

From Fairfield, Connecticut

We just had our 65th reunion, which was held at West Point, with everyone staying at the Marriott Hotel in New Jersey with a bus connection to West Point. I understand that the weather was nice, the events were as expected and well-organized. **Garry Roosma** said he believes there were 53 classmates there out of approximately 165 people, the balance being family and friends. That would be about one quarter of the now living classmates. Five companies were not represented, among them my company, C-2, and five companies had only one representative. A large group gathered and went by bus from Arlington to the reunion. Garry Roosma organized the reunion as he has done before, with some help from the class executive committee and an increasing amount from the AOG.

Unfortunately, **Lynne and I, Pete Penczer**, couldn't go, but just before the reunion we met **Mel and Kay Farrar**, for lunch in Danbury where they had come to visit Kay's brother and sister-in-law. Mel, as you know, gave the invocation for the reunion.

Immediately after the reunion, **Chuck and Celia Hansult** visited us in an out-of-the-way loop to Celia's sister's house in southern New Jersey for a large family gathering before going back to Charleston.

From St. Charles Illinois

Bill and Ann Shely sent this screenshot parade picture. I'm reminded that I'm not parading anymore and haven't done it for a long time, happily so.



From Herndon, Virginia

George and Mary Jane Lawton sent a good picture of the G-2 group at the reunion.



Company G2. **John Herren, Bob Julian, George Lawton, and Lee Fay** gather at the hotel pub for Company dinner night.

From St. Augustine Beach, Florida

Around the time of the 65th Reunion, **Jody LeTowt** was visiting **John Brinson** in Florida and got a very good picture of the two for us.



Rain

Here in the Northeast, we had a very heavy rainstorm a couple of nights ago. In the Hudson Valley area, West Point turned out to be the epicenter of the storm. They had 8 inches of rain in about six hours. Thayer Road was quite flooded, water pouring over downhill from the road. **Andy Andreson** got a picture of it, sent to him by **Mike Daley**, which is better than I can describe. It also produced a big sinkhole in Thayer Road.



The storm brought up memories of the night in the summer of 1955 when we were at Buckner and out on a field problem. A hurricane hit the area knocking out bridges in the Naugatuck Valley in Connecticut. We were supposed to have an air assault exercise the next day, but the helicopters had to go over to Connecticut to rescue people. I, **Pete Penczer**, remember spending the night in a foxhole full of water trying to keep my head and rifle out of the water. **Joe Guenther** remembered that too. **Joe Shea** remembered being attacked by “aggressors” while standing deep in the foxhole full of water. **Jim Sigler** remembered that the mosquitoes found safe haven under his poncho, where they enjoyed a good meal. **Chuck Hansult** said that was the night he decided to go Air Force instead of Engineers. **Tom Claffey** expressed amazement from Santa Fe. **Chuck Toftoy** thought the storm was a once in a thousand-year storm, but there were differing opinions.

From Rockville, Maryland

Bill Serchak established a new award, the W. E. Serchak Astronomy Award, After **Capt. Enderle '48** discovered a 6” reflector telescope in the dome on the East Academic Building and got in touch with Bill about it, Bill proceeded to organize and become the founder of the Astronomy Club at West Point. The club has survived and “grown into a major activity along with the new Space Physics and Astronomy courses as part of majors in the curricula at West Point”. Dr. Paula Fekete, Physics and Nuclear Engineering professor is the OIC of the club and was instrumental in recently installing a brand new 16” reflecting telescope in a modern observatory on the roof of Bartlett Hall. It’s in a fully automated dome and the telescope is capable of sophisticated photography. The dome and scope can be remotely controlled from an outside location. Bill gave a presentation and tour at the reunion.

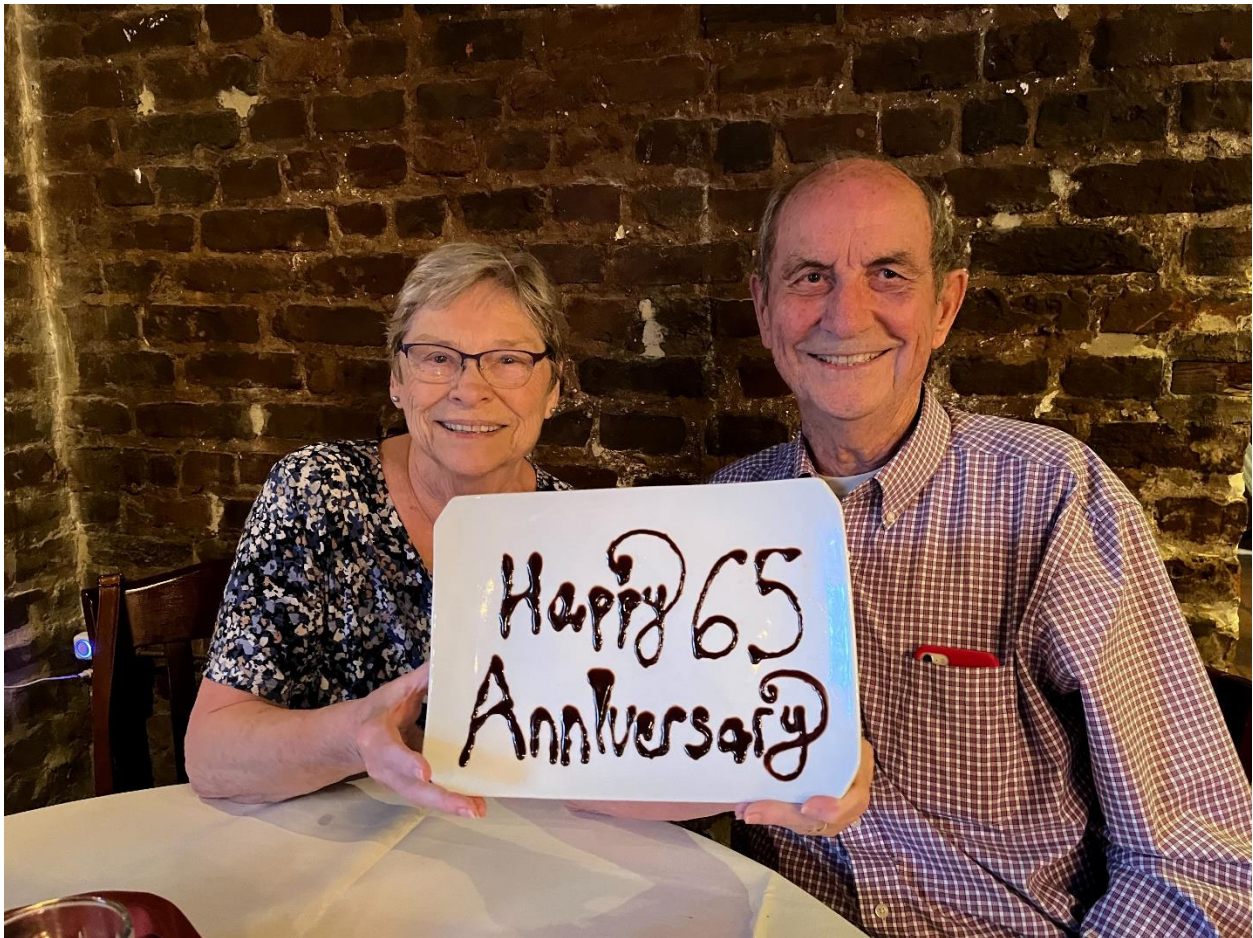
Jacob Willis '23 was the first recipient of the award. His resume is really very impressive. After graduation he will spend two years at MIT pursuing an MS in Physics and will defer a National Science Foundation Fellowship to take up later when pursuing his Ph. D.



Here's the Serchak family with then Cadet Willis

Wedding Anniversaries

I wondered if there were any couples still in our class who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on the 65th anniversary of our graduation, and, if so, who was married longest now in our class. It turned out that we have five such couples still. **Jack and Arlene Halsey**, Ormond Beach, Florida, were married at 3:30 P.M. putting them in first place, the longest married couple in our class. **Roger and Laurelei Waddell**, Savannah, Georgia, and **Jerry and Barbara Lewis**, Mountain View, California, seem to be tie for the second place, both having gotten married at 5:00 P.M. that day. **Terry and Harriett Connell**, Portland, Oregon, take the next place, having been married at 5:30 that day. **Joe and Peggy Luman**, Alexandria, Virginia, complete the list of long married couples, having tied the knot at 7:30 P.M. on Graduation Day.



Laurelei and Roger Waddell



Jerry and Barbara Lewis

I did hear from several others who were married later that week or even later. Some, unfortunately, had lost a spouse through death or divorce. **Phil Ackerman's widow, Maude**, sent me a note telling me that they had had to wait until June fifteenth so she could graduate herself. She attached a bunch of wonderful wedding pictures and I wanted to share at least one as they show, among other things, in their own way, how we all looked then.



Phil and Maude Ackerman

I heard from a number of others about their weddings, both Graduation Day and a little after, **Paul Ciasullo, Seena (Joe) Katz, Karl Oelke, Phil Gibbs, Jim Tilley, Chuck Toftoy, Tony Bauer, Bill Shely, Ben Pellegrini, Garry Roosma and Ken Lohr**, among others. **Karl Oelke** wrote, "My wife, Sue Brookhart, sister of our classmate **Dan Brookhart**, and I were the last couple married in the Cadet Chapel on graduation day. Sadly, she died a few years ago, about a week before our 60th anniversary."

Bob and Margaret Shellenberger celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary at the class 65th reunion, sharing the celebration with those at the table. **Jack Bradshaw, Pete Groh and Mike Mahler** both pointed out that the ladies they eventually married were among the "ladies who come up in June" and, that, while they didn't get married right then, for interesting reasons, want us all to remember them, as we should.

Traffic

As we all know, the First Class Club was our Class Gift project, including one renovation needed at a later time. Then the Class of 1983 took over the responsibility for helping the school with it. We get an annual letter of thanks from the Director of Cadet Activities thanking us for our support of the club. But, the institutional memory seems to now be far short of what we did, referring to our contribution as the "Class of 1958 First Class Club Bar Area". **Jack Bradshaw** was encouraged by **Tony Bauer, Andy Andreson and Church Hutton** to send them a polite, short note clarifying our part in all that.

I've heard from **Chuck Cabell**, a "hello" to all, and from **Pete and Lana Bahnsen**, who could use some of our rain there in Sequim, Washington, but were enjoying a grandson visit, **Pete G. '22**.

There was also some discussion about the legal status of our class, if any, and, if there is something, what should be done eventually to end it. The Excomm will take that up.

Chuck Toftoy's most recent health tip was about the importance of maintaining normal blood pressure. His tips are interesting.

Jack May circulated a link to a film about the Ferrari DINO.as well as one to the story of Arriving at West Point.

Jerry and Barbara Lewis wrote about their German granddaughter marrying a Swedish man, the small world department.

Bill Serchak sent out a note about **Gar O'Quinn** joining the Army Sports Hall of Fame. I just have a brief memory of seeing Gar doing his gymnastics routines and being amazed, something I would not have thought possible without seeing.

There was also an exchange about Lacrosse with **John Brinson and Jack Vickers'57** that I didn't quite follow, but our C-2 team and school team certainly did well in those days.

From Fairfield, Connecticut

Lynne and I, Pete Penczer, went to Gaithersburg, Maryland, to a memorial service for **Mike York**, who had been a roommate of mine in the first semester of Plebe year.

Marcia arranged a very nice service and reception and we sat with **Lee Miller and George Lawton** who had driven up from Virginia. The minister described Mike and his life extremely well. For me it was also nice to see Lee and George.

