



Class of '55 Highlights

April, 2015

Notre Dame Class of '55

Don't Miss Our 60th Reunion - June 4 - 7



Illustration by Steve Reborá

The Class of '55 - the best class in school history – is out to set another record. We want to set the all-time attendance record for 60th Reunions, but we need YOUR help.

There's still time to register at reunion.nd.edu or by mail with the registration form. Complete info is available on our '55 web site – nd55.org

Here's your check list for Reunion:

1. Register at ND and make travel arrangements.
2. If not staying on campus (Duncan Hall), make a motel reservation at Waterford Estates Lodge (574 272-5220). It is right down the highway from the Hilton Garden Inn (Head-quarters motel and the adjacent Inn at St. Mary's which are both sold out). Be sure to identify yourself as a Class of '55 member to get the rate that **Jim Hesburgh** had negotiated. Also, make sure you get a first floor room because there are no elevators.
3. Send your best ND student story for our 60th Reunion Memory book to Dick Connelly, 3726 Woodlake, Bonita Springs, FL 34134.

4. Scour the attic for old '51-'55 photos from the dorms, student trips, etc. for our 60th Reunion AV presentation. Send them to **Carroll Dowden** at Wainscot Media, 110 Summit Ave, Montvale, NJ 07645.

Thanks to Dick and Carroll for taking on those big jobs, and to my amigos – **Bill Kreps** for distributing Reunion e-mails and **Bob McGrath** for maintaining our '55 web site.

Be sure to arrive on Thursday because we're having two outstanding AV presentations that evening after our buffet dinner, and you'll want to start looking up old friends as soon as you arrive.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to re-live our Notre Dame days, so don't miss it.

Wheel chairs and electric carts are available for those who need them. If you have any Reunion questions, call Adam Prister at the Alumni Association – 574 631-9029. If you can't make it in on Thursday, Notre Dame has special one and two-day packages, so check the Reunion web site or your Reunion packet details.



FABULOUS '55ERS--Twenty years ago the Class of '60 made the mistake of challenging us to a basketball game during Reunion. This valiant squad held off the youngsters, 31-27, to show them that wisdom is best. How many can you identify??? For all the answers, come to Reunion and get autographs. Go to page 20 for a sidebar on the game.

February Florida Fling

Chuck Doherty chaired the Florida Fling, which featured many 'do you remember' conversations.

Scribe **Dick Connelly** reports that **Jack Flynn** served as an amiable MC and began the post dinner with the singing of the Victory March, led courageously by **Tony Wallace** and **Jim Barry**.



CHUCK BENNETT



DON 'THE CZAR' SHANLEY



MARCIA AND BOB FISHER



MARILYN AND CHUCK DOHERTY



ART SULLIVAN

"Memorial recordings are not available," Connelly wrote. "**Jim Stevens** did his annual 'how will the football team do this season?' poll. Some felt this past season's record was 8-3 and 2 losses by the coaching staff."

Attendees included **Jim and Laura Barry, Maureen Barnacle, Chuck and Jo Anne Bennett, Susie Burns, Dick and Carolyn Connelly, Jim and Gloria Costello, Chuck and Marilyn Doherty, Owen and Liz Dugan, Jim Ehret, Bob and Marcia Fisher, Jack and Stephanie Flynn, John and Barbara Hamilton, Howard and Sharon Hart, Bucky and Mary Janssen, Jack and Carole McMahan, John and Gerry Murnane, Don and Maryann Pizzatello, Don and Helen Shanley, Ron and Mary Smith, Owen and Jeanette Sodetz, Jim and Barbara Stevens, Art and Nancy Sullivan, Jim and Pat Vachris and Tony and Yvonne Wallace.**

Recognizing our age, the Florida group voted to have a luncheon next year instead of a dinner. It will be co-chaired by Jim Vachris and Dick Connelly.

Attracts 45 to Party in Naples



JIM BARRY AND JACK FLYNN



HOWIE AND SHARON HART



DICK CONNELLY AND SUSIE BURNS



DON PIZZATELLO AND TONY WALLACE



JOHN HAMILTON WITH RON AND MARY SMITH



**GLORIA AND JIM COSTELLO WITH
BUCKY AND MARY JANSSEN**



OWEN AND LIZ DUGAN

Photos by: Jack McMahon

Schaefers Chair 20th

For the 20th straight year, **Hugh and Angela Schaefer** planned an excellent Desert Fling.

After **Fr. Joe O'Donnell** celebrated Mass at the Esmeralda Hotel, the group gathered for dinner in an adjoining room.

Attending this year's Fling were **Owen and Sue Keavney, Dick and Kathy Mueller, Bill and Barb Clusserath, Ellie Fox, Paul and Sandra Fullmer, Jim and Edna Mae Rickling, Mike and Jean Jackson, Charles and Nancy Pollnow, Dan and Pat Moore, Bob and Joan McGrath, Joe and Carol McGraw, Denny and Jackie Conway, Leon Ring, Dick and Maryjeanne Burke, Dick and Sue Beeman and Carl and Maureen Peters.**



NANCY AND CHARLES POLLNOW



MARYJEANNE AND DICK BURKE



ANGELA AND HUGH SCHAEFER



MAUREEN AND CARL PETERS



CAROL AND JOE MCGRAW



JOAN AND BOB MCGRATH



WELCOME TO 20TH FLING

Desert Fling Event



SUE AND DICK BEEMAN



EDNA MAE AND JIM RICKLING



SUE AND OWEN KEAVNEY WITH ELLIE FOX



PAT AND DAN MOORE



BARB AND BILL CLUSSERATH



KATHY AND DICK MUELLER

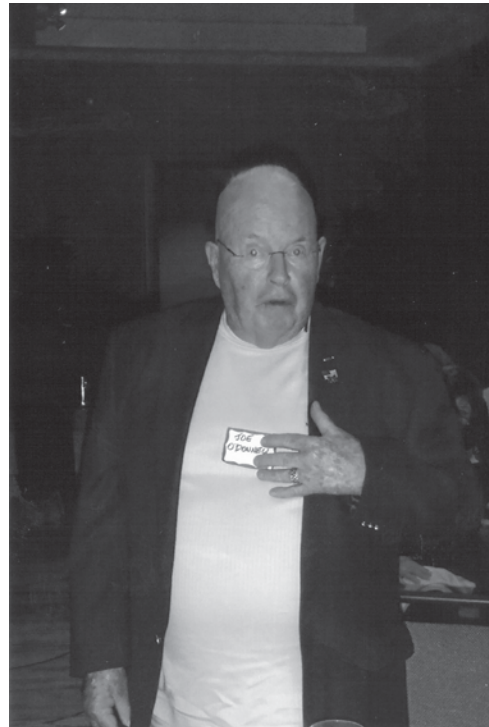


SANDRA AND PAUL FULLMER

**Desert
Photos
by:
Sandra
Fullmer**



JEAN AND MIKE JACKMAN



FATHER JOE O'DONNELL

60th Reunion Memory Book

Don't forget to write and send your best ND student stories to Dick Connelly for our 60th reunion Memory book. His address is 3726 Woodlake, Bonita Springs, FL 34134.

SHOOT YOUR AGE CLUB

It seems that more and more '55 golfers are achieving their dream of shooting their age. Here is our latest list.

Frank Cunningham	Wally Clarke
Emmet Root	Jack Fitzenz
Owen Sodetz	Sandra Fullmer
Rick Hicks	

Fr. Joe O'Donnell Touched By Fr. Ted's Death

Our class chaplain **Fr. Joe O'Donnell** had a close relationship with Fr. Ted, who preached at O'Donnell's first Mass. Since Fr. Joe was a Navy chaplain, he also loved to discuss Navy life with Fr. Ted, who always wanted to be a chaplain on an aircraft carrier.

Fr. Ted sent O'Donnell a note of encouragement shortly before his death, probably one of the last letters he wrote.



Jim Hesburgh's Eulogy For Father Ted

St. Thomas once wrote that the measure of a successful Christian life is to know truly what to have faith in, what to hope for and what to love. Look at each of these attributes and you have the measure and meaning of Father Ted's life. Today we celebrate his life – all that we have for so long taken for granted suddenly comes into focus. Today we think of the totality of Ted's time here on earth.

Where do you begin with Father Ted? The seeds of his vocation germinated during his high school years in the early 30s at Most Holy Rosary School in Syracuse, NY. A young Holy Cross priest by the name of Fr. Tom Duffy came to Syracuse to speak about the Holy Cross Order and a school in northern Indiana called the University of Notre Dame. Ted listened intently and said that he knew right away that this would be his calling.

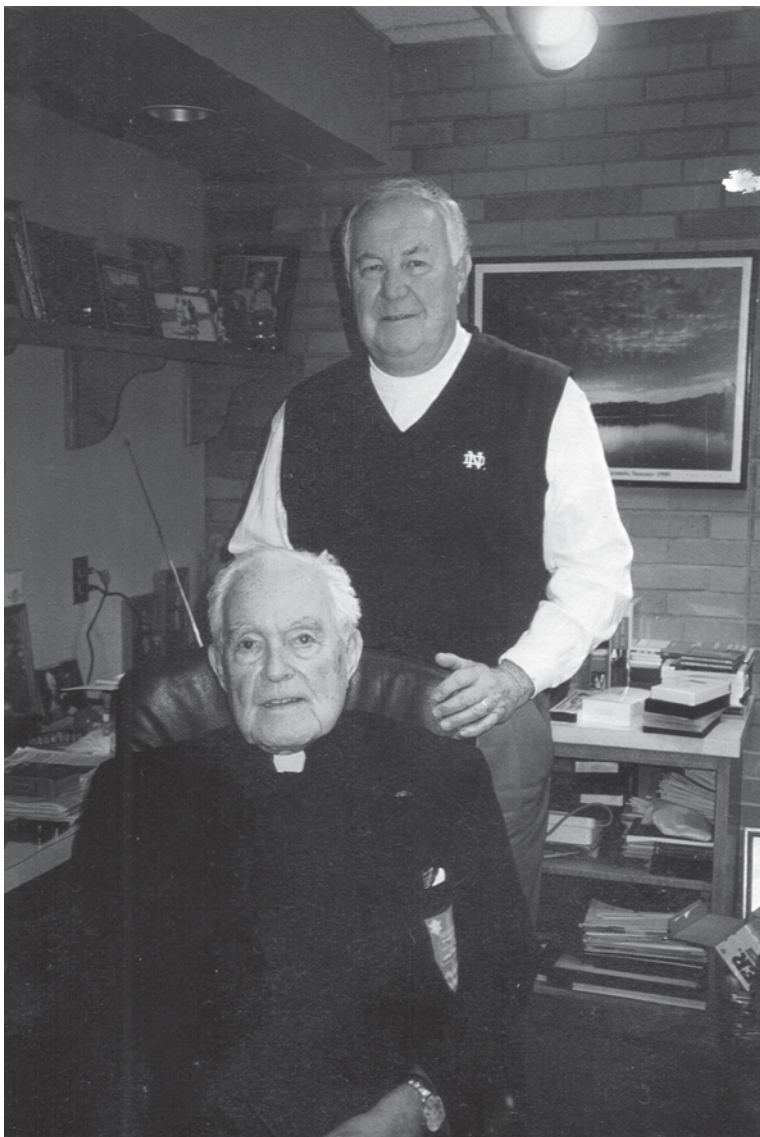
He arrived at Notre Dame in 1934, entered the seminary and studied for the priesthood here, in Rome and in Washington, DC. He was ordained in this Basilica in 1943. His greatest desire at that time was to become a Navy Chaplain and serve on an aircraft carrier. His vow of obedience overrode his desire and he was directed to commence his studies for a doctorate in theology.

He returned to Notre Dame in 1946, taught in the Theology Department, was appointed Executive Vice President in 1949 and was named President of the University in 1952. He held that responsibility for 35 years.

I was in my freshman year at Notre Dame at the time of his appointment.

Notre Dame grew in stature and excellence under the leadership of Father Ted and his Executive Vice President, Fr. Ned Joyce. Ted always stated that this was a team effort – and together they succeeded in making this an outstanding educational institution.

Ted was a people person, whether that person was someone he met on his travels, a student, a president or a Pope. He had two major focuses throughout his life – his priesthood and his devotion to Notre Dame. Notre Dame prospered under his leadership and he has left a legacy that we see around us on this beautiful campus and in the wonderful Notre Dame family throughout the world.



Father Ted and Jim

This truly is a very special place. In his words, "Mediocrity is not how we honor the Blessed Mother."

His outreach permeated throughout the world. In addition to his focus on building Notre Dame to be one of the most respected Catholic universities in the world, he became very involved in national and international issues concerning world peace, civil rights, Atoms for Peace, world hunger, and, of course, education. His moral compass always pointed due north.

His list of awards and honorary degrees are known to all and too numerous to detail here. He only wanted to serve, and serve he did, with all the energy and all his considerable talent, in every way he knew how. He was a man for growth rather than decline, a doer in the middle of the action rather than a sideline critic.

Ted took his God-given gifts of intelligence, good health, leadership abilities and his pursuit of excellence and brought major change to Notre Dame, his country and the world. He was truly a man of all seasons, but again, first and foremost, he was a Catholic priest, and he was very proud of that. He felt that his vocation was his greatest gift.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said it well, and in so many ways reflects Ted's life;

***"To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of young people;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty around you, and find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;
This is to have succeeded."***

Ted did change many people's lives for the better - always positive and ready to make things better. To Ted, problems were challenges and his forte was in finding solutions. His friends were endless, of every religion, every nation, of every class and of every profession.

The sermon of Ted's life is amazing.

In summary, his life speaks for itself to all of you. His faith, hope, dedication and achievements speak for themselves.

Good brothers and good friends are God's special dividends in life. Ted was a wonderful brother, a good friend, counselor and mentor. Our parents and family are most proud of his achievements.

Well done, oh good and faithful servant. May the angels come and take him to paradise. May his soul rest in peace.

Jim Hesburgh



Nine Students On Scholarship

Thanks to your generosity and astute investing by Notre Dame, the Class of '55/Paul Fullmer Scholarship is helping to support nine students at ND this year.

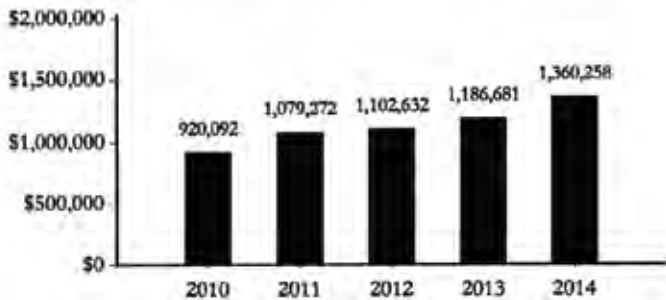
Four are grandchildren of '55ers - Senior Sean Gervais, grandson of **Bob Gervais**; senior Max Roesler V, grandson of **Max Roesler III**; sophomore Emily McConville, granddaughter of **Bill Dougherty**; and freshman Sarah Ritten, granddaughter of **Peter Ritten**.

FINANCIAL HISTORY:

Total gifts to endowed fund	\$673,130
Fiscal Year 2014 distribution	\$58,160
Cumulative fund distribution	\$414,407
<i>(The University is able to provide cumulative distribution information dating back to 2005.)</i>	

5-YEAR HISTORY OF MARKET VALUE BY FISCAL YEAR:

(Total market value includes additions and appreciation.)



Scholarship Fund Continues To Grow

Established in 1995 by **Jack Flynn** and **John Hamilton** at our 40th Reunion, the Class of '55/Paul Fullmer Scholarship Fund provides assistance to deserving undergrad students who have demonstrated financial need, with preference given to students who have relatives who have graduated with the Class.

If funds are still available after grandchildren are processed, preference is then given to students pursuing journalism, the major of Class Secretary **Paul Fullmer**, in whose name the fund was established for his many years of service to the Class of '55.

In its report of June 30th 2014, Notre Dame stated that the Class of '55/Paul Fullmer Scholarship Fund had \$1,360,258.

In the 2013-2014 fiscal year 11 students received a total of \$58,160.

Since 2005, the Class of '55 Scholarship Fund has distributed \$414,407 to 33 deserving students.

With your support, the fund will continue to prosper and do its job.

It is very humbling to see my name on this fund and I can't thank all of you enough for your ongoing support, especially Jack and John.

One of our scholars recently wrote to thank the Class of '55 for providing her scholarship funds. Emily McConville, (**Bill Dougherty's** granddaughter), has declared a history major and a journalism minor. Since she plans to go into journalism, she had written and taken photos for the Observer and recently moved up to Copy Editor and Associate News Editor.

This semester Emily also has an internship at the South Bend Tribune and will work for the Tampa Bay Times over the summer.

"I have had absolutely incredible opportunities, many of which would not be possible without the Fullmer Scholarship," McConville said.

Kearns Gives Himself Perfect Senior Gift

Doesn't everyone have an elevator to his second floor bedroom? Well, **Pat Kearns** does!

Just before Christmas, he and Joann installed the elevator to avoid climbing the steps upstairs.

Pat and Joann had a wonderful Christmas up in the Bay area with their oldest daughter, husband and their children. It was the first time in 57 years that they haven't been home on Christmas and it worked out just fine. Previously, they enjoyed a family reunion with 60 in attendance in June. After that they travelled to see family in Nebraska, North Carolina and Vermont, where the colors were spectacular.



EASY LIVIN' - Joann and Pat Kearns now can take this express elevator up to their master bedroom.

Fr. Jim Blantz Headed To California

Since he can no longer tolerate Phoenix' summer heat, **Fr. Jim Blantz** (a.k.a. Fr. Magic) will be at Good Shepherd parish in Beverly Hills (tough duty!) this summer. In addition, he'll be making several appearances at Hollywood's Magic Castle.

Therefore, he won't be performing at our Reunion and we'll certainly miss him.

Recently he has found a new audience for his magic - nursing homes - and he gets a great kick out of entertaining the seniors.

Hamiltons Continue To Travel Far And Wide

John Hamilton sent a letter with the stories of his daughter and two children of our deceased classmate **Charlie Brown**, that covered nearly a thirty-year period. When Hamilton's daughter, Elizabeth was at Notre Dame in 1985, one of her first friends was Grace Brown.

After graduation Elizabeth became a teacher in New York and she met Grace's older brother, Charles ('81), who had been ordained and had been assigned to a New York parish before he was sent to Rome for further studies.

Elizabeth returned home to Virginia Beach in 1992 and was the project coordinator for the next Notre Dame Alumni Directory. While in publishing, she met her future husband, Tom Finegan.

They were married in Ireland and have lived there ever since. Among the wedding guests was Grace Brown Smyth.

"About three years ago," Hamilton wrote, "Pope Benedict promoted Fr. Charles Brown to Archbishop Brown and named him Papal Nuncio to Ireland. Since arriving in Ireland the Archbishop has been highly visible and has made great progress in improving the relationship between Ireland and the Vatican.

"Our Elizabeth met him when he said Mass near her home and they have kept in touch. She invited him for Thanksgiving dinner at her home this past year and he accepted."

Barb and John had a three week trip to Ireland and France in September and October.

The Hamiltons got together with long-time '55 buddies - Marilyn and **Chuck Doherty**, Stephanie and **Jack Flynn** and Ginny and **Max Roesler** in Massachusetts in July.



IRISH HOSPITALITY - John Hamilton's daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband Tom Finegan entertained Archbishop Charles Brown, son of our Charlie Brown, for Thanksgiving at their home in Ireland (even though the Irish don't celebrate the holiday).



Illustration by Steve Rebora

'51 - '55 Photos Needed

Check the attic, closet and your desk for old '51 - '55 photos showing classmates in the dorms, on student trips, etc. they are needed for the 60th Reunion AV presentation that Carroll Dowden is producing. Copy your photos and send them to Carroll Dowden at Wainscot Media, 110 summit Ave., Montvale, NJ 07645



'Love Thee Notre Dame' By Tom Hawkins ('59) Inspiring Prelude for 60th Reunion

Tom Hawkins wrote this poem to mark the occasion of his induction into the Ring of Honor at Notre Dame on January 17, 2015. The basketball legend was moved greatly by the recognition and ceremony.

Love Thee Notre Dame by Tommy Hawkins

*Brilliant shades of blue and gold
color my retrospection,
surrounding me with memories
that shaped my life's direction.
Professors, priests, classmates,
coaches, teammates and town folks too,
kaleidoscopic snapshots of the things I used to do.*

*Reviewing precious by-gone days
as far as I can see.
Part of this menagerie
that I've come to know as me.*

*I take pride in record rebounds grabbed
and twenty three points per game,
but the essence that is Notre Dame
transcends all personal fame.*

*The glistening of the Golden Dome,
the degrees of which we're proud,
indelible tradition
that distinguishes us in a crowd.*

*The majesty that is Sacred Heart,
tranquil power of the Grotto,
the marching chant,
We are ND!
which is our lasting motto.*

*The vision of Fr. Sorin,
ringing echoes of the past,
historic contributions
on foundations built to last.*

*Glories Mantle cloaks us
Golden is our fame
And our hearts forever
Praise Thee Notre Dame
And our hearts forever
Love Thee Notre Dame.*



SMILES IN HAITI - Leo Callaghan's busy group did take time for pictures while working in Haiti. Here Leo is shown with Fr. Wattson Louis and Moira Fox, daughter of Ellie and Ed Fox.

Callaghan Continues Work In Haiti

Although travel plans didn't go as expected, **Leo Callaghan** again led a group of 14 to work at a poor parish in Haiti.

Joining Leo's group was Moira Fox, daughter of Ellie and **Ed Fox**.

Callaghan's group brought 14 duffle bags full of school supplies, arts and crafts, medications, games, beads and play materials. They found that Port Au Prince has rebuilt since the 2010 earthquake, but when they took a 'new road' to Desarmes, where the parish is located, they found that in Haiti there is NO blacktop on a new road – only large stones and many boulders.

"Our two trucks were hard put to negotiate the road and Dramamine was the drug of choice for the weak of tummy," Leo wrote.

The compound now includes church, rectory, school and kindergarten buildings.

Callaghan added, "I see success, progress and HOPE! We are a dot on the map, just a fly speck in the scheme of things. However, with the support of our great Class, we have a generator giving us electricity for the campus. With that blessing, we have computer classes for not only the young adults, but for the seventh and eighth grades. Slowly, the children are being emancipated by allowing his and her entrance into the 21st century."

Callaghan's valiant band of merry men and women ranged from 28 to 81 years old.

Leo's next project is to install solar panels to provide the church's own electricity.

If you'd like to help Leo in his Haitian ministry, you can send checks made out to St. Clare Church. "Project Haiti" should be written on the Memo line of the checks. They can be sent to Leo Callaghan, 16491 Greenspring Ave., Lewes, DE 19958

Queenan Honored By Medical Societies

The Society For Maternal – Fetal Medicine and the Pregnancy Foundation have announced the inauguration of the Queenan Fellowships For Global Health, established in honor of **Dr. John Queenan's** career in academic medicine and clinical research, pioneering work in diagnosis and treatment of the fetus, ultrasonography and international public health.

The goal of the Fellowship is to train future leaders in Perinatal medicine and to provide critical assistance through research and education.

The Fellowships will enable mentored research at the World Health Organization and in resource-poor countries for physicians interested in global health.

It's not all work and no play for John. He and Carrie took a delightful and educational Notre Dame cruise starting in Venice, down the Dalmation coast, ending in Rome.



HAPPY TRAVELERS - Carrie and John Queenan enjoy a festive meal in Rome.

Chicagoans Gather For Christmas Lunch At Club Lucky

Needing all the good fortune we can generate at this point in our lives, chairman **Jerry Prassas** continues to schedule Chicago meetings at Club Lucky. **Jack Pinter** reported that his South Bend grandson had an outstanding year on the gridiron and is in line for a scholarship. **Gerry Hillsman's** grandson played on a state title team. Gerry welcomed great grandchild #8.

Mike Kelly reported that his son, Kevin, again starred in the radio production of "It's a Wonderful Life" in Chicago, flying in on weekends from California.

John Hester brought greetings from **Joe Haggerty's** widow, Janet. John also was one of those very saddened by the death of **John Sennett**.

Paul Dwyer's grandson is completing his doctorate. Paul recently had back surgery and is doing well. He also reports that **Wally Bassi** has throat cancer. **Jack Flynn, Dick Burke, Mike Kelly** and **Joe Kearney** attended a welcoming dinner for Chicago's new Archbishop Blaise Cupich. Flynn also is spending a lot of time at graduations and birthday parties and Burke hosted a family skiing reunion over the holidays in Colorado.

George Riordan was doing well after cataract surgery. **Steve Rebora**, who has developed a series of cartoons for our 60th Reunion that you see in this Newsletter, stated that his family was healthy and busy.

Ron Davis was beaming since he just welcomed his first grandchild. **Tim Devereux** said that his son is in Hong Kong and they have been burning up their Skype devices. He added that he found \$768 dollars on a bench, and was delighted to find the owner. Now he hopes lightning strikes twice and finds a million!

Phil Sheridan, who has been busy with his grandkids, was complaining about the myriad of doctor appointments on his calendar.

Joe Kearney was still raving about his October cruise from New York to Montreal that Flynn organized. Prassas said that **Dave Metz, Jerry Groark** and **Dick Cook** couldn't make the lunch but sent Christmas greetings to all.



WINDY CITY GANG - Shown at their Christmas luncheon at Club Lucky in Chicago is the Windy City Gang. In the back row (l. to r.) are Steve Rebora, Tim Devereux, Jerry Prassas, Joe Kearney, Ron Davis, Paul Fullmer and Phil Sheridan. Seated (l. to r.) are Jack Pinter, Mike Kelly, Gerry Hillsman, John Hester, Paul Dwyer, Jack Flynn and George Riordan.

Tony Micale, Our Youngest!

After more than a year of celebrating 80th birthdays, web master **Bob McGrath** finally saluted **Tony Micale** as the youngest member of the Notre Dame Class of 1955. Micale lives in Holmdel, NJ and his e-mail is:
mdampm@aol.com

'Fainting Irish' Story Upheld

Jackie Lee's widow, Kay, says he often told the story of **Frank Varrichione's** fake injury in the Iowa game. Lee and Varrichione were roommates, so the story must have been accurate. Have yet to hear from Varrichione with his first hand version of the story.

Frank Lundy went on the computer and entered the phrase, 'Fainting Irish', and the lengthy story will be distributed at Reunion.

Joe Meyer Sends Postcards From Turkey

Joe Meyer, who has been on an extended vacation in Turkey for almost a year, has been communicating with friends with very interesting 'postcards from Turkey'. The illustrated reports are so interesting that one was picked for publication by the San Diego Theatre Review.

Joe's 'postcards' were very much appreciated by the expats in the country, especially when he reported on interesting trips to Ephesus and other historic places.

Joe and Sharon plan to do it again and are aiming for Chile or Morocco.

Sharpshooter Shanley Continues To Excel

Back in 2011 when **Don 'Czar' Shanley** first went to the trap range, his average was 83.08%. It has steadily gone up and in 2014 it was 92%. The Czar wrote, "You can't imagine how I feel after having proved that it is still possible to improve every year in an athletic skill, even though the calendar says it is time to give it up."

The rugged Shanley is still able to hunt the palmetto fields in Florida for three and a half hours without complaining. It's amazing what a stent can do for your endurance!

Callahan Observes World From Canadian Outpost

One of the funniest guys in the class, **Dick Callahan**, continues to amuse with his riotous e-mails about this 'n that. He and Elaine however, were quite saddened by the violence on Parliament Hill in Ottawa that took the life of a reservist from a nearby town.

Callahan added, "For that poor excuse of an Irishman who made THE fateful call against our lads in the Florida State game (as well as the previous questionable call against us last year), he should be black listed (or should I term it Orange listed?) from officiating any future Notre Dame games."

Scheele Still Marches With ND Alumni Band

Four members of **Dave Scheele's** family, including wife Jeanne, were there to hear him play his glockenspiel at the ND Alumni Band Reunion performance for the Stanford game. The band played before the game, at half time and after the game in the rain before marching to the band building, while jogging the last 40 yards.

Dave was the third oldest alumni member there. He also played for the Band Mass after the game. He says he weighs about the same as when we graduated, but that his glockenspiel has definitely put on weight!

A long-time senior baseball player, Dave's career could be over after suffering a severe injury. However, he continues to run his training school for senior baseball players.

Scheele plays the glockenspiel at a nursing home on Mondays with a 16-member musical group he coordinates, on most Thursdays with a small band that performs at various retirement communities, and then on Sunday evenings with a choir and instrumental group for Mass at the parish where he serves on the parish council.



Metz Comes Up With Photos, Memories

One of the first to respond to **Carroll Dowden's** request for photos was **Dave Metz**, who was in the Journalism school with Carroll and me. Dave wrote these poignant thoughts about our three illustrious teachers:

Tom Stritch, Dean, School of Journalism

A persuasive man of elegance, sophistication, the wisdom and the wit to hold his own and then some among the dedicated Dons so academically influential on campus and in our classrooms.

He was a relative of Chicago's Cardinal Stritch and actress Elaine. He is remembered as a builder of character, as well as confidence, and by many as a life-long career consultant.

James Withey, Professor of Creative Writing

Called by Fr. Cavanaugh "the best writing teacher in America." Amen, we 'J-School' gents in tone - brilliant... eccentric... stimulating... wild...bitingly critical...and amazingly effective. We did not know how he did it, but we knew we were able to express ourselves in full color rather than sepia tones after a semester with Jim Withey.

Edward Fisher, Professor of Journalism

A man of gentle disposition who tended to focus on journalistic rules of the road. Also a recognized authority on documentary films and their creators. He was a technician for whom structure and format were as meaningful as moment and movement. In his own way, he was no less effective than his more colorful colleagues.



HAPPY HOUR - Who said this ROTC stuff would be all work and no play? These guys at Donaldson Air Force Base in South Carolina seem to be having a pretty darn good time in 1954. Can you identify the "55ers? That's Jim 'Jake' Luotto (second from left) and Dave Metz (second from right). At summer camp with them that year were Jim Porcari and Jim Hennon.



FARLEY FROSH - Ready to tackle the world are Roger Allen, Jim Grennell, Bill Reale and Jim Kieran.



A 'RAZOR STROP?' - Larry Buckley seems to be asking, "Why would I want one of those?"



GYM RAT - Steve Rebor always had his gym bag handy back in 1951 in Farley.



J-SCHOOL JENTS - Yup!, that's almost the entire journalism class. We are pictured on the set of a LOBUND documentary film that we wrote and produced as our senior class project. Notre Dame's Laboratory of Bacteriology pioneered germ-free technology that has for many years played a significant role in the treatment of leukemia Hodgkins disease, as well as the prevention of colon and prostate cancer. Kneeling are Dean Thomas Stritch, Dick Manion and Charlie Klee. In the second row (l to r) are Joe Madigan, Professor Edward Fisher, Tom Bosse and Mike Ward. In the back row (l. to r.) are Tim Devereux, Tom O'Hara, Dave Kilkeary, Tom Quinn, Dave Cohen, Dick Connolley, Pat Sheehan, Dave Metz, Tom Welly, Jim Sieger, Carroll Dowden, Paul Fullmer and a LOBUND representative. Larry Brehl and Pat Wagner must've cut the class because they are not pictured.



OUTRAGEOUS STAR - Charlie Klee adopted various disguises to escape his adoring fans during filming.



CALIFORNIA LUNCHEON - Ellie Fox hosted a luncheon for a group of Domers, including '55ers Dick and Maryjeanne Burke and Mike and Jean Jackman.

Jackmans Gather Family At Wet Stanford Game

Despite the horrible weather conditions, **Jean and Mike Jackman** still enjoyed a gathering of 21 family members at the Stanford game.

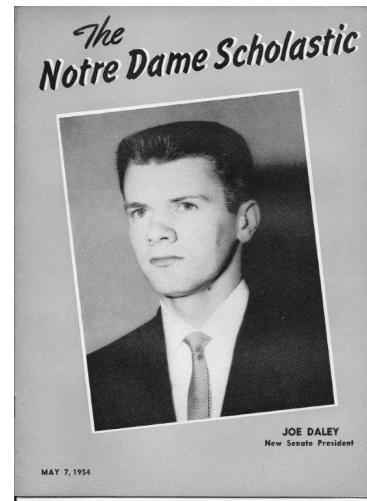
Mike continues to play tennis and was a nervous sideline consultant as son Matt's basketball team won it's division in the California state tournament. A very exciting time for the Jackman family.

The family photo from **Elaine and Emmet Cassidy** was a real winner.

Also enjoyed greetings from **Stephanie and Jack Flynn, Kathy and Leon Ring, Barb and John Hamilton, Cy Lindemann and Marge and Con McCarty.**

Joanne and John Connaughton, Mollie and Jim Sieger, Jacquie and John Hobbs, Ginny and Max Roesler, Angela and Hugh Schaefer, Kathleen and Sean Bendel (John's son), Kathy and Dick Mueller, Joyce and Steve Rebora, Helen and John Herber, Lois and Don Gels, Eileen and Larry Buckley and Betty and Jack Battle.

Ann and Tim Devereux, Mary Anne and Leo Callaghan, Joann and Pat Kearns, Mary and Jim Heshburgh, Sandy and Dave Metz, Helen and Don Shanley and Alma and Frank Tonini.



Tonini Again Spends Christmas In Australia

Once again, Alma and **Frank Tonini** flew from their home in Italy to down under Melbourne to spend the holidays with their son. While there, they flew over to Fiji to go on a Blue Lagoon cruise that proved to be wonderful; "clear blue skies, sunshine every day, uninhabited islands where we swam in crystalline clear and turquoise-colored, tepid waters. Total relaxation." Frank wrote.

The Toninis stopped in Hong Kong for three days on their way over and in Singapore on the return trip.



WILLWOODS PRAYER BREAKFAST - Donnie and Frank Schmidt attended the 11th Annual Willwoods Community Prayer Breakfast. They are long-time board members of the New Orleans organization.

Baseball Fan Cardinal Still Big Giants Fan

Always a big Giants fan, **Paul 'Birdman' Cardinal** is even a bigger one now that he lives in San Francisco.

He can still remember walking on campus in 1951 when Bobby Thomson hit the 'shot heard around the world' to win the pennant against the Dodgers.

Paul and his brother John attended the last Giants game at the Polo Grounds. He remembers there were only about 6,000 fans there, so he and his brother got out on the field after the game and cut out a piece of the infield turf, which brother John kept alive for many years.

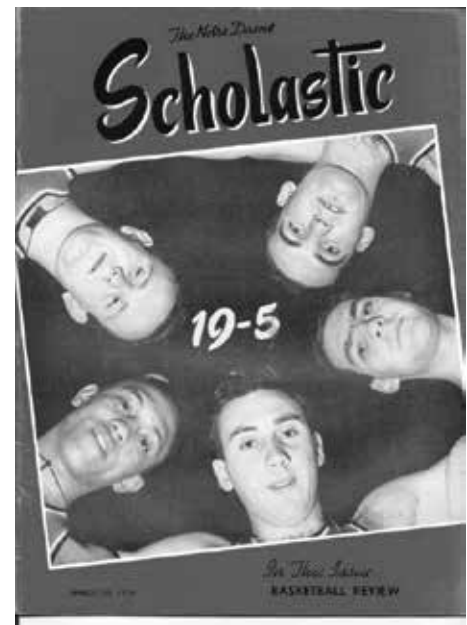
Not often that someone in the class has a movie named after him, but 'Birdman' had an Oscar nominee.

Cardinal still does a lot of fishing in Idaho and while visiting Yellowstone, caught the Great Crater Geyser erupting. He found out that it goes about 40 minutes longer than Old Faithful these days. Slowing down like the rest of us, I guess.

Cardinal was captain of his tennis club's Super Senior Team and was happy not to pull an achilles this year. He also enjoyed a trip to Greece.



Illustration by Steve Rebora



Stevens Continues Volunteer Activities

One of the busiest people I know, **Jim Stevens**, is working on the 25th anniversary of his parish in Ft. Myers Beach, FL, as well as coordinating new Knights of Columbus members. He also spends time with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and several other parish activities.

His recent travels include Walt Disney World for a Christmas visit.

It's great to see how many '55ers are still actively volunteering in their communities. **Lee Crean** recently wrote, "Lest the rest of my several volunteer activities become too mundane, I now work as a movie extra from time to time. Fun, but sometimes fairly grueling, since in the last week we had 13, 15 and 16-hour days on the set of a Sci-Fi movie, 'Geostorm.' You know my motto, 'it's better to wear out than rust out.'"

After retiring from his CPA practice four years ago, **Jack Reed** has been teaching accounting classes at three colleges in southern California.

Contrary to a previous Newsletter, **John Manix** has lived in Medina, OH for 37 years.

Tom May wrote that Kathleen's aunt in Ireland was 109 years young and was officially the oldest person in the country until her recent death. Tom couldn't believe that she remembered him in 2009, since it had been four years since their last visit.



MERRY CHRISTMAS! - Elaine and Emmet Cassidy sent this family photo to friends at Christmas.

Root At Installation Of Archbishop Cupich

Fran and **Emmet Root** were special guests of Archbishop Blaise Cupich at his installation in Chicago. The next day they attended a private Mass and then had lunch with the Archbishop. "Chi town is going to have a real regeneration as he goes to work," Root said.

The Roots have been friends of the Archbishop for many years. Fran was head of the Guild at the Roots' parish in Omaha where Cupich served. The new Archbishop started travelling with an Omaha group in 1999 to Rome and they have gone to Europe every two years since. In between, the Roots have entertained Cupich at their Minnesota and Arizona vacation homes.

When **Jack Flynn** mentioned to the new Archbishop at a welcoming dinner that he was a classmate of Root, the Archbishop replied that he "needed a little dirt" on Emmet. Jack asked if he had ever confessed to telling his classmates that he shot his age on the golf course. Cupich came right back with, "That was probably for nine holes."

Emmet led the planning for Archbishop Cupich's Mass and reception upon his return to Omaha after his inauguration. He received the Key To The City.

Root joined buddies for golf trips to Bandon Dunes and Stonewall near West Chester, PA. The Roots again spent the winter in Scottsdale, AZ.

Emmet hopes to see **Harry Edelstein** and **Rick Hicks** this summer when his grandson is married in Tiburon, CA.

'55ers Fill Christmas Mail Bag

It's always great to hear from the troops, especially at Christmas.

Two of our biggest sports fans, **Pat and George Marr**, attended both the Michigan and Stanford games. They also regularly attend U of Memphis sporting events, Red Birds baseball and the Memphis Grizzlies.

Last May, they visited daughter Maureen, who provides dialysis nursing care on a Hopi Reservation in Arizona.

Mary Ann and Bob Haidinger are now settled in their new senior complex residence - #1315, 122 Palmer's Hill Road, Stamford, CT. 06902. They still find time for Vermont and the snow during the winter, although Bob had his second back fusion in June.

Another back sufferer is **Jim Bergquist**, who has battled sciatica since last June. However, he was able to travel to a historical meeting in Atlanta.

We also appreciated Christmas greetings from **Peg and John Hester, Ginger Gies, Sue and Dick Beeman and Edie and Bill Walsh**.

Leon Ring continues as chairman of his parish finance board and president of his homeowners' association, while somehow continuing to spend time on his genealogy work.



LOG CHAPEL - Joanne and John Connaughton gathered their clan at Notre Dame's Log Chapel for their Christmas photo.

Lochtefeld Enjoys Busy Art Year

The tourist season was very active last year on Nantucket Island, and **John Lochtefeld** was quite busy at his art studio/store.

Last year the Lochtefelds spent a month in Barcelona and Provence. "We wander around like good tourists and I paint water colors," John explained. This year they hope to return to Italy.

Our cross-country travelers – Sue and **Dick Beeman** - drove from their California home to Sedona, AZ to be with their son and family for Thanksgiving. A year ago the Beemans crossed the entire country as they stopped to see family and friends. Now they are looking forward to the 60th Reunion as they hope you are too!

Jac Fitzenz, a long-time member of the '55 Shot My Age Club, has nearly completed the sequel to his recent novel, 'Rough Waters'.

Joe McCarthy is a director of the Cape Cod Club.

Bill Richardson continues to update me on the latest running exploits of his family members, and I'm looking forward to him winning some more gold medals in New Jersey's senior Olympics.



Illustration by Steve Rebora

Tom Magill e-mailed, "Tell **Jerry Hughes** I never had a TKO. I only lost once in our freshman year Bengal Bout semi-final. However, he was right, I did wind up a bloody mess most of the time."

Wayne Kent writes, "I believe that I am carried on the '55 Class list although, like **Ron Smith** and **John Rogers**, my undergraduate senior year was spent in the ND law school. Unlike the majority of the class I therefore never really had a 'senior year' since first year in law school hardly qualifies. However, unlike Ron and John, I failed to keep up correspondence with the class or its members. No excuse, it just happened," Kent writes from Naples, FL.

Thanks much to all who sent get well wishes after my recent back operation. Thankfully, my rehab is doing its job and I'm feeling much better. Among the first to send greetings were **Ron Davis, Jim Rickling, Larry Buckley, Dick Burke, Bill Richardson, Jack Flynn, Tom Magill and Ed Kelly**.

Others checking in were **Bill Tice, Dick Golob, Wally Clarke, Pete Ritten, Frank Cunningham, Joe McGlynn, Jack Reed, Bob Russell, John Hester, Joe Baumie, Charles Pollnow, Bob Moore, Clem Devine, Tom O'Hara, Frs. Joe O'Donnell and Jim Blantz, Emmet Root, Jerry Hughes, Steve Rebora, Max Roesler, Frank Schmidt and Jim Bigelow**.



IRISH HOST - **Joe McGlynn** (left), hosted a luncheon in St. Louis for **Mark Daly**, an Irish Senator, and **Kevin O'Malley**, new U. S. Ambassador to Ireland.

Fabulous '55 Team Wins 31-27

The final score of 31-27 didn't tell all about the '55 victory. Coach Dick Beeman (center kneeling with the ball) remembers the powerful drives of Jack "Junior" Stephens, the rebounding of Jim "Red" Brett and the defense of Tim Devereux, but he also remembers a distraught '55 wife. With a worried look on her face as she saw her red-faced husband huffing and puffing up and down the court, she blurted out to Dick, "Is there a doctor here?"



With that beatific smile of his, Dick calmly responded, "Yes, but he's a dermatologist."

Splinters may have been the MVP. As timekeeper, I, too, feared someone would suffer a mid-court heart attack. With '55 nursing a nice lead toward the end, I went to a running clock and didn't stop the clock on out-of-bounds plays. I don't think the '60 players minded a bit, since they were as bushed as our guys. Mercifully, all survived that day, although not all are with us today. We will pray for their souls, and for all our departed at Reunion. We hope you can be with us to join in the prayer and check out all the players' IDs.

Battles Soaked At Stanford While Visiting Family

Betty and **Jack Battles** suffered with 50 other members of the Hilton Head Club during the rain storm at the Stanford game, however, they did enjoy watching the alumni band perform.

While up north, they visited their son and his family in Rockford and drove out to Iowa State to visit a grandson. Jack also reported that the ND Glee Club attracted 700 people to its concert on Hilton Head.

Joan and **Jerry Hughes** recently got certified in CPR/AED by the Red Cross, so they are certainly ready for action at Reunion.

Bobbie and **Ed Kelly's** granddaughter, a kindergarten teacher in Chicago, completed her second Chicago marathon in October.

George Vosmik spent the fall and winter fishing for bone fish and tarpon in Florida and is delighted that radiation has worked well on his leg tumor. Wife Dee was cited recently for creating 58 group homes for retarded folks during her working life.

Bob Phillips reports that his high school friend and former ND pitcher, **Jim Pavis**, had a seizure on his way to a relative's Super Bowl party. Bob again hosted a Christmas dinner at the Harvard Club with 17 in attendance, and hopes to have 30 at Easter

Tom Schreitmueller had a nice chat with **Tom Brand** who lives in Sedona, AZ, at **John Sennett's** funeral in Detroit.

Chicago Says Fond Farewell To Former Mayor Jane Byrne

Chicagoans turned out by the thousands to bid farewell to former Mayor Jane Byrne, **Bill Byrne's** widow, at her November wake and funeral. No doubt Byrne, 81, caused the Windy City to rethink how it perceived a mayor.

In the Chicago Tribune, columnist Ron Grossman wrote, "To put the matter bluntly, Jane Byrne was a little wacky, and our city is a better place for that. A sane person, out of a job, and with little name recognition, wouldn't have taken on the Chicago machine, unbeaten in a mayoral election for half a century when she challenged it."

Byrne served a four-year term starting in 1979.

Prior to her death, the city council voted to name the park surrounding Chicago's iconic Water Tower for her, and the Governor re-named the downtown circle interchange the Jane Byrne Interchange.

Daughter Kathy said the final tributes meant a great deal to her mother, who also appreciated the notes she received from '55ers shortly before her death.

Grossman ended his column with, "I felt I'd been to a wake for an older Chicago, presided over by a brassy, bossy Jane Byrne who went at politics and life with a zest that nicely matched Sandburg's vision of Chicago; 'Stormy, husky and brawling.'"

Former Coach Powers 59-Year Evanston Resident

Tom Powers, who was one of the most successful high school football coaches in the Chicago area in history, now gets his kicks out of taking old friends (one 93 years old!) out to lunch in Evanston, where he has lived for 59 years.

Powers still talks about a trip to Albany, NY, where he and his wife traveled throughout the New England area. He once again got to swim in Lake Champlain, VT, where to his complete surprise, he found that the camp director was a former Evanston Township student who had lived a couple of blocks from him.

Tom had five grandchildren in college last year and keeps close track of all his family.

Eleanor and **Carroll Dowden** enjoyed Thanksgiving at the home of their daughter in Southampton, NY and Christmas at home in Saddle River, NJ where “mimosas accompany gift openings.”

Thanks to **Jim Gibbons**, who called with news that he had copies of our graduation invitation and program, which have been distributed to fellow classmates. Jim and Rita have decided that they don't want to go into a nursing home down the line, so are adding a large master bedroom to their house, with their current room becoming available for a caretaker when the time comes.

Joe Baumie continues to grow flowers that he can view from his kitchen window to brighten the day.

Walt Flaherty, who is still hacking up the Hilton Head golf courses, is anxious to see his old buddies at Reunion. He played in the 'Rally for the Cure' at Moss Creek with about 120 others.

His team came in second, which isn't bad 'for an old guy'. He still keeps in touch with **Walt Cavannaugh's** wife, Carole.

Connie McCarty battled 11 feet of snow at his new residence outside Boston, but refuses to heed my pleas to stop shoveling out his car. Hope he changes his mind by next year.



Harrison, Ed Kelly Still Working Regularly

After 19 years of retirement, **Larry Harrison** has gone back to work as a part-time consultant at an only-one-in-the-world nuclear research reactor in Idaho. Larry writes, “I worked at the reactor for over 30 years. It has not operated for about 15 years, so there are no experienced personnel to help re-start and operate this unique reactor. I am one of five ‘old timers’ who are helping out and transferring as much knowledge as possible to the current staff.”

South Bend's **John Connaughton** keeps in touch with **Ed Kelly**, who is still working in his law office in Indianapolis every day. “I told him he needed to take some time off... that he has earned it. We plan on meeting at his farm, which looks a lot like Mount Vernon. I'd better put on a fresh shirt and wash my car or I won't get past the gate,” Connaughton added.

In Chicago, **Dick Burke** is still involved with his law firm and **Jack Flynn** continues to operate his service firm.

Al Cowles sent a Christmas postcard from Key West. Al said that they just welcomed their first great granddaughter, and he is looking forward to seeing all his friends at Reunion.

Sullivans Mark 20th Year On Georgia's Lake Lanier

Nancy and Art Sullivan can't believe they've marked their 20th anniversary living on Lake Lanier outside Atlanta. They really enjoy boating on the lake but find time for trips to Illinois and Florida.

Walt Langford's family threw a big 80th birthday dinner for him, complete with a memory book that brought tears to his eyes.

In April, Walt took most of the family to Hawaii where they had a great time bonding even closer.

Walt and Barbara moved back to California from Florida to be closer to their family because she was beginning to have memory problems. In July, they enjoyed four days in Monterey, complete with whale watching.

Mike Ward's widow, **Harriet**, checked in from The Villages in Florida, where she is enjoying life between trips to see the grandchildren. Most of the family came to Florida for her 80th birthday celebration.

Ed Fox's widow, **Ellie**, has been focused on her granddaughter, who has a rare eye tumor that was treated by specialists in both New York and Los Angeles. Since Ellie is a nurse, she has been a valuable member of the family medical team. Fortunately, little Helena is now doing well.

Ellie also is a member of three bridge groups, manages to play golf regularly, volunteers at the pregnancy help center and serves on the board of her condo homeowners' association.

We also received beautiful cards from **Joan and Jerry Hughes, Bill Tunell, MaryJeanne and Dick Burke, Rita Prevoznik, Ted Bintz, Joanne and Harry Niemann, Cay and Joe Kearney, Rita and Jim Gibbons and Kathleen and Tom May.**



Obtain Free Book : Alzheimer's Caregiving

Dick Farrell, who cared for his wife for many years before her death, has written a very helpful book called, "Alzheimer's Caregiving."

It's available FREE to all '55ers.

**Just send Dick an email at
rjfarrell14@yahoo.com, or write him at 2317
Red Maple Lane, Dawsonville, GA 30534.**

Anonymous benefactors are underwriting the project and Dick is handling all the mailing work on his own.

This is part of the "Heading Home" project started for the class by **Bob McGrath**. Get the latest information on aging at nd55.org.

Let's share our knowledge and experience, as Dick has, as we run our final lap.

Splinters

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP READY TO HELP YOU, FAMILY

If you or your wife is diagnosed with cancer, please consider contacting one or more members of our '55 Cancer Support Group. They are ready to help by answering your questions and providing directions. Please pick up the 'phone and make that call! You'll be glad you did.

Dr. Joe Swift

at 301 986-8581

Joe Kearney, who provided support for 13 years,
at 847 729-2820

Fred Danner, who has had successful treatment for prostate cancer

at 803 802-5653, or January – April, 727 588-7604

John Russo, who has had prostate surgery,
at 732 349-6338

Dr. Denny Conway, a concerned physician
at 541 747-0495



ROMAN HOLIDAY - Angela and Hugh Schaefer enjoyed another trip through Italy

Kreps Back In Action After Hospital Stay

Bill 'Mailman' Kreps returned home in January after a long hospital and rehab stay to treat heart and lung problems.

He has worked hard to regain his strength and mobility, thanks in great part to caregiver Hannah. He really appreciates all the e-mails, greetings and prayers from '55ers. He wrote that he was 'unable to respond individually', but wants everyone to know how thankful he is.

My other 'amigo' - **Bob McGrath**, who maintains the Class of '55 web site at nd55.org - enjoyed holiday skiing in Vail and then a spring trip to the Holy Land.

Tennis captain **Wally Clarke's** last rotator cuff surgery took him off the courts, but he still shot 79 recently on the golf course.

Here's How To Get To '55 Web Site

1) Go to your computer and type in:
<http://ND55.org>

2) Then "Bookmark it" in the usual way.

Note: In our e-mails to you we will always try to include a line that reads: Go to ND55 Web

When you see that, just clicking on it will bring up the site

Ginny and Max Roesler had to pull out of Reunion because their son Mark is getting married in Boston.

Bob Moore was more fortunate because his granddaughter switched her wedding, and now the Moores can attend. Bob, who will again play the piano and encourage all singers at the Reunion, recently was a featured performer in his Rose Valley Folk Variety Show.

Unfortunately, **Pete Ritten** had scheduled a European trip, and had to cancel his Reunion reservation because of the big penalty on the reservation.

Tom Neville, who now resides in Carlsbad, CA, reports that **Jim Luotto** lives south of San Francisco and has taught in a university for many years.

Norb 'Skip' Reiner continues to be very active in veterans' affairs in the DC area. He is trying to make contact with **Tom Quinn**, who also lives in the Washington area.

Admiral Bill Walsh is trying to remove some stressful factors in his life while dealing with hearing and memory problems. So far, **Edie** has had clean MRI reports after her cancer surgeries. They have family in the area, so spend some time watching grandsons play football.

Dan Moore was on a trip to Alaska when he registered for Reunion, and I hope everyone makes the effort that Dan has to attend.

Kathy and Dick Mueller spent two weeks last August in Wisconsin with family and friends and had a wonderful lunch with **Laura and Jim Barry**. Dick and Jim attended the same high school in Wisconsin.

In September the Muellers travelled from California to Charlotte, Myrtle Beach and Asheville.

SCHOLASTICS' AUCTION

Bernie Tracey, who has really enjoyed going through all the Scholastics from our years at Notre Dame, has decided to share them with classmates. Therefore, Bernie will auction off each year's Scholastics at our Reunion Saturday Class dinner. All proceeds will go to the Class Scholarship Fund.

Dick Connelly also has a prized possession - a football autographed by the four Horsemen - and he may well bring that along for auction too.

Campbells Battling Health Care Problems

Helaine and Pete Campbell have been rocked by health problems in recent months.

She was hospitalized with massive blood clots in both legs and multiple clots in both lungs. Pete added to the family's problems by having a stroke in January, but is progressing in his rehab.

In his e-mail, Campbell said a friend asked why I'm called 'Splinters'?

As many of you know, I was sports editor of the Scholastic and the name of the sports column was 'Splinters From The Pressbox'.

I was flabbergasted when my successor as sports editor said he was not going to perpetuate the name that had been used for so many years at Notre Dame. Therefore, when I graduated and joined a newspaper and was asked to write a sports column, I had a ready name.

When the internet became popular, several classmates suggested that I again write a column on ND sports. Voila! Splinters From The Pressbox was reborn!

And, as a sidebar, when my priestly brother became a pastor, he named his column in the parish bulletin, 'Splinters From The Presidential chair'.

Naturally, I sued!

Rod Cyrier wrote from North Ft. Myers that he won't be able to attend Reunion because of health issues, but enclosed a check for the Class Fund.

George Meyers has been on a health roller coaster since last June, when he suffered a stroke.

Dick Farrell's grandson, Caleb, finished proton treatments in January and seems to be much better than when he was rushed to the hospital.

Dick Capka had surgery to implant a by-ventricular pacemaker combination.

Sad news from **Mike O'Toole** on March 31st, "I'm in the process of being sent home from the hospital to hospice to get ready to meet Jesus and Mary and my Mary. In December I was finally diagnosed with ALS and it's been all downhill since. Please put me on the prayer line and remember me at the 60th."

Elliot Lese reminded me that he had successful back surgery eight years ago after suffering a broken vertebra. The surgery went so well that he and Dolores took a trip to Ireland four months after the surgery.

He suggests that we say the following prayer for our classmates who are hurting:

Prayer For Healing

Dear Jesus; we turn to you in this time of illness. Ease our worry and sorrow with your gentle love. Gift us with the strength to accept this burden. Lord, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and ask that You restore your loved one to health again. Above, all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever You do, You do for the love of us.



REMEMBER DECEASED CLASSMATES ON FIRST SUNDAY OF MONTH

Don't forget to pray for our deceased '55 classmates at Mass on the first Sunday of each month. There's great power in our '55 network, so let's not forget it.

On that first Sunday of the month, **John Connaughton** always lights a candle at the Grotto for those who have passed away, including their spouses.

OBITUARIES

Brother Jim Sullivan - May 12, 2014



We just received word that **Brother Jim Sullivan**, C.S.C., died last May 12th. After graduation, he then taught high school in California, Indiana and Ohio.

Later he served as principal of Holy Cross high schools in Indiana and Illinois before beginning graduate work in psychology. After receiving his graduate degree, Brother Sullivan worked as the psychologist for the Gary Community School Association and then Director of Counseling at Chicago's Mendel High School. Near the end of his career he served as the school psychologist for the Chicago Board of Education for 10 years.

Bob Hanrahan - Oct. 21, 2014



Monogram Club member, **Bob Hanrahan** died Oct. 21.

He is survived by his wife, Clementine, 6 children, 5 step-children 24 grandchildren and 4 step-grandchildren

Pete Connolly - Nov. 6, 2014



Although he didn't graduate with us, **Pete Connolly** always was considered a member of our Journalism gang. He died Nov. 6 in Ballwin, MO. When he left ND in 1954, Pete served three years in the Marines before continuing his education at Stonehill College and Marquette University, where he earned his masters in journalism.

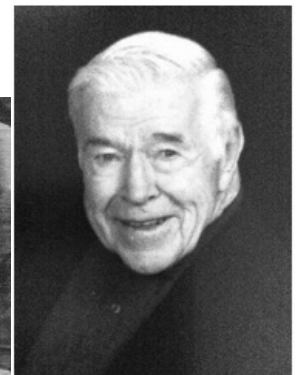
He had been a writer and editor since 1960, working as a public relations executive, columnist, major league baseball writer, magazine contributor and novelist.

The majority of his career was spent with General Dynamics where he served as the Corporate Director of Public Affairs from 1967 to 1992.

Connolly published three novels; *The Last Slider*, *When Shadows Fell At Notre Dame* and *The Grottogate*. As you can see, two of his three novels were set on campus.

Connolly is survived by his former wife, Vivyan, and fiancée, Joann Aldridge, 6 children and 24 grandchildren.

Jack Lee - Nov. 18, 2014



A starting right guard for four years under Frank Leahy, **Jack Lee** became an All-American in his senior year. He died in Shreveport, LA on Nov. 18 after a long, military, civilian and volunteer career.

The Air Force Honor Guard presented full military honors at his funeral.

Upon graduation, Jack began his career in the Air Force as a command pilot in the Strategic Air Command. He flew the B-47 Bomber, the B-58 Hustler – the first supersonic bomber (member of the exclusive Mach 2 Club) – and served in Viet Nam with the 7th Air Force Scatback Operations.

In 1973 he entered B-52 logistics, becoming a Commander with the Maintenance Squadron, Assistant Deputy Commander for maintenance for the 4th Fighter Wing and Deputy Commander for maintenance for the 68th Bombardment Wing.

After being stationed in Louisiana, Lee completed his distinguished 30-year career as the Commander of the 2nd Combat Support Group. Upon his retirement, Jack established a second career as Director of the Physical Plant at Centenary College.

As a life member of the Independence Bowl board of directors, Jack served as the Bowl Chairman in 2004.

He was appointed as the Red Cross Station Chairman at Barksdale AFB, served on the Red Cross Northwest Louisiana Chapter board of directors and helped establish Shreveport's annual Festival of Trees. Lee was a life-long member of the Military Officers Association of America, and was always supportive of many military organizations.

Lee also maintained a strong bond with the church and Notre Dame and his membership in the Monogram Club spanned 59 years.

Surviving are his wife, Kay, 8 children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

**Lou Huber -
Nov. 24, 2014**



Lou Huber of Alexander, NY, an insurance underwriter for Glens Falls Insurance Company and the Home Insurance Company, died on Nov. 24, in Batavia, NY.

Huber was a dedicated member of St. Mary's church in

Batavia, where he was active in the Knights of Columbus.

Huber was known for his collection of farm tractors and enjoyed going to auctions and flea markets to add to his collectibles.

Huber was in the Army for two years after graduation.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

**Jim Gulde -
Nov. 27, 2014**



One of our best Scholastic photographers, **Jim Gulde** continued to serve his class by starting our first web site. The talented Gulde died Nov. 27 in Altamonte Springs, FL.

Jim served seven years in the Navy and reserves before joining his father and brother in Crowe Gulde Inc. in Amarillo, TX.

Gulde's contributions to the concrete masonry industry are many. He served as CEO of a multi-disciplined construction business, which included manufacturing of concrete masonry with emphasis on architectural units, and operation of eight ready-mix plants, pre-stress and pre-cast concrete operations.

He served as past chairman of the board of the National Concrete Masonry Association. Jim also was a past director of the Masonry Society.

In addition, he was a certified consultant of Concrete Masonry and a Construction Document Technologist. Along the line he received his MBA from West Texas State University.

At the end of his career, he served as a consultant for the concrete industry for the state of Florida.

Gulde was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy and is survived by 7 children and 28 grandchildren.

**John Sennett -
Dec. 2, 2014**



John Sennett died on Dec. 2 in Bloomfield, MI after a series of strokes.

After serving his two years in the Army in Germany, John returned to join the family business, only to have his Dad suddenly die. Without any great preparation, John was at the helm of the Sennett Steel Corporation, which he successfully grew for the next 46 years.

National chairman of the board for the Steel Service Center Institute from 1986-1988, Sennett also was president of the local chapter of the 'Young Presidents Organization' and later joined 'World Presidents Organization' and was invited to be in the Chief Executives Organization.

Always interested in Notre Dame's progress, John served on the Library Council from 1982 until his death. He taught business courses through Junior Achievement in the Hamtramck Public Schools, delivered food to the elderly, helped to form the initial chapter of Legatus, was on the Sacred Heart Seminary board, and was an active member of the Cardinal Club.

Sennett also served as chairman of the board for Madonna University and received an honorary Doctorate in Humanities from the school, supported Christians in the Holy Land through the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher and supported Angels' Place from its inception. John and his wife of 55 years, Dianne, made nine trips with their children and the Knights of Malta to Lourdes to care for the critically ill there.

John is survived by Dianne, 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

**Dick Haag -
Dec. 6, 2014**



A native of Appleton, WI, **Dick Haag** died on Dec. 6.

Haag attended ND prior to enlisting in the Air Force, ultimately receiving his degree from the Municipal University of Omaha and then his MBA from George Washington University in 1966.

Haag served in the Air Force for 28 years. Dick served in the Viet Nam war and earned several awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, National Defense Service Medal and Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

Hobbies included hunting, golf, and the art of stained glass.

**Benjamin 'Mike' Reidy -
Dec. 7, 2014**



Mike Reidy, who was well known in Chicago banking circles, died Dec. 7.

He earned his MBA from Harvard and was a banker for over 20 years at Northern Trust before becoming president of the First National Bank of LaGrange and later UnibancTrust/Old Kent.

Surviving are his wife, Kay, 5 daughters and 16 grandchildren. Preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Peg, Haag is survived by 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Internment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**Bob Schmitt -
Dec. 18, 2014**



Bob Schmitt, who operated Schmitt Furniture Company in New Albany, IN, died Dec. 18.

He was life-long resident of New Albany.

An Army veteran, Bob was a member of the American Legion and an avid golfer at the New Albany Country Club.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce, 6 children and 15 grandchildren.

**Jack Groben -
Dec. 25, 2014**



A Diamond Life Master in bridge, **Jack Groben** was a regional bridge champion many times and competed at the national level. The bridge authority died on Dec. 25 in his home town of Evansville, IN.

Regarded as 'the' authority on bridge play and bidding in the area, Groben never lost his enthusiasm for the game.

Jack was president of Althoff – Howard Electric in Evansville and retired from that firm. A life member of St. Benedict Cathedral, Groben also was a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club and was the Kiwanis sports representative for Mater Dei high school for more than 30 years.

He also was a member of the Kennel Club, Evansville Country Club and the Downtown Quarterback Club.

Groben is survived by his sister, Beverly; special cousin Phyllis Richardson; good friend, Ruth Ann Hyatt and many cousins.

**Ron Makowski -
Dec. 27, 2014**



Another of the 'Michigan gang,' **Ron Makowski** died Dec. 27.

Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Ron took his mechanical engineering degree and moved to Detroit for a long career in the auto industry. He began at Chrysler and earned his Masters in engineering there.

Makowski also worked for General Motors and the Eaton Corporation before settling in with the Ford Motor Company. He spent many years at the Ford Truck Plant in Dearborn until his retirement.

Ron was preceded in death by his wife, Donna, and is survived by 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

**John Tuttle -
Dec. 28, 2014**



A life-long resident of Vermillion, OH, **John Tuttle** died at his home Dec. 28 after a short illness.

John started Tuttle Insurance Agency in 1961 in Vermillion, working as owner and agent until selling the business in 1984.

Then Tuttle purchased a local Vermillion orchard and vineyard that he operated as a family farm called Tuttle's Cider Mill Farm for 15 years.

With his love of sales, sweets and storytelling, John then created the original Fritterman and wholesale bakery business, Fritter Farms, serving specialty markets and festivals across Ohio for 12 years.

Tuttle was an active member of his parish and a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. His varied hobbies included bowling, wood-working, fishing, boating and restoring Lyman boats. He also enjoyed home building, remodeling and restoration of his century-old home.

John is survived by his wife of 29 years, Janet, 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

Bob Baudendistel - Jan. 10, 2015



One of our most active entrepreneurs, **Bob Baudendistel** died Jan. 10 in St. Louis, MO.

Bob began his career at Mark Twain Bancshares, where he served as director and vice chairman. He then started acquiring real estate, including agricultural and commercial properties in the 1960s.

Baudendistel also served as chairman of St. Anthony's Hospital while becoming a partner in Fox Associates, which purchased, renovated and reopened the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis in 1982.

He served as a consultant and investor, plus founder and builder of many enterprises.

The great loves of Bob's life included his family, flying, farming the land and theatre. Friends remember him for his fearless entrepreneurship, tremendous sense of humor and boundless generosity.

His wife of 30 years, Jeanne, preceded him in death and he is survived by 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren.

Ted Laughlin - April 1, 2015



One of the busiest OB-GYN doctors in the Fort Walton Beach, FL, area, **Ted Laughlin** delivered more than 3,000 babies in his career. Ted passed away peacefully at home on April 1. After graduating with his pre-med degree, Laughlin attended Georgetown Medical School and then did his residency in Atlanta.

Laughlin then did a two-year stint in the Air Force. After practicing in Orlando, Ted, decided to locate in Fort Walton Beach after having fallen in love with the area in 1967.

He was a prominent physician in the area for more than 30 years and held numerous positions on the boards of Fort Walton Beach Hospital and the Okaloosa County Medical Society. Ted joined with several other physicians in bringing the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center to the area in 1974.

Ted suffered a stroke in 2006 that limited his activities, but his family said he continued to enjoy "all that was Notre Dame."

He is survived by his wife, Marsha, four of his five children, and a step-son.

Bill Clusserath - April 2, 2015



Bill Clusserath was his usual friendly self at the Desert Fling, but shortly after developed a severe case of pneumonia and was intubated into a coma from which he did not recover. Bill died April 2.

Clusserath is survived by his wife of 57 years, Barb, six children and 11 grandchildren.

MEMORY BOOK

Start thinking now of your best stories from our four years because Dick Connelly has graciously volunteered to coordinate the project. He is looking for stories about incidents in the dorms, class rooms, dining hall or whatever. There are a lot of good stories out there so let's share them with the entire class.

Send your short offerings to Dick at popnana@comcast.net or 3726 Woodlake, Bonita Springs, FL 34134.

Masses have been said for all of our deceased classmates, as well as Joanne Niemann, Harry's wife, Joyce Goesch, Jack's wife, Kathy Ring, Leon's wife, Jane Byrne, Bill's wife Patrick Devine, Clem's son Tom Bendel, John's grandson; and Lisa Bohmer, George Vosmik's step-daughter.

As you know, we also have a Holy Cross Father say a Mass each day for our deceased classmates. Daily Masses also are said for deceased family members.

If you would like to make a donation to the Class of '55 Class Fund, which pays for all of these Masses and the production and mailing of this Newsletter, please make your checks payable to ND Class of '55 Fund and sent to me at the address below.

**Paul Fullmer
87 Heatherdowns Lane,
Galena, IL 61036**

Among recent donors were **Peter Ritten**, Minneapolis; **Ted Bintz**, West Bloomfield, MI; **Joe Henehan**, Louisville; **Bill Beck**, Kingwood, TX; **Tim Devereux**, Indianhead Park, IL; **Peter Beiriger**, Monroeville, PA; **Wayne Kent**, Evansville, IN; **Dick Connolly**, Bonita Springs, FL; **Bill Clusserath**, Port Orchard, WA; **Rod Cyrier**, North Ft. Myers, FL; **Jim Baumie**, Greenwich, CT; **Frank Cribbs**, Torrance, CA; **John Lochtefeld**, Nantucket, MA; **Joe Swift**, Chevy Chase, MD; **Bob Haidinger**, Stamford, CT; **John Corbett**, Wilmington, NC; **John Hamilton**, Virginia Beach, VA; **Tom May**, Kirkland, WA; **Rita Prevoznik**, Havertown, PA; **Dick Mueller**, Los Altos, CA; **Dick Beeman**, Pauma Valley, CA; **Joe McGlynn**, St. Louis, **John Feeley**, Mission Viejo, CA; **Jack Battle**, Bluffton, SC; **Mike Carroll**, Palm City, FL and **Bob Moore**, Wallingford, PA.

Again, these 10,500 words would not have been produced without the dedicated assistance of Sandra who continues to amaze.



Harry Niemann Sends Thanks; Offers To Chair Widowers' Club

Harry Niemann sent this for all the class: "A belated thank you to all who called or e-mailed during Joanne's four months in the hospital. Her five surgeries, foot amputation and heart procedure were just too much for her. She is in a better place now. Thank you for your prayers and help, It was much appreciated."

A most caring guy who is the first to call classmates who are in the midst of a similar struggle, Harry has offered to chair a new '55 group for widowers trying to adjust to the loss of a spouse. He knows how difficult it is and can share experiences. Niemann feels that the more '55ers who connect, the more valuable the club will be.

If you are a widower, Harry would like to hear from you at hniemann71@comcast.net. Or, give him a call at 267-205-0890.

Our Goal This Year- 150!



**GLASS OF
1955**

Class of '55 News Notes

Memo From: Name (Please Print!): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

My Volunteer work includes: _____

My E-mail Address is: _____

Recent Travel Includes: _____

Other News: _____

News About Other '55 Classmates: _____

Send Form ASAP with check payable to ND Class of '55 to:
Paul Fullmer, 87 Heatherdowns Lane, Galena, IL 61036