October, 2014

Dear ‘52ers

O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ither see us!
— Robert Burns, 1786

What Scottish poet Bobby Burns wrote more than 200 years ago remains true today: there is no way for any of us to step outside our mortal shells to see ourselves as others see us.

But once in a great while the veil is lifted just a brief smidgeon and we are able to see a vignette of how another person or two looks upon us.

I had such an unusual experience at a Wabash Class Agents’ meeting in C’ville the recent weekend of Sept 5-6, 2014. Some of the younger class agents (in their 40’s - 50’s) were explaining that they do not write Class Letters, but instead use computer social media to update their classmates. These posts "serve the same purpose," they claim. Curious, I asked how they communicated with widows of their classmates? Answer: we don’t. Or how do they communicate with about 30+% of the members of their class (their percentage estimate - not mine) who do not use “social media”? Answer: we don’t.

Then one or two of them went on to suggest there is a generational gap between them and me. Wow! They are right on target with that arrow, and I felt it.
Undaunted, I said something to this effect: “Then you never hear anything like being told by a classmate that when our Class ’52 Letter is delivered to his home by the postman in Penobscot, Maine, it’s a race to see who gets to read it first, either classmate Jim Thomas or his wife Peg?” Response: No.

Martha Hepler telephoned last December to express her appreciation. Husband Bob Hepler passed away 15 years ago, she reminded me, and over those ensuing years she has enjoyed reading the Letter. She called to express her thanks. There is no way our younger Wabash class agents can receive a similar phone call in the future as they are making no effort to warrant such. Nor can they receive a letter remotely like the following one I received two months ago from Gordon Peters’ widow Jean:

July 5, 2014

Dear Bill,

For several years I have been gratefully receiving and enjoying your ’52 class agent letters. They arrive regularly whether I’m in Peoria or in Arizona. The news you include keeps me in touch with both the class members and the College and that is a really good thing…..

Russ Thrall [Arlington, VA] and I often talk and certainly agree about how well you continue to keep the class informed and together - Thank you so much for the great memories,….

Jean Peters

So in an effort to bridge the generational gap, I admitted to my fellow class agents that in our younger days when our work schedule was 24-7, Letters from many of our class agents (including me!) were much briefer than at present when classmates have more time to communicate. So I suggested “Perhaps in later years?” but doubt any were convinced, so the gap remains intact.

Upon returning home, I read why this is so. We oldsters now live in the computer age of communicating. Among the Class Agent materials handed out at our recent meeting, I read the following today:

Communicate with Classmates. Historically, a class agent stayed in touch with his class primarily through the writing of periodic letters. These letters carried news of the College and of classmates and served as major source of alumni information. That has all changed with the advent of the World Wide Web, email, the latest forms of electronic communications, and social media. Class communication has moved into the electronic age with many classes
establishing a presence on social networking sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, and to some extent Twitter....

Perhaps this explains, at least in part, the generational gap noted at the outset of this article.

Except for longevity, however, I think those younger class agents are giving and receiving the shorter end of the stick.

**HOMECOMING 9/27/2014 — AND MORE**

Final Homecoming score: Wabash “Little Giants” 63, Allegheny “Gators” 0. My brother Bob ’55 and I watched with our spouses as our kicker also scored 8 consecutive PAT’s! It appeared to us that about all of those who suited up for the game on our side of the field had a chance to play.

While the margin of victory was a surprise, the Wabash victory itself apparently was expected. The September 12 issue of *The Bachelor* page 16 headline reads: “Football Eyes NCAC Title,” and is subtitled “NCAC Coaches Pick Wabash to Finish First in North Coast Athletic Conference Championship.” But beware: While Wabash received 5 out of 10 first-place votes, Wittenberg is a very close second with 4 out of 10 votes. And it was Wittenberg who disposed of the Little Giants last year 35-17 on our own home turf. Of the remaining pre-season placements by the NCAC Coaches, Denison and Wooster tied for third, DePauw was fifth followed by Kenyon, Oberlin, and then tied for last place were Allegheny and Hiram. The last time Wabash won the conference title was in 2011.

So far this season, Wabash remains undefeated with earlier September victories over both the Hampden-Sydney “Tigers” (34-21) and the Denison “Big Red” (31-12).

The season opener with Hampton-Sidney was the first meeting between the two colleges on the football field. This new rivalry series is being called “The Gentlemen’s Classic” because the two schools are two of the few remaining four all-male colleges in the country. Founded in 1776, it shares similar aims with Wabash and has a rich and storied history; James Madison and Patrick Henry served as members of its first board of trustees. On September 5, 2015, our Little Giants will travel to Virginia for the second contest between the two schools.
The 121st Monon Bell Classic is to be played next month in C’ville on November 15, 2014.

**ANDY [ELDON K.] ANDREWS**  
*(August 20, 1921 - February 21, 2014)*

Classmate Andrews was a Wabash debate team partner of mine. So when I wrote his name in a Class Agent Letter last year as “Eldon,” he had no hesitancy in telephoning me: “Bill, no one knows me as ‘Eldon’; they won’t know who you are talking about. At Wabash I was always known as Andy Andrews” Correction noted, my friend.

Andy was a member of Sigma Chi while at Wabash, and according to his obituary, this affiliation continued thereafter as he was a member of the Sigma Chi Foundation. He is survived by his wife of 57+ happy years, Frieda, who is quoted in the obit as explaining, “Partially because he was such a considerate and loving husband.”

Preceding his time at Wabash, Andy served in the US Army during WWII as a Post Sergeant Major. His first six years after graduating in our Class ’52, were spent as a “most promising young executive at Essex Wire Corp ...[which he] left because of mediocre responsibilities and compensation,” according to his biodata in Dick Daniels’ book ’52@50.

He then went to work for H. M. Seldon Company in Michigan as a commissioned Industrial Real Estate salesman, which he enjoyed so much that he bought the company in 1967. “After hiring and training 40+ salesmen and supervising up to 23 at one time,” his ’52@50 biodata continues, “I grew tired and retired in 1987.” During his career, Andy was twice president of the Michigan Society of Industrial Realtors, and served as president of the Detroit Real Estate Board. Andy was very active politically, which included a 1974 run for the governorship of Michigan.

*Some Little Giant!*
TED STEEG (EDGAR H.)
(May 29, 1930 - July 7, 2014)

Not many of us make it to the New York Times, either to the obituary section or otherwise, especially as a news item worthy of a headline, picture, and praise. So I bought a copy and Michele Ward of our Alumni Office will place the article where she feels it best fits in this Letter.

A further remembrance of Ted should appear soon in our Wabash magazine.

Some Little Giant!

RICHARD “DICK” L. SMITH
(July 9, 1930 - August 22, 2014)

Dick Smith attended both Butler University and Wabash College and graduated in 1952. He retired from IBM in 1989 after more than 30 years with the company. Over the years of living in Indianapolis, he served as President of the Washington Township School Board. Dick was a long time member of the 500 Festival Board of Directors. He also served several years as Parade Director of that annual Memorial Day event, which seems only natural as our classmate Mike Austin reports that “Dick sure was a fun guy to be around.” (What a neat way for a departed classmate to be remembered.- Ed.)

Dick was a member of Sigma Chi at Wabash. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Nancy Clark Smith. He is survived by three daughters, four grandchildren, and a brother.

Some Little Giant!

KURT THOSS
(d. September 4, 2014)

Pete Thoss, the son of Kurt and Pat Thoss, reported via e-mail on the demise of his father, advising that at his request he would be cremated and that “My Dad did not want any pomp or circumstance. No obituary. A small service for local
friends and immediate family [September 12, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL]. Pete’s e-mail continues:

“Bill, I can tell you without any doubt your friendship over 60 years meant the world to him. The banter, dialogues and exchanges kept him sharp until the very last. After 29,000 great days with only a few difficult periods at the end, we can all know he had a very good life, and rests comfortably now — waiting for us.”

Kurt’s biodata in ’52@50 is a very good read, and deserves more than a brief synopsis here. His freshman basketball days at Wabash included participation with fellow classmates **Sparky Watts** (student manager), **Tom Klingaman**, **Hal Ziker**, **Ken Beasley**, **Fred Darter**, **Dick Neidow**, and **Dave Rohrman**. Three years in the USAF in England included meeting “the love of my life, Pat, married her in London and married to her ever since.” After graduating from IU with “a very satisfactory grade point average, I worked in various manufacturing and sales positions for many years, but am now (2002) phasing out of 19 years in the financial services field, proving life and health insurance, investment products and so forth as a representative for Lutheran Brotherhood.”

By the way, it was Kurt who several years ago reintroduced me to Robert Burns, including the quote which began this Letter. He was an avid and proud descendant of Scotland who remained in contact with many Scotch relatives over the years.

*Some Little Giant!*

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**WABASH GIFTING — 2014**

For the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2014, here is the class ’52 honor roll of givers, with our widow donors’ names italicized as indicated. Classmate donors whose names are asterisked died during the course of the past fiscal year.

Andy Andrews*  
**Frieda Andrews**  
Wilbur Appel, Jr.  
Paul Arnold  
Mike Austin  
**Betsy Beasley**  

Tom Henderson  
**Martha Hepler**  
Rolly Hultsch  
John Iuppenlatz  
Brad Johnston  
Chris Kirages  

Gail Mullin  
**Jean Peters**  
Bill Reinke  
Bill Rippy, USAF (Ret)  
Hugh Smaltz II  
Jim Thomas
Buck Buktenica  Tom Klingaman  Russ Thrall
Don Cole  Dave Mathias*  George Vann
Bob Elkins, Jr.  Irmil McKinney  Collins Wallace, M.D.*
Don Fisher  Wanda Millet  Audrey Wallace
Richard Franks  Tom Moser

* Some Little Giants!

Cordially,

Bill

William J. Reinke  1-574-271-1941
51795 Waterton Square Cir., Granger, IN 46530
LEXUSEAR@aol.com

PS. Sat. 10/2/14: Wabash football over Wooster, 35-16.
Ted Steeg, 84, Whose Jury Duty Films Had Captive Audience

By MARGALIT FOX

Ted Steeg, a documentarian whose best-known films have been seen by millions of cursing, carping, cranky, choleric and incontrovertibly captive audience members, died on July 7 in Manhattan. Mr. Steeg, who produced the informational movies long shown to prospective jurors throughout New York State, was 84.

The cause was pneumonia, his daughter, Amy Mullen, said.

A maker of educational and industrial films, Mr. Steeg wrote and produced two acclaimed movies that for more than a decade were as much a part of New Yorkers' jury-duty experience as fidgeting, enmil and ingenious excuses.

The first, "Your Turn," introduced in 1997, opens with a costumed re-enactment of the medieval judicial process known as trial by ordeal: Accused parties are thrown into a lake. Those who float are deemed guilty. Those who sink drown, vindicated.

In its 23 minutes, Mr. Steeg's film, made for $150,000, goes on to survey the far more modern American judicial system.

On-camera narrators — Ed Bradley, Diane Sawyer and Judith S. Kaye, who was then New York State's chief judge — explain the roles of everyone in the courtroom, describe the responsibilities of the jury and address potential jurors' common concerns. (After Judge Kaye's retirement in 2008, Mr. Steeg replaced her segment with one featuring her successor, Jonathan Lippman.)

"The intent is to show why jury duty is important and why it's essential that they serve," Mr. Steeg told The Daily News in 1996, not long before the courtroom premiere of "Your Turn." "It's even more important than when you vote. When you vote, you're one of many. On jury duty, your vote is one of a powerful few."

A second film by Mr. Steeg, "Protect and Uphold," introduced in 2002, illuminated the grand-jury process via the life of Judge Roy Bean, the rogue frontier jurist. Its narrators included Mr. Bradley and the actor Sam Waterston, a star of the television crime procedural "Law & Order."

The two films were seen annually by some 600,000 prospective jurors across the state, according to a spokeswoman for the New York State Unified Court System.

Both were praised for their high production values, prodigious research, lucid presentation and gentle humor. "Your Turn" was honored with a CINE Golden Eagle Award, presented to nontheatrical movies.

Mr. Steeg's jury-duty films were supplanted last year by new ones, produced by Kevin Tedesco.

Edgar Hart Steeg was born in Indianapolis on May 29, 1930. Strapping and athletic, he was the model for the football-playing Gunner Casselman in "Going All the Way," the popular 1970 novel about the midcentury Midwest written by his schoolmate Dan Wakefield. (In the 1997 film adaptation of the book, in which Mr. Steeg had a small role as a preacher, the Casselman character was played by Ben Affleck.)

After graduating from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind., which he attended on a football scholarship, Mr. Steeg served with the Army in Korea and Japan during the Korean War. He later earned a master's degree in philosophy from Columbia University.

A longtime resident of Greenwich Village, Mr. Steeg is survived by his daughter, from his relationship with Diana Jackson, and two grandchildren. His marriage to Lois Lithgow ended in divorce.

For decades, Mr. Steeg presided over his own company, Ted Steeg Productions; his other documentaries include "A Way of Life," about Wabash College, and a television film about the American Dance Festival.

From time to time, his labors were interrupted by a jury summons — an unwelcome augury for many, but for Mr. Steeg a congenial invitation to view his work in the theater for which it was made.