

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

Website: usna.com/classes/1948

SHIPMATE COLUMN CLASS OF 1948

DECEMBER 2006

CLASS RING STORY. Fifty three years ago, 1953, I lost my class ring playing volleyball on the beach at Dam Neck, VA, south of Virginia Beach, where I was attending one of the Navy operational schools then located there. We did a lot of sand-sifting, but had to give up. Jane and I decided that it would be wise to order a new one forthwith, and we did. Two weeks ago, I received in the mail from Timothy Woodbury, who operates the Alumni Association Ring Bank, that same original class ring, cleaned up and polished, looking like it had just been minted. The black onyx stone had weathered into a sort of cats-eye, but the ring gleamed and showed almost no wear. The widow of the finder, who died a couple of years ago, told me that he found it about 1991 on the beach while searching with a metal-detector, also finding another USNA ring and a West Point ring. He had decided to try to return the rings, but never got around to it. His daughter recently began an effort to repatriate the rings, and contacted the Alumni Association. Timothy Woodbury, seeing my name inside, said, "I know him!", and gave us a call. Amazing, and it is an unusual sensation to view fifty three years later, totally unexpectedly, such a treasured item. Curiously, it is

fractionally larger than my current ring, and would probably fly off in a volleyball game.

Homecoming took place this year on 14 October (Navy vs Rutgers). Since this is written before the party, I will report detail in the next column.

Chris Christoph spoke with **Norm Green** recently. The Greens have sold their house in Ponte Vedra Beach FL, and moved to a nearby retirement community, Vickers Landing, which is right next to PGA World Headquarters. Norm is on a walker in the house, and a scooter outside. Traveling is out, but he sounds great.

Which brings us to the ongoing Class Binnacle List, which is becoming pretty active lately. **Rube Prichard** reports that on 3 August he was 911'd into the hospital in the middle of the night by concerned spouse, Jeannie, with 103 degrees and comatose. Double pneumonia, and a suitcase full of antibiotics got him home again, but it was touch and go for a while. Jeannie acted quickly and correctly getting him into the hospital via the rescue guys.

Meanwhile **Ed Sutter's** daughter, Pamela, reports that in mid-August Fireball broke a hip, and has spent some time at Manor Care Fair Oaks, Fairfax VA. I presume he's pretty well restored by now. Incidentally, a binnacle is a stand that houses the compass, which usually has a light inside for viewing the compass at night. Just how this item became associated with hands who are too ill for duty, but not completely down and out, I have no idea. Anyway it's an old nautical term.

We have lost another Classmate, **Nevin William George**, (2nd Company), on 19 July 2006. We have no detail, but his daughter, Wendy, may have been able to get something into Last Call in this issue, so check there. The Register has the family located in Danville, CA.

Robert H. P. Dunn, Captain CEC USN(ret) (24th Company) died 31 July 2006 after a long illness in Troy NY. Graduating in 1947, Classmates knew him as “Rip” and after a 6 month tour in Norris (DD859) out to China and back, he found his way to Rensselaer Polytech and a CEC commission. While there he met and married his wife, Patricia, Together they traveled the world, starting in London, followed by tours in Naples, Jacksonville, Quonset Point, Yokohama, Groton CT, Philadelphia, Washington, and Guam. He did a tour in Vietnam, earning a Bronze Star. He retired on 30 years and returned to Rensselaer where he taught civil engineering for 20 years. They remained in Troy. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son. His remains will be interred at Arlington Cemetery at a later date.

Donald Harley Corson, Jr., (22nd Company) passed away 6 October 2006 in Billings MT. Don really did us all a favor in the Class 50th Reunion book by writing a most interesting story of his life. I suggest you read it. He was among a small group of Classmates who, at graduation, were being released from active duty because of deficient eyesight, having survived 3 or 4 years without running into too many things. Don was already enrolled in law school, when in April, the Commandant called him in and told him that he was to report to Supply Corps School upon graduation. So, with that fast roll or the dice he was off the Bayonne

NJ and the Supply Corps School. There he married his OAO, Margy Jett. His first and only ship was USS Electron, a converted LST, which was a floating, but not particularly mobile electronic supply and repair ship. There was a sister ship, USS Proton, and the two were moored either in Sasebo or Yokuska, servicing the Pacific Fleet. He switched to the reserves in '54 and finished law school and they settled in Kansas City, where pursued an interesting career in real estate, probate, commercial and municipal law, and was noted for his dedication to clients and his integrity. Late in life they moved to Billings MT, home of their daughter. He is survived by his wife, Margy, son Scott of Walker Minn, and daughter Joanne Bacheller of Billings. Since children can't choose parents, Scott and Joanne have long been thankful they were born to Don and Margy and could grow with their love and in their idyllic home.

Robert C. Bryan, who lives in Dunn, NC, phoned the other day and we chatted about the olden days at Navy where he played baseball. He sent along a note which I excerpt.

“As the years go by I become increasingly anxious to get in touch with my Classmates, most of whom I have not seen since graduation in '47. Since I left the Navy in '53, I practiced law in Dunn until I retired therefrom in 1992. I have lived in Dunn since retirement with my wife of 59 years. I played baseball under Max Bishop for 3 years and many fond memories result from that. I sang in the Chapel Choir under Mr. Gilley. I send along a photo of two grandsons, both good ball-players, and a source of pleasure to me. I gave them Navy baseball caps, and I hope the foto prints. Maybe

“one of them will end up at Navy. I would love to hear from Classmates. I am at 212 Chicora Club Drive, Dunn, NC, 28334. 910-892-7455.”

The reconstruction and redesign of the Gate 1 area where the 1948 plaza once resided is complete, and we still have benches in a big brick and concrete pad with little landscaping and no charm. The area is being rededicated on 26 October. Phil Rogers has followed this project all along with misgivings and unsuccessful attempts to affect the outcome in our favor. It seems about all we can now do is push for some trees. I will report further after the dedication and things settle down.

The 2006 graduate, Ens. Matthew Packard, who received the Class of 1948 IT award at graduation has proceeded on to his year of PG school, and his parents report that he is doing exceedingly well in his Operations Research Analysis major. After his courses are complete in June '07, he will report to Pensacola for flight training. He says he can't wait! His parents are highly appreciative to the Class for all we have done for Matthew.

Wylie Orr's widow, Helen, who keeps touch, reports that grandson, Daniel Gibney, appeared in the August ESPN magazine as a player in the Little League World Series. They lost to Hawaii, but beat Japan and placed third. She is a proud grandmother.

Bill Ikard says they will miss Homecoming, but he is heavily involved in his Big Annual Senior Golf Tournament which he runs

annually. He says he will field around 120 golfers. He loves it but it involves a lot of preliminary work.

I need more trip reports on your trots around the globe. Letters, emails, fone calls, all accepted. The column is a bit puny.