



THE SKIRMISHER

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL
Home of *The MULESKINNERS*



Vol. LXXXIX

No. 2

December 2000



Cadets
return with
five trophies

COLOR GUARD & DRILL TEAM EXCELS

For the first team completion of the school year, the SJMS Color Guard had quite a challenge. Losing their primary leader only two days before the meet, meant they had a lot of work, in a short time, to prepare. With C/Sgt. Wade Phoenix the new leader, they placed *fifth* overall among 45 different teams, looking much better than the other teams competing. Prior to this year, the Color Guard has finished last at this meet. Finishing fifth is a huge accomplishment. This sets the stage for some very competitive meets coming up. *The Color Guard is made up of four cadets: C/ Sgt. Phoenix is the Color Sgt. and carries the U.S. flag; C/PFC Kamil Kowalewicz carries the Kansas State Flag; C/Sgt. Paul Palomo and C/ CPL Lucas Moore are the guards.*

The Drill Team was entered in four categories: Exhibition Drill with arms, Regulation Drill without arms, Duel Exhibition Drill with arms, and Individual Exhibition Drill with arms. The Commander of the Drill Team is C/WO1 McMurtrey. The Drill Team

placed *second* in Regulation Drill without arms, *first* place in Duel Exhibition with arms, and *first* and *second* place in Individual drill with arms. The number of competing teams were at least 45 teams in each category.

C/Sgt. Derby took *first* place in Individual Drill with arms. C/McMurtrey placed *second* in the same meet. C/ McMurtrey and C/Sgt Derby were the Duel Exhibition Team.

Never in the history of St. John's Military School has any Drill Team won any meet in Oklahoma City. This team walked away with five trophies in a very competitive meet. "Their competitive spirit and behavior speak highly of them and I am very proud and honored to be their coach" said 1SG Amon Tidmore, following the meet.

The Drill Team members are: Blake McMurtrey, Richard Derby, Jeremy Pluger, Derek Frailey, Brendon Harris, Joseph Auseum, Matthew Miller, Orlando Evitt, Cory Carrizales, Dominic Stokes and Benjamin Reier.

Below, C/PV2 Ben Reier, Gr. 7, assists Floyd Lotker, Class of '40, in raising a flag to represent his class during Alumni Weekend.





President's Message

Capt. E. A. McAlexander

For the past two months I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with old boys much more than usual. In early November we hosted a reunion weekend that was very enjoyable for everyone, especially Pat and I. You will see pictures of several of the attendees later, and I can assure you they were hav-

ing as much fun as appears.

In the week before Thanksgiving I traveled to Denver to attend a meeting of the Soule Family Foundation. Tim Soule, Class of '66, has been the organizing force behind the establishment of a family foundation that has St. John's as one of several beneficiaries. Tim is currently on the school's Board of Trustees and it is always a pleasure to spend time with him and his lovely wife, Sue.

While in Colorado, I had the opportunity to have lunch with Ed Lehman, Class of '43. Ed is an Honorary Trustee and is always ready to help with St. John's matters.

In early December the school received a partial distribution from the estate of Bill Gillespie, Class of '52. When the estate is completely settled the school will receive something over \$500,000. Bill's wish was that the funds be used in memory of Russ Guernsey and the Board of Trustees
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Academic Dean's Message

COL Doug Randolph

The Holiday season is quickly approaching, as is the end of the first semester. The cadets are looking forward to both events. I find it hard to believe that the first semester of the 113th Corps of Cadets has ended so quickly.

Thinking back to when the cadets first arrived in the stifling heat of August to the single digit temperatures and five inches of recent snow, it doesn't seem possible that the time has passed so

quickly. As with the change of seasons so comes the change of sports. The cadets are currently enjoying an undefeated high school basketball season and we have a young but hustling wrestling team. Also the rifle team, drill team and color guard are working very hard to achieve perfection.

The cadets have experienced several enrichment trips including an art trip to Chicago and the Advanced Military Skills class trip to San Diego for a diving school. The 7th and 8th grade cadets have attended the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Mushroom State Park near Kanopolis and Rock City in Minneapolis, KS.

Academically, I was pleased that several cadets scored very well on both the fall SAT I exam and ACT Assessment. I'm

also excited that a large majority of the cadets are starting to improve their academic standings. The first semester of the reading program was successful with all the cadets reading, but I would like to see an increase in the amount of material they are reading. A special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Jimmerson and Mrs. Cyndy Webster for donating books from our wish list.

I would like to thank the teaching staff for the great deal of time spent on the School Improvement process attending workshops and meetings. I would especially like to thank George Stelljes and Steve Ash for all the time they have spent in gathering data and processing into helpful charts. We at St. John's are very pleased with the first phase of this process. Mrs.
(Continued on page 4)



Commandant's Message

COL Jerry Bradley

The majority of the Corps went home for the Thanksgiving Holiday period, with the thirty or so who remained here being taken into the homes of the St. John's staff and faculty on Thanksgiving Day. Most of the young men who remained were those who live long distances from here, as well as those young men who are still going through new boy training. Although they would rather have been allowed to go home, they squared their shoulders, and accepted the inevitable.

In the process they all had a good time, and are now looking forward to the Christmas Holiday period.

As the year marches toward the half way point, things are going rather well in the military department. We are nearing that time when we select those cadets who will attend Officers Candidate School in January, and who, upon successful completion of that event, will be promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to positions of leadership within the Corps of Cadets. We have some outstanding young men from which to select this year and feel extremely confident that they will step up, fill those leader positions, and con-

tinue the tradition of excellence that has so far identified this 113th Corps of Cadets.

Other than the visible signs of added rank on their shoulders, there are few real perks that go with attaining positions of leadership at St. John's. The work load increases, the time that a leader has for himself is less, he is reminded that **leadership by example** is the best kind of leadership, and therefore, the example he sets in his daily life must be without reproach. It is **expected** that he maintain a high academic standing. It is **expected** that his behavior conform to the highest standard. It is **expected** that his appearance sets the

(Continued on page 4)

First Grading Period Honors are Announced

Congratulations to the
BLUE BERETS

Upper School:

Ryan North

Derek Frailey

Christopher Hirsch

Michael Moeller

Middle School:

Robert Korody

Joseph Pantera

Fernando 'Felipe' Batalla

Mason Hendrickson

ACADEMIC DEAN'S HONOR ROLL:

Making the Academic Dean's Honor Roll for the First Grading Period from the Upper School are: Ryan North 95.375; Derek Frailey 95.125; Christopher Hirsch 95.125; Michael Moeller 95.125; Benjamin Anesi 94.444; Mark Romberg 94.125; Richard Hardy 94.000 and Eric McBroom 94.000. From the Middle School is Robert Korody 95.571.

HONOR ROLL:

From the Upper School are: Gabriel Espinosa 93.375; Rex Robichaux 93.000; Peter Wilcox 92.857; Taehoon Gang 92.500; Anthony Lucchesi 92.500; Garrett White 92.222; Kareem Dockery 92.125; Nicholas Hughes 92.125; Matthew Webster 92.000; Brendon Harris 91.375; Justin George 91.250; Nathan Wiltsie 91.250; Blake McMurtrey 91.125; Jeremy Pluger 91.1215; Joseph Mooney 91.000; Daniel Han 90.625; Cory Carrizales 90.500; Curtis Hurwitz 90.250; Stephan Gleeson 89.714; Dominic Stokes 89.625; Andrew Willis 89.000; James Wisdom 89.000; Christopher Horn 88.875; Benjamin Walker 88.875; Clinton Hendrickson 88.625; Joseph Aussem 88.500, Bernardo Chico 88.500 and Christopher Parizi 88.500.

From the Middle School are: Joseph Pantera 91.571; Fernando Batalla 91.428, Mason Hendrickson 91.428; Corey Adams 89.142 and Robert Ripley 88.857.

*Our congratulations to these cadets
for a job well done.*

CAPTAIN McALEXANDER

(Continued from page 2)

will decide how that is to be done in the near future.

On the "Old Boy" pages you will read of my visit with Jeff Schlesinger, Class of '22. Jeff is 95 years young and visiting with him was the highlight of my month. I will see you again soon, Jeff.

Pat and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Testing includes SATs, PSATs & ACTs

by Mrs. Ginger Wooten, Counselor/Registrar

On October 17, 2000, all cadets in the junior class took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT/NMQT measures verbal reasoning, critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills. This exam allows students to practice for the SAT I.

High School students enter the Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and meeting other participation requirements. PSAT/NMQT Selection Index scores serve as an initial screen of the large number of program entrants, and are used to designate those who receive Merit Program recognition.

Juniors and Seniors took the ACT Assessment on October 28, 2000 at St. John's. The ACT is a national college admission examination that consists of tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning.

The questions on the ACT Assessment are directly related to what students learn in high school courses. It is not an aptitude or IQ test. There are no limitations on how many times a student can take the test.

On November 4, 2000, St. John's Juniors and Seniors took the SAT I at Salina High School South. SAT I scores predict how well students are likely to do in the first year of college. Scores help colleges compare academic preparation and ability among about 2 million students who take the SAT I each year.

The SAT I measures students verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities, which develop over time. The work students do in school and on their own continually improves these reasoning skills. The SAT I does not measure other characteristics, such as classroom motivation, artistic, creativity, or special talents.

When cadet ACT and SAT I scores are studied over the past two years, the data generally indicates that the longer a student attends St. John's Military School, the better his scores on standardized tests become. For example, 1999-2000 SAT I verbal scores increased by 108 points when comparing students who have attended St. John's for three or four years to cadets who have attended one or two years. In addition, 1999-2000 SAT I Verbal scores exceed national scores by nearly forty points for cadets who have attended St. John's Military School for three or four years.

Chicago Trip

Art & Theater Enrichment

Pictured below, in front of a sculpture by Henry Moore at the Art Institute, are the eleven cadets who went on the Chicago trip, November 9 thru 12.

Arriving on Thursday evening, they spent most of Friday and Saturday on the move, visiting the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museums of Contemporary Photography and Contemporary Art and the Terra Museum of American Art. They also attended the "Blue Man Group" at the Briar St. Theater on Friday evening and "Forever Plaid" at the Royal George Theater on Saturday evening. And of course, restaurants are always highlights. Cadets had their evening meals at Carson's House of Ribs, Ed Debevic's and the Andy's Jazz Club.

A very tired group of boys returned very early Monday morning and to the reality of St. John's. Quite a trip! Sponsors were Chris Peterson, Gerald Martin and Scott and Kayla Wiedeman.



Orange Hair from Fund Drive



Attendees during Parents' Weekend certainly knew about the AMS (Advanced Military Skills) class before they departed the campus.

With a trip for the class to San Diego in the balance, parents of Battalion Commander Travis Mulder, took it upon themselves to lead a fund drive which provided entertainment throughout the homecoming football game. Travis's mother, Roni Reynolds, started lining up members of the faculty and staff who agreed to have their hair spray-painted orange during half time, adding one person per \$100 raised. By half time, 17 individuals were lined up with 17 plus cadets standing behind them armed with spray cans, recognizing the \$1700 collected throughout the day.

Thanks Roni, for your initiative and energy, and also, for being the Mule-skinners head cheerleader! (See related article on page 12 of AMS trip to San Diego).

COLONEL RANDOLPH

(Continued from page 2)

Wooten is very busy making sure that the school meets all the required deadlines.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

COLONEL BRADLEY

(Continued from page 2)

example for others, and he is **expected** to know the answers to questions posed by his subordinates. About the only tangible thing **he** receives from all this, is the opportunity to actually lead other young men, and to apply the principles of leadership in this "**Leadership Laboratory**" known as St. John's Military School. As a result of immersion in this environment, he has the opportunity to hone, and to perfect those leadership skills which will become essential to him as he continues his journey toward the future.

Foundation Care Packages

Initiation of the Foundation Care Packages has been a big hit. This monthly sack of goodies currently goes to over 60 cadets. Each month a theme is selected with a variety of associated goodies, including potato chips, fruit, soda, beef jerky, fruit juices, candy, crackers, chocolate, etc. It should save parents between \$8 to \$9 in postage each month.

If you would still like to participate there will be another opportunity during second semester. Cadets will receive a package each month, February through May. The total cost is \$50 (\$12.50 per package), or you may pick out specific months at \$15 each. Please make your check payable to the SJMS Foundation and send it to St. John's Military School, Attn: Terri Hunnacutt, PO Box 827, Salina, KS 67402-0827. If you have any further questions please feel free to call Mrs. Hunnacutt at (785) 823-9525, ext. 7703.

Brick Courtyard

During Parents' Weekend several individuals expressed interest in the St. John's Brick Courtyard, located in front of the Stevens Center. The courtyard was established during the Stevens Center fund drive, as a way to recognize those individuals who supported the multi-functional facility. This opportunity has been extended, but funds donated for such memorials will now be endowed for scholarships.

On these bricks Moms and Dads can express their pride for their Cadet, Old Boys can honor their class, or other family members/friends can simply relay the fond memories St. John's has created.

For a tax-deductible cash gift of \$250-\$499, a 4x8 brick can be purchased, or for a larger gift of \$500 or more, an 8x8 brick can be placed in the courtyard. If you are interested in participating and would like further details, please call Julie Fischer at (785) 823-7231 or email her office at julief@sjms.org.

Charlie Team Wins

United Way Fund Drive

Companies competed as employees participated in the annual Salina United Way Fund Drive. With the Team Concept already in place and most employees already Company oriented, the Business Office challenged the Companies to raise \$2,500. The school passed this goal, raising \$2,998.95, about double last year's gift. Several cadets made cash gifts also. In house, Charlie Company won the drive, and was rewarded with an ice cream party.

Fall Festival

"The McCoy Event"

Known as the "Halloween Howl" for hundreds of cadets, and in recent years changed to "Fall Festival," one thing remains constant - Mrs. Brenda McCoy's constant enthusiasm and energy in chairing the event. She literally begs for volunteers and donations to make the event a success, and usually gets what she needs. How can anyone turn her down? But, really, a big hand for everyone involved, from setting the stage, manning the events, and cleaning up. The Corps really likes the food "high."

On behalf of the Cadets and the staff who coordinated the Fall Festival

we would like to acknowledge those parents who made all of the carnival FUN possible with their candy and movie pass donations:

**Suzanne Boeck
Stephanie Burnett
Bev Derby
Karen Korody
Jan Lucchessi
Roni Reynolds
Pat Robichaux
Diane Wiltsie-Kerr**

**The St. John's Military School
Academic Reading Program
would like to especially "Thank"**

**Cyndy Webster
and
James & Carol Jimmerson**

**for their generous
book donations!**

VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec. 8	St. Mary's	Win 66 - 20	
Dec. 12	Emmanuel	Win 79 - 35	
Dec. 16	Wakefield	Loss 56 - 49	
Dec. 18	Topeka Herit.	Cancelled due to snow	
Jan. 9	White City	J/V-V (Home)	6:30 PM
Jan. 12	St. Xavier	J/V-V (Home)	6:30 PM
Jan. 16-20	Eisenhower Tourn.(V-Only)	TBA	
Jan. 22	Flint Hills	J/V-V (There)	5 PM
Jan. 26	Solomon	J/V-Only (There)	6:30 PM
Jan. 26	Elyria	V-Only (Home)	6:30 PM
Jan. 30	Solomon	V-Only (Bi-Center)	4:30 PM
Feb. 2	Tescott	J/V-V (Home)	6:30 PM
Feb. 5	Flint Hills	J/V-V (Home)	5 PM
Feb. 6	Hope	J/V-V (Home)	6:30 PM
Feb. 9	Bennington	J/V-V (There)	6:30 PM
Feb. 13	Centre	J/V-V (There)	6:30 PM
Feb. 16	Emmanuel	J/V-V (Home)	6:30 PM
Feb. 23	St. Mary's	J/V-V (Home)	6:30 PM
March 1-3	Sub State	Varsity	TBA
March 7-10	State	Varsity	TBA

Middle School SCHEDULE

November 20	Tescott	Loss 13 - 74	
December 7	Solomon	Loss 8 - 54	
December 8	St. Mary's	Loss 21 - 32	
December 14	Emmanuel	Loss 21 - 33	
January 11	Bennington	(Home)	5 PM
January 18	Emmanuel	(Home)	5 PM
January 25	Marquette	(Home)	5 PM
Jan 28 - Feb 3	TVL Tourney	(There)	TBA

DRILL TEAM & COLOR GUARD SCHEDULE

Jan. 27	Northeast High School, Kansas City, MO
Feb. 3	University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Mar. 3	Bellevue East High School, Bellevue, NE
Mar. 10	Wichita North High School, Wichita, KS
Mar. 31	Junction City High School, J.C., KS

Basketball Team Starts Season With Wins

Never lacking for enthusiasm in sports, the 113th Corps is ready for basketball. And they have had reason to get excited as the Cadets started the season with two wins. But their last game against Wakefield, a game filled with turnovers, ended the winning streak. The Mule-skinners go into the Christmas break with two wins and one loss.

Coach Roy Lawrence, in his 2nd year as head Varsity Coach, predicts a good season with three returning lettermen and some new talent.

Returning and leading in points is senior Stephan Gleeson followed closely by junior Orlando Evitt and senior Jessen Eckert. Providing powerful offense in his first year at St. John's is senior Alejandro Camponmanes. Another first year cadet is Daylon Unrein, the Muleskinners 6'8" center, dominating the boards with his record rebounds. "Not too many high schools have 6'8" varsity players," advised Coach Lawrence. Unrein could have a great record by the end of the season.

In addition to those mentioned, rounding out the talented team are James Martling, Paul Palomo, Ryan North, Andrew Willis and Cory Carrizales.

Assisting Lawrence is Chris Day and Andrew Ring.



Taking his opponent to the mat at the Duel meet with Salina South is 152 lb. Zachary Wagner, Gr. 9.



WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Dec. 2	Lincoln	(There)	10 AM
Dec. 5	South JV	(There)	6 PM
Dec. 7	Lincoln	(There)	5:30 PM
Dec. 9	Minneapolis	(There)	10 AM
Dec. 12	Belleville	(There)	5:30 PM
Jan. 12	Halstead	(There)	4 PM
Jan. 13	Halstead	(There)	9:30 AM
Jan. 16	S.E. Saline	(There)	5:30 PM
Feb. 3	S.E. Saline	(There)	10 AM
Feb. 8	South JV	(There)	6 PM

The SKIRMISHER

The Skirmisher is the official publication of SJMS and is published bi-monthly by the Media Club Cadets, with Mrs. Sheri Becker, Advisor.

St. John's Military School, PO Box 827, Salina, KS 67402-0827, Phone 785 823-7231.



The Bow Hunting Instructor answers questions from Cadets Nicholas Hughes, Jeffrey Harvey and John Zander on bow techniques, part of the Kansas Hunters Education Program.

RIFLE TEAM SCHEDULE

Nov. 29	*Eastern Hills Postal Match	1600
Dec. 5	*Sidney Lanier Fall Postal Match	1600
Dec. 14	*NRA December Postal Match	1600
Jan. 11	*Wichita	1900
Jan. 18	*Alma	1900
Jan. 25	Delphos	1900
Jan.27-28	*NRA Sectional & Jr. Oly Qual	All Day
Jan. 31	*NRA January Postal Match	1600
Feb. 1	*Abilene	1900
Feb. 8	*Wichita	1900
Feb. 15	*Abilene	1900
Feb. 22	*Delphos	1900
Feb. 24	*Missouri Military/Leavenworth HS	0800
Feb. 28	*NRA February Postal Match	1600
Mar. 1	Manhattan	1900
Mar. 3-4	Round Robin UMKC Match	All Day
Mar. 8	*Manhattan	1900
Mar. 28	*NRA March Postal Match	1600
Mar. 29	Alma (at Manhattan)	1900
Apr. 2	*Sidney Lanier Spring Postal Match	1600
Apr. 5-7	*State Indoor 3 position Championship	TBA

*Location at SJMS

Special Orders

announcing Promotions for the 113th Corps of Cadets since the last Skirmisher

SO 97-01 dated 10/12/00

Tyler Bruno, Matthew Kenney, Lee Pace and Tarell Taylor to PFC; Sean Barbour, Cory Carrizales, David Kriske and Dominic Stokes to CPL; Stephan Gleeson to WO1; Antonio Escandon, Russell Gruber, Daniel Han, Ryan North, Matthew Webster and Peter Wilcox to 1LT; Benjamin Anesi to CPT.

SO 99-01 dated 10/14/00

Alejandro Campomanes to SSG.

SO 101-01 dated 10/14/00

John Mitchell to PFC.

SO 104-01 dated 10/17/00

David Barber and Michael Harmon to PFC.

SO 112-01 dated 10/19/00

Luis Colon, Nicholas Hughes, Matthew Stevens and John Zander to PFC.

SO 125-01 dated 10/26/00

Anthony Lucchesi to PFC; Joseph Manning to CPL; Mark Romberg and Daniel Wilcox to WO1.

SO 126-01 dated 10/26/00

Kamil Kowalewicz to CPL.

SO 128-01 dated 10/27/00

Jason Christo and Lorenzo Gonzalez to PFC; Justin George and Jon White to 1LT.

SO 129-01 dated 10/27/00

Joseph Mooney to 1LT.

SO 133-01 dated 10/31/00

Jessen Eckert to SGT.

SO 139-01 dated 11/5/00

Clinton Hendrickson to SGT and Rex Robichaux to MSG.

SO 156-01 dated 11/9/00

Jeffrey Harvey and Robert Ripley to PFC; Taehoon Gang, Steven Williams and Nathan Wiltsie to CPL; Daniel Diaz, Scott Green, Brendon Harris, Mason Hendrickson, Curtis Hurwitz and Cody Palmer to SGT; Jorge Salome to SSG.

SO 157-01 dated 11/9/00

Joshua Selland to PFC.

SO 170-01 dated 11/16/00

Jason Jay, Matthew Miller, Darren Portman, Corbin Pratt, Joshua Steward and Zachary Wagner to PFC; Jeffrey Alcee, Eric Burnett, Christopher Horn, Michael Moller and James Wisdom to CPL; David Kriske and Kevin Le to SGT; William Pantera and Michael Speelman to

SSG and George Norton to SFC.

SO 171-01 dated 11/16/00

William Corkins and Sean Duerr to SGT.

SO 174-01 dated 11/17/00

Brandon Blackmon to PFC; Christopher Hirsch, Eric McBroom, Joseph Pantera and Adam Radford to CPL; Mack Redd to SSG; Jessen Eckert to SFC; and Derek Frailey to WO1.

SO 175-01 dated 11/17/00

Luis Colon to PFC and Kevin Kerns to CPL.

SO 191-01 dated 11/30/00

Geoffrey Boeck, Michael Maynard, Charles Riney and Adam Thompson to PFC; Karl Christenson, Jesse Montoya and Ryan Woody to CPL; James Klock and Christopher Ryman to SSG; Manuel Alvarez and Richard Derby to SFC; Michael Andrews to CSM and Travis Mulder to LTC.

SO 192-01 dated 11/30/00

Gregory Romero to PFC.

SO 195-01 dated 12/01/00

Nicholas Martin to PFC; Orlando Evitt and Paul Palomo to SSG; Eric Winkel to SFC.

SO 200-01 dated 12/7/00

Thomas McKinnon and Lucas Romero to PFC; Jason Christo, Gabriel Espinosa, Nicholas Hughes, Matthew Kenney and Lee Pace to CPL; Sean Barbour and Richard Hardy to SGT; Jeremy Pluger and Alexander Winkel to SSG and Stephen Cambier to SFC.

SO 201-01 dated 12/7/00

Kamil Kowalewicz to SGT; Andrew Willis to PFC.

SO 211-01 dated 12/14/00

Andre Cruz to PFC; Corey Adams, Jeffrey Harvey, Robert Korody and Anthony Lucchesi to CPL; Fernando Batalla and Lucas Moore to SGT; Jose Chico-Uriza to SSG; James Martling to SFC; Wade Phoenix and Zachary Russell to 1SG.

SO 222-01 dated 12/19/00

Chad Walker to PFC; Chad Tate to SGT; Jake Redd to 1LT.

SO 223-01 dated 12/19/00

Sean Duerr to SSG.

Memorials

have been received in memory of

Walter York

"Old Boy" Class of '44

Gene Penny

"Old Boy" Class of '43

New Boys make Old Boy Special Orders

SO 96-01 dated 10/12/00

Brandon Blackmon, Jeffrey Harvey, Michael Maynard, Matthew Miller, Michael Moeller, Corbin Pratt, Darrel Portman and Adam Thompson to PV2.

SO 111-01 dated 10/19/00

Jason Jay and Nicholas Martin to PV2.

SO 130-01 dated 10/27/00

Dino Bajramovic and Andrew Cox to PV2.

SO 138-01 dated 11/2/00

Victor Ahedo-Jimenez, Scott Greunke and Christopher Parizi to PV2.

SO 155-01 dated 11/9/00

Ezra Howes, Ryan Metz, Michael Rosacci, Spencer Sherf and Chad Walker to PV2.

SO 169-01 dated 11/16/00

Andre Cruz and Daniel Hargett to PV2.

SO 178-01 dated 11/21/00

Ryan Coyne and Daylor Unrein to PV2.

SO 190-01 dated 11/30/00

Dana Blaus-Plissner and Zachary Peralta to PV2.

SO 202-01 dated 12/7/00

Jason Ainsworth, Richard Malugani and Ryan Nordling to PV2; Phillip Luu to PFC.

SO 226-01 dated 12/19/00

Michael Castaldo, John Green, Alexander Logan, Tyler Olentine and Joachim Reynolds to PV2.

Ben J. Taylor

November 26, 1908 - November 27, 2000

The following are excerpts from an obituary submitted by "John 'Rick' Taylor, Class of '64, about his late father.

Ben J. Taylor, 92 died November 27, 2000. He was born on November 26, 1908 in Texline, Texas on the XIT Ranch. His father, a Baptist pastor and evangelist, traveled from East Texas to far West Texas and into New Mexico and Oklahoma in a covered wagon with his family of six. After studying geology and engineering at Texas Tech University, Ben J. moved to Tulsa where he met and married Betty L. Storm. During the Depression, he worked as a surveyor and landman while attending The University of Tulsa at night. He was one of the first civil engineers registered in the State of Oklahoma.

In 1938 he accepted a position with Kingwood Oil Company and moved his family to Illinois until WW II, where he served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. Following the war he returned to the oil business. He was recognized in 1982 by the Nebraska Oil & Gas Association as "Oil Pioneer" for his wildcat discoveries in Nebraska, and in 1989 by the 71st Legislature of Texas for his achievements in the oil business.

His life and travels took him from covered wagon to supersonic travel on the Concorde.

He was a St. John's "Brigadier" and a long-time supporter of St. John's Military School. His son, Rick and grandson, Rusty both attended St. John's.

Walter York

March 13, 1926 - November 22, 2000

"Old Boy" Walter C. York, Class of '44, died on November 22, 2000. He became ill while visiting his son Steve, in Las Vegas, and was hospitalized several weeks prior to his death.

Walter arrived at St. John's in the fall of 1933 as a second grade student and holds the school record as the "old boy" with the longest tenure, eleven years, graduating in 1944. Walter was the fourth "York" to attend St. John's. His two oldest brothers, Francis and Harvey, attended during the 1917-18 school year. His brother John attended from 1932 through 1936 and was Corps Commander. Walter was Corps Commander during his senior year also.

Walter and his wife Virginia attended several commencement weekends on campus and have shared many memories.

"Through his high school years, St. John's was Walter's only family", said "Old Boy" Jack Vanier. "I never knew a person more gentle and kind or more willing to help. Many times as a young seventh and eighth grader, I asked Walter questions about life in general. I always got a simple, direct, homespun, truthful answer." Jack said "The world always misses a person like Walter York."

In an article in the April 1995 issue of the Skirmisher, Walter said he was exposed to some mighty fine and upstanding people in his St. John's tenure and he would never forget their input into his school life. "I never met a cadet or teacher that I didn't like. It is my belief that a St. John's Cadet is a cut above the others."

During those years, one had to complete his first year before becoming an "old boy." "I remember running the belt line at the end of the year - made one feel that I was now one of the gang." Walter was Captain of the Army Club one year, President of the "S" Club during his senior year, and was the first officer ever commissioned in his junior year at St. John's.

A flag pole at the teardrop reads "THE YORKS" and lists John - 1936 and Walter - 1944.

There will be a Memorial Service for Walter at the Riverside national Cemetery in Riverside, CA at 2 PM on January 12, 2001. Directions to the cemetery and additional information can be obtained by calling the cemetery at (909) 653-8417.

A Memorial Service at St. John's is planned for 10:00 AM on March 13, 2001. It will take place in the Armstrong Memorial Chapel, and former classmates and members of his St. John's family are invited. A light luncheon will be served after the service.

His ashes will be placed next to several classmates. Jim Bannon, Class of '44, was the first "Old Boy" placed in the chapel's columbarium, on November 10, 1995. Since then, services have been held for Robert Philbrook and Louis Fulton, both from the class of '46.

Walter's wife, Virginia, has suggested that memorials be given to the school's reading program.

Last Man's Fund

During a recent trip to Oklahoma, Capt. Skip McAlexander stopped by to visit "Old Boy" Jeffery Schlesinger, Class of '22, in Enid. During conversation, Mr. Schlesinger believed himself not only the oldest living "Old Boy," but probably the only survivor of the "Last Man's Fund." He shared his yearbook with Skip listing the names of those that had met for a class reunion in 1972, and had donated \$100 each toward the fund that has since been drawing interest. The conditions were that the surviving member of the club would be responsible for delegating the funds to a cause of his choice.

In checking out the school database it was learned that two members still survive. Along with Jeff Schlesinger is Monti Belot, Jr., who resides in Lawrence, Kansas. A phone call to Mr. Belot confirmed that he is, in fact, a member, and remembers it well. He was an underclassman while attending St. John's in 1913, so to our knowledge, Mr. Schlesinger does hold the position of being the oldest. Belot was furnished Schlesinger's phone number and we assume they have visited with each other by this time.

Letter directed to the Class of '40

Letter received by "Old Boy" Floyd Lotker ('40) from "Old Boy" Robert W. Sanders (atten. '39-40) on October 31, 2000, prior to reunion.

"I'd like to say "Hello" and wish you and all concerned a real exceptional reunion. While not your class member, I was an 11th grade that year which was my only year at St. John's. Since then, another high school year, three Army years, a lifetime of railroading and then retirement in '81.

"I get to see my brother, the "Coach" occasionally and we get to talking St. John's and wonder about everyone and how they are. We know wars had to have taken their toll, and we've had such little information since leaving St. John's in the '40's. We have, however, enjoyed the "Old Boy" bit in the Muleskinner.

"Brother "Coach" left St. John's in '40 for medical school at U.N. Omaha. He finished schooling in the Navy program and assigned to Marines just in time to be in the Okinawa campaign. Since then, he has basically served as M.D. in an Ontario, Oregon hospital. He's retired, of course, and recently celebrated his birthday #85.

"My (our) best regards to all the '40 returnees and we wish you every success."

Signed: Robert W. Sanders, 654 Green Ct., Onalaska, WI 54650-8518
 "Coach" Dr. Wilfred N. Sanders (Ret), 1076 NW 4th Ave., Ontario OR 97914
 "Coach" was the athletic director from 1938 to 1941.

TAPS

Edward Smith

died November 2, 2000

Former Tactical Officer and father-in-law of Martha Smith, school nurse

Ben J. Taylor

died November 27, 2000

Weatherford TX

father to "Old Boy" John R. Taylor

Class of '64

and grandfather to John Russell Taylor

"Old Boy" Atten. 85-87, 90-92

Robert A. Watson

died August 16, 2000

Muskogee OK

"Old Boy" Class of '79

Walter York

died November 22, 2000

Las Vegas NV

"Old Boy" Class of '44

50th Year Class Reunion Attendees



Front row: Jack Fike ('49), Bobby Campbell ('49), Bill Shakespeare ('50), Cliff Collier ('51). Back row: Charlie Brown ('50), John Owens ('50), Dick Nelson ('50), Bill Hahn ('49) and Morris Johnson ('49).

“Old Boy 2000” Reunion

Despite the weather not cooperating for the Alumni Weekend, it was a good time for those attending the reunion. A big thanks to the “Old Boys” returning, and also to the many spouses and guests who joined in various functions throughout the weekend. Special recognition should also be given to Mike Owens for all his efforts and diligence to make the 50 yr. reunion happen.



From Top. During campus tours, Billy Harrington ('70) leads discussion while looking at class pictures.

Following elimination, David Elk ('67) and Jeff Broome ('71) finish in the Drill Competition.

Pictured at right: Morris Johnson (49), Bill Salmon ('53), (Mrs. Judy Casstevens, Quartermaster) Jack Fike ('49) and Jeff Guernsey ('61)

Below, Handle Ceremony.



Activities included a campus tour, lunch with the Corps, an Alumni March and Drill Competition, Flag Raising and Handle Ceremony and an Alumni Banquet.



AMS Trip to San Diego *by Ryan North*

The Advanced Military Skills Team is a group of ten cadets who have dedicated their year to physical fitness and military knowledge. After a semester of rigorous physical and mental tests, the class went to San Diego to become certified divers and to visit the MCRD.

The first thing we noticed, stepping off the plane, was the weather difference between Kansas and California. It was nice. We were met by Travis Mulder's brother, Lance CPL Jonathon Mulder, an active Marine in supply, who was our guide for the week. Whenever we needed something, he helped us do it. Our housing was located at Del Mar Beach in Camp Pendleton.

Our first day was spent at Marine Corps Recruiting Depot. It was impressive and the facilities were well maintained. Our first experience there was as "new recruits," a flashback to New Boy training. We passed through all the recruiting acts, like contraband, equipment issue and haircuts. We then continued our tour of the general facilities, which included the obstacles, pool,

Post Exchange, and the drill field. We also took a walk through the Marine Museum, which had an excellent collection of Marine weapons, uniforms and other historical articles.

After lunch we went to the Drill Instructors School where we received a personal tour from OIC, MAJ Blackhurst and Gunnery SGT Gibbs. They showed us a Power Point display of all the programs they run, what kind of men they are looking for and what it takes to become a Drill Instructor. We finished the day watching the recruits practicing their drill.

Day two was our first day in dive training. We spent hours learning all the necessary protocols, procedures and safety information, taking our basic swimming test that evening.

Day three was our Confined water dives in the pool. Here we put into practice all we had learned to prepare for our ocean dives. We felt for the first time what it was like to breathe underwater. We also developed skills for things like buoyancy and buddy breathing.

Day four consisted of a beach dive off La Jolla beach, practicing snorkel/regulator exchange, tired diver tow and compass navigation. That night we had dinner with Colonel Al Ransom, US Marine Corps (Ret), "Old Boy" Class of '56, at his restaurant, Vinny's. If not for him, a lot of this trip would not have been possible.

Day five was our final day of diving, a boat dive in the Pont Loma kelp beds. It consisted of three dives to a depth of about forty feet. Here was our first experience of ocean life, from sea lions to octopus. It was a lot of work but also a lot of fun. After that, we were certified divers.

We owe a lot of thanks to many people that helped make this trip possible. Thank you to St. John's, Colonel Ransom, the SCUBA Center, and the Marine Corps. But mostly to Lt. Sven Hestrand and Mr. Mike Haist, our instructors. This was an experience we will never forget.

Members of the team are Ben Anesi, Travis Mulder, Matt Webster, Daniel Han, Garret White, Michael Andrews, Richard Derby, Peter Wilcox and myself, Ryan North



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