

Dartmouth 1955

Read all about it!

March 2013

It's Travel Time!

Where have you been?

Winter is sun-seeking time, and Gordie Russell (far right) was sensible enough to join retired and much admired Hawaii Preparatory School teacher Everett Knowles to paddle in a six-person canoe event on the Big Island, “sharing our love of Hawaiian culture and environment,” as Gordie put it.

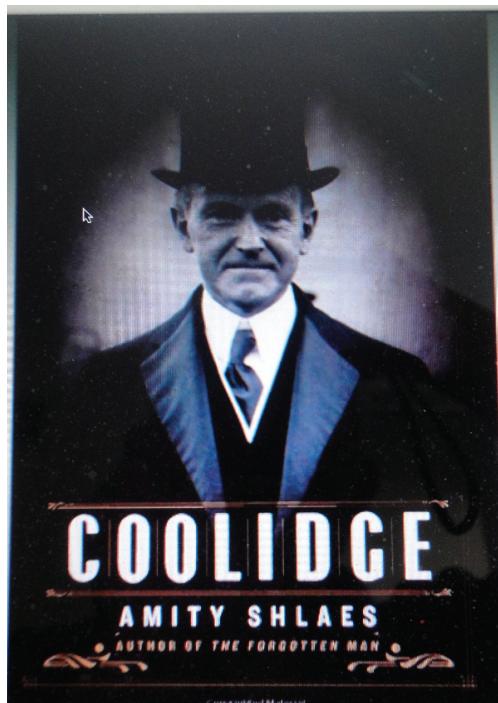


But John and Carole French (at left) unaccountably headed for Antarctica. (More chilly photos and news inside.)

How about you? Travelogues and photos invited. Also 80th birthday party photos with classmates. Send them to the newsletter editor, josephmathewson@gmail.com.

Quiet Cal is back!

If you're heading for our May mini-reunion in Vermont, with a visit to Calvin Coolidge's birthplace--or if you're simply attracted to the idea of frugality in government--you'll probably enjoy this admiring new biography of the 30th president.



Author Amity Shlaes praises Coolidge for cutting federal spending, taxes and the national debt. On the other hand, the New York Times Book Review, in a front-page review acknowledging that Coolidge "presided over a notable golden age," slammed him as "the pre-eminent cheerleader for the economic nostrums that led to the crash." Coolidge, elected vice president in 1920, served as president from 1923, when Warren Harding suddenly died, to 1929.

Whatever Coolidge's place in history may be, his birthplace, the general store his father managed, the farmhouse in which he took the oath of office, the nearby church, even the barn-museum--all are enchanting, remarkably

well-preserved Americana. A real treat for visitors!

This photo in the book is described as a re-enactment of Coolidge's swearing-in by his father, a Vermont notary public, by the light of a kerosene lamp, for the farmhouse had neither electricity nor telephone. To remove any doubt about the legitimacy of his oath, Coolidge soon repeated it before a federal judge in Washington.



NOTICE

Jack Doyle and the class executive committee, ever desirous of keeping in touch with classmates and planning communications, events and activities that will be attractive and enjoyable, ask that you take a few minutes to respond to the following questionnaire. Thanks!



Antarctica: Carole French (top) shoots penguins (figuratively). John and Carole (center) visit Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton's grave on South Georgia Island; he died of a heart attack at age 47. While at sea near South Georgia, the Frenches experienced a frightening Antarctic hurricane with 60-foot seas and 80 mile-an-hour winds. Patagonia (bottom), the southernmost area of South America: A striking image captured by John.

French III on Richard III

Upon his return from the Antarctic, John was asked for his reflection on the discovery in England of the skeleton of Richard III, the last of the Plantagenet monarchs. His brief, two-year reign (1483-1485) has long fascinated John, centering on the king's death in battle at age 32, his prior imprisonment of his young nephews in the Tower of London, where they died, and his harsh depiction by Shakespeare in Richard III. John's comment:

The Richard III of Shakespeare has no relationship to the actual Richard III. It doesn't even describe a human being. Historians have doubted for some time that Richard had a hunchback, or deformed arm or leg, because those features did not appear until a history of England was commissioned by Henry VII after 1501, and were features which were characteristics of evil in the medieval mind. Henry VII needed to make Richard look worse so that he would look better. The absence of these features in the skeleton clearly gives the lie not only to the Tudor propaganda of the time but also to the Richard portrayed in Shakespeare's play . . .

The accusation that he killed the little princes certainly can't be credible at this point, since they were seen two weeks after Richard's coronation when he left to tour his new kingdom and placed them in the Tower for their safety. They were no threat to Richard because he had been crowned and "anointed," and could not be removed except by death. But the princes were a threat to others who wished to take the throne . . .

Richard actually adopted measures to give many rights and protections to the people which curtailed the freedom of the free-wheeling nobility, and incurred the wrath of the Lancastrian nobles, the tea party of their day . . .

Had Richard survived, England would have remained Catholic for quite a while, there would be no Tudor kings (certainly not Henry VIII), there would not have been a George III to botch the British occupation of America and contribute to our independence at that time, and had America remained a British territory like Canada until 1832, when England abolished slavery, we might not even have had the Civil War.

Lives of Fifty-Fives

FRANCIS JOSEPH CHASE died on December 11, 2012. Always an active participant in our class and Dartmouth activities, Frank will be deeply missed. He came to Hanover from Exeter, N.H., where he resided as well as attended Phillips Exteter Academy. At Dartmouth he majored in goverment, became a member of Phi Gamma Delta, the Newman Club, Russian Club and the Intrafraternity Council. Upon graduation, Frank served three years in the army as a Korean linguist. In 1959 he joined the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, residing in Columbia, Md. Frank's humor and mild self-deprecation was apparent in his yearbook remarks and personal conversation. He had a love of sports (Red Sox included). He served on our class Executive Committee, as class head agent, the College's District Enrollment Director, president of the Dartmouth Club of Maryland and president of the Dartmouth Club Officers Association. Like so many of us, Frank had supreme admiration for John Sloan Dickey and wrote in 2009 how he felt the president had always influenced his life. He is survived by Carole, his wife of 50 years, a daughter Amy, and one granddaughter. He was pre-deceased by brothers Lester '39 and Chester '43.

Submitted by R.J. Hastings, M.D. '55

A footnote: Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland inserted a magnificent tribute to Frank in the Congressional Record, saluting him as "a proud veteran, a committed Marylander, a great American, and my good friend . . . Frank loved his country dearly, and he showed it through years of public service . . . Frank joined the civil service, beginning at the Social Security Administration and later moving to the Health Care Financing Administration, both in Baltimore. When he retired in January 1993 . . . he had honed expertise that would for many years guide him to continue, as a volunteer, to improve the lives of retirees, persons with disabilities, and others. A man of boundless energy, Frank was a valued confidant and a member of my health advisory group for 20 years. With nearly perfect attendance at meetings and conference calls, he could always be counted on for a warm greeting, sage advice, and wisdom born of compassion and clear-sightedness." Read in full: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?r113:S23JA3-0027:/>

Brett Gillis '16, of Kitchner, Ontario, our sponsored athlete, finished a fine season by winning the one-meter dive against Columbia (Dartmouth lost narrowly), and winning the three-meter and taking a second in the one-meter against the University of Connecticut (Dartmouth won). The men's and women's swimming and diving teams were strong this year; both won the six-college Dartmouth Invitational.