

# 1958 Class Notes

## Retiring Finally

10/19/2015

**Church Hutton '58**, wrote to me about his impending retirement, and thoughts, but “still working, retires this winter as a senior from the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, which protects about 85K employees in NCR facilities. Wishes Army football would step back to Div. II -- or step up to Div. I football, recruit 300 pounders, and graduate them without commission as Navy and Air Force do. Under current rules, Army is out of its league. He and Evelyn visited their son Richard, who teaches in the History Dept. He encourages all to contribute to our Class of '58 Charitable Gift fund."

## Combat Leadership Presentation

10/13/2015

Tom Carpenter '58 sent me a copy of the program on combat leadership presented to the Goochland High School Marine Corps JROTC on September 30, 2015, by John Herren '58 and Tony Nadal '58. The program for the event included their extraordinarily impressive biographies. Tom says that, in addition to the cadets, the auditorium was filled with noteworthy people from the area. I'm not surprised that they attracted a good audience. Tom also sent along a copy of the PowerPoint highlights for the presentation. I can see that it was quite well done and quite interesting.

## Venice, Italy

10/13/2015

Pete and Lynne Penczer '58, yes, that's me, your scribe, just returned from a trip to Padua, Venice and Belluno, Italy. We were accompanied by our younger son, John and his companion, Carrie Greenlaw, who live on the North Coast of California. We enjoyed spending the time with them very much. We don't get to see enough of them as the north coast of California is about as far away from Connecticut as you can get. Venice is extraordinarily interesting and that whole part of Italy is beautiful. I don't have a picture to would in here because I was the one who was wielding the camera.

## Naples, Florida

9/29/2015

I see that one of the places classmates are congregating is in Naples, Florida. **George & Mary Jane Lawton '58** have a place in go down there some of the time, and **Daryl G. & Noni Jaschen '58** have just become full-time residence there. I don't know I many others are there, but a lot of people from here in Fairfield, Connecticut, and up there too. **Bill Serchak '58** was the one who let me know that the Jaschen's given up their Alexandria home and were acclimating happily and rapidly to year-round in Naples.

## Youngest and Oldest Grad Talks

9/29/2015

Every year on Founders Day all around the country, and maybe around the world, some graduate gives the “youngest graduate” present talk and another gives the “oldest graduate” present talk. **Jim Peck '58** had the honor of giving the “youngest graduate” present talk at Fort Riley in March, 1959. In March 2014 he was the oldest graduate at the West Point Society of Annapolis founders Day dinner and gave the “oldest graduate” talk then. I, **Pete Penczer '58**, gave the “youngest graduate” talk at Fort Benning in March, 1959, but the “oldest” talk has eluded me.

## Letter Writer

9/29/2015

**Dale Hruby '58** has been reading the Army Times, according to him, for 61 years now and congratulated **Tom Morgan '58** for being, in his opinion, the most prolific correspondent to the Army Times over those years, who has consistently gotten well expressed and positive letters published in an effort to help improve the Army.

## Fairfield

9/29/2015

Saturday evening the Fairfield Democratic Town Committee awarded me, your scribe, **Pete Penczer '58** the John Sullivan Community Service Award for 2015. The award was presented at the Fairfield Museum, where I'm a board member, by the First Selectman and Senator Blumenthal.

## From Williamsburg

9/11/2015

**Tony Nadal '58** made the Williamsburg paper, the Daily Press, in a story about the Ia Drang Valley battle in Viet Nam and his 1993 visit in Viet Nam with a North Vietnamese Colonel who was commanding on the other side in the battle. The battle, and Tony and **John Herren '58**, were what the book, *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*, and the movie made from it was all about.

## West Point, the March Back

9/11/2015

**Ed Weckel '58** sent along a report on this year's march back at West Point, which he and others continue to do, to their greatest credit. I once heard an appropriate Jamaican expression for it, "Maximum Respect".

Ed wrote "**Ward '58, Collett '58 and Weckel '58** successfully completed the 13 miles MB. Although the official site lists the distance as 12 miles, we grads have to walk about a mile to link up with the cadets, therefore I do not feel guilty adding a mile to the official distance. As usual we met the buses at 0300, arrived at Buckner at 0400, linked up with the cadets at 0440 and started marching in the dark at 0500. Weather was great. By my stop watch, it took us 4.05 hours to reach the ski slope for about an hour's rest, and then assembled in graduate mass formation for the last 2 mile walk past the Supe's quarters."

Ed got to talk with some plebes, including one from Bangladesh, their graduate squad leader from class of '85 and with the Dean about how things are there now. It sounded quite interesting.

## The D.C. Group, from Fairfax

9/11/2015



**Bill Serchak '58** sent me some pictures and told about an address by Brigadier General Patricia (Jones) Frost presented at the USMA '58 Luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club, Fairfax VA on 25 August 2015 about "US Army Cyber Command and Second Army". BG Patricia Frost is the daughter of our classmate, **Lincoln Jones '58** (Company I-1)

...Her current title is Deputy Commanding General for Operations, US Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER). Patricia (a Distinguished Military Graduate of Rutgers University, NJ in 1987) and her husband, **Malcolm Frost '88** along with Patricia's brother, **Peter Jones '85**

are all Brigadier Generals...Certainly a remarkable circumstance in one family!

**Tony Smith '58** arranged for the talk by Patricia and **Andy Andreson '58** arranged the venue at the Army Navy Country Club.



*Photo Right: clockwise, are BG Patricia Jones Frost, **Tony Smith '58**, **Tony Bauer '58**, **Alex Johnston '58**, **Phil DiMauro '58**, **Dick Reynard '58**, **John Schaffer '58** (standing), **Bibs Reynard**, **Bonnie Smith**, **Merrilyn Saint**, and **Butch Saint '58***

## Ashburn, Virginia

9/11/2015

**Jim Hall '58** died recently and **Jack Downing '58** sent me a note about the Memorial Service for Jim that brought out a fairly large group of classmates, nine or ten besides Jack. Jim was not only very active in our class affairs, an excellent chairman of our executive committee, but apparently did much for his church. He was Jack's roommate and must have been a good one.

## Fairfield, Connecticut

9/11/2015



Yes, that's here where I am. **Chuck & Celia Hansult '58** stopped here for a visit on their way back to Charleston, S.C. that included family visits on the way north, a visit with **John & Mimi Nun '58** at Frye Island, Maine and ended here with a visit with us, **Pete & Lynne Penczer '58**, before driving south to Charleston. We enjoyed the visit.

## **Grandson Teaching**

7/22/2015

**Paul Bons '58**, wrote, "I think my grandson, **Capt Michael J Hill, '07**, may be the first of our class grandchildren to return to West Point as an instructor. He is assigned to the Foreign Language Department to teach Portuguese (the language in which I was almost turned out). He and his family just arrived at West Point and they are living in the Gray Ghost Area, (familiar to some of us)".

In regard to your question about where my grandson, Mike Hill picked up his Portuguese, first of all he is a graduate of West Point, Class of 2007 where he majored in Russian and minored in Portuguese. Nevertheless, he received an award for the highest standing in Portuguese. This may in part be due to the study abroad program during his 2nd class year when he was sent to Brazil. At that time he also met a young Brazilian girl who, after graduation, became his wife. Most recently, his graduate study was at the University of Miami in Florida. He also speaks Spanish fluently, having spent two years between his Yearling and Cow years on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon). He was originally Class of 2005."

# 1958 Class Notes

## The Ramsden Award at West Point

7/14/2015

**Jack Downing '58** presented the Ramsden Award for excellence in Chemistry in as he has done for a few years now. It's in memory of **Jim Ramsden '58** as you all know. It was presented this year to **Cadet Semus J. Bann '15**, now, presumably, Lt. Bann. With Jack in the picture are Cadet Bann, of course, and Col. Leon Robert, head of the Department of Chemistry and Life Sciences.



## Jim Ryan's '58 Memorial Service

7/14/2015



Usually I don't put notes on Memorial services and the like in our Class Notes, but **Dusty Rhodes '58** wrote me about the service at the Hill N Dale Country Club in Tully, New York, on June 24th and attached a picture of classmates at the service. Pictures of classmates, I'm told frequently, are of considerable interest. In the picture are the following:

Front Row (L-R): Jane Ryan D'Alterio, Sharon Ryan Masters, Sally Ryan Reardon

Back Row (L-R): **Bob/Dusty Rhodes '58 (F1)**,

**Lee Miller '58 (A1)**, **George Lawton '58 (G2)**, Roger/Rube Waddell '58 (A1)

## Viet Nam War Memorial Presentation

7/14/2015

**Jim Ryan '58** presented the class with a very nice looking plaque at the ceremony at the Wall last May 17th remembering our classmates who died in Viet Nam. As you all recall, **Robert Olson '58** was remembered particularly this year. We rotate through the list year by year. I'll try to put up a couple more pictures from the event when I get the people in the pictures properly ID'd. The picture came from **Bill Serchak '58** who was there with his wife, Edna Mae, and his daughter Bridget along with a lot of others. The group went to the Arlington Army-Navy country Club afterwards for a brunch. Jim made his presentation at the brunch.





## Following Napoleon

6/8/2015



**Tom Morgan '58** wrote me about his recent trip to retrace some of Napoleon's route when he returned to France via the island of Elbe, as well as visiting Waterloo, the beginning of the end for him. **Jack Bradshaw '58** tells me that Tom is deep into military history and I can believe it when I read the trip report he sent me. If you are interested in doing such a trip, Rome, Elbe, Paris and Waterloo, get a copy of Tom's write up from him ( it was too long for the Notes ). Tom met **Bill & Nicole Foulkes '58** and their dog for lunch in Waterloo.

## France, Toulouse to Normandy

6/8/2015

**Paul & Patty Ruud '58** took a different route in France. Paul wrote "The picture is evidence that for our last dinner in Paris, Patty and I opted to sit at a sidewalk café with bread, onion soup and wine while watching the world pass by. We spent 16 days in France - starting at Toulouse in the southwest, moving up through the Dordogne, the Loire Valley, then on to Mt San Michel and Normandy before Paris. Paris was probably the most enjoyable even though the French small towns and countryside, all be they totally different, were a very pleasant experience. We have lived in France in years past, but we made enjoyable return visits to the Louvre, the Lido and other favorites. We traveled on an Odyssey tour named Provincial French Countryside and were extremely pleased with everything (save some of the weather)."



## Ski Mini to Snowmass

6/8/2015



This year's class ski outing was our third trip to the Snowmass Mountain Chalet in Aspen, CO. It was organized by **Karl Oelke '58** and attended by **Palmer McGrew '58**, **Jim Tilley '58** and Sally Kurtz, Paul Ruud, Jr. and Stacy, **Ben Franklin '58**, and **Chuck & Celia Hansult '58**. Karl's friend Jay Grossman rounded out the group. **Paul Ruud Sr '58**. was scheduled to attend, but the severe weather in California delayed their departure by several days so they canceled their trip. As a result, son Paul and his wife skied with us only one day and then returned to their home near Telluride, CO. Other classmates who were planning to attend but

canceled out for various reasons were **Bill Shepard '58, Ken Herberger '58, Tony Nadal '58, and Bob Foster '58.**



*Photo Right: The group dinner from left to right: Chuck, Celia, Carl's friend Jay Grossman, Palmer, Karl, Ben, Jim, and Sally.*

Prior to our arrival Snowmass had a snow deficit. However, it started snowing just about the same time we got there and kept it up for practically our entire stay. As a result, flights in and out of the Aspen airport were frequently delayed or canceled. The ski conditions were very good if one did not mind periods of poor visibility. All in all, we had a great time with a small crowd.

*Photo Left: The lobby photo front row: Paul Jr., Stacy Ruud, Jim Tilley Rear row: Sally Kurtz, Celia, Palmer, Ben, Chuck*

## **From South America to Canada and back to Hawaii**

6/8/2015



**Nat Crow '58** is an inveterate traveler, as I've said in an earlier note. Nat wrote "My trip to South America ( Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Chile) in March was a success in that I survived! Confirmed that I can survive at 16,000-plus feet. You quickly learn to move slowly.

May and early June finds me on a tour of New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces.

Classmates **Jack & Margie Downing '58** and **Gene & JoAnne Wentworth '58** visited Honolulu recently. It was great to spend a bit of time with them."

Nat sent along a picture

of himself when he was in Uzbekistan, subject of an earlier note, and pictures of the Downing's and Wentworth's visiting him in Hawaii.



## **Class of 1958 Time Capsule**

6/8/2015

**Jack Downing '58** decided to make sure someone at AOG knew about our time capsule, particularly where it is, what it looks like and what's in it. "It is a 5 gal milk can. It looks like this <http://tiny.cc/ij6ryx>. "



There's a long list of items in the capsule that Jack gave to Marilee Meyer and Debbie Evans at AOG along with a picture of the marker on the ground.



At their 50th reunion, the class of 1958 first dedicated and then buried a time capsule in the courtyard behind the WPAOG building.

Inside a gleaming metal 10-gal milk can, the class had placed mementos of their cadet and military service days including a copy of their Bugle Notes, a 4th class section marcher's role, a cadet garter and cuff links, a football from a 1957 football game, Army 27-Penn State 13, and many other items of significance to the class. Their 50-year class of 2008 also included items including a

copy of their Bugle Notes, a 1st place track medal, and a class wine glass.

The time capsule is to remain buried until the 100th anniversary of the class' graduation at which time, the class of 2008, at their 50th reunion will recover and open it. The class of 1958 has a continuing presence in a committee of descendents to manage the endowment fund it has established. This group will invite as many of the class descendents as possible to attend the opening and reminisce with member of the class of 2008.

The class of 2008 will then distribute some of the articles from the time capsule to the descendents of the class of 1958 and replace them with items from the class of 2058 and the process is repeated.

Whether or not the scheme works, it was great fun to collect the items and dream of the future. Perhaps some original items will be viewed with curiosity by a class that inherits them. It may be a way to "Grip Hands."

## Class Granddaughter

6/8/2015

In my last posting had a short note about **Jack Downing '58's** presentation of our traditional engraved tray to **Brianna Burnstad '15**, Granddaughter of **Mike Daley '58**.

Jack sent along some more about it.

"On May 21, during the graduation activities of the class of 2014, Jack Downing, as class representative, presented an engraved tray to Brianna Burnstad, granddaughter of Mike On May 21, during the graduation activities of the class of 2014, Jack Downing, as class 2. Mike, Brianna's grandmother Myrna Kay, her parents, Dalana and Bob, and about 15 other relatives attended the ceremony in the First Class Club which is temporarily located in the Cow Club in Eisenhower Hall. Her fiancée, Stephen also attended.





Brianna had been to West Point several times in her youth. She went to her great-grandmother's funeral there and joined my dad for a couple of football games. In high school, she used to say that she wanted "to go to a college that had a campus as pretty as West Point. NOT West Point, but as pretty as West Point". In her junior year, she met the Director of WP Admissions at the Army/University of North Texas football game in Denton, TX.. Col. McDonald encouraged her to attend the Summer Leadership Seminar (SLS) at WP at the end of her junior year. Brianna still had no desire to attend WP but agreed to go to SLS, because "it would look good on her college applications". When my dad and I dropped her off for SLS, she was very apprehensive about being there. She was in tears; she said "they're going to make me do push-ups and run, and I don't even want to go to school here!". After 2 days at SLS, she called and informed us "she was going to West Point, even if she couldn't attend immediately after graduation, she was going at some point before she turned 23". She was late starting her application and her biggest hurdle was passing the physical fitness requirements. She was a setter on the volleyball team in high school and did not have the upper body strength needed to pass the pull-up test. She came home from SLS, installed a pull-up bar in her bedroom and hired a retired Marine to help train her so she could pass the physical fitness exam. She worked with him every morning at 530am before high school and ultimately passed the physical requirements. She received a nomination from both Senator John Cornyn (TX) and Congressman Sam Johnson (TX). She greatly appreciated Congressman Johnson's nomination since she was selected in high school to serve on his Congressional Youth Advisory Council.

Brianna is majoring in Chemical Engineering and has been on the Dean's list every semester. She is branching Medical Service Corp. She will attend BOLC at Fort Sam Houston in July and then report to her first assignment in September at Ft. Riley, KS. She is posting to Ft. Riley with her fiancé, Stephen Shumaker, who is also class of 2015 and who branched Armor. She currently has not been assigned to a specific unit there. She would ultimately like to return to graduate school to become a Physician's Assistant.

While at West Point, Brianna was involved in the following activities:

- Played on the Women's Army Rugby (WAR) team for the first 3 years. She tore her ACL and meniscus and did not return for the 4th year. She was responsible for tutoring the underclassmen on the team. She was given the nickname "Boots" by her teammates because at the initial try-outs plebe year, she was in an orthopedic boot. She had torn the ligaments in her foot during the last 2 miles of the Marchback from Camp Buckner after "Beast".
- Participated in C3 Company Athletics in her senior year – flag football referee in the Fall semester and swimming coach in the Spring semester
- Taught Children's Sunday School and AWANA (youth ministry) at the Post Chapel for 2 years
- She was involved in her company's honor committee as a Cow. As a Firstie, she is a member of the Brigade Honor Board. She is the Vice Chair of Honor Mentorship.
- At the end of Cadet Field Training, she was tasked to be the announcer for the Class of 2017 R-Day parade. Based on her delivery, she was then asked to continue announcing the parades during her Cow year – which excluded her from having to march in the future parades. "Not marching in the parades" was a trend that started early in her career at WP – she watched her own A-Day parade from her barracks room window, due to the foot injury from the Marchback that I mentioned above and was often excused from marching due to rugby games on parade weekends. When she was asked to be a parade announcer, we joked that she was much better at "talking the talk, than walking the walk". Her marching skills still leave a lot to be desired!

Brianna is the fourth generation in our family to graduate from West Point. She follows:

**John Michael Daley, class of 1958**

**John Phillips Daley, class of 1931**

**Edmund Leo Daley, class of 1906**

In addition, her great-great-great grandfather, Lt. Col. Herman John Koehler, went to West Point in 1885 as the Master of the Sword and remained as Master of the Sword until his retirement in 1923”

## **Dave Swanson & Family-Georgia to Texas to West Coast**

5/26/2015

**Dave Swanson’58** wrote about his current trip to Georgia and Texas and home, visiting family and having his son teach him to ride a Harley. Then he’s going to take all five parents and ten grandchildren to Alaska.

“Am visiting our son, Erik, now on 22 May in Roswell, GA. Arrived here on 5 May and attended granddaughter, Marissa's, graduation from Georgia College in Milledgeville on 5/9 and then partied that night with her roommate's family on Lake Sinclair until 2200 and got back to Roswell about 0030 next day. Marissa remained in Milledgeville and started internship as counselor with a cancer charity which will last two months or so. Erik's daughter, Rachel, has been a sophomore at same college but will transfer to University Of Georgia in August. Erik's wife, Anita, passed away in June 2013 from breast cancer so he keeps close contact with girls.

Remained in Roswell, GA with son teaching me how to ride big Harley Davidson in a vacant parking lot of a mall. Son has two Beautiful Harleys but was concerned that I might drop one of his so I rented one with him giving me instructions for about 3 hours in a vacant mall parking area and I did not drop the cycle! Have committed to learning more about cycles at home and getting Hawaii license so we can go riding in future along with son, Steve, who had and sold his Harley. Stayed here until 5/12 when I drove to Katy, TX to visit son, Steve, and his family of Lezlie, his wife and Dylan (13) & Faith (11) in Katy, TX.

Had a good time at Astros baseball game as they beat Toronto. Children are athletic and Dylan plays baseball, basketball and football in middle school and other leagues. Faith has played softball, soccer & lacrosse and is a lovely young lady and does very well in school. Got rained on a lot with thunder storms with big lightning strikes thankfully off in the distance. Houston area is a big place with road & housing construction going on constantly with many apartment buildings in Katy area.

Daughter, Shawn, is nurse with one associate (supposed to be three nurses but no DOD money for 3d) for a military dependent elementary school with about 1,100 children on US Naval Base at Yokosuka, Japan. She keeps busy with that but completed an on base MBA with Phoenix U. on 9 May. She has 6 children with the twin girls youngest at 10 years going to Yokosuka Elementary. One of her 4 daughters is working on Maui; another works 3 jobs in Seattle and goes to school with hopes for degree in fall or winter; 1 son working on graduate degree in Tokyo, Japan and one son takes care of renting b&b they own near Port Townsend, WA, and where they stay during summer vacations. Shawn will stop in Hawaii with twins in August for a week on way to Japan and plans to stay at Bellows cabins on the beach. Will visit with them while they are here.”

## Arlington

5/22/2015

In an earlier note I passed on the very moving story of the discovery of **Jerry Hoblit's '58** father who died in a WW II plane crash in Alaska.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/09/24/texas-vet-hopes-to-bury-father-lost-for-decades-in-alaska/>

Jerry's father has now been properly buried in Arlington cemetery. **Dusty Rhodes '58** passed along this link to an article and video about the ceremony at Arlington.

<http://www.wjla.com/articles/2015/05/decorated-wwii-veteran-s-remains-recovered-buried-at-arlington-national-cemetery-114148.html>

## Out to West Virginia

5/22/2015

A few Days Ago **George Lawton '58** wrote me that "Yesterday, **Lee Miller '58**, **Jim Ryan '58**, **Chuck Hansult '58** and I drove up to Berkley Springs, WV to see **Bill Brower '58**. We all enjoyed a nice two or so hour lunch at a local restaurant." All were in D.C. for the Viet Nam Wart Memorial Ceremony.

## Class Granddaughter

5/22/2015

**Brianna Burnstad '15**, granddaughter of **Mike Daley '58** is the first class granddaughter and twelfth class grandchild. **Jack Downing '58** presents an engraved pewter tray from our class to her today, May 21st, 2015, at Benny's Lounge, the Cow Club, now also being used as a temporary First Class Club.

## Malone Award

5/22/2015



**Pete Brintnall '58** presented the Malone Award to the leader of the winning Ranger Challenge Team at Georgetown University's annual military ball on 17 April.

Pete said "Lots of awards are given but this is probably the most prestigious and the only one in which the presenter is invited to speak. The assembled cadets were impressive – bright, motivated and dedicated to their military training. Our Army will be well served by these young

men and women.

This year's winning Ranger Challenge Team bested the efforts of 38 other teams from around the country. It's leader was a young woman named Emelie Vanasse, smart, petite, and possessed of a smile that filled the room. Looks can be deceiving. When we shook hands it was like shaking hands with **Van VanFleet '58**, minus a lot of flesh. One of the cadre told me that she carried a 165 pound man across the Key Bridge in Rosslyn last year."

## Capelle Trophy, 2015

5/22/2015

**Hugh Trumbull '58** wrote that on “a perfect May 15th, the trophy honoring **Gerry Capelle '58** was presented to Charlie Company at the Prep School. This year the awards were incorporated into the Final Parade for the class of '15. Receiving the award for the company was the Company 1st Sargent, Cadet Candidate Gerald Batey, a prior service soldier hailing from Nashville. He was well supported by a nice family and definitely dragging pro. His prior service was with a Cav Sqdn at Ft. Lewis where he was an intell specialist. He is interested in Armor (Did the Cav brain wash him?) or possibly MI. He likes Rugby and Math!



As always the Pizza Party, held at suppertime on the 13th, was a big hit with the Cadet Candidates as they cool down from a very intense year and prepare to enter the Class of 2019 in late June.

## More from Cairo

5/22/2015

**Ed & Linda Matthews '58** wrote about the continuing saga of their daughter, Ashley's, now two year effort, to bring her husband to the U.S. He's an Egyptian Coast Guard grad and ship captain. The promises of an interview for a visa go on. We got an earlier installment and wonder when it will end.

## From Colorado Springs, an Author

5/22/2015

**Chuck Cabell '58** just finished writing his fourth play and published them in a book entitled *Jurgen and Other Plays, a Folio Olio*.

Chuck and another playwright are planning to do a play festival sometime this summer in Colorado Springs.

He put this in the Forward of his book along with some fascinating background:

- About *Jurgen, the Pawnbroker*  
Jurgen feels that he has been unjustly cheated out of happiness, ending up a pawnbroker instead of a duke or cardinal and married to a plain and shrewish wife instead of to his beloved Dorothy. He has the opportunity for a do-over by way of a retrospective journey through mystical medieval regions filled with strange people, beautiful women and magical creatures.
- About *A Priest, a Rabbi and a Horse*.  
Did you ever try to tell a joke and you kept getting interrupted? You probably were able to shrug it off. Not everyone can. See what happens when Vito tries to tell a joke to three friends during dinner at a fancy restaurant.
- About *Diabolus ex Machina*.  
It has long been known that authors are not always in control of their characters, who often go off on wild tangents completely unpredictably. This was true when authors



wielded scratchy quill pens and it may be even more true in this day of the computer, as children's-story author Silvy Grayson and his wife, Sybil, find out.

- About *Hemlock*.

Euthanasia (mercy killing) has become a hot topic lately as several states have passed laws making physician-assisted suicide legal. New laws sometimes have unintended consequences, however, with interesting complications for all parties concerned. This is especially true for brothers Bryce and Neville Bennington who take over a funeral parlor in Portland, Oregon after the death of their father.

## From Portland, Oregon

5/22/2015



**Paul & Virginia Vanture '58** hosted **Eliza Brownfield '18** when the Cadet Glee Club went to Portland for a concert at the end of March at the Nike Headquarters Theater. Paul wrote “. It was a delightful weekend. When they sang THE CORPS. I got tears in my eyes and had to sing along (quietly) with them. At the end of the concert, the graduates in the audience were asked to come on stage to sing the Alma Mater. What a great experience! The photo is of our cadet, Eliza Brownfield (whose parents graduated in '89 and has an older brother at the Academy). She

graduates upon our 60th anniversary.”

## B-1 Reps at the 30th Reunion

5/22/2015

**Jerry Lewis '58** sent along a picture he found that he had taken at the 30th Reunion, the first one he got to. From left to right it's **Gordon Goodman '58, Dick Price '58, Buck Griffin '58, Tommy Thompson '58, John Cook '58, and Jerry Lewis '58.**

### Florida Vacation

**Tom & Gail Conti '58** had an overnight visit from **Mary Jane and George Lawton '58.** They stopped by on their way to a new condo (George hadn't even seen it yet). Mary Jane had arranged to buy it so they could vacation here in FL.



## 60 Minutes

5/22/2015

**Pete Kusek '58** wrote that **John & Barbara Raymond's '58** son, Jay, was “scheduled to be interviewed on 60 Minutes in April. John and Barbara are too modest to brag about Jay so I will do it for them.

Jay is Commander, 14th Air Force, Air Force Space Command; and Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. That should give a hint about the subject. Jay is also the youngest 3 star in the USAF.”

## Viet Nam War Memorial

5/22/2015



**Chuck Toftoy '58** wrote that 42 attended this year's Memorial Ceremony and luncheon in memory of those members of our class who died in Viet Nam. Each year the wreath is placed by the name of one of those 13 and it is rotated through the group year by year. This year the wreath was by **Bob Olson's '58** name. **George Lawton '58** wrote that **George Sibert '58** organized and ran a very nice ceremony as he does each year and **Jerry Prochaska '58** "gave a beautiful and thought provoking homily at the RVN Memorial". **Chuck Toftoy '58** sent me the photo of the wreath. Perhaps we'll get some more of the pictures.

# 1958 Class Notes

## The Waddell's' Travels From Tybee Island, Georgia

3/16/2015

**Roger & Laurelei Waddell'58** have apparently hardly been home lately. I got a very interesting note from Roger outlining their travels. It looks like a military museum tour. Roger wrote "In September/October 2013 we drove from Savannah to Las Vegas by way of hometown Pawnee City, NE and Yellowstone Park with a reservation at the Old Faithful Inn. Unfortunately, the government shutdown put the kibosh on the stay at Yellowstone, but gave us an opportunity to spend a day in Salt Lake City." They began at the Fort Campbell Museum, then the Museum of Westward Expansion in St. Louis-arrived too late to go into the Arch. From there the National Winston Churchill Museum in Fulton, MO-the location of his 1946 iron curtain speech. The museum is in a 1677 church moved from London in the 60s.

Passing through the geographic center of the lower 48 states near Lebanon, KS just off US-36 to the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, WY, the Mormon Church History Museum and organ recital at the Tabernacle, the Mob Museum in Las Vegas "need a little variety while sightseeing", Then the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, TX National Museum of the Pacific War and the Alamo.



"In March 2014 we spent a week at National Harbor, MD then on to the Poconos. On that trip we visited: U.S. Army Women's Museum and the Quartermaster Museum. One of Laurelei's sisters and her husband were once stationed at Fort Lee." Then "National Museum of the Marine Corps, WWII Memorial Arlington Cemetery-Laurelei's parents and another sister, a USAF nurse, are buried there. Laurelei's father was a medic at the West Point Hospital beginning in 1953. There were about six inches of snow at Arlington at the time of our visit", followed by "FDR Memorial, MLK, Jr. Memorial, National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, PA-another off the beaten path attraction."

"In May 2014 we returned to Pawnee City for my 60-year high school reunion and one of my brother's 70-year reunion. On that trip, we visited: Elvis in Tupelo, Pershing Boyhood Home in Laclede, MO, Mark Twain and Lovers' Leap in Hannibal, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby Museum, West Point, KY-On the banks of the Ohio River, first settled in 1776. (A pole by the river marks the level of several floods with the flood of 1937 at 30 feet.), Patton Museum-( Laurelei and her family lived at Fort Knox around 1948 after returning from Korea ). Finally, Daniels at Lynchburg. We had passed that exit for I-24 many times, but on this trip we were headed home so we knew where we would be spending the night, so we stopped." "With this trip and the Sep/Oct 2013 trip we traveled US-36 from Colorado to Springfield, IL

Finally, before the Orange Beach USMA 1958 reunion we spent some time in New Orleans visiting the Army Aviation Museum enroute and the National WWII Museum there.

From all this, you can see why Laurelei has said she does not want to see any other museums, especially military museums, for quite some time.”

Roger and Sue had their 55th anniversary in Rome on June 4th, 2013 ( looks like a graduation anniversary too )

## Oldest Grad

3/16/2015

**Bill Serchak’58** got to deliver the oldest grad speech at the Northern Chesapeake West Point Society Founders Day celebration at the Maryland Golf & Country Club, Bel Air, MD. **Glenn Brown’58** was there too but got to relax.

I, **Pete Penczer’58**, had done the youngest grad speech at Ft. Benning in 1959. **George Sibert’58** and I were wondering who else has done one of these.

## One of our Authors

3/16/2015

### One of our Authors

**Jim & Susan Weis’58** are Ormond Beach, Florida, where Jim is a prolific writer. Jim wrote” Last Oct my novella *Princess Natasha and the Western Folklore World* won the the Florida Writers Association Royal Palm Literary Award. It makes use of a dozen stories from *The Not-So-Grim Folk Tales*, a description of which can be found on [www.kingsforest.net](http://www.kingsforest.net) . I write these folk tales as A.A. King and they are geared to young adults YA (12 and up). In addition I write crime stories as JH Weis. Think Ellery Queen or Alfred Hitchcock magazines. In addition to the Florida Writers Assoc., I’m a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and the Mystery Writers of America. So, you might ask, what happens when you write a YA murder mystery? I write those as JH Weis. Most of my effort (beside doctor appointments) is devoted to playing duplicate bridge and writing. My golf clubs are sitting in the the garage, gathering dust.”

## From New Castle, Colorado

3/16/2015



**Karl & Sue Oelke’58** are now living in New Castle, CO, down the road from Glenwood Springs. Karl wrote “Moved last year, but still have an extra bedroom for friends passing through (on their way to ski in the Aspen area?). Have enjoyed hosting classmates at Snowmass the past 4 years—great runs and great company. Active in Kiwanis working with high school kids in leadership development.”



## Intramural Lacrosse Revisited

3/16/2015

Last month **Jack Vickers'57** stirred a lot of traffic with a photo of the C-2 intramural lacrosse team after it won the Brigade Championship, mostly getting everyone identified. Jack wrote "A couple of years ago, **Jim & Gloria Pocock'57** visited us (too briefly). I was surprised to learn that he had never seen this photo ( I had thought each of us had received a copy).



Back row, Left to Right **Hanigan'57** ( coach ), **Ciasullo'58, George'59, Forbes'59, McMorro'59, Roe'58, Bahnsen'58, Martin'59**. Front row, Left to Right **Fletcher'58/'59, Pocock'57, McCormack'58, Vickers'57, Brinson'58, Hindman'57, Wagner'58**

## New Mexico

2/10/2015

**Tom Claffey'58** wrote that "**Sylvia and I** both turned 80 last year and enjoy going out to lunch every day!

My next book, *103rd Meridian*, will be coming out later this year; the backdrop of the story is the disputed boundary along the New Mexico/Texas border. In 1850, Congress established the eastern border of the New Mexico Territory as the 103rd meridian - which *it is* next to Oklahoma. Somehow the border jumps three miles west beside Texas! – this translates to 603,485 New Mexico acres of land being in Texas. As a New Mexican, I'm having a lot of fun with the 'surveying error of 1859.' New Mexico has pretty much acquiesced because of Congressional inaction in the early 1900s. Texline and Farwell should be in New Mexico. I came across another report recently that President William Howard Taft opted not to challenge the discrepancy when granting New Mexico statehood in 1912 – because a Yale classmate owned ranching property on the west Texas border (within the three mile strip).

The story I'm working on is fiction – with this nonfiction backdrop. I'm having fun.

Footnote: Despite the theme of the story, there is a soft spot in my heart for Texas and Texans. My roomie is a Texan (**Dave Bourland'58**); my publisher is in Texas; and my last civilian position was with Texas Capital Bank/New Mexico."

## St. Petersburg, Florida

2/10/2015

From St Petersburg FL. I heard from **John & Jill Holecek'58** that he had "retired from selling real estate several years ago when the market collapsed and the business ceased being fun. Now stuff seems to grow to grow to fit the time available. I play some tennis and am trying to get better at golf, work in our large yard, etc. I am lucky that my 2 sons and daughter all live nearby,

so in recent years I got to see many soccer games of our grandkids. That phase of life is now over although last fall Jill and I went up to MA to see our granddaughters play against each other in a college match Smith v Wellesley. Good for family unity it ended up in a scoreless tie after 2 overtimes.

We manage to see a few classmates, **Bill Cooper'58** lives just north of Tampa, and we see each other once in a while, **Chuck Hansult'58** has a sister who lives in Tampa, when they travel they bring their dog for his sister to watch so we go out to dinner with them. I think he is going on the ski mini soon so we will probably get together before or after that. **Andy Andreson'58** organizes a golf outing at Innisbrook each November and I have played with them for about 5 years. The other guys are **Ron Bellows'58**, **Tom Sands'58**, **Bill Shepard'58** and **Doug Sedgewick'58**. Two years ago **Joe Luman'58** also joined us. We have a lot of fun, drink a lot of wine and beer, eat seafood and also manage to play some golf using Andy's rules. The Copperhead course is one of the PGA Tour stops and is difficult.

Last Dec, Jill and I drove up to Pensacola for **Ken Phillips'58** funeral. **Chuck Densford'58** and **Phil Raign'58** flew in from TX and **Ben Pellegrini'58** came over from Alabama. It was a sad occasion." "Jill and I had lunch last week ( around February 1st ) with **John & Mimi Nun'58**. They came to Clearwater FL to visit her 2 brothers."

## And New Hampshire

2/10/2015



**Hal Lyon'58** "just returned from Germany for 6 weeks and yesterday did the on-line live interview below about my new teaching book which Karin (**Hal & Karin Lyon'58**) watched in Germany and my brother in WA State, and Carol McCormack ( **Lennie & Carol McCormack'58**) in Boston where we were hit with 3' of snow. Been getting a work out shoveling." The new book is [\*On Becoming an Effective Teacher: Person-centered Teaching, Psychology, Philosophy, and Dialogues with Carl R. Rogers and Harold Lyon.\*](#)

"My sons and grandson will join me from VA for our annual ice fishing for Lake Trout out on our frozen-in Lake Winnepesaukee Island which we'll reach by a 5-mile XCcountry ski trek."

## Just Relaxing

2/10/2015

I also heard from **Bill Harrison'58**, **Herb Johnson'58**, and **Paul Vanture'58** who all insist that they are just relaxing and enjoying it.

## Bureaucracy

1/28/2015

From **Ed Matthews'58** comes a follow-on story of a saga that started about 2 years ago. Ed writes,

“My youngest daughter, Ashley, married Ahmed Mohamad in Cairo, Egypt, almost 2 years ago, during the first days of the revolution there that brought Mubarek’s Presidency to a close. Ahmed is a graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy in Alexandria, and has passed all exams required for certification as First Mate aboard those monster container ships. (N.B. - to pass any exam, a score of **95** or better is required.)

It has taken us nearly 24 months (!!!) to get all Ahmed's papers approved for a US VISA that will allow him to come to the States and find a position with one of the major shippers. He and Ashley, although married in Egypt, have not had a “formal” wedding ceremony yet — that **was** planned 6 months ago for early March, 2015. But the National Visa Center has **two times** informed us that “final approval” to grant his interview by the American Embassy will take “at least 60 days.” Translated: who knows whether it will be 60 **or even 240 days or more** before he’ll be interviewed?

Today we received an NVC email that basically stated all Ahmed’s papers have been approved, and they will be forwarded to set up his embassy interview... but we do not know when that will happen. Maybe March, or possibly later — who knows?

Lesson here: our governmental agencies sometimes seem to take FOREVER to process paperwork — even though we had a professional specialist do the paperwork, at considerable expense.

We hope everything will be ready for a US blowout “reaffirmation” wedding — before November.

Holding our breath, friend.”

It doesn’t need to be that way at all.

## **Airport Gone and on the Road**

1/28/2015

**Chuck Densford’58 and Pat** are making up for lost travel time. Chuck wrote “I sold my airport in Leander, Texas, on 16 December 2013. Since then, Pat and I have moved to a different house in Georgetown (TX), taken a cruise through the Panama Canal, been to the Gulf Coast beach several times to watch the waves and birds, and we go out to eat too much! We are leaving on 3 February for a 10 day cruise around French Polynesia (Tahiti) on the Regent Mariner, and when we get home on 15 February it will be warm again in Texas! No more 50 degree cold days!! **Stan Bacon’58** has us hoofing it to prepare for the Austin Mini in October. Life is good! We are looking forward to seeing classmates in Austin in October.”

## **The Hruby’s Move**

1/28/2015

**Dale and Dodie Hruby’58** are moving to the Patriots Colony retirement community in Williamsburg on the 5th of February.”It has been a painful process unstuffing our Burke, Virginia, home which we have stuffed stuff into for the past thirty-eight years. But, we are excited and looking forward to new adventures. We will be close to family and Williamsburg is already home of many great classmates and other friends.

## **The McGrew's Too**

1/28/2015

**Palmer and Ceda McGrew'58** “moved to a senior living facility last spring and we're loving it. We can be found at Greenspring in Springfield, VA.”

## **Snowmass and the Ski Mini**

1/28/2015

**Bob Foster'58** tells me that the annual Ski Mini will be at Snowmass, Colorado, this year. “A number of classmates get together each year for the ski mini. It is a great time. This year, as he has for a number of the past years, **Karl Oelke'58** is running it. I know Karl has put out the word, but not many have responded or signed up. This year it is being held at Snowmass, Colorado. Everyone is staying at Mountain Chalet, a ski in ski out hotel right on the slopes. The hotel is giving great rates to us. It provides breakfast and lunch. At lunch, you just ski up to the door, park your skis and step into the dining area. A number of the wives, including mine, do not ski, but have a grand time. Unfortunately, Aspen is just minutes away, and there are lots of elegant places for them to spend money. This has proven to be an enjoyable get together with nightly happy hours, and varied dining prospects. It is something of which more classmates should try. The more the merrier.”

## **Out of the Cold to Hawaii**

1/28/2015

**Jack and Margie Downing'58** “are going to run away from the cold Virginia winter to spend 3 weeks in Hawaii with our son Drew, Science Advisor to the Army Pacific, who has just bought a house in Kailua. We hope to spend some time with **Dave Swanson'58** and **Nat Crowe**, our resident classmates over there.

## **A Jazz Festival, a South America Tour and back to Honolulu**

1/28/2015

Aloha from **Nat Crow'58** and then on 6-8 March “I'll attend ‘Jazz Bash by the Bay’ in Monterey, CA, with childhood friends from Oregon. Immediately afterward I head south to Buenos Aires to begin a 22-day tour of Argentina, Uruguay (new pin in my countries-visited map), Bolivia, and Chile.

The day after I get home from South America **Gene & JoAnne Wentworth'58** will arrive in Honolulu via Holland America's Veendam. We plan to drive up to Schofield Barracks for a nostalgic visit.



## Army-Navy Game Party in San Francisco

1/28/2015

**Jerry Lewis'58, Rudi Grimm'58, Harry Kramp'58 and Nick Carlson'58** got together at Rudi Grimm's for the Army Navy Game. Rudi fixed gigantic hot dogs, with hot potato salad and sauerkraut. Plus they had appetizers to start with.

Here they are enjoying a game that's getting closer.



## Cooking and Go ( the game )

1/28/2015

**Joe and Peggy Luman'58** spent last year's Labor Day weekend last with one of their daughters, who had a book about eating. "I don't usually read books like this, but we had time and she endorsed it. Oddly enough, I did not finish the book, but the first chapters convinced me that we've been misled about food. For me, this book was a life-changer. I started to eat what I liked, slimmed down, and felt better. This caused me to become interested in cooking, an activity that I formerly engaged in only in emergencies. Read the Amazon reviews of *The Big Fat Surprise* by Nina Teicholz.

Any of us taking up a new activity has the incredibly useful tool of the internet. I use a website, [ckuik.com](http://ckuik.com), that collects you tube clips, without commercials, and have been tutored on how to use my new chef's knife, prepare tasty salads, make ethnic dishes, etc.

The same site has offered up dozens of tutorials in the game of Go, which I played years ago. One of my two legendary and historic opponents, who has kept up, called to suggest we play via an internet server. Accepting the challenge, I started to work on the cobwebs and found that watching lessons is a better way to learn this ancient and elegant game. One site uses mnemonics to teach complex series of related moves.

For those looking for a dementia defense, Go will stretch your mind and there are dozens of teachers waiting to help."

## Building Airplanes and Flying

1/28/2015

**John & Betty Schaefer'58** are in Datil, New Mexico, where John is "still building airplanes and flying them. He's promised me a picture. He's also quite sure that there are others out there doing the same.

## From Carmel

1/28/2015

**Jody LeTowt'58** answered **my question**, "Is anyone doing anything interesting?" He "just finished two year restoration project on this historic building." It's owned by a local historic preservation not-for-profit, and Jody did the restoration as a volunteer. Here's the web site with pictures. [http://www.carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-gingerbread-house\\_2323.htm](http://www.carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-gingerbread-house_2323.htm)

## A National Book Award and More

1/28/2015

**Chuck & Patty Toftoy'58** have a therapy service dog, Zoe, a Yorkie. They perform pet therapy at hospitals, rehab centers, adult senior centers. They've been doing this for many years.

Chuck's book, *Amazing FiresideTalks*, won a National Book Award three weeks ago. 5 star rating so far.

Chuck is mentoring cadets at USMA. "So far I've mentored 4. Started 3 years ago." Also "I'm now mentoring my 7th wounded warrior. I started at the very beginning of the Wounded Warrior Mentor Program. "

Chuck has a web site with more of what he's doing, [www.charlestoftoy.com](http://www.charlestoftoy.com)

## St. Augustine, Florida

1/28/2015



in the picture visiting the beach.

We, **Pete & Lynne Penczer'58**, went to St. Augustine, Florida, on a Road Scholar, formerly called Elderhostel, trip. It's a terribly interesting city, the oldest, continuously occupied, European settlement in America. The fort was designed by Spanish engineers from Cuba to defend against English and pirate enemies and was never overcome. We had dinner with **John & Alice Brinson'58**, who moved down from Pennsylvania a year or so ago and love it, and saw their lovely home in St. Augustine Beach. It got unusually cold there that week as you can see

## Grand Cayman

1/28/2015

After St. Augustine, Lynne & I went down to Grand Cayman and saw **Mike & Marcia York'58**. Mike is a patent attorney and still works at it, which he can do from the island, when there, thanks to modern communication technology. Mike and I went scuba diving one afternoon with the Don Foster Dive Shop boat. We saw grouper, tarpon, lion fish and a moray eel besides lots of others on our shallow dive on a reef fairly close to shore. Visits to the Botanical Garden, a private orchid garden and interesting and fun restaurants made a fun visit.

