



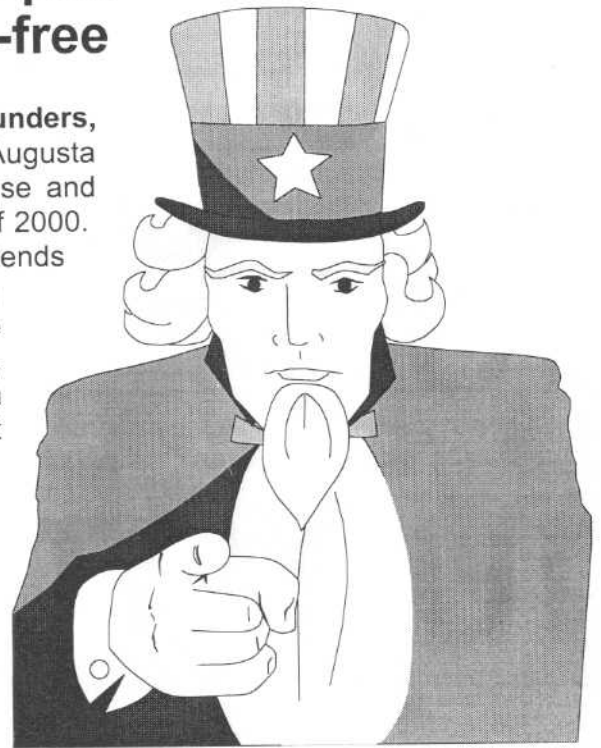
I NEED YOU!

Friends needed to open Alumni House debt-free

AMA Alumni President **Goodloe Saunders, '57**, has asked alumni and friends of Augusta to assure that the AMA Alumni House and Museum will open debt-free in May of 2000. He has challenged 150 alumni and friends to contribute at least \$1,000 each toward renovating and restoring the circa 1870 Roller-Robinson House, located in the center of the Augusta Military Academy campus in Fort Defiance.

The President's Council

Those who contribute at least \$1,000 toward this project will become members of The President's Council. These contributors will have a special tour of the AMA Museum before it opens officially on Saturday 6 May 2000. They will also be invited to a special event at Reunion 2000 and will have a President's Council ribbon on their registration badges. Council



members also will receive quarterly reports on the progress of the restoration work. "The best way for us to start off our long dreamed about AMA Alumni House and Museum is to open it in the black," said Saunders. "I have been hearing from alumni these past few years who told me that they were ready to make substantial contributions when they knew that the museum was going to be a reality. We need you now to make good on those promises!"

*List of
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
members to date
on page 18*

Roller-Robinson House transition to AMA Alumni House/Museum on time

The renovation of the circa 1870 Roller Robinson House is proceeding "pretty much on time,"
(continued on page 19)

**Jerry Claiborne goes
to College Hall of Fame**
Page 7

**Catching up with
TOM ROLLER**
Page 9

**AMA's Bud Allison, '61,
helped to revolutionize
football kicking game**
Page 13

Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

Fall 1999



Dear Fellow Alumnus:

Uncle Sam said it all on the front page: WE NEED YOU! For years, we have talked about an AMA museum and we have wanted a permanent alumni headquarters to maintain our records and keep us in touch. Scarcely a board meeting or annual membership meeting has passed since the school closed 15 years ago that this subject has not come up. If there was one thing our guys seemed near unanimous on, it was that we have an AMA Alumni House and Museum. We got the message: Build it! Build it, and they will come...

Well, folks, the time for talk is past. The hammers are pounding nails, the saws cutting recreated masterpieces to make the house authentic, paint brushes are flying. The *copper* roof is going on, and we need to talk about the *gold!* To date, we are in the black. But as the bills come in for heating, air conditioning, the required sprinklers, the roof, etc., we are going to need all those folks who have dreamed of AMA Alumni House to help us.

I know that every one of you can't become a President's Council member, but we need your help nevertheless. Buy a paver or pavers, or just send a check. Tell us it's for AMA Alumni House and Museum. Be a part of this fantastic project which will make us and our children's children proud of Old Augusta.

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. Clear, correctly exposed photos are welcome.

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Football's in the air!

If you attended Augusta before 1963, the photo at right is familiar to you. It is **Colonel Roller** at his accustomed place just outside the end zone at an AMA home game. The chant was: "*Take the ball to Big Boy!*" The Big Boy was a star on the 1901 VMI football team with his classmate **George Marshall**. To his last days on earth, he loved football!

Jerry Claiborne certainly heard that chant when he began his fantastic coaching career at AMA. Wouldn't the Big Boy be proud to know that his Coach Claiborne is going to the Hall of Fame! (story on page 7)

Even Colonel Roller with his vast knowledge of and keen interest in football might not have recognized the impact that **Harold "Bud" Allison, '61**, was to make on the game. You can see his story on page 13.



And then there is **Coach Ralph**. Several of his players have written *The Bayonet* about him and you can read all about it on page 24.

1927

Edward Marshall Pryor's grandson, Edward Pryor Marshall IV, was married on 10 July to Dawnmarie Didonato in Charlottesville where his grandmother still lives.

1931

Birch Grawl sent a nice contribution to support the AMA Alumni Association, just as he does every single year. Thanks, Birch! He lives in Glen Mills, PA.

1936

Tom Roller, son of **Colonel Thomas J. Roller**, is living in Placentia, CA with his 2nd wife, Dinah, whom he married in 1984. He has 4 children and Dinah has 3 children from her former marriage. Tom has worked in the oil and gas business for many years, first in Denver, then in New Mexico for a few years, and finally in California where today he is involved with oil and gas leases. (see page 9)

1939

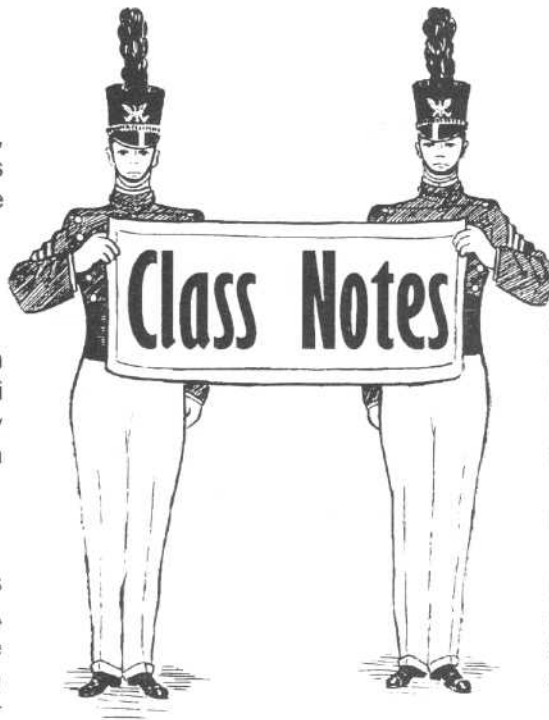
Mickey Gordon has been named to the President's Club of the American Funds Group, one of the nation's leading mutual fund families. He has been in the financial services field for 52 years and has been with Advest since 1970.

1942

Colonel Worthington Mahone, USA Retd, lives in Melbourne, FL. He spent 18 months in the Pacific in World War II with the 96th Division, then returned to attend NC State for 3 years only to be called back to active duty. His last overseas assignment was as Commander of the 164th Combat Aviation Group in Vietnam. After his retirement from the military, he was involved in commercial and residential construction projects before settling in Florida.

1944

Henry Nalven writes from Flushing, NY that we "should always keep *The Bayonets* coming... Every issue tells me things I didn't know." Thanks!



Charlie Polisher says, "I am 73, retired, and living a wonderful life in Baja Mexico... I was on the boxing team at Augusta and my roommate was **Wilmer Stradley, III...**"

1947

Bobby Rhea was named a Life Member of the Virginia State Bar Association at the association's 109th summer meeting at the Greenbrier Hotel. Rhea is a partner in Rhea and Miller in Staunton.

Harry May had successful hip replacement surgery in the early summer and a second hip replacement in August. Walking without a cane!

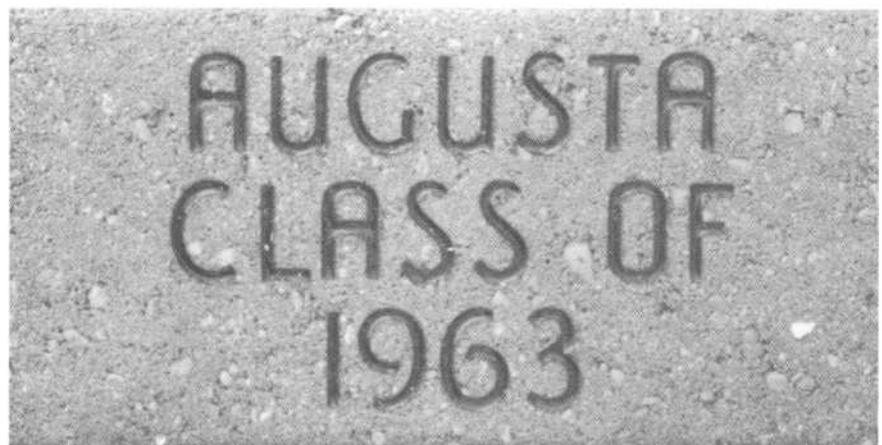
1948

Bill Harris and **Frances** celebrated their 25th anniversary on 8 August. Congratulations! Bill and Frances are in the oil business and operate the Heart of My Heart Bed and Breakfast in Round Top, TX.

Francis X. Fields is now known as "The Mad Bugler" after he blew Reveille at 5:15 AM to awaken everyone at the Host Inn on the Saturday morning of the 1999 reunion. Says **Frank Williamson, '60**, "Hell, I like a bugle call at 5:15 AM, but I might have liked it more if I had gone to bed before 2:45." Francis says he has talked with **Hal Walters, '48**, and Hal and Nancy promise to attend Reunion 2000.

Cann Bentley lives in Neon, KY, and one July day **Gary Nicholson, '70**, found Cann wandering about the AMA campus. Gary got him back on the AMA mailing list and brought him up to date on the plans for the AMA Alumni House and Museum. Welcome back to the family, Cann!

PAVE THE WAY!



BUY A BRICK TO HONOR YOUR CLASS
DETAILS ON PAGE 31

1949

Gray Kinnie has a new e-mail address: graylou@hargray.com

George Philopoulos had triple bypass surgery and was unable to attend his 50th reunion this past May. We hope all is well with you now, George. He lives in Canton, MA.

Jim Council has a new e-mail address: jwcouncil@cs.com

Doug Nemier has moved to 17 Tumbling Run, Lititz, PA 17543-7654.

1950

Tommy Clements is a geophysicist and has done oil and gas exploration all over the world. After AMA, he attended Virginia Tech, then Alabama where he got a masters in geology, after he had served in the Korean War. He worked for Amoco and Skelly Oil before becoming a consultant to major and independent petroleum producers, and retired in 1996. He and Joyce have been married since 1952. They have 3 children, and they live in Jackson, MS.

Ed Click, Sue and their 2 AMA Legacy Scholarship-winning sons, David and Bill, had a marvelous 2-week trip to Alaska in June. Bill and David are both attending the University of Virginia this year.

1952

Roger Messick, First Captain in his senior year, has retired in Prescott, AZ. After AMA, Roger attended the University of Kentucky where he was Regimental Commander of the UK ROTC unit. He flew helicopters for the Army for 14 years (including 2 tours of Vietnam), and was a corporate pilot for the rest of his working days. He finished his career as Manager of Flight Operations for General Electric. He and Jean have been happily married for 44 years.

1953

Jack Whittington retired from Burlington Industries when he became 65 years old. He now lives in Lexington, VA. He is married, has 2 children and 4 grandchildren.



BACK HOME! Two cadet captains are back in touch with the AMA Alumni Association for the first time in many years. Left, Roger Messick, '52, First Captain his senior year, and, right, Tommy Clements, '50, Captain of Headquarters Company in 1949-50.

Dave Boger and Vicki are now living back home in Staunton. He recently was assigned to the United Methodist Church in Greenville, just 10 miles south of Staunton on US 11. e-mail: dboger@juno.com

1954

Ken Hoke has agreed to be the Class Agent for the Class of '54! **Tom Lassell** gives thanks to Ken for getting him back for the 1999 reunion. *"It was great seeing so many of my old classmates again..."*

1955

T. C. Lea is back in touch after having moved from eastern Virginia to Culpeper. After a 1997 divorce, he has married a college professor. *"I dated her 40 years ago and we are back together!"* Congratulations, T.C.!

1956

Adrian Howard's wife, Rose Marie, has taken a real estate course and earned her license. She also taught pre-kindergarten Bible School this past summer. Abeie passed away last November.

Elgin Nininger, Jr. is in the seafood business in Colonial Beach, VA.

1957

Goodloe Saunders and Brenda moved into their new house on Afton Mountain (VA) the last week of July. *"It's really good to be in our new home,"* says Goodloe.

1958

Bob Seeberger's dear wife, Ruth, died suddenly on 1 August at age 59. Those attending the 1999 reunion will recall that Bob and Ruth ran the very successful silent auction. They had become the very proud grandparents of a little boy, born 5 July 1999, to son Todd and his wife Karen. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers, Bob.

Alfred "Buzzy" Coleman has been honored for his leadership in the United Way Campaign for Central Virginia. The Lynchburg *News and Advance* profiled Buzzy (who is Chairman and CEO of Coleman-Adams Construction) pointing out that he reached many people not normally attracted to the United Way. *"A Harley rider himself, he bought a motorcycle and raffled it for United Way, making \$25,000 for the charity..."*

Duke Fancher is recovering nicely from hip replacement surgery in early September.

Terry Snow spent the last week of September and the 1st week of October in the United Kingdom. He was in Canterbury for 5 nights, with excursions to area historical sites, then he went to Scotland for 10 days.

1959

Elliott Ridge went home from the '99 reunion and a few days later came down with pneumonia, complicated by a staph infection he contracted at the hospital. He's fine now and taking it easy at home in Hillsville, VA.

1960

Monte Ellis, originally from Maryland, now lives in Corpus Christie, TX and is preparing for retirement. He plans to sell his house and boat and is purchasing a huge motor home in which he hopes to see the country. That definitely includes a stop at AMA's Reunion 2000 on May 5, 6 and 7. You can contact Monte on e-mail at: JEllis8514@aol.com

1961

Fred Anderson recently underwent surgery. Made it back for the 1999

