

# Dartmouth 1955

*Read All About it!*

July 2011

## *A Magnificent Mackinac Mini!*



An even 100 '55ers succumbed to the warm and luxurious embrace of Dan Musser's Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan in June--our biggest mini-reunion! A little golf, sunning and swimming in the hotel's enormous, meandering pool, horse-drawn carriage tours of the delightful antedeluvian island and its handsome Victorian homes, bike rides around its leafy eight-mile perimeter, superb meals in the sumptuous dining room and outlying Grand Hotel restaurants, lots of time to catch up with classmates, and fudge fudge fudge!

**Kathy and Pete Gulick and Dave and Linda Anderson were among the '55 100.**

*Mark your calendar:*

*Homecoming, Dartmouth Night and '55 Mini-Reunion: October 21-23*

# Scene at our Island Idyll



Swift Lawrence, Bob Fanger  
Pete and Betty Buhler



Singing of the alma mater was led by Glee Clubbers Ed Willi, Pete Teal, Beanie Goss, Lyn Brock and Bob Edwards.



Irene and Ross Robbins



Claudie Brock,  
host Dan Musser



'55 Chez Musser



Dick Hastings (with Jill) put his best feet forward.



Hack!!

# So What Else Happened?

*Harry Ambrose and Paul Merriken received awards!*

Harry, in fact, received two. Jack Doyle (below) give him a special certificate recognizing Harry's leadership of our class's new Advisory Committee, notably its crafting of a persuasive letter to President Kim urging restoration of more robust ROTC programs at Dartmouth.

Harry also received a Class of 1955 Award from Ken Lundstrom, Awards Committee chairman, who cited Harry's service in the Marines, his expertise in commodities, Dartmouth service as class president and secretary, Alumni Council member, '55 mini-reunion host at Williamsburg and Roosevelt Memorial presentation during our Washington mini, and volunteer teacher of English to immigrants and Colonial Williamsburg helper.



Paul received a Class of 1955 Award in recognition of his Navy service, successful career at U.S. Steel, longtime Dartmouth College Fund leadership, an organizer of '55 gatherings in North Carolina, and his lifelong dedication to



civic and charitable service. As Ken Lundstrom put it in his citation, "you have been a pacesetter by example in your community in your support of a number of activities and causes: United Way, Legal Aid for the disadvantaged, North Carolina Arboretum, health-related causes, the "Y", lifelong learning at UNC-A, Mary Hitchcock Hospital, and Mountain Biz Works for startup business support in the mountains --in short, an active and concerned citizen."

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**Newsletter news:** *As announced at the mini-reunion, declining class dues revenues militate toward reducing class expenditures, including the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter. So henceforth we will print and mail a newsletter of only four pages, but the full newsletter will be posted on our class website at Dartmouth.edu: click on Alumni, Classes, and then '55. Password is Dickey. As always, send class news to newsletter editor Joe Mathewson (josephmathewson@gmail.com) or Class Secretary Ken Lundstrom (kenlundstrom@yahoo.com).*

# Award Citations by Ken

## Harry Ambrose

Harry, you came our way from Whitewater, Wisconsin and lived in Gile with some of us where a contingent of '55s got to know each other 60 years ago. Because the Green Book showed you as Garry, it took the better part of first semester for us to get straight that Harry wasn't Garry but really Harry. You became involved with the class and college as a member of U.G.C. and were our treasurer junior year. You majored in history, which would be a lifelong avocation... You were in Theta Delta Chi, Dragon, and NROTC. You chose the Marine Corps and served three years active duty. On December 23rd that same year of 1955, you married Marguerite (Margie) Andre, together now 55 years.

Following your military service, you began a series of jobs with companies in the grain commodities trading business starting with Cargill, moved on to Conagra, Quaker Oats, and then as a Senior Vice President with Continental Grain with worldwide responsibility for trading flour and feed grains...

Your community activities have included helping Margie as a volunteer in the Chicago public schools, the Boy Scouts in New Jersey, and then Colonial Williamsburg where you were able to further put into use your history avocation... You would be called upon to be a volunteer guest speaker at various historical forums near and far... You have volunteered as an English teacher for immigrants.

You continued your service to the class and Dartmouth when elected Secretary at the 1971 reunion and President at our 25th in 1980. In 1984 you began a term on the Alumni Council. For years you have been an Assistant Class Agent and are a member of the Hal Ripley '29 Society... Perhaps foremost in the happy recollections for a number of us is your and Margie's outstanding program for our April 2001 mini-reunion in Williamsburg... Your presentation at the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial at our 2009 Washington mini is remembered as a distinctive highlight. Harry, in your dedication and loyal service to Dartmouth and your community, you have truly lived up to and demonstrated the credo under which you have served so honorably – "Semper Fi."



## Paul Merriken

Paul, you hit the ground running in Hanover as a trackster from Upper Darby High School in Pennsylvania. At Dartmouth you continued running as a "D" winner in track and cross country for three varsity years.. You were active in the DOC and planned the Winter Carnival Entertainment, president of your fraternity, and a member of Casque and Gauntlet.

After Dartmouth you had a sales job with Socony Vacuum in Boston for a year and then served in the Navy until 1957. During your time in Boston you showed your interest in community service by racing around for the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Later in 1957 you began employment with U.S. Steel, eventually settling in Milwaukee where you rose to the position of Resident Sales Manager until your retirement in 1996. Your daughters Allison and Lesley were born there. It was in Milwaukee that you were active in causes related to Multiple Sclerosis which would claim the life of your wife, Erleen. You not only were noted for dedication as a care-giver but supported such local efforts as the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee Library.

Somewhat later, you were able to re-establish contact with Shirley Tenney, a widowed high school classmate... You have established yourself (with Eliot Smith) as the right hands of our Head Class Agent...to achieve our goals for the Dartmouth College Fund. You are a member of the Harold C. Ripley '29 Society. You have kept in touch with classmates...contacting '55s in N.C. for our mini-reunions there... You have supported a number a community activities and causes: United Way, Legal Aid for the disadvantaged, North Carolina Arboretum, health-related causes, the "Y", lifelong learning at UNC-A, Mary Hitchcock Hospital, and Mountain Biz Works for startup business support in the mountains – in short, an active and concerned citizen...

CLASS OF 1955 MINI REUNION  
MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN  
JUNE 11 – 14, 2011

Gus Aberle , Noreen Aberle  
Neal Allen  
Harry Ambrose, Margie Ambrose  
David Anderson, Linda Anderson  
Marty Aronson , Ellen Sax  
Joe Bachman , Frances Bachman  
John Barker, Dorothy Barker  
John Barlow, Anne Barlow  
Stan Bergman, Lillian Bergman  
Dick Blodgett, Ruth Blodgett  
Betty Brady  
John Braestrup, Justie Braestrup  
Dick Brief, Jean Brief  
Lynmar Brock, Claudie Brock  
Peter Buhler, Betty Buhler  
Frank Carlton, Nancy Carlton  
Don Charbonnier, Jane Charbonnier  
Bob Comer, Evelyn Comer  
David Conlan, Jane Conlan  
John Dell Isola, Patty Dell Isola, daughter  
Jack Doyle, Marilyn Doyle  
Bob Edwards, G Edwards  
Bob Feltman, Ila Feltman  
John French, Carole Bailey  
Buck Frisch, Joanne Frisch  
Woody Goss  
Peter Gulick, Kathy Gulick  
Lou Hance

Dick Hastings, Jill Hastings  
Bob Hayes, Janet Hayes  
Colin Hunt  
Tina Kister  
Nick Kotz, Mary Lynn Kotz  
Swift Lawrence, Kit Lawrence  
Harry Lewis  
Fred Lione, Nancy Lione  
Ken and Kathryn Lundstrom  
Joe Mathewson  
Paul Merriken, Shirley Tenney  
Dan Musser, Amelia Musser  
Jim Nelsen, Betty Jo Nelsen  
Brooks Parker, Gale Parker  
Warren Peterson, Sally Peterson  
Sandy Phillips, Marilyn Phillips  
Ross Robbins, Irene Robbins  
Gale Roberson  
Ralph Sautter, Carol Cacciamani  
George Schmitt, Barbara Schmitt  
Horace Symes, Mabel Symes  
Peter Teal, Annie Teal  
Jim Wiggin  
Ed Willi, Cecilia Willi  
Dave Walton, Alice Walton  
Jack Welsh, Frances Welsh  
Bob Fanger, Iris Fanger

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### Tidbits from those attending....

**Ed Willi** reported that 26 classmates contributed \$9,800, by far the most support from any class, toward the Hanover production of the off-Broadway play “Bill W. and Dr. Bob,” about the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous. Dr. Robert Smith was a Dartmouth graduate. Also, Ed was delighted that his daughter Denise is now working for his company Ceden International Inc., shipping agricultural products from Latin America to North America and Europe.

**Gus Aberle** wanted classmates to know that **Dave Walton**, his freshman roommate, has “thrilled us with his weaving.”

**Ralph Sautter** reported that classmates’ add-on dues contributions enabled him to send \$6,000 to the Class of 1955 John Sloan Dickey Scholarship Fund and \$2,700 each to the Hood Art Museum and Athletic Sponsorship Fund.

**Frank Carlton**, as soon as he returned home to Eugene, Ore., wrote an article for the *Cascade Banner* heaping lavish praise on the Grand Hotel, concluding: “We would love to return to Mackinac Island and stay at the Grand Hotel again, but only after we win the lottery!”

# More Mackinac



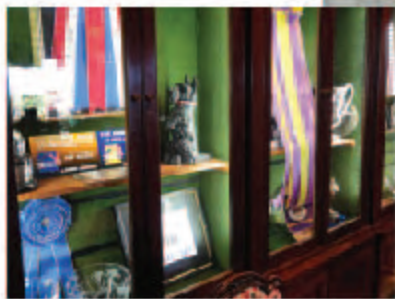
**John French, our priceless reunion coordinator  
Betty Brady, and Carole Bailey. P.S.: John and  
Carole were married a few days later, June 18,  
at Christ Episcopal Church in Sharon, Connecticut.**



**Dave Conlan,  
Ellen Sax and  
Marty Aronson**



**Sandy Phillips,  
Warren Peterson,  
Woody Goss**



**This display case, tucked away off the Grand Hotel's main corridor, exhibits just a few of the many awards won by Amelia Musser's show dogs, including "Best in Show" awarded to Scottish terrier Sadie at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club competition at Madison Square Garden. Sadie's real name: Roundtown Mercedes of Maryscot. At right, Amelia with Jim Nelsen and a champion dog walker.**



**Tina Kister,  
Jane Conlan**



# A Grand Reunion

**John Braestrup,  
Joe Bachman**



**Colin Hunt,  
Lou Hance,  
John Barker**



**Jim Nelsen, Margie Ambrose,  
Betty Jo Nelsen**



**Lyn Brock,  
Neal Allen**



**Jack Doyle,  
George and  
Barbara Schmitt**



**Gale Roberson,  
Don Charbonnier**



**Nick Kotz, John French, Joe Mathewson**

Gale, Nick and Joe led a lively class discussion about the U. S. Supreme Court, occasioned by Joe's book "The Supreme Court and the Press: The Indispensable Conflict," which was conveniently on sale in a Grand Hotel shop.



# Who says septuagenarians are dull?

**Charlie Warner**, hugely experienced in broadcast management and journalism teaching, has taken on new duties as senior advisor at a startup called Blue Engine in New York. Blue Engine offers one-year urban education fellowships to recent college graduates to equip them to deliver “high-dose tutoring” designed to help high school students prepare for college. Charlie reports: “I helped Blue Engine define a communications strategy and hire a communications director. I worked with her to craft a social media strategy and led the effort to redesign and re-launch our website. I also helped interview 80 candidates for teaching assistant jobs next year when BE is expanding to 32 teaching assistants in three different high schools and who will be tutoring students in math and English. So we are expanding--one reason is because our model has been a huge success.”

**Bubba Levy** marked seven years as president of Choice Energy in Houston. “In the past few weeks our parent company, OTC Global Holdings, made our 12th acquisition. We currently broker over 65% of the options on NYMEX daily. 105 direct employees, only 3 over the age of 40. A real challenge for an old [expletive deleted], but having a great time.”

**Bruce Bergquist** provides a fascinating life capsule: “Following five years in the Navy back in the fifties, I’ve lived in six states and marched often to my own drummer, wearing a lot of different hats in education, mostly for stints of 5 to 10 years, as teacher, school trustee, founder and head of alternative schools and educational programs, co-creator of a community-based mediation center, personal coach, editor, and, since 1995 (with my psychotherapist wife Betsy, Dartmouth MALS ’88), a co-presenter of many Getting the Love You Want couples weekend workshops... Healthy committed relationships, the bedrock of community, is our mission and continues stronger than ever... Our energy for everything is undiminished. We are restless but committed souls. Betsy’s memoir “Up the Hill to Baker River School” (2010) tells her story and describes our joint venture in Wentworth, New Hampshire in the ’70s and ’80s. See [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for more.”



**Peter Packard** writes that he and Betsy couldn’t make Mackinac because “I’m working half time at the Topeka Youth Center treating teen age boys... We are organizing a ‘visit shutins’ group at church.” Their six children and their families include a weaver, a potter, a piano teacher, a novelist (teaching at NYU), a carpenter, a “Best of Boston” bar tender, and a singer-song writer. The Packards are hoping that grandchildren with roofing skills will help replace their Maine cottage roof this summer.



# And there's more:

**Tom Roulston**, still in Cleveland with Lois and their three children and eight grandchildren close by, is "working hard as chairman of six companies, five which are having record profits in 2011... I still don't believe in recessions." Tom keeps in touch with former roommate and business associate **Gus Aberle**, who also lives nearby.

**Joe Herring**, now "retired" from the pulpit with Bonnie in Alpharetta, Georgia, still serves "a variety of churches as preacher, pastor and teacher... The church still has the same feasts and fasts, but they're always different." Also, "I continue to interview candidates for the College, but the College gets more selective."

**Peter Greenfield**, also officially retired from the pastorate, now serves "a small rural church in Lancaster County [Pennsylvania], Bangore Episcopal Church, the oldest church of any denomination in that county. Our denomination has a designation known as 'Jubilee' parish-churches which are known as models of community outreach. I was the rector of the first and one hundredth such parishes," in Lewistown and Lancaster. Pete's wife Carol suffered a stroke in January, but "is making a strong recovery, and we feel blessed."

**Valerie and Cliff Friedrichs**, in Greenwich, Connecticut, celebrated their 55th anniversary in April. They met on Green Key weekend in the spring of 1953.

**Bob Stirling** traveled from home in Redding, Connecticut, to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital in December, after months of chemotherapy and radiation, to have a pancreatic cancer removed. "October was a rest month while I watched the hair fall out and 30 pounds fall off my frame." The seven-hour surgery "involved removing the gall bladder and part of the stomach, small intestine and pancreas." Bob does physical therapy "to regain balance and strength and progress from a walker to a cane to normal walking ability... It will be 17 months out of commission, but the good news is that I am cancer free, although I'll be checked out every six months forever."

**John Lewis**, retired in Sarasota with his wife of 55 years, Jean, was the subject of an eye-opening story in the local paper about his Vietnam experience as an Army artillery officer, which yielded three Bronze Stars, three Air Medals and the Republic of Vietnam Honor Medal, none of which he revealed in our 50th reunion book. Frequently under fire, John said his "closest call" was a few minutes after he and other officers left a meeting "and a rocket hit dead center on that room and demolished it."

**Hi Allman**, in Naples, Florida, has "recently taken on a new responsibility--a lovely partner--Jeannie--quite a change--and wonderful. Besides golf and volunteering, I still do my own yard work, pilates 2/wk., bike ride regularly, travel--keep busy!"

# *Lives of Fifty-Fives*

**BLAKE WARREN IRONS** died on December 18, 2010. He came to Dartmouth living in Alexandria, Va., and having graduated from Williston Academy. As an undergraduate Blake was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and served WDBS as an Ivy League representative and business manager. He received a degree from Tuck School in 1956 and served two years in the Army, mostly in Japan. Upon discharge he spent several years in banking before joining Aetna Life and Casualty in 1963, from which he eventually retired. In our 50th reunion book Blake wrote a thoughtful summary of his life and perhaps ours: "I have said things that in hindsight I wish had been left unsaid, done things that I wish I had not and which cannot be undone, and spent too much time at the office and not enough time with our children. But on the whole I believe that we as a class, and I as an individual, have been most fortunate. My wife of 44 years and I have lived a full, secure, stable and loving life and we have been blessed with three wonderful children and six grandchildren." He is survived by his wife, Sherry, three daughters and the six grandchildren.

**WILLIAM ALEXANDER ROSS** died June 24, 2010. Bill graduated from West High School in Rockford, Illinois. At Dartmouth he was a member of the band, ROTC and the rifle team, and received a Tuck-Thayer degree. After the Army he returned to Rockford, working as an engineer, but moved to the Twin Cities where he finished as senior vice president of Eaton Corporation's Hydraulics Division. By our 55th reunion, Bill was retired and living in Longboat Key, Florida, though maintaining a home in Minneapolis. He is survived by his wife, Corinne Strand, and sons David and Gordon.

--Dick Hastings

## **Alumni Magazine letter:**

**Jim Cavanaugh**, responding to the article in the May/June Alumni Magazine about past fraternity discrimination at Dartmouth, wrote to the magazine: "In 1954-55 I was president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, one of the six fraternities to which 'A House United' referred. Sigma Phi Epsilon had a very narrow discriminatory clause. The person we were pledging was Jewish. We had to struggle with the decision whether to remain in the national or go local. We decided to stay in the national in order to have the discriminatory clause removed. It took a couple of years, but the clause was removed altogether."

# *Mackinac Memories*



The Waterfront



A taxi to the mainland

***Next: Homecoming and Mini-Reunion Oct. 21-23***