



## WILSON CLARK BOYNTON “SPIRIT OF ‘51” AWARD

**B**ill, all of us owe much to our fathers, but yours, in particular, steered you onto a lifetime pathway that has enhanced your existence beyond measure and benefitted all who have known you. Robert Boynton '17, introduced you as a child to the magical splendor of the coast of Maine, and taught you to sail. *And*, naturally, he also showed you the lovely campus of his “small college” in Hanover, New Hampshire. Growing up in nearby Rutland, Vermont, you never wanted to go anywhere else, stopping first only to attend KUA and gain friends who would be soul mates in college and on through all the years. And it may not be too much to say that Dartmouth did the rest, imbuing you with a zest for literacy of the highest order, and an even greater zest for sharing it. Professor Francis Childs sent you out from our alma mater with a love of Shakespeare that has hugely enriched thousands of students, friends and acquaintances throughout your wide, wide world.

The Korean War gave you an Air Force stint in Colorado memorable mainly for minoring in photography and majoring in deep-powder skiing. Then you sold a little life insurance, spent a winter working on Dave Batchelder's Vermont farm, and almost completed the Cornell hotel management school before deciding — thank goodness! — that you'd rather be teaching than filling up flowing bowls until they runneth over. So you worked your way to an MA in English at Michigan State and then started teaching high school in Hingham, Mass., moving up to instructor at Springfield College and on to become professor of English at Holyoke Community College.

There, Dame Fortune *really* smiled, sending into your classroom an attractive and intelligent lady, Jeanne Szarek. You were married within three years and your partnership in owning and operating serious, successful businesses over a quarter century impressed us all. This led you back to Boothbay Harbor on your beloved Maine coast, where you spent 10 summers running the Blue Ship restaurant together. You presided, schmoozing with townfolk and tourists, yet managing to spend plenty of time sailing. Jeanne, your secret weapon, “just” ran the kitchen, and the aroma of her legendary cinnamon rolls lives on in Downeast memory. Though absent in the winters, your ties became so strong that you're still virtually part of the Maine scenery. While teaching fulltime in Holyoke, you even commuted once a week to give a Wednesday night Shakespeare seminar at the Boothbay Harbor Library (attendance soared after the first class).

After 31 years at HCC, you're now retired — Massachusetts students are much the poorer for it — but living an enviable life. Three days a week you provide rare dignity to the local bookstore — what other Barnes & Noble has a distinguished Shakespearean scholar at hand? But all summer you're back in Maine. Being night man at the Topside Inn (your father once owned the place and hoped you'd take over and run it) leaves glorious days free for cruising the magnificent waters in the *Jeanne B*, your distinctive gaff-rigger with the bright red sails.

Yes, Bill, Maine and sailing are in your blood. But, according to Jeanne, even they come “after Dartmouth” with you, and your half-century of loyalty and stewardship proves the point. You've been class secretary, class agent, member of the executive committee and reunion committee. You're a welcome fixture at these fall homecomings and you've made an unforgettable contribution to them by authoring in the most graceful prose an impressive number — 10! — of these “Spirit of '51” citations. Most of all, you've cheerfully undertaken the prodigious task of producing the 50th reunion classbook which will be a treasured keepsake for all of us. And so, for decades of your great comradeship, priceless service enhancing the lives of thousands of students, and undying dedication to Dartmouth, it is only fitting and proper that we present to you your own “Spirit of '51” Award.