

JUNE NOTES FOR CLASS OF 1957

Continuing on in alphabetic order with the updates e-mailed to me at year-end, *Phil Commack relates that he is getting ready for winter in the Northern Sierras. Sorry I have no room to show the wonderful photo of Phil holding a 141 oz nugget from the 16 to 1 gold mine in Sierra County. I hope you got that emergency generator up and running before the first storm, Phil.

*Renata Cathou writes that she is still deeply immersed in conserving the large number of photographs, negatives, slides, glass plates, and early books on photography inherited from her father, a professional whose photo career spanned 70 years.

*Alan Donaldson says that he is having too much fun to retire. No wonder, his two companies, Idaho Titanium Technologies, and Plasma Quench Technologies make ultra fine aluminum powder. And what does one do with the powder? Make pyrotechnics and rocket fuel, every kid's secret desire. Alan's company is in the second year of a three-year Advanced Technology (ATP) grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology to learn how to produce micron size particles.

*Fred Epstein e-mails from St. Louis that he is phasing out as head of INDEECO, a company his father founded in 1929, turning the management of the company, which designs and makes customized electronic controls and heating equipment, over to his son-in-law. Fred had parallel careers in the non-profit sector, volunteering with the American Civil Liberties Union, the Open Society Institute, and local groups working to build a light rail mass transit system, financing health care for the medically indigent, and encouraging corporations to sponsor on-site child care. In 1985 his group opened the Zelda Epstein Day Care Center, named after his Mom. Fred reports the thrill he got watching it grow to ninety kids, including a dozen with disabilities, and seeing one of his three granddaughters, Katherine Zelda enter the two-year old class. He reports his other two granddaughters are in New York where their oldest son, David, is a Professor of Political Economy at Columbia and their middle son Ted is a VP at Morgan Stanley. Youngest son, Mike, is doing a Masters at MIT in Comparative Media Studies.

*Ed Friedman (Course VIII) reports that he recently returned from Costa Rica where he delivered the 2002 National Education Lecture. He is engaged in a project to create model schools in Peru, Ecuador, and Costa Rica featuring use of the Internet for middle school and high school science. This program has funding from the Inter American Development Bank and is being implemented by the Center for Improved Engineering at Stevens Institute. Ed's wife, AJ Lederman, visited Afghanistan twice last year. They had lived there for almost six years in the 60's and 70's. Ed had represented Stevens as director of a program to create a college of engineering there. It was successful until the Red Army closed it down in 1980. AJ was a Fulbright Scholar in Afghanistan in 1978 where she documented the crafts of the country. That project became the basis for her PhD thesis. She is currently working to develop a living crafts museum and training center in Kabul. Last September she was invited to present her proposal at a conference on the rebuilding of Kabul at which President Karzai delivered the opening address. Ed has a program pending with the State Department to provide professional development of a team of Afghan women science teachers at Stevens. If it is accepted Ed expects to return to Afghanistan in 2003.

*Bill Griffin sends along a note that he retired in August 2002 from Raytheon. He is still consulting in electro-optics and high power lasers and is very busy with all of the things that he put off while working. His main interests now are grandchildren (six and counting) and involvement with early music activities. He has taken up the recorder and enjoys performing with several music groups.

*Bruce Grover provides some recent info on his family. Bruce is owner of VPI, a thermoplastic processor. He had open-heart surgery in January 2002 and is enjoying his new titanium aortic valve. Bruce is semi-retired now and traveling more, but still able to spend more time in Chicago. His family is all well, with two sets of grandchildren – all girls. He enjoys photography, having recently gone digital, and still wears his MIT ring. He reports that Life is Good.

*Ed Hasselmann relates that after our 45th Reunion, Norma and he spent a month in Boston, varnishing the bright work on their boat, the MV Heather K. From there it was on to Maine where they spent most of August and September cruising the beautiful bays and inlets. They got up to Canadian Waters so they can say they have “Gone Around America from Canada to Canada,” starting from British Columbia in August 1998, arriving off Campobello Island four years later. After turning around and heading for warmer climates they ended up in New Bern, NC, where they left the Heather K for several months while they flew back home to San Diego. Eventually, they hope to make the Great Circle Cruise up the Hudson, through the old Erie Canal to the Great Lakes past Chicago, and down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, through the Tenn-Tom Waterway to the Gulf of Mexico. They welcome visitors to come and cruise with them.

*Harris Hyman writes that he had a wonderful life on the coast of Maine, where he shared a small but prosperous A&E practice with an architect friend, taught design at a nearby college, and had seven children, four then in residence. The 90's came; the S&L driven economy screeched to a stop then rolled over with its feet in the air; and his dear Karon suddenly died. So, needing some money and a change of scene to keep some of his systems halfway functional, he accepted an invitation from a friend to come to Portland, OR. He followed Lewis and Clark in a Ryder truck and settled there with his three youngest children. It wasn't much fun for a long time. He didn't have the spirit to start a new practice and had to do the single parent thing, so he took a job managing a residential mill, guiding their civil engineering and surveying. After about five years, he was able to face the fact that it was really boring, so he took a job with a far more interesting company which promptly went under. Then – with the kids pretty much grown, he subscribed to CE Weekly and went on the road. Last spring his new love came on strong about the difficulty of weekend dates once a month, and it was again time for serious choices. Susie prevailed, so he bought a tiny house and opened a civil/structural office. Now with the kids all grown, he is drawing social security and has time to work on interesting projects, play with Susie, write magazine articles, and talk to his cats. A new groove for him, not quite what he ever expected, but mellow and quite a lot of fun. He never did get around to winning a Nobel Prize, becoming a college president or CEO of a Fortune 500 Company, nor scoring the big dough with one of his inventions, but he did have some fun, tears, and interesting experiences, and even did some useful work. And finally it is my sad duty to note the passing of classmates. *Bob Smart died in October 2002 in Hebron, Ct where he lived for over 30 years and worked as Senior Designer for Pratt and Whitney. *Leon Speybroeck passed away in December 2002. He

was a world leader in the development of optics for X-ray astronomy and was due to receive the Rossi Prize which recognizes significant contributions in high-energy astrophysics. More info on Leon can be found at <http://hea-www.harvard.edu/~mvz/leon/>
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