

# CMA Celebrates 100th Anniversary At Next Year's Grand Reunion



Volume 13, Number 1

Spring, 2003

## Reunion Date to Change for 100th Anniversary in '04

### MINUTES OF THE COLUMBIA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

DATE: April 12, 2003

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: Academy  
Hall, Columbia Academy  
Campus, Columbia, TN

### Board Members in Attendance

Bill Fricke '39	Steve Harper '45
Jack Walker '45	Jim Bledsoe '50
James Haynes '50	Don Kimbrell '53
Buddy Phillips '53	Marshall Cranford '54
W.H. Raiford '55	Carter Witt '55
Tom Walbert '58	Ron Nall '61
Wallace B. Couch '62	John Page '62
Bill Hart '62	Mike Gilchrist '63
Robert Salze '66	Doug Pyron '68
Steve McCool '71	Bobby Bain '72
Woody Pettigrew '73	Winston Elston '74
Robin Layton '74	Becky Moon '75

### Agenda and Reports

The meeting was called to order by CMA Association President Bill Hart who introduced Dr. Bill Thrasher, president of Columbia Academy.

Dr. Thrasher welcomed the board to the campus citing next year as the school's 100th Anniversary, explaining that CMA was a part of the history of the present academy (Columbia Academy) and that we would always be tied together by that fact.

He gave the board an update on the Quadrangle. Very little progress has been made. Over \$50,000 has come in. The board will be given a financial update at the end of the fiscal year which is close at hand. Underground wiring has been installed and some of the fill has been put in place. Architectural plans have been drawn up. There is a 12 foot slope to the land which means a wall will have to be built to contain the fill so it will be level. Workers will try and pour the cement and put the pylons up so it can be dedicated at the next CMA Reunion in 2004.

He explained that the proposed Freedom Tower would probably be built by someone else and named for them. With the help of the alumni association a large plaque with the history of CMA and the quadrangle will be placed appropriately. The plaque will be similar to what presently decorates the senior walk. Everyone's name that has donated will be put on the quadrangle. We are hoping this will be done by the time the Class of 2004 graduates in May of next year.

Next he mentioned that the gift shop in the Guard House had out grown the accommodations and is to be moved to Moore Hall. The school will then turn the Guard House into a history center. Dr. Thrasher voiced his preference that the history center be dedicated exclusively to the history of CMA. In keeping with this the CA board invited the Alumni Association to lease the Guard House and put in it what they want in the way of historic displays such as the ones presently housed in the downtown Municipal Building. In addition the Alumni Association could house the recently renovated cannon and in-

stall a gift shop for CMA memorabilia. Columbia Academy would renovate the building installing all the needed fixtures and building a pad for the cannon.

In the event the Alumni Association does not want to enter into a lease agreement, Columbia Academy would then use it as a History Center for Columbia Academy.

A new campus entrance will be constructed on West 7th Street between the Guard House and the intersection west of the present entrance next to the Guard House. The Guard House area will include an adjoining parking area extending to the end of Old Main. The parking area will not give access to the campus for automotive traffic. The gates will then be left open at all times and individuals can park there and enter the campus through a pedestrian gate. The present gift shop will be moved and the Guard House available by July 15th. of this year.

He added that because of the economic downturn Columbia Academy will no longer be able to fund Mrs. Grimes small salary after May 1, but she would be welcome to keep her office on campus as long as she wants, coming and going when she wants. Mrs. Grimes will then be available to work for the Alumni Association.

In closing Dr. Thrasher indicated that Columbia Academy now had an active web site located at: [www.columbia-academy.net](http://www.columbia-academy.net) where anyone can access the school's newsletter "The Communicator" and keep abreast of current affairs on campus.

At this point Association President Bill Hart called on Alumni Vice President Woody Pettigrew for an invocation.

Following the invocation the Association Secretary, Bill Raiford, read the minutes of the last Board meeting held August 3, 2002.

The minutes were read and approved.

Communications with the Board were taken up next.

It was revealed that a class representative for Group 6 had submitted his resignation. President Hart had asked Wally Couch,

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'62, to fill that position and he had accepted.

The second communication dealt with a tentative proposal from Dr. Thrasher to the CMA Board concerning the Guard House. The initial lease agreement would cover the next 25 years with an initial payment of \$25,000 and an annual fee of \$2,400. Columbia Academy would be responsible for the building's utilities and exterior maintenance. The Alumni Association would be responsible for renovations and improvements inside the building.

Prior to discussion of this communication, Becky Moon was called on to give the Treasurer's Report. It was revealed that the Association spent approximately \$4,400 every year publishing the "Bugle". The semi-annual Reunions bring in approximately \$23,000 with Reunion expenses running approximately \$17,000. It's this difference of about \$6,000 that the association has to use to pay for the Bugle, the scholarship offered a Columbia Academy graduate and other assorted expenses.

Subsequent discussions revealed that while the Guard House project merited consideration, the Alumni Association could not afford the initial \$25,000 cash outlay for such a project.

The Board members directed that a letter be sent Dr. Thrasher thanking him for considering the Alumni Association in this important project but we would have to defer because of a lack of finances.

### Committee Reports

Hall of Honor Committee Report by Winston Elston '74

Winston explained to the Board how a nomination was to be made to the Committee including a brief biography not to run over 500 words with special emphasis on the individuals dedication and service. A picture of the individual should also be submitted. Make sure it is not the original unless you do not want it returned. The name and address of the individual making the nomination must also be included.

The committee will be composed of no more than 9 members. All material submitted and subsequent discussions of the committee will be kept confidential. An individual may be nominated any number of times.

It was mentioned that the certificates honoring individuals that had been elected to the Hall of Honor were presently on display in the Municipal Building in Columbia.

### President's Select Committee

This committee is composed of all board members and its goal is to increase attendance at the biannual reunions as well as to keep in touch with the class members they represent and try and come up with something unusual for the upcoming 100th Anniversary.

### Old Business

The discussion was continued from the former board meeting regarding the invoic-

ing of the membership to secure the \$15 annual dues which helps finance the day to day expenses of the Association between Reunions.

It was mentioned that there are alumni that attend the Reunions that do not pay their dues.

There was a recommendation that those that do not pay due should be taken off the list to receive the Bugle. This was countered by an observation that the Bugle was the only way to consistently keep all graduates abreast of association activities.

It was subsequently resolved that a plea would be made in the "Summer Bugle" in conjunction with a list of all current dues paying members to see if we could boost participation.

The progress made by the Association toward becoming a nonprofit organization whose member donations would be tax deductible was also discussed. Immediate Past President Robin Layton explained that all that had to be done was for someone to sit down with the local attorney, answer some form questions and pay to have it submitted to the governing authorities.

President Bill Hart added that the narrative to be submitted with the request was probably the most important part and that he and Robin Layton would get together and hopefully have it done by the next Reunion.

### The Centennial Reunion in 2004

The first question considered was the fixing of a new date for the Reunion.

While some member were ready to rule out a weekend when school was in session it was noted that Dr. Thrasher did not mind having the alumni attend during the school year.

One of the dates under consideration was the weekend of the "Mule Day" celebration. A straw poll of the motels in Columbia by Wally Couch revealed that there would be no rooms available to accommodate alumni that weekend.

Becky Moon noted that the present Association By-Laws fixed the reunion date as the first week in August and that had to be changed prior to fixing a date other than the August date.

Vice President Woody Pettigrew noted that the By-Laws allowed for an amendment by two-thirds vote of the Board at any regularly held meeting of the Board. The amendment must be reviewed by the By-Laws Committee and a copy mailed each member of the Board no less than three months in advance of the meeting. He went on to explain that the Board could come up with a proposed By-Law change allowing the Board to fix the Reunion date at this meeting mailing it to the entire board three months prior to the October board meeting and vote on it at that time.

Bobby Bain made the motion to amend the By-Laws so the Board could fix the date of future reunions which passed.

A Spring or May Reunion date was favored over the heat of Summer and Fall Football. The three proposed dates up for con-

sideration are May 1, June 12 and June 19.

Robin Layton voiced concerns regarding the need for liability insurance the night of the Cocktail Party and the Banquet the following evening. He then volunteered to chair the committee responsible for Friday's Cocktail Party.

Becky Moon was asked to check the availability of the downtown Memorial Building for the Friday evening Cocktail Party in the event the Ramada was not available and make arrangements for Saturday's Banquet at the Saturn Union Hall.

Wally Couch was placed in charge of the Registration Committee which may or may not be held at the Ramada Inn depending on his investigation.

Mike Gilchrist will handle arrangements for the Saturday morning breakfast and subsequent general membership meeting at Columbia Academy.

The group then adjourned for lunch.

After lunch President Hart asked for marketing suggestions for the 2004 Reunion. Becky Moon volunteered to contact the Mayor of Columbia and the Chamber of Commerce.

A motion was made and passed that a special invitation be extended all former CMA teachers to attend the Centennial. If the former instructors pay their travel and lodging, the Alumni Association will pickup the cost of Saturday's Breakfast and the Saturday evening Banquet and Dance.

## L. Winston Elston, Heads Hall of Honor Committee

Alumni are encouraged to submit nominations for the CMA Hall of Honor prior to next year's Grand Reunion which may be as early as the Spring of 2004.

Elston, Class of '74, advises that any submission package must be complete and in his hands at least 120 days prior to the Reunion if the nominator wants the Committee to reach a decision by Reunion time.

Anyone may nominate a living or deceased CMA graduate. The graduation requirement may be waived due to extenuating circumstances or exceptional merit.

Nominations should be typed, double spaced and mailed prior to the 120 day deadline to:

L. Winston Elston

2381 Virginia Place NE

Atlanta, GA 30305-4236

Legible handwritten submissions will be considered. You can call Winston at his home at: 404-237-4708 or you may e-mail him at: [winston5610@hotmail.com](mailto:winston5610@hotmail.com) for detailed requirements included in the submission package.

All discussions of the selection process shall be kept confidential.

## “Whhhhaazzuupppp Dudes” *Odds and Ends from Here and There*

Albert “Dub” Shean, NG ‘48, relays the address of his brother, Gordon B. Shean, ‘50, for inclusion on the CMA web site. Gordon is in Frankfort, KY.

Nevin Williams, ‘52, and wife spent 2 weeks in Mazatlan, Mexico in April/May celebrating their 38 wedding anniversary. He bets a beer that his “southern belle” is from farther South than anyone else’s. She’s from Panama.

Don Kimbrell, ‘53, located Lamar Gidden Jr., ‘53, in Marion, MS and had a nice phone chat in March. Marion is just outside of Meridian.

Gib and Marlene Rowe, ‘54, have made their annual pilgrimage to Minnesota and ultimately to their summer home in Grand Rapids, from their winter home in Yuma, AZ. Their e-mail address has likewise shifted to: *grapids@2z.net*.

Tom Faires, ‘57, jumped on a plane in Scottsdale, AZ and visited Del Hutson, ‘57, and his wife Jo in Las Vegas an hour away. He had a great time and recommends it for any alumni.

Joe Pack Arnold, ‘59, is returning to Mississippi after working through his “cowboy” fantasies in Arizona. He reports selling his horse was a “heartbreaker”. He has been working at the Meadows in Wickenburg as Chaplain and Spirituality Counselor. In Hattiesburg he’ll be doing the same work at Forrest General Hospital’s Next Step treatment program. He’d like to hear from anyone in the area via e-mail at: *jp85390@yahoo.com*

Clint Houston, ‘64, at Ft. Hood, TX recently covered the deployment of the 4th Infantry Division and mobilization of the 1st Cavalry Division for activities in the Middle East for NBC. He’s interested in getting comments from CMA graduates concerning their opinions on Iraq. He can be reached by e-mail at: *ch10825@aol.com*

Lieutenant Colonel Drew B. Garrison, ‘73, was activated in January for a 365 day mobilization. Drew is with the 91st Division (TS) Staff, as the Division Strength Management Officer. His job is to assist all Reserve and National Guard units mobilized in the Western states.

## Board Member Proposes “Bugle Subscription” Fee For Non-Paying Alumni

by Bill Fricke, Class of ‘39

We on the board of directors have had a problem for several years now that we would appreciate your help in solving. The problem is, we mail over 1800 Bugles four times a year at a cost of about \$1100.00 per mailing.

This comes to \$4,400.00 every year. We only have 350 full dues paying members at \$15.00 per year. This comes to \$5,250.00 per year. We make a little money on the reunions but they only come once every two years. We have other expenses besides getting the Bugle out. We give a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a Columbia Academy student each year. This year the scholarship went to a CMA Alumni’s daughter. We have museum expenses and some other miscellaneous expenses like restoring the cannon etc. We also have board meetings that some of the members come several hundred miles to attend. We do not pay any of their expenses but do feel that they are entitled to a free lunch. Catered lunch for 25 or so people isn’t cheap.

For those that pay the full membership dues of \$15.00 per year which includes a quarterly “Bugle”, we offer our thanks and appreciation. In the future we would like to propose a “Bugle” subscription rate of \$6.00 per year (\$12.00 covers the two years between reunions) for those that do not join the Association. In the past the Association has mailed the “Bugle” to any Alumni we have a valid address on. Do we continue this policy or drop those that do not pay from the mailing list?

Please contact your class representative (see page 4 of this issue) and let him know how you feel about this so we can discuss it at the next Board Meeting.

*The next issue of the “Bugle” will carry the names of those that are presently current with their membership dues.*

## Daughter of ‘76 Graduate Wins ‘03 CMA Scholarship

Columbia Academy’s Jenna Crotzer, daughter of CMA graduate, Barry Crotzer, ‘76, received this year’s CMA sponsored \$1,000 scholarship.

Jenna was in Junior Civitan, the Spanish Club, the Science Club, the National Honor Society and “Who’s Who Among American High School Students”.

She was also on Columbia Academy’s first Bowling Team.

Her father, Barry, Chief of Police in Columbia, TN.

## SILVER TAPS

### Knox Kinney, Class of ‘42

Knox Kinney, 78, died November 8, 2002, in Memphis, TN. Knox was born July 22, 1924 in Memphis, the son of Kenneth Hayes Kinney and Ruby Lucille Baird Kinney.

He resided in St. Francis County, AR his entire life except for 3 years of military service during WW II.

Giving up his undergraduate studies at The Citadel, he volunteered for service in the U.S. Army in late ‘42, serving 3 years in the 14th Armored Division under General George S. Patton and General Smith receiving two bronze stars.

Following his discharge, Knox joined the Army reserves where he was commissioned a Lieutenant.

Attending Vanderbilt Law School on the GI Bill, he was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Doctorate in Jurisprudence.

He was licensed to practice in both Arkansas and Tennessee and was an associate for one year at Snowden, Davis, Brown, McCloy and Donelson in Memphis before returning to Forrest City, AR to setup his own practice.

Elected to the Arkansas State Legislature in ‘50, he served four terms under Governors McMath, Cherry and Faubus, retiring without opposition to meet the demands of his law practice. He was past

**continued on next page**

## MOVING? STAY IN TOUCH...

Please forward your new address to:

**CMA Alumni Association  
804 Athenaeum Place  
Columbia, TN 38401-3156**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATING CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

# SILVER TAPS

president of the St. Francis County Bar Association, Forrest City Rotary Club and the Forrest City Chamber of Commerce and served as City Attorney for Forrest City for 32 years, retiring in August of '02.

In addition to his membership in the Arkansas and American Bar Associations, he was a member of the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and House of Delegates of the Arkansas Bar Association.

He was a Gideon and life member of the VFW. He attended the First Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Patsy Patrick Kinney and son Baird Kinney, both of Forrest City, a daughter June Kinney Belew of Memphis, one grandchild Deborah Celeste Kinney and twin brother Clarke Kinney of Little Rock.

## Leslie H. "Bud" Burnett Class of '45

Mr. Leslie H. Burnett, 75, of Roswell, GA, died Dec. 11, 2002. Formerly of Mt. Pleasant, Bud was retired from the U.S. Marine Corp. after 30 years in service having achieved the rank of Captain.

He served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Honor for jumping into a river from a helicopter and saving the lives of several drowning children.

He was a sales representative for Service Casket Company in Columbus, GA following his retirement from the Corp.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila Burnett of Roswell, sons Leslie H. "Trip" Burnett, a graduate of The Naval Academy and a Navy aviator stationed at Pensacola, FL, and Garrett T. Burnett of Roswell, sisters Anna McGaw of Columbia, TN and

Mary Bond Offutt of Tullahoma, TN, brother William "Bucky" Burnett, Class of '51, Las Vegas and several nieces and nephews.

## David Edgar Sellers, Jr. Vice President of CMA, '54-'64

David Sellers Jr., died Nov. 3, 2001 at his home in Barnsville, GA at age 87.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Elizabeth Bush Sellers; 2 sons, David Edgar Sellers, III and wife Pamela of Spotsylvania, VA; Walter J. Sellers and wife Jerri Ann of Chapel Hill, NC and 4 grandchildren.

After leaving CMA in '64, Colonel Sellers served as Academic Dean at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, VA for 17 years. He retired in 1979 returning to GA.

## Illness Takes Life of Rev. Bob E. Bell, '55

The Rev. Bob E. Bell, senior pastor at Westwood Baptist Church in Cleveland, TN died last July in Chattanooga following a short illness.

Pastor Bell, 65, was born in Columbia, TN and following graduation from CMA, attended Belmont College in Nashville where he received his bachelor of arts degree in '59. His major was psychology with a minor in Greek and German.

He later attended the New Orleans Baptist Seminary, receiving his degree in 1962. He was licensed and ordained at First Baptist Church in Columbia where his parents had been members.

He was chairman of the Evangelism Committee of Bradley County for 3 years, conducting preaching missions to Trinidad and Honduras.

Survivors include his wife, Anne Pitt Bell, son Robert Todd Bell and daughter, Beverly Ann Bell.

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Bill Raiford '55, Secretary  
Becky Algood Moon '75, Treasurer  
Don Kimbrell '53, Assistant Treasurer

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Jim Bledsoe '50; Ed Hessel\* '47; Pitts Hinson '67,  
Robin Layton '74

### HALL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Mariemma Grimes; Nathan G. Gordon;  
Thomas F. Paine; William Anderson;  
Lee James; Gov. Paul Johnson;  
Lt. Gen. William E. Odom; Aubrey B.T. Wright;  
Gen. Hugh P. Harris; James M. Peebles Sr.;  
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Please address all correspondence, articles, photos, etc., for publication to:

### BUGLE QUARTERLY

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## CMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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