Analyses. He retired in '69 and worked in the beltway bandit systems-analysis

business in the Washington area, including 15 years as a senior scientist with SAIC. For fun, Ed whacked that little white ball with gratifying success. Always fun to be around, Ed had a great sense of humor. He leaves his wife Mary, son Christopher and two grandsons, Jeffrey and Casey. Ed and Mary were stalwart members of the Washington area 48s and will he be greatly missed.

George Parish reports with pride that at the VMI graduation on 16 May his and Jeanne's grandson, Cadet Joseph Davidoski, was awarded the medal and prize for standing number one in his class, and was also honored as the distinguished no.1 NROTC grad in the Marine Corps option. He was sworn in by his father, Capt. Mark Davidoski, USNR, their son in law. Second Lieutenant Davisoski started basic training at Quantico June 15.

Charles Henry Ogilvie (5th Company) passed away of cancer in Boone, NC. He resigned from the Navy as a Lieutenant and he and his wife of 44 years, Jeanne, and son, Chuck, moved to Winter Park FL in 1962, He was executive VP of the Industrial Development Corporation of Florida. In 1991, Charles retired and the Ogilvies moved to Boone, NC.

The Alumni Association was notified that **John Waddell** (4th Company) died a year ago on 5 June 2005 at Munson Hospice House in Traverse City MI. No further information is available.

The Alumni Association received a letter from a son of **Charles W. Hines** (2nd Company) reporting that his father passed away on 15 February 2006, but providing no detail. The Alumni Register shows that he retired as a LCDR and has lived in Tucson AZ.

I have the very sad news that the oldest son of Peg and **John Holland** John P. Holland, Jr, ('71), died suddenly of a massive heart attack on 18 June 2006 at home in Silver Spring MD. Services were held at Christ the King Catholic Church in Silver Spring with inurnment at the USNA Columbarium on 26 June.

The San Diego Reunion came in on schedule Sunday, 14 May 2006, starting with a banner welcoming reception buffet where everyone assembled in the Hotel Patio and got reacquainted and off to a great start. Yes, we've changed (evolved) a bit over the years, but the essence is still there.

Let me say here that the Reunion was a marvel of planning and organization. It all started with an idea circulated at the farewell breakfast at our 55th Reunion, and ran from there tucked into Rhona and **Chuck Gorder's** seabag. They assembled a great committee with **Chris Christoph, Dick Hoffman, Harv Humphrey, Bob Neely, Troy Stone, Turbo Sturtevant,** and **Jay Vermilya** but the genius and punch that produced the final fun event lay in capable hands of the Gorders, led by Rhona.

Monday was a full day starting with breakfast. A 0900 tour of USS Midway, now a museum, occupied most everyone, and the city has done well with the old girl. She is shipshape and presentable. Then there was a champagne lunch cruise on board SS Point Loma. In the evening there was a cocktail reception at the University Club. Tuesday saw breakfast followed by a golfing group, a high-rolling group off to Viejas to try their luck, and a city tour with lunch. In the evening, all hands gathered in the Hotel Marina Ballroom for

cocktails and the dinner dance. Wednesday AM saw everyone off after the farewell breakfast.

Jane and I were scheduled to join the festivities right up to the last minute, but to our great disappointment, Jane's reduced mobility and discomfort, due to a heavy onset of a type of arthritis made the trip an impossibility. The Committee had asked me to say a few words at the dinner dance, and I hated to miss that opportunity. Fortunately, **Tom Hayward** picked up the slack and then some with an excellent talk. The Gordons had a huge "card" made up for us for people to sign, and attached photos of the gang at the opening reception. We received the card shortly by mail with great pleasure. Midway was my first ship and Jane and I ate a lot of dinners aboard that year as an ensign with the duty. She followed the ship to the Med with the junior dentist's wife when that was a rarity.

The hit of the Reunion was the fact that **Tom Woods** came back into possession of his midshipman's cap which he hurled into the air at graduation and he and Barbara brought it to the Reunion. A couple of months ago, a man who found it at an auction, and seeing the identifying inscription on the cover, still in tact, contacted Tom and saw that he got it back. The hat is inscribed, "If female, write. Ens Thomas Woods II, Executive Dept, USNA Annapolis Md." Tom and his cap were enjoyed by all.

Betty and **Dave Carruth**, who spent about 4 years in Coronado in the late 40's and early 50's, while he flew seaplanes off the bay, commented that in those days almost every day was beautifully sunny with any fog burning off by 10 AM. Weekends on the beach were almost mandatory. On this visit, says Dave, we

saw the sun for a total of about 2 hours and the ceilings were under 2000 most of the time. Oh well, times and weather change.

A lot of snapshots were taken during the Reunion, and some are printed here. Others are available on the Class Website.

Paul Riley writes that coincident with the Reunion, he and Evelyn and son, Miles ("86), were in Boston getting his youngest brother married. While there, the proximity of Paul's 80th was the subject of a family roast. Paul says that he was always proud of making ensign at age 20, even if by only a few days. Paul goes on: "Having completed the outdoor nuptials, thanks to a break in the weather, we set sail on Jamaica Pond, nicknaming the boats 'Life of Riley I and II'. With inexperienced crews and sheets belayed, Miles and I each nearly fell victim to a violent wind gust. For the first time ever, I had the lee rail under as I frantically and successfully luffed into the wind." Then, with the newlyweds headed for Tortola, Paul and Evelyn borrowed the groom's car and took a sightseeing spin to Quebec via NAS Brunswick and the Navy Lodge there.