

# Dartmouth 1955

## Read all about it!

September 2013

## *We recall John Dickey*

*Recollections by classmates*

*Of the extraordinary man who led us to manhood*



All Dickey photos: Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth

### A PAIR OF MEMORIES

By Marty Aronson

“We’re with you all the way.”

Convocation. September, 1951.

When I took my seat in a side balcony of Webster Hall, I looked around at my new class and remember the overwhelming feeling that arose

within me. *This is it...college ...no more high school...the real deal...and look at them... these guys look so smart...and so, so...Dartmouth...can I cut*  
(next page . . . lots more)



**Homecoming &  
Mini-Reunion  
Hanover, Oct. 11-12**

*Fun in fall colors!  
Reservation form  
inside!*

(only two years ‘til our 60th)

**June 1955: presenting an honorary doctorate to Theodore Seuss Geisel, as Robert Frost, our commencement speaker, awaits his.**



## Marty Aronson . . .

*it here? ...do I belong?*

And then I glanced at the stage. Wondering which imposing figure was the college president, I spotted him. He looked regal, handsome, receding hairline, with a closed-mouth smile. *Looks like a president...yup, he definitely resembles Ike.*

I have zero memory as to who spoke before President Dickey, but someone ultimately made the introduction. At first I thought a college president might have a bearing much like a high school principal. Now I'm not downgrading the fellow who had been principal at Newton High School, but his persona wasn't close to that of President Dickey.

I remember so little of the content of his talk. I was much too nervous to really concentrate, and I kept looking around trying to figure out just who and what this new group in my life was all about. I do remember a growing sense of intimidation as I heard his impressive voice and became aware of an authoritative, yet pleasant, style. Having convinced myself that I sailed through high school for reasons other than my academic acumen and certain that it was a matter of pure luck that I had been admitted to Dartmouth, a sinking feeling hit my gut as I allowed self-doubt to creep in. Clearly, I heard his words "your business here is learning," but then came the magical phrase at the end of his talk. Words that elevated my spirits and gave a boost to my confidence; words and a convincing feeling behind them that resonate with me to this day: "...and remember, Class of '55, we're with you all the way."

I was buoyant when I left that hall. A

nervous 17-year-old entered Webster but a more confident college freshman emerged from that wonderful space. *He/they are with me all the way? Then there's no question. I can do this.*

For the next three years, President Dickey was a remote figure. I'm sure we exchanged a brief pleasantry on the rare occasions when I came upon him while walking his dog or taking the time to watch some intramural touch football. I seldom thought of the man or the responsibilities he shouldered as the president of our wonderful college, but reflected upon those early words of encouragement most everyday. And then came an exchange during my senior year.

### **Spring 1955.**

It was slightly after 1 a.m. A crisp cool air permeated the campus. I had just concluded my shift at WDBS hosting In The Still of The Night (I always thought that was such a cool name for a midnight music show), and was on my way back to the fraternity house where I lived. As I often did when I left the radio station at night, I took a few moments to stare at and ponder (*next page*)



# John Sloan Dickey

Born November 4, 1907, Lock Haven, Pa.  
 Dartmouth College, A.B., 1929  
 Harvard Law School, LL.B., 1932  
 Boston law practice, 1932-33, 1936-40  
 Mass. Department of Corrections, 1933-34  
 State Department, 1934-36, 1940-45  
 President of Dartmouth, 1945-1970  
 Member, President Truman's Committee on  
 Civil Rights, 1947; U.N. Collective Mea-  
 sures Committee, 1951  
 Consultant on disarmament to Secretary of  
 State Dean Acheson  
 Initiated two Dartmouth capital campaigns,  
 Great Issues, Tucker Foundation, Russian  
 Civilization, Northern Studies, Hopkins  
 Center, Kiewit Computation Center  
 Died February 9, 1991 (age 83)

**Boston Herald cartoon on the occasion of a  
 Dartmouth alumni dinner in 1949, featuring  
 President Dickey and distinguished Dartmouth  
 Bostonians.**



## Marty Aronson . . .

the exquisite vision of Dartmouth Row and Baker Library, acutely aware that in just a matter of weeks this magical scene would no longer be one I could touch every day; that I would have to accept it only as a place stored in my memory.

“Hello.” It was President Dickey. Taken by surprise, I managed a respectful reply. He commented about the beauty of New England, of our campus, and made reference to Robert Frost (I had no idea that the extraordinary poet would be our commencement speaker). And then he asked about me. When I told him of my love for radio and the fact that I was just leaving the station, I was astonished at how much he knew about our programming. He referenced a couple of our

shows and complimented me for my contribution to the spirit of Dartmouth. He also asked about some of my favorite courses. I had no problem responding enthusiastically about “Great Issues” (one of his many innovations). The brief, but meaningful (to me) exchange came to a close with my saying something about how much I would miss the school, its beauty. I so wish I could quote him, but his response was to the effect that “after graduation you will remain throughout your life a part of the Dartmouth family.” Once again he evoked a special feeling similar to that which I felt at the close of Convocation almost four years earlier...that feeling that the college really was with us; that this fabulous institution will always be a part of me, of each of us.

## By Joe Herring

“And now, Men of Dartmouth, there are three things I’ve said on this occasion before. First, you are the stuff of an institution. What you are, it will be. Second, you are members of a community and are expected to act as such. Third, your business here is learning, and that is up to you. We’ll be with you all the way--and good luck! “

Given the fractious qualities of our contemporary Dartmouth community, President Dickey’s Olympian pronouncement fits very well. In the context of a conversation I had with the great professor Tom Vance about the rhetorical qualities in General Douglas MacArthur, Vance said with some animation: “Slightly doctored gas.” Then I asked: “And what do you think of President Dickey’s rhetoric?” The response was stony silence.

I recall a particular interaction with Mr. Dickey at Rhein Main airport in 1956 while I was stationed in Germany. I had heard from Rod Rockefeller ’54 that the president was scheduled to speak at a Dartmouth gathering in Frankfurt. Rod said he was going to the airport to pick him up, and asked if I’d like to go with him.

I was very enthusiastic about seeing Mr. Dickey again. We had chatted informally over the years, usually while he was roaming the campus with his dog. So of course I was glad to tell Rod “Yes.” As the president approached, with his usual broad grin, I extended my hand in greeting. I almost tripped as President Dickey’s hand reached a little beyond mine to grasp the hand of Rod Rockefeller.

As I ruminate on our days at Dartmouth, and I do that a lot, no one more fully incarnates the spirit of our surpassingly wonderful college than John Sloan Dickey.



**Mr. Dickey playing Joseph (the tall figure in the middle, behind the creche) in a Christmas pageant in Rollins Chapel.**



**With Alumni Council leaders William J. Holliday, Jr., and John B. Faegre, January 1955.**

## By John Ballard

Actually, I didn't see much of President Dickey during my five years in Hanover. My nose was usually stuck in a book, or in a beer mug, or maybe in the pool. But there were some moments.

The first was an event we all remember, matriculation, in person, one-on-one with JSD.

President Dickey was astoundingly well prepared. He knew my interests, what professors I was likely to have and the nature of the choices I would have to be making. Whenever I met him after graduation, his recall and focus always surprised me. He was always "my President".

You will remember that President Dickey was not entirely pleased with the Dartmouth student body. He coined the phrase "The Dartmouth Mutt", a crafted pejorative he used to describe students who seemed to be fixated on some of the less productive aspects of student life. Such a critter, in different form, seems still to be with us.

In addition to writing and speaking about this issue, President Dickey addressed the species in its lair, as exemplified by a mid-week, early evening visit to my Fraternity, Theta Delta Chi. The brothers had the place shining and were all well

scrubbed. At JSD's request, Tanzi tapped a keg just after President Dickey arrived, and JSD enjoyed the first glass with relish.

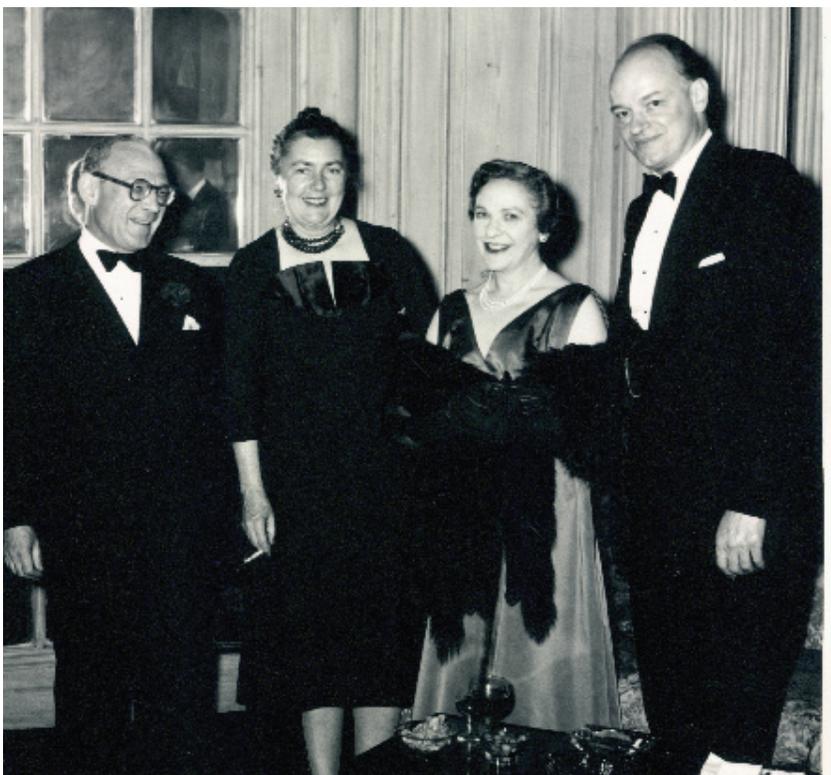
He spoke about the kinds of choices we should expect to meet in life. One comment really stuck with me: "The choice which you will make that will have the largest effect on your happiness is the choice of your spouse."

I recommend plagiarizing this remark. I have done so and have unabashedly used it in addressing young people. The audience invariably thinks that you are smarter than you are. It is a point worth pondering at all ages.

It was widely believed that President Dickey had aspirations to serve as the Secretary of State. There is more than a notion here. As a result, his frame of reference for the definition of a Dartmouth Man included a fluency in world affairs, hence the Great Issues course, with its quite remarkable and memorable speakers.

Were he to profile the desired dimensions of today's graduates, there would be a component of emerging technology in the program. Essential, very tricky, but he would have done it well.

Worth considering for today's grads?



**Mrs. Dickey (second from left) and the President in London, 1956, for an alumni dinner, here with Mr. and Mrs. S. Dickson Moyes.**

## By Harry Ambrose

During late spring of 1951 the Chicago Tribune (to which we subscribed at home) carried out an anti-Dartmouth campaign due to the flying of the United Nations flag. My mother's cousin was an extreme conservative and bombarded her with suggestions that I should not attend. Actually, I had not heard of the school until I passed the mental exam for NROTC. They sent out a catalog giving thumbnail sketches of each of their colleges and universities. My Dad advised me to select a high tuition school since the scholarship paid full tuition. I picked Dartmouth because of its rural setting.

The pressure of the cousin caused me to reexamine my choice. After some reflection I felt that Dartmouth was right and my cousin wrong. I did not know then that President Dickey had been a founder of the United Nations as a member of the U. S. State Department during its formative period.

My first exposure to him was on the Freshman Trip at the Mt Moosilauke Lodge. He came for supper, dressed in a lumberjack shirt. He sat in front of the fireplace after dinner and engaged us in conversation. I really liked him.

Next was a very memorable occasion which I suspect all '55s will remember, our matriculation ceremony. He told us then that we were now Dartmouth MEN. That meant we had to get ourselves up in the morning and take full responsibility for all our actions. No longer could we fall back on our parent's support when we were in trouble. It made such a big impression on me that I never can recall cutting any class.

His system of governance also caused me to be a great admirer. I felt the Undergraduate Council was a very unique institution among colleges because it had real power. Its Judiciary Committee, all undergrads, had the power to suspend or expel a student. That was very rare for our time. It showed me that Pres. Dickey meant what he said and that he was willing to delegate power.

One of the finest things to happen during our Dartmouth days was the passing of the referendum on fraternity discrimination.

While this was a student led initiative I am sure he blessed and supported it. (We had a fair number of minority students in our class. Among them was Luis Torroella, a Cuban, who was executed by Fidel Castro.)

One of the worst was the march on the home of Dean Neidlinger in spring of 1952. The issue was whether to be able to drink out of doors. Fortunately, the demonstrators were broken up by Al Reich going up onto the Dean's porch and admonishing us to disperse.

The Great Issues course was another of his innovations. It really challenged me. It led me to a lifetime habit of critically reading the daily newspaper. It also inspired me to a strong interest in politics. I felt the speaker selection was very innovative. My most vivid memory is of Dave Dubinsky, head of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

During his tenure the ROTC grew and prospered on the campus. I am sure he gave this a great deal of consideration and, when, decision time came he went all out for it.

His selections for Honorary PhDs was very much to my liking. I am sure all '55s can remember Ike's famous speech at the '53 graduation when he advised the graduates "not to join the book burners". He attracted Massachusetts Representative, then House Minority Leader, Joe Martin, to commission all of us '55s who had successfully completed ROTC. (On that occasion, we Marines were wearing dress whites and I managed to have a nose-bleed all over my blouse.)

He was a big backer of the Daily Dartmouth. Joe Mathewson told me that he had a weekly conference with him, as he did with all editors of the paper during his tenure. The Daily D has always stood out in my mind as a great college newspaper. His support helped make it what it is.

Randy Hayes told me that he often encountered President Dickey on Main St. walking his dog. He always exchanged a few words, finding him very approachable and friendly.

He still ranks number one in my mind among all Dartmouth presidents I have known.

## By John Baldwin

I knew the President only from a distance, but in 1954, when I brought back a 254 pound, ten point buck from my November trip to the Dartmouth Grant with college forester the great Bob Monahan, he made a special effort to walk over to Gamma Delt within an hour of my getting back, where it was draped all over the front of my 1950 black Chevy coupe and tell me, "That's the biggest deer I've ever seen up here. One shot, I hear. Nice going, son."

In the spring of senior year, I was doing a paper on the United Nations for Great Issues, and passing on the street asked him how one "visited" the U.N. building in New York.

Two days later, he hand-delivered an envelope to GDX with my name on it. Inside was his personal letter (a "carbon copy") to then Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold (Sweden), introducing me and my roommate, Charles Stratton '56, with dates for our visit corresponding to spring break.

The day at the U.N., high up over Manhattan, was a unique and obviously essentially impossible accomplishment which I will never forget,

as the institution was brand new and the green marble and rows of padded seats and translating earphones in the General Assembly room was like nothing I had ever seen before.

Finally, he predicted the "change" in morals, values and traditions at Dartmouth. In our 1955 Aegis (page 27) are his words of advice: "And it may be worth recording this much more for a future day: In a more profound sense than you personally can now know, the testing of the liberating quality of your Dartmouth education will come when you, as an alumnus and seasoned citizen, are faced with the ancient temptation to have those who follow behind you here bound in discipleship and educated in your image."

I believe the man saw the future...there is no need for me to point out the changes that he could not have imagined but anticipate, which have transpired on the Hanover Green since 1955.

And how about his use of "seasoned citizen!!". Well....now we are. He even knew that! All best. Fabulous stuff.

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## *Some familiar names and faces*



**Accepting Christmas greetings from senior staff and faculty, December 1959. Presentation by College Secretary Sid Hayward; others are Max Norton, Robert (Red) Rolfe, George Colton, Al Dickerson, Richard Olmsted, Frank Smallwood, James Wilson, Mason Ingraham, Arthur Jensen, Henry Helgen, David Jackson, Francis King, Charlotte Ford Morrison, Robin Robinson, John Scotford, Roy Porter, Gene Hotchkiss, Paul Young, John Masland, Robert Hage and Richard Morin.**

## CLASS NEWS

# Doyle Creates “Fifty-Five Cares”

With the reality of aging and its ravages, after much discussion in class meetings President Jack Doyle established a “Fifty-Five Cares” program to offer discreet comfort and expert advice to classmates and wives who might welcome such compassionate support.

“In the Dartmouth fellowship,” Jack echoes President Dickey’s words, “there is no parting.” Jack adds: “I continue to be impressed with the concern shown by classmates when a fellow ’55 has health issues.

We are fortunate that Harry Ambrose, John Baldwin, Stan Bergman, Joe Herring and Roy Nyren all quickly agreed to establish the Fifty-Five Cares program. Tragically, Lew Weintraub, who wanted to participate even while dealing with his own health issues, passed away on August 18, 2018.”

The members all have relevant expertise: Harry in business, John in medicine and health, Stan in estate planning and other legal issues, and Roy and Joe are clergymen.

Jack asked John Baldwin to chair the group, and John writes: “We won’t contact people un-

less they wish, but we all realize that far too many of our brothers have gone down without visitors, and wives and have been left without wills and living trust documents. . . . All of us know a lot about being sick, as we all have sustained losses in family, time in hospital beds, and the funny looking guy in the mirror.”

Classmates are asked to notify any committee member when they become aware of a threatening illness or ailment that might warrant an offer of support or assistance. All contacts will respect confidentiality and privacy.

**John:** [jnbaldwin@mlode.com](mailto:jnbaldwin@mlode.com)

**Harry:** [ambrose55@cox.net](mailto:ambrose55@cox.net)

**Stan:** [stanley.bergman@withers.us.com](mailto:stanley.bergman@withers.us.com)

**Roy:** [nyren833@gmail.com](mailto:nyren833@gmail.com)

**Joe:** [bonnjoe55@hotmail.com](mailto:bonnjoe55@hotmail.com)

*Joan Weintraub says a celebration of Lew’s life will take place on Sunday, September 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Building, 5000 Great Meadow Way, Newbridge, Dedham, Mass., just off Rte. 128 at exit 17.*

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## French & Fanger Ride Again!

John French and Bob Fanger enjoyed this ride so much at our 25th reunion that they’ve signed on to run our 60th, which will be June 15-18 (Monday-Thursday), 2015. Be there!



# “Our” students make us proud

## Jack Doyle writes:

Recently we had an opportunity to catch up with Minal Caron '09, from Fort Kent, Maine, who was a recipient of our John Sloan Dickey Scholarship. He recently graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and spent the summer preparing for the New York and Massachusetts bar exams. In August he headed to Bangor to clerk for Chief Judge Woodcock of the Federal District Court of Maine for a year. He has already committed to join the well known Boston firm of Ropes and Gray in the fall of 2014.

While impressed with his academic accomplishments, I am even more impressed with him as a person. Obviously bright, he has a strong moral compass. He comes from a family of potato farmers in very northern Maine. He spoke about the financial sacrifice by his parents through the years for him, his brother and sister to assure that all received a strong educa-



tion. His brother graduated from Brown, and his sister attends Bowdoin. His parents have little financially because of their strong commitment to their kids' receiving an excellent education.

I came away from my meeting with Minal Caron feeling that the Class of 1955 is receiving a terrific return on our investment when we can assist individuals of such strong character and ability like Minal to attend Dartmouth College.

**P.S. from Jack:** Our Dickey and Wright Scholarship Funds, plus our Tucker Foundation endowment, had a June 30 market value of \$571,000, thanks to classmates' generosity and strong market performance.

## From Ken Lundstrom:

I received a note from volleyball coach Erin Lindsey thanking us for sponsoring Molly Kornfeind '17. Coach expects her to make an immediate impact on the program. Molly is an outside hitter. She comes from Pacific Palisades, Calif.

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## Summer Fun



Woody Goss climbed Mt. Moosilauke with his son Phil '89, daughter in law Christine '86 and her daughters Elizabeth and Sarah and visited the plaque commemorating the gift from his grandfather (and his brother) of the summit and Tip Top House to Dartmouth in 1920.

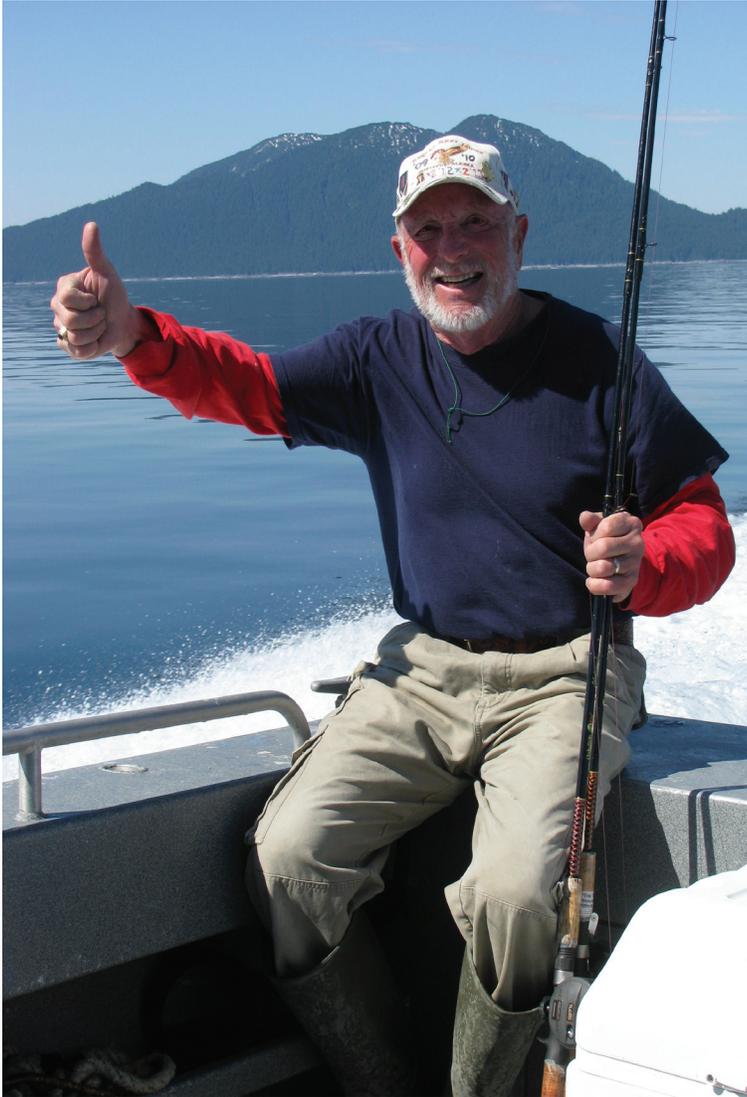


Willie Phillips

Jim Perkins, Joe Mathewson and Sandy Phillips showed the flag in Georgian Bay, Ontario.

# *Our JB Takes Issue with*

## **Ruminations by John Baldwin**



Fabulous week on Glacier Bay off Juneau...unusual rare and sunny 75 degree days on a mirror-like ocean....great catches despite Alaska's new "smaller halibut are better rule" (cannot keep from 45 inches to 72 inches, but can keep under 45 and over 72)...and the 160-190# guys are in the "release slot". Could not hook up any over 72, but reeled in a dozen or more "in the release slot"... exhausting us, and try removing a circle hook from a 180# monster who is mad as hell, feels stupid for being caught and in order to not hurt him or her, we have to "gently get it out" while leaning over the side as bringing them into the boat hurts them....crazy rule, somebody's going to get bitten, fall overboard or seriously smacked.

My suggestion to Fish and Game which I send on paper stationery every year: "One fish per person any size, each day." Simple, easy and preserves the breeding population which is the 38-45 size which the dummies now force us to KEEP.

Government regs made by folks who probably never saw a halibut.

PS: your vote...keep the beard or look ten years younger with it off..... help. JB

# *Gov't Rules, Bureaucrats*

As you look at this picture of 6 day old, totally out of control Rim Fire, our home is directly behind it by about 8 miles, up a mountain, obscured in smoke, which today has darkened the sun and there are no shadows here and an ominous silence broken only by the drone of over-flying spotter planes and an occasional tanker/helicopter heading back to Columbia Airport (8 miles) for re-fueling.

Either lightning or more likely a thoughtless “camper” or smoker started the Rim fire. The sad part is the destruction. See, this is National Forest...property that YOU OWN and will pass to your children and grandchildren.....old growth sugarpine, cedar and ponderosa. BUT NOBODY IS ALLOWED TO LOG OR TIMBER IT. THAT IS TO KEEP IT PRISTINE.

Thirty years ago, I (and many, many others, all interested in “environment”) figured out that safe, conservative, clean-up THINNING of the hugest trees actually opens up forests, protects and promotes wildlife, creates green forest floor plants now that light comes in AND discourages wildfires. Money could flow both to the government for usage and to private sources creating jobs and ultimately building materials for this nation. But that is not allowed.

This current fire will have for 40 years destroyed this forest, for timber harvesting and for all the rest of us, including the animals.



Don't buy the U.S. Forest Service's mantra which is an excuse and coverup for poor funding and faulty theory: “It enriches and strengthens the forest.” Sure....look at Yellowstone 20 years later and other places right near our home. I can show them to you. Black and desolate. Not much alive, and no timber for homes and buildings, just blackened hulks still standing, rotting. Money lost, fires created. So wrong.

*More from John, later:*

This morning, Thursday, is so smoky that we are going to leave for Carmel. Long long way here and not even insinuating danger yet. The giant DC10 carrying 12,500 gallons will help, and bulldozers will try to cut adequate fire breaks in areas where they can even get in...at great distances from the fire line. We're out of here, having watered and over the years cleared the perimeter 50 yards out, and fire hydrant just across street. JB

CLASS OF 1955

**DARTMOUTH COLLEGE**  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6-30-13

	<u>REGULAR ACCOUNT</u>	<u>SCHOLARSHIP FUND</u>	<u>CLASS GIFT FUND</u>
<u>Opening Balance 7-1-12</u>	\$ 11,902.03	\$ 18.39	\$ 27,150.33
<u>Revenues</u>			
Dues	\$ 15,780.000	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,525.00
Contributions	0.00	6,170.00	5,640.00
Mini Reunions (Net)	1,686.59	0.00	0.00
Interest	4.23	7.16	15.98
Transfer	(1,000.00)	0.00	1,000.00
	\$ 16,470.82	\$ 6,177.16	\$ 8,180.98
<u>Expenses</u>			
Newsletters	\$ 5,457.94	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Dickey Scholarship Fund	0.00	5,700.00	0.00
Hood Art Museum	0.00	0.00	2,800.00
Athletic Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	2,800.00
Dartmouth Library: IMO	0.00	0.00	950.00
Tucker Foundation	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Printing & Postage	468.77	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	1,395.24	0.00	0.00
	\$ 7,321.95	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 7,550.00
<u>Ending Balance 6-30-13</u>	\$ 21,050.90	\$ 495.55	\$27,781.31 (1)

(1) Includes \$27,465.00 earmarked for future memorial gifts to the library

Submitted by:  
Ralph L. Sautter  
Treasurer

**BULLETIN.... Late Financial News**

President Jack appointed Brooks Parker, our former class president, to lead a special fund-raising effort to augment our Hood Museum acquisition fund. On our current pace (contributions attached to annual class dues payments), Gifts Chairman Ken Lundstrom estimates, our 2015 gift would be about \$14,000. We'll hope that the class, in Jack's words, "can make a more significant gift to the Hood for our 60th reunion in 2015."

# 1955 Mini-Reunion

## October 11-12, 2013

Make room reservations directly with Fireside Inn & Suites, 25 Airport Rd., West Lebanon, NH 03784, 877 258 5900 or 603 298 5906. Mention Dartmouth '55; our rate is \$109.95/night plus tax (Friday and Saturday). Deadline: October 1.

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

Friday, October 11, Rockefeller Center, lower level

\_\_\_\_\_ 3-4 p.m., John French: Why the U.S. Didn't Capture Berlin

\_\_\_\_\_ 4:15-5 p.m., Joe Mathewson: How the News Has Changed Since 1955

\_\_\_\_\_ 5:30 p.m., cash bar & dinner, 1930 Room, Rockefeller Center, \$54 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ grilled chicken breast \_\_\_\_\_ salmon \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, October 12

Breakfast on your own; no class breakfast due to Hanover Inn changes

\_\_\_\_\_ 9 a.m., Class Advisory Committee meeting, Rockefeller 002, open to all '55s and guests

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 p.m., cash bar & dinner (7 p.m.), Fireside Inn, W. Lebanon, \$51 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ seafood Alfredo \_\_\_\_\_ prime rib \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to Dartmouth 1955 and send it with this form by October 1 to Larry Pilchman, P.O. Box 114, Grantham, NH 03753.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_