



## May 2-3 in Staunton

### '97 reunion to honor Rollers, Livicks

The 1997 Augusta Military Academy annual reunion will pay homage to the vision and foresight of **Professor Charles Roller**, the wisdom of **Colonel Tom Roller**, the warmth and strength of **General Charles Roller, Jr.**, and the leadership and commitment of **Linda Roller Livick**, General Roller's granddaughter, and her husband, **Colonel Mal Livick**.

The AMA Alumni Association, Inc. Board of Directors, at their fall meeting October 26 in New Market, made the decision to honor the Rollers and the Livicks at the '97 gathering.

*"With nearly six months before the reunion, we have ample time to collect all the fabulous stories about Colonel Tom, the 'Big Boy', and Colonel and Mrs. Livick,"* said Alumni Association President **Gary Nicholson, '70**. *"It will be a real treat to have Linda and Mal with us. We will also extend a special invitation to **Hilton Roller Grasty**, Colonel Tom's daughter, and to other members of the Roller and Livick families."*

#### Music, narration set

The Staunton Ovation, which won rave reviews for their performance at the 1996 reunion honoring Augusta vets of Korea and Vietnam, will return to pay musical tribute to the Rollers and Livicks. The beginnings of AMA just after the Civil War will be traced, all the way through to the school's closing early in 1984.

*"We are looking for your stories,"* said Nicholson. *"Every cadet and faculty member who ever set foot on the Augusta campus has a story they can tell. We're asking that those stories be passed along to **Bob Bradford, '50**, who will narrate the Saturday night tribute."*

#### Ad Astra gathering off

An Ad Astra reunion, scheduled October 4-5 in Lexington, VA, was cancelled when the number of registrations fell short of what had been guaranteed the hotel by the deadline set by the hotel.

**Harry May, '47**, who was organizing the event, expressed his regret at the cancellation, and voiced the hope that *"We can do this again soon at a better time, and with more notice of any deadlines."* **Gary Nicholson, '70**, Alumni Association President, called the cancellation "painful". (See Gary's letter on page 2)



Major Roller - "The Big Boy" - stands before a picture of Colonel Tom Roller, about 1947, in Big Barracks. Colonel Tom died in 1946.



Linda and Colonel Mal Livick, 1965

Augusta Military Academy  
Alumni Association, Inc.

November 1996



Dear AMA Cadet:

We were taught many life lessons at Augusta. Good manners and military discipline may seem to be opposites. Yet, we were instructed in both, and should have carried into adulthood the best attributes of both.

**Harry May, '47**, spent nearly two years planning for an *Ad Astra* Reunion in Lexington this past October. At his own expense, he made several trips to Lexington, visited with VMI officials, arranged hotel and banquet facilities, and prepared and mailed promotions for the reunion, all at his own expense. Painfully, the reunion had to be cancelled when the minimum required number of hotel rooms had not been reserved two weeks before the reunion. What a shame that a potentially memorable event had to be scrubbed.

After the meeting was cancelled, we began to hear from fellows who said they had planned to attend, but had not made reservations. I understand that a few alumni even showed up in Lexington October 4-5, looking for the reunion. Harry personally contacted everyone who had made a reservation to let them know that the meeting was cancelled. I cannot feel sorry for anyone who just showed up, without even committing 32 cents for a stamp to tell the host that they were coming.

**Have we forgotten  
our manners?**

This, unfortunately, is not an uncommon problem. Your AMA classmates and friends plan the annual AMA Alumni Association Reunions. They do this because they love Augusta. They work hard, and their only pay is a good turnout for the reunion. Yet, every year, we find ourselves juggling banquet seating, guessing what it will take to stock the hospitality suite for the weekend, etc. because many do not tell us that they are coming. **Cadets, this is bad manners, to say the least.** If you planned a dinner at your house, how would you feel if the people you invited did not respond to your invitation, but simply showed up?



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The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

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With the school closed, all we have are the memories of that special place, and each other. You need to support the Alumni Association, if Augusta means anything to you. That means trying to get to the reunions. It means keeping us up-to-date when you have an address change. It means supporting *The Bayonet* by sending in news of interest to other alumni. It means contributing to our operating and scholarship funds. And it means responding to notices about reunions *in a timely fashion* so that the volunteers who are planning the event will know what to anticipate.

Have we forgotten our manners? Have we forgotten that military discipline presupposes that prompt responses will be made to well intentioned invitations? On page 10, there are several letters from alumni, distressed at the cancellation of the *Ad Astra* reunion. We will consider what to do next. But whether it is an AMA Alumni Reunion, an *Ad Astra* Reunion, or some combination of the two, be courteous. Don't leave your classmates hanging as they try to plan a nice event for you. Respond to the invitations and notices when they arrive. We were taught this at AMA, gentlemen.

Have we forgotten our manners?

Sincerely,  
*Gary Nicholson, '70*  
President

1930

**Jack Woods** writes from Las Vegas that while he retired in 1972, he still is countersigning agent for USAA in Texas, "and have not yet shot my age on the golf course." Thanks for your generous contribution, Jack!

1932

**Captain Ben Chiswell**, US Coast Guard, Retired, tells *The Bayonet* that his son, Ben III, was also retired from the Coast Guard with the rank of captain, effective 30 June, after 30 years of service. Congratulations, father and son! Ben has completed treatment for lung cancer, and says he is doing fine. So well, in fact, that he attended a Coast Guard reunion in mid-September.

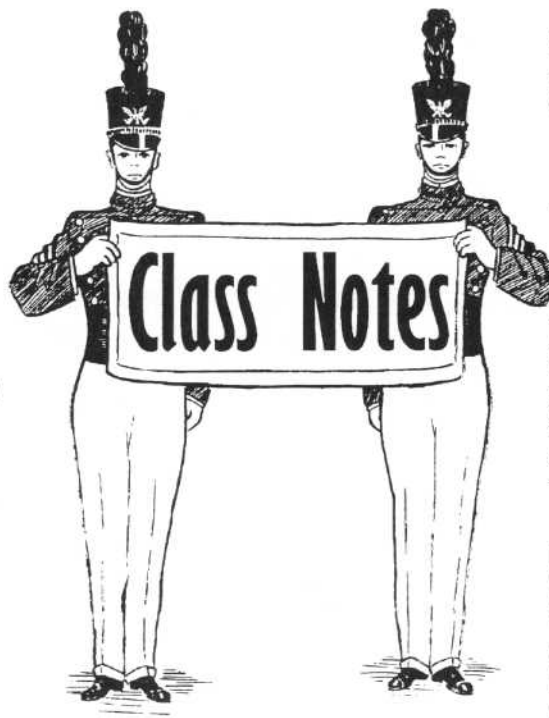
1934

**Doug Houchens** writes from Davidson, NC and encloses a \$150 donation to the AMA Alumni Fund in honor of his roommate, **Cary Hancock**, '34. For 62 years, Doug and Cary have stayed in touch. Cary lives in Natchez, MS. Thank you, Doug! This kind of support permits the continued publication of *The Bayonet*, as well as funding our ongoing Locator Project. Doug served in World War II as a surgical technician in the 85th Field Hospital, Europe. He was Chairman of the Art Department at Davidson College for 25 years.

1935

**Julian Quarles** attended a monthly meeting of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club at Coral Gables, FL where he encountered **Stuart Sorg**, '48. They had known each other for some time, but neither knew the other had gone to Augusta until then.

**Will Parkins** was an AMA day student who walked to and from classes every day. He now lives in Bridgewater, VA. After AMA, he attended Virginia Tech, and was drafted in September of 1941. After OCS, he served with the Topographical Engineers in North Africa, and at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He retired from the USAR as a lieutenant colonel in 1976. Will served on the AMA staff from 1946 until 1978.



1936

**Sam Jordan** writes from Colorado Springs that he is selling his farm near Smithfield, VA. His granddaughter, Jo Ellen, will graduate from Wake Forest in December with a masters in business and a *juris doctor* degree. In August, Sam saw people he had not seen in half a century in Colorado Springs - veterans of the 71st Tactical Reconnaissance Group from World War II - in town for a reunion.

1938

**Bob Reisacher** checks in from Santa Fe, NM to say that he is keeping active each day at the gym with lots of exercise. Recently, he sailed back to the South Pacific to see the islands of French Polynesia. "Not much has changed since my original visit fifty years ago, courtesy of the US Army."

**Charles Board** is a retired patent lawyer, living in Wilmington, DE. His son, Charles, Jr., is with DuPont, and lives in Danville, CA.

**Larry Kurtz** spends each summer at Beech Mountain, NC. His permanent home is in Punta Gorda, FL.

1939

**Mickey Gordon** and Libby recently had house guests - **Rudy Crissman**, '37, and Dotty, from Westlake Village,

CA. The Gordons also had dinner with **Jack Field**, '47, and Peg at the Officers Club, Oceana, VA.

1943

**Jack Sarricks** and Ann had a scare in August when an Air Force F-16, being ferried from North Carolina to avoid Hurricane Bertha, crashed into the house next door to the Sarricks. A 4-year-old was killed in the neighbor's house, but Jack and Ann thankfully were not hurt. Their garage and home did sustain some damage. They live in Pensacola, FL.

**Norris Harrison's** son, Alan, is at the University of London (Goldsmith's College) through December. Alan has maintained a 3.864 QPA in engineering. Norris still volunteers his time at Queen Anne's County High School in Maryland.

**Earl Cabaniss** and Faye celebrated their 50th Anniversary on 26 October. Congratulations! Earl and Faye live in Pulaski, in Southwest Virginia.

1946

**George Snarr** retired from law practice and as a substitute judge last March. He has three sons who live, respectively, in New York City, Virginia Beach, and Richmond. He had planned to attend the *Ad Astra* reunion with **Dave Brewer** and **Tom Cohoon**, both from the Class of 1946. George has been battling cancer, and says "it hasn't improved my golf score one little bit."

**Tom Cohoon** writes from Suffolk, VA that, "My life is quite boring, and I love it that way! After two full, rewarding careers, I've dedicated myself to one of General MacArthur's quotes: 'Old soldiers never die; they just fade away...'" Tom was a lieutenant colonel in the Army, and after retiring was a personnel director in the Shenandoah Valley. He moved to Suffolk in 1992.

1947

**J.B. Simmons** gives us the sad news that his dear wife of 46 years, Emily, passed away 20 August. "It has left a

