



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: www.wabash.edu

Email us: alumni@wabash.edu

Phone: (765) 361-6369

Class of 1952

Class Agent

William J. Reinke

February, 2013

Fellow '52ers:

Bill Reinke, our esteemed regular class agent, had a date with some heart surgeon's right after New Year's. I'm happy to report, on word from wife Liz, Bill came through with flying colors. He's now recovering nicely in South Bend, attended to by friends and family and, of course, Liz.

Forthwith, he has turned over the Class Agent letter duties this time around to your faithful ol' correspondent from the 1950s (name at bottom; you'll just have to guess 'till then).

So, good day, Mr. and Mrs. America, and all the ships at sea!

Here's what's been happening:

Paul and Carol Arnold write to say...

"We are prolonging our Christmas trip to visit daughter Anne and family in the Orlando region by camping for about a week in each of two state park campgrounds near Sarasota and Naples. We did this last year in the same campgrounds.

ETD from B-ton 23 Dec 12, ETA in B-ton 30 Jan 13.

Intend to do a lot of fishing and some beachy time, too. We stop in Nashville, TN, for Christmas Eve and day, then haul it south to Annie's. Her big son says the bass fishing is still good in their lake. Hope it lasts awhile longer."

"B-ton," of course, is Bloomington, IN, command central for the Arnolds. Their yearly adventures - in a spiffy sleeping trailer they haul behind their car - also include Montana, Taos, NM, and the great parks of the West.

(continued)

Not only that (he's gonna have harsh words for me for what I'm about to plug) - they co-wrote a sweet little novel last year, called *Divided by the Light*. You can order it through Paul, at paul.f.arnold@gmail.com (or Amazon).

From the snows of the high country out West, **Dick Gooding** emailed us an interesting tale:

“As for myself, I just got back from snowshoeing into my ranch, which is under 2 feet of snow, to check my barn cats and refill their larder and check on the homestead. Fortunately all was well. Sue and I are in good health to the best of our knowledge for a couple in their 80's.

I stay busy with a group of landowners in the area called the Chama Peak Land Alliance. It's a group of us in southern CO and northern NM who are interested in good conservation practices and land stewardship. As chair of this group (I got to the first meeting a few minutes late ... and guess what happened?) I don't know what retirement truly is! But at least it keeps me out of the mall.

I wish Reinke well, and a rapid recovery.”

And here's **Tom and Marilyn Klingaman**, reporting from a town insouciantly named Carefree, in Arizona:

“We are grateful to be reasonably healthy, tho there are few 100-yard dashes any more. Far-flung family adventures include a granddaughter at Queensland U., in Brisbane; another at Queens U. in Kingston, Ontario; a son in construction in Traverse City, Michigan.

“Last year's travels included a cruise from Quebec City to Portland, Maine, and some time in Carmel and Bodega Bay, CA. Plus, of course, the long summer on Glen Lake, MI.”

(Ed Note: Glen Lake, where for one trying week every year they host the **Beta Four**, the 325-year old singing quartet which features Kling, Tom Moser, George Littell, and yours truly.)

(continued)

3.

Speaking of **George Littell** - who started out with us in 1948 and then lost a school year to fulfill an assignment with the U.S. Marines, returning to get his diploma in 1953 - his life has changed dramatically. He got Married last year! And apparently - *mirabile dictu* - they're still together! Though one wonders how his lovely bride puts up with him. Her maiden name was **Lois Lane**. I guess her thing with Clark Kent didn't work out.

Irmi McKinney, Paul's charming widow, recently wrote Bill to commend him on the December class letter, and also to say, among other things:

"Thank you for being so diligent with spreading the '52 Class news. I always read them with interest. Russ [Thrall] is absolutely right, Wabash Homecoming was wonderful. Sorry you missed it. You have a nice mix of good news and sad news in your letter. Sorry about the loss of a classmate this summer and the earlier one in 2005. Keeping a sense of perspective and humor helps in accepting the inevitable that comes to all of us. I like Russ' expression 'given our natural ripening process.'

Thanks for mentioning the opportunity to give to the Paul C. McKinney Memorial Fund before the end of this year. Right now, a senior from Carmel, Indiana, benefits from the fund. Michael Wright's major is English and he added minors in History and Psychology. He also works in the Art Department at the College. He will receive his Bachelor degree in May 2013. Looks like he is a great example of a Liberal Arts man. Perhaps after Comps I'll try to get in touch with him personally."

Joan and Tom Moser will be leaving the icy shores of Lake Minnetonka this winter to trek Down Under again this year, as they did last, to visit their ad exec son in New Zealand. This follows a quick sun-splashed visit to Corona del Mar. Those crazy kids do get around, don't they! With 7 beautiful blonde and red-headed granddaughters - we call 'em "The Grands" - they're definitely entitled to some late-life perks.

From far-off (and frigid) Maine comes word from **Jim and Peg Thomas**:

"We are spending Christmas here on the "Fahm" with Peg doing the usual Advent and Christmas services at our parish. In January, we are going by train to Washington, DC for a wedding; our lesbian daughter Anne is getting married now that it is legal in D.C. We are delighted with her partner Barbara.

(continued)

4.

[In answer to your questions], The London Review of Books is my nightly bedtime reading. The most recent book was *Queen Thereafter* by Susan King. It is a novel based on the life of Margaret Queen of Scotland, later canonized as St. Margaret; her feast day is November 16th. Anyone with Scottish blood (as I have) or who on occasion has a wee nip of single malt (as I do) would certainly enjoy this book.

"I am not sending Christmas cards this year as my list of correspondents continues to ebb progressively. I shall continue to celebrate Christmas to the full. This will be my 82nd Christmas and I still have not gotten coal in my stocking.

So [to all] a merry Christmas, or as they say in Wales "Nadolig Hapus."

At a later date, Jim added what he called a throwaway idea:

"The fall of 2013 will mark the 65th anniversary of our class's matriculation to Wabash; so perhaps we might honor that in some way. Of course, I didn't come to Wabash until my junior year. I was a late matriculator (not a medical condition).

"Perhaps, we could pick a date for this September and on that date drink a toast to the beginning of our grand adventure. I am not suggesting gathering on campus for such a toast. We could do that in the comfort of our homes or at an easily accessible ale house. Given the obvious importance of such a celebration, even meals-on-wheels might bring by a goodly libation."

(Ed: I will leave it to y'all to figure out how to coordinate such an event.)

I have no news, sorry to say, on **Mike Austin** or **Hugh Smaltz** (neither seems to have an email address), other than to note that both attended last year's Spring reunion and seemed frisky and alert. **Sparky Watts** didn't make it, but sent his best wishes. And **Dave Mathias** sends his best to everyone too. Though ailing, Dave still revels in his proudest achievements: 5 kids and 15 - fifteen - grandkids.

Repeated attempts to flag down **Norm Buktenica** (norm@dc.rr.com) turned up nothing. Same with **Sam Harrell** and **Russ Thrall**. But all three were seen having a good time at the reunion, so let's hope no news is good news.

(continued)

This might be a good time also to throw a bouquet to ol' **Brad Johnston**, he of the Phi Gam house, who's still kicking butt in Culpeper, VA. His ongoing mission: to correct the wildly virulent misuse of the past perfect in the English language. If you want to discuss this with him - and be careful; he can become quite testy about the subject - his email address is: bradvines2@yahoo.com. Space does not permit a full review of Brad's colorful life to date, but let me just say that among other things, he filled a major position at NASA for a decade; ran a division of the American Management Association for a while; became an expert in the care and tending of grapevines after several years in France; and owned and operated a charming little French restaurant in Virginia called Le Bistro Belle Fleur. All in all, busy years.

And that, dear readers, is all the news for now. Next time, you'll get to hear from guest editor **Paul Arnold**. 'Till then, be safe!

Ted Steeg
New York City