

FIFTY-ONE FABLES

Our 65th Reunion

The big event for us members of the Class of '51 this year will be our 65th Reunion. Pay close attention to the materials on that subject that are headed our way. See Loye Miller's letter enclosed and please return the included "intentions" card to Hanover to help us with the reunion planning. That this is an awesome opportunity for us is the perfect example of "understatement".

News from the Membership

The prairie is also represented by **Bob Closser** who writes from Mission Hills, Kansas: "Celebrated our 62nd Wedding Anniversary recently. Both blessed with good health. I continue an aggressive program of strength, cardio and stretching exercises and my wife is an active master gardener.

To Kauai, South Shore in February. Been going there for about 20 years. Enjoy golf and beach.

Children and grandchildren all out west - Boulder, Park City and Sun Valley. Lots of cross-country skiing and biking.

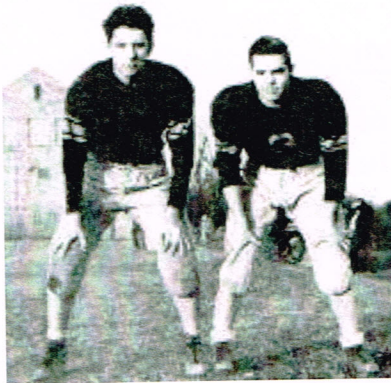
A word to all classmates: Don't become "lazy". **Stay ACTIVE!**

Bill Blodgett of Lake Forest, Illinois submits his green card: "Ellen (wife) and I are taking a Dartmouth Cruise (The Majestic Great Lakes Cruise) August 22 to August 31, 2016. Starting in Chicago with various Great Lakes stops - 60th Wedding Anniversary. Hope to see other Dartmouth people aboard!

From Westport, Connecticut, we hear from **Woody Klein** who is a columnist for the local newspaper there, *Westport News*. Woody's column is titled "Out of the Woods", a nice play on words. His message is in the form of an article he wrote in his column that appeared February 6 of this year. To our delight he writes of a long-term friendship with fellow classmate, **Bob Pack**:

OUT OF THE WOODS:

Football, friendship and fulfillment



Columnist Woody Klein, left, and friend Robert Pack, now a resident of Missoula, Mont., during their time as football players at Fieldston High School in Riverdale, N.Y., in the 1940s. Friends for 75 years, they call themselves "The Corsican Brothers". (Read on to find out why.)

With the Super Bowl upon us Sunday, it is both timely and appropriate, I believe, to use this annual national football milestone as an opportunity to reflect on how this great American pastime has helped shaped some of our lives, especially in forming lifelong friendships.

I am reminded of a movie my close friend, Robert Pack, and I saw together — "The Corsican Brothers," a 1941 swashbuckler film starring Douglas Fairbanks Jr. in a dual role as the title Siamese twins, separated at birth. The most significant aspect of the film is that both brothers felt the pain and agony when one was pierced in a fencing duel, or joy on occasions of happiness. This is where my story of a 75-year friendship I have had with Bob Pack, begins. We like to imagine ourselves as Corsican Brothers.

We met in fifth grade. Our friendship at the outset consisted of organizing a group of boys (and one girl) called "The Black Diamond Gang." We wore silver badges with black diamonds in the center, donated by some parents at our progressive private school, Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York. We jumped on the kids in the class below us daily after school, wrestling them to the ground. Somehow, Bob and I muddled through Fieldston, jabbing each another in the ribs during our German classes, swatting one another with our leather briefcases in the hallways. Despite the horseplay, we graduated from Fieldston as high school classmates in 1947.

During our high school years, we both excelled as athletes. He was a slugging third baseman and a halfback on the school's championship football team, I was a 100-yard dash sprinter on the track team and the fullback on our championship team. (We scored 186 points to our opponents' collective 13 points in the 1945 season.) Bob weighed 155 pounds. Today, he weighs 165. I weighed 150 pounds in high school; the same today. Considering our ages, we have few infirmities and are in relatively good shape.

After Fieldston, we roomed together in a fraternity at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. (I first launched my "Out of the Woods" column in *The Daily Dartmouth* in 1947.) We have remained in close touch ever since, though we chose separate paths. Ironically, both involve writing — he as a poet, myself as a journalist. He got married in 1960 to a red-haired Barnard College co-ed; in 1962, like a true Corsican brother, I, too, married a Barnard College redhead. In 1952, I had received an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. In 1953, Pack earned an M.A. in English literature from Columbia.

While attending graduate school at Columbia, Pack taught for two years at the New School for Social Research, an experience that solidified his desire to be a teacher himself. He spent a year abroad in Italy, in 1957, on a Fulbright Fellowship, during which time he traveled extensively attending opera performances. Later, he published translations of the Mozart librettos.

After returning to America the following year, Pack was hired at Barnard College where he taught for the next seven years. In 1964, he moved on to Middlebury College in Vermont, where he was awarded the Abernethy chair of American literature, and later a special college chair that allowed him to teach anywhere in the curriculum, including the sciences: the big bang theory, Darwinian evolution and Freudian psychoanalysis. Pack taught English at Middlebury for 34 years, specializing in poetry workshops, modern British and American poetry, English Romantic poetry and Shakespeare. Pack also taught at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, where he was appointed director in 1973.

In 1996, Pack retired from Middlebury, and he and his wife moved to Montana where he began teaching at the University of Montana Honors College as Distinguished Senior Professor. In 2006, the University of Montana awarded Pack its presidential medal for outstanding teaching: "For distinguished accomplishment that lends luster to the University of Montana." His visit to Rocky Mountain College in Billings, led to the college awarding Pack an honorary doctorate in 2001 as a "weaver of words ... for your preeminence in the field of American letters and your continued dedication to students."

The author of 22 books of poetry and five books of essays, he lives outside of Missoula, Mont., on Mt. Mission Mountain, part of the Rocky Mountains, four-and-a-half thousand feet above sea level. He has a panoramic view from his desk where he writes poems and essays.

I recently asked Bob for his views of our friendship. "I think our friendship like other close relationships is partly instinctive. There is a chemistry to it, a chemistry of attraction and attachment. I think what is also true of you and me is to maintain our commitment."

"Football played a role in shaping my philosophy of life. The beliefs in accepting challenges and cultivating discipline. Football was the first real challenge of courage stamina and determination. It also involved teamwork and cooperation, which were binding experiences."

Pack first became interested in poetry at Dartmouth where he immersed himself in the poetry of Robert Frost. When Frost visited the college to give talks, he and Pack would take long walks, discussing the craft of poetry. In 1991, Dartmouth awarded Pack a gold medal for "Outstanding Leadership and Achievement."

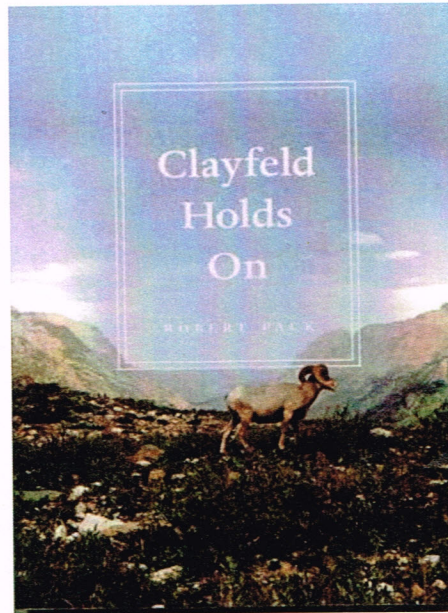
Pack succinctly puts the fundamental importance of friendship in context in life by quoting Aristotle: "Life without friendship is not worth living." Bob, who once held a poetry reading in Westport, and I want to share our experience with Westporters. Bob is now 87. I am 86. Our friendship is enough to keep us going, we hope, for a long time to come.

(Woody Klein's column, "Out of the Woods," appears in the Westport News every other Friday. He can be reached at wklein11@aol.com.)

In the meantime, we heard from **Bob Pack** himself about his new book of poetry, *Clayfeld Holds On*. He sent us several reviews, but we have selected one to share with you our classmates:

Talli Ebin writes: "Robert Pack's latest book of poems, *Clayfeld Holds On* uses the device of the alter ego to tell the story of a joyful life lived simultaneously in the past and present. Pack is a marvelous poet; whose lively language and delight in humor places him in the face of the "everlasting dark," as he explores the idea of the sublime in tales of a charging moose, a grizzly bear, a Nazi firing squad. He relishes the variety of the natural world, the worlds of ideas, of words and of things themselves, using images of turtles sunning themselves on a log or Neanderthals gathered around a fire in winter to express a celebration of fecundity and diversity. *Clayfeld Holds On* is an affirmation of joy, a

brave examination of looking backwards while anticipating what is yet to come. Anyone who is experiencing aging, or who expects to, should read this book more than once. It will serve as a Virgil to one's adventures in later life."



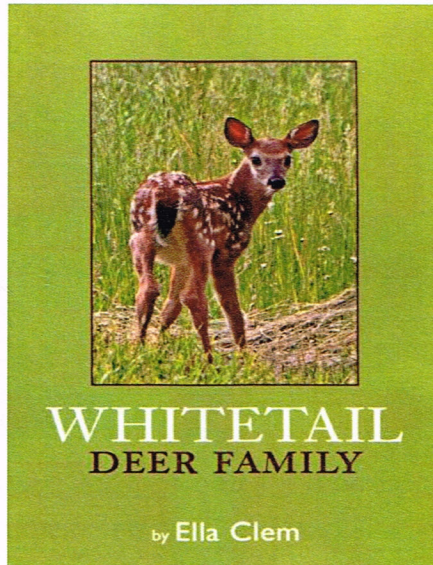
We thought it would be neat to provide a sample of this poetry but discovered that to be a challenge in the scope of the newsletter. But then a decision was made to give it a try with a small fraction of one of Bob's poems. From this reader's perspective, it appears that Clayfeld is a mountain goat, the one pictured on the book's cover; the poem's title is "Clayfeld Observes a Herd of Elk"; our quote, the last two stanzas, comes from Page 30:

Clayfeld decides the time has come for him
to show bravado and to demonstrate
defiance of Nature's restrictions that
his agitated spirit has endured,
and moon the whole indifferent universe.

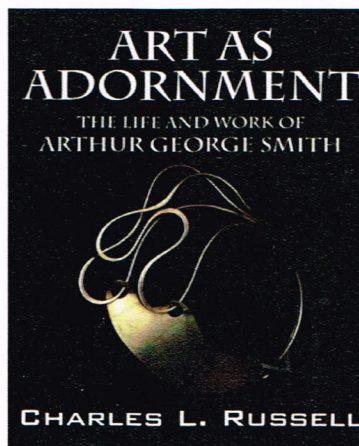
Behold! He contemplates his pristine ass
now orbiting the earth, a double moon
astounding the terrestrial
astronomers-a constellation brighter
even than bright Orion, that adds to Nature
an illumination pulsing the sky,
asserting a preferred position there.

What more can we say. Ed.

News has arrived from **Bill Leffler** in Kennebunkport, Maine. Bill has been inspirational in the matter of a new children's book, *White Tail Deer Family* by Ella Clem published by Friesen Press. Ms. Clem has taken some wonderful pictures of deer in the wild, and our Bill convinced her that she should write this charming book. It is designed for part of the text to be read to a very young child, while the rest of the text, descriptive of the photos, is for everyone to read. Clayfeld would certainly approve!



In this same vein, **Charlie Russell** (your editor) has just published his first book, *Art as Adornment - The Life and Work of Arthur George Smith* released in January by Outskirts Press.



Midwest Book Review of Oregon, Wisconsin reviewed this book in March as follows:

The Art Shelf:

Synopsis: "Art as Adornment: The Life and Work of Arthur Smith" is specifically focused on a prominent player in the Modernist Jewelry Movement. The trade name, "ArtSmith" came to resonate with fashion and theater types in New York and all over the country during the three decades following World War II. As a Black navigating the racial tensions of the period, Arthur Smith managed to rise above the fray and achieve extraordinary success in the development of designs for jewelry that were eminently wearable and for the wearer a decorative pizzazz triumph. Featuring more than 150 illustrations, "Art as Adornment" is a coffee table art book that provides an awe inspiring journey starting with Arthur Smith's parents' migratory trek from Jamaica through Cuba and ultimately to New York City, to Arthur's education in the arts, and concluding with a detailed description of his jewelry styling and creativity.

Critique: Informative, comprehensive, beautifully illustrated, impressively well written, organized and presented, "Art as Adornment: The Life and Work of Arthur Smith" is very highly recommended for community and academic Contemporary American Art and African American Art History reference collections and supplemental studies lists. It should be noted for personal reading lists that "Art as Adornment: The Life and Work of Arthur Smith" is also available in a paperback edition.

I have no complaint about this review. Charlie

News comes from **Dunc Booth** of Campton, NH: He writes: "Mille and I and our daughter, Leslie snuck into Georgetown, Texas for a couple of days between the floods and torrential rains to visit **George and Jean Biggs**. (Jean recently had a couple of medical issues - don't we all! - but George is fine and Jean is recovering nicely.)

Sounds like a good deal shaping up for our 65th next fall. Provided we're still looking at the grass from the green side, Mille and I plan to attend.

And from Tustin, California, **June van den Noort** advises: "Widow of Stanley van den Noort, MD: Living alone, sad, but doing fine."

Stuart Johnson, Deltona Florida tells us: "I am sending a box of Physics books and Texts on Physics to Prof. LaBelle, presently Chair of the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy. I occasionally keep in touch to see what is going on.

Still trying to sell vacation house in Poconos."

From Barrington, Illinois, **Ted Davidson** writes, "Dear Class of '51, I am sorry that I will miss yet another reunion. I am currently living at the Garlands of Barrington in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Despite my battle with Muscular Dystrophy, I am enjoying my loving family and all the friends I have made here. I get to see my three children, two grandchildren and my two great grandchildren regularly. I am very sad to report that I lost the love of my life and my wife of 61 years, Ellie this past January. We all miss her very much. I will be with you in spirit in Sept as you enjoy Hanover and the Campus."

From suburban Philadelphia, **Nancy Roberts** (Sam Roberts' widow) writes to Loye, "I am still mobile - wish I could make the trip. Have 4 great grand kids. See **Jack and Carole (Giegrerich)** when not in Florida. Who will you vote for? Love, Nancy"



In Mid-February, in a moment of unguarded passion, **Al Brout** waxed persuasive and wheedled us into sharing his literary adjuration with a

Dip into Dickens

"Somewhat disillusioned by what 2016 has to offer, I've decided that the 19th century had much to recommend. The past year I've taken refuge in the works of Charles Dickens. Making up for lost decades, I've read so far:

David Copperfield
Oliver Twist
Great Expectations
Nicholas Nickleby
Barnaby Rudge
Martin Chuzzlewit
A Tale of Two Cities
The Pickwick Papers

How nice that I can look forward to:
Bleak House
Dombey & Son
Mystery of Edwin Drood
Old Curiosity Shop
Hard Times
Little Dorrit
and Our Mutual Friend.

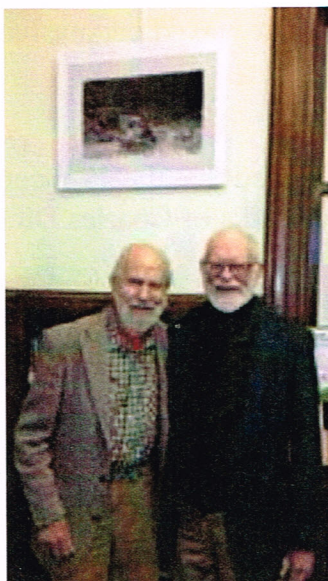
Favorites and favorite characters? Too numerous to mention, but I enjoyed David Copperfield more than any other. And W.C.Fields' portrayal of Mr. Micawber is firmly engraved in my brain.

Do yourself a favor and skip those contemporary works and join me 225 years ago for a welcome respite from Trump and Co."

Editor's Reaction

What a splendid idea! This reminds me of my Junior Year at Deerfield Academy where in the English class they required the reading of *A Tale of Two Cities*. Students were to read the assignment and underline those words they had doubts about, then make a list of those words with a bit of context and finally look up in the dictionary and write down the definition. At the end of the week a test was given, and lord help you if you failed it. One of my lists had over 100 entries and I got a C- on the test. Talk about "vocabulary building" - OMG.

So, earlier in this newsletter three new books were announced as being written or inspired by your classmates. Now you have to decide whether to take Al's advice, or dip into some interesting stuff hatched in this decade. Or, better yet, do both.



In January, **Paul Meyer, Susan Drennan, Charlie Russell and Peggy Read** went to the Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury, Vermont and participated in the opening of a show, an array of enlarged photos organized by Susan's daughter, Maureen. The original photos were taken in 1951 by Paul and Charlie during their Model A trek from Hanover to Fairbanks, Alaska (a mere 5133-mile drive). Who would have thought such old news would be so interesting today?

Speaking of Alaska, a current Class of '51 scholarship recipient is Brad Schierhorn, whose home is in Anchorage, Alaska. Some of us got to know Brad by virtue of a few luncheons organized by our Class President, **Loye Miller** in Hanover. Of course those of us who now know Brad, were ecstatic when he became the current season's Captain of Dartmouth's Varsity Hockey Team. Wah Hoo Wah, Brad! Here's the story that appeared in *Dartmouth Hockey* last year:



EN'S HOCKEY HEAD COACH BOB GAUDET '81 announced Friday morning (May 29) that Brad Schierhorn will serve as the team captain for the 2015-16 season.

Schierhorn — a native of Anchorage, Alaska — will be a senior next season when he will assume the role as the 117th captain in program history.

"I am pleased to announce Brad as the captain for our team next season," Gaudet said. "He garnered overwhelming support from his teammates in earning this honor and will be an outstanding representative of our team both on and off the ice."

A veteran of 97 career games in his first three seasons in Hanover, Schierhorn has amassed 48 points on 23 goals and 25 assists in that time. He is coming off his most productive season in a Big Green sweater as a junior when he played on the top line and posted career highs in goals

(10), assists, (12), points (22) and game-winning goals (4).

"I am extremely honored to be selected captain for next season by my teammates and the coaches," Schierhorn remarked. "I look forward to working with our returning players as well as my new teammates coming into the program in next year's freshman class."

Perhaps his most memorable contribution in 2014-15 was scoring both of Dartmouth's goals in a 2-0 win over then-No. 1 and eventual national runner-up Boston University on Nov. 30 at Thompson Arena. The shutout win marked the first time the Green and White had knocked off the top-ranked team in the nation in 12 years.

Schierhorn assumes the leadership position previously held by Tyler Sikura '15 who served as captain in each of the last two seasons.

Announcements regarding alternate captains will be made in the fall.



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SCHIERHORN AND REUNION PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK WASHBURN

The Class Website

Classmate **Al Brout** is doing a great job of maintaining the website for our class. You should find it interesting to visit dartmouth.org/classes/51 where class happenings are reported way before this newsletter appears. If one of our classmates should be appointed as USA's ambassador to Peru, you would certainly find that on the website. So give it a try!

From *Jackolantern*, 1948: (From all appearances, the problem of drinking was not restricted to our campus back when we were getting our education there.)



"Our next speaker is an alumnus of Dartmouth."

Fifty-one Fables

Newsletter of the Dartmouth College Class of 1951

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From 1948 Houseparties Issue of Jackolantern