



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Classes of 1942 & 1943

Class Agent

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Late April 2006

The excellence of our alumni office astonishes me again. Heather Bazzani is a prime example. Her title is "Alumni and Parent Relations Secretary". In my March letter I had expressed the hope of having an obituary for Onnie Walker. Today (April 6) Heather sent me one by email. She has a program that searches for obituaries. Here is Onnie's.

Onnie Kirk Walker

August 25, 1920—March 21, 2006

Onnie was born in Chicago, Illinois to Ethel and Onnie E. Walker. He was preceded in death by his wife, Maureen, and his brother, Charles Eugene ("Murph") Walker. Upon graduation from **Wabash College** in 1943, he volunteered for the Marines. He was a combat officer in World War II, twice awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered in the Okinawa Campaign, where he served as a mortar platoon commander with the 4th Marine Regiment. After recovering from his wounds, he spent several months in Japan as part of the U.S. Occupation Forces. After being mustered out of the Marine Corps, he became a special agent for the FBI in 1947. He moved to Tampa in 1950. He retired from the FBI in 1977, then was recruited to become supervisor of the Police Applicant Screening Service in Pinellas County, where he worked for four years. He was an avid golfer for many years. After sending all three daughters to Tallahassee to graduate from Florida State University, he became an ardent Seminole fan who enjoyed nothing more than tailgating with family and friends on football weekends. He is survived by his daughters, Linda Walker of Tampa, Bonnie Leigh Walker of Tampa and Mary Francis Pavsner of Jupiter; son-in-law, Lt. Col. Alan Pavsner; and granddaughters, Kimberly Ann and Jillian Leigh Pavsner.

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Tom Frazee writes, "So sorry to learn of Onnie Walker's passing. He was a Sigma Chi pledge brother and a great guy." Then he says, "You seem to be interested in legacies. I can provide a few: Donald C. Frazee, Sr. '16 was my father. Donald C. Frazee, Jr. '37 was my brother. Thomas G. Frazee, Jr. '67 is my son. He was graduated from Indiana University School of Business and pursued a career in retailing. Many thanks to you, Paul, for the effort you put into the class letters. Tom Frazee '43".

A pleasant surprise is a recent letter from Buena Cheney, '43. I quote (approximately) from him: "Each of your newsletters in the past years have been intensely appreciated by me. It is great to read reports about fellow Wabash College students. I apologize to you and my classmates that I have not contributed a letter for your use."

“After graduating from Wabash, I was drafted into the United States Army, serving in the South Pacific for three years in an evacuation hospital. Upon returning to the States in 1946, I attended the Indiana University Law School. I practiced law in the city of Terre Haute and became active in Republican politics. I also became active in the campaign of Dick Ristine for the governorship of Indiana. Working for him was a wonderful experience, and I have always felt a deep regret that he was not elected. He would have been one of Indiana’s outstanding governors.”

“I continued in county and state politics until 1970. During the last of those 13 years, I served on the Republican State Committee from 1967 to 1970, and served as Republican State Chairman. In 1970, I returned to Terre Haute to practice law full time.”

“I married Betty Jo Williams of Terre Haute and we lived together as husband and wife for 52 years prior to her death in January of 2000. We raised two daughters who received their degrees from Indian State University. We also have three grandchildren. One grandchild is now a student at New York University Law School, another is a Fulbright Scholar now teaching English at a university in Chile, South America, and lastly, our third grandchild is currently a student at St. Mary of the Woods College in Terre Haute.”

“Now, at age 84. I am suffering from Parkinson’s disease, which limits my activities, though I find plenty to do on my ‘Piddlin Room’, as I will also in my garden this summer.”

I have received a lovely letter from Willard Anderson’s widow Janice. You will recall his obituary from my April 2005 opus. She says, in part (my apologies for cutting and pasting),

“Even though I don’t know you, I feel as if I do from having received your class agent letters. Actually, Dick Ristine and Bill Trippet are the only Wabash people I am acquainted with.”

“Since Andy’s death I have sold all our properties and bought a condominium here in Columbus in order to be closer to our second daughter and her family. She is a public school teacher here and also owns and teaches in her dance studio. By the way, I am a retired public school music teacher of 37 years. Our oldest daughter is a high school music director in Pinole, California. Our youngest is Vice President of Operations for Jim Davis, the Muncie cartoonist and creator of the “Garfield” comic strip. We have 6 grandchildren. Two are college graduates, three in college and one a senior in high school. They all love music, and one grandson is presently a member of the ‘Singing Hoosiers’ at IU.”

“Thanks again for sending your letters. Sincerely, Jan Anderson.” Jan’s address is Mrs. Willard M. Anderson, 6022 N. Stratton Court, Columbus, IN 47203.

For several years Mary Lou and I have enjoyed lunch every Wednesday at a good local deli with Emory Simmons and George and Ruth Scharf. We are saddened to report that after enduring many illnesses, Ruth died on April 8, diminishing that friendly circle.

Ruth had an interesting career. After graduating from Crawfordsville High School in 1939, and a beauty school, she worked for a beauty shop at Indianapolis, bought the business, and operated it for 29 years. She and George were married in Crawfordsville on December 27, 1968 and enjoyed 37 years together in a remarkable career of public service and volunteerism. They moved to Urbana, and later Fisher, Illinois because of

George's employment at Chanute Air Force Base. He served in various jobs there, retiring as its Chief of Training Plans. The Scharfs moved back to Crawfordsville in 1994 to be closer to their family.

George is the original "Mr. Fixit". I've experienced his skill at first hand, and admired his generosity in applying it for others. For many years, his favorite hobby was restoring old automobiles. He and Ruth belonged to several car clubs. Quoting from Ruth's obituary in our local paper, "Her memberships included First Christian Church of Crawfordsville, Ben Hur Antique and Classic Car Club and St. Clare Ostomy Support Group. While living in Illinois she was a member of the Women's Christian Association of Champaign County, Carle Hospital Ostomy Support Group, volunteer Red Cross van driver for the Peacemeal Program, and she was a life member of the Illini Collector Car Club of Urbana". George lovingly maintained an antique Chrysler for her that they dubbed "The Red Baron". He took a sentimental drive in it the other day to make sure it was OK.

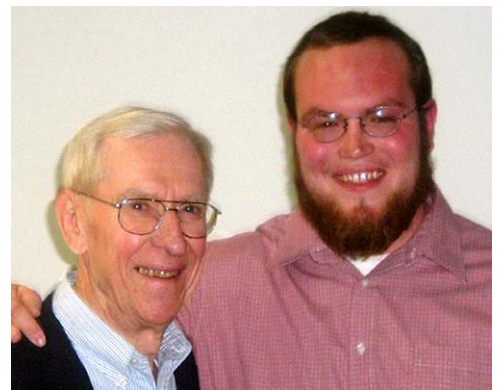
We are seized by yet another grief. Our local newspaper for April 11 contained an obituary for Clay Stuart Priebe, aged 20, the grandson of Herschel Priebe, '42 and his wife Mary Lou, who, long after Herschel's untimely death, remains a staunch supporter of the College. You see her name in every report from the Alumni Office on giving. Clay Priebe was loved by all who knew him, as our newspaper reported a vigil in Ladoga on his behalf. We empathize with his grandmother's grief.

This College year ends with Commencement exercises on Mothers' Day, May 14. Until then, there will be exhibits of students' work in almost every department. It is impossible to attend all of them. Being musically inclined, we attended a chamber orchestra concert in Salter Hall, especially to see and hear senior Steven Zusack perform a movement of Edvard Grieg's piano concerto in A minor. Steven has studied piano for 15 years, and we have enjoyed him for four of those years. It was his usual superb performance. His parents were there, so we got to meet them again.

The next evening I attended a program of student recitals. Justin Bilby, the class of '43 scholar, a tenor, sang Fauré's *Le Secret*. Justin has a nice voice. We look forward to its development. Thomas Pizarek, also a freshman, gave a masterful performance on the bassoon of Telemann's complete *Sonata in f Minor*. Both the Chamber Orchestra concert and the individual recitals were reassuring evidence of a growing maturity in our music programs.

On April 26 I attended a program of papers by mathematics students. A talk by Will Certain on the mathematics of battle was of special interest to me. He chose the Battle of Iwo Jima to apply theory to fact. Will's presentation was skillful. All of our students are adept in Power-Point presentations that make good use of lap-top computers and overhead projectors.

Here is a photo, taken by Marilyn Smith, of Will and me. He is the present Paul Mielke Scholar. The scholarship was endowed in my honor by Elizabeth Rogers, daughter of Minnie Stubbins, who was my landlady in 1938. By the way, Will is an outside linebacker on our football team.



At today's annual Student Honors Chapel, Christopher Ogden, a great running back, received the Indianapolis Alumni Student Athlete Award, the Wall Street Journal Award and the Senior Award of merit. He earned a "distinction" on the Comprehensive Examinations and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa!

I regret having to close yet again on a somber note. The Alumni Office reports the death on April 21 of Jim Forbes, '42. Heather Bazzani provides an obituary from her usual good source. I have added selections, some from the 1942 yearbook.

JAMES CORNELIUS FORBES, JR
February 26, 1920—April 21, 2006

Jim was born on February 26, 1920 in East Chicago, Indiana to James and Mabel Forbes, now deceased. He graduated from Roosevelt High School of East Chicago, Indiana. He received his Bachelor's degree from Wabash College, and a Master's degree from the University of Michigan. At his death on April 21, 2006 he was living in Beaver, Pennsylvania but died while visiting his son's family in Philadelphia.

The last good picture that I have of Jim was taken by Tom Runge on October 29 at the Allegheny football game, and it is in my November class agent letter. It shows Jim with his son and grandson, all with the fiery red hair that we remember so well.

I have in hand the program of the Wabash Commencement exercises for Monday, June 8, 1942. Jim was present. Page 44 of the 1942 yearbook reminds us of his achievements and memberships in college. We especially remember his excellent four years on the track and cross-country teams, and his memberships in the Sphinx Club, the W Men's Club, and the Senior Council.

After college, Jim enlisted in the United States Navy where he was a Lieutenant (JG). During World War II, he commanded Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) for invasions into Normandy, North Africa and Sicily.

During his career, Jim was employed in Chicago at Standard Oil of Indiana, and Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Upon retirement, he worked as an adjunct professor at Robert Morris University, The Community College of Beaver County, and Penn State-Beaver. He also volunteered for several organizations including; Beaver Meals on Wheels, The Friendly Federal Credit Union and the Service Corporation of Retired Executives (SCORE), where he was distinguished as the first counselor from the Pittsburgh Chapter to volunteer 25 years of service.

He was a member of SS. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Beaver. In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann. He is survived by two sons, James C. Forbes III, Bellevue, and Brian J. Forbes, Philadelphia; two daughters, Kathleen E. Forbes, Greensboro, N.C., and Marianne F. Todd, Pittsburgh; a daughter-in-law, Marianne McCormick Forbes, Philadelphia; two sons-in-law, Marc Wheatley Todd, Pittsburgh, and Timothy Jay Patterson, Greensboro, N.C.; a brother, Robert Forbes, Crown Point, Ind.; two sisters, Marilyn Besse and Dr. Sandra Olson, both of Chicago, and six grandchildren, Abigail Todd, Pittsburgh; James, Madeline, Grace, Maggie and Brian Forbes, all of Philadelphia. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 11 a.m., at SS. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church in Beaver. Full military honors were conducted by the Beaver County Special Unit. PTM, May 1, 2006