

aboard USS RENTZ. **Pete Rucci** is back in Kingsville, Texas, at VT-22 and **Barry Wilbur** is at Corpus Christi with VT-31.

John Vuolo and his wife Sharon have three children now. **Sean Rice** is working for Hughes Aircraft as a senior systems engineer on future aircraft. He reports that the Army-Navy game was great but sent no details on whom he saw there. I hope someone sends some pictures or news of the week. Sean will have an open door for any of you coming west for the Olympics. His address is 711 E. Gran Ave. (4), in El Segundo. **Steve Young** is stationed at Naval Weapons Station, Dahlgren, Virginia.

David Allsopp has finished a four year tour in USS VON STEUBEN, which included a two-and-a-half year refueling overhaul at Newport News, Virginia. He is now teaching leadership and submarine courses at submarine school in Groton until next July. His address is 40 Norman Dr., Gales Ferry CT 06335; tel. 203/464-0089. David has been in contact with **Gail Ohler**, Mike's widow, and she is putting together a scrapbook on Mike so the children will know something about their father. Anyone who knew Mike and would like to write Gail or send some pictures, please forward those to David at his address and he will make sure she gets them.

I also have just recently heard of the death of another Classmate, Capt. **Stephen J. Burley**. He was flying in a Marine Corps Sea Stallion helicopter that crashed into a Korean mountain on 24 March, killing 18 U.S. and 11 Korean Marines. They were turning back from an aborted night landing when the weather deteriorated. I would like to pass on our Class's condolences to his family and close friends.

Tom Harper, who most of you will remember as a Classmate at prep school and plebe year and who finished with '78, has written a book about his victory over cancer. His book is titled *I Choose to Fight* and is published by Prentice-Hall. Tom is living in Virginia Beach with his wife and two children and frequently lectures nationwide on behalf of the American Cancer Society. I know all of us that know Tom couldn't be happier for him. There was a funny twist to the order form for the book he sent me; about how he was accepted to the "prestigious United States Military Academy"!

Gregg Smith sent me an update from postgraduate school. After spending time with the RAG at HSL-30, Gregg made three cruises before going to Monterey in the computer systems curriculum. **Scott Fontaine** is in the aerospace program and then off to test pilot school. Scott threw a huge St. Patrick's Day party that, among others, **Phil Corbett** and **Dean Podrasky** attended. **Chris Feeney** graduated in March and is stationed on-board USS GUADALCANAL. Also at PG school are Al Tobin, George Barton, Mark Alcamo, Tom Salack, Bruce Campbell, Joel Wilson, Rick Self, Keith Haney, Keith Lockett, John Nelson, Mike McCarthy and Bob Vogel.

From the other coast, **Jim Blasko** wrote with the graduates of department head school at Newport. Here is where they are going: **Jim Blasko**, engineer in USS BAGLEY (FF-1069) in San Diego; **Richard Franks**, weapons in USS PATTERSON (FF-1061) in Philadelphia; **MIKE FRICK**, engineer in USS WILSON (DDG-7) in San Diego; **Bill Garland**, weapons in USS CARON (DD-970) in Norfolk; **Bill Jackson**, operations in USS ANTRIM (FFG-20) in Mayport; **Bill Jones**, operations in USS CAPONDANNO (FF-1093) in Newport; **Fred Kinkin**, engineer in USS SPRUANCE (DD-963) in Norfolk; **Bill Miskler**, engineer in USS DOWNES (FF-1070) in San Diego; **Jeff Sapp**, weapons in

USS INGERSOLL (DD-990) in San Diego; **John Stride**, weapons in USS J. HANCOCK (DD-981) in Charleston; **Andy Tamayo**, weapons in USS STERN (FF-1065) in San Diego; **Phil Wisecup**, operations in USS DEGRASSE (DD-974) in Norfolk; Tom Pickles, engineer in USS FARRAGUT (DDG-37) in Norfolk.

More news next month.

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Membership: 76%

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As I write this epic epistle for the June issue the cherry blossoms of Washington are witnessing the beginning of Spring here on the East Coast. As most of you have gathered by now, I've been OOC, to put in Navy vernacular, for the past few months. As a matter of fact, by the time you're reading this I will have been medically discharged from the Navy for having diabetes. It came as quite a shock at first, but I figure any disease that has Angie Dickinson doing commercials for it can't be all bad. Anyway, as per usual, I'm eons behind, so bear with me as I catch up on some rather dated info. As I've said before, it's more important to me that everyone who takes the time to write, get their news into an article, even though it may be somewhat old, by the time it gets in print. By the same token, please remember once again that when you get four-month-old news, send me a letter a few months later, I sit on it for a few months, write it up and then it appears in *Shipmate* two months later, you can understand how some of the latest and greatest news is very late, but not so great. So I'll pick up my end, so to speak, and hopefully you'll do the same to help out. Now then . . .



Muriel Kotalawala and Kevin C. Rawson, Navy Chapel, Amphibious Base, Little Creek

A letter from Capt. Art Rawson USN (Ret.) tells of the marriage of **Kevin Rawson** to Muriel Kotalawala a year ago at the Amphib Base in Little Creek. Muriel is from Malaysia, but met Kevin in England when Kevin made a port call on board USS CLAUDE V. RICKETTS (DDG-5). As of a few months ago the newlyweds were living in Virginia Beach as Kevin prepared for CIVLANT. By the way, KC's bro-in-law is Rex Bent '76.

A note several decades old from **Wade Tallman**, included a photo of a number of '78 flyboys stationed in USS RANGER (CV-61) last Summer. I must admit I sat on Wade's letter for awhile because I understood that during that cruise he had to eject from his A-7E, but reliable sources assure me that all is A-ok. Wade mentioned that he, along with **Carl Abelein**, was flying A-7Es with VA-192,

while **J.D. Oliver** and **Ron McNeil** were flying F-14s with VF-211. **Floyd Steed** and **Jeff Dickman** were flying S-3s out of VS-33 while the token A-6 and E-2C drivers were **Al Kuntz** and **Phil Brennan**, respectively. By this time, Wade should be instructor at the F/A-18 RAG with VFA-125, but I can't confirm the present whereabouts of any of these stalwarts. After some fervent efforts by mail and then by phone, Master Chief Storekeeper Mooney can finally, but all too belatedly, rest easy knowing that I have finally included that **Rich "Moon-Man" Mooney** received the Navy Achievement Medal last fall for his work as DCA on board USS GRIDLEY. Rich was cited specifically for having "unprecedented zero material deficiencies" during GRIDLEY's Light-off Examination (LOE). Having gone through an LOE as electrical officer I know what an achievement it is to have zero deficiencies. But having been moored near GRIDLEY in San Diego at one time, I do vaguely recall a rash of missing parts reported by ships in the area . . . well anyway, congratulations to Moon-man and his proud Dad.



(R. to L.): John, Jacy, Jamieson Cooke

Just a short year late, I've decided to correct the June '83 issue which stated that **John Cooke**, had a daughter Lacy, when in fact he has a son Jacy — way to go guys good info! Anyway as you can see by the photo, the Cooke family is fine, with John, Deb and their two sons Jacy and Jamieson doing well in Groton. John is Gold Crew engineer on board GEORGIA (SSBN-729). Other 20th Company dope includes Karen and **Steve Bacon** residing in the DC area with their son Brian. Apparently Steve has left the Navy, but no info as to what he's up to. Fellow DC area residents are Michelle and **Dom "the Italian Stallion" Berenato**. They live in Annapolis on West Street with sons Drew and J.P. As a matter of fact, Dom recently relieved me as Aide to Como. Jack Garrow '55 who is the Chief of Information. '78 continues its role as aides-de-camp to the best. John also mentioned that Karen and **Mike Hayden** and their daughters Marianne and Lauren are in California where Mike is teaching at UC Davis. Back on the East Coast, Debbie and **Rick Neilsen** and their daughter Christin, are in Macon, Georgia, where Rick is regional nuclear programs recruiter. Betsy and **Mike Shinego** are in Rochester, New York, where Mike is stationed at the University NROTC Unit. Mike looking for updates from 20th Company buds — so write to 7 Bellflower Circle, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Moving on to Mid-America, a short note from **Kevin Liddy** tells that he has taken the plunge, not only into the civilian world, but into matrimony as well. Kevin was married last June and he and his wife, Catherine, are presently residing in St. Louis where Kevin works for Shearson/American Express as a financial consultant. He mentioned that if all of us would send



Back, l. to r.: Wade Tallman, Carl Abelein, Ron McNeil, Phil Brennan, Floyd Steed; front: J. D. Oliver, Al Kuntz, Jeff Dickman

him some money, he would see that it was properly invested . . . in an unnumbered Swiss bank account. Anyway, his note reminded me that I did bump into his old roommate, **Sam Tangredi** the other day. Sam is in the Pentagon with the Joint Chiefs. Kevin also mentioned another old bud, **John Hueseman**, is also out in St. Louis with wife Nancy and daughters Heidi and Kelly Ann. John was working with McDonnell Douglas, but I understand he has left that job to work with another major firm based in St. Louis. I'm not sure which company it is, but John asked me if I'd ever ridden a Clydesdale before. When you say Bud, you've said it all . . . well almost. Actually, John is now, with **Leybold-Heraus**, St. L. Kevin wants to notify all 17th Companymates that he did in fact sell his white 1966 Cadillac and bought a BMW. The man is obviously a YUPPIE.

Moving west, a letter from **Judy** and **Dan Mori** said that Dan had left the Navy last Summer, but not before he had been awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his work as communications officer on board USS **HALSEY**. Dan is presently working for General Dynamics, and he, Judy and daughters April and Crystal Marie are all doing beautifully in sunny Sunnymead CA. Old friends can contact them at 24508 Oneida Street, Sunnymead CA 92388. And in Long Beach in **HALSEY** is **Paul Wiedorn**. The Wiedorns are the proud parents of **Kristen Danielle**, born last May.

Now for some USMC news. **Julie** and **Brad Richardson** wrote that all is well in Jacksonville (NC), at New River. Brad is flying 53's and enjoying life with Julie and the new addition, Ashley, who was born late last summer. Julie mentioned that her sister **Ginger** and **Doug Meyer** had also had a baby girl, **Ginny**, last Spring. Doug is in Memphis on recruiting duty. Also on recruiting duty are **Amy** and **Jim Lippard** who are in Indianapolis. Brad's fellow USMC helo-jocks, **Vince Balderama** and **Randy Duncan**, tied the knot recently, though not to each other, fortunately for both of them. Vince married **Elizabeth Veit** last Fall, while **Randy** and **Alicia Duncan** were married last Summer.

(From left): Judy, Crystal, Dan, April Mori



Brad, Julie and Ashley Richardson

Speaking of Mo-Co types who recently entered marital bliss, a letter from the "tallest of tall daddies," **Jimbo Shulson**, does in fact verify an earlier article that he was indeed married last July. Some of the sober stalwarts in attendance were **Steve "Jock" Maloney**, **Ken "Waldo" Waldie**, **Brian "Bull" McCormack** and **Al "Book" Hammond**. Shuls is doing his part for America on the sunny shores of Okinawa, not to be confused with Wildwood, New Jersey, and has bumped into the following all-stars: **Roy Schlieden**, **Bob "Dizzy" Gillespie**, and **Art Athens**. Roy, who is with 3rd FSSG, was seen on the golf course playing with his wife and one of the Chaplains. (Roy and a Chaplain?) Bob is also with 3rd FSSG. (a Drug and Alcohol Officer) Art and Misty are at MSCAS Futenma (H). I think Art is a Colonel Selectee by now. **Calvin Dixon** and **John Rudzis** have left Okinawa but were replaced by a formidable force in **Jock Maloney**. The P-3 Det. at Kadena is the home for a few stellar 78'ers, **Hank Von Ahs**, **Pat Quigley**, and **Phil Winters**. Shuls thought he could "get away from some of these bums, but when you're the biggest bum of them all, you seem to draw them."



A few more from Homecoming

Well, that about wraps it up for June. I am getting close to catching up on the letters (believe it or not) and hope to finally do so in the July/August issue. Keep those cards and letters coming, and have a great summer wherever you may be.

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This is the next to last column I will be writing while in the Corps, and I must say that I am busy trying to decide what to do next. Shows what can happen when you pick the right school! I have seen several Seventy-niners here and there. **Pete Koufus** already looks like a Wall Street veteran. He has mysteriously made arrangements with his command in Great Lakes to be able to jet around in search of the megabuck. Speaking of megabucks, if any of you run into **Jeff "Mr. Pepsi" Klingensmith**, make sure he buys the drinks. Only Michael Jackson is making more from Pepsi's payrolls. I also saw **Bob Smout** and **Sam Willet**. Sam is working in Kansas City as a recruiter. I didn't have a chance to talk to Bob.

Karen and I took a trip down the coast to visit **Mark Decker** in Jax. Mark is flying P-3s and planning his financial empire. As always, Mark looks terrific and is waiting our five-year reunion with anticipation of a serious party. All 12ers be sure to get in touch with me ASAPsually. "Lutimus, Lutimus wherefore art thou, Lutimus?" We made a point of *not* getting in touch with **Bob "Regular Guy" Tata**. Bob is in Jacksonville aboard some slack ship storing up points towards his Admiralty and plans on being married in June to a very nice young lady. Honest guys, I talked to her on the phone and she is a charmer! By the way, **Tom Hicks** and **Bob Burns** are also soon to be civilians. No details yet, but I'll keep you posted.

Anne and **Dale Rugieri** are the proud parents of **Adam Lee Rugieri**, born on February 20, 1984. Dale is the material control officer for VF-103. They sent a picture but unfortunately it wouldn't come out. Heide and **Robin Needham** have another boy named **Eric Charles**. They are living in Georgia. **Daryl** and **Grant Thornton** should have their first baby by the time you read this. Grant is finally coming out of the yards, but will rotate in the Fall so will just miss some sea duty, darn. He is going to Groton, Connecticut, to teach at sub school. **Jacque** and **Greg Balestreri** are down in Charleston and at last report Greg was undecided about service selection. I do hear that **Dave Stehlin** may resign. Where are you Dave? **Greg Hutto**? **Matt Coleman**?

Sandy and **David Emerling** are in Jax (Florida) where David is in USS **NIMITZ**. **Melinda** and **Pete Parsons** are still in Va Beach at last word, where Pete is on board USS 79 otherwise known as **MISSISSIPPI**. **Mary** and **John Kaiser** are also in Va Beach, and **Ellen** and **Rich Reynolds** are living in Bowie, Maryland. Rich is working in DC with NMPC, whatever that is. **Sean Stackley** was one of the runners in this year's Boston Marathon. Way to go, Sean! **Beth** and **Scott Pursley** are wondering if **Erin**, their new baby girl, will be able to find true happiness with a little Irish boy. Scott is on shore duty in Bangor, Washington. He is an instructor at the Trident Training Facility. **Andy Adamshick** is still in **JAMES MONROE**. More good news from **Sean** and **Terry**; they should have a baby by now. Sean is at MIT. **Doug Patten** is fly-