

# *Dartmouth 1955*

*Read all about it!*

October 2012

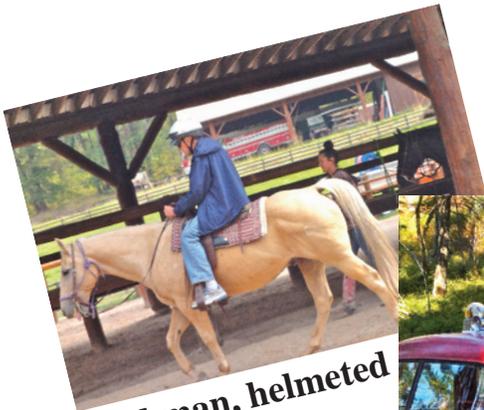
## *Under Montana's Big Sky, 35 '55ers Celebrated Life*

*Full fun story inside*



September 9, 2012

# By horse, sail, foot, Checker cab, fire truck, school bus . .



**Joe Bachman, helmeted**



**52-foot Atlantic racing boat made in Marblehead, Mass., 1928**



**Kevin, manager of Flat-head Lake Lodge, served steaks to Renée Malone and Dick Hopkins**



**John Baldwin and an admirer enjoyed the firetruck ride a lot**



**Jennifer Whelpton, Joe Mathewson and M.J. Alexander on the river trail**



**Kathy Gulick, Betty Jo Nelsen**



**Frances and Jack Welsh got fired up**

# .. and giant Fords, '55 scouts explored the Mountain West



Woody Goss photo  
**Bruce Alexander remembers when a taxi was a Checker**

**Well-dressed for a chilly morning breakfast cookout: Jill Hastings, Joe and Frances Bachman**



**Lou Hance up**



**Popular campfire: Gulicks, Peter Teal, Joe Bachman, Robertsons, John Barlow, Jim Nelsen, Jill Hastings, Jennifer Whelpton**



**Jennifer Whelpton and friend**



Woody Goss photo

**Hikers at rest by the Swan River in Bigfork: Barbara and Gale Robertson, Jill Hastings, Iris Fanger, Lou Hance**



**President Jack Doyle thanked mini-reunion hosts Peter and Annie Teal**



**Appreciation roses for mini-reunion coordinator Betty Brady**

# Glacier National Park was high on our list



**Gale Roberson and his  
bride Barbara**



**John Baldwin took  
it all in stride**



**Columbian ground  
squirrel at Logan Pass**

In northwest Montana and linked to Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada, Glacier was established in 1910, our tenth National Park. It covers more than a million acres on both sides of the Continental Divide. The principal east-west route through the park is an engineering marvel, the 52-mile Going-to-the-Sun Road. It crosses the Divide at Logan Pass, 6600 feet. The highest peak is Mt. Cleveland, 10,466 feet. In long, beautifully-renovated and modernized Ford limousines, open-topped, driven by either gas or propane, we climbed to the Divide from the west, enjoying warm sun and spectacular views. The estimated 150 glaciers that existed in the mid-19th century have been reduced to only 25. Scientists have estimated that all the glaciers may disappear by 2020 if current climate patterns persist.



**Surveying the scene  
were Bob Fanger and  
Jack Welsh (left) and  
Bob and Janet Hayes**



**A gurgling mountain  
stream got an approving  
look from Dick Hastings,  
Iris Fanger, Stan Berg-  
man and Woody Goss**

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## *Dramatis personae*

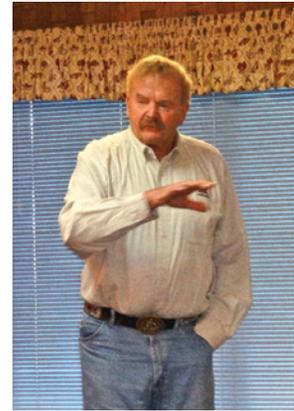
Bruce & M.J. Alexander  
Joe & Frances Bachman  
John & Jeannie Baldwin  
John & Anne Barlow  
Stan & Lillian Bergman  
Betty Brady  
Jack & Marilyn Doyle  
Bob & Iris Fanger  
Woody Goss  
Peter & Kathy Gulick

Lou Hance  
Dick & Jill Hastings  
Bob & Janet Hayes  
Dick Hopkins & Renée Malone  
Jim & Betty Jo Nelsen  
Joe Mathewson & Jennifer Whelpton  
Gale & Barbara Roberson  
Peter & Annie Teal  
Jack & Fran Welsh

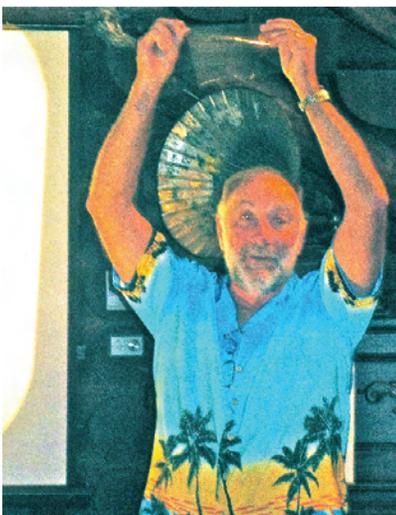
# It's at the Crown of the Continent, U. of Montana geographer explained

An enthusiastic Montanan, Rick Graetz, pointed out that Glacier National Park, big and beautiful as it is, is just part of what the University of Montana, where Rick teaches, calls the Crown of the Continent. It straddles the Continental Divide peaks and reaches 250 miles from British Columbia and Alberta well into Montana, encompassing 13 million acres in all, including the one million that comprise Glacier National Park.

Rick described the Crown, subject of a major U. of Montana research and publishing initiative, as “perhaps the most expansive outdoor laboratory in the nation to study the many facets of an alteration in our long-term climate.” Also, he stated, “creating conservation projects that preserve traditional uses of Crown landscapes has shown we can devise economic activities that are in harmony with the ecosystem.”



**Rick Graetz, founder and longtime editor of Montana Magazine, changed careers in middle age, got a Ph.D. just 10 years ago, now teaches geography and climatology at the University of Montana. He's an avid mountain climber and photographer, and has written several books about the state.**



## The stars at night are big and bright

Astronomy teacher Dom Bumgarner showed us how to take advantage of Montana's nighttime darkness to view the starry heavens and identify some of the many constellations up there. He handed out star charts and demonstrated (left) their upside-down use, starting with the Big Dipper (Ursa Major) and its pointing to the North Star (Polaris), at one end of the Little Dipper (Ursa Minor). What's that cluster nearby? Dick Hastings, one-time navigator of a U.S. Navy oiler, instantly called it: the Pleiades, or Seven Sisters.

Jill Hastings lost her glasses to a tree branch . . . or did she? But she had it all-together as our nimble bartender



Atop the fire engine, driving through the woods, glasses were scraped off. “They’re prescription!” Convoy stopped.



Glasses found! They were resting on the side ladder.



Later, when the bartender went home, Jill, fully recovered, took over, until closing--late.



## Woody said it: '55's College Fund performance has been better

Our indefatigable cheerleader Woody Goss, head class agent for lo these many years, reported that both our dollar total (\$207,000 ) and our participation rate (57 percent) were sub-normal last year. He reflected that as time goes on classmates may see different priorities, but he hoped, as always, that we'll muster a resurgence next year. Thanks, always, to Woody!



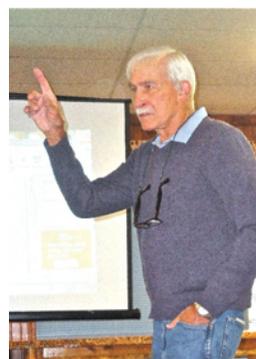
**U.S. News and World Report:** Dartmouth again #1 in commitment to teaching (tied with Princeton, like last year), fourth straight year on top. #1 in high school counselor picks. Up to #10 among national universities. #7 among “great schools at great prices.”

# Two docs diagnosed greed in U.S. healthcare, and no cure seen in Affordable Care Act

Two of our retired physicians, Peter Teal and John Baldwin, had nothing good to say about the U.S. health-care system. In a presentation to us, Peter said we spend three times the average of industrialized countries, \$16,000 per person per year, but rank only 37th in quality of care. (France and Italy, he said, are tops in quality.)

Quoting a *New Yorker* article about McAllen, Texas, a border town in the county with the lowest household income in the country, Peter (at right) said Medicare expenses there in 2006 averaged \$15,000 per enrollee, almost twice the national average, and greater than the local per-capita income of \$12,000. Despite the high costs, the article stated, McAllen's doctors and hospital were delivering merely average health care.

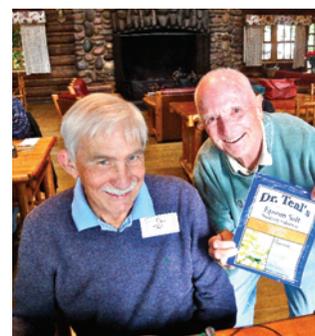
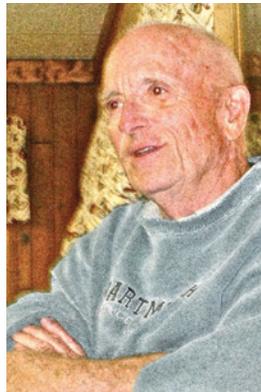
Peter faulted the American pay-for-procedure billing system, and said the problem is aggravated by physician-owned clinics and hospitals, where doctors send their patients for care that benefits the doctors financially, despite a federal law intended to minimize such "self referrals." He also stated that one-third of U.S. health-care costs are for paperwork.



John (left) added that hospital "greed" is part of the problem. He recalled that at one time hospitals he used charged a flat \$36 a day, including the routine tests and procedures that any hospitalization entails. But then, John went on, hospitals found they could charge more by "unbundling" this package of services and charging for each one separately, escalating costs to patients.

Peter commented afterward that the Affordable Care Act recently approved by the U.S. Supreme Court is beneficial in that it's extending health-care coverage to people who previously had none, but the law doesn't restrain costs, which continue to rise inexorably.

A solution? The docs didn't prescribe any specific plan or program, but they pointed out that some of the nation's best health plans are among the lowest in costs. They mentioned Kaiser Permanente in California, the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where doctors are on salary, and the Geisinger Health System, which serves 2.6 million people of below-average health in 44 counties in central and northeastern Pennsylvania. A quick check of Geisinger's website says the system structures compensation to "reward doctors who have better clinical outcomes financially and by recognition, and we constantly measure our outcomes against our peers . . . we reward quality and value, not just numbers of patients seen or numbers of procedures performed."



**John's suggestion:  
Dr. Teal's epsom  
salts--good for  
everything!**

# Looking ahead, to our 2013 mini-reunion, with Dick Hastings, and beyond, with Stan Bergman

The class of '55, having traversed the country and beyond in memorable renewals of fun and fellowship, will opt for home territory next year. Dick Hastings announced that he and Jill will host a '55 mini-reunion May 28-31 in Woodstock, Vermont.



We'll stay at the iconic Woodstock Inn and visit, among other places, the Billings Farm & Museum and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, in Woodstock. Famed conservationist Laurance Rockefeller's legacy is reflected in Woodstock and its environs, and he famously built a family bomb shelter there at the height of the Cold War. Dick said he hopes we'll be able to visit it. We'll also tour Calvin Coolidge's homestead in Plymouth Notch. Among the quiet man's concise epigrams: "The society which is satisfied is lost."

Stan Bergman made us the best offer of the reunion when he again invited us and all '55s to call upon his law firm's formidable expertise to write our estate plans, *at no charge*, provided Dartmouth is a beneficiary. It could be, for instance, an outright bequest, a life income trust whose income is payable to a spouse or other beneficiary for her lifetime, a slice of an Individual Retirement Account or a designation of the College as a life insurance beneficiary.



"We're not getting any younger," Stan reminded us, "so now is a good time to do it."

Stan heads the Bartlett Tower Society, comprised of alumni who have provided for Dartmouth in their estate plans. He reminded us once more that our class lags behind contemporary classes in Bartlett Tower membership.

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## Some Notable News

**Bruce Alexander**, who had retired from the board of Milton Hospital after 37 years of distinguished service, answered the bell for an additional term to help the hospital merge with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard teaching hospital in Boston, now successfully completed. Bruce said his charge was to communicate with his community hospital's professional staff members, with whom he had developed a strong rapport during his long tenure, and help them to adjust to the new relationship with a major teaching institution. "It's good for the patients," Bruce averred.

**Stan Bergman** is off to Singapore soon to help celebrate the opening of his estate-planning firm's tenth office. Stan, recalling that he began his practice just 50 years ago with a part-time secretary, said the firm now has 350 lawyers, many of them in Europe, the Caribbean and Asia.