

Augusta Military Academy

Oral History

Ted Schroder, '65
August 15, 2002

My brother and I arrived at AMA in the fall of 1962. School had already begun – my mother telephoned General Roller and he told her just to bring us on in.

That first year was really something! I was in C Company and my brother in F Company. **Sammy Wales** was my captain and **Buddha Hite** my platoon leader. Much of that first year was a blur; however, I remember well:



General Roller walking the stoops. If he found a cigarette butt in front of a room, it was all over. I can remember him telling us that cigarettes were worse than rattlesnakes.

The spelling tests in the big room and the reward for getting a 100. He always had the word “separate” on the test.

Capt Hawpe's Algebra II class. If you were having trouble with it but you were really trying, he would bend over backwards to help you. However, if you sat in class and goofed off, he would put you on the back row and occasionally throw a blackboard eraser at you, “to wake you up” or laugh at you.

My second year I can remember:

President Kennedy being shot and learning about it as we went to 6th period English. The whole school was in shock.

The football game against S.M.A. that we won 14-2 and the fight that almost started at half-time.

Sitting in Geometry class and **Major Hoover** coming into class and opening all the windows in the middle of winter, because he didn't want anyone to nod off. He would kick someone out of class and then run out after the guy he kicked out and bring him back with his arm around him.

The soccer games where we would get an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the bench 'cause “Maj” was always cussing.

Doc Savedge and sitting in his Chemistry class. He was one of the reasons that I became a chemist.

Augusta Military Academy

Oral History

The day Captain **Tony La Placa** (our illustrious Latin teacher) walked into the Chemistry lab as Doc was showing us what happens when you put metallic Sodium into water. Doc had filled one of the end sinks full of water and had dropped a small chunk of Sodium into it. La Placa walked over to the sink and asked the question, "What have we here Savedge?" Just about then is when the Hydrogen gas being generated exploded and created a water spout that doused La Placa from his head to his waist. The whole class just rolled on the floor in laughter. He couldn't have timed it any better if he wanted to.

The Ed Sullivan show when the Beatles first appeared and how crowded the rooms were because not everyone had a TV.

My Senior year I can remember:

The fencing trips. On one we traveled to Baltimore in Major Hoover's car. We had six in the back and two, plus "Maj" who was driving, up front. Right in the middle of Baltimore we stopped at a red light and executed a "Chinese Fire Drill".

Marching "tours" around the bowl and cleaning classrooms, because I really screwed up.

Paul "Pygmy" McKrell giving haircuts in his room the night before an inspection.

The people on the third floor who were taking showers and would get all soaped up, then somebody would turn on the water in the sinks and the showers on the first floor and there would be no water on third floor as the water pressure would drop.

The IG inspections every year and the preparation for them, as we wanted to keep our "Honor Military School" rating.

The sunbathing on the hill behind the barracks and the beer that got smuggled in.

Mike DeAyora saying his special "Grace" on Sunday when all the parents and the staff were in the mess hall.

These are just a few of the many, many memories that I have.