

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 22, No. 2

May 2021

CLASS NOTES

Earlier this month, **Cindy (Miller) Cramsey** reported the sad news that her husband Dan passed away on April 8. Although her life is necessarily in turmoil now, she has made one decision. Together with her son Paul, who has been living with her, she will be moving back to upstate New York in a few weeks. Her daughter Wendy and her husband Kerry live in Syracuse and she and Cindy will be selling their current homes with a plan to buy a bigger one and combining households. Cindy says she is not looking forward to going back to winters in Syracuse . . . they are definitely less severe in the Shenandoah Valley where she has been living . . . but it's now time for her to be with family, especially as Wendy's family includes an adorable four-year-old great-granddaughter for her to enjoy.

Ann (Murphy) DeYoung recently wrote from Florida that she and husband Ron were preparing to return to Vermont where they will be spending the next five months. She also reports that one of last year's casualties for them was the cancellation of a Viking River Cruise. That wasn't the first time a Viking cruise did not come off for them. Nor the last. The first time it happened, in 2019, major thunderstorms on the east coast prevented them from getting to Europe in time (and, to add to the problems, their bags were missing in action for five days). Not deterred, they scheduled the same trip for April of last year. Of course, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. And they tried yet again, opting for a shorter cruise this year. And it, too, was cancelled. Ann concluded by saying that at this point, they have given up on their long-lived dream and whatever adventures they will now undertake will solely be on this continent.

In this issue, I've included items about two guys who technically were not members of the IHS class of '58. I've made some exceptions to the

literal application of class membership and **Larry Jones** is one of them.

He writes, in part, "Dear classmates, for those who don't remember me, Dad pulled me out of Ithaca in 1952 to take a position in the Department of English at the University of California at Berkeley. Mireya Asturias married me in 1962 and we remain living and well as do our five children and thirteen grandchildren. Yes, we remained safe at home for a year."

He included a picture of himself and Mireya, taken last April, noting "At the time we thought this was all quite funny. Little did we know."



IN MEMORIAM

Larry Knuutila died on June 17 of last year in Gastonia, North Carolina from heart disease after an extended illness.

Larry was a member of Cramerton Free Will Baptist Church in Cramerton, North Carolina.

He was also a Past Master of Caroline Masonic Lodge #681 in Slaterville Springs. He was an avid golfer – a former member of Catatonk Golf Club in Candor – and he loved to bowl and hunt.

Larry is survived by wife of 59 years Joyce; two sons James and Steven; daughters-in-law Pamela and Elizabeth; sister Carol Ciaschi of Ithaca, New; brothers Harold and David; sister-in-law Judy; grandchildren Alissa Knuutila Davis (and husband Craig), Kayla, Samatha and Timothy; and great grandchild Carter Wilcox.

Gordy Light recently wrote that all was well where he is in Northern California. He has been tending to his online business, MotorLocUSA, and doing some fishing in his boat for halibut and striped bass. He adds that he is also an avid fan of his grandson's baseball team and travels on a weekly basis to watch him play. His grandson plays "travel ball," which is an elevated status league of 11-year olds who receive extra instruction.

Gordy also notes that he has talked with **Kip Kane**, Bill Leagans (class of 1956) and Warner "Butch" Berry, all of whom have indicated they are in good health.

Randy Little shared some perspectives on virtual communications. Regarding his participation in Cornell committee work, he said that while Zoom has allowed most regular meetings to take place, he really misses the before- and after-meeting conversations and chances to explore of renovated spaces. On the other hand, Zoom helped with his involvement with the New Jersey Audubon Society. For many years he had conducted a six-session evening class on learning birds by sound, but last year it had to be scrubbed due to the pandemic. However NJ Audubon got a Zoom license and he has used it this spring to host a six-session series.

IN MEMORIAM

Eva (Holub) Rapone passed away. I believe her date of death was June 17, 2019. She lived in Brookville, Florida. Unfortunately, I do not have any additional information.

Immediately upon receiving the previous issue of the Tattler Two, **Faith (Miller) Roelofs** wrote that it struck her squarely in the heart to read so many obituaries. She still doesn't think of herself as old but the number of obits really hit home.

To prove the point about not thinking of herself as old, she provided the Christmas letter that she and husband Chuck Dann sent to family and friends. What follows comes from that letter.

Faith and Chuck started off 2020 with plans to travel (to Branson, Missouri; and Charleston, South Carolina and Hawaii); have fun times with grandkids (in Portland, Oregon and Thousand Oaks, California as well as in Prescott, Arizona where they live) and continue their volunteer work with the Highlands Center for Natural History and Unity Church.

Then along came COVID-19 and, as they realized how serious it was, life as they were living it changed. They mostly have been stayed home, walking the dog in their lovely, wide-open neighborhood, going to safely-distanced Crossfit Lite exercise class three times a week and always wearing a mask when out shopping. It didn't help that Faith fell off a ladder in May, cracking four ribs and bruising a lung. With loving care from the hospital, family and friends, she recovered rapidly and completely. That plus online support from their church group gave them an enormous appreciation and gratitude for their "new" wonderful life.

Faith turned 80 in August and she and Chuck celebrated by spending two nights in El Tovar at Grand Canyon; a long-held wish of Faith's since first visiting there in 1962. Daughter Robin now lives on the South Rim and works for the Grand Canyon Conservancy. In November, she and Faith did a three-day backpack trip with the Conservancy to Indian Garden [editor's note: Indian Garden is located almost 3,200 below the South Rim, a hike of slightly more than 6 miles in each direction). That was when the season's first weekend with snow occurred. It was a memorable experience – a true celebration of life for Faith.

At the top of the next page you will find a photo of Faith and Robin hiking out of the Canyon in the snow.



Faith adds that, due to the coronavirus, the Grand Canyon was almost deserted last year and what a privilege it was to have it so much to themselves.

As for Chuck, Zooming five days a week starting in June with his kids Megan, Ryan and Erin and his grandkids Maddie, Avery and Ian was the joy and highlight of the year.

Faith wrapped up by saying that she and Chuck were looking forward to being able, when the dangers of COVID-19 have passed, to hug all their grandkids, including Faith Angel and Thomas who live on their block.

Chris (Mathewson) Salerno writes from Fort Myers, Florida that she and husband Richard are well-vaccinated and that things at Shell Point, the retirement community where they live, are lively and well. Beyond that, she says that there isn't much to report. Their children and grandchildren all are well. They have experienced the various negative effects of COVID-19 including tiny graduation ceremonies, too much Zoom at every level, educational losses, some psychological problems among the young teens and lots of missed gatherings. But, she says, all are coping fairly well.

Chris also notes that **Ann (Simpson) Moeder** and **Dan Moeder** are once again neighbors . . . your editor didn't know they'd ceased being neighbors for a while . . . and that they are well.

And she also notes that she and Richard plan to spend part of the summer in Vermont but aren't sure how long they'll be there.

Joyce (Hinman) Shaffer wrote from Arizona that she just retired from volunteering for the Salvation Army. She had been doing part-time volunteer work for 36 years, which she regarded as a great privilege. She retired from paid work – nursing – in 2005. Initially she was a surgical nurse but then, beginning in 1990, she was a school nurse.

Joyce reports that she and husband Stephen continue to enjoy visiting national parks. Daughter Sharon, who is a professor at University of Southern Illinois, will be married on July 4 in Zion National Park, a favorite park of the Shaffers. Joyce believes her love of parks comes from growing up in Ithaca and enjoying the lovely parks in the surrounding area.

In my call for newsletter input, I asked for pictures and one that I received was of **Moose Shaub**. (He's the other technically not a member of the IHS class of '58 featured in this issue.) The picture is of Moose with his three children and a daughter-in-law. Although Moose and wife Yuko live in Princeton, New Jersey, the pic was taken in a park in Brooklyn.



IN MEMORIAM

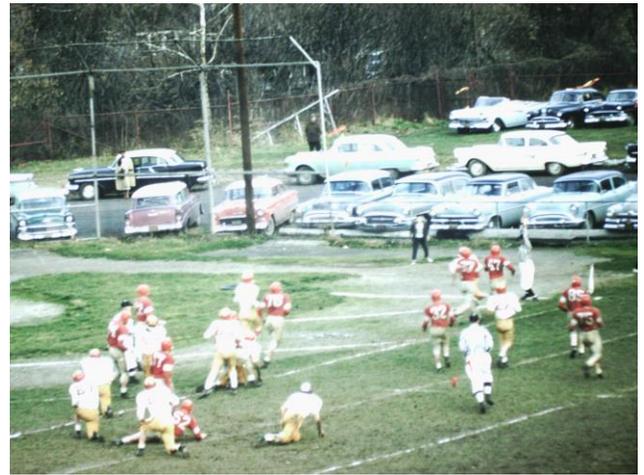
Barbara (Lucas) Taggart died on February 23. She lived in Tucson, Arizona. Unfortunately, I do not have any additional information.

From **Kay Trimberger**: “Sasha Lilley, daughter of classmate **Kathleen Lilley**, interviewed me about my book, *Creole Son: An Adoptive Mother Untangles Nature and Nurture*, published in 2020 and discussed in the June issue of Tattler II. Sasha is the host and producer of *Against the Grain* on Pacifica Radio. She is a wonderful interviewer.” The link to the interview is <https://kpfa.org/episode/against-the-grain-february-3-2021/>

From the mountains of Colorado, **John Wray** writes that he’s gotten his vaccination shots and is busy planning for a music fest – the Dam Jam – at the dam of the lake on Storm Mountain. He adds that he is the director for the Mountain Music Makers, one of four bands that will be performing. The event will take place on June 26.

MORE MEMORIES

Randy Little sent me several pictures from the time we attended high school that I think are worth sharing. The first, of the big 1958 snow, shows a bulldozer attempting to re-open Warren Road in front of the driveway of **Maryjean (Hertel) Yengo’s** home. And the second is of a touchdown the Little Red scored against Auburn in 1957. Randy asks whether anyone can identify our players who were in the picture.



Deborah Jones took the picture below when walking the North Rim Trail at Taughannock with her partner Barb on Christmas Day.



When sending the picture, Deborah indicated that back in March of last year, she had to cancel a trip to visit her sister in Santa Barbara, California, noting it was very disappointing, but necessary. But she added that the Finger Lakes region is a fine place to spend a lockdown. Much outside maintenance has kept her and her partner busy, but work and play have balanced out.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to **Dana Furman** and **Jean Houghton** for their recent contributions to the Tattler Two Fund. They help keep the newsletters coming to you.

IN CLOSING

I am gratified that so many of us older folks have been vaccinated. The processes of developing

effective vaccines in record time and then of having the vaccines manufactured and distributed in massive numbers of doses has been impressive.

I am thankful that, after a very challenging year, we are slowly returning to more normal lives.

But I am disturbed that so many of our fellow Americans have been reluctant or downright unwilling to be vaccinated. I am fearful that when fall arrives and the weather turns colder the COVID-19 case rates will rise once again and possibly result in a return . . . a scientifically supported return . . . of the restrictions without which the pandemic death toll might have been far greater than it has been. I only hope that enough folks decide, if not for themselves but at least for their neighbors, to get vaccinated.

Meanwhile, let us enjoy summer and take advantage of the opportunities to do more of the things we so much like to do.

Steve