



# AMA Museum dream about to come true

The long held dream of an Augusta Military Academy Museum moved closer to reality with the announcement that the AMA Alumni Association and the new owners of AMA plan a joint project to rehabilitate the old Roller home on campus to turn it into a repository for AMA memorabilia and school records.

The membership meeting at the reunion unanimously approved the proposal to create the AMA Museum. *(more on page 19)*

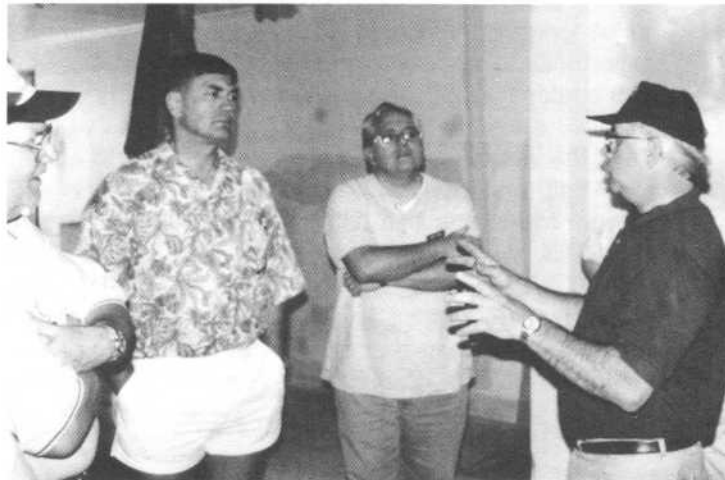
Alumni Association President **Goodloe Saunders, '57**, said that plans call for restoring the house to its original condition when it was home to several generations of the Roller family.

Negotiations are underway with the Pentecostal Church which now owns AMA to have church craftsmen do most of the restoration work. Saunders appointed **John Hash, '75**, to chair a Museum Committee to work out details. Other committee members include **Paul Bratton, '48, Steve Trent, '70,**

**Duke Fancher, '58, Frank Spencer, '49, Sturges Bryan, '58, and Tommy Mitchell, '52.** The committee not only will suggest how the house should be restored but what will be displayed and how it will be staffed. The committee will report to the AMA Alumni Association Board of Directors at its next meeting in the autumn of this year.

The house, built soon after the Civil War, is in the center of the campus complex between the Mess Hall and Deane's Castle (The Hill). **Professor Charles S. Roller**, the founder of AMA, built the house and lived in it until his death in 1907. There, **Colonel Tom and Major/Colonel/General Charles, Jr.** were raised with their brother **Dr. W. C. Roller** and a sister, **Maggie Bell**. In later years, Maggie Bell married **Colonel Warren Robinson** and she lived in the house until her death. Since then, it has housed the Band and been the school library.

Alumni who visited the Roller home during the reunion were pleased at its architectural integrity. Plans call for the dedication of the AMA Museum during the 1999 reunion weekend.



**Reverend Jim Dunlap, right, explains how the Roller Homestead can be made into an AMA Museum. Listening with interest are, l. to r., Frank Spencer, '49, Steve Trent, '70, and John Hash, '75.**

## Rooms for rent in Big Barracks? Likely in 5 years

The principal buildings on the AMA campus will be remodeled for use by the Virginia District of the United Pentecostal Church, the new owners of AMA. We may dine in the gym at the 1999 reunion. And alumni may be able to spend another night in Big Barracks! *Story on page 7.*

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Augusta Military Academy  
Alumni Association, Inc.

June 1998



Dear Fellow Alumnus:

What a reunion! The biggest turnout we have ever had. Approval for the AMA Museum we have been talking about for so long. Announcement for a new planned giving program that will assure that AMA's legacy is never lost. The opportunity to see our old teachers as the alumni of Augusta paid honor to these dedicated educators and friends. You couldn't ask for much more over a very busy and rewarding weekend.

Now, the work begins. We are looking for class agents to assure a new record attendance at our 1999 reunion. We need help and advice on setting up our museum and manning it. We certainly want each alumnus to give careful thought to how he can help the AMA Alumni Association now, and after he is gone. While we are still so excited about this year's reunion, its time to plan for the future.

We can't expect just a few dedicated cadets to carry the entire load. Read this issue of *The Bayonet* carefully and see where you can be of the most assistance. Then, let me know where you would like to serve - Membership, Finance, Museum, Scholarship, Reunion. Working together, there's nothing a bunch of Augusta men can't do!

*Goodloe Saunders, '57*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



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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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**Letter to the Editor**

I was so moved by the passing of **Paul Hoover** that it spurred me finally to write while there is someone alive who will know me. It has been a great pleasure to keep up with AMA news through *The Bayonet*. Thank you for a first rate newsletter.

There is not much I can add to the great descriptions of Paul Hoover than those already published. If he was anything, he was the most uniquely devoted, absolutely consumed teacher I ever met and I was blessed by his attention to me. He could make you feel 10 feet high or just as low but he gloried in the achievements, especially mental, of his students. It seemed to be his main goal in life. I was struck by this many years later when I went back to visit Augusta.

To me, he was not just a teacher at AMA. He was AMA - at its best.

**Milt Gallier, 49**



**Why Fort Defiance?**

*No institution of learning has a more desirable location than this: it is pleasantly situated, 1,300 feet above sea level, in one of the most beautiful sections of the Valley of Virginia... your child will not be exposed to the pernicious influences which are necessarily more or less incident to all towns and cities. Because (Augusta is) away from barrooms, billiard saloons, ten pin alleys, the thronged streets, and other allurements that tempt the boy from his books, it is not so difficult for him here to apply his mind and time to study and to keep within the bounds of rectitude and morality... the pupils of this School have entered without difficulty the Senior classes of even the University of Virginia and have graduated from them on the first year's examination... and its charges are less than those of any other Virginia school of like grade and the same educational advantages*  
**- from the Augusta Male Academy catalog of 1882-83**

1929

**Charles Yon** lives in Pueblo, CO. He is retired from CF&I Steel.

1930

**Jack Woods** still lives in Las Vegas where he has been the "signing agent" for USAA for many years.

1934

**Lee Walker** and Evelyn were married 58 years ago at the Old Stone Church by **Reverend McBryde**. The Walkers live in Gap, PA. (See *Augusta Memories* on page 20)

1935

**Herb Jacob** lives in Bonner Springs, KS. He retired from Hercules in 1984.

**Julian Quarles** has retired after many years of law practice in the Miami/ Coral Gables area.

1936

**Dr. Joe Shomo** lives in Aledo, TX where he was in private dental practice from 1965 until 1986.

1937

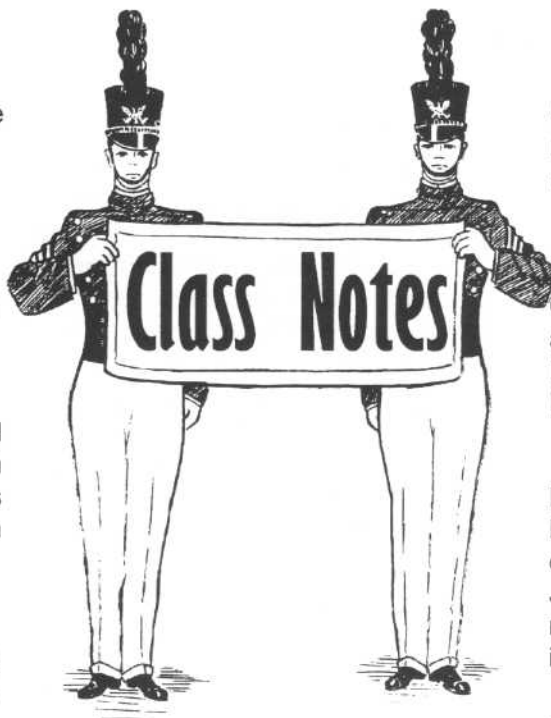
**Bill Gray** became a great grandfather on 13 January - a little boy - Tyler Jonathan Ochoa of Katy, TX. Wife Betty writes that when she and Bill married, "he inherited 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons!"

1938

**Major General Charles Ryder** retired from the Army after an illustrious military career. He was commanding general of the 199th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning and in Vietnam. After he left AMA, he attended West Point, Class of 1941. General Ryder lives in San Antonio.

1939

**Jack Bamford** and his wife Mary stopped



1941

**Clayton Rich** was involved with fund raising for Emory University before he retired. Clayton lives in Atlanta.

**Alvaro Escallon** recently retired as Columbian ambassador to China. Alvaro has residences in Miami and Bogota. **Mickey Gordon, '39**, and Libby attended a reception in his honor in Washington, DC in mid-April.

1943

**Bob Guggenheimer** writes from Madrid with the sad news that his dear wife Carmen passed away in January. They would have been married 47 years in February. You are in our thoughts and prayers, Bob.

**Judge B.A. "Monk" Davis** officially retired the first of the year, but still will serve as a Franklin County, VA substitute judge when needed. (See **SPOTLIGHT** on page 25)

**Earl Cabaniss** is a retired bank president. He lives in Pulaski, VA.

1946

**Dr. Ed Leventen** is a physician practicing in Los Angeles. He was captain of the CW Company his senior year. The late **Arthur Eichelbaum, '41**, was Ed's first cousin and Art was also captain of CW Company.

through Fort Defiance in April and plan to be back next May for his 60th reunion. They visited with **Mickey Gordon** and Libby on their way back home to Schuylkill Haven, PA after having spent the winter in Florida.

**John McCune** is an attorney at law in San Antonio.

**V. P. Leavel** attended the May reunion and was looking good. He's been recovering from a heart attack. Keep taking care of yourself, V. P.



**50th ANNIVERSARY - Some of the Class of 1948 at the 1998 reunion. Front row, l. to r., Tom Moon, Don Fretz, Luther Sykes, and Dick Wilding. Back row, Bill Harris, Ernest Click, Hal Walters, Paul Bratton, and Carter Wood**



**George Snarr** is a retired lawyer living in Winchester. He was a partner in the law firm Snarr, McCandlish and Rockwood from 1984 until 1996.

**1947**

**Dr. Tom Callaghan** is a psychiatrist in private practice in Fresno, CA. He has lived in California since 1970.

**Harry May** reports that his printing business is flourishing. He and Jane recently moved to a new home in Sterling, VA.

**1948**

**Bill Harris** and Frances own and operate the Heart of My Heart Bed and Breakfast in Round Top, TX.

**Jim Chezem** was sidelined with heart bypass problems and couldn't attend the reunion this year. We missed you, Jimmy! He reports that he secured his 37th patent last October. Jim is the principal in Innovative Products of Titusville, FL and was previously retired as a lieutenant colonel after 16 years of active service with the Army.

**Allen Tomlin** retired in 1992 after 37 years with State Farm. The Tomlins live in Greensboro, NC.

**Paul Bratton** and Ruby enjoyed the 1998 reunion. Ruby says she is "*feeling just great these days...*" having overcome some very serious health problems. The Brattons live in Millboro, VA.

**Ernie Click** and Marge drove to the reunion from Umatilla, FL. They had a great visit with brother **Edwin, '50**, Sue, and their sons David and Bill. Both boys attended the Saturday night banquet. David earned the AMA Legacy Scholarship in 1997.

**1950**

**Latelle "Bud" LaFollette, III**, will become a grandfather in December if all goes as planned. Bud's entire family has been in the coal land business for the past 100 years. His father graduated from AMA in 1918 and his son graduated from Augusta in 1979. The LaFollettes live in Sarasota, FL from October until June

and in White Sulphur Springs, WV the rest of the year.

**Reverend James Lupton** is the priest-in-charge at St. George's Episcopal Chapel in Lake Landing, NC. Jim and Eliza retired in 1996, his last church before retirement being in Stuttgart, AR. He delivered the invocation at the general membership meeting during the reunion.

**1951**

**Jack Hodge** is vice president of David Volkert and Associates. He previously retired as Chief Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation. Jack lives in Blackstone, VA.

**1953**

**Manuel Balbis** owns and operates a wholesale tire export company in Miami. He retired as President and General Manager of Firestone in Argentina. It was great seeing him at the reunion!

**Lew Muddin** owns and operates Creery, Limited, custom shirt makers in Richmond since 1907.

**1954**

**Mike Bottino** is how you knew him, but he has changed his name to Michael ben Bottino. He lives at 595 West End Avenue in New York City.

**Ken Hoke** retired in 1996 as Director of Information Services at Guilford of Maine. Ken and Ellie have relocated to Elon College, NC.

**1955**

**Senator John Chichester** chairs the Finance Committee in the Virginia State Senate where he helped steer an expensive school construction bill into a yearlong study as requested by Governor Gilmore. Chichester and



**Senator John Chichester**

others said the spending bills carried huge price tags and that Gilmore's victory in last November's election made the car tax cut a first priority. Chichester represents Stafford in the Virginia State Senate.

**1957**

**Goodloe Saunders** and Brenda have sold their farm on Afton Mountain and are building a new house. "*What a job,*" says Goodie.

**1958**

**Sturges Bryan** and Sue attended the reunion in spite of the fact that Sturges has just gone through treatments for prostate cancer at his home in Salisbury, NC. At Friday's dinner, Sturges publicly thanked **Duke Fancher, '58**, for his support. Duke has had the nasty stuff also.

**Wes Livengood** is a manufacturer's representative for WAL Associates of Winston-Salem, a firm representing 14 companies that make material handling devices.

**Bill Jaeger**, a banker for the last 30 years, is now with CENIT. He lives in Chesapeake, VA.

**Don Radford** came to the reunion after attending the NASCAR race in Taledaga, AL. He's from Geneva, NY.

**Al Garcia** is Director of Bioprocess Research and Development at Pharmacia and Upjohn. He and Sandra, his wife of 21 years, drove down to the reunion from Kalamazoo, MI.

**Bill Yates** and his wife Carol came to the reunion from their home in Niagara Falls. Bill, a former CW, headed straight for the Mess Hall when he visited the Academy grounds. Bill has retired from teaching English in the Niagara Falls school system.

**Randy Osman** lives in Oregon where he is a fine arts appraiser specializing

