



THE

Skirmisher

BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE

“RATHER BE THAN SEEM”

BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505

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Tersina Di Pietro, Editor

WINTER 2019

REUNION 2018 REVISITED

As usual, the Reunion started off with an informal get-together Friday evening. Alumni and guests gathered at the Bordentown Yacht Club for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation. Alumni became reacquainted with their classmates of long ago or, in some cases, met former cadets for the first time.

The weather forecast for the next day was ominous, to say the least. The possibility of torrential rains resulting in possible flooding prompted the BMI Board of Directors to cancel the parade and Statue Ceremony. As a result, the alumni and guests headed for the Scottish Rite building earlier than anticipated, where they were greeted by Sparkle Bradman Leidemer and her daughter, Catherine, our faithful reservation desk monitors. This early arrival allowed more time for our alumni and guests to socialize while sampling the delicious appetizers provided by Toscano's Ristorante, one of Bordentown's fine dining establishments. A buffet dinner followed while the DJ provided music for dancing. Classes from 1945 to 1974 were represented, with the Class of 1966 again winning with the most attendees. Alumni came from Virginia, Arizona, Venezuela, Massachusetts, Delaware, Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Colorado, Georgia, and, of course, New Jersey.

Our President, **Jack Harkins '67**, presided as Master of Ceremonies and also was our Minister (pro tem) as he offered the Invocation and Benediction. He “wore both hats” splendidly. **Bob Frisbie '61**, our Treasurer, read the updated Financial Report.

Santa and Mrs. Claus were present. You may know them as **J.R. Arthur '58** and his wife Sharon. Your Editor made her Christmas wish known. Santa promised to comply but the Maserati has yet to appear.

The highlight of our reunions is always the Old Boys Drill during which alumni march to commands given by former cadet leaders. The alumni were up to their usual fine performance with very little mishaps. They earned the applause of all those present.

Following dinner, some alumni and their guests danced the night away while others continued in conversation with their fellow classmates. Judging from the many comments we received, we can say that a great time was had by those who attended. If you were there, it was good to see you. If you were not there, we missed you and we hope to see you in 2020! Plan to be there. We guarantee that you will have an evening you will remember long after Reunion 2020 has passed. Remember, these reunions are held biennially for YOUR benefit. If you want them to continue, you should make every effort to attend. You will be glad you did and so will we.

CLASS NOTES

'45 **HERB GARTEN** attended Reunion 2018 along with his nephew, **JOHN MOSS '73**. Herb wrote, "Thanks for arranging the reunion and providing a nice program and schedule. Everything was well planned and executed."

'49 **EDWIN GLICKMAN** wrote, "I cannot attend Reunion 2018 but I will be there in spirit."

We received an email from **BILL PARKINS**. He wrote, "I think of all of you many times and how much I enjoyed the reunion when I attended in 2012. That is the day I broke my hip as I was leaving the Elks Club. What I remember most is the constant stream of visitors I had for the next few days as I recovered in the hospital. I lived in Massachusetts (and still do) and I was essentially alone. You showed me we were truly a 'band of brothers' then and I will never forget your kindnesses. Long story short, I fell and broke my other hip last year and spent all summer in the hospital and rehab recovering. I am fine now but traveling is a little dicey. God bless you all!"

'50 We received word from **RAY APY** explaining why he was unable to attend Reunion 2018. He wrote, "Kathy and I, to escape any chance of being caught in one of this year's tropical storms in Southwest Florida, have been staying variously with son, daughter, and other close folk in RI, VT, and upstate NY for the last eight weeks. Last year's hurricane Irma touched down in Marco Island while we were at home and we had to replace our roof as a result. So this year we left town first!"

In response to our notice of photos posted on our Website, **ED NARATIL** replied, "It would be nice if they were captioned by who and class. After all these years I do not recognize too many." (*Ed. Note: May we gently suggest that you attend the reunion if you are able. All alumni wear name tags.*)

'52 While going through the BMI obituaries, **FRED HUBER** was surprised to find so many names he recognized. He wrote, "I was technically in the Class of '52 although I only attended sixth and seventh grades at the end of the war. Seventy years later, I have so many pleasant memories. Forgot the unpleasant ones!"

'58 Following Reunion 2018, **J.R. ARTHUR (Santa Claus)** wrote, "Despite the fact that I was the ONLY 1958 grad in attendance, Sharon and I enjoyed ourselves immensely." He added, "In the next Skirmisher, please acknowledge my humble submission to BMI Class of 1959. My challenge to have the most grads attend was totally vanquished by their overwhelming number of attending grads (4). Of course, the members of the Class of '59 are MUCH younger than we, the Class of '58, and are much more knowledgeable in the world of digital communications. We old fogies are somewhat living in the world of the troglodyte – perhaps even before that. Even Adam and Eve could 'take a BYTE out of an APPLE.' I am hoping for greater success at our 62nd, which will be reminiscent of the year MOST of us graduated from college."

'60 **BOB CONSTANTINO** wrote, "I am sorry I missed the big event (reunion). I live in Japan." Bob is writing a book that he hopes to finish this year. He asked, "Does anyone know of a publisher I can contact who might have an interest in my material?" He added, "All is good here. Best regards to all."

RONALD NEUBAUER wrote, "Thanks for the Skirmisher. I always look forward to reading about fellow alumni."

'61 **ED FINKLE** is still working in Florida as the Business Development Manager for Yankee Trails. He wrote, "I am very busy. If it is not work, it is my grandkids (10) or golf!"

'62 **STEVE GOLDSTEIN** contacted us after reading the BMI obits. He wrote, "I came across the name of my old roomy, **JIM FETTERLY**. I shared a three-man room with him and **JOHN PALMER** in 1961 or 1962. I think of him now and then affectionately as I am a bit claustrophobic and always blame it on him. He was on

the wrestling team and loved to practice pinning me to the floor which I hated. He was a great guy. If any of Jim's family sees this, I offer my sincere condolences.”

'63 In July 2018, **ROBERT CHISHOLM** began work as a volunteer at PS's Southeast Veterans Center, a 282-bed facility near his home. He serves as a musical entertainer, leading sing-alongs and using several of the songs he learned in BMI's Glee Club. He wrote, “My new program will reach twenty-nine veterans in SEVC's Memory Care Unit.” (*Ed. Note: Go into robchis44@gmail.com to learn about Rob's Cabaret.*)

Due to family commitments, **BERNARD SANSARICQ** was unable to attend Reunion 2018. Since 2000, he has missed very few reunions. He wrote, “It is breaking my heart (to miss the reunion). I often think about my BMI years that helped shape me to make me who I am. This is by far the most wonderful thing my parents could have done for me. I thank God every day for my having been at such a wonderful school. If there were such a thing as a time tunnel, I would definitely go back to my BMI years and enjoy them more.”

'65 In a note from **LOUIS IRMISCH**, he wrote, “All is well in Buffalo. I have retired from the Navy after forty years. (*Ed. Note: Thank you for your service.*) I am still working at Blue Cross as their medical director and am also the Chief Medical Officer for the Erie County Sheriff's office.”

'66 **TOM DEVLIN** attended Reunion 2018. On Veteran's Day, he attended a ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery and was recognized as a special guest by the VA Secretary. Tom enlisted in the Marines in 1966. (*Ed. Note: Thank you for your service.*) Two years later, he was a rifleman in Vietnam when a booby trap sent him flying through the air. He spent the 1968 Tet Offensive in the hospital in Da Nang. After recovering from his wounds, Tom went on to serve for nine years in the Marine Corps Reserve before joining the Air National Guard as a medic.”

'68 **GARY KUSHNER** wrote, “It is always wonderful to receive the Skirmisher and hear about BMI and my friends and colleagues. Regrettably, a regularly scheduled client conference in late October always makes it infeasible for me to attend the Reunion. All is well with me and my family. Although I am still practicing law, I have slowed down a bit. If all goes as planned, I will take senior status in 2020 (when I turn 70). Several pro bono and charitable activities, plus a few clients that I expect to retain, not to mention my wife, kids and grandchildren will keep me busy full time.”

'71 We received a letter from **KIM KOWALCZYK**. He wrote, “I want to thank all who have been so kind to share items from BMI that they no longer can hold on to. I am still and always looking for any BMI items, certain yearbooks (1971 and 1946), and especially photographs. I am interested in any photos that might have a painting that was given to Dr. Smith in 1962 of the old red school house. Also, as a hobby in my retirement, I investigate very old cold and unresolved murder cases. My main interest at this time is the Hall, Mills murder of 1922.” Kim added, “My daughter heads off to college and when my son graduates high school, we will be heading to Florida to relax for the rest of our days.”

BMI RINGS

BMI rings are turning up from time to time. They are not class rings but probably those that were sold in the BMI school store. If you would like one of these rings, email us at bmicadets@gmail.com or write to BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Remember...first-come/first-served. We are asking \$4.00 to cover mailing costs.

BMI WEBSITE

Bob Frisbie '61 has full responsibility for our Website, updating it as new information becomes available. You would do well to visit the site from time to time. It might answer some of your questions concerning BMI and other points of interest.

BMI STATUE ARCH

The article by **Joseph Porter '67** that appeared in The Mini Skirmisher last November brought the following comments from alumni and friends:

How lovely and what a story! I am delighted for the creativity and support in establishing this arch in a place that so many cadets hold dear. Thank you to all involved. - *Jeanette Smith Cureton*

Magnificent!!! - *Dutch Waldheim '63*

Outstanding. Bravo to those responsible! - *Jack Aquila '63*

Beautiful! Great work. - *Karl Helicher '68*

Nice work, Gentlemen! - *Steve Hammond '61*

Thanks for sharing. - *Floyd Little '63*

Beautiful piece of BMI history. Well done! - *Tom O'Donnell '68*

Looks great! Thank you. - *Henry Vaccaro '54*

BORDENTOWN CURRENT ARTICLE ON BMI

The article that appeared in the Bordentown Current newspaper (available on our Website) was disseminated to alumni and BMI friends. As a result, we received these comments:

Great article. - *Cliff Haas '69*

Thanks for sharing. That is a terrific article. - *Steve Libro (faculty)*

VERY NICE!! Thanks for sharing. - *Jeanette Smith Cureton*

Liked the picture of Tommy Longo in the Current article. - *Bill Wittorff '61*

Great article. Thanks for sending it along. - *Hal Hurka '66*

Very interesting! - *Bernard Sansaricq '63*

Excellent article. Brought back many fond memories. Sorry the school had closed before my son was old enough to attend as Dad would have pushed for him to attend. I played football and baseball with LITTLE and PLUMERI - two truly great successful classmates. - *Philip Hickman '62*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

On a personal note, I would like to thank President **Jack Harkins '67** and the BMI Board of Directors for honoring me at our Reunion in October. I was both surprised and grateful to be recognized for my efforts on behalf of the Alumni Association. I have served on the BMI Board since 1988. I will continue to serve as long as I am able to do so, after which I hope someone will step up to the plate and take up where I left off. In a note I received from **Michael Joyce '63**, he stated, "We need to keep the flame alive." Fortunately, we have Board members who are working endlessly to be certain that happens.

YEARBOOKS

We have yearbooks available for 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, and 1968. Requests will be handled on a first-come/first-served basis. If you are interested in receiving one of these yearbooks, email us at bmicadets@gmail.com or send your request to BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. We are charging \$5.00 to cover mailing costs. Please do not send this amount until you receive the yearbook.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues and other contributions, although much appreciated, are **NOT** tax deductible. Dues are \$20 per year payable to BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Payment of dues is not a requirement for membership in the BMI Alumni Association.

IN MEMORIAM

****BENJAMIN, SIDNEY '44**

CANDELORI, ANGELO V. '56

CONTE, MARK '64

FERRIGNO, ANTHONY '47

FLAMINI, JOSEPH '64

FONASH, JOHN '63

HELANDER, GORDON ELTON '49

KENYON, ROBERT "BOB" '41

MCCARTHY, DENNIS DAVID '61

PENNYPACKER, THOMAS R. "TIM" '64

TINDALL, RICHARD "DICK" '51

WAXMAN, KENNETH '66

For a complete list of deceased alumni, please go into our Website (www.bmicadets.org) and click on "In Memoriam."

****SID BENJAMIN** was one of the "Original Seven" who were responsible for the rebirth of the BMI Alumni Association. He was also a frequent contributor to the Skirmisher. We shall miss him.

The following article appeared in the BMI SWORD and SABRE yearbook in 1951. The sentiments expressed therein are as true today as they were then.

TEN-SHUN!

As we, the Senior Class of 1951, leave these halls of learning, we face the greatest challenge of the world; the need of good leadership. Each of us will be called upon in some way to help guide our great nation through the problems it will be forced to face.

Because we have attended a military school, we were given the opportunity to participate in leadership. We hope that we have acquired the essentials of leadership. The unsettled condition of the world offers us a great opportunity to prove our ability as leaders. In order to be successful leaders, we must use our knowledge to overcome tyranny and lawlessness which have engulfed the nations of the world. Let us be strong and firm with aggressors and use our recent scientific inventions to bring culture and economic conditions of the world to a higher level, not as a weapon of destruction to undo all of man's achievements.

We suggest that the underclassmen read the many mottoes and poems over the doors and in the halls of BMI. Absorb their significance and apply them daily to your own lives and to others. Remember that the United States of America is the greatest nation in the world. It is your duty and ours to keep the Stars and Stripes flying over this great land forever.

Please Note: If you are paying dues, writing emails, or sending letters, PLEASE include your Class Year along with your name. Thank you.

**TRIFLES MAKE PERFECTION
AND PERFECTION IS NO TRIFLE**