

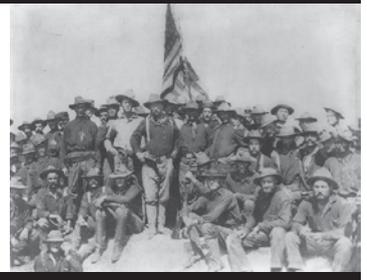


Issue II

August 2007



ROOSEVELT MILITARY ACADEMY ROUGH RIDER



MESSAGE from MEL

Here we go on issue number 2. I am starting this one with an editorial. Under that heading I get to vent a little and offer my opinion, which is just like everyone else's opinion, only different.

I will start by saying that we should be ashamed of our actions. The association is struggling. When serious decisions have to be made by looking at our bank account, shame on us. There are only 2 solutions that I know will solve our problem. More members or some donations and help from you guys, that care about keeping tradition and the Rough Rider spirit alive and kicking. Surely there are some of us ex-cadets that can afford to help the association become solvent and do some of the things that the BOD wants to do without having monetary restrictions. Let's go right to more members. What is the reason any of us would NOT want to join the association? I know it can't be the kingly sum of \$25.00 per year. What then? Join, enjoy, have some fun reading bios from your classmates and those from other years, before and after your time at RMA. It isn't as if the association needs a fortune in the bank, but it would be nice if we had a few thousand on hand so the elected board could make their decisions based on likes and dislikes, rather than money.

I have received several bios and will run a couple in this issue. I have also received calls from old classmates and it has been a blast talking to guys I haven't heard from in 60 years. Keep your cards and letters coming. You send and I will run them in upcoming issues.

The association is in need of a few volunteers. We need a Parliamentarian for the meeting in Chicago next year and a Sergeant at Arms. These positions will be necessary at the meeting and election. By the way no officers apply to be the sergeant of arms. I'm kidding!!

We also are in need of a nominating committee. It should consist of at least 3 members and it will need to prepare a slate of officers to be considered for election at the annual meeting. Please contact Mike Vagi with your desire to fill any of these important positions. RMA NEEDS YOU!!!

In closing, please understand we are dealing with a declining membership and those of us still around would like to see RMA as we remember it not as it is today. The fortunate part is that in spite of the way it looks in Aledo, it still lives bright and alive in our hearts.

As a footnote I will be chairing the Nominating Committee. That means I need at least 2 and preferably 4 other suckers, scratch that, volunteers to make this committee viable and efficient. Please call 281-334-0863 or email me at melmaven1@comcast.net.

Bio from John Camper - Class of 1948.

Dear Mel: I don't know if you'll remember me but your last year at RMA was my first. I graduated in 1948 and joined the Army in July of that year. I married the girl I met from Rock Island, IL and she has put up with me for 56 years now. I used to get on the bus to the pool in Rock Island and duck out to see Arlene. I almost missed the bus back to Aledo a couple of times and have yet to see the inside of the pool.

After serving a tour in Korea during the "conflict" and 14 years as an enlisted man I received a direct commission as an Infantry First Lieutenant (I was too old to be a Second Lieutenant!) Then after another tour in Korea and two in Vietnam I finally retired as a Major in 1972 at Fort Carson, Colorado. I had taken a semester on leave from the Army to complete my college education and to graduate from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with majors in history and economics.

Following military service I went into banking in Colorado as a marketing and public relations manager. This work then took me to Montana where I supervised the marketing efforts of 15 banks in the state. I "retired" from that field and began teaching managers how to be managers for the state of Montana Professional Development Center where I was director for a number of years. I have finally gotten this retirement thing right and have been officially retired since November of 2006.

Arlene and I have two children and two grandchildren. Susan was adopted from Korea on my last tour there and is currently employed as an employment counselor for developmentally challenged adults in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Son John is now a Division chief on the Lakewood Colorado Police Department and is married to Teresa (a United Airline flight attendant). They have two girls, Rebecca a tennis player who is starting college this year at Colorado State University, and Julie, a junior in High School who "rules to world in basketball."

Arlene retired from St. Peter's Community Hospital where she was the Marketing and Planning Director for several years. She headed up the local United Way one year and served on the board of the American Red Cross and the Helena Civic Center.

I started the Helena Advertising Federation while with the Bank Corporation, and joined

our local Rotary Club in 1983 where I served as club president then as District Governor in 1998-99. I continue to enjoy Rotary, but travel, when possible, is our favorite pastime. We are active in our church and help sponsor the Western Rendezvous of Art held annually in Helena. Summer evenings find us at the Helena Brewer's baseball games, where we hold season tickets to enjoy this Milwaukee Advanced Rookie affiliate.

I enjoyed the newsletter, Mel, and enjoyed hearing about your adventures. Best of luck with the latest venture and please keep me on the mailing list and e-mail list. I like to idea of a lifetime membership and would support it.

John Camper ('48)

Bio from David Fagen - Class of 1949.

I was graduated from RMA in June of 1949. I then attended Northwestern University and was graduated in June 1953, I entered the U.S. Army on July 7th 1953 and served until my release on July 6th 1956. I attained the rank of Specialist 3rd class. After basic training I was assigned to the 249th Military Police detachment at Fort Chaffee Arkansas. I was released honorably and went home to Illinois. I passed the examination as a Certified Public Accountant and have worked as an accountant since July 1956. I am currently, self employed as an independent CPA and work from my home. I married Arlene on June 27th 1958 and we have 5 adult children and 4 grandchildren. I also sing with a group of older adults and have fun doing it. We now live in Wood Dale Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

Bio from Lou Westol - Class of 1954.

I'm Lou Westol, class of '54 and a teacher/coach at RMA in the school years of 58/59 and 59/60. Actually attended RMA from '48 through '54 so I only missed you by a year.

I appreciated, very much, the information that was included in the Rough Rider edition and thank you for that. It certainly brings back a lot of memories of days gone by. Your reference to "Sniff" broke me up as I remember some confrontations with that old man that drove me up a wall. He was the first teacher I had that used a Blue Book for exams, which was, actually, a great preparation for college. He gave me a B in Chemistry one grading period and I went in to see him to tell him that I deserved an A for my efforts. He calmly let me do my thing and then told me, "son, we pay off on results in my class, not effort." That put me in my place and I never had another problem with him, except when we tried to blow up the lab a few times. There were times I think he may have thought that we were trying to assassinate him.

You asked for information as to my life since RMA. I attended Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota and graduated in '58. Played basketball, baseball and golf while there and returned to teach and coach at RMA in September of '58. Spent two great years at RMA. They had a great staff of teachers with Carl Larsen, Jim Shaunhesy, St. Marie, Crandall etc. While there I spent considerable time with Ralph Van Ormer. Without my knowledge, Ralph sent my resume to a small high school in Central Illinois where he had worked years earlier. Interviewed with that school and spent six years there as the Athletic Director, Basketball and Baseball Coach and teacher. Met my wife while working there and we've been married for 45 years now. We have four children, three boys and a girl. Dave, the oldest, lives in Denver and is a mutual funds wholesaler, Mark and Steve work with me in the rep business (we also import a lot of product) and Michelle is in Milwaukee currently, managing a Spa. We have four grandchildren, all girls, between the ages of one month and three years.

Have been an active golfer for many years and still play a decent game (current handicap is 2). Used to travel to many national tournaments as both a regular amateur and then a senior, but have cut back considerably in the last couple of years as age is starting to catch up with me. Turned 70 in February and can't hit it as far as I used to which is a big disadvantage in today's game.

Best wishes for continued success with your efforts as the head of the Communications Committee.

SICK CALL: All of our thoughts and prayers go out to Jules Lachman, fighting his battle against colon cancer. We always fight and sometimes we win, and sometimes we lose, but we fight on. God Bless!

RMA ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!!!

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- Mel Bogus - Communications Committee 281.334,0863melmaven1@comcast.net
- Ronn Jutkins - Memorial Committee 847.259.2220harborboat@aol.com

TAPS

- Wendel Dahleen class of 1958
- Edward Brookstra class of 1970
- Willis Taylor class of 1943
- Jeffrey Richard Retzlaff class of 1971
- Cecil Cavanah-Barber-1954 to 1966
- Mike Turpin class of 1967
- Jack Munfield class of 1958
- Tom Conibear class of 1970
- Richard K Reichel class of 1933
- Jerold Eustace class of 1953

OUR LOSS IS GOD'S GAIN.

ROOSEVELT MILITARY ACADEMY



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