

Augusta Military Academy

Oral History

Bob Ray, '62
July 24, 2002



I have so many wonderful memories of my days at AMA...and I firmly believe that had my parents not sent me to AMA, I wouldn't have achieved the successes I have.

I arrived at AMA in September of 1959 not really knowing what to expect of this "Military School." It didn't take long to understand that discipline was the name of the game and something, in retrospect, that I needed at that stage of my life.

The first year was quite an adjustment to my previous life-style, but it laid an important structure in my life that I still observe today. I remember working very hard in "The Best New Cadet" competition, especially against **John Pruitt**, and I was thrilled when I was selected the winner at the end of the year.

I roomed with two great guys, **Wayne Higgins** of Stephenville, Maryland, and **Dick Jennings** of Huntington, West Virginia, and we continued as roommates for the three years I spent at AMA.

Other memories of the first year were the "inspections" in the middle of the night while the whole corps stood facing the courtyard at attention. But most of all, I remember **General Roller's** example and his noontime addresses to the cadets. What a wonderful gentleman he was!

I made so many new friends that year that I couldn't wait to go back for my second year. During the second year I was selected to join the "Roller Rifles" and that was fantastic. I loved the drills and the trips to the competitions were wonderful. I'll never forget the Cherry Blossom Festivals and the fun we had.

One other huge benefit of my attendance at AMA was a significant improvement in my academic grades. The smaller classes, the immediate help available by the instructors and the required supervised study halls made all the difference in the world. I probably would not have made it to college without AMA.

My third year, and last, was a real growing experience. Wayne, Dick and I continued to live in room #1 in the tower. We successfully tapped into the light fixture of the Commandant's Office and thereby had all-night lights any night we needed them. I was chosen President of the Third Year Men and Honor Committee and competed with the Roller Rifles again.

Doc Savedge especially, **Howard Hansen**, **Colonel Gardner** and his daughter, and **Sergeant**

Augusta Military Academy

Oral History

Rockwell all contributed to the molding process that created a young man who now had self-confidence, drive, discipline and the will to achieve what no one else in my family ever had, eventually, a college degree.

My years at AMA were the best of my youth and I thanked my parents so many times for the sacrifices they made in order to send me there. While over the years I've been back by AMA only a couple of times, I hope to be able to attend a reunion sometime soon.

If everyone's experience at AMA was as significant as mine, there are a lot of thankful alumni.

Thanks for the opportunity to momentarily relive the past.

You can view the 1962 RECALL here:

<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Recalls/Recall-1962/>