

## Roller Rifles awe reunion goers

The Roller Rifles march again on the AMA Parade Grounds. Tom DeValle, '73, put together the drill team which had its premier performance during Reunion 2005 on a cloudy and threatening day in Fort Defiance. The unit was commanded by Doug Pennock, '72. More photos inside.

Photo by Bob Walton, '65

### ***Ramblings and remembrances about the reunion***

*By Chris Meek, Class of 1984*

Wow, what a reunion! It was very difficult not to fight back a tear or two watching the Roller Rifles marching on our field again. The Rifles still could put practiced competition to shame. I do have to admit that the timing was a little off, but for one day of practice after all those years, they were pretty damned good. And that one ninth grader from Massanutten did OK, didn't he? He could have made one hell of an AMA cadet. That being said, we still held our own in the knockout drill. Amazing after all these years that drill never leaves your blood.

It make me wonder where we go from here. The news that the barracks is structurally sound, although cosmetically it may seem otherwise, was wonderful. Better news was that the Pentecostal Church is going to refurbish it! Still, as was sadly brought up time and time again, there are no longer new alumni from Augusta Military Academy. How does AMA live on if we are not here to preserve it?

Sure, we have the museum, but who is going to man it? The current volunteer corps is not getting any younger. We need to infuse younger blood into the organization! Where are my classmates? Where are the members of the Classes from 1980 through 1984? Hey, we had it tough during those years, but what generation didn't have its share of hardships? Unfortunately,

*(continued on page 11)*

**Colonel Rutland  
Beard, '42,  
three war hero**

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**Full Reunion coverage  
starts on page 7**

**Dozens of photos!**

**African American  
cadets at AMA**

Page 35

**Augusta Military Academy  
Alumni Association, Inc.**

June 2005



Dear Fellow Alumnus,

Reunion 2005 was one of the best. In fact, many were overheard saying it was the best Reunion ever.....I agree !! The attendance was higher than last year, the weather primarily cooperated and we had a lot of first timers. There were many highlights of the weekend, but four events stand out as being a little more dynamic than usual. Before I list them, know that I feel every event was very special, well planned and executed.

Here are my weekend highlights: The trip to Appomattox was very impressive....the Saturday morning dedication of the Interstate Signs was a milestone for our future.....the Saturday afternoon presentation of AMA's History entitled "*Till there are only two of us*" was worthy of the highest award known to mankind and the exhibition by the resurrected Roller Rifles was a sight to behold.

Pride, Patriotism and Honor filled the weekend. It was a reunion I'll never forget. A well deserved "Thank You" to all who give their time and energy to make our Augusta a special place and for helping orchestrate the annual Reunions. This includes the United Pentecostal Church for their support and understanding of our heritage. Wasn't it terrific to hear their superintendent say "These grounds will always be known as Augusta Military Academy"?

**Frank Williamson, '60**, has been like a rock these past few years in his role as Vice President of the AMA Alumni Association and Reunion Chair. His leadership, work ethic and "can do" attitude have served us well. Frank is the epitome of a dedicated alumnus. During the General Membership Meeting Saturday morning, Frank resigned as our Vice President but states he'll still be involved and won't desert us. Frank, we appreciate all you have done for us, we're better because of you! **Luke Snyder, '60**, was elected as the new vice president and reunion chair and we know Luke will do a fine job. A few other changes on the Alumni Board are detailed in this issue of the *Bayonet*.

**Clyde Ramsey, '49**, has resigned as our secretary because of some health problems which we hope will be quickly resolved so we can see him back for Reunion 2006. We cannot thank him enough for his many years of faithful service. He hasn't missed a board meeting since 1994! **Steve Trent, '70**, will take his place. And **John Hash, '75**, resigned as treasurer but will remain on the board. He took the job four years ago and has worked with the Foundation and the Association as these new entities were formed. Thank you, John, and thanks to **Bob Harris, '54**, for agreeing to take the treasurer's job bringing with him advanced accounting procedures for our organizations.

Visitors continue to flock to the AMA Alumni Museum. So far this year from January thru May 2005, we've hosted more than 700 visitors. VERY IMPRESSIVE !!!! As you're probably thinking, this requires man hours and money...both of which we have never had too much. Please volunteer your time and make whatever contributions you can to: Keep our Scholarships healthy; see that our *Bayonet* is well funded and help assure that our Museum is well manned and in good repair.

My very best to all AMA Alumni and friends. Thanks again to all the volunteers that work endlessly to make AMA a special place. Have a safe and healthy summer. Remember, it's always the right time to help AMA....and it's never too early to start making plans for next year's reunion April 27, 28 & 29, 2006.

*Garry Granger, '71*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



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Please provide your 9-digit ZIP code!

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

Clear, correctly exposed photos are always welcome. Digital photos need to be in .TIF format saved at least in 300 dpi.

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**LET US HEAR FROM YOU**

1935

(JULIAN QUARLES)

George Adam was back for his 70<sup>th</sup> reunion and said he thought it was the best planned and executed event he had seen in half a century attending meetings and conferences. George lives in Webster, TX. We are sorry to report that his dear wife has Alzheimer's Disease. Our thoughts are with you, George.

1939

(NONE)

Mel Alper lost his brother. Mort, '42, recently. (See *Taps*) Colonel Rutland Beard, '43, visited with Mel after Mort's death and said they talked warmly about the late Mickey Gordon, '39, and Curtis Walker, '39.

1942

(RUTLAND BEARD)

Colonel Rutland Beard and Angus Hines attended the reunion and found plenty of opportunities to talk about old times.

[Beard - BEARD368@aol.com]

[Hines - angushines@aol.com]

1944

(NONE)

Dr. Don Elston and Shirley attended their third consecutive reunion coming all the way from Flagstaff, Arizona. It is always good to see their smiling faces!

[delston@earthlink.net]

1946

(NONE)

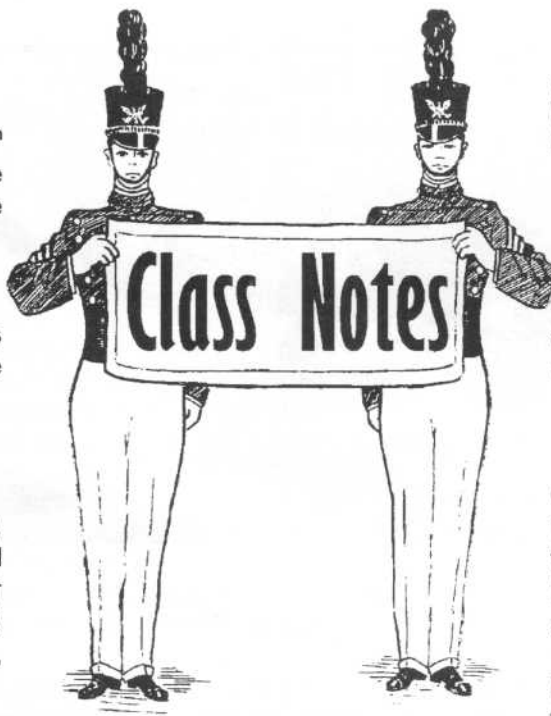
Dr. Bob Lappin lives in Palm Beach Gardens in the winter and Mashpee, Massachusetts in the summer. His present address: 31 Wheelhouse Lane, Mashpee, MA 02649-4010.

[rslappin@adelphia.net]

1947

(MIKE WELCH)

Jim Dickenson went to Virginia Tech after finishing at Augusta. He retired in 1991 after 40 years with the Virginia Department of Agriculture. He lives in



Ro anoke and has four sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

[HokieJimm@aol.com]

1948

(NONE)

Bill Harris' sweet wife, Frances, writes that their new housing is working out well for them. "We take exercise classes each day and have two meals, plus sitters for Bill when needed which enables me to keep up



CLASS OF '32 - Bob Klutz and family in the Hall of Honor, AMA Alumni House/Museum.

with some of the activities I enjoy." We are thinking about you both, Frances.

[fbharris@cmaaccess.com]

Paul Bratton and Ruby were missed at the reunion. Paul has been having problems with his legs and we are hoping that he is better now.

1949

(FRANK SPENCER)

Clyde Ramsey missed his first AMA reunion since 1985. He was moving at the time of the reunion - to a new home 200 yards away from his old place in Asheville.

Richard McLaughlin's namesake son took him on an Alaska cruise in May. "We had five wonderful days of sunshine and I got a tan by the ship's pool," he reports.

1950

(JIM LUPTON)

Bud Lafollette and Alice sailed on the Queen Mary from Fort Lauderdale to St. Thomas, VI, St. Martin and St. Kitts "with much food and two formal nights on board."

Dick Young signed up and paid for the reunion registration, but no one ever saw him. Where were you, Dick?

1951

(CHARLES PILLEY &amp; HAP STARR)

John Core has moved from Sonoma in California to Pagosa Springs in Colorado. He and his old friend, Hap Starr, had some quality time together at Reunion 2005.

Ben Angle, Frank Pilley and Chip Lazarus attended their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary class reunion at VMI on the same weekend of the 2005 AMA reunion. Ben had his family to the museum earlier this year. *Photo on page 83.*

1952

(JIM WHITE)

**Juan Santaló** has been located by **Manuel Balbis, '53**, and he is back on the mailing list. Juan lives in Coral Gables.

**Roger Messick**, a happily retired corporate pilot, searched the world over for the perfect place to live. He and Jeanne decided on Prescott, Arizona. Roger was at Reunion 2005 and says that he and Jeanne definitely will be back for Reunion 2006. He was Battalion Commander at AMA his senior year.

[trmessup@aol.com]

1953

(LEWIS MUNDIN)

**Manuel Balbis** is an adjunct professor of graduate business management for the University of Phoenix on line. He still travels to South America on business for his consulting company. Manuel is the former President of Firestone Argentina and lives in Miami. He is working with others in Southern Florida to arrange an AMA event there. [Maweet@aol.com]

**Ted Basque** and Marcia traveled crosscountry by motor coach from Lincoln, California to attend the reunion and said they had a grand and glorious adventure.

[MrTedTed@aol.com]

**Joe Neff** announces a new mailing address: 9920A S.W. 89<sup>th</sup> Court Road, Ocala, FL 34481.

[jd\_neff@earthlink.net]

1954

(KEN HOKE &amp; T. C. LEA)

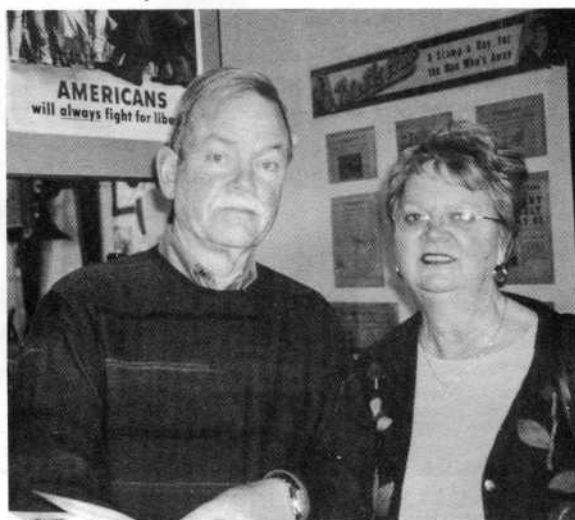
**Bob Harris** and Kathy are moving into their new home in Amherst, less than an hour from AMA. The



**CLASS OF '52** - Standing outside the Commandant's Office are Ed Schoenborn, Eddie Ray, Tommy Mitchell and Roger Messick.



**CLASS OF '56** - Lonnie Crotts, his wife, Mary, his sister, Ruth, and his brother-in-law, Marion in the museum.



**CLASS OF '61** - Cam Lewis and his wife.

Harris lived in Connecticut where he was an executive with Advest. Bob was the general contractor on the new house and is glad to have that job behind him. Now, he takes another job as Treasurer of both the AMA Alumni Association and the AMA Alumni Foundation. Thanks, Bob!  
[bharii@aol.com]

1957

(GOODLOE SAUNDERS)

**Jerry Wildman** has completed his move to Shelton, Washington.

[wildman@pstbbs.com]

1962

(BOB GEBEAUX)

**Bruce Nicholson** has been hard at work scanning *Recalls* from his era to be transferred to the Augusta web-page: AMAAlumni.org. Thanks for all the hard work, Bruce. Bruce and Pat live in Santa Fe, New Mexico where he is president of an air quality consulting firm. See story on page 40.

[BrucNichol@aol.com]

1963

(MIKE BASTO)

**Phillip Wharton** had a grandson, Zachary Furches, born on 28 January in Yankton, SD and he'll add another grandson this month. Congratulations, Phil!

**Joe Kristek** and his wife have left New York State for their new home in North Carolina. Their new address is: 5680 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376.  
[Navy1dad@aol.com]

1965

(NONE)

**Bob Walton**, a professional photographer, lives in Highland

Names in parentheses under each year indicate the Class Agent for that year

