



Issue 18, Summer 2015

## A Note from the Alumni Director



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Among the many alumni at Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend last month were some who boarded, bringing to mind our School's boarding history and the vivid stories surrounding it.

Early reference to boarding at St. Paul's appears in the minutes of the November 9, 1906, trustees' meeting, when Headmaster Miles Farrow "reported that the boys were universally happy; that there had been no cases of homesickness, which indicated to his mind that the boys were well satisfied with the home being provided for them." Starting in 1922, on the Rogers Avenue campus in Mt. Washington, students supervised the dormitories, put the younger boys to bed, got them up and helped with discipline. Three dorms were on second floor of the school building: one for the older boys, another for "intermediates," and a third for the "Little Weeds."



Rogers Avenue averaged 60 boarders annually; by 1934, the number of day students equaled the number of boarders. Strange occurrences included David Scott '32 being accidentally shot in the stomach by a classmate showing off a pistol in the dormitory, (Scott survived and graduated).

Eventually a Boarders' Council became part of the student government, with elected representatives from each form, or grade, in the dorm. Boarders babysat for the masters—a "treat" that, according to Thom Hook '41,

might yield 25 cents for the evening and a chance to listen to big band tunes on the radio.

The boarders created their own campus culture, reinforced by books assigned in class that were set in boarding schools, such as *The Catcher in the Rye* and *A Separate Peace*. Characters abounded: “The ‘Turkey Gobbler’ dragged his weary bones into C Dorm last October and has yet to be moved from the vicinity,” said the yearbook of one boarder. “During the winter his buck-teeth could usually be seen emerging from behind the nearest basketball.” Richard Bland Mitchell ’42 of Little Rock (no relation to your current alumni director) was known as the “Arkansas Traveler” who liked “plug cut tobacco” and played “mountain music on his harmonica.”

Russell Beers ’60 recalls the boarders living in both Ordeman Hall (former home of the bookstore, senior room, wood shop and fifth grade) and Brooklandwood, where upperclassmen lived on the third floor. Bob Hunt ’68, who boarded from the sixth through the ninth grades, recalls the “pay phone for the occasional call home,” and weekends with “tennis courts, a gym for basketball, a football field for touch football... it was heaven.” Ping-pong reigned, and 10-cent Pepsis generated enough of a profit to purchase a pool table. “Mac the barber would come to the dorm on Monday nights, cut our hair and tell us dirty jokes,” Bob remembers. “Each week we put our laundry in bags; it would go and come back all done up, typically with plenty of starch.” His roommate set a fire in the dorm, and when a firecracker exploded on the second floor, the culprit was exonerated by an alibi until his use of a delay fuse was discovered. “I know Farnham Warriner contributed to my tuition costs, and others may have as well,” says Bob, who was embraced by St. Paul’s when his father died suddenly. “My memories of being a St. Paul’s boarding student are of a loving, secure, and fun community. I miss those days, which were a godsend to a poor and fatherless boy.”

Hartwell Harrison ’68 recently fessed up to “borrowing” the school banner the day after his graduation, from the porch of the mansion. “So, when the sun had risen over the hill, there I was sitting on my front porch and there was the banner.” (Hartwell, boasting a remarkably clear memory at sunrise following graduation festivities, returned it 36 years later, enclosing with it an annual rental fee of \$10). Will Marshall ’71 remembers “a motley collection of misfits, rebels, abandoned children or those who couldn’t get into fancy New England prep schools, and kids with some kind of family tie to St. Paul’s.” Will, who says St. Paul’s turned his life around, found his tie via Glen Yarbrough ’48, the pop folk singer-guitarist who had dated his mother.

In the mid-1960’s, \$4 million was budgeted to build a dorm for 100 boarders, to be one of the most modern in Baltimore. Plans were canceled, however, when both local and national trends indicated declining interest in boarding. “Though a handful of boarders lingered, the trustees voted to suspend the boarding department at the close of 1970,” wrote Angelo Otterbein ’91 in *We Have Kept the Faith*. Jeff Seal ’73, Steve Blizzard ’73 and Pat Harrigan ’77, finished their days on the third floor of Brooklandwood, closing the long and rich tradition of St. Paul’s boarding students.

*Please send me recollections and anecdotes of your boarding experiences.*

*NB.: The Crusader Connection has learned that the original front campus gates are in storage at Emerson Farms, at the south end of campus, and that they will be restored to their original luster once funding is procured.*

## **The Laker-Crusader Challenge**

Thanks to the 206 Crusaders who responded to the Laker-Crusader Challenge by making their annual fund gifts this year between May 1-5—we trumped the Lakers both on the field (12-10) and in the Challenge (206-101); by virtue of the former, the Darrell-Ehrhardt Cup will be displayed on campus for the next year.

## Voices from the Hill: Carroll "Pete" Kakel '65



Carroll "Pete" Kakel '65 had long nourished an insatiable curiosity about how American westward expansion and its treatment of American Indians may have influenced Adolf Hitler's geopolitical views and German imperial ambitions in Eastern Europe leading up to, and during, World War II. His years of study on this topic, and the Holocaust as one of its consequences, have led to two graduate degrees and two books on the subject.

Pete's passion for history was born at St. Paul's, where he spent his junior and senior years in the boarding department (his family lived in the Washington, DC area). While working as an insurance broker, Pete earned M.A. degrees from Johns Hopkins and Royal Holloway College, University of London. As he wound down his insurance career, he also took his Ph.D. in Modern History at the University of London, writing a thesis comparing the phenomena of imperialism, colonialism, and genocide in the American West and the Nazi East.

Two books have emerged from Pete's pen, dealing with the unexpected and unsettling relationship between the "American West" and the "Nazi East"; both were published under a Palgrave MacMillan imprint and have received widespread notice. Pete is an Adjunct Lecturer at Johns Hopkins, where he teaches in the University's Odyssey continuing education program. He continues to present to academic conferences and enjoys guest-teaching in history classes, an assignment he can expect to receive next year from his alma mater.

Pete's two years in Brooklandville helped spark his engagement with history. When he returned last month for his 50<sup>th</sup>-class reunion, he recalled how Louis D. Clark "ran his senior-year American History courses around differing interpretations of key events, much like a college introductory history course." Two of his sons, Chris '96 and Charley '99, went to St. Paul's. Another son, Andrew, went to Chimes School and two step-daughters, Jennifer and Melissa, went to Roland Park Country School. Pete and his wife, Lois, live in Ruxton.

### A Look Back at St. Paul's:

Summer 1871: Ralph Daniel Whittle is appointed headmaster (then called "Principal") and is credited "for his zeal and unremitting attention to the moral and mental training of the boys." Mrs. Whittle, the "matron," exercises a "kind and motherly watchfulness over them (that) adds very greatly to their comfort and well-being." Mr. Whittle, assisted by Frank Makcall, serves until 1878 before falling on hard times, doing stints in prison (for stealing books) and an insane asylum.

Spring 1905: St. Paul's awards its first diplomas.

Trustee Minutes, February 6, 1951: The will of Miss Elisabeth Gilman, daughter of Daniel Coit Gilman, for whom Gilman School is named, leaves approximately \$2,000 to St. Paul's as part of an endowment fund, whose income is to be used for a scholarship benefitting "a boy soloist in the choir at St. Paul's Parish."

Winter 1979: Richard Sher '59 and Oprah Winfrey visit campus to interview Louis Clark and Mitch Tullai for a TV news segment on the blockbuster CBS show, "Roots."

## **Alumni Association News**

- Our alma mater enjoyed its strongest turnout for Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend in recent memory, with more than 200 alumni returning to campus on May 1-2. In addition to the presentation of our alumni awards at the Headmaster's Lunch, the Blue-Gold cocktail party, alumni lacrosse game, picnic with SPSG and class dinners, a raucous croquet match, organized by Hugh Collie '80, added to the festive weekend.
- The Crusader Network is flourishing! Close to 90 alumni are signed on as mentors, to help with networking and career advice, and seven seniors used the CN to connect with alumni hosts on senior projects. Let the alumni office know if you would like to be a mentor, or would like to contact one.

## **To the Editor**

I enjoyed Headmaster Ordeman's correction in the Winter issue regarding the streaking incident of 1974. He is 100% accurate; it was Maryvale, not SPSG. The idea for the "streak" came from the college streaking craze prevalent that year. The majority of class of '74, and many of the class of '73, in our quest to maintain our beloved St. Paul's as a national leader in college prep schooling, wanted to be the FIRST High School in the nation to "streak." I believe we accomplished this feat.

The streak was organized like a military mission. Our lead runner sported a child's Mickey Mouse Halloween mask. In the aftermath, all seniors and juniors were summoned, one at a time, to Mr. Longstreth's office for a thorough "grilling" of the incident, which went like this: "Mr. [Blank], spectator or participant?" Spectators (of which there were many) received 5 demerits, participants 10.

Now, many years later, we certainly realize that times have changed and such action would not be taken as lightly as in 1974. But I speak for all when I say it was worth the hours spent on a Saturday in Demerit-Land. Mr. Tullai was in charge of the detainees that Saturday. We carried the heavy wood team benches from the lower field, one by one, up the steep hill to the flagpole, and then back down again! Now you know the "rest of the story."

Per Headmaster Ordeman's letter, I must remain: Anonymous, Class of 1974

## **Crusader Connect**



Need to find fellow Crusaders in Vail? Our free app for the iPhone, iPad and Droid is just what you need. This SP Alumni App allows you to find contact information easily for any alumnus in the U.S. who is in our data base.

Alumni can update their contact information, share photos and class notes and network with fellow alumni via LinkedIn. We hope this convenient app will help us all stay better connected—download it with these easy steps:

[download](#)

Please note that you won't be able to download if your email address does not match the one in our records. If you are so advised, please email me at [cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org](mailto:cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org) with your preferred email address; once we make the change you will need to wait several weeks until our vendor updates the data.

## In Memoriam

Gary Lewis '61 (April 2015)

H. Russell Hanna '66 (April 2015)

Jay Johnson '79 (April 2015)




Michael Recher '72 (May 2015)

Robert Wolf '57 (June 2015)

## Insomnia? Read Back Issues!

Distraught over missing earlier issues of "Crusader Connection"? Despair no more! [Check them out on the website.](#)

Our upward trend in alumni giving continues, as 27% of alumni contributed to the Annual Fund in 2013-14—an impressive increase of 5% over the 22% figure of the prior year. **So please [Remember the Annual Fund.](#)**

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