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# The Pen and Scroll

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VOL. XXVI, NO. 1

LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

April/May, 2017



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## Letter from the Editor

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Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Lenox School,

Welcome to Spring! At least, let's hope so. As Mom used to say about March, "In like a lion, out like a lamb." But it's not clear how March started – we had warm, we had cold, we had sun, we had snow, we had quiet days, we had fierce, blustery days. March wasn't sure about itself, and April is headed toward May in a decidedly schizophrenic way. One wonders if April showers will bring May flowers or the snowplow.

Maybe I shouldn't complain. Even at my age, I still remember the snow we had in Lenox the day before graduation in 1963. But, of course, in those days we all knew that Lenox was on a different planet with different rules. And the weather continues to be a metaphor for our very strange politics. I've been cautioned to avoid politics in the P&S, so I'll only say that I start each day with the same concerns for the weather and for our country. Every morning, I wonder if the news from yesterday will be engaging or threatening.

We live in interesting times. Both the climate and our politics are in a state of change.

In this issue, we have very interesting articles prepared by Randy Harris and a terrific flashback to a few of our hockey legends from the early sixties. In particular, enjoy the article on Richard H. Treat '40, his five fellow crewmen, and the B-26 WWII training flight crash that killed them. Mr. Mark Casey and Randy prepared this article, and it includes a series of communications in our "Letters" section.

A few quick announcements and requests... please stay tuned for the planning of our October reunion, and resolve to attend. Our attendance has been remarkable and is growing. Let's keep it that way. Please keep an eye open for missing Lenox friends and alumni. And please let me know if you'd be willing to help edit the Pen and Scroll. I do not have a "second in command"; it's prudent to have planned for back-up and succession. Any volunteers?

Wishing everyone a safe, enjoyable, and healthful summer.

Don Foster '63

*Don*

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## The President's Message

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I realize that I have used Rod Stewart's "Forever Young" lyrics in a 2014 President's message, but frankly, the message in the lyrics still resonate with me personally when I reflect on the class of 1967 and their upcoming 50th reunion.

However, just to mix it up a bit, here is Bob Dylan's original version of that song lyric (interesting to note – Dylan's song was recorded in 1973 but written much earlier as a lullaby for his son born in 1966. Stewart's version (remarkably similar lyrics and tune) was released in 1988. Stewart ultimately had to share his royalties with Dylan...):

**"May God bless and keep you always  
May your wishes all come true  
May you always do for others  
And let others do for you**

**May you build a ladder to the stars  
And climb on every rung**

**May you stay  
Forever young”**

Lyric from Bob Dylan’s “Forever Young”

It continues to fascinate me, that in the quiet, reflective moments, while searching my recollection of the day of my own arrival at Lenox, that nearly everything is frozen in time. I don’t see the class of 1967 seniors or classmates in my mind’s eye as the older gentleman they have become; but as “Forever Young” teenagers on their own path through Lenox. The same frozen-in-time image holds true for the masters and the campus.

**“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.”** Seneca

This particular reunion holds a very special meaning for me. Lenox was my new beginning from my other beginning’s end (at public school). When I arrived at Lenox, the class of 1967 was the senior class. They appeared to be different than all other students for reasons other than just being seniors. I have only come to understand why this was the case in hindsight. Perhaps it is no coincidence that as they were walking between the masters in June 1967, the number one song in the nation was “Respect.”

Lenox ’67 (like all other Lenox senior classes) was endowed with the responsibility to run the school under the close tutelage and scrutiny of the masters. They were the apex members of the student body. Prefects (this was a totally new concept to me having come from a public high school) further reinforced this since I viewed them as the apex members of the apex class.

Thus, with the mantle of responsibility and seriousness of purpose characterizing their actions, they of course appeared different. From the eyes of a new underclassman, their path ahead was consumed by running the school while concurrently standing for their college exams, applying to various schools, leading the sports teams, running the dorms and the jobs/self-help program.

They were (to me) a fascinating amalgam consisting of

both student and master. All of this was occurring while the Lenox class of 1967 was preparing to leave Lenox and matriculate into what was a pretty unsettling world given the backdrop of the late 60’s and the Vietnam War.

**“Every parting is a form of death, as every reunion is a type of heaven.”** Tryon Edwards

Trust me when I tell you the reunion is a truly joyful event. We have instituted a number of events at the reunion that hopefully enhance the experience for everyone. We kick things off with the LSAA Friday golf tournament, followed by an informal but well attended get-together for dinner at The Cork & Hearth.

On Saturday morning, we start with our annual business meeting, where you can catch up on LSAA and campus news. Following the business meeting we have our flag raising ceremony (letting everyone know that Lenox School is back in session); then there’s the luncheon in the old gymnasium, followed by the campus tour, and our ever-popular hymn sing at Trinity Church.

The reunion is capped off with our traditional dinner Saturday evening at the Lenox Club. Here, we start with the reading of the Lenox Prayer, followed by our missing persons table ceremony (where we honor and remember those that have passed). We then get to hear from the returning masters on their thoughts of the school. After dinner, we award the Charlie McGee Memorial Trophy from the golf tournament and install new members to the Lenox School Hall of Fame. For a number of years now we have just about overflowed the capacity at the club!

**“There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth... not going all the way, and not starting.”**  
–Buddha

Going back to the reunion is, in effect, an effort to go all the way with the Lenox experience. It always recalibrates my memory with the present. All the more reason I hope that ’67 returns in great numbers for this, their 50th legacy reunion, along with those from ’62, ’57 and ’52. The opportunity ahead of us to reconnect with

alums for these events diminishes inexorably each year. Please don't miss out on this chance to reconnect once again and see what Lenox School and her little band of brothers have brought forth!

## The Lenox School Reunion is scheduled for October 13 and 14, 2017

**BE THERE!**

Bob Sansone, '68



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### Letters to the Editor

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Dear P&S,

This is just a short note to say a BIG thank you for keeping me informed of Lenox alumni events over these past few years. A sure sign of old age is to have a heightened interest in nostalgia and history, and in these increasingly uncertain times, that is no bad thing.

With best wishes,

Adam Thorne '65

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Dear Mr. Edward Miller Jr.,

Thank you so much for your tribute to Royal. He often spoke of his days at Lenox School with great affection.

Sue Treadway

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*Note: The following emails from Mr. Mark Casey address Richard H. Treat '40 who was killed with five others on a B-26 training flight crash in the Gulf of Mexico on November 16, 1942. The plane's wreckage was discovered in 2008 and Mr. Casey, a semi-retired journalist and nephew of one of the crewmembers is writing a book on the matter. Don Foster linked him up with Randy Harris.*

~ Randy Harris

August 24, 2016

Mr. Miller, Mr. Harris, Mr. Foster, and Mr. Kempton,

Thank you for reading this email, letter and accompanying information. I am writing in hopes that you can help find photographs and information on one of your Lenox School alums from the Depression and early WW II era: Richard Hoover Treat. His extraordinary story is explained in the attachments. I hope you can be of assistance. If so, please contact me via this email address or by phone. Best, Mark Casey

August 24, 2016

Mr. Foster,

Thanks for the clarification and insight on Lenox as well as the referral to Mr. Harris. Mr. Treat's obituary in the Boston Herald - attached - says he was a graduate of both Marblehead High School and the Lenox School for Boys. Marblehead H.S. has no record of Richard, so I am hopeful there is something at Lenox. I look forward to hearing from Mr. Harris. Best, Mark Casey

*Note: Randy Harris verified that Richard H. Treat attended Lenox for a single year; provided additional details from his yearbook biography; and promised and subsequently provided more details on the school, Richard's time there, photographs, and memorials to him and other Lenox School alumni who served or were killed in WWII.*

~ Randy Harris

August 25, 2016

Mr. Harris,

Wow! Excellent information and I so appreciate your assistance, as I am sure Richard's niece will when I share this discovery. Any and all information you can provide - photos, citations, whatever - are welcome and appreciated. We will credit Lenox for any use and clear such use in advance with you or your counsel.

Thankfully, this gives me information to take back to Marblehead High School to see how "Dickie" spent his years there. Since he did not graduate from that institution, they have been less than helpful in researching him. I have a contact in Marblehead who will help.

Yes, the story of this flight and the issues surrounding the Marauder program are extremely interesting and still resonate 70 years after the event. Lessons from this time still apply. If you would like, I could write something for your alumni newsletter - happy to do it to keep Dickie's memory

alive and to honor the 26 alums who gave their lives in service to America. [Note: See separate article.]

Thanks again and please let me now if you have any questions. Best, Mark Casey

September 6, 2016  
Mr. Harris,

Hope you are well and had a good holiday weekend. I am hoping to interview Richard Treat's nieces in the next few days and would like to share with them the photos and info from his days at Lenox. They don't have a lot of information about their uncle other than some mentions from his mother before she passed away. Is there any chance you can forward this info in the next couple of days? If not, I understand, and will delay the interview until you have the time to complete the research. I realize that your work with Lenox is a labor of love and not a full time job. Your assistance is truly appreciated. Best, Mark Casey

September 7, 2016

Randy - that sounds great. The family and I will be happy to see whatever you come up with, and it sounds like you're finding a lot. I appreciate your attention to detail and focus on accuracy. I will delay the interview. Yes, I know what you're dealing with when you get a thread of a story and it keeps going and going and going. Exhilarating! And, doubly so when you realize the sacrifice these young men made and the impact on their families. I cannot wait to see what you've found.

Lenox certainly has a friend and an advocate in you. An institution can grab you by the heart - mine is still in the hollows and hills of West Virginia, where I went to school long ago. Montani, Semper, Liberi - Mountaineers are always free! Good luck with the reunion and thanks so much for all you are doing. Best, Mark Casey

September 14, 2016  
Randy,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Quite a lot of material here and surely a ton of work by you to bring it together. I am currently on the road and will try to review it all this evening. Certainly, the family will appreciate this. I agree to the conditions for use as set by you. I'll work on the article and forward a draft. More to come - and again, thanks. ~Mark Casey

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Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

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## Other News

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### School Happenings 50 Years Ago According to the P&S – February 28, 1967

On campus entertainment included the following. The Rev. Cannon Kevin F. Engel, Chancellor of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and a member of the Church Mission Society of New South Wales, Australia was the guest chapel speaker on the evening of January 24th. Heavily involved in Church literature and education, literacy work, and lay training, he spoke of the Church's work in Africa; his impressions of the religious spirit of the new Africa; and about the new country of Tanzania. On the evening of Saturday, January 28th, renowned world traveler and lecturer Colin Wyatt showed a fascinating documentary film on his travels in Afghanistan, focusing on the natural aspects of the country, its people and social conditions.

News and feature articles focused on the following. On the morning of January 29th, the Choir travelled to Bennington, VT to sing at two services at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, performing the Lenox School folk canticles, a folk hymn, a folk religious-ballad and a Bach Chorale, while Mr. Hall delivered the sermon at the late service. The Glee Club gave its second concert of the year at the Northampton School for Girls on the evening of Saturday, February 18th, which included a buffet supper, performances by both clubs and an informal dance. With "new-found confidence and zest", the Lenox Club, led by Mr. Blanchard, performed two "Spirituals", Handel's "Hallelujah" and an "Erie Canal" solo by Chris Church, before joining Northampton for two joint numbers.

On the evening of March 4th, the Dramatic Society will present Peter Weiss's controversial play, *Marat-Sade*, "never before produced by a secondary school." [Note: see related article.] Five Lenox School students were selected to participate on Student Ambassador Program teams as part of the People to People Travel Activity Program. John Sumner and Bob Sansone will play on a hockey team travelling to Scandinavia, Scotland and England (March 4-27); David Hunter will manage a second hockey team coached by Mr. Gleason, and travelling to France and Switzerland; and Frank Pfau and Rick Horton will be on the basketball and soccer teams respectively.

Editorials addressed: that progress should not be an "indefinite continuation of the status quo," but rather we should "be practical in our view of the future by conserv-

ing and developing the present”; a tribute to Mr. J. Arthur “Gramps” Howland’s on his 70th birthday and 41 years of service to the school; that time must be set aside in the school’s daily schedule to pursue one’s interests in order to develop one’s true identity; a response to inferences that many Lenox School students were self-centered, rash, impatient and feared involvement, stressing instead that they, and “Teen-Agers” in general, had many good qualities, accomplishments and the potential to make the world a better place; and a humorous look at the implications of an academic study that found that tea caused cancer.

With only three games remaining and after losing its first six games, often by narrow margins, the varsity basketball team’s record stood at 5-8, including wins over Darrow, Millbrook, Salisbury and Watkinson. The team was led by top-scorers Frank Pfau and Andre Taylor, along with Dave Retallick, Kevin Hunt, Pete Sauter, Rick Horton, Bob Beecher and Jim Mayo and its play progressed greatly throughout the season. Though hampered by poor conditions, at 8-1, the varsity ski team, paced by Captain John Risley, John Rowlands, Roy Ballentine, Bob Gulick, Rob MacGregor and coaches Selkowitz and Blanchard, is undoubtedly one of the best in the history of the school. It included wins over Berkshire and Cranwell and a third place finish in the four-event Berkshire Interscholastics that included all secondary schools from Berkshire County and northern Connecticut.

With one game remaining, Captain Paul Denzel’s varsity hockey team with a 10-1-1 record, on an 8-game winning streak, four by shutout, and including wins over Berkshire and Cranwell, was one of the best in years. The team outscored its opponents by 78-16 with top scorers Tom Holmen approaching a school record in points and penalties, John Sumner, Brant Keller and Goff Greenshields; and a defense led by goalie Ken Lord vying for the school shots-per-goal record and defensemen Greenshields, Bob Sansone and Paul Hartshorn. The junior varsity hockey team, with two games remaining and only ten players, has a 5-1 record, three by shutout, with wins over Darrow, Salisbury, Windsor Mountain, Cranwell and Forman; while the newly instituted Hockey Club System with four teams completed a successful six-game season, with Team Three, Captained by Bill Graesser, winning followed by teams One, Two and Four.

~ Randy Harris

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## Wood Presents Marat-Sade, Premieres Saturday, March Fourth

An Article from 50-Years Ago in the  
P&S – February 28, 1967

On the evening of March fourth, the Lenox School Dramatic Society will present Peter Weiss’ controversial play, *The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade*. This will be the first time *Marat/Sade*, which is currently playing on Broadway, has ever been produced by a secondary school.

The play is based on historical fact. During the early days of the nineteenth century, Monsieur Coulmier, the director of the Asylum of Charenton, promoted plays by his patients for therapeutic purposes. One of his wards, the Marquis de Sade, was responsible for writing and directing many of these plays. It became the vogue among the high society of Paris to go to the Asylum to watch the antics of the inmates.

Peter Weiss, the author of the play, is one of the most notable playwrights to emerge from post-war Germany. He left Germany prior to the war with his family, but later returned and worked on the Continent and has resided in Stockholm since 1939. Among his plays are *The Brig* and *The Investigation*, which is about the post-war “war-crime” trials. The success of *Marat/Sade* and its individuality has spurred remarks that Mr. Weiss is a communist, an atheist, and an anarchist.

The central figure of the play, Jean-Paul Marat, was one of the original leaders of the French Revolution. He was a member of the Assembly, but remained separate from any faction of the Revolution. He had previously contracted a skin disease while hiding in the Parisian sewers after attacking the political situation in France. This disease was to confine him to his bath in the later years of his life.

Marat attacked a faction of the Revolutionaries known as the Girondists. The Girondists centered themselves in the city of Caen, where they were planning a counter-revolution against Republican Paris. In Caen, there lived a young woman of noble descent, Charlotte Corday. After becoming interested in the Revolution, Corday sided with the Girondists. In order for the Girondists to make a successful attack on Paris, it was necessary for them to eliminate their leader, Marat. Corday chose to become a “Brutus” and go to Paris alone and kill Marat. She made no attempt to

escape or to defend herself at her trial. She was sentenced to death and was guillotined, convinced that she had done the right thing.

The Lenox production, directed by Mr. David H. Wood, will star Laurie Hennion as the Marquis de Sade, and Charles Parry as Jean-Paul Marat. Miss Terrell Linstead will portray the assassin, Charlotte Corday. Simon Evrard, the only person who attends Marat when he must spend his entire time under hydrotherapy, is played by Jeff Lewis. John Tackus plays the role of Monsieur Colmier, the Director of the Asylum of Charenton, and the only one in the play (with the exception of the nurses and guards) who is not an inmate.

Among the inmates is Allen Sloane, who serves as Herald for Sade's play. Duperret, Charlotte's lover and fellow Girondist, is Huston Jacobs. Gill Skidmore plays the derelict priest, Jacques Roux. The four clowns, Cucurucu, Polpoch, Kokol, and Rossignol, are played by Dave [Mark] Gottsegen, Paul Denzel, John Stier, and Miss Barkley Bender, respectively. Various other idiots keep the guards and the nurses busy throughout the play.

The sets will be constructed by Mr. O. deM. Putnam and the Stage Crew. Mr. David D. Blanchard will be in charge of the music, which was composed for the original production by Richard Peaslee. The costuming will come from Hooker-Howe of Haverhill.

*Marat/Sade* promises to be one of the most unique and entirely different plays ever presented on the Lenox stage.

~ Randy Harris



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Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

## World-class Hockey



▲ Lenox (Mass.) School's sharp-shooting first line last season was Tom Walker, left wing; Skip Demerski, center; and Jeff Greiner, right wing. The trio scored 74 goals and 68 assists for 142 points in 15 games. Demerski led the team (14-1 season record) with 59 points on 27 goals and 22 assists. Walker had 52 on 21 goals and 31 assists. Greiner had a 16-15-31 scoring mark. Walker, captain-elect, and Greiner return this season, while Demerski has moved up to the West Point plebs team. Walker is from Concord, N.H.; Demerski from West Springfield, Mass.; and Greiner from Kent, Conn.



Pictured above is the Lenox School hockey line of (L-R) Geoff Greiner, Skip Demerski, and Tom Walker that in 1962 led Lenox to an unbeaten 14-0 record. Also pictured is that line 55 years later when they got together for a reunion in Naples, Florida.

In 1962, that Lenox line scored a record 142 points. It was the highest scoring line in Massachusetts, the highest scoring line in the history of the Housatonic Valley, which includes parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York and is still considered the greatest line to ever skate in the Housatonic Valley.

Demerski, the center, was a senior from West Springfield, Massachusetts, Walker was a junior left wing from Concord, New Hampshire, and Greiner was a freshman right wing from Kent, Connecticut.

As a reward for the team's undefeated season, Lenox Trustee, Colonel George Wilde arranged for the team to play an exhibition game against the West Point Plebes who were coached by Jack Riley at The United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Coach Riley, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame coached the United States Olympic Hockey team to the gold medal at the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, California.

Demerski and Walker were both recruited by Coach Riley.

~ Tom Walker '63

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## Richard H. Treat '40, A WWII Mystery Solved

It was a so-called "performance mission," flying from Page Field in Fort Myers, Florida on a mid-November evening in 1942. A routine training run for a rookie crew aboard a powerful and dangerous aircraft.

The B-26 Marauder was an experiment in war machinery that would combine the speed and agility of a smaller fighter with the payload and deadly gunnery of a strategic bomber. Fast beyond comparison with like American warplanes of the day, it was also extremely difficult to control in flight and challenging to land. As the nation hurried to war, the bomber literally rolled off assembly lines at a factory in Baltimore and was into the air without the benefit of flight tests, the Army Air Force opting instead to make adjustments from the experiences of its inexperienced pilots. The results would be horrific.

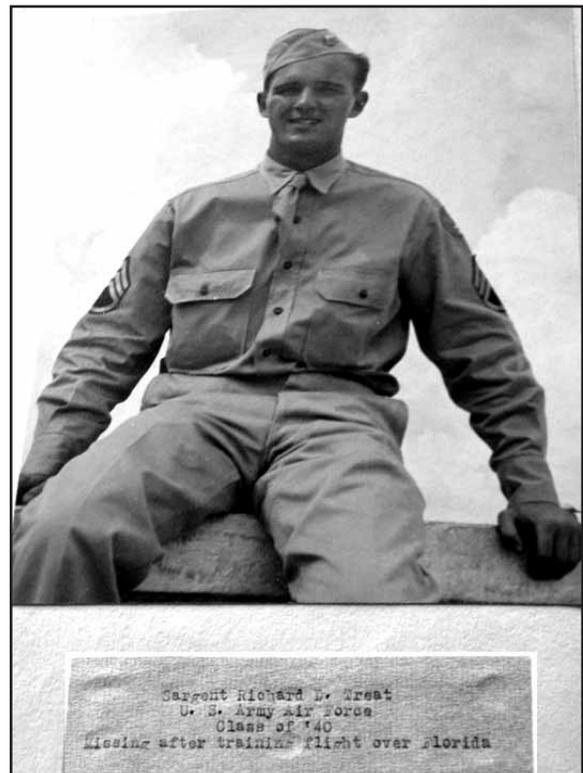
At the controls that night in Florida were a couple of All-American guys. Lt. Donald Vail was studying to be a teacher in his hometown of Macomb, Illinois when the call for service came. A diligent and ultra-prepared pilot, Lt. Vail was from true Midwest stock. His father made his living as a truck farmer and spread the Good News as a part-time Free Methodist Minister. Mom ran the household and supplemented their meager income as a short order cook in a local hotel. His sisters remember Donald as caring and gentle, yet here he was at the controls of a hell-fire plane.

His co-pilot, Lt. Fred Dees, had been in pharmacy school at the University of North Carolina, preparing to take over the family business. The Dees Drug Store sat just off the courthouse square in Burgaw, North Carolina, a tidy community a few miles inland from the legendary Carolina beaches. Fred's father had died suddenly just before the war, forcing him to take a year away from Chapel Hill and assist his mother Ellis. After his enlistment, Fred wrote frequent and touching letters to his mom that described military life and encouraged her to have faith. A deeply religious Southern gentleman, Fred was excited about his duty and his crewmates and devoted to his mother.

In the nose of the B-26 and carrying his bomb site like an extra appendage everywhere he went, Lt. Louis Mikes was the big city son raised in a family of Czech immigrants in Queens. Home life was New and Old World and he spoke English and Bohemian fluently. When Louis joined the Army Air Corps, he left his job as a clerk for a farm fertilizer company on Long Island but stayed close to his sweetheart Eleanor. They had married in August of 1942 in Fort Myers.

Up top sitting in the turret with twin 50 caliber machine guns was S. Sgt. William "Billy" Kittiko from Western Pennsylvania steel town, McKeesport. Billy was on a big adventure away from home for the first time, bonding with his buddies in the training camps, and spending weekends winning purses in boxing rings throughout central Florida. His enlistment a full year before the start of the conflict and just as he was to enter his final year of high school, shocked his sister Abigail and mother Rose. Bill saw the military as an escape from the smothering bonds of a Sicilian Mama. Widowed when he was a baby, Rose's intense love for her son stunted his need to experience real life in the real world. A thousand miles away in big planes with big guns, Bill was truly free.

In the rear of the aircraft was S. Sgt. Milton Newton of Nashville. The son of a railroad switch operator, Milton had grown up in a family forged by the backbreaking labor of small farms and mines in Kentucky coal country. Father Clarence returned from WWI a decorated infantryman, saw a better life on the railroads, and moved his wife and three children to the big city in Tennessee. Life was very hard. During the Depression, Milton worked with his father digging ditches for a quarter a day, and was happy to have the money. By his teenage years, he'd become a bellhop and then a bartender in a downtown hotel. Married young, Milton was ready for a divorce when he joined up just after Pearl Harbor.



Rounding out the team was S. Sgt. Richard "Dickie" Treat of Marblehead, Massachusetts. His mother Florence was a free-spirited woman who had divorced Richard's father Clifford then remarried John Fagan of Boston, elongating her name to Florence Wilhelmina Hoover Treat Fagan.

John Fagan appears to have been a supportive stepfather. They all lived in a two-story single family home at 199 Atlantic Avenue; Richard and his sister Ruth, Florence and John. Winters likely found him playing ice hockey, spring picking raspberries from the wild bushes that grew in his yard and summers, swimming at the rocky beach nearby. Dickie went to high school in Marblehead from 1936 to 1939, until suddenly before his senior year, was sent away to the Lenox School.

Why the transfer to the more demanding academics and standards of the Episcopalian prep school? The answer may lie with mother Florence's maternal grandfather who was Richard's great grandfather. He was John Bright, one of the founders of Boston's Elevated Railroad, and a very wealthy man. Likely, Bright wanted Richard to learn business and knew that Lenox would provide the discipline, focus, and academics to prepare him for higher education.

Richard embraced the scholarly challenge at Lenox. Records show he planned to attend Nichols Junior College of Business Administration and Executive Training located in Dudley, Massachusetts. Lenox probably offered specific classes to help in that process that weren't available at Marblehead High.

Dickie's life at Lenox appeared to have been typical of the time, including references to his prowess on the football field, where the yearbook referred to him as "a demon on defense." Lenox historian Randy Harris offers detailed descriptions based on facts he drew from yearbooks of the period:

"Richard is mentioned several times in the class history, beginning with his arrival, which for new students was normally a day or two before the returning students. "On a beautiful day in late September, the sixth form returned to the Berkshire Hills to find five new members in the persons of "Slug" Sullivan, "Bunky" Disosway, Jack Tweedy, John Durkee, and Dick Treat waiting to begin the academic year with them."

Apparently, Lenox athletic teams had a good year, which was not always the norm in the school's early years and

Richard contributed on the football and hockey teams as detailed elsewhere. "The football team had a good season and was aided by the presence of eight sixth formers in the lineup. They were Hough (captain), Brooks, Kennedy, Brower, Treat, Sullivan, Souder, and W. Smith. The successful hockey team had the services of Brooks, Findlay, and Treat....The sixth form may well look back on the athletic teams with satisfaction because of the fine records attained by each of them."

The class history ended with the following comments about Richard's year at Lenox and a look toward the future. "Many humorous incidents enlivened the year and started to burn Mr. Kennard's hair. For instance, someone "accidentally" started the fire alarm and caused much anxiety. Then there was a certain group of "firebugs" who tried to commit arson. But now the battle is over and we must tuck fond memories in the backs of our heads. We have lived and learned and now we go out to apply ourselves to another phase of living."

It's unclear if "Dickie" received his diploma from Lenox. There are no records to confirm completion of his studies. There are records, however, to show that like many men of his age and era, he was called to service after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. On December 27, 1941, just 20 days after the Rising Sun crippled the Pacific Fleet, Richard enlisted in the Army Air Corps, leaving his loving mother and sister for an adventure with an uncertain outcome.

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On the runway at Page Field, the crew was in place with engines warmed up. Weather that day was uneventful. In fact, co-pilot Lt. Fred Dees had been complaining a bit in letters home to Ellis that it was too hot. National Weather Service records show a "normal" day, the high temperature was 71 degrees. Skies were generally clear. There were some wind gusts up top at around 30 miles per hour. The moon was waxing toward full, sitting at a little more than half and visible as the plane taxied out and took off at 6:10PM. The sun was dropping over the horizon. It would set at 6:37PM. The ceiling was at 5,000 feet and visibility was eight miles. Pretty much ideal conditions.

We can assume the crew went through its pre-flight checks, motored to one of the three Page Field runways and lifted off at 6:10PM. The B-26B3 soared above the swamps and bush and over the city, the crew followed its standard operating procedures, gaining elevation and then

banking west toward the Gulf of Mexico. They passed over Sanibel Island about 20 miles from base and then out over the water.

At the time, no one knew what happened after the B-26 passed the 55-minute mark of the flight. That was the last radio contact the crew made with the tower at Page Field. In 1942, there were no real-time tracking devices for command and control to monitor. An aircraft went on its mission and communicated as best it could via radio. After 7:05PM, no one heard from the crew. When the plane did not return around midnight as scheduled, realization set in that something was wrong.

A Teletype message was relayed from Fort Myers to the Department of the Army in Washington:

“REPORT OF OVERDUE AIRCRAFT...DEPARTED AAB FORT MYERS FLORIDA NOVEMBER 16 COMMA 1942 PERIOD LOCAL PERFORMANCE FLIGHT PERIOD.”

The B-26 with all six crewmembers had, essentially, vanished. Search and rescue was dispatched via the Civil Air Patrol.

Within days, the bodies of Lieutenants Vail and Dees were pulled from the water, both showing signs of trauma that came from either a crash or while bailing out. The remains were sent home and grateful communities honored them with great ceremony. They were early casualties of war that would bring many more.

Back at Page Field, the searches continued for about a month. Other than reports of an oil slick on the ocean surface, the B-26 and any signs of the remainder of the crew were gone. The Army Air Corps notified families that officially Richard Treat and the others were missing in action. However, the implication was clear that there was little hope something might yet be discovered. In Marblehead, Florence Treat Fagan accepted what she saw as the inevitable and prepared to honor Richard's short life.

On December 10, 1942, less than a month after the incident and while the families of other crew members hung to false beliefs that the men were alive somewhere, Richard's death notice was published in the Boston Herald. Florence preferred to accept her son's fate, that in wartime, accidents happen and young men are lost, including beloved sons of doting mothers. A simple national cemetery-style marker was placed on a plot in Marblehead.

Nearly two years later, Florence chose to honor her son at the prestigious Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

She had inherited a plot from her Aunt Ella, and decided to mark Richard's memory with a centograph that was installed in September of 1944. His stepfather John would be buried there too.

Florence did not grieve openly. She kept Dickie's personal affects in a box that she would carry with her to Florida in an annual pilgrimage to escape New England winters. On one of those trips, a thief ransacked Florence's car and took Dickie's box of memories. The loss would trouble Florence until she died in 1966.

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At Lenox School, which had launched Richard into adult life just two years before he disappeared, the price of freedom would be paid again and again. Not only was Dickie Treat gone, so was his roommate and friend Samuel Bowman "Bow" Wheeler Kennedy. Many, many times the school's faculty and leadership received terrible news. By the time the war was over 26 alumni would be claimed.



The loss of so many weighed on the School's first headmaster, Rev. G. Gardner Monks. His pain was referenced in a speech by the Rev. Robert L. Curry, Lenox's second headmaster, delivered in 1964 at the Boston dinner of the Newcomen Society of North America:

“As the Nation was to learn, all the battle casualties were not on the front lines. The war took its heavy toll on parents, on married partners, on children. Lenox did not escape. Killed in action was 10 percent of the alumni body, and as each announcement was received it took a bit of the life of the headmaster.”

Historian Harris notes that “Rev. Monks, despite a year off, never fully regained his health and resigned as headmaster in 1946.”

Lenox students were also very aware. An unidentified Alum from the time described it this way:

“Its [Lenox’s] motto was ‘Non ministrari sed ministrare’—not to be served but to serve, and as the war progressed rapidly and intensely, we were reminded frequently of the large percentage of the school’s alumni who were serving our country, and the growing number who had already given their lives for it.

I don’t remember exactly where I was when I heard about Pearl Harbor, but the news certainly spread rapidly if informally, and few of us even knew where it was. We caught on very soon to the gravity of the situation, and I’m sure we followed the progress of the war closely. Remember that virtually every one of us, through family and schoolmates, knew people who were doing the fighting, and some who were its casualties, and we also knew that they were often guys just like us, and that our time would come.

In fifth and sixth form years, we not only dealt with college applications, but with the few military options available to us, in addition to the draft. I don’t think we really dreaded at all the prospect of service, it was just an obligation, and most of us felt willing and perfectly capable of fulfilling it. I’m quite sure that the draft boards let high school age kids finish, but after that, almost no exceptions, your number came up on your 18th birthday. We did hear about the casualties among Lenox alumni, in those daily chapel services, and that made a deep and lasting impression.”

With that awareness of its obligations to its students, families, and alumni, Lenox frequently and poignantly honored its war heroes. The Class of 1944 memorialized Richard and his classmates with a wooden plaque with the names of the deceased and a yearbook dedication to those who had died that year. Seven years later in 1951, Memorial Gymnasium and in 1968, the new Sports Center lobby, were dedicated to all Lenox students who served, with special mention of those who died. In 1981 on St. Martin’s Day, another plaque from Lenox School days that had hung on campus, bearing the names of the deceased, this one bronze, was dedicated along with others and placed on a Lenox School Memorial Plaque at Trinity Church. By that time, what had happened near Fort Myers 40 years earlier was for some, just a painful memory, soothed by memorials to those who gave their lives.

But, this story does not end with the hanging of plaques and reverent words. While Richard “Dickie” Treat and his crew were certainly unfortunate casualties in the fight to

save the world from hideous dictators, the true cause of their sacrifice was something else. In fact, they were victims of an underdeveloped airplane.

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Early versions of the B-26 were troubled. Rushed into production without extensive testing, the bomber’s many flaws routinely produced a nightmare scenario for rookie pilots. So many crashed in training around Tampa and Ft. Myers, that the phrase “one a day in Tampa Bay” was coined by fearful airmen. An inquest into the Fort Myers Marauder crash put the blame squarely on Lt. Vail, who was very much an inexperienced bomber pilot.

The frequent accidents caused Congress, led by then-Senator Harry Truman, to consider scrapping the B-26 program. Its creator and builder, the Martin Company, made design changes to the ship and brought in ace pilots including Colonel James Doolittle of “Doolittle Raid” fame to fix the training gaps. The B-26 was saved and the “Martin Marauder” went on to become one of the most important weapons of the war, engaged in aerial combat and air support all over the world.

Back home the families of the dead and missing experienced the anguish expected by such a loss. Some battled for years with the Air Force over benefits. Some refused to believe the crew was gone and demanded the search continue. Some held their grief close and moved on with their lives. All of the crew’s parents were deceased 66 years later in 2008 when word came from Fort Myers that pieces of a B-26 were found at the bottom of the Gulf near Sanibel Island, Florida.

Treasure hunters from Underwater Historical Explorations (UHE) discovered the wreckage. UHE found the plane while searching the Gulf for the legendary “Batista Gold.” This was treasure believed to have been stolen from the Cuban people by U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. In 1959, as the Batista regime fell to Fidel Castro, “Batista’s Gold” was supposedly smuggled to Florida aboard CIA aircraft.

UHE recovered a dashboard radio plate with a serial number and ran it through a database of WW II aircraft. This was not a Batista gold ship. This was a B-26 that had been missing since the evening of November 16, 1942. Dreams of treasure and wealth were smashed, or maybe not.

The men and women of UHE chose to do a remarkable thing. Instead of abandoning the site, they began to

contact relatives of the airmen and told them the news, a notification process that continues to this day. Their decision to continue excavation was described this way by UHE diver Jon Hazelbaker: "We lost the gold, but we found treasure." Contact was made with relatives of Lt. Vail, Lt. Dees and S. Sgt. Kittiko in 2008 and with relatives of S. Sgt. Newton and S. Sgt. Treat in 2016. The family of Lt. Louis Mikes has not been notified.

Researching the history of the Marauder pushed another emotional button for the explorers. This plane had huge problems. How could any crash investigation board blame the pilot, especially without seeing the aircraft wreckage? The thought of Lt. Vail's legacy marred by a fatal crash was unacceptable. The team went back to work.

In 2009, they were back diving the site. With them was a Northwest Airlines Pilot, Desert Storm Veteran, and Air Force Reserve Major named Kevin McGregor. Kevin was a highly experienced air accident investigator who in 1991, had found a long lost crash site on Mount Sanford deep in Alaska's wilderness. In 1948, NW Airlines flight 4422 was carrying home the crew of an oil tanker home from China. Blinded by the Northern Lights, the plane's pilots became disoriented and the C-54 pulverized on the mountain killing all aboard.

Flight 4422 was also a legendary treasure ship, believed to have been carrying the tanker crew's payroll in gold. When rescuers couldn't locate the crash site buried under blizzard snows and ice pack, conspiracy theories developed. Over several years, Kevin along with fellow explorer Marc Millican maneuvered through dangerous glaciers on Mount Sanford to find pieces of the plane and human remains. They spoke with the team that had planned the flight and found that, in fact, there was no gold aboard NW 4422.

Kevin and Marc's courageous work brought closure to families of the tanker crew who never really knew what had happened to their loved ones and had wondered if they should be collecting gold from the tanker's owner.

When he was contacted about the B-26, Kevin immediately wanted to become involved. A pilot, mountain climber, scuba diver, and member of The Explorer's Club, this was the kind of adventure that excited him. Kevin also felt kinship with fellow pilot Donald Vail and wanted to make sure that he was treated fairly.

Kevin and Jon Hazelbaker did a full assessment of the debris field, mapping the placement of the wing, engines, and landing gear, to determine how the B-26 had gone into the

water. After looking at the angle of the propeller blades, they decided to bring the engine and the dashboard to the surface, a massive task. They delivered it to a crash forensics team in central Florida.

Using historic data and contemporary methods unavailable in 1942, Kevin determined that Donald Vail should be cleared. Vail's training did not include developing techniques to deal with a chronic Marauder deficiency called a "runaway prop." Design flaws in the early B-26 engines would cause, without warning, a propeller to rapidly and wildly accelerate. Based on the crash data, Kevin believed that it was highly likely that this prop ran away on the plane's last flight, causing it to roll and spin uncontrollably into the Gulf. Absent proper training, Lt. Vail could not apply the fix for this problem - to feather the prop and fly on one engine. He could not save himself or the crew and it would be unfair to blame him or any of the many pilots who faced this issue with identical results.

But this case was closed. There was no longer an accident review board to reverse the original findings. UHE presented their theory to the families, bringing relief to the sisters of Donald Vail. For the other survivors, the families of Fred Dees and Bill Kittiko, there was a grudging acceptance that in the name of freedom, adventurous young men die, some in combat, and others getting ready to fight. The end is the same, even if the means are different.

On Memorial Day 2016, the underwater site of the wreckage was permanently marked with a memorial reef donated by Eternal Reefs of Georgia and placed on the bottom by the crew of UHE. The plaque reads:

**"Yea, he did fly on the wings of the wind."**

*Psalms 18:10*

In gratitude to these six brave young airmen who died in service to their nation on or near this spot at 7:05 P.M. on 16 November 1942.

*~ Mark Casey with input from Randy Harris*

\* \* \*

## Recent Donation to the Memorabilia Collection

Provided below is a description of the memorabilia item donated since the last edition of the Pen and Scroll. Our deepest appreciation and sincere thanks go to Tuck Kamin '72. The item will be added to the existing Collection Inventory. Additional items are always welcome.

Tuck Kamin '72: Letter from John D. Crosier, President of the Board of Trustees to Mr. and Mrs. Kamin, August 4, 1971, concerning the Board of Trustees decision to suspend classes for the academic year 1971-1972 and informing them to contact the headmaster on alternative private schools for their son.

~ Randy Harris

\* \* \*

## In Memoriam

### M. Heminway "Hemmie" Merriman, II '67

M. Heminway "Hemmie" Merriman, II, 68, passed away Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016, at Waterbury Hospital. He was the husband of Linda (Lane) Merriman.



Hemmie was born September 11, 1948, in Waterbury, the son of the late Merrit and Natalie (Rowbottom) Merriman. He was the 3rd generation of Merriman's in Watertown, and as a lifelong resident of Watertown he was extremely active in his community as a member of the Watertown Library Association, serving as Past Treasurer; a member of the Watertown Foundation, serving on both the Scholarship and Development Committees; and was a member of the McTernan School Steering Committee. He was currently the President of the Evergreen Cemetery Association and CEO of the Watertown David, Helen and Marion Woodward Foundation. He worked for many years at Hotchkiss School, in Lakeville, serving as controller. During his years at Hotchkiss he was a Member of the Association of Business Officers of Preparatory Schools and Past President of the Business Association of Housatonic Schools. Hemmie's benevolence and knowledge stretched far beyond Watertown. He was active with the Waterbury Boy's Club, serving as a board member as well as the Waterbury YMCA Camp Mataucha Committee. He was also a past board member of the Riverside Cemetery Association in Waterbury.

Throughout his life, Hemmie and his family would spend summers in Weekapaug, R.I., where he was a member and Past Treasurer of the Weekapaug Yacht Club.

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

Besides his wife of 43 years, Hemmie is survived by his children M. Heminway Merriman, III and his wife Johanna of Simsbury; his daughter Hillary Swan and her husband Jason of Branford; his sisters Mallory Constantine and her husband Richard of Weekapaug, R.I. and Natalie-Smith Merriman of Watertown; his grandchildren Hemmie, Phelps, William and Morgan as well as many nieces and nephews.

\* \* \*

### Maurice H. Pease

Maurice H. Pease 1932 - 2011 MIDDLEFIELD - Maurice H. Pease, 79, died Sunday, July 31, 2011 at home. He was born in Westfield on April 3, 1932 to the late Willard and Hazel (Candee) Pease. He grew up in Chester and was a graduate of Chester High School. He attended Lenox School for Boys, received a B.A. from AIC in Springfield and his masters from University at Albany, Suny. Maurice owned and operated Blue Heaven Blueberry Farm in Middlefield for the past 51 years. He was a U.S Navy Veteran. He was a member of the Mass Farm Bureau, Hampden County Chapter and was member of Mass Blueberry's Assoc. He was a retired state county & municipal employee assoc. of Massachusetts. He was a past master of Huntington Federal Lodge in Russell, Evening Star Royal Arch Chapter in Westfield. He was a member of Melha Shrine Temple in Springfield and received the Legion of Honor from the Berkshire Shrine Club. Maurice was also a volunteer at Noble Hospital. He was the assessor, on the finance committee, planning board and chair of zoning board of appeals in Middlefield. He was treasurer of Middlefield volunteer Fire Dept., Middlefield Men's Club and Chester High School Alumni Assoc. He taught business accounting for West Springfield High School for 28 years. Maurice was also a lift operator and manager of Springfield Ski Club in Blandford. He leaves his wife of 51 years Nancy C. (Catalfamo) Pease, his sons Mark H. Pease and his wife Michelle of Dracut, MA and Joseph F. Pease and his wife Donna of Middlefield, his brother James E. Pease of Suffield, CT, his grandchildren Adam and Matthew. Maurice was a grandfather figure to Robert, Justin, Shane and Adam. A special thanks to hospice, neighbors and friends for the help and kindness that was given to Maurice.

*Note: This obituary was recently found but apparently had never been included in the P&S. To friends, relatives, and classmates, we apologize for the oversight.*

~ Ed.

\* \* \*

## Anthony T. "Tony" Fiorini

Anthony T. "Tony" Fiorini, 86, died at Craneville Place.

Born in Boston, June 11, 1926, the eldest of the eight children of Leone and Rose Ranauro Fiorini, he attended Pittsfield High School where he excelled in Football, and later was a 1948 graduate from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and was a football standout there.

Mr. Fiorini served during World War II in the US Coast Guard and was a member of the Greenland North Shore Patrol.

Following his college graduation he went to work at the Elm Court Estate in Lenox in 1948 and eventually managed the green houses and the floral business, Elm Court Florists, retiring in 1996.

He coached football for the former Lenox School for Boys for many years and later Cranwell Preparatory School, and was a Football Referee. After retiring he moved to Dalton and enjoyed working part time.

Mr. Fiorini was a communicant and sexton of St. Ann's Church in Lenox. He also was a special officer for the Lenox Police Department and member of the Lenox Police Association. He was active in civic affairs as a former member of the Lenox School Committee and the Lenox Housing Authority.

He and his wife, the former Doris Clark, were married in St. Mary the Morning Star Church in Pittsfield on February 19, 1949 and would have celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary next month.

Besides his wife living in Dalton he is survived by his son, Thomas A. Fiorini of Lenox; daughter Ann M. Gurek and husband Robert of Sagamore Beach; granddaughter Victoria Lynn Fiorini of Somerville; his brothers and sisters including Leo Fiorini, Jr. and wife Barbara, Rosemary Evans, Joanne Barker, Rita Tart, Michael Fiorini and wife Leslie, all of Pittsfield; John and Alice Fiorini of Florida, 16 nieces and nephews and many great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Theresa Ludwig and brother in law Joseph Barker.

*Note: Though not a Lenox alumni, Mr. Fiorini nonetheless had an association with the school and students.*

~ Ed.

\* \* \*

## Trivia Questions

Chapel services were an integral and memorable part of student-life. The questions below address Lenox School's Chapel and it's services.

1. Where were daily chapel services first held?
  - a. Thayer Hall Dining Room.
  - b. Griswold Hall's Main Hall.
  - c. Trinity Church.
  - d. North Cottage's medical ward extension.
2. What was the name of the School Chapel located on the ground floor of Thayer Hall and opened on November 11, 1933?
  - a. The Memorial Chapel.
  - b. The Chapel.
  - c. The Chapel of Saint Martin of Tours.
  - d. The Griswold Memorial Chapel.
3. Who conducted the blessing of the chapel service on November 11, 1933?
  - a. Rev. Belliss, Rector of Trinity Church.
  - b. Rev. Thayer, Lenox School Co-Founder and President of the Board of Trustees.
  - c. Rev. Monks, Lenox School Headmaster.
  - d. All of the above.
4. For what reasons did Chapel Services move to Trinity Church in 1959?
  - a. The Thayer Hall Chapel required renovation.
  - b. The size of the student body grew too large.
  - c. Rev. Whitman, Rector of Trinity Church, requested that it be moved there.
  - d. The Thayer Hall Chapel had become a fire trap due to grain and hay seed from above filling its walls.
5. What became of the Chapel in Thayer Hall?
  - a. Continued to be used for morning Holy Communion services.
  - b. Select items were relocated to Trinity Church.
  - c. It was demolished in the mid-1990s with the rest of Thayer Hall due to the dilapidated condition of the building and because hazardous/toxic material was leeching into the surrounding soil.
  - d. All of the above.

~ Randy Harris

\* \* \*

## Trivia Answers from the December 2016 Edition

1.-c. Twenty six (26) Lenox School alumni were killed during WWII service equaling ten percent (10%) of the total alumni body at the time. There is sometimes reference to a twenty seventh (27) alumnus killed, possibly a Truman Hemingway '35 listed in the 1944 Yearbook's dedication, but he cannot be verified as an alumnus with the currently available documents and rosters.

2.-b. The class of 1931 was the earliest class to lose an alumnus in WWII service (George Starr Scofield) and the class of 1943 was the latest class to lose an alumnus (Charles Spaulding Nichols and George Amburne Wilner).

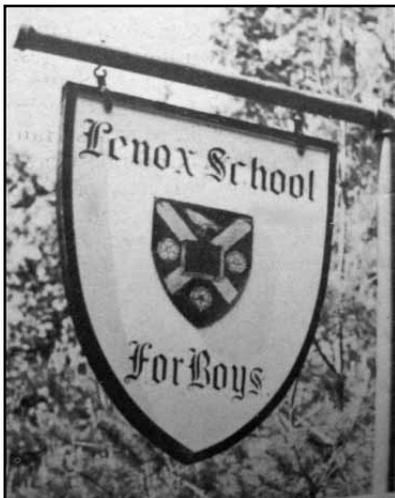
3.-a. Yes there was an instance of two Lenox School roommates dying in WWII. Samuel Bowman Wheeler "Bow" Kennedy and Richard Hoover Treat of the class of 1940 roomed together in Thayer Hall for their sixth form year where "Bow" was the prefect and Dick was a sub-prefect for at least half of the year, overseeing fourth formers.

4.-a.,b. The Memorial Gymnasium and the Lobby of the Sports Center were the two school buildings/rooms that were named in honor of those alumni who served and died in WWII?

5.-d. The Lenox School bronze plaque commemorating and listing the WWII alumni dead is mounted on the Lenox School Memorial Plaque at the right rear of Trinity Church.

~ Randy Harris

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Lenox School For Boys Sign (late 40s - early 50s)

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

*Note: Former international student But-Yang Lo from the Class of 1967 provided the following update on his life after Lenox from his home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, "the boating capital of the country," stating that "Lenox occupies a place dear to my heart."*

~ Randy Harris

*Editor's note: This letter just arrived, after this issue was composed, so it is included here. Having grown up on the water and around yachts, I can attest that Cheoy Lee is an admired and highly respected name among sailing enthusiasts...*

Dear Pen and Scroll,

I graduated from Cornell University with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1971. From 1974 to 1976 I enrolled at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and earned an MBA degree. I have worked in the family shipbuilding business since college, now five generations and 150 years old. From a regional focus we now sell our products worldwide, including a fleet of powerful tug boats now serving the new Panama Canal. When you have nothing better to do please visit [www.cheoylee.com](http://www.cheoylee.com). It describes what we do well.

Kindest regards, But-Yang Lo

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The next issue will be published  
Summer 2017

Send your news today!

Don Foster  
5 Tinkham Lane  
Lakeville, MA 02347  
508-947-7297

foster(at)tmlp.net ... replace (at) with @

