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Next Reunion - August, 2002 on Campus in Columbia



# BUGLE

## QUARTERLY

Volume 11, Number 2

Summer, 2001

## '54 Grad Restores Military Vehicles

There are four jeeps in Taylor Stamps's (Class of '54) motor pool. At least, they are the ones his wife, Kay, knows about.

"This is my first one, this is my baby" Stamps said of the 1943 Ford model.

It was one of about 50 military vehicles in the Spring Military Vehicle Rally held at Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington in early June. Another gathering, hosted by the Military Vehicle Preservation Association was held July 4th.

Ever since he was a boy, Stamps, 65, had wanted a jeep after he saw one in an old movie newsreel, loaded with soldiers on a wartime mission.

About 25 years ago, Stamps got his jeep, although it was a far cry from the government issue restoration he drives about twice a month around his hometown of Collierville, TN.

He was president and CEO of Citizens Bank of Collierville before it merged with National Bank of Commerce. Stamps is retiring soon, and then he figures he can devote some real time to his hobby.

When he bought the jeep in Mississippi for \$850, it was being used as a bird-hunting vehicle. He stripped it to the frame and refurbished all the parts.

To outfit the jeep as closely as the way it arrived in Europe during World War II, Stamps scoured flea markets, military surplus stores and rallies like the one the Mid-South Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association held.

Stamps refuses to divulge how much

he spent to restore the jeep: "That is a military secret. It is grounds for divorce."

"I've never ridden in it," Kay admitted. Stamps said both his sons learned to drive on the manual-transmission vehicle, and he's planning to teach his grandson to drive it.

Restored vintage jeeps run \$7,000 to \$18,000, "depending on the year, who made it and the condition it's in," Stamps said.

Contests are divided into more than two dozen categories, and 14 full-size vehicles will win awards for those ranging from the oldest to the most heavily armed.

Registration for the model contest was

\$5 for the first model and \$1 for each additional. Full-size vehicles were entered for \$11 each.

Taylor is one of some 40 individuals from the Mid-South that make up this area's Military Vehicle Preservation Association. Taylor's e-mail address is: [tkstamps@bellsouth.net](mailto:tkstamps@bellsouth.net)

### Clarification

The last "Bugle" listed Barthell Joseph (Class of '45) as helping raise \$500,000 in donations for the CMA Memorial proposed by Columbia Academy.

Barthell wants to emphasize that he is only a small contributor and not charged with raising the entire \$500,000.



Reprinted in part from The Memphis Commercial Appeal

TAYLOR STAMPS "BABY"...Purchased some 25 years ago, this jeep has undergone major restoration and now competes in Military Vehicle Preservation contests.

## Colonel Martin Damon Howell's Acceptance Speech

*The following acceptance speech was made by Col. M.D. Howell (Class of '43) upon induction into Columbia Military Academy's "Hall of Honors" August 5, 2000. This copy was supplied by J. Barthell Joseph (Class of '45).*

"Mr. chairman, members of the committee, friends and fellow alumni, I am most grateful for the recognition you have given me today. The citation was most flattering. I am reminded of Mark Twain when he heard reports that he had died. He said, 'The news of my death has been greatly exaggerated'. Similarly, I detect some exaggeration today.

I am both honored and humble to be here today and I am grateful to the selection committee, the association officers, the staff and faculty of Columbia Academy who have so graciously allowed us the use of our old campus, and to all of you. I must say, too, that I am fortunate to be installed in the Hall of Honor in company with Sergeant Wright (Aubrey B.T. Wright, see "Bugle" Spring issue, '01). I did not know Sergeant Wright but my brother, L.D. Howell in the Class of 1942, did know him. He said that he was not only an outstanding soldier but he was one to whom the cadets would come with their problems. He would assure them that their trouble was not the end of the world but merely a bump on the highway to future success. He was indeed one in a thousand and I am delighted to be installed here with him today.

I would be remiss if I did not remember three people who guided me in whatever contributions I made.

The first was my father, Judge Lonnie Howell of Jacksonville, FL, who from my first remembrance taught me to be honest, to tell the truth, to work hard and to save part of my money. On a soldier's pay back in the 50's, I believe "Saving" to be the most difficult part of his counsel.

The second person was Colonel Earl "Red" Blaik who was my coach at West Point. He instilled in us the desire to measure up to the motto of West Point, "Duty, Honor, Country." He also constantly stressed the statement made by General Douglas MacArthur when he was superintendent at West Point and which is now engraved above the en-

trance to the South Gymnasium, "There Is No Substitute For Victory."

The third man I would like to remember was Colonel C.A. Ragsdale and I know that most of you remember him too. He was honorable, trustworthy, dedicated and a true Christian. I have since leaving CMA, attended five outstanding institutes; Georgia Institute of Technology, United States Military Academy, University of Mississippi, New York University and Harvard University. Never in one of these universities have I found anyone, or any instructor who could

hold a light to our own Colonel C.A. Ragsdale. He was and is the greatest.

He could make a solid geometry or spherical trigonometry problem seem perhaps not to be simple but to be understandable.

Colonel C.A. and I had a special understanding. I was the waiter in the Mess Hall for his table located in the Southeast corner. Though he was a mathematical genius, he could not recon that his table was the furthest from the kitchen of any in the Mess Hall. One day he explained to the amusement and pleasure of my classmates, 'That fellow Howell is the last to get the food on the table and the first to take it away.' I think he loved me and I know I loved him. Colonel C.A. we all salute you in life and in death.

As I look out over the assemblage and see Hop Doris, Bill Fuqua, Racehorse Wells, Steve Harper, Sam Stewart and other dear friends, my mind drifts back to the days we played football together. Bill Fuqua has already related some of his experiences. I frequently talk to Joe Steffy who was a legend at Baylor down in Chattanooga. He later played as a freshman in the Rose Bowl on the great Tennessee team of 1944, was All-American at Army and subsequently inducted into the Football Hall of Fame.

In 1943 CMA had a good team but we had lost to McCaulay in Chattanooga 14-

0. Afterwards, we defeated Sewanee, Chattanooga Central and Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA). Then we went down to play Baylor.

What ensued is what Joe tells me was referred to as the CMA Rout. We made 14 first downs, they made 2, we scored 4 touchdowns - 2 of which were called back by officials prone to mistakes. Baylor made 2.

At any rate when we took the field, Hop Doris playing center and I left guard, were surprised to see the Baylor legend Steffy lined up opposite us. We quickly conferred and Hop said, "You hit him on the side of the head and I'll grab his leg then we'll send Bam Webster



**Col. Martin D. Howell**

up the middle on Thunderbolt." This we did for a good part of the afternoon with wingback Wells lending variety with reverses off left tackle and left end. By the way, Baylor won 14-13 with Joe kicking both extra points.

Joe Steffy says that Humpy Heywood, Barlor's most popular coach, said in his farewell to Baylor that it was the longest afternoon he ever spent on a football field. Joe sends his best wishes and warm regards to all of us. He's a great friend and a distinguished soldier.

To return to our purpose for assembling here today, I would like to say that I cannot accept this honor alone. I accept it on behalf of all of you. Many here today have made greater contributions than I, especially those who have served our organizations and made our reunions so memorable and enjoyable. Certainly the true heroes of CMA and its Hall of Honor are our classmates who gave their lives and limbs in World War II, in Korea and in Vietnam for our country and academy.

In the cavalry we used to end our meetings, lectures and ceremonies with a toast, "To our comrades present and Departed."

Those were the true heroes and I accept this recognition with my heartfelt gratitude to them and to you. God Bless America, God Bless the Academy and God Bless Us Everyone.

## From the President

To all our Columbia Military Academy alumni, I am delighted to be able to address you through our BUGLE newsletter. One of our own has stepped up and taken the reins of "Editor". Bill Raiford has put together a wonderful "paper" that will reflect the "on going" voices of our varied projects and interests. I know that you have not been hearing from us as you should, nor as I would like, but we are back on track thanks to Bill. I heartily commend Bill for his dedication and unselfish gift of time that is needed to do the work, not only as our BUGLE Editor but also as our web master for the association web site. CMAAA is being "found" every week by someone browsing round the "net" looking for some way to contact an old buddy. The presence of our site on the world wide web makes this so much easier. Please notify Bill Raiford of snail mail and E-mail address changes. Bill's snail mail address is:

Bill Raiford

1577 Forrest Ave.

Memphis, TN 38112

and his e-mail address is:

memnet@memphisnet.net

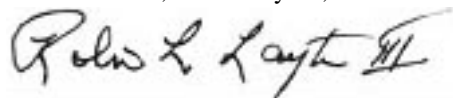
Those of you who received the Columbia Academy newsletter saw the rendering of the planned CMA Memorial. It is an ambitious project that will honor CMA alumni. So, please consider it as a most worthy project that we can help shape with our financial support.

I desperately need several volunteers to individuals to serve on the 2002 Grand Reunion Committee. We need persons who can get to Columbia to oversee and help plan our next reunion. I would like to have this group in place by this fall so we could have at least one preliminary meeting this year to get the ball rolling for the 2002 date.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the individuals that work so hard year in and year out. Without these individuals we would not have an alumni association. And with most reverent thoughts, I want to say good-bye to the alums that we have lost, for they shall be mightily missed by us all.

Please, all you guys and gals, let me hear from you. I challenge you to find at least one lost alum in the next year!

All the best, Robin Layton, III



## A.W.O.L.

*This is a listing of cadets we have addresses on but do not know their graduating class. Please help us by e-mailing their name and class designation to: memnet@memphisnet.net*

### Class Unknown:

Louis Sipes  
Russell Snyder  
Van Spaulding  
James David Stephens  
Ron Stone  
Steven G. Templeman  
Dale R. Thompson  
James I. Thorn  
Mike Whiffen  
Pete Witt  
David Wyatt  
Herman Yeatman  
Jerrald R. Young  
William A. Young

### "Whhhhhaazzuupppp Dudes"

#### *Odds and Ends from Here and There*

Dr. George "Doc" Holladay (Class of '52) retired from his eye surgical practice in 1992 and with no previous training, took up the clarinet. He now plays in several musical outfits including the Denton, TX "New Horizons Band" specializing in dixieland and "those good old oldies".

Bob Knight (Class of '55) is hold up in Baton Rouge and would like to hear from any Bellhop that celebrated graduation on the Peabody roof in Memphis.

His e-mail is: rtbobknight@aol.com

Dr. Cleve Johnson (Class of '56) who graduated med school 40 years ago has retired from his Orthopaedic practice in Laurel, MS. He and his wife Phyllis, are on extended vacation in Montana. He's taking his laptop with him and can be reached at: cn32430@aol.com

Phillip Terry Thomas (Class of '66) is set to retire in a couple of years from the LAPD.

He and John D'Armond (Class of '66) are still wondering if anyone remembers how the "uniform of the day" got changed from winter woolens to summer dress somewhat prematurely on 4/1/63.

Someone picked up some Bullring time but because of the intense heat, everyone except Col. McCord was happier.

## CMAAA Treasurer's Report

As of July 9, 2001

FIRSTAR BANK Balances

**Certificate of Deposit: \$30,101.48**

**Checking Account: \$25,791.97**

Each BUGLE that is printed and mailed first class to those on our master list costs the association approximately \$1,150.00. The reunion issue costs more because of the weight and return forms involved.

The 2000 Grand Reunion cost the association approximately \$16,181.89. Almost all of the manpower is provided by local alums. The 2000 Grand Reunion brought in approximately \$27,933.75. So we were pleased to have raised sufficient funds to keep publishing (and mailing first class) the BUGLE and provide for the 2002 Grand Reunion.

Please contact me at 931-388-9128 if you would like more detailed information regarding the association's finances.

Becky Moon

## \$750 CMAAA Scholarship

Columbia Academy's Allan Kirk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kirk has been awarded CMAAA's \$750 scholarship for 2001.

A member of the Spanish Club, the Civitan Club, National Honor Society, and Spiritual Emphasis Council, Allan was also a member of baseball team, basketball team and soccer team. He served as president of his freshman class, was Lt. governor of the Jr. Civitan Valley District and president of the student body. He plans to attend Harding University in the fall.

## 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

**Dr. Charles W. Merritt, Class of '40**, died Feb. 24 at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Born in Boyle, MS, he was captain and quarterback of CMA's football team and was recruited by several SEC universities to play college ball.

He attended the University of Virginia, receiving a B.A. degree in 1944. While at U. of V. he was elected to a number of student body, social and scholastic organizations including president of the Student Body and chairman of the Honor Council. His senior year he was captain of the baseball team, leading the team with a batting average of over .800 and with the most home runs.

Offered a contract with the New York Yankees organization, he opted to go to medical school at U. of V. where he earned his M.D. degree in 1946. He specialized in obstetrics and gynecology in 1952.

Dr. Merritt served on the staffs of three Beckley, GA hospitals and founded Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology. It was estimated that he delivered some 16,000 babies in his career.

The CMA graduate served four years on the Beckley City Council and was president of the Rotary Club. He was a member of St. Stephens Episcopal Church where he served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden.

A member of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, he was also a member of the Black Knight Country Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Martha in May of 1994.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Joel M. (Presley) Wagoner of Beckley, GA and Mrs. Ann M. DuPree of Madison, GA; a son, Charles Wesley Merritt Jr. of Madison, GA; a nephew,

Dr. Walter M. Merritt III of Corpus Christi, TX and Lake City, CO; seven grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

**D.B. Blythe, Class of '55** died July 4. He lived in Iuka, MS and was a member of Mt. Evergreen Methodist Church. He played football at Auburn University and Delta State University, graduating from Delta State.

A memorial service was held July 7 at Ludlam's Funeral Home Chapel in Iuka with Ralph Culp and Jim Fennell officiating.

Survivors include his wife, Doretta Loveless Blythe of Eastport, MS; two sons, Brad Blythe of Paden, MS and Dr. Derrick Blythe and Wife Lynn of Booneville, MS; a sister, Shirley Crabtree and husband Doug of Hamilton, AL; two grandchildren, Chelsea Blythe and Morgan Blythe; a niece and a nephew.

Pallbearers were Andy Tigner, Billy Cagle, Jeff McGee, Tom Morrell, Dr. Tom Rolleigh, Wayne Barrett, Calvin Turner, Thomas Williams and Joey Pruitt.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Serenity lodge, P.O. box 246, Trinty, AL 35673

**Beth Bowers, Former CMA Typing and Business Instructor**, died last year.

She leaves three sons; Blake Bowers who attended CMA in '76 and '77, Steve Bowers and James Bowers and one daughter; Vicki Bowers.

Survivors will place her name on the memorial planned for the Assembly Area according to Blake.

BUGLE QUARTERLY is published quarterly for a \$3.00 portion of member's annual dues, by the CMA Alumni Association. First Class postage paid in Columbia, TN. POSTMASTER: Please forward address changes to CMA Alumni Association, 804 Atheneum Place, Columbia, TN 38401-3156.

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Inactive associates are encouraged to become active. Active associates are encouraged to share in this publication's success by providing current or past information of interest to the association. Photos, cartoons or other illustrations are always welcome and appreciated.

**Material Deadlines for Publication**  
Winter Issue – December 15th  
Spring Issue – March 15th  
Summer Issue – June 15th  
Autumn Issue – September 15th

Please address all correspondence, articles, photos, etc., for publication to:

**BUGLE QUARTERLY**  
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