

## **Class of 1957 Class Notes 15 May 2015**

First some Class business, then current news, and end with a review of Class losses since the last notes.

**Class Business: Paul Schwehm**, working with Alexis Davis of the AOG has signed a Thayer Hotel contract for the 60th, which will be from 27 to 30 April 2017. Per Paul, and the members of the Board, the contract seems reasonable and we are ready to move forward. **John Ramsden** extracted some details and I am including them here. "The Class Board has approved the proposed contract and it will be signed shortly. ... The negotiated basic room rate for a standard room will be \$190 per night. To this will be added the NY State sales tax (currently 8.13%), an Orange County tax (currently 5%) [Obviously, the NY state and county taxes would apply to any hotel] and a "Facility Fee" of \$11.99 per room per night, bringing the total to approximately \$227 per night. The facility fee is somewhat new and includes free WiFi, a cup of coffee per day per guest at the Bistro, valet parking, local and long distance calls support, and full use of the exercise facilities. Yes, another opportunity to make money but that is a fact of life today! ... As of now we will be having three receptions and two dinners at the Hotel Thayer. We have decided not to include breakfast, as past reunion feedback has indicated that most classmates have found it not worth the price. ... " Details, including when reservations will be required, will be sent to you when the Class Board puts together the program. More details will also be available on the Class web site. Now, all we need is you. Thanks, Paul, and John.

**Class Endowments Update (Schwehm and Stevens and Rabe)** Paul received in the snail mail three letters; from the AOG Vice President of Development, the Director of Academy Advancement, and the Acting Director of the Simon Center. They thanked us for our maintenance endowments and report that the balances are \$11,209 (kiosk) and \$55,633 (other gifts). They also state that no funds were recently distributed. Paul also noted that all concerned (me, McClure, the Dean, and the Simon Center) signed off on the documents in February 2013, and the funds were transferred sometime later (the transactions being hidden deep in the accountants' mysterious doings, Walt might know.) Bob Stevens added: You probably are aware; but I thought it might be worthwhile to remind everyone that these funds started off at \$10,000 and \$50,000. However, I don't know on what date we formally turned the funds over to the AOG. It would be helpful to have both figures in order to assess how well the accounts are progressing. It seems to me that I heard somewhere, some time ago that the AOG does a pretty good job of growing the funds that they manage. I think the figure was about an average of 5% per year, but I am not sure. Walt Rabe contacted the AOG and Elena Ivanova (AOG gifts) provided the following details, which answer Bob's questions: First endowment: S700J – Class of 1957 Honor Kiosk Maintenance Endowment, Income \$1,711.72, Principal \$10,000, Total Value as of 2/24/15 \$11,711.72, Transfer of \$10K from the Class of 1957 to S700J on 4/11/13. No annual distribution for CY13-AY14/15 as the endowment was not on the books for one full calendar year. Account will have a distribution for CY14-AY15/16 if above water. Second

Endowment: S700K – Class of 1957 Gift Maintenance Endowment (excludes Honor Kiosk), Income \$8,125.56, Principal \$50,000, Total Value as of 2/24/15 \$58,125.56, Transfer of \$10K from the Class of 1957 to S700K on 4/23/13. No annual distribution for CY13-AY14/15 as the endowment was not on the books for one full calendar year. Account will have a distribution for CY14-AY15/16 if above water. So much for funding of our endowments.

**Ken Simila:** Ken had some suggestions for the Reunion planning group, ten to be exact, about information that should be provided by USMA speakers at the reunion, and they will certainly be taken into consideration. Please contact Ken directly if you would like to read them. Most deal with comparisons between how WP was when we entered and how it is now. Ken noted that “West Point has changed a great deal since the 50's and past events has glossed over the changes. Those with frequent contact with WP or members of active class groups have probably been kept up to date, but those of us who live in the hither land with no contact with WP other than founders day and reunions are not aware of most of the changes or why they occurred. The 60th will likely be the last well attended reunion so it's the last chance to bring the class up to date on what West Point is today. Staying at the Thayer eliminates the long bus rides so we have more time to tour the campus facilities and attend update briefings.

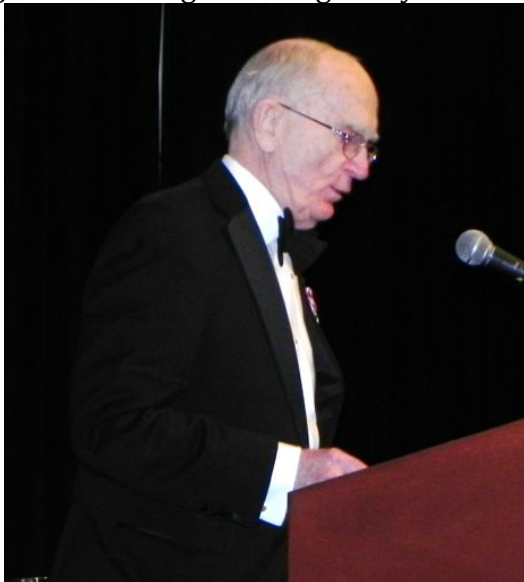
**Class Authors (Bob Tener and Brian Head):** Brian sent me the following question: “Recently, I submitted the form for the new edition ROG 2015. It occurs to me that I have never seen my name among the authors in our class. Perhaps this is just an oversight on my part, but I wish to make sure that it is included. Could you please check into this and take any steps necessary? I am attaching the ROG form showing second editions of two of my books, both first published in 1965.” I forwarded the query to Bob Tener and this is extracted from his response. I’ve included some details for other authors. “Brian – It’s good to know of your having authored two books! My pleasant duty as Class “Page Captain” for **Don Sadler** is to invite you to submit the book info for our Class of 1957 “Authors’ Corner. Here’s how: 1. Open Class website at [www.usma57.org](http://www.usma57.org) 2. Scroll to lower left corner of the main webpage & click on “Class Authors’ Corner” tab 3. You might scroll “List of Authors” just for your info (17 classmate authors to date, totaling 40 published books) 4. Open the “Add an Author/Book” tab; find the Author Registration Form, and fill it/them out: one for each book, of course. Including Publisher’s name & ISBN # is really helpful. 5. When each Registration Form is done, hit “Submit” which sends the Forms to Don Sadler. He & I will review & get them on the Class Authors List ASAP.” Any questions? By all means, call or email Bob per below.

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**Class Cruises (from Sam Morthland):** Sam sent some information about future

cruises for members of the Class to consider. As you may know, the DC contingent is on one now in the Caribbean. "... my cruise alternatives - American Queen on a Civil War theme, or the American Empress on the Columbia. ... Nobody has contacted me as being interested. although 9 of the 10 on last April's cruise wanted to come back. American Queen is offering some attractive incentives for 2015 and 2016 bookings, but with the class cruise to the Caribbean in MAY, I don't think there would be much interest in a 2nd cruise this year. Separately, I have discovered an Avalon cruise in Germany that may be of interest to a class-wide audience, like our 2010 Budapest-Prague cruise. ... Although this is for 2015, the same cruise is offered in 2016 on slightly different dates. We could even tailor the land 3-day motor/train section to include Garmish, which most of us knew in the "old days of the Von Struben Hotel". Those interested should contact Sam directly. Avalon is offering some significant price incentives for the cruise and for air, including the past travelers credits. If there is interest, I'll start working it with Avalon for 2016.

**Gerry Galloway:** Hank Hatch alerted the Class to a pending award to Gerry (now completed) with the following message in March. "Gerry Galloway will receive the WPSDC Castle Memorial Award this Saturday at its Founders' Day celebration. ... Join us in congratulating Gerry on this well-deserved recognition.



**Photo 1 Galloway acceptance speech**

From the WPSDC web site: "**Castle Memorial Award:** Each year, the West Point Society of the District of Columbia presents the prestigious Castle Memorial Award to the USMA graduate who has distinguished himself or herself in exemplifying the ideals of West Point in either a military or civilian capacity. The award was established by Ben Castle, Class of 1907, and first President of the D.C. Society, in memory of his son, Fred Castle, Class of 1930, who was killed in an air mission during the Battle of the Bulge on Christmas Eve, 1944. As a Brigadier General commanding the 4th Bomb Wing, Fred Castle "took control and deliberately gave his own life to save his crew," and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The

primary objective of this award is to recognize graduates with outstanding qualities and character who have served our country well, and who have also achieved success in a second career outside the military in fields such as education, ministry, medicine, science, and public service." Congratulations, Gerry. A number of Classmates and wives attended the Dinner to cheer Gerry's award, and they sent the photos.



**Photo 2 Gerry and Diane Galloway, Hank Hatch and Betty Adcock with Award**



**Photo 3 Founder's Day attendees**

**Joe Tedeschi:** Joe attended the FD dinner in Philly, and wrote: “**Sue** and I attended the 2015 Founder's Day Dinner on 14 March hosted by the West Point Society of Philadelphia held at the Crystal Tea Room, old Wanamaker's Building in Philadelphia. The General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Guardian of Liberty Award, was presented to LTG (Ret) Thomas G. McInerney, USAF, '59. General McInerney is a military analyst for Fox News and a frequent contributor to the Fox News evening programs. He gave a thoughtful, reasoned analysis of the current situation in the Middle East which was especially well received by all there. The occasion was also marked by the great reunion we had with the only other Class of '57 members there, **Tony Bullotta** and his wife **Judy**. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to introduce Tony and Judy to my other family members (10 of them - daughters, grandkids - who were there celebrating my 81st birthday), and to reminisce about classmates, having General Patton's son as a tac officer in A-2, and the time in Paris when we ran into each other on the street there - Tony was on a lay over from his TWA Kennedy-Paris-Tel Aviv run, and I was on a business trip for Lockheed. Always love those chance encounters - I seem to have had more than my share in my lifetime. Certain Tony and Judy would not mind if I mention an item in the evening's program which recognized "contributors of cash, goods and services in support of our Wounded & Disabled Veterans, and serving members of the Active and Reserve Components of the Armed Forces." Mr. and Mrs. Anthony & Judith Bullotta, '57, were among the distinguished list of 7 contributors. Deserves a Call Out and a Well Done!” Consider it done! And happy 81<sup>st</sup>. Joe also sent a photo.



**Photo 4 Joe & Sue Tedeschi and Tony Bullotta**

**Bill Huckabee and Warne Meade:** Bill sent a report from the Ft Bragg FD Dinner, with info about Warne. “Of interest to you and our Class..... Founders' Day was

celebrated in fine fashion at Ft Bragg Saturday night [28 Mar]: 82d CG hosted, 82d chorus sang, Comm spoke,.... with other ruffles and flourishes. But the highlight of the evening was Warne Mead speaking as the Distinguished Senior Graduate. He was the best I have seen in that role in many years. '57 can be proud. A bit of recent history: The Ft Bragg/Sandhills Chapter of our society almost withered away in the late '80's despite the presence there of a very large contingent of graduates. Warne and two others did the heavy lifting to get it restored making it one of the AOG's strongest by mid-'90's; and, in doing so, he made himself a local legend....duly respected and admired. Since his retirement to the Fayetteville area, Warne has performed as the model citizen with keen interest in Kiwanis and his Presbyterian church. A couple of years ago that service earned him "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine", North Carolina's most prestigious recognition for selfless service. Best to all, Huck”

**Gail Kashen (Keeler):** Jerry Scott sent the following note he sent to Gail and included what Gail and the Keeler clan has been doing to honor Hop. “Gail, what a wonderful gesture. I would never have believed that such an aggregation of memorabilia of one single member of "Black '57" still existed. I speak for all of our class, and especially for all of M-2, when I say thanks for a job so beautifully done. Hop was the most universally loved person I have ever met. We all were blessed to have known him, and you. Much love to you, the entire Keeler clan, and Tony from all of us, Jerry and Jody” And now Gail’s description of what was done. “As you know, Miriam Keeler donated Hop's letters from USMA to the library there in 1973 when she put together the green book entitled Life with Hop. At the time, most of the letters from Plebe Year were missing but I have recently discovered them and I contacted the library there to see if they were interested in acquiring them. In the course of our clearing out things here, I also located a collection of items from Hop's life such as report cards, photos, transcripts, newspaper clippings, my letters to him from Cornell, his flight log throughout his whole career, all amounting to enough to fill one of those roller bags you can carry on planes. So I piled it all in and went down yesterday for a 10:00 a.m. appointment. I assumed they would kindly decline everything except his original plebe year letters, but no. They took everything and were delighted to do so. Amusingly, the item which was found most interesting was a USMA pajama top which had been autographed by M-2 (Huck, along the bottom edge) and which was mentioned in our correspondence. They said cadets appear to be very interested in graduates' careers and they would probably arrange a display with the items they had. They were also very interested in the copy of a photo of five cadets which probably was taken on the cow trip to Oklahoma--a barbeque at Jerry's?--**Jerry, Hop, Huck, Morrie McBride, and Julio**. Five beautiful men. ... The two library people were wonderful and spent an hour with me including a tour of the library. After I walked back to the car (good exercise for the day) I drove around a bit and visited the cemetery. On the way home I took the attached photo from Garrison Landing. I've been fortunate to find homes for some of the Keeler memorabilia. I've sent significant numbers of items to the University of Texas, the Johnson County (TX) Historical Commission, the Wilson, NC Library, and the current

incarnation of Noyes Junior Camp. There are more pieces that are turning up, but I have gone through most of what I inherited from Mimsy and it's time to start on the stuff that Tony and I have collected. " Those of you with memorabilia should take note and consider similar actions. Note that I did omit some of her letter.

**Earl Pettibone:** On the subject of class history, Earl has been reviewing the careers/lives of some classmates, some positive and negative, and has written some material about **Marv Nilsen** and **Waxey Gordon**. His theme can be summarized by the following: "You hear so much about the 'hero's" of West Point, names like John J. Pershing, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant and even General George Custer. But no one knows the stories of ... graduates who never make it to the top as a General. For going to and graduating from West Point, one of the top schools in the United States, does not ensure one of a rich rewarding life. Are all graduates successful? No, I'm afraid not." The discussion is interesting, but I suggest you contact Earl at [earl.pettibone@gmail.com](mailto:earl.pettibone@gmail.com) for the full text.

**Joe House:** Joe and Sue wrote to report that "all is going well here in Tampa, and we are amazed at the number of people who are moving in with us now. Every thing seems to be growing rapidly now, and we have new construction everywhere. Tampa University has 7,700 new students now and you would be amazed at all of the new construction being done right down town. I was Chairman of the Board 20 years ago when we selected Dr. Ron Vaughn, as President, and he is still the President. I still work with him all the time."

**Ray Ketchum:** Ray sent a note to **Don Sadler** with some interesting info about his musical activities. "Thanks for all your class coverage. I did conduct THE CORPS at Alice Tully Hall and the Glee Club did better with the gender-neutral language than I did. Of course they had the music to follow and I was relying on memory. I asked our accompanist to open with a piano drum roll as Fritz Meyer used to do working from the back of the Chapel to the Altar before we opened with THE CORPS. When I was back at the Point a few years ago, the organist told me they had removed those pipes and it was now his office. We had a "SOLD OUT" house, probably because we were joined by the Young People's Chorus to provide some female voices for a Gilbert & Sullivan number. Our conductor, Francisco Nunez also conducts the Young Peoples Chorus, so their parents probably filled any empty seat we may have had. . Looking forward to the upcoming Cadet Glee Club reunion. I used the video from the last one to brush up on my conducting. "

**Fred Koehler:** Fred sent an update on his condition since it was mentioned in the Class Notes. In 2013 he had his right hip replaced with no problems. Unfortunately, the same was not true for his left hip. Here is a brief summary he sent of the subsequent replacement of his left hip: "In October I had a total hip replacement of my left hip, which resulted in a fracture of my femur (left upper leg), In November I had "revision" surgery to address this problem which resulted in my left leg being about an inch shorter and rotated 50 degrees outward from where it should be. I was being encouraged to correct this through therapy but it became

obvious there was a more serious problem when x-rays showed some of the wires used to bind things together were broken. A third surgery this month hopefully corrected everything. My leg should be correctly rotated and the correct length. I pray for a proper and full recovery in the next month or so and look forward to some special upcoming events with my family.” We all hope your prayers are answered, Fred. All those contemplating a hip replacement should be aware of the possible complications.

**John Ramsden:** Lydia and I spent most of February in Hawaii and California to get away from the cold weather, and managed to miss all the storms except the last one in early March. While traveling, we ran into **Leigh and Marsha Ogden** at the Hale Koa in Hawaii and enjoyed a really nice dinner with them. Leigh and Marsha were also staying at the Hale Koa during part of the time we were there and then they flew off to spend some time on another island. While in California to visit Lydia's sister near San Diego, we managed to arrange to have lunch with **Glenn and Mary Jo Rhoades**. We had a great time catching up on our days since being together in H-2 and the "Juice" Department at West Point. Both Glenn and Mary Jo have health issues but are hanging in there and still enjoying the California life!

**Kerry Gates:** Kerry sent photos of his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday and of a trip with **Paul Schwehm**. and am including them here. With respect to the photo with Paul, he wrote: “Here is a snapshot for your class notes. Paul Schwehm and I at the bar and package store of world wide fame, the Florabama, half in Florida and half in Alabama on the Gulf of Mexico. It is also the home of the beachside premier athletic event, the Florabama Mullet Toss. Unfortunately we missed that by a few days.”



Photo 5 Kerry Gates at 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Photo 6 Kerry and Paul Schwehm

**Bruce Turnbull update:** Tom Adcock sent me the following update in May: “This morning I called the Turnbull home in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Bruce was out and I talked with Jerri. Jerri said Bruce is doing well despite two serious events over the past year beginning with a heart attack on May 1st, 2014. Bruce awoke that



night feeling bad with an upset stomach that wouldn't get better no matter what they tried. They went to the nearest hospital for help with Bruce's upset stomach. There an EKG revealed a more serious problem. Bruce was transferred to the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital in Charleston where Bruce had an emergency triple bypass. Because Bruce's heart was not damaged and due to his active lifestyle, Bruce was able to make a full recovery. However in mid-August of last year, the bypass blood vessels collapsed and Bruce suffered a second and more serious heart attack, and a stent was inserted at the MUSC Hospital. Now Bruce is doing physical therapy and has resumed playing golf and coaching lacrosse." This info was included in the Turnbull's annual letter, but I failed to include it in the last notes. We all wish Bruce continued good health.

**Russ Ramsey:** Russ wrote about some recent experiences that engendered some philosophical thoughts I found interesting and I'll quote him. The accident he refers to was reported in the last notes. "I am just coming off of a life-threatening experience, one that brought me closer to questions like "who am I" and "why am I on this earth." Clearly, God did not spare me from a horrible traffic accident, caused by a cerebral blood clot, for the purpose of telling youngsters that it's good for their character to spit-shine shoes and pick dried Brasso from the indentations on the USMA crest that adorns the Parade Hat. But I in fact did those very things in the mid 1950's under the rubric of living in the world's most excellent military community to become one of the world's military leaders who cannot be beaten in warfare. And quickly let me say that we did thousands of things [address superiors courteously and sincerely as 'Sir' or 'Ma'am'; memorize cold a 5-point reasoning paradigm; and go to a religious service weekly, with a choice of denominations. Much more of a quality nature was required of us than petty nit-noids having no real purpose beyond tradition. [Russ's fixed opinion, at age 80.] And now I will violate the rules of syllogistic reasoning with reckless abandon and state my core premise. Syllogistic reasoning is being over-stepped, just as I am doing here, in much of our discussion. Each bit of "Cadet custom/requirement" was installed by men like Sylvanus Thayer, who were clearly sons of the rational reasoning mood that swept Europe in the late 1700s and vaulted to the United States in the times of Thomas Jefferson. Horace Mann of New England opined that youngsters could be deprived of their rights and forced to become educated as a necessary foundation for democracy. James Monroe and a whole host of early American leaders from both political parties thought it prudent to give each Congressman one appointment each to the fledgling service academies, and two appointments to each Senator. Balance, imperfect, but necessary. Pragmatism in action. Greek syllogism from a faraway age and culture. I hope these thoughts are useful. Should I have given offense, I apologize. And I shall be your loyal and admiring friend and Classmate of 1957 forever." Russ later sent an update and photo of himself and Roberta. "Several of you have gone out of your way to inquire about my health since my near-fatal auto crash in September 2014. These pics were made when I am [was] 60 days out of hospital intensive care. Gary Roth is a Sandusky [Ohio] High School Classmate and a Florida snowbird." Thanks, Russ.



**Photo 7 Russ & Roberta Ramsey and the Roths (not a classmate)**

**On the subject of health:**

**Glenn Swindler:** Glenn included the following info in a recent email. "Had the pleasure of having **Jack and Nina Farris** visit with us yesterday. Both looked good and are apparently in pretty good health-- after Nina's recent bout with some serious health Issues. They came south to Florida, looking to perhaps relocate out of NJ--the cold snowy weather up there has become an issue. Fun "getogether"."

**Len Marrella:** Len included the following health note in a congratulatory note to Gerry and we hope he recovers completely. "Congratulations to Gerry Galloway as the recipient of the WPSDC Castle Memorial Award---well deserved !---regretfully I am recovering from open heart surgery and cannot make the ceremony but **Dee** and I send our heartiest congratulations."

**Don Buckner:** Don wrote: "I just recovered from TURP combined with bladder surgery at same time and am doing well in that respect. Still not much progress on progressive blindness and hearing loss. Scheduled 30 March In Sanford, NC for neurotology testing (auditory brainstem response (ABR) for hearing loss and video-nystagmography(VNG)fordizziness/unsteadiness.) Happy Easter" Our prayers are with you, Don.

**Ed Szvetcz:** **Arthur Johnson** sent the following on 9 May. "I got a call from Ed Szvetcz Jr this AM. Ed Sr is in the hospital in Atlanta where he was being treated for a hematoma and his heartbeat dropped to 30. They took care of the hematoma and this AM they operated on ED and inserted a pacemaker. The operation went well Thought classmates would like to know." Thanks, Art, and our prayers are with Ed.

**Class Losses since last notes.** These were sent to the Class when first received.

**Jim Cortez** died on Monday, April 13, in Daytona Beach, Florida, at age 83. His obit

was published in the Washington Post on 26 April.

**Carolynn Friend (wife of Bill Friend)** died on Thursday, April 16, in Maryland. Obit unknown.

**Tom Roebuck** died on Jan 31 in North Carolina. Obit was in the Charlotte Observer at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charlotte/obituary-search.aspx?daterange=3&townname=charlotte&stateid=33&affiliateid=218>