



Tam O'Shanter

AMAZING
STORIES FROM THE
PAST FIFTY YEARS

STORIES BY OUR CLASSMATES

Personal Experiences, amazing stories & the like!

Graduation Day

By Allan Davis

Attending my son's graduation from the United States Military Academy at West



Point in 1990 was a very interesting and exciting experience, indeed. Graduation was a weeklong, festive event with full-dress parades, formal military receptions, parachute jumps by the Corps

of Cadets sport parachute team, a splendid dinner banquet – replete with wine on the tables - in the grandiose cadet dining hall that seats 4,000 cadets, and a commencement speech in Michie Stadium by General Colin Powell, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In addition to the festivities planned by the Military Academy, I took a guided tour of the campus, stopping at the Main Cadet Chapel, Trophy Point, the 150-ton Great Chain, Battle Monument, Lusk Reservoir, the Plain (parade field), and Quarters 100 – residence of the Superintendent or Sup as the cadets say. In the West Point cemetery, we saw the black, unmarked headstone of traitor Benedict Arnold, the headstone of Edward White – astronaut and first American spacewalker, and a humongous headstone of George Armstrong Custer, mounted on the steed, Vic, which he rode at Little Big Horn. Walking on my own, I visited statues of Sylvanus Thayer – know as the Father of West Point, George Washington, Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, George Patton and others.

In summary, it was very interesting to completely immerse myself, for one week, in a era of American history that extends from 1779, when George Washington made West

Point his Revolutionary War headquarters, to 1802 when Thomas Jefferson signed into existence the United States Military Academy, and through May of 1990 when I was there. I experienced goose bumps walking the same grounds as did Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley, Arnold, Clark, Patton, Custer, Grant and Lee, an impressive array of Academy graduates and heroes who learned to meet the challenges of leadership at West Point. While I was completely awed by the experience, my son was happy to graduate and, after four years, just get out of there.

Better Late.....

by Helen Perdicaris Eady

Dear class of '59,

You may be interested in my story about leaving LHS early to get married to the Love of my life, John Eady. We were married June 8, 1957. Our first child, a daughter was born May 1, 1959, then in 1961 our first son was born. In 1962 our third child, a daughter was born, then in 1964 another son was born. This leads up to my story.

I was quite busy for the next few years, but in the back of my mind I kept reminding myself of a promise, or maybe I could say "a deal" I made with my mother that I would earn my High School Diploma. So, in 1995 my Mother was showing signs of Alzheimers disease, and there was no longer time for me to make excuses in order for her to know, I closed the deal. I called the Education Department, and yes, a GED test would be available in two weeks. So I signed up that day, picked up the study material, and our family headed for a weekend at Anna Maria Island.

John started coaching me on higher math that I could care less about, UGH! I crammed everything for the next two weeks,

took the test and received my diploma.

The satisfaction of accomplishing this and the pride of my family will always be with me. Most of all Mama knew it.

Fifty Years of Fascinating People
by Roger Sherman

Over 30 years ago, when helping at a charity event in Miami Beach, my collection of amazing and famous people began. My job at the event was to coordinate the movements of the royal patrons who had come to support the charities which included the Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance.

The folks included: The Duke & Duchess of Argyll, Prince Tomislav of Yugoslavia, Princess Miriam of Ethiopia, and Princess Alia Ali Kahn.

I was so taken by the friendliness of these folks that a number of life long friendships were forged. Primarily through these friendships, my life and travels have given me opportunities to meet even more amazing people. Each name has its own story, so I will be very brief (my first attempt was a story about one of them and ran to two pages).



Prince Tomislav.

I spent many summer weeks at his home in Sussex, and his 2nd wife and two children have been guests in my home in Tampa.



The Duke & Duchess of Argyll.

Likewise I spent a weekend at Inerary Castle, the they spent one with me in Tampa while attending a number of charity events.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. I was introduced in 1976 to the Queen Mum at her home Clarence House, and presented her with a pen and ink drawing of Buckingham Palace. A copy of the drawing and her letter is framed above my desk as I write.

Queen Elizabeth II. Presented to her in Tampa on her visit to the city aboard the Britannia after the first Gulf War.

John Glenn. Shared a limo at a private airport in Pennsylvania, quick but an amazing meeting.

The Dukes of Seville. Father and son, as Grand Master of the Order of St. Lazarus, of which I am a member of the Supreme Council.

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. Only guest at a Sunday dinner with the family at Blenheim Palace, the largest private residence in the UK. (ask about the cigarettes)

Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia. At the wedding of his cousin, Princess Katarina in London.

Bill Shatner. While I was working as Art Director on a movie he made in Florida, later visiting his home in California and visiting with him in London at a Star Trek premier.

There are dozens more, just ask!

The last 50 years have been amazing!

No Dead Beatles in Cincinnati
By Tommy Kennington

In 1966 I was the program director of radio station WSAI in Cincinnati and we were selected by the concert promoter to be the official station for the Beatles concert at Crosley Field. Naturally, this was the biggest event to hit Cincinnati for the entire year, and we were all having a great time talking about the upcoming concert. At that time, in

addition to being the program director, I was also on the air from 3-6 PM and really lit it up about this "really big event." The Beatles were scheduled to perform on a Saturday night on a stage built at second base of the ball park. The promoter had paid the outlandish sum of \$25,000 to get the Beatles...and figured that was enough out of his pocket so he didn't pay the extra \$50 to put a canopy over the stage. Needless to say it rained...and rained...and rained. After the downpour started workers very quickly put up a makeshift canvas cover over the stage. The 35,000 kids who had been waiting months for this night sat in the downpour for hours. As show time approached and it was still raining, I went out to the stage with the representative from Vox, who supplied the amplifiers for the Beatles, and he told me that even though the stage was very wet, he could drive a metal stake in the ground next to the stage and run a wire across all of the amps and use the stake as a ground....however...if at any time one of the guys' guitars provided a better ground than the stake all of that current would funnel through the guitar. My comment was..."There will be no dead Beatles in Cincinnati." I then had to step up to the microphone and tell this tired, wet and very restless group of teenagers that there would be no show that night. This was the only time during all of my years in radio that I was fearful for my life. But, as fate would have it the Beatles had the next day open and agreed to stay over and perform Sunday afternoon. Flash forward to 2 PM Sunday afternoon...a beautiful, clear, blue sky day. Here we have a beautiful day and a stage with a large canvas top, which really looked silly. Anyhow...we actually had more people show up on Sunday afternoon than were there the night before and the Beatles put on a fabulous show. All of the WSAI DJs were on stage to introduce the Beatles

and then we just walked around and stood right in front of the stage and had the best seats, or rather, standing room, in the entire stadium. It was a great show...and to my knowledge the only time the Beatles had a performance rained out. It was an experience I will never forget...and filed in my life as..."Very Interesting!"

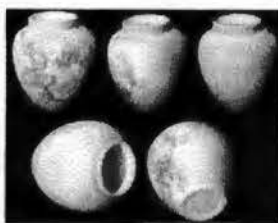
It's A Wonderful Life

Richard Schneider

When I left Lakeland, I went to college at Emory University in Atlanta, and then to medical school at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City. After further training, I took a job practicing and teaching gastroenterology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. I worked at an affiliated hospital, St. Thomas Hospital for 32 years, and spent my last four years at Vanderbilt Hospital. I retired from practice at the end of June 2009. I have been married 42 years and have three daughters.

My wife and I enjoy Nashville and have no plans to move. Some of my interests include listening to music and opera. I am an Oenthusiastic opera buff, and we have an excellent opera group in Nashville, and I also travel to see opera. I have grown orchids for more than 35 years and spent a lot of my free time in my two greenhouses. Additionally, we like to garden outside. I enjoy playing tennis and try to play regularly. I have always been an avid reader and read fiction and nonfiction, and I am interested in Civil War history. My wife and I collect a type of art that is called

American Art Pottery. These are decorative arts that were made chiefly between the 1880s and through the 1920s, although



there are later examples. We travel to attend conventions, auctions, and other fun activities. An excellent place to view the artware that we love and collect is at the Morse Museum in Winter Park, Florida. I have always loved Lakeland and look forward to every opportunity to return for a visit.

Congressional Testimony
Bonnie Smalt Flynn

One of the most interesting things that happened to me was testifying before the US Congress. The opportunity to make a difference and see our government in action up close and personal was an awesome experience. It was more than just speaking on behalf of victims of domestic violence, it was having my congressman take me on a tour of the Capitol on their underground tram, experiencing the organized chaos of government and realizing how extraordinary that the legislative process ever works. During that experience 25 years ago Senator Biden played a vital role in leading the support of the legislation passed that I was there to testify about. His voice made it possible for victims of domestic violence to find safety and assistance through that legislation.

The Presidential Librarian
Ed Peterson

One of the many highlights of my legal career was when my law school alma mater, Southern Methodist University, asked me to represent the University in connection with the construction of the George W. Bush Presidential Library on the SMU Campus.

I spent over a year working with the lawyers for the President and the George W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation. The transaction was complex and involved a number of unique legal concepts including

the structuring of a 250 year ground lease on property owned by the University.

From Stonehenge to Bartow
Bonita (Taylor) McKinsey

In 1957 I met my best friend, the love of my life, Sonny, and so married him 10 days after we graduated and now we are celebrating our 50th anniversary. He went into the USAF and we spent the next 8 years traveling...and lived for over 2 years in beautiful Bibury, England, right in the middle of the Cotswolds and visited many famous places in England and Wales. Two of our children were born within 10 miles of Stonehenge.

We lived in N. Dakota; Nebraska; Arkansas; Georgia and finally back to FL. Sonny graduated from college and was a policeman and Police Chief for many years where we have lived in lazy little Bartow, raising our five children, and have entertained Dan Aykroyd while he was making the movie "My Girl" as well as many foreign law enforcement visitors. We have traveled extensively in this beautiful country of ours since his retirement in 1995

These are the titles, ask me about the stories..

Irene Plant Vondrasek

*Being interviewed by the FBI not once but three times....

*Being invited to the Governor's Ball... which one you ask?

*Receiving an honorary degree from the University of Florida

a pitcher of my life

beatty elliott raymond*

it was a hard move. 20 years of living in connecticut was to be ended with exile to the mid-west. a budding career in

transportation management was to be interrupted. what was i to do but to go along and start anew.

moving to a town that looked a little like connecticut and taking our sailboat eased the transition. one weekend we sailed to our favorite island in lake erie, elliott island, and settled in. early in the am i took a walk around the tiny island and discovered a yard sale. among the flotsam and jetsum was a metal pitcher. i bought it and went to the small variety store on the island to look for silver polish - the island having old-family money getaways insured that polish would be available. as i sat in the cockpit at the dock polishing this lovely shaped item, people would stroll by, do a double-take and stop to talk. it made for a pleasant morning.

we moved on from the mid-west carrying the pitcher to other homes. finally i returned to lakeland and the little pitcher went into a cabinet.

as i was making tea the other day for long-time high school friend, i cracked the glass pitcher i use for tea and looked around for another. i rediscovered my little pitcher - again looking just as when i first saw it those many years ago on elliott island. i got out the silver polish. this time there was no one to stop and chat while i polished - but i had my memories of what turned out to be 5 years of important changes for me.

now i and my pitcher are here in lakeland at 'beatty's delight'. i have returned home. beatty elliott raymond

**Eidtor's Note: Either Beatty is obsessed with e.e.cummings, or she skipped class on capitalization day...*

A"Family" Experience

Barbara Richter Skrosky

It was the summer, we were home from FSU, and we were bored.

Barely of age (if we even were) we decided we'd go out for drinks. So why not to Tampa which in the 60's was a pretty exotic place.

So Roger borrowed his father's Cadillac, we pooled our money (under \$10) filled up the car (at 25 cents a gallon) and struck off. Our first stop was a drive up place that sold frozen daiquiris, then we set off to find a proper bar.

Knowing nothing about Tampa, we stumbled upon a bar called the Black Orchid, and went inside.

The place was virtually empty... one bartender/entertainer and one other patron sitting at the back of the place in the dark. We ordered, as I recall, a marguerita, which took two of our last three dollars. Needless to say, we nursed them for quite a while during which the bartender flitted to a piano and did a few numbers.

We finished our drink and got ready to retreat to the relative safety of Lakeland, when two more drinks appeared.

We protested, saying we didn't have enough cash, but the barkeep said "They're on the house." He indicated the man at the far end of the bar with a nod. We asked who he was and we were informed in a knowing whisper "Big Joe"

Well, children, it turned out we were the guests of "Big Joe" SanFatello.

Shortly after our exotic evening, we learned that "Big Joe" was an enforcer for Santo Trafficante, the crime boss of Tampa.

For years we followed our buddy's career, until the Feds nabbed him for income tax evasion and sent him off to the big house.

We had a dollar left over in our kitty, and a million dollar story in change.

Bon Voyages

Bon Voyages

Lew Rice

When I was a store manager for Firestone, I won a trip to Lisbon, Portugal for my wife & myself. Twenty five years later, working for a GM dealer I, again for performance, won a fantastic vacation to a Ritz-Carlton in California. I have always felt good for winning the grand trips for my wife, Shirley.

Better Late....

Charlyne (Shiver) Steele

Forty-one years after Jerry Steele escorted me to our junior prom at LHS, he escorted me down the aisle of a church as my new husband in 1999. Recognizing that LHS had brought us together as teenagers, we planned our wedding to coincide with our 40th class reunion so that many of our friends and classmates could be a part of our special day. At that time, I moved back to Lakeland (after living in Atlanta, Georgia for thirty-seven years) and enjoyed becoming reacquainted with old friends who had meant so much to me in my earlier years. Our "new" family now consists of Jerry's two sons, my two daughters, and my (which are definitely "our") four young grandchildren. When Jerry retired in 2006, we built our dream home in the North Georgia mountains (Jasper) to be closer to our grandchildren who live in the Atlanta suburbs. We have become very active with several civic and social organizations in our new community and enjoy our time traveling, entertaining friends and family, and simply enjoying our views of the mountains from our home. We are very blessed!

Wild Blue Yonder

Robert Wagner

The most interesting thing had to be my job. I was a pilot instructor at Delta Air Lines. I taught in both the classroom and simulator. Once a quarter we had to go out into the real world and fly a trip, out and back, in the cockpit. This counted as a day's work. So I would jump on a plane, fly to New Orleans have lunch in the employees cafeteria and fly back home. This is just one example of the MANY day trips I've made over the years.

Been there, done that...

Ken Vickers

The most interesting thing that has happened to me in the past fifty years would be hard to pin down. Each year has been interesting in its' own way. I joined the Army on the buddy plan with my lifetime friend James Hopkins. We met in Germany having both been selected to go to NCO school in Bad Toiz. Returning to Lakeland, I married Mary Lou Bassford and life just seems to get better every day. We have two girls and six grandchildren. Working on the Apollo program was for sure interesting and exciting. Just being a part of our history at this time of putting a man on the moon still makes me proud. We have enjoyed lots of travel and have visited Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Monaco and France. We have cruised the Rhine and Danube rivers, took a trip across Canada and seen Thailand, Myramar and Laos, in addition to China. Costa Rica was a fun adventure and Bali is wonderful.

More World Travelers

Frances Clary Wilson

We have traveled a lot. Many European countries, Alaska cruise, Costa Rica, Hawaii and several states. Hope to

Joyce Weeks Clark

Traveled to Europe, spent 9 weeks in 7 countries. France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Switzerland, etc. Great trip!

Carol Bregler kinder

Retirement and our 3 month trip to Alaska Been from Maine to California to Key West to Alaska.

Alice Bassford Bell

My work with the U.S. Treasury Department was very interesting. However, since I retired in 2001, the most interesting thing that I have done has been travel in Europe, Scandinavia, the British Isles and Greek Isles. Travel in these countries has given to me new meaning of World History. As Ms. Lumpkin would say "to know nothing of the past is to understand little of the present and to have no conception of the future."

Mary Langford Balfantz

Travel to Europe. Italy included Rome, Florence and Venice. Also U.K., Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, France, Switzerland and Germany.

Barbara Hart

My spouse was an aircraft design engineer. Lived in a few states due to his line of work – even Puerto Rico.

Our Last Fifty Years

Edited by Irene

Robert & Amy Harper

Enjoying family, developing friendships. Growing various business ventures including; real estate, ranching, involvement with the Florida Home Builders for 30 years.

President 1996, Florida Builder of the year 1998, inducted into Florida Housing Hall of Fame in 2004, building communities in Florida and Tennessee.

Merchant Marine Officer, wind surfing, travel, boating and a new found interest - painting and art

Bill Doppelheuer

I've traveled around the world on my motorcycle, Alaska, Australia, Russia, South Africa, South America, East and West Europe, Canada, all the U.S. States, British Isles and Bermuda.

Billy Cooper

Still alive and married 46 years.

Butch & Sue Moody

Having a wonderful wife and grandchildren. Marrying my childhood sweetheart 20 years later. We've been married for 30 years and I wouldn't trade him for any other man on earth.

Randy Fields

The most wonderful things in the last fifty years are the birth of two grandsons and a hole in one at Lone Palm in a golf tournament winning \$5000.00 in 2005.

Harrison Payne

The most memorable times of my last 50 years are my marriage to Marge 18 years ago and the wonderful vacations we were able to take. Our most interesting one was a trip to Hawaii. We spent two weeks traveling three different islands. Pearl Harbor will never be forgotten – so moving and impressive. Then seeing a Lava flow on the Big Island was something words can not describe. On the Island of Maui we took the road to Hana to the seven Sacred Pools where the fresh water flows to the Pacific. We drove through the rain forest, saw many

waterfalls and exotic plants. A trip we will always remember!

Barbara Brantley Gandy

The top of my list is my marriage to Ed Gandy and the birth of my 2 children. Next on my list would be the 21 years I spent teaching and enjoying children of K-4th grade, especially the 18 years I taught at Cleveland court, where I went to school as a kid. Last would be our early retirement and building a home in Bimini, the Bahamas where we live part of each year. It has been an unbelievable experience for me and my family. We have been there 16 years.

Linda Wrenn Honeycutt

In 1991, I married Robert L. Honeycutt and my life was changed to having happiness and contentment. I am currently owner of a cattle ranch with my son James and my daughter Melinda. So many things change in 50 years that you just live each day to its fullest. I am so thankful after 50 years to be healthy and able to continue to enjoy life.

Leon Futch

I went thru a terrible & ugly divorce with my 1st wife. I was lucky enough to be reunited with a woman (Rosemary) that I had drilled a well for many years before. Never dreaming that a business venture with this beautiful woman would turn into her being my wife one day and finally having my soul mate and love of my life.

David Bayhan

Been a water skier most of my life. I skied in the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle Washington and also skied behind Roy Rogers and Trigger on the Roy Rogers variety Show.

See all of David's great story on the web on the LHS Reunion Site.

Charlotte Goodman Key

The most interesting thing that has happened to me is raising three wonderful daughters, having grandchildren to enjoy and the opportunity to travel to different parts of the world.

Susan Smith

Keeping up with old friends and the trips abroad and the great people one meets and keeps up with.

Shirley Nicholson Farlow

A wonderful life of children, business, travel, good health and wonderful friends.

Owen "Buddy" Loadholtes

I live in an assisted living residence for four years now and I'm very happy with my life. I am a widower, sometimes get lonely, but I have Jesus who walks with me daily.

Gene Cochran

The most interesting thing for me is being married to the same woman for 44 years.

Ralph Allen

My most interesting things are my marriage, managing our business and serving the Lakeland community

Lois Williams Bowen

Educating children as a third grade teacher and watching them learn and succeed has been extremely rewarding for me. It was fun!

Loretta Lee

I met and married my second husband and we moved to north Georgia onto a 160 acre farm Daddy left me. We

restored a cottage on the property, moved an old house to the property and began restoring several turn of the century houses, doing most of the work ourselves.

Jane Morris Bay

Meeting the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, exiled from his homeland when the Chinese communist Army invaded his country in 1959.

Visit Jane's website for other amazing stories from her interesting life.

David Johnson

The ongoing saga of child and grandchild.

Ethel Joyce Adams Frampton

The most interesting thing that has happened to me in the last fifty years was that I attended a Bible college in 1962, met and married a Baptist minister and we served together for 37 years in the ministry. We have three daughters and ten grandchildren who have been a blessing to us throughout the years.

Paul Schiff

It's almost a "given" that the greatest reward of the past 50 years is my three daughters. My life continues to be enriched by my friendships with them. And I am "Papa Paul" to 6 combined-family grandchildren. For nearly 45 of the past 50 years, I have been a graphic designer - successfully creating and producing advertising and marketing materials for many companies and institutions in the northeast. I continue to do so - now from a home office - and have not escaped the effects of our economic downturn. Annually, Irene and I spend a week in a cabin on Indian Lake in the Adirondacks. Sometimes our children or friends join us to drink in the serenity of the mountain atmosphere. Or sometimes, just to

drink. Additionally, I have traveled to Austria and recently, with Irene, to Italy.

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More Stories on the Net

Send in your really interesting experiences to be read by all on our Reunion Website!

Start with Dave's great story.

Skiing with the Stars

By Dave Bayhan Sr

Like Dave's story we will be happy to post your photos as well!

Get some good pictures at the Reunion? send them along for Roger to add to our Reunion Website.