Class of 1957 Class Notes 31 October 2016

As previously presented, first some Class business, then current news, and end with a review of Class losses since the last notes.

Class Business: Paul Schwehm, has continued to work with WP and the Thayer and has subsequently sent multiple communications to the Class. By now you should have your confirmed reservations at the Thayer or be considering other possibilities. Specifically you may want to first contact the Army sponsored "Five Star Inn" near Thayer Gate on the grounds near the West Point Museum. On 28 September Paul sent the following update to the Class. "Classmates and Ladies of the Class, Good news! Thanks to the perseverance of John Ramsden against heavy odds, we now have a block of 20 rooms at the Army IHG Five Star Inn, outside the Thayer Gate, for use by the Class during our 60th. This is an excellent alternative location if you cannot obtain reservations at the Hotel Thayer or need more rooms than you have been able to reserve. The facility is one of the former Ladycliff College buildings. See the web site for details and pictures: https://www.ihg.com/armyhotels/hotels/us/en/west-point/zywpa/hoteldetail

Reservations are open to all classmates, family, and guests attending the reunion. Classmates themselves do not have to stay with their family or guests using the Inn. We have set up the block with 15 single rooms which have a queen-size bed and a pull out couch, plus five family suites featuring a queen-size bed and two twin beds in a separate room. We can modify the type and number of rooms if necessary. Rates are $110 per night for the single and $128 for the suite, both plus 13% tax. This block of rooms is for the period April 27, 2017 until April 30, 2017. The block will be open until February 26, 2017. At that time we will cancel any unused parts of the block. Should you need to cancel a reservation, you must do so at least 24 hours prior to April 27, 2017 to avoid a penalty charge. In order to make reservations please do the following:
1. Call the Front Desk at 845-446-5943
2. When requested, Dial 0 for operator
3. Tell them you are calling to make a reservation for the Class of 1957, Block R57.
4. After making your reservation, you will be asked to provide a credit card number. You will not be charged until you depart the Inn on April 30.

We hope this provides a helpful and close alternative for you and/or your guests who may not be able to get into the Hotel Thayer. If you have any questions, or have any trouble making a reservation, please contact John Ramsden at jram80@aol.com, or call him at 410-730-7576. Now, with this most welcome opportunity, a special plea. This block, as stated, will be open until February 27th. The Thayer block, on the other hand, will be open only until January 27th. With the Thayer filled now and a waitlist of 23, it certainly seems likely we won't be returning any Thayer rooms. However, I sincerely ask that you don't indulge in any gamesmanship or double dipping between the Thayer and the Inn. If you are on the Thayer waitlist and the Inn attracts you, or if you already have a Thayer reservation but the Inn attracts for other reasons, make a decision and act on it soon. Cancel your Thayer reservation or waitlist presence; these acts of kindness will start the
waitlist depleting, relieve some anxiety on the part of your waitlisted classmates and, importantly, help to avoid the awkwardness of unnecessary late Thayer cancellations.” A special thanks to John for working this out.

**General Request:** Please check the information about you on the Class roster, which is on the Class web site at [http://www.usma57.org/](http://www.usma57.org/) and let me and **Don Sadler** ([c.don.sadler@gmail.com](mailto:c.don.sadler@gmail.com)) know about any changes. It will really help us and others who use the roster to contact classmates and widows. It’s really important, because as you may have noticed, we are getting old(er), and, as I have been told, “we are in the zone”. More than 50% of the emails I see are about classmates dying or having medical problems. Send me more cheery stuff.

**Pat Buck:** We are very fortunate to have Pat supporting the Class Executive Board as our Class Widow’s Advisor. Pat has been very active since coming on board and is assembling aides to help her serve our widows. Her duties include serving as liaison for widows to the Board, serving as an advisor to the Board and attending all meetings, making contact with new widows and offering assistance as needed and desired. She has been working with **Don Sadler** to develop a way to maintain contact with our widows who want to remain in touch with the Class and its activities, will publicize activities to encourage widow participation, and coordinate desired widow activities at reunions, mini-reunions, and other Class activities. As we continue to lose more and more classmates with surviving widows, this position becomes all the more important. Pat’s email address is [buckneverstops@erols.com](mailto:buckneverstops@erols.com).”

Once again, thank you, Pat, and you have he support of the entire Class.

**Jerry and Barbara Schumacher** sent me a note and photo of **Chickie Fadel** on 8 July. Here’s the photo and Jerry’s note (below the photo).

![Image of Jerry, Barbara, and Chickie Fadel](image)
“This is a photo of Chickie taken last night at our assisted living unit where she is now living. She is happier there and is receiving continuing care for her physical and memory conditions.” She looks good in the photo, but sadly, Chickie died on 27 Oct while I was writing this column. She was a wonderful woman and a Class treasure

Walt Rabe sent a detailed account on 31 July of a visit to WP that you may find both interesting and informative, especially if you’re planning to go or travel around during the reunion. I quote, with a few deletions: “A couple of weeks ago Jan and I took six of my grandchildren to visit West Point. We spent just about a full day seeing the Post. We first went to the outlying parts (stadium, Fort Put, entry to Flirtie, athletic fields, Chapels, cemetery, etc.), then went to the cadet area. We started at the Honor Plaza. I thought it looked great. Then we headed to the cadet area. There was a guard at a station there. I asked if the area was closed off. He said yes, but was open to those carrying a military id, so he said I and my party were permitted to enter. We entered through the old west academic building sally port. A yearling across central area spotted us and came over. He asked if there was anything we’d like to see. I told him the kids would love a tour of the cadet area. He took us through the barracks areas, the mess hall (explained how the plebes still serve as hot and cold beverage corporals and gunners), then to the gym. I asked that we go through the doorway to the ’57 hallway, but he said that door was locked, and that we had to enter through the main door further down. When we went in we went down to the ’57 hallway. I thought it really looked dingy and poorly lit. I read all the written material on the walls, looking for credit to our Class, but found nothing. Then Jan pointed out the large 1 9 5 7 numerals above the door. I may be wrong, but it looked to me that the first three numerals were stained wood, and the 7 was painted gold. At any rate, I don’t think any of our group were impressed. The yearling then took us back across the cadet areas to the cadet store, then departed. He was such a fine young man, so eager to help us, and so helpful that I’m embarrassed that I couldn’t remember his name. I should have got it, and sent a note to the Comm. Walking across central area, I thought back to our days there. It seemed to me that we had a four sided clock in the middle of the area. There is none now. It occurred to me that maybe, with our meager remaining gift dollars, we could put one there, or even in each of the cadet areas, properly attributed to our Class. It would certainly give us exposure to future Classes there. Just a thought..... I wasn’t sure how the kids would take to the trip, but I think they really enjoyed it. We also visited the museum, but by then it was getting late, and I think they (ages 13 - 19) wanted to get back to the hotel pool. We did not have a map of the cemetery, so finding recognizable graves was difficult. Earl Blaik’s certainly stands out, and Glen Davis, duly noted as Mr Outside, was close to Blaik. In the same area there was a grave of a Neal Ausman, Class of ’30. I told the kids we had a classmate by that name, and surely this must be his father. When we got home, regretfully, I read of Neal’s death.” Thank you, Walt, for a very entertaining letter/travelogue. The gift of a clock is something we can discuss at the 60th, assuming WP is open to the possibility. Pat Buck sent a note about a “reunion” she attended at the beginning of July. “I am
traveling two days & a piece with only my iPhone for a Springfield Armory reunion sponsored by the National Park Service. ... Just excited to be here & go down memory lane. We spent the entire day with the museum curator and did record our living history interviews. Marge & Bob Rosenberg (USNA ’57 - AF MG) & I saw pictures of Marge’s and my Dads as well as Champ’s Father. All were stationed here at different times during and after the war. “ Nothing like a happy trip down memory lane.

Shirley Rose sent a brief note in response to the announcement of the death of Neal Ausman (also mentioned above by Walt), with an interesting personal vignette. “Thank you for the emails. They are appreciated very much. I am way behind as usual. My house has been full and still is somewhat with family - this included a short family cruise. ... Neal was one of the first classmates to help me with Trent’s memorial. During that time I spoke with him a few times and he was very kind and helpful advising me on what steps to take. Also he was one of the groomsmen at our wedding - unfortunately we did not have much contact with him in the following years. I am sorry to hear of his death. May he rest in peace.”

Tom Adcock sent a copy of the information distributed by the WPS of Florida – West coast that contained a copy of the obit for “Buck” Rogers. It included a photo of him that I am including here. The URL for the obit is at the end of the column. Pat Buck sent me a reference to the obit that was in the Washington Post, and noted that Champ and “Buck” had been roommates.

![Image]

Dave Ray attended the funeral service for “Buck” in Tampa and sent a report of the occasion. “LTG Craven Clark (Buck) Rogers’ Funeral was Thursday in Tampa, at Christ the King Catholic Church. Attending from ‘57 were Joe and Sue House, Dave and Roslyn Gibbs, Jim and Linda Swenson and Myself. Also many others from the FWC Chapter of the AOG, plus active and retired Military from CentCom and many friends along with all his Children and Grandchildren. As part of the Service the Graduates sang The Alma Mater. I got choked up during the last verse. I blamed it on the incense. Fortunately for the group we had Matt Mullarky who can sing on key. After the Church Service the Family had a reception in the Church Hall.
Internment will be Arlington at a later date. Clark was stationed at DC at least once and lived in quarters near Arlington Cemetery.”

Bill Ringler sent a note to Wes Kidd with an update on his status and Wes was kind enough to forward it to me. I have omitted his “state of the nation” commentary “My health has gone South this last year. Had my aortic valve replaced on May 11 by a procedure called TAVAR. Pretty interesting stuff. Anyway, staying healthy is a real drag anymore. All I do is run from doctor to doctor. I am sure you probably know all of this your self. Our class is getting smaller almost day-by-day. Hope you are in good health.” I’m sure all of us can appreciate his comments.

Bob Stevens also took a trip up to the WP area this summer and reported on a location/”castle” that many of us may remember from our days both as cadets and as S&F at USMA. I’ll let Bob provide the history in his own words. “A couple of months ago, Nancy and I, together with Ray Bell as our guide, spent a day reconnoitering possible sites for off-post tours during our up-coming 60th Reunion. In the process, we traveled down US 9 on the east side of the Hudson. As we passed below Dick’s Folly, we noticed that there were indications that there might be a community of homes on the hill, or maybe a condo or two (none of it visible from the road). So I made a note to look up Dick’s Folly to see what had become of the place. I wound up googling: http://www.cottages-gardens.com/New-York-Cottages-Gardens/October-2013/Castle-Above-the-River/ and several other interesting web sites. And sure enough, what we had surmised is precisely what has happened. It has been converted to a very posh condominium, surrounded by various homes, covering the 92 acres that surround the ”castle”. But more important, I learned that what I had always thought was the legend of Dick’s Folly wasn’t even close to what had actually been its true history. What I had been told way back when, was that a guy with lots of money had recently married; and, as a surprise wedding present for his new bride, he had this palace built, overlooking the Hudson. However, to his chagrin, she spent one night there, didn’t like the place, and no one had lived there ever since. ... There is more to the story, which you can learn all about by going to the web site noted above. Note that the web site refers to it as ”Dick’s Castle”, not ”Dick’s Folly” (though other google sites refer to it as Dick’s Folly).” Thanks for the history lesson, Bob. Who knows, some of you may want to visit the ”castle” during the reunion or move there. It’s a beautiful area. Bob Lamb responded to this history lesson with a personal history note that I’m also including here. “Bob, having been born in Cornwall Hospital and living in Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Kingston all my pre-West Point life I truly appreciate your research. I was raised with the Dick’s Folly legend growing up and appreciate knowing the facts. I have been fascinated with stories of the Hudson River Valley from FDR’s home in Hyde Park down to below the location of the legendary Sing Sing prison and across the river Bear Mountain and of course our dear Alma Mater, West Point. The area is so meaningful to me that in all my adult life I have never considered being interred anywhere but West Point and that includes Arlington National cemetery. Texans
aren't the only ones with strong territorial loyalty."

**Mike O'Neal** responded to a request for an update on personal information and provided a new home address. Here are extracts from his response. "Mike O'Neal, L2. Email is mikeone@sonic.net. Address is different. It is now - 6735 E.Greenway Pkwy, apt 1062. Scottsdale, AZ, 85254. Phone is same - 408 221 1627. Wife's name is still Mim (60 year anniversary 5 June 1957)."

**Bill and Montse Webb** traveled to WP by boat and docked at South Dock. That’s a way you don't hear of too often. His trip was a combination of pleasure, touring WP and unexpected lecturing, but here are the details in his own words. “I have worked in the Academy Field Force for Admissions for 12 years, enjoying ‘Hands On’ in the high schools and homes of applicants. As part of this I communicate with my Cadets by email and visit them annually at West Point. To do so this year Montse and I took the American Cruise Line cruise up the Hudson from New York’s Pier 36 on the East River with the specific intent of spending time with our Cadets at West Point. In the advertising brochure for the cruise only the shore stops were shown, among them: West Point; Sleepy Hollow, Catskill, Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Albany. There were no docking and departure times for each location, nor was the sequence shown. The result? We were at the Academy from 0900 to 1300 (actually docked in the dark at South Dock at 0600). To top it off this was on Friday, an Academic Day. We were disappointed and informed several of our Cadets that unfortunately we would not ask them to skip Class to meet us. (One offered to paraglide from the Academic Building to South Dock for a short meeting….I declined.) The evening prior to the West Point visit I was asked to be the “Program” on West Point. (Note photo indicating Lecturing with blue blazer and ’57 Crest) It was a joy. Fellow passengers included many retired military of various services. I took the microphone and gave my all for the Corps. In so doing I spoke of our history, traditions, recruiting, and our current Cadets. I had intended to be brief, about 30 minutes with Q & A. I was allowed to retire after one hour and 15 minutes and the entire range of military and national security topics were raised. The following morning prior to boarding the cruise bus for the tour I took the photo at #3918 of the east side of our Academy from South Dock. It is impressive. And so the tour began: the Cadet Chapel; the Plain; Trophy Point and the off Post Museum. I stood in discussion with fellow passengers at Trophy Point, then eased down the grassy slope toward the bus. As I did so a strong voice challenged me: “General Webb, what are you doing here?” Literally I was only paces away from a Cadet in BDUs doing the traditional “Survey”. It was Cadet Trevor Touchton. He grabbed me for a bear hug while asking, “Why didn’t you let us know you were coming.” What a wonderful moment for Montse and I! (See Photo#3928) We spoke for a few moments and I moved on with the tour. So great.” I’m sure it was, and thanks for sharing.
**Nick Monaco.** Nick does a tremendous job for both the Class as a whole and the DC contingent, but never really talks about himself. Unfortunately, he does have a very serious medical problem, and John Ramsden recently sent some information about it (which I did not know) as part of another message. “As a side note re Nick, he has multiple myeloma and has been in treatment for some time. My brother, Jim (1958) died of this cancer many years ago, so I know it is a deadly disease. Nick has lasted longer than most and is now getting a new experimental treatment.” Our prayers are with him. May the treatment work and enable Nick to stay with us.

**Tony and Judi Bullotta** missed our Class party at the Hatch’s in Oct because of Tony’s back problem for which he had surgery scheduled. He wrote, ”Sorry to say we are not going to pulling up in front of Silkwood Court today. It is truly a sad day when the promise of a good nights sleep trumps joining a gathering of old friends, but after a series of sleepless nights that seems like the best course of action. I am now at the point of looking forward (sort of) to an extensive rebuild of my spine the week of 24 October after which they tell me I’ll be standing tall and straight with no pain. That all seems like a long shot from here but we’re “all in”; so hold a good thought that all goes as planned! Hello to all in attendance tonight! We will look forward to hearing all details and good news from the group in the debrief…” Tony, you missed a good one and I hope your surgery turned out as well.
Bob Gadd was also scheduled for surgery, and on 22 Oct he wrote: “Doing OK right now. Heart procedure is to close a hole between upper chambers which may be cause of my needing 02 24/7. Going up through the groin to insert the device. They say I could be out same day. (!?) Gotta get to the reunion, right? Stay well you folks. Cheers-Bob.” Good luck, Bob. We must be getting old, and, as I have been told, “we are in the zone”. More than 50% of the emails I see are about classmates dying or having medical problems. Send me more cheery stuff.

Kathy Lamb sent me a message about Bob back in March that I missed, and this seems like an appropriate place to insert it. “Bob had open heart surgery March 10th at Baylor Heart Hospital, Plano. He’s recovering very well, getting well needed rest, and excellent care..lots of TLC (from family, friends and the hospital staff). When he starts telling puns, jokes, and trivia we’ll know he’s ready to be released!” I heard from him recently, so I guess he came through it in good shape. That’s very comforting. Unfortunately, Bob told us in September that they would not be attending the reunion because of Kathy’s medical problems. He wrote, “You can delete Bob Lamb from the expected attendees at the 60th Reunion. His wife is not well, and not expected to get better any time soon.” Bob clarified a little in a subsequent message; “Kathy’s medical problems are of the orthopedic nature and unless she trips and falls down 4 flights of stairs not terminal.” That certainly makes us feel a little better. Bob, we all wish the best for both of you, and you can always change your mind if her condition improves.

Chico Stone. Got a note from L.J. Stone reporting that Chico is not doing well and asking for our support/prayers. The note said: “Dear Classmate, I’m writing to ask for prayer for Chico Stone’s health. He’s had pneumonia three times and bronchitis the same. Now he’s coughing again. Sad thing is he longed to hear comments from classmates concerning the book in which he’s a protagonist along with his family during his last military assignment. The traumatic incidents in Panama during dictator years are compiled in the book titled Deported Colonel, a.k.a Gringo Cabron found on Amazon in both Kindle and paperback form. I would appreciate it if you would notify his classmates, L. J. Stone” I did forward this to the Class and am also including it here with the hope that some of you may respond to Chico. Chico’s email is jestone1@me.com.

Bob and Ann Tener were in D.C. for a couple of days recently. Bob wrote that they “got to see C-1 classmate Ed Szvetecz; John and Barbara Hocker, and Max and Bernice Kovel briefly. It was a very pleasant opportunity to see Bob and Ann, albeit a very short time, and I certainly enjoyed it. They both look great.

DC Class party and the Kovels. We had a great party at the Hatch’s residence on 15 Oct, with about 40 attendees, and I was very happy that Bernice was able to attend with me. Fortunately, my daughter Rachel, who lives in VA, and my daughter Ruth, who arrived from South Africa that afternoon, were able to accompany us and that made it possible for us to be there. I hasten to add that Ruth’s daughter, Ilana, who recently completed her service in the Israeli Army and is currently working in
TX before returning to Israel to start college, was also with us. Other offspring who were there were Ken Parker’s son, Ken Jr., and daughter, Terri; Gerry Chittick’s sister, Lorraine, and Jack and Phyllis Lustig’s son, Gary. Hank has two of his grandchildren living with him and Shelley. Hank explained: "Our two granddaughters who helped at the party are Bella Eastman a recent high school graduate from Hawaii who is doing a gap year here to establish her Virginia residency before attending George Mason University next year and Bethany Hatch who is a junior at James Madison High School. Both have spent parts of many summers with us and are no strangers to this area or each other. Also both are from families with two siblings each -- all boys. This is the first time these cousins are living with the "sister" they never had -- great adventure for us both as Shelley is repeating her role of nearly 40 years ago when she inherited my three teenagers! It was nice to have so many of the Class offspring here for our 8th hosted Class party. “Imagine, if you can, two teen-age granddaughters living with you on a full time basis. Good luck, Hank. I hoped to have some pictures, but there were no group pictures and I need to work my way through the ones I just received. On a personal note, today is 2 Nov and I am officially 82.

Class Losses Since the Last Column: (Note: These are reported to the Class when they occur and Obits that are available have links below and can also be accessed on the Class Web Site and at the AOG site, http://externalapps.westpointaog.org/memorials/article/[Cullum number])

Robert M Reynolds died on 9 July in Fairfax, VA after a long hard battle with cancer. His obituary is on the Class of 57 web site.

Neal E. Ausman Jr., died on July 15, in Fallbroook, CA. No known obit.

William W. Campion, died on July 15, 2016, in Ashburn, VA. No known obit.

Virginia Kenyon, wife of Dick Kenyon, died on 18 July in Ozark, Al 36330. The obit is at http://www.holmanfuneralhome.com/obits/obituary.php?id=677417

Michael (Mike) John Ilsemann, died on August 2, 2016, in Virginia Beach, VA from complications associated with a heart condition. His obituary is on the Class of 57 web site.

Craven Clark “Buck” Rogers - died unexpectedly on August 4th at his home in Tampa, FL. The complete obituary is at http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-
An abbreviated obituary was in the Washington Post on 14 August and is at http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?fhid=5875&n=craven-clark-rogers&pid=181069382

**Glen L. Rhoades**, died in his sleep on September 9, 2016 in Yorba Linda, CA. No known obit.

**Robert Lynton Veal Jr.,** died on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at his home in Cumming, Georgia. The obituary is at http://www.almonfuneralhome.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=1855167 and on the Class web site.

**Chickie Fadel** died in her sleep on 27 October at Falcon’s Landing in Sterling, VA. No known obit.

We extend our sincere condolences to all of their families.