

July 2017



Some of the more than 1,000 elk on the Flitner wildlife preserve grazed against a Big Horn Mountains backdrop.

Dave Flitner Raises Cattle, Propagates Elk, Flies Distances

Like his father, Dave headed into business after graduating from college, but when his dad called him back to the cattle ranch in northern Wyoming to help at a crucial time, the son faithfully responded. And never left.

For Dave that was 1960, after he had served two years as an infantry officer in the Marines. He and his brother eventually bought the ranch and divided it into separate operations. With imagination and courage, Dave has greatly expanded his acreage and his herds of cattle and Quarter horses, created the wildlife preserve pictured above, established a guest ranch providing a rigorous work experience, served 24 consecutive one-year terms as Wyoming Farm Bureau president, and sent a daughter to Dartmouth!

What else?

See center spread.

Hear Jim Wright At Homecoming October 6-7

President Emeritus Jim Wright has written a new book, *Enduring Vietnam: An American Generation and its War*. He'll talk about it at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon, October 6.

We'll have class dinners on Friday and Saturday, a class meeting (open to guests, too!) on Saturday morning, and a good time! Alumni parade, Dartmouth Night, and Yale game! Reservation form inside.

Here's a change:

Instead of our long-time rooms at the Fireside Inn, for this year's Homecoming we'll be a few hundred yards up the hill at the Baymont Inn & Suites, 45 Airport Rd., West Lebanon. Reserve by calling 603-298-8888, mention Class of '55: \$179.55 + \$16.16 tax per night.

From President Ken . . .

Summertime and I hope the living is easy for all of you.

In past notes, I have commented on the need to take precautions against falls, particularly around the home. Dr. Dick Roberts passed on to me a relevant piece from the NY Times, May 23, on aging in place. This article featured that if you choose to remain in your home (which many of us do), and improvements are needed (e.g., wider doors for a wheel chair), there are now Certified Aging in Place Specialists to whom you can turn. It could be worth looking into.

The WSJ June 24 had a feature on longevity by an M.D. who studied the high number of centenarians in a small town in China. One finding: they smiled a lot. Further research revealed that professional baseball players who smiled in their bubble gum card photos lived on average eight years longer than players who did not. So, smile even if you're not on Candid Camera.



Suggest you take advantage of the following get-togethers with classmates: Homecoming October 6-7; Dartmouth-Brown November 10 at Fenway; DUSA dinner and Jim Wright Award, Langham Hotel, Boston November 11; Mini-Reunion at Trapp Lodge, Stowe, VT June 19-22, 2018. (The fall Virginia mini-reunion is cancelled.) Not only do we have these chances to be together, but also get in touch with a near-by classmate or two for a morning coffee or lunch or happy hour time. '55 Forever Friends! kenlundstrom@yahoo.com

John French In the Spotlight

On June 6 John spoke to the Knickerbocker Club of New York on the D-day invasion. (At right he holds a replica of the standard Springfield rifle carried by the invading American troops.)



Recalling that his father later served with the OSS in the South of France, John used 156 slides to describe in detail the planning and execution of the enormous assault. "At the end of the day, 156,000 troops had parachuted, glided or stormed the beaches and reinforcements had continued to arrive. The beachfront coverage area was now about 10 miles deep and 60 miles wide." John quoted the official Royal Air Force history that the day was "the most momentous in the history of war since Alexander set out from Macedon."



Elsewhere in New York, John and Carole were honored by the Young Concert Artists with their Distinguished Service to the Arts Award. Very nice!

Flitner Ranch, By the Numbers

300,000 acres utilized



Dave, Paula and friend

4,000 cattle on board, seasonally

1,000+ elk protected

100+ Quarter horses sold each 5 yrs.

30-40 employees

25 guest ranch beds



7 crops: alfalfa hay, malt barley for beer, Pinto and northern beans, corn for both silage and grain, sunflowers for human consumption, oats, pasture

3 aircraft

Flitner in the Air

“In order to maximize our management and surveillance of the livestock, farming and recreation business we have consistently used aircraft including a turbine helicopter. We have both a short range fixed wing Piper Super Cub and a faster single engine cross country TurboCessna [below].

For years, I have used an aircraft for most of my business and Farm Bureau meetings both within and outside the State of Wyoming.

“I hold a Commercial rotor-craft license and

have a CFI (Certified Flight Instructor) in rotor-wing ratings. I also have a multi-engine and instrument rating with a total of 10,000 hours of flight time. I received my private flying license two years before attending Dartmouth. I try to spend at least two days each month in actual IFR training in order to stay current.”



Flitner in Politics



Son Greg now runs the day-to-day operations, with his wife Pam, below.



Granddaughter Morgan Flitner, 24 years old, supervises the training of the Quarter horses. Dave describes her as “a top horse hand and rodeo competitor.”

“When I was elected Farm Bureau president for Wyoming in 1970, I had to stand for re-election every year, for 24 years ending in 1994, when I stepped down. My campaign speech every year was one sentence: ‘Please review your options and support the candidate for Wyoming Farm Bureau President that you feel will represent your views and then vote your conscience’.

“During that period, with the help of a lot of good souls, we built the Farm Bureau to become one of the most potent political forces in Wyoming. That’s probably one reason I chose not to run for the US Senate. I had observed first hand, for years, the ‘glamour’ of the Washington scene and how hard the Congressional delegation for Wyoming worked.

“I saw up close the immense task of gathering the funding required for the campaigns for reelection and the day-by-day drudgery that accompanies their jobs. I worked with Dick Cheney and Senators Al Simpson and Malcolm Wallop during most of their tenure in Washington. They were great to work with.

“The Washington staff of the American Farm Bureau told me that of the 50 state Farm Bureau presidents, I was the only one that consistently met with my entire Congressional delegation (only three) on a regular basis, in the Senate Dining Room, once a year, to review pertinent issues and legislation affecting agriculture. We all chuckled a bit about this eminent status! I guess the delegation must have felt it was necessary for I would return to Wyoming and report to the remaining 475,000 souls that they were too uppity. Ah, the beauty of coming from the least populous state!

“As Farm Bureau president I shuffled to numerous meetings in and out of Wyoming. I was in the Oval Office for meetings with Presidents Nixon, Ford and Bush on behalf of the Farm Bureau. I testified before Congressional Committees a number of times.”

Flitner in commerce

“During that Farm Bureau period I was president of Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Company based in Laramie, Wyoming and Bozeman, Montana. Mountain West was the largest domestically owned insurance operation in both Wyoming and Montana. I was also president of Western Farm Bureau Life, located in Denver, Colorado, serving 12 years as president and chairman of the board and then 13 years as a director. Western had over \$3 billion of life insurance in force and operated in nine western States. Both these jobs were not salaried positions, but expenses and per diem compensated. The day-by-day operations were managed by an executive vice president.”

Dave was a founding director and later chairman of Mountain States Legal Foundation, in Denver, “a public interest law firm whose mission is to protect private property rights and the unconstitutional intrusion of Government into private business.”

He has served on the boards of Mountain Bell and other corporations, and on innumerable local and national advisory committees needing his expertise.



“In the end, we do not own the land. It owns us! Anyone with a heart and soul in this business, knows this. The attachment to land is not at all for the purpose of accumulating material wealth, but rather conquering the many challenges required to be a good steward of the land for the benefit of future generations.”

Dave Flitner
Flitner Ranch
Greybull, Wyoming 82426
flitner@aol.com



Photos by Morgan Flitner

Lives of Fifty-Fives

By Bill Cassell bcass34@aol.com

Paul G. Finegan

As a Chi Phi brother, I remember Paul Finegan had a wry sense of humor and never seemed pressured by exams. When the Air Force greatly reduced its need for officers, Paul was one of those asked to stay in the AFROTC program. He also was a member of the Dartmouth Glee Club. Paul was raised in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania and attended Episcopal Academy from kindergarten until he completed school and came to Dartmouth in 1951. After graduation in 1955, Paul spent three years in the Air Force as a navigator and was promoted to captain. He then earned an MBA from Wharton School of Business before starting a 28-year career as an investment banker in Philadelphia.

At the time of his retirement Paul held positions as executive vice president and chief investment officer of Core States Bank in Philadelphia. He also served for 25 years as chairman of the Inglis Foundation Investment Committee. In recognition of his work, he was awarded the Anne Inglis Medal in 1998. When he retired, a portion of the Inglis House courtyard was named Finegan's Way.

An avid biker into his eighties, Paul enjoyed family biking holidays in New England and Europe. He also enjoyed sailing in the Virgin Islands and on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks.

Paul passed away March 29, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Jayne Finegan, his sons, Paul S. Finegan and John Finegan, daughters Lynn Burford and Caryn Nicholas, and five grandchildren.

Tom Byrne reports on Alumni Council:

- Enrollment and Admissions: Class of 2021 most academically distinguished and globally diverse in history. Strongest response to offer of admission in 25 years. 61% yield!
- Definition of Diversity: "Beyond race to include socioeconomic, geographical, gender, points of view, interest and experiences."
- Admissions success helped by new approach to telling the "Dartmouth Story" that emphasizes the "place" and the unique characteristics we all love.
- Dartmouth believes these different perspectives "strengthen the Dartmouth intellectual experience and enrich the campus environment, to prepare future leaders who will be engaged and impactful in an increasingly diverse and global society".
- The entering class will enjoy \$26,000,000 in financial aid before they graduate.
- The appointment of Prof. Bruce Duthu '80 to the position of Dean of the Faculty drew criticism because he once supported boycott of Israeli academic institutions. (Soon after the meeting, Prof Duthu withdrew his acceptance of the position.)
- Alumni and other concern with "freedom of expression and dissent" was addressed by Hanlon.
- Dartmouth ranked 7th in U.S. News ranking. (Best in undergraduate teaching.)
- "The Pillars of Dartmouth" according to Pres. Hanlon: the strong bonds it engenders; the unwavering commitment to the "teacher-scholar" model; the sense of place.
- VP for Communications Justin Anderson is developing the strategic communications framework. Descriptors: liberal arts at the core; scholars who love to teach; an adventuresome spirit; "base camp" to the world; profound "sense of place".
- Dartmouth #1 in Ivies for study abroad. Top ten nationally for internships.
- Dartmouth should be "confident, bold, and embrace our distinctiveness, celebrating our size, setting, and people."
- New Trustee Chair, Laurel Richie '81 (WNBA President) spoke. Very impressive! "Dartmouth is an intimate, connected, rugged place, where extraordinary work is achieved by faculty and students."

Nice notes from . . .

Paul Merriken, about his roommate **Lito Herrera**:

Since undergraduate days Lito has lived in his native country Guatemala from where he has been running the family sugar business which he had grown into a multi-national concern, apparently with connections to France. For his efforts over the years he was awarded the French Legion of Honor by the French ambassador in Guatemala City on May 9.

Steven Schmieder lives at Brookdale Riverwalk, 350 Callway Dr., Apt. 313A, Bakersfield, Calif. 93316, where he “enjoys YouTube.com on the computer to improve and add to all the courses I took at Dartmouth: German, history, economics, and sports. Dartmouth influences on my life were Sigmund Henzinger, Stan Sklar, Bob Carter, Bob Spears 1954 and Jim Mickle.”

Joe Kagle is listed as an “Expert Resource” in the Marquis Who’s Who of Preeminent Leaders and Achievers 2016. He’s also included (once again) in Who’s Who in America recognizing “individuals who possess professional integrity, demonstrate outstanding achievement in their respective fields and have made innumerable contributions to society as a whole. 2017-2018.”
joekagle@hotmail.com, 281-318-1820

Tom Wittenberg: “For the last 30 years I’ve lived in Athens, Ga. with wife Madelaine Cooke. I’m thriving in my 3rd career as a tai chi trainer and lead classes almost every day, some for OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), some at retirement communities. Apart from bum hearing, I’m in good health and eat pretty much what I want, when I want. Life is sweet!”
tomdtom1@aol.com, 706-208-8037

Brooks Parker reflects: “The Dartmouth experience: classmates, great friends, Tuck School etc. have been an important and meaningful part of my life. How fortunate I feel to have had the association with Dartmouth and then Tuck School and all else!” 781-894-2759, 239-434-5257 (Fla.)

Erin Lamb: “**Walt Lamb’s** granddaughter, Marin Lamb Pennell, will be joining four others on the Dartmouth women’s rugby roster as part of the class of 2021. He would finally be happy that Dartmouth is co-ed!” 12 Brandywyne, Wayland, MA 01778, ellamb@comcast.net, 508-358-2817
Margie Ambrose volunteers in the Williamsburg (Va.) Library sale of used books, which raises an impressive \$80,000 a year. mhaa521@cox.net

Summer Reading Suggestions, from Ken Lundstrom

The good wife was so deeply engrossed in “Washington’s Farewell: The Founding Father’s Warning to Future Generations”, John Avlon, from our local library, she said something like, “Get thee to the bookstore!” which of course I did. Avlon’s book is a study of Washington’s presidency and all that went into his printed address to the country when he completed his final term with warnings about what could destroy our new democratic republic. Specifically discussed are: the dangers of extreme partisanship, excessive debt, and foreign wars. The parallels with today are apparent. Reviewers consider it a talismanic document. Every thought on every page, in our opinion, is to be read and re-read.

Kathryn and I have thoroughly enjoyed a nice little book of 15 collected speeches by noted historian David McCullough, “The American Spirit: Who we are and What we Stand For.” He has said that “history is our greatest natural resource” and then proceeds to prove it in these talks, one of which was given at Dartmouth January 12, 1999 as part of the Montgomery Endowment series on “Power and the Presidency.” (His 2003 Dartmouth commencement address is not included at which he received an honorary Doctor of Letters.) “Knowing Who We Are” was given at a seminar series in 2005 where he observes that “Unfortunately, we are raising a generation of young Americans who are by and large historically illiterate.” He then goes on to confirm it. You will find bits of advice (stop using “like” and “you know”) and wit in addition to what each speech can teach us about history: to think about it and why it matters.

You still have time to pick them up and get away for good summer reads.



1955 Mini-Reunion

October 6-7, 2017

Make room reservations directly with **Baymont Inn & Suites, 45 Airport Rd., West Lebanon, NH 03784, 603-298-8888**. Mention Dartmouth '55; our rate is \$179.55/night plus \$16.16 tax (Friday and Saturday).

I/We will attend the following class events, as checked:

Friday, October 6

_____ 4 p.m., President Emeritus James Wright (location TBD)

_____ 5:30 p.m., cash bar & buffet dinner, 1930 Room, main floor, Rockefeller Center, \$55 each \$ _____
herb-rubbed chicken breast, pan-seared Atlantic salmon, Caesar salad, veggies, dessert & coffee.

Saturday, October 7

Breakfast on your own

_____ 9:30 a.m., Class meeting, Rockefeller lower level, open to all '55s and guests

_____ 6 p.m., cash bar & dinner (7:15 p.m.), **Fireside Inn, 25 Airport Rd., W. Lebanon,** \$55 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make your check payable to Dartmouth 1955 and send it with this form to arrive by September 22 to Lou Hance, P.O. Box 1766, Grantham, NH 03755

Name(s) _____

Address _____

e-mail _____