The Kablegram

Staunton Military Academy Newsletter

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Second Quarter — June 2002

Classes of '27, '32, '37, '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67 and '72 to be honored:

Reunion set for July 26-28 at Holiday Inn, Staunton

Fellow SMA Alumni – **it's less than 60 days from Reunion 2002!** The Honor Classes for this year are all the graduating classes that end with either a "2" or a "7". That's right, everyone from 1927 through 1972 should get those fingers dialing or use the internet to find your roommate, classmate or good friend from SMA and make your way to Staunton for a part of the July 26-28 reunion weekend. Everyone else, do the same thing. After all it's the gathering of friends and fellow classmates for a couple days of camaraderie that makes the reunion special. You just never know who you'll run into at one of these reunions (roommates, classmates, teachers, coaches), and when you do, you'll never forget it!

The key events this year are the dedication of our new SMA Memorial Wall on Saturday, July 27. Brig. Gen. William Louisell, Jr., SMA '46, son of the former SMA Commandant, will be the guest speaker.

In addition to the installation of plaques purchased last year, the Museum Committee has approved the installation of memorial plaques this year honoring three alumni: Barry Goldwater, '28, Phillip Enslow, '18, and David McCampbell, '28.

The SMA-VWIL Museum will be open extended hours over the weekend to allow alumni to enjoy the exhibits and to reminisce. On Saturday, we will again honor the founder of SMA, William H. Kable, with a wreath laying ceremony at the Kable family plot in Thornrose Cemetery.

The reunion banquet will be held on Saturday, and the food, even if half as good as last year, will be worth it. A block of 60 rooms has been reserved by the SMAAA on a first-come/-first-served basis at our reunion hotel headquarters, the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center in Staunton, VA (located at Route 275W, Exit 225 off I-81). Reservations must be made by 19 July to receive this special rate. When making reservations, be sure to mention **SMA Alumni Association Reunion** to receive the discounted rate of $72.00, plus 8.5% tax.

Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center
Staunton, Virginia

Please note in the schedule at right that there are two registrations planned. Friday registration will be from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and registration for those attending Saturday only will be 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Deadline for advanced registration is July 19. For your convenience, an SMA Alumni Association **Reunion 2002 Registration** form has been placed on **page 13** of this *Kablegram*.

Accompanying the form is the 2002 reunion fee schedule. There is an obvious savings to early registration, and all alumni are encouraged to complete and mail their registration forms with their checks as soon as possible.

— Mark Orr, SMA '73

WHERE?

Holiday Inn Golf and
Conference Center
Staunton, Virginia
(540) 248-6020
Reservations: 1-800-932-9061
Be sure to ask for the special
SMA Reunion Weekend Rate
E-mail: higcc@cfw.com

SCHEDULE:

Friday, July 26

9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Registration and Refreshments
8:00 p.m.	Cash Bar and BBQ Cookout

Saturday, July 27

9:00 a.m.	General Meeting
11:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
12:30 p.m.	Wreath Laying
1:00 p.m.	Museum Open
1:30 p.m.	Memorial Wall Dedication
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Registration
6:00 p.m.	Happy Hour
7:00 p.m.	Reunion Banquet

Sunday, July 28
Breakfast and Check-out

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SMA-VWIL Museum
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To honor the fallen

Fellow Old Boys....

When we gather on the last weekend in July for the 2002 SMA annual reunion and meeting, there will be 99 members of the Corps absent. The reason they will not be with us is not because they chose not to attend, but because they could not attend. They are gone. But they will be with us in spirit, and we will recognize them by their names on the SMA Memorial Wall.

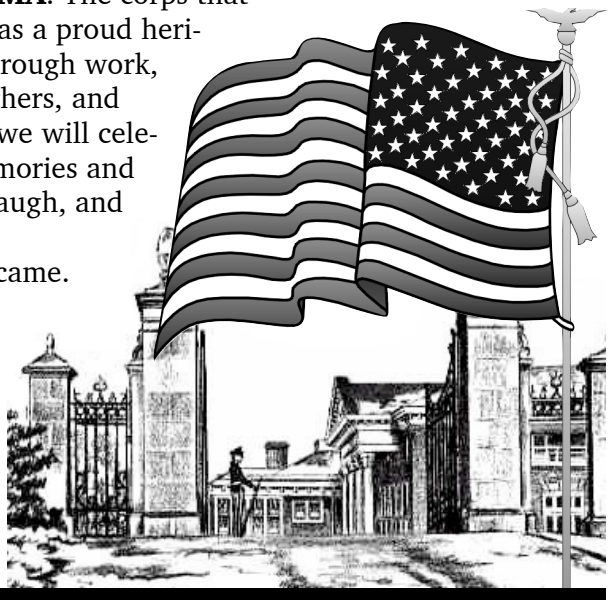
I know they gave their lives for our country so that we could be in Staunton to see old friends … so that their families could be anywhere they wanted to be on a Saturday afternoon … so that I could live free.

One Saturday in April, fellow board member Mark Orr '73 (a retired Navy officer, by the way) and I spent some time at the SMA-VWIL Museum checking the school records of the Old Boys who had died during the wars this nation has fought. "Killed in action in France" was one of them. "Killed in action in South Korea" was another. It was a moving experience to see these names, think of their sacrifice, and acknowledge that people at SMA over the years had taken the time to annotate their records.

Over the years, we have watched our friends and former roommates age as life takes its toll on our bodies. But for these 99 young men, they will be remembered as forever young. Look at their yearbook pictures, and you will see the faces of the young men who died in uniform for something they believed in.

Join me in July at SMA. The corps that you and I were a part of has a proud heritage. We have earned it through work, achievement, caring for others, and with our blood. Together, we will celebrate the living, share memories and honor the dead. You will laugh, and you will probably cry.

And you'll be glad you came.



Truth, duty, honor.

Tom

Tom Phillips, SMA '74
President, SMAAA

To contact Tom by e-mail: President@sma-alumni.org

Your response is critical!

Alumni Association Directory in the works, due in early 2003

The Harris Publishing Company has already begun work on our updated Staunton Military Academy Alumni Directory. It is planned for completion and sale early next year. In the meantime, a campaign has begun to obtain current and updated address information from each SMA alumni. We are asking for your support to ensure we get a quality product by providing your current contact information.

Harris Publishing will begin mass mailing a one-page survey/questionnaire to every SMA alumni to obtain updated contact data for the Directory. They will also send an email to those alumni that we already have an e-mail address offering the option of completing an online survey/questionnaire. Please take a few minutes to complete your one-page profile, using either option, when you are contacted.

HARRIS
DIRECTORY • INTERNET • DATA

Right now, a friend could be trying to reach you with the job offer of a lifetime. A former classmate might wish to drop you an email, or the friend you've been thinking about, but never quite got the time to locate, could be within reach if your contact information were up-to-date in our records. The SMAAA has partnered with Harris Publishing to produce this important directory, which will contain complete listings of all SMA alumni, including email addresses, professional and personal information to help meet your communications networking needs. The key to success in this endeavor will be your cooperation and your response.

The SMAAA Board of Directors expresses their appreciation in advance for taking the moment to ensure that we have your most current and accurate information for the SMA Alumni Directory.

Harris' commitment to protecting the privacy and ensuring the integrity of the information collected for the SMAAA Directory is reflected in their privacy policy, which you will find online at http://www.bcharris-pub.com/privacy.html.

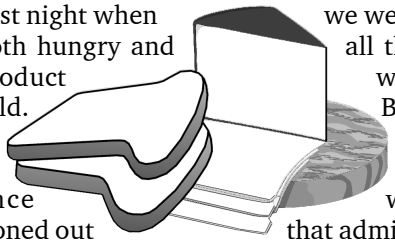
Toasted Cheese Sandwiches

by Bob Horvath, SMA '47

This was the year Wally and I became entrepreneurs. It began in January when a fellow Clevelander named Wally Morris brought a waffle maker back from home after Christmas. Not long after, Wally and I were in business selling toasted cheese sandwiches at break time.

We would sneak out to a local Mom-and-Pop grocery store and pick up the goodies. We would get five or six loaves of bread, plenty of cheese, and enough butter to keep the grill from being sticky and to add a couple hundred more calories and a deliciously rich taste to those grilled cheese sandwiches. We usually ate the firstbatch ourselves after we learned the hard way that our fellow Kable Hall cadets would buy up and eat all we could make.

The profits didn't seem so great that first night when we were both hungry and all the product was sold. But once we ironed out that administrative detail, we had full stomachs, money in our pockets, and loads of fun as part of the bargain.



Then one night, for some strange reason, we didn't sell a single sandwich. We made our usual stack and waited for the break period. When nobody showed up, we went down the hall and around the barracks looking for our usual customers. No dice. Nobody was hungry. Well, Wally and I, as I recall, sat down on our bunks and just started talking — I don't know what about. We chatted on all through the final study period and well after taps. All the time we were talking, I just kept munching away!

Finally, as I finished the last sandwich, Wally said, "Jack you are amazing. You just ate about 20 grilled cheese sandwiches!" Wally had polished off a few himself, but then just started counting them off while I kept stuffing my face. I had probably put in 150 laps down in the competition pool in the basement of Kable Hall that day; and I always had a pretty good appetite. Even for me this was something of a personal record. We chuckled and then went to sleep.

The next morning there was nothing funny about it. When I woke up I felt this general aching feeling and I could not move. I just could not move! When it came time to get up for reveille and breakfast formation, I couldn't make it out of bed. When it came time to go to class I still couldn't get out of bed. I just had Wally tell someone where I was. My guess is that he told Sgt. Lou Onesty what happened, and my swim coach "took care of me."

At any rate, for some reason, I didn't get in trouble with anybody. I don't remember any more about the incident, except that I think our entrepreneurial ambitions pretty much died. That cheese must have worked — I won every one of my races for SMA , and Lou Onesty, that year.

Wally Morris was one of the really good guys!

Editor's Note: Bob Horvath may have gotten away with that in 1947, but in the late 1950's, I had my hotplate taken away. I used it to make coffee. Then I tried a can of Sterno, but the odor gave it away. So, I ended up stopping at the Mess Hall on my way back to evening "lock-down" and asking "Colonel Joe" or "Chick" for a cup of coffee. That stuff was as strong as motor oil but it was still coffee.

Your SMAAA dues make The Kablegram possible!
....and the publication of stories like the one above and those on other pages of this issue.
Help make things happen! Send your $50.00 dues today to
SMA Alumni Association • P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station
Staunton, Virginia 24401-958

Thank You, Major Wease!

Things Could Have Turned Out Different

By Mark Orr, SMA '73

I remember the day as vividly as if it were yesterday. It was just four-five weeks before my graduation from SMA in 1973. Freedom! It seemed like the worst was over and I had survived my three years on the Hill. I had already received word that I would receive a four-year U.S. Marine Corps ROTC scholarship at my first choice college, Pennsylvania State University. I was feeling on top of the world and wanted to celebrate.

Major Wease

After being on the Hill for three years, you learn the ropes on how to "get stuff." Getting beer/wine was a breeze – go downtown and find a wino to make the purchase for you and tip him a bottle of Boone's Farm for his trouble. I'd done it dozens of times and never got caught.

I won't admit to the other stuff I got away with during my last year on the Hill. So, how were Gene Ehmann, my partner in crime, and me supposed to know that Major Robert Wease would be parked in his car, waiting for his wife to finish a shopping errand, and have a direct line-of-sight view of our beer deal that day? He saw the whole thing go down!

As Gene and I were walking back toward the Hill, we notice a car slowly pull up alongside us. Then we saw it was Major Wease! Of course, we tried to act innocent, but the gig was up — he said to "get in the car." Once we were in the backseat, he informed us that he'd seen the whole thing and to pass the bags up front, which we did immediately.

As everyone knows, drinking or buying beer/liquor was a kick-out offense. I was scared and began to see my life flash before my eyes. Graduation – gone! Scholarship – gone! College – not looking good! Parents? Yikes! It was so close to graduation and so much was at stake. I began begging (yes, and crying) for Major Wease to have mercy on us. Gene was a junior and the impact wasn't as great, so I don't recall him begging as much. Anyway, it was a long, slow drive back to campus and Major Wease didn't say much, except "You should have thought about that earlier." Or something like that.

When we got on campus, he told us to go to our barracks (we both lived in South) and stay there until Sunday, leaving only for meals/formation. On Sunday, we were to report to the library where he would inform us of his decision. I didn't sleep well that night.

The next day when we met with Major Wease, he said he had thought long and hard about what he should do with us. He reminded us of the seriousness of the offense, but that he had decided to handle it in his way. This meant that we were both restricted to the Hill for the remainder of the school year and had to report to the library every Saturday. It was also important that no one else know about this punishment. If word leaked out, he couldn't guarantee what the consequences would be. Of course, this meant Major Wease had to be in the library as well to supervise us.

Neither of us said a word to anyone and we did exactly as Major Wease said. It was a tough way to end my time on the Hill, but better than any other alternative. It also taught me an important lesson about compassion and giving someone a second chance.

Things could have turned out very differently in my life if the rulebook had been followed. As it was, I graduated, received my scholarship, went to Penn State and was commissioned in 1977 as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

I had not mentioned this secret but to just a handful of people over those 25 years. I only shared the details of this event with my parents at a family gathering in 1990. Keeping secrets is my line of work.

In 1998, I attended my very first SMA Reunion and met now Colonel Wease

— Continued to page 14 —

New look, new face for The Kablegram

By Mark Orr, SMA '73

You've probably noticed that *The Kablegram* has a new look, specifically designed to create excitement about what the association is doing.

We hope you like what you see, and encourage you to offer comments and critique. After all, this is **your** newsletter, paid for by **your** dues, and intended to keep **you** informed.

Together with the new look we have a new editor. C. David Litzenburg, SMA '58, has accepted the challenge of designing and producing the newsletter and making sure it gets to you on time.

Dave acquired a 20+ years of experience in the newspaper industry, in news, advertising and management/marketing. Since his semi-retirement in 1996, he has created newsletters and marketing materials for a number of organizations in Northern Virginia.

One of the most important ingredients in an effective newsletter is the active participation of those who read *it*. We want to know about your experiences during your years at SMA and to share your memories. You can do this by sending us articles, photographs, news items, and letters.

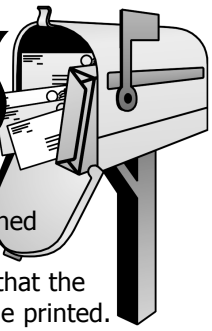
There will be an Opinion/Commentary page where alumni can offer comment and/or critique. We need to know what you think, good or bad. We'll always provide "Taps", announcing those former cadets who have passed away.

In addition to the e-mail address on our website, Dave will accept articles, photo, inquiries and comments at **davelitz@bellatlantic.net**.

Articles can be submitted in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect 6.1, text format on e-mail, and as hard copy if you wish. For mailing purposes, Dave's address is 12718 Pinecrest Road, Herndon, VA 20171-2608. Questions? Call him at (703) 860-8052 evenings and weekends.

As for me, my cup is already full. Having Dave handle *The Kablegram* will free up some of my time for other association responsibilities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Letters will be published unless the originator specifically requests that the communication not be printed.

May 5, 2002 by e-mail:

"Wonderful idea of a web site for SMA graduates. Went by SMA in May of 2000 and Mary Baldwin has done a great job of restoring and using the old SMA facilities. Going to SMA for just one year helped me to get into Vanderbilt Engineering and stay there to graduate, so it was very tough but beneficial.

Quite a few of my schoolmates in Waxahachie, Texas flunked out of school (including our Salutatorian), so I know going to Staunton Military School was the right decision for me.

It is unfortunate that SMA has passed away physically so more young people could not acquire good academic skills to have good future careers in one of the professions. SMA was difficult but it provided a real gateway to a better life for a lot of young men.

I also miss running track in the foot hills of the Shenandoah Mountains in George Washington National Park — the scenery was beautiful. I know a lot of people are leading pretty good lives today because of their parents sacrificing to make it possible for their sons to attend SMA. I know mine did.

Regards,
Ed Leigh"

Editor's note: Edmund Pendleton Leigh graduated in 1974. His name is being added to the 1974 class registry and is e-mail address added to the SMA e-mail directory.

May 5, 2002 by letter mail:

"Our son, Joseph Lore Kersey, graduated from SMA in 1973. We have many nice memories of our weekend visits to Staunton. We believe that his six years at SMA greatly contributed to the successful life that he achieved.

Unfortunately, Joe died of cancer in July of 1999. When a friend passes along a recent Kablegram for us to read, we decided to subscribe. We miss hearing news of Joe's old friends at the Academy. We also enjoyed reading about alums of many years past.

— Continued on page 14 —

OPINION & COMMENTARY

Invest in nostalgia!

Back in April, I received an e-mail from Mark Orr, Secretary of SMAAA. That e-mail prompted me to go to the SMAAA website and browse, and that led to my introduction to *The Kablegram*.

One thing led to another and I found myself going down the list of people I graduated with and people who have passed on. Several in particular touched me. I knew Bill Rucker, SMA '60, and Stan Novack and Julio Ossa, both 1959 graduates.

As I read on, I realized that for someone who loved SMA as much as I did, I have been derelict in keeping in touch with classmates, and equally lax by not paying my dues. The check was mailed that very day. Then I picked up the telephone and called someone I had not talked to in 40 years....a close friend and a fellow graduate in 1958. We talked for an hour. He had been wondering about me as well.

I read in *The Kablegram* about how only a small percentage of SMA alumni actually pay dues and support the association. Much like myself, they no doubt have put their years at the academy on the back shelf and not dusted them off in a long time, and supporting the association has not been a priority or in many cases not even a consideration.

I opened a couple copies of *The Shrapnel* I had hidden away. I experienced a sudden swell of memories of how unique those years were, and I was hooked! I made my reservations for the 2002 Reunion....only the third that I will have attended.

Every graduate of Staunton Military Academy needs a dose of this type of nostalgia. It's good for the soul! While it reminds us of how old we may be, it also reminds us of what our years onThe Hill meant to us, and the lifetime relationships we developed there.

As alumni, we have an obligation to support the efforts of what to date has been a few dedicated graduates. They have done an exceptional job. We have a website to be proud of. *The Kablegram* has been resurrected. We have a museum. Some of the buildings are still there. We have the support of Mary Baldwin College and their military contingent.

We are far more fortunate than many schools who have no more than a mailing list. We can see our past, visit it, touch it, and contribute to it in many ways. It has been preserved in part by a group of people who understand the importance that SMA held in our lives.

Not everyone can offer a significant infusion of cash to the association. Those who can are appreciated for their willingness to further SMAAA growth through their contributions. However, I have to believe that everyone can afford $50.00 a year to keep this effort going strong. Those who pay their dues are appreciated as well for their involvement.

If you can do no more than just paying your dues, at least please do that! If you can do more, then perhaps you can buy a brick in the walk at the museum or contribute to the scholarship fund.

The important thing is to do what you can! If you have doubts, just get your yearbook out and browse through it for an hour, or go to our website (www.sma-alumni.org) and spend some time there.

You'll find, as I did, that your $50 dues can make a truly significant difference. You'll probably also realize just how important SMA was to you and how much you can help SMAAA....now and in the years to come.

— C. David Litzenburg, SMA '58
The Kablegram Editor

Articles, news items or items of interest accepted electronically at **Kablegram@sma-alumni.org** or by mail to the SMA Alumni Association office. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, or text document format (Netscape and other internet browsers). Photos should be submitted as attachments (ZIP files, if possible) as .JPG images.

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE AT SMA

by John H. "Jack" Craigie, SMA '47

The average American citizen thinks of a cadet at a military academy as something of an automaton, someone who has been stripped of his personality. Those of us who have been there know better. As we know, nothing could be further from the truth. Thinking back about my own experience at SMA, I remember just how different some of us were; but I remember as well how SMA brought each one of us along our separate trajectories toward graduation and manhood.

I don't mind saying that, at age 13, finding myself getting yelled at by an upperclassman three years older than me was quite intimidating during my "Rat Year" at SMA in 1943-44. However, yelling was not our real source of dread. Each infraction of the SMA discipline system was written down, but not immediately submitted to the tactical department. Such a submission, when it took place, was in cadet jargon, a "stick."

On Sunday afternoons we were offered the opportunity to avoid this formal submission to the tactical department. The "opportunity" we were offered to avoid it was to bend over and take an appropriate number of briskly delivered swats to our posterior. So, it was our choice -— "Do you take the stick or the swat?" But it wasn't really a choice. It was considered manly to take the swat; so that's what we did.

I remember how much I looked for

Pictured in May 2001: Back row (left to right), Jack Craige, SMA '47, Ted Atkeson, SMA '47, Bill Louisell, SMA '46 (son of the former MSA Commandant), and Fred Henney, SMA '46. All were 1951 graduates of USMA (West Point); Front row (left to right), Dick McLean, USMA '51 and Dabney Neff McLean, Miss SMA 1947. Photo provided by Jack Craige, SMA '47.

I remember how much I looked forward to delivering, rather than receiving, those awesome swats. Guess what? About the second or third day of my sophomore year, SMA officials announced that there would be no more corporal punishment — no more delivering the devastating question, "The stick or the swat?" We second-year "men" were all furious, but, of course, SMA was right. Fourteen-year-old boys should not be allowed that much power, and especially not that kind of power. SMA Rats still had a tough time; and military training was rigorous for everybody.

During the spring of our freshman year, the tactical officers gave us detailedindividual, examinations in field exercises. World War II was going on; so the subject was important, and we knew it. Furthermore, I found the subject interesting, studied hard, and did well. Accordingly, my second year at SMA in 1944-45, I found myself as a sergeant and a squad leader.

I am not sure just how it came about, but my attitude during that second-year became that of a fun loving hell-raiser, rather than that of a serious cadet. I was in good company. My roommate, Bob Martin, ranked second in the SMA Corps of Cadets in demerits. His roommate ranked first! We were Virginia's version of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. As a result of all this I got to know the SMA Commandant of Cadets, Col. William Louisell, a lot better than did most of my classmates. Col. Louisell probably didn't think our pranks were anywhere near as hilarious as Bob and I did. If he enjoyed any of them, Col. Louisell didn't show it. He was always quite firm, but never angry or harsh. I didn't look back at the time I stood at attention in his office as being terrifying, or even unpleasant.

Col. Louisell's admonitions were more along the line of instruction, as opposed to punishment or harassment. All of the details are long gone, unfortunately, but my own recollections about the man were a combination of admiration and — believe it or not — a measure of affection.

In preparing to write this article, I got out my 1945 and 1947 issues of the *Shrapnel*. During my senior year the senior staff of SMA included a West Pointer as Superintendent, a West Pointer as Professor of Military Science and Tactics, and three career Army officers as Commandant, Assistant Commandant, and Business Manager. In addition there were eight other career Army personnel in the tactical department.

The headmaster, however, was a career high school and military prep school teacher, not a career Army officer. And, for SMA, that was as it should be. I remember, in public junior high school and high school, a few really good teachers. At SMA, however, really good teachers were the rule, not the exception.

Before I looked up the staff I first looked up Bob Martin. During his senior year at SMA Bob was a First Lieutenant, a member of the Howie Rifles Drill Team, and a member of the Honor Committee. That hell raiser had grown up. Come to think of it, I had changed a bit myself. I competed on the swimming team, which undoubtedly burned off a number of otherwise mischievous kids grow.

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REFLECTIONS
ON LIFE AT SMA

— Continued from page 6 —

calories. Far more important, I competed for and won SMA's Honor Military School principal appointment to West Point. SMA helped a couple wild kids grow up.

Ed Peter, SMA First Captain in 1947, and Ted Atkeson, an A Company First Lieutenant, were outstanding SMA cadets and later they were my classmates at West Point. Both became general officers in the U.S. Army, as did our West Point classmate, Bill Louisell, Jr., who graduated from SMA a year before us.

After gaining the appointment to West Point and passing the physical exam, I suppose I started to relax a bit too much. Col. Louisell would not let me return to my wayward ways. I didn't ready get into any trouble, but he called me into his office one day and told me that I could still lose out on West Point.

I got the message — straighten up and fly right — and was grateful for it. Perhaps Col. Louisell gave me this warning because another West Point appointee, Ted Atkeson, was reduced to Private for some spring indiscretion.

Both the military and academic aspects of Staunton were outstanding; but so were the other two elements of our growth experience there. From my senior year copy of the *Shrapnel* I noted that, for the athletic teams that listed their records, SMA won 58 contests and lost six, a 90 percent winning average. The final pillar of our development at SMA was that of character. Over the last few years I compared notes with a few of my SMA schoolmates. We agreed that, by far, the deadliest of the seven deadly sins at Staunton was the rendering of a False Official Statement. Hearing that someone was being punished for an "FOS" was about as ominous a piece of news as you could hear. In this time of Enron scandals and worrying about what the definition of "is" is, it is refreshing to remember how important the development of character was at that school up on the Hill.

"The SMA Museum is worth a trip...."

Alumni continue to visit SMA Museum

Not reported in the last issue of *The Kablegram* was the visit to the SMA Museum by **David Dunlap, SMA '55**, and his wife Pat, of Hummelstown, PA.

"The visit was part of our trip over Christmas to visit our son in Texas," Dunlap reports, adding that he and Pat "also made plans and met with my classmate **Lawrence Marks, SMA '55**, and his wife."

The two alumni had not seen each other since their graduation 46 years ago. Meeting in Johnson City, TN, the two alumni and their wives enjoyed a four-hour lunch, and "could have talked all day and evening."

"Of great interest to me," Dunlap said, "was going through the '56 *Shrapnel* and seeing for the first time the officers and their positions achieved by the '55 juniors." "We were followed by a group of good men", he added.

"The SMA Museum is worth a trip, and there is still enough of 'The Hill' there to bring back many memories as to where our formative roots were."

Edward B. Jones, SMA '41, of Savannah, GA and Mrs. Jones were on their way to Connecticut and stopped in Staunton. It was evening and the office and Museum were closed. However, Ed called the Thompson and Kivilighan homes to catch up on the news about SMA. Ed was a former president of the SMA Alumni Association and a board member in 1986.

Others who have recently visited the SMA Museum are:

Phil Carletti, Staunton, VA
Paul J. Kivilighan, SMA '29
and Nita, Staunton, Virginia
Will Parkins, AMA '35
and **Bill Parkins**, AMA '70
both of Bridgewater, VA
Gwendlyn E. Walsh, Staunton, VA
Malcolm Wells, Staunton, VA
M. Haskins Coleman, SMA '48
Staunton, VA
Maj. Gen. John P. Henderson, Jr.
Richmond, VA
John E. Allen, SMA '61
and **Jean Allen**, of Bowie, MD
Bill Kingdom, College Park, MD
Dorothy Thacker, Staunton, VA
Mark Lawrence, SMA '71
Newark, DE
Sonny Major, SMA '74
Manquin, VA
Ralph Sebrell, SMA '45 and Ann
Richmond, VA
Alton L. Peck, SMA '47
Meriden, CT
Charlotte Waters, Waynesboro, PA,
daughter of an SMA alumni
Simon M. Painter, SMA '58
Staunton, VA
Richard Wilson, SMA '41
Chesapeake, OH
Bill Becker, SMA '57 and Gloria
Selinsgrove, PA
Randolph Dodge, SMA '65
Brockton, MA
Edward Dodge, SMA '42
Staunton, VA
Mr. and Mrs. James Horton
Scottsdale, AZ, staff to the late
Barry M. Goldwater, SMA '28
Brig. Gen. William C. Louisell, SMA '46
and Mrs. Louisell, Whitestone, VA
John S. Harrison, SMA '76
and Mrs. Harrison, Overland Park, KS
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kable
Westminster, MD
Deidre Kelly Perrin, Hampton, NH
daughter of
Joseph S. Kelley, SMA, '43
Michael Hutchison, SMA '72
Gettysburg, PA
Harold L. Walters, Leesburg, FL
Oliver M. Meiss, SMA '48
Staunton, VA
Michael Lanery, West Hartford, CT
George "Buck" Dorman, SMA '67
Charlottesville, VA
Denise and Brian Katz
Toronto, Canada
Elizabeth Moody,
Bridgewater, VA
James Alley, SMA '43 and Marge
Aiken, SC

We would like to know what you think of the SMA Museum. If you have the opportunity to visit in the near future, please take the time to either send us an e-mail or write a letter and tell us of your visit and impressions. This museum was established for the alumni and their families, and your impressions and opinions are important. **E-mail: smaoffice@sma-alumni.org.**

SMAAA • P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station • Staunton, VA 24402

The Messer Family Tradition

by Judith Nunn Alley
and Mark Orr, SMA '73

If one family could ever be credited with holding the record for the largest number of SMA cadets, it would have to be the descendants of John and Augusta Messer. Here's the lineup, in order of attendance:

- Kenneth G. Messer, Sr., SMA 35
- John A. Messer, Jr., SMA '37
- Roy P. Nunn, Jr, SMA '50
- John J. Nunn, SMA '51
- John A "Jack" Messer, III, SMA '59
- Douglas G. Messer, SMA '61
- Kenneth G. Messer, Jr., SMA '66
- Alan M. Messer, SMA '68

Having spent a career as a U.S. Navy cryptologist and now supporting the SMA Alumni Association as the webmaster, I began noticing a pattern with the name "Messer" appearing several times in the online SMAAA Email Directory. Then, quite by accident during an internet search, I came across a Florida newspaper story about a family history that Judith Nunn Alley, daughter of Beatrice Messer Nunn, had compiled in the mid 1990s.

It included the following quote from Judy: "One of the most interesting parts is devoted to the eight family members who attended Staunton Military Academy. Each is pictured in his cadet uniform."

I decided to contact Jack Messer, SMA '59 and ask him if the story was true and what an interesting part of SMA's history it would make to capture it for *The Kablegram*. That resulted in the preparation of an article written by his cousin, Judy Alley.

John A. Messer, Sr. arrived in New York City in 1897 as a 10-year-old penniless Russian immigrant, who began his new life as a paperboy on the streets of New York City. By the 1950s, he would parlay this meager start into ownership of two mirror plants and three furniture plants, known as Messer Industries. Another American success story!

If one travels southwest down the road from Staunton into the Blue Ridge Mountains, you will discover the beautiful little town of Galax, Virginia. The community had only been in existence for about 22 years when John A. Messer, Sr. moved his wife and four children (Beatrice, Gertrude, Kenneth, and John Jr.) from Bassett to Galax in December 1927. It was written of John, Sr., "….he arrived in town with a gleam in his eye and a shine on his pants."

John was considered the "Horatio Alger" in the history of Galax.The Messer family doesn't know exactly when John and his wife Augusta Messer discovered Staunton Military Academy, but over the span of thirty-seven years, their two sons, Ken and John, and their six grandsons, Roy, John, Jack,, Doug, Alan, and Ken, all proudly wore the SMA uniform. Even with this large number of cadets from one family, there was never more than two attending the school at the same time. If SMA were in operation today, more than likely, there would be a family member in attendance.

When one grandson was asked if he was given the choice of attending SMA, he replied, "I don't remember having a choice, it was just a thing I was going to do." Another grandson replied that after the death of his father, his uncle offered him the opportunity to attend SMA, if he was interested. Even though his uncle told him it was a "Messer family tradition" and that his father would have wanted him to attend, he was allowed to make the final decision.

Not only did he and his father share some of the same teachers, but also they were in the same company. His father was lieutenant of B Company in 1935, and he would become Captain of the B Company in 1966. John Messer, Sr.'s legacy through his sons included one who became a decorated WWII Navy pilot and the other who shared his love of mirror manufacturing.

Needless to say, the grandsons have carried on the family tradition of an interest in furniture and mirrors. More importantly, John Messer, Sr. believed strongly in helping his fellowman.

Through his example and the values instilled at SMA, these eight Messers continued to contribute to their communities through their involvement in family, civic, church, and political activities.

When asked what they considered the most important things they learned as SMA cadets their answers included leadership, responsibility, discipline and self-reliance. They learned their lessons well. They became concerned, and dedicated parents, citizens and businessmen.

Nicole Littlejohn

SMA Leadership Scholarship awarded to VWIL sophomore

The 2002 SMA Leadership Scholarship has been awarded to Nicole Littlejohn, a VWIL sophomore from Landover, MD.

Upon graduation in 2004, Ms. Littlejohn will be commissioned in the U.S. Air Force.She is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Leadership. Ms. Littlejohn is "extremely active in extra curricular activities" according to information provided by Mary Baldwin College.

In 2001 Ms. Littlejohn was president of her freshman class and has this year been vice present of the sophomore class. She is also a member of the Black Student Alliance, The Army Aviation Association of America, the Physical Training Cadre, the Emergency Response Team and holds the rank of Corporal in the regimental system.

The SMAAA Leadership Scholarship is awarded by the association to a VWIL cadet in a ROTC commissioning program.

David McCampbell, SMA '28, U.S. Navy "Ace of Aces"

by Mark Orr, SMA '73

We have two great opportunities this summer to honor the memory of a SMA Class of 1928 graduate—David S. McCampbell. The first is with the installation of a memorial plaque honoring David McCampbell on the new SMA-VWIL Memorial Wall on July 27, 2002. The second is when the U.S. Navy commissions its newest Arleigh Burke class Aegis destroyer, the USS Mc-CAMPBELL (DDG-85), in San Francisco on August 17, 2002.

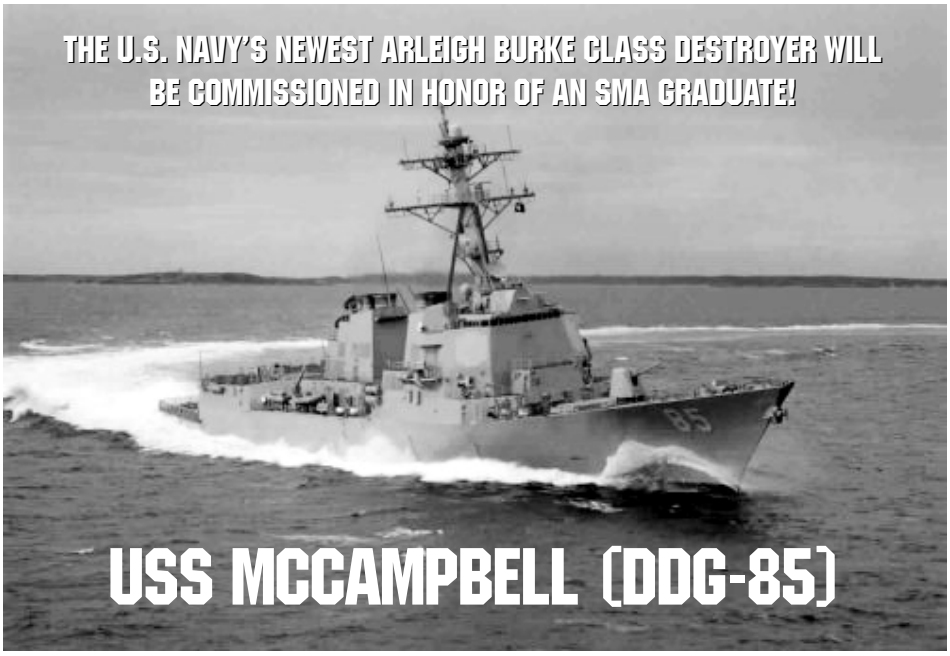
USS McCAMPBELL is the same class of ship as the USS COLE, which was attacked by terrorists in the Gulf of Aden with the tragic loss of 17 U.S. sailors. USS Cole has since been rebuilt and returned to the fleet to fight again, and on commissioning day USS McCAMPBELL will join other Navy ships of the fleet, serving on the front lines of our defense. The ship is named for Navy Captain David McCampbell, the Navy's "Ace of Aces" and Medal of Honor winner who shot down 34 enemy aircraft in World War II, including a record nine in a single mission.

To do this, the Commissioning Committee needs to raise $30,000. The budget not only supports traditional events for invited guests, plus sponsors, dignitaries and special events for the crew during pre-commissioning week in San Francisco, but includes plans to make a contribution to the crew's "Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund." Your support on the very first day of 30 years of service for this ship, and your appreciation for her 300 plus crewmembers and their service and sacrifice, will help send America's strong message that we care and we support our men and women in uniform.

I hope you will join others who have already given, in making a tax-deductible contribution to this very worthy cause.

"The *San Francisco Business Times* joins with the Pacific Central Region of the Navy League of the United States to invite you and your organization to take an ownership interest in a historic special event in San Francisco in August 2002, by supporting the commissioning of the USS McCAMP-BELL (DDG-85). In addition to acknowledgement in *San Francisco Business Times*, the Pacific Central Region of the Navy League of the United States will provide contributors special seating and recognition at the commissioning ceremony where they will join an estimated 4,000 invited guests to witness USS McCAMPBELL "come alive" as the newest ship in the U.S. Navy."

DID YOU KNOW?



Please mark the note section of your check "Staunton Military Academy" and the total of our contribution will be attributed both to you individually, and collectively to Staunton Military Academy Alumni, in the donor's brochure and in a *San Francisco Business Times* newspaper ad. Your contribution, large or small, may be made payable to "Navy League McCAMPBELL Commissioning." Those who make a tax-deductible contribution to the commissioning event, at a level of $100 or more will receive VIP seating and other gifts commensurate with the "Level of Giving". Mail your contribution to:

USS McCAMPBELL Commissioning Committee
CAPT. Michele H. Lockwood, Treasurer, SFBT,
2222 Alameda De Las Pulgas
San Mateo, CA 94403-1216.

Apollo 13 Commander and U.S. Navy Captain Jim Lovell and Former Secretary of State George Shultz are Honorary Co-Chairs, USS McCAMPBELL Commissioning Committee. Additionally, about 15 members of McCampbells' Air Group 15 ("The Fabled Fifteen") are expected to attend the commissioning.

In addition, the first 20 SMA alumni who submit their name and address to me via email at **markorr@concentric.net** or fax to **(757) 631-7315** will be sent to the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Navy will issue you a general invitation to attend the commissioning event. Each of the 20 invitations will be in your name plus will include one guest seat. It is important that I have these names not later than June 15, 2002.

Information about the ship and CAPT. McCampbell can be found at the following web sites: **http://www.mccampbell.navy.mil** and **http://www.sma-alumni.org/navy-ace.htm**. Please turn to the next page for more information on how you can support this cause.

Order your "Walk of Honor" bricks today!

As part of the SMA Legacy Projects, a paved brick "Walk of Honor" has been added in front of the SMA Memorial Wall. The purchase of individually inscribed commemorative bricks is a way to not only support your association, but also to honor or recognize SMA alumni, former faculty members, teaches, coaches, staff, graduating classes and/or SMA friends and supporters. The blank bricks on the existing walkway will be replaced with each 100 orders of inscribed bricks. Each 4" x 8" brick costs $50.00 and can be purchased with a tax-deductible contribution to the SMA Foundation, Inc.

Name:_____SMA Class Year:_____

Address:_____ City, State, ZIP:_____

Telephone: (Home: (_____)_____ Work: (_____)_____

E-mail:_____

Inscription information (please print)

Line 1:_____

Line 2:_____

Line 3:_____

Inscriptions may be up to three lines (maximum if 20 characters per line). Punctuation marks count as characters. If multiple bricks are being purchased, please make copies of this form to submit orders for the additional bricks.

Mail this order form and your check (payable to **SMA Foundation, Inc./Brick Paver**) to:
SMA Foundation, Inc. • Attn: SMA Walk of Honor • P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station • Staunton, Virginia 24402-0958

WE NEED YOU TO SERVE ON THE BOARD!

The best way to insure SMAAA continuity and growth is to step up and serve! Nominations are being accepted for six vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you believe you can make a contibution by serving as a member of the board, please contact Bill Leeman at (703) 360-4810 or (757) 220-1087.....or e-mail to President@sma-alumni.org. You can nominate yourself or someone you believe would serve effectively. The election will be held July 27 at the reunion general meeting.

Use the form below to schedule your attendance at the commissioning of the USS McCampbell. For specific levels of giving, please contact Mark Orr at "markorr@concentric.net". Please detach and mail this form with your tax-deductible contribution.

• **YES**, I look forward to attending the commissioning of the USS McCampbell. • **YES**, I've enclosed my contribution

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____ Check enclosed for $_____

or VISA/Mastercard: No._____Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Make checks payable payable to: **Navy League McCampbell Commissioning.** Mail contribution to**: CAPT Michele H. Lockwood, Treasurer, McCampbell Commissioning Committee, 2222 Alameda De Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA, 94403.**

TAPS

The SMA Alumni Association regrets to announce the passing of these alumni. SMAAA and its members extend their sincere condolences.

John Glenn Harris, SMA '30

Mr. Harris was born in Sioux Falls, SD on June 1, 1910. As a cadet, Harris was promoted to Corporal in 1927 and Sergeant in 1928 and Lieutenant in 1929. Glenn graduated from SMA on June 5, 1930 as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves and went to on to earn a degree in Industrial Engineering from Alexander Hamilton Institute.

Harris married Mary Catherine Van Buren in 1939 and was subsequently ordered by the Reserves to serve as company officer and construction officer in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in New Jersey during 1936-37. From 1938 to1941 he held various industrial engineering positions. In April 1942 his commission was activated into the U.S. Army.

He served in the Ordinance Corps and in April 1943 was sent to the China-Burma-India theatre. Harris was awarded the Bronze Star for organizing rescue parties for two airplane crashes in Burma in 1943 and 1944 which saved 19 lives. Harris was responsible for invention, design and production of colored flares needed by Merrill's Marauders in the Burma jungles. These flares were used for spotting enemy soldiers infiltrating through American lines and his action had a direct impact on the conclusion of the Burma Campaign.

Harris graduated from the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, KS in 1949. In 1956 he was detached from the Ordinance Department to the Surgeon Generals Office to assist in the negotiating and drafting of the Dependent Medical Care Act. Harris retired as a Lt. Colonel and died on June 4, 1965 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by two sons, Glenn John Harris II, Marietta, GA and Franklin Dewitt Harris, Fountain Hills, AZ.

Editor's note: We appreciate the Harris family's efforts in providing The Kablegram with this detailed documentation.

Joseph H. Abel, Jr., SMA '50 of Sun Valley, CA, age 70, died February 3, 2002. An established pilot, Mr. Abel was a contract pilot for the USAF and later a flight instructor. He spent 31 years helping the disabled and handicapped children with learning and speech difficulties, instructed fencing to students at Los Angeles Valley College and was later selected to assist with the fencing venue during the 1984 Summer Olympics. He is survived by his wife, Rosann, and two sons, David and Carlos.

Murphy D. Albury, Jr. SMA '42 of Elkins, WV, age 77, died November 6, 2001.

— Continued on page 12 —

Cadet Store Order Form

QUAN.	ITEM	EACH	TOTAL
_____	Baseball Cap	$10.00	$_____
	Navy blue with "Staunton Military Academy" in gold		
_____	SMA-VWIL Video	$50.00	$_____
_____	T-Shirt (blue)	$15.00	$_____
	with shield (L, XL and 2X only)		
_____	Sweatshirt (white)	$15.00	$_____
	(S, M, XL and 2X while supply lasts)		
_____	Belt Buckle (gold)	$20.00	$_____
	with eagle emblem		
_____	Belt Buckle (silver)	$20.00	$_____
	Old Boys buckle		
_____	Leather Belt	$15.00	$_____
	Sizes 28, 32, and 36 available		
_____	Note Cards	$ 2.50	$_____
_____	Postcards (original)	$ 2.50	$_____
_____	SMA Patches	$ 2.00	$_____
_____	Rank Insignia	$ 1.00	$_____
_____	Blue Book (reprint)	$10.00	$_____
		Total:	$_____

Please print!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____State: ____

ZIP:_____ Telephone: (_____) _____

E-mail:_____

Mail to:
SMA-VWIL Museum • P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station
Staunton, Virginia 24401-0957
or FAX this order form to (540) 885-1366
or e-mail your order to SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org

To order, contact the SMA Alumni/Museum Office, and detail the items you wish to order. For convenience, you can complete the order form below and either mail it or fax it to the Cadet Store. Your order will be calculated and appropriate shipping and handling fees added.

The fee will be based on UPS weight and distance rates in effect at the time your order is being processed.

If you faxed or e-mailed your order, you will be contacted in a similar manner with the total cost of your order. If you mailed your order, you will be called or advised by return mail of the cost of your order.

Once you receive the total cost, mail your order and your check payable to **SMA Foundation, Inc./Museum** to the address shown on the order form above.

Charles S. Allen, Jr., SMA '24 of Novato, VA, age 94, died July 2, 2001. Mr. Allen's career took him to various marketing and sales management positions. While at SMA, he roomed with the late Maj. Gen. Robert T. Frederick of the infamous "Devils Brigade" of World War II. He is survived by a son, Rex, San Francisco, CA, and two daughters, Marianne Morse, Green Acres, WA and Joannie Bowie, San Clemente, CA.

Virgil J. Ashbaugh, SMA '42 of Durham, NC, died July 28, 2001.

Robert H. Burstein, SMA '38 Pittsburgh, PA

James Carroll, SMA '38 of Parkville, MD, age 82, died January 15, 2002. Mr. Carroll served in the U.S. Army during World War II with tours in North Africa and Italy. He retired as vice president of Grier Oil Co. He also served as town commissioner of Aberdeen, MD. Mr. Carroll is survived by his wife, Beth, two sons, James Wade Carroll, Jr., and William G. Carroll.

Augustus R. "Ray" Cavanna, Jr., SMA '45 of El Paso, TX, age 80, died April 28, 2001. Mr. Cananna's military background in the Citizen Military Training Corps (CMTC) and at SMA helped carry him to a U.S.M.A. (West Point) graduation in 1945, after which he served in various assignments around the world during a thirty-year career in the U.S. Army. Mr. Cananna was awarded three Legion of Merit medals. He taught advanced math at Bel Air High School, El Paso, TX until 1985. He is survived by wife and children in El Paso, TX.

Richard S. Cranmer, SMA '31 of Doylestown, PA, age 89, died March 16, 2002. Mr. Crammer joined the U.S. Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor, participated in the Normandy invasion, and served in the Korean War. Mr. Cranmer is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann, a son, Richard S. Cranmer, Jr., a daughter, Nancylee, and seven grandchildren.

Andrew E. Dotterwick, SMA '36 of Allison Park, PA, died August 1997

Raymond E. Forrest, SMA '42 of Kinnelon, NJ died March 11, 1999.

Rowland S. Greene, SMA '26 Fort Myers, FL

Samuel Godwin, SMA '64 Warsaw, NC

Harry Lee Harner, SMA '41 of Boynton, FL, age 78, died October 26, 2001.

Richard Hipple, SMA '30 of York, PA, age 90, died March 16, 2002.

TAPS

The SMA Alumni Association regrets to announce the passing of these alumni.

Harry E. Hull, SMA '44 of Cuyahoga Falls, OH died in 1990.

Andre M. Karns, SMA '44 of Severna Park, MD, age 75, died February 20, 2002.Lt. Col. Karns entered the U.S. Army in 1944, was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division as an infantry mortar gunner in France, and was decorated with the Purple Heart in 1945. He also received the Legion of Merit and the Combat Infantry Badge. Following the war he attended the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, where he was in the ROTC. He was commissioned a second lieutenant and served in the Army until retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1968. Lt. Col. Karns then served 22 years with the State of Maryland Board of Trustees, State Universities and Colleges, rising from staff specialist to director of administration when he retired in 1990. He is urvived by two sons, Michael A. Karns, Del Rio, TX, and Peter T. Karns, Severna Park; a sister, Marie Marcouyeux, Washington, D.C.; and five grandchildren.

Joseph Lore Kelsey, SMA '73 Solomons, MD

Norman J. Learned, SMA '48 of Elmira, NY, age 68, died in October 1998.

W. Stuart Leech, Jr., SMA '50 of Williamsport, PA, age 69, died July 12, 2001.

William Matsos, SMA '46 of Madison, WV, age 73, died December 3, 2001.

Harry R. Nadal, SMA '59 of San Juan, PR, age 61, died February, 28, 2002.

Lawrence M. Noble, SMA '43 of Blue Bell, PA died August 1998.

Stanley E. Novack, SMA '59 of Lyons, IL died March 14, 1996.

Julio Edwin Ossa, SMA '59 Newark, OH

Donald Pepper, SMA '46 died April 1999. Mrs. Joan Pepper made a generous contribution to the SMA Foundation Annual Fund in his memory.

John N. Sanderson, SMA '46 Smithburg, MD

Robert C. Schultz, SMA '41 of Erie, PA , age 81, died September 23, 2001.Mr. Schultz served in World War II after graduating from SMA, receiving the Bronze Star. Worked his entire career atthe company his father founded, serving as Chairman. He was involved in numerous charitable organizations. Mr. Schultz is survived by one daughter, Loretta M. Schultz of Sarasota, FL, and two sons,Arthur C. Schultz and Robert C. Schultz, Jr., of Erie, PA; two sisters; and three grandchildren.

David F. Shields, SMA '34 of Pittsburgh, PA, died May 4, 2002. Mr. Shields was past owner of the McCann Shields Paint Company, was a former president of the Pittsburgh Paint Society, and past trustee of Westminister Presbyterian Church. He was co-founder of the Upper St. Clair Baseball Association.

Harry R. Smith, SMA '55 of Branchville, MD, age 64, died August 9, 2001.

Thomas H. Steck, SMA '48 of Muncie, IN, age 71, Died: February 20, 2002. Mr. Steck served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Since 1955, he owned and operated Steck's, Inc., a clothing store chain in Indiana. He served as president of the Downtown Muncie, University Village and Muncie Mall merchants associations and served on the boards of several national and local organizations. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Jenkins Steck, three children, Michael Thomas Steck, Janine Steck Huffman and Amy Steck Wolfram, and two grandsons.

Michael S. Swider, SMA '74 Virginia Beach, VA

James R. Taylor, SMA '40 of Lowell, MA, age 77, died September 14, 2001. Mr. Taylor retired in 1986 following a 40-year career at the Courier Citizen Co. He is survived by six children and 12 grandchildren.

Robert D. "Bob" Young, SMA '63 of Bethlehem, PA , age 58, died April 13, 2002. Mr. Young served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Thereafter, he owned and operated Bob Young Trucking, Allentown, PA. Mr. Young is survived by his wife, Eve, and three daughters, Kalli E, Stacey R., and Robyn D.

William A. Waters, Jr., SMA '48 died September 2, 2001.

Allen B. Winkoff, SMA '58 Melville, NY

Bernard Zents, SMA '44 Cuyahoga Falls, OH, died in April 1999.

It is time now to register for the 2002 SMA Alumni Reunion. The advanced registration form has been design for ease of completion, not only to tell SMAAA who to expect in attendance, but to make it simple to calculate the appropriate fees for the reunion weekend events. It is important that you provide all the requested information, especially address, telephone and e-mail information in the event we should need to contact you. The deadline for advanced registration is July 19, 2002. This form is available on the **www.sma-alumni.org** website and will also be available at the reunion at the registration desk.

REGISTRATION FEE SCHEDULE

	ADVANCE PMT. PER PERSON	AT DOOR PMT. PER PERSON
Weekend		
Adult		
Friday/ Saturday	$75.00	$90.00
Teenager		
Friday/Saturday	$40.00	$60.00
12 and under		
Friday/Saturday	$20.00	$40.00
Friday Only		
Adult		
Friday only	$30.00	$35.00
Teenager		
Friday only	$20.00	$30.00
12 and under		
Friday only	$10.00	$20.00
Saturday Only		
Adult		
Saturday only	$55.00	$60.00
Teenager		
Saturday only	$30.00	$40.00
12 and under		
Saturday only	$10.00	$30.00
Alumni Not Eating		
Friday only	$25.00	$25.00
Saturday only	$25.00	$25.00

SMA 2002 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT!

LAST NAME:_____

FIRST NAME:_____MIDDLE INITIAL:_____

SMA YEAR:_____

ADDRESS (1):_____

ADDRESS (2):_____

CITY:_____STATE:_____

ZIP:_____TELEPHONE: (_____)_____

E-MAIL:_____

ALUMNI GUEST REGISTER

SPOUSE NAME:_____

CHILD'S NAME:_____

CHILD'S NAME:_____

CHILD'S NAME:_____

GUEST'S NAME:_____

GUEST'S NAME:_____

GUEST'S NAME:_____

ADVANCED REGISTRATION FEE COMPUTATION
Deadline for advanced registration is July 19, 2002.

This computation form is for **ADVANCED REGISTRATION ONLY**. If you elect to register at the door, a similar form with the "at door" fees will be available.

____ADULTS (Friday/Saturday)	x $75.00 per person:	$_____
____ADULTS (Friday only)	x $35.00 per person:	$_____
____ADULTS (Saturday only)	x $55.00 per person:	$_____
____TEENAGER (Friday/Saturday)	x $40.00 per person:	$_____
____TEENAGER (Friday only)	x $20.00 per person:	$_____
____TEENAGER (Saturday only)	x $30.00 per person:	$_____
____12 & UNDER (Friday/Saturday)	x $20.00 per child:	$_____
____12 & UNDER (Friday only)	x $10.00 per child:	$_____
____12 & UNDER (Saturday only)	x $10.00 per child:	$_____

TOTAL COST:$_____

If you can, keep a copy of this form for your personal expense records. Mail this form and your check payable to **SMA Alumni Association** to

SMA Alumni Association
P. O. Box 958 Woodrum Station
Staunton, Virginia 24401-0958

Telephone: (540) 885-1309 • FAX: (540) 885-1366
E-mail: SMAOffice@sma-alumni.org

News Briefs

Former Headmasters' Secretary Sends Note

"I am not an alumnus of SMA, but I did spend 23 years on the Hill as secretary to three Headmasters. I recently visited the SMA-VWIL Museum and think you have done an excellent job! I also greatly enjoy receiving the *Kablegram* with news of so many people I remember. I am enclosing a check which I hope will help with mailing costs.

Sincerely,
Dorothy C. Thacker"

SMAAA Note: Dorothy, anyone that served 23 years on the Hill is considered an alumnus in our eyes. We remember you and thank you for your support..

John Dean, SMA '57 set to release an E-book

According to a recent report on WTOP radio in Washington, D.C., John Dean, SMA '57 will soon release an E-book on the internet. The e-book is titled "The Deep Throat Brief" and promises to reveal the identity of "Deep Throat" , the secret source for information provided to The Washington Post during the '70's. If you want more details, contact *The Kablegram* editor and a copy of the news release will be sent to you.

Things Could Have Turned Out Different

— Continued from page 4 —

for the first time in the 25 years that passed since that event. I asked if he remembered me, and he said, "Of course, it was something I will never forget. It was one of the hardest decisions I ever had to make." In 2001, I attended my next SMA Reunion and met my old friend and partner in crime Gene Ehmann, now 27 years later. We then both went over to talk with our the best teachers SMA ever had. What a moment – two guys whose lives may have turned out quite different if not for Robert Wease. While he never said it, I got the feeling that he was proud that we turned out okay. The boys at Fishburne are very lucky to have Robert Wease as their instructor now. **Three cheers for The Wease!!!**

Tradition knows no boundary... emblems are still displayed

John H. Baldridge, SMA '42PG, has kept one tradition alive for more than 50 years....mounting the SMA shako emblem on his vehicles. He has added Commonwealth of Pennsylvania vanity plates. These two photos were submitted by John following an article in a recent issue of *The Kablegram* asking for photographs of vanity plates displayed by SMA alumni. Look real close in the back window and you may see the SMA caps on the window ledge.

This photograph from 1939 shows **John Baldridge, SMA '42PG** sitting on his father's 1938 Studebaker in front of Kable Hall. Look close on the left side of the car's grill and you will see the SMA shako emblem.

John Hooser, SMA '73 submitted this photo of his Virginia vanity plate, which displays his loyalty to both SMA and to the U.S. Marine Corps.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

— Continued from page 5 —

Thanks for helping to keep the SMA spirit alive!

Joann L. Kersey"

Editor's note: Thank you, Mrs. Kersey. All of us in the SMAAA are saddened to hear of the passing of Joe, and hope that you will accept our condolences. We will make sure you receive all future issues of The Kablegram so that you can keep in touch. Your comments are appreciated. We'll keep the spirit alive!

The Kablegram
would like to hear from you!

Letters to the Editor
can be sent by e-mail to:
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I spent six years at Staunton Military Academy. Since my father had attended in the late 1920's and early 1930's, and considering that my grades in the seventh grade in Cumberland, MD were terrible, my grandfather decided I needed a more structured and academically intense environment.

He was, of course, right, but at the time I refused to endorse the idea. It really didn't matter. My path was set for me.

I started in Junior School in 1952 and hated everything about it for about a month. Everybody offered consolation, but nobody took steps to withdraw me from SMA. After that first month I found life a bit better and began to adjust.

I have to clear recollections of the two years in Junior School. The first is of my roommate, Michael Goldwater. His father and mine had lnown each other at SMA and during World War II. They put us together in 1952 and we stayed that way for all our six years at the academy.

The second clear image is the weekly dance classes in Memorial Hall. How and why I became involved is a mystery. I was terribly shy and gangly and not anything close to coordinated. But I was learning to dance, somewhat.

I remember that the heart throb of the dance class was a girl named Faye Hatcher, who lived on North Coulter Street. Her home, thanks to her mother, became a routine hangout for those of us in the dance class.

Eventually, thanks to Michael Goldwater, I was introduced to Kay Ramsey, who was all of 5'1" and a bundle of energy. We ended up dating for five more years and then four years after SMA while she attended Radford University. We never married.

I was in the U.S. Army, stationed at Arlington Hall in Northern Virginia, still young and not ready to settle down. I am told that she ended up marrying a doctor and relocating to the midwest.

When I graduated from theJunior School to The Hill, Michael and I were assigned to a second floor room in Kable Hall with a cadet from North Carolina whose name has escaped me.

. Our room overlooked the roof that covered the swimming pool. My most memorable experience there was the disappearance of my bunk.

Short-sheeting was in vogue at the time, and I tempted fate by short sheeting both my roommates' bunks one Friday evening while they were on leave and I was restricted for some reason.

When they returned and climbed in bed, they said nothing. They got in bed and went to sleep without a comment. I was sure I had not short sheeted properly and worried about it for days. I would soon learn that I had succeeded.

The next Friday night I went to the west end of Staunton to see Ms. Ramsey, and when I returned at the appointed time I found my bunk missing.

Gone! Nothing but open space.

Michael was supposedly asleep. My other roommate claimed to know nothing. Lt. Dennis Case was the faculty officer on duty that night and after some searching we found my bunk out on the roof over the swimming pool.

Fortunately Lt. case saw the humor in it all when I confessed that I had probably caused it by the short sheeting incident, and nothing was ever done about it. Neither Michael nor Wilson ever admitted to it. I never short sheeted anyone again!

Yet another clear recollection is my three-year stint on the Decorating Committee....the folks who created all those cutouts and signs and music notes that lined the walls during SMA dances.

Somehow Colonel Webb, faculty supervisor of the Decorating and also supervisor of the aforementioned dance class, apparently decided that I had sufficient talent to be on the committee. Thus, I frequently found myself in the tiny room at the top of the steps in Memorial Hall, drawing, cutting and creating less than artistic materials for the dances in the Little Gym and Big Gym.

I took the assignment, not only because I actually enjoyed drawing, but moreso because it got me out of afternoon Drill on Kable Field. I never told Colonel Webb that, but he knew.

One of my fondest memories is my graduation in 1958. I was awarded a beautiful watch as that year's recipient of the Perservearance Award. I put the watch (already in a felt case) in my cap and returned to my seat. When the Corps was dismissed, we all tossed our hats in the air. Mine went up with the watch in it and came down just as quickly, bouncing off someone's shoulder and into a lady's lap....and ended up with me moments later.

For years after, my father would never let me forget that. He would always tease me that he would not give me anything unless I was sitting down and sedated.

Another graduation memory is the dubiousgift my father gave me...a 1948 Studebaker coupe. Keep in mind that this was 1958, when the 1957 Chevrolet was "the car" to drive, when Cadillacs had enormous fins, and Sen. Barry Goldwater showed up for graduation weekend in a brand new Ford Thunderbird.

Ever seen a 1948 Studebaker? It was

ugly as all sin, steered like a Mack truck, and looked like a poorly-designed battering ram. But it was my very first car! I thought it would be "cool" to take Ms. Ramsey home after graduation in my old car. Her father had serious reservations but he finally gave in to us.

Two hours later I made a left turn (not exactly correctly....from the righthand lane) into a drive-in restaurant across from what was then (and may still be) the Western State Hospital. We were hit broadside by another car. There were no injuries other than my pride and a badly damaged Studebaker, plus a $25.00 ticket from the City of Staunton.

There are probably hundreds of memories like these out there. This quarterly feature is designed for the alumni who want to relate those recollections for all of us to enjoy. Why not take a few moments and detail some of your special memories and experiences at SMA? Send them along by e-mail or regular mail and we'll include them in a future *Kablegram* issue.

— C. David Litzenburg, SMA '58, Editor

Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association, Incorporated

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Complete this form, include your check(s) and mail to SMAAA. Your support and involvement are critical to the continued success of the association and the activities and programs that have been developed and implemented in the memory of Staunton Military Academy and the Corps of Cadets and staff.

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