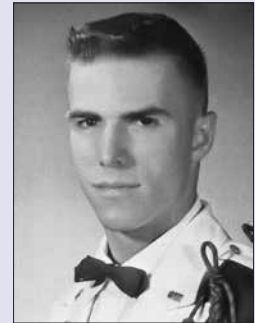


Augusta Military Academy

Oral History

Bill Keller, '62
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The Evils of Smoking

When I – or more precisely my parents – was deciding which academy I wanted to attend, we were visiting a close friend who lived in Waynesboro, Virginia. He told my dad that when he was younger he had always wanted to attend AMA, but that he never had the opportunity.

Since he was so enthusiastic about Augusta, we all got in the car and drove over to the school. This was during the summer. When we got there, someone (I don't recall who it was) gave us a tour of the campus. After the tour we were taken into **Colonel Roller's** office to meet him.

I don't remember a lot about that meeting or the discussion that took place; however, at one point the Big Boy asked me if I smoked cigarettes. Even though I had previously smoked an occasional cigarette, it had been a long time prior to this meeting. I must have hesitated, not wanting to admit to it in front of my parents, but before I could answer he reached out, took my hands and smelled them.

He then pronounced that I did smoke and explained all of the evils of smoking and why I should stop.

I think I had been convinced by all that I had seen prior to the meeting with the Big Boy that I wanted to go to AMA, but, I'd be willing to bet that the hand smelling incident was the turning point for my parents.

I'm glad it was and I have never forgotten the Big Boy's admonition!

You can view the 1962 RECALL here:
<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Recalls/Recall-1962/>