



## Last meeting until the Year 2000

# Ad Astra to meet in Lexington

The Ad Astra per Aspera Society of the Augusta Military Academy will meet in Lexington, Virginia on the weekend of October 4-5, the last assembly of the AMA honor society until at least the Year 2000.

Harry May, '47, is Chairman of the Reunion, and said, "we are pleased that we can meet in a town so important in the life of Colonel Roller, who founded the Society 71 years ago. VMI and AMA have much in common. The 'Big Boy' graduated from the Institute in 1901, and Big Barracks was modeled on the buildings at VMI."

### Moody Hall dinner

May announced that the Saturday night banquet will be held in historic Moody Hall on the VMI campus. Headquarters for the reunion will be the new Inn at Hunt Ridge, on the outskirts of Lexington, one of the most charming and historic towns in all of America - the Williamsburg of Western Virginia. Generals Washington, Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, and Marshall all have connections to Lexington, and Lee and Jackson are buried there. Lee's office, as he left it just before he died, is on the campus of Washington and Lee, where Lee was President after the Civil War. Jackson's home is open to the public. Marshall, Chief of Staff in World War II, and later, Secretary of State, is honored in a museum at VMI, which includes his Nobel prize. Washington gave the initial sum to found Washington College, from which Washington and Lee University sprang.



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### Activities planned

May said that attendees may decide to visit Fort Defiance, to tour the famous Natural Bridge of Virginia, golf, shop, or sightsee. An antique mall, with nearly 200 stalls, is located  
*(continued on page 7)*

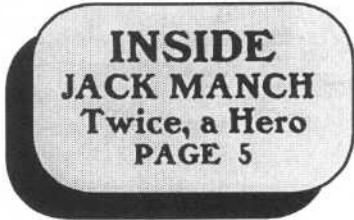
## Board meets October 5 in Lexington

AMA Alumni Association President Gary Nicholson, '70, has announced the next Board meeting will take place on Saturday, October 5 at 10 AM, at the Inn at Hunt Ridge in Lexington. The Ad Astra Reunion will take place at the same facility that weekend.

"As always," said Nicholson, "all alumni are invited to attend the board meeting. Since many board members are Ad Astras, we thought it would be convenient to have the Fall board meeting in concert with the other meeting."

The board meeting will begin at 10 AM Saturday, and is expected to adjourn by Noon. Any board member who is not an Ad Astra, and who wishes to attend the Saturday night banquet, should notify Ed Click, P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101. Phone 540/248-0507. Cost is \$25 per person.

Board members requiring overnight accommodations can call the Inn on a toll free number - 1/800/464-1501. Mention Ad Astra to get the special rates - \$72.95 for single occupancy, and \$76.95 for double occupancy.



## Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

September 1996



Dear Fellow Alumnus:

I recently received a letter from **Steven Traylor, '72**, which accompanied a nice contribution to the Alumni Association. Steve said, "*The amount enclosed is a paltry sum considering what The Bayonet means to me when it arrives in the mail.*" He went on to say that he had talked with **Tommy Simmons, '53**, at the May reunion, and learned what it cost to publish and mail *The Bayonet* each year. "*We could not save the school; let's not lose The Bayonet.*"

Steve's letter tracks what many other Augusta boys have been saying. A number of alumni have told me that they can't wait to read every page and every item in every issue. When one area alumnus heard that his neighbor had gotten his *Bayonet*, he was immediately in touch with us to see what had happened to his copy. (Happily, it turned up in the next day's mail)

The Alumni Association has just three major programs: ① *The Bayonet* and the Locator Project to keep the mailing addresses current; ② the AMA Legacy Scholarship Program; and ③ the VMI Scholarship Program. Only the VMI scholarship is fully funded at present.

With the summer nearly over and with each of us getting back to whatever our normal is, I hope that you will think back to other Septembers when Augusta welcomed you back for another year. If your memories of that special place and what it has meant to your life are as warm as mine, I know that we can count on you to support *The Bayonet* and the scholarship program that carries the name of our dear old AMA.

*K. Gary Nicholson, '70*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



Newsletter of the AMA Alumni Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101

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The *Bayonet* is distributed to alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy. Notice of changes of address should be sent to Alumni Records, c/o Edwin Click, Rt. 1, Box 12, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-9703. Please provide your 9-digit ZIP code!

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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## Reunion video still available

A 1996 AMA Reunion highlights video, shot by KGC Pro, is still available for purchase.

Featuring Founder's Day Ceremonies, the Saturday night banquet (with the complete narration and musical salute to AMA's veterans), and shots around the campus, this is a treasurehouse of memories that runs nearly two hours.

Whether or not you attended the reunion, you will love this professionally done video. And you will end up watching it again and again, as the memories of days at Fort Defiance come flooding back.

The price per copy is just \$30, including shipping and handling. Absolute top professional quality is absolutely guaranteed!

Make your check payable to: The MOVIE SHOP.

Mail your completed order to Gary Nicholson, 11971 Lexington Drive, Dunkirk, MD 20754-9263.

## "Nothing new" on Augusta property

There is "*nothing new going on at AMA*," according to I.H. Baker, one of the two co-owners of the school buildings and property.

Baker said that he and Kennard Campbell have "*done nothing to develop the property behind the school. We are keeping the place mowed and looking presentable, and hoping someone will come along who wants to buy it.*"

Baker reported that the gym roof has been repaired, and that repair of the gym floor will follow. A long-time roof leak had permitted rain to drip down and buckle the basketball court.

Leo Poole gives us the news that Seaweed's Ship History, P.O. Box 154, Sistersville, WV 26175, offers photos and histories of U.S. Naval vessels.



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# Class Notes \ Class Notes \ Class Notes

1930

**Jack Woods** of Las Vegas has sent a \$100 contribution to the Alumni Association. Thanks, Jack!

1939

**Mickey Gordon** and Libby were on holiday in Newport Beach, CA last April. There, they hosted **Rudy Crisman, '37**, and Dottie, at lunch.

1941

**Claxton Walker** has retired as founder of Claxton Walker Building Inspectors in Galesville, MD to do charter cruises on the Chesapeake Bay. "Cap'n Clack" skips a 41' yacht "Stormy Petrel", from May through October, plus inland waterway cruises in the late fall and early spring. Claxton was a Marine in World War II, fighting in the Marshalls, Saipan, and Iwo Jima. Address: P. O. Box 277, 7671 Latchstring Lane, Bozman, MD 21612. Phone 410/745-6563.

1944

**Henry Nalven** has retired after 38 years as sales representative for Kraft. His wife, Sonia, is a retired New York City school administrator. They live in Flushing, NY, and have three children, plus five grandchildren. The picture at right was taken at AMA in 1938, when Henry was only 12-years-old.



**Henry  
Nalven**

**Colonel Jack Dashiell** was base commander at Fort Monroe when he retired in 1980. He attended OCS after AMA, and was commissioned a second lieutenant. He left the Army in 1946, attended the

## **Bill Armstrong, '32, 'Sounder' author retires from Kent**

William H. Armstrong retired in June after 52 years of teaching at Kent School, Kent, CT. His novel *Sounder* won the 1970 Newberry Medal for its contribution to children's literature. It was turned into a Walt Disney movie in 1972, and was nominated for an Academy Award as best picture of the year. Mr. Armstrong will be profiled in the November issue of *The Bayonet*.

College of William and Mary, then went back on active duty during the Korean War, where he was highly decorated. Jack now lives in Alexandria, VA.

1946

**Curtis Burt, Jr.** sent us a generous contribution for *The Bayonet*, along with his e-mail address: EBurtjr@gnn.com

1946

**Dave Brewer** still lives just south of Myrtle Beach, SC. He is retired, and would be happy to hear from his classmates.

**Dr. Thomas Mandes** lives in Vienna, VA where he is in his 38th year in the solo practice of medicine. "I have no thought of retiring anytime soon," says Tom.

1948

**Hal Walters** nearly ended his golfing career this May when he caught his left hand in his table saw. He lost one tendon in his middle finger, and feels very fortunate that the injuries were not more debilitating. He plans to give a golfing clinic at the *Ad Astra* reunion in Lexington on Saturday, October 5.

1949

**Bill Dickinson** spent some vacation time in Maine during July.

1950

**Colonel Bill Grace** has left Northern Virginia, and lives now at 104 North Wolff Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

**Bob Bradford** retired from Safeway, Inc. on 30 June.

1951

**Archie Crawford** missed the May AMA reunion because his grandson had his first Communion that weekend, and his granddaughter had a birthday celebration. Thank you for your contribution, Archie.

1952

**Cole Sandridge** got the bad news that the home he built for retirement may be taken by Albemarle County, VA for a county project. While he expects to be adequately compensated, Cole says he's not thrilled at having to move.

1953

**Alex Wattay** and Diane moved from Pennsylvania to Hilton Head Island in early August. Later, they plan to go to Maryland to move their sailboat down the Inland Waterway to their new home.

1959

**Elliott Ridge's** mother, Mrs. Ruth Brown Ridge, passed away on 27 February in Galax, VA. We were sorry to hear of your loss, Elliott.

1960

**Bill McVey** just made a \$100 contribution to support publication of *The Bayonet*. Thank you for the vote of confidence, Bill!

1965

**Al Kalvin** in an orthopaedic shoe

