

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Steve Ailes



Steve Ailes, new Class Secretary, at The Tides Inn.

Although I have been in this assignment only since last November, I have filed no less than eleven class notes, the last of which is for the July 5 issue of PAW. I now have vacation until August when notes for the September issue are required to be filed. What could have been a chore has been a delight, thanks to classmates who have kept me supplied with material, without which the notes dry up in a hurry. So please keep on sending me news about yourself and others so I can relay it on. The delay between your sending me information and its appearance in PAW occurs because the lead time on publication always exceeds thirty days.

The delays in publication of obituary notices are even longer. PAW simply accumulates them and publishes a given number in each issue. The space requirements are strict so when the man we are writing about is someone like **Charlie Fitzmorris**, there are a lot of things that can't be included in the space allowed. Classmates who are no longer with us but for whom notices have not yet appeared in PAW include **Charlie Davis, Albert Peirce, Jim Eldridge, George Graham, Heinie Robertson, Rex Keasby and Harry Schonblom**.

Fitz who died in March had a remarkably busy life (see story in 1991 Summer Newsletter) and did all sorts of things in the grocery business and in the computerization of it, and in the import business, first with cuckoo clocks and then with alpacas. I personally had an early experience with Fitz that showed that he was off to a fast start. In 1940 I went to the Democratic Convention as a helper for my grandfather (who was younger than we are now) who was a delegate. The Chicago mob prevented me and some others from getting to

our seats in the hall. Of all things, I ran into Charlie who took me to the head usher who in turn placed me on the speaker's platform for that session. My grandfather never could understand how I got there. My point is that seven years out of college Charlie was already running Chicago.

Ralph Bard's 85th. The '33 column in the January PAW had an account of the celebration of Ralph's birthday in Maui, Hawaii (which **Charlie Fitzmorris, Bob Keidel** and **Art Wood '34** attended). Ralph's career was also covered in the 1991 Summer Newsletter. We now report belatedly that the **Ralph A. Bard, Jr. Gateway Center** at the Chicago Botanical Garden was dedicated on June 22, 1994. The notice of the event describes the gatehouse as a "genuinely contemporary building which offers visitors a permanent facility dedicated to their use and enjoyment." Ralph served as Chairman of the Chicago Horticultural Society, which developed and owns the Botanical Garden, from 1979 to 1986 during which time, the Society's membership grew from 3,200 to 10,300 and \$13 million in private contributions were raised.

A note from **Bill Evans**, who golfs at the Gulf Stream Golf Club in Florida, enclosed the score card from their weekly 4-ball match which revealed a best net ball of the foursome for the 18 holes, of 49. Must be a club record. A major contribution to this win was Evans' own gross score of 78, six strokes under his age!! **Bill and Bob Keidel** played together at The Blind Brook Club, Greenwich in the Annual U. S. Seniors Tournament, where Keidel won the low gross for Division AAA (age 82 and over) with a two day score of 170.

Frank Townend, our President reported that ten classmates and nine wives attended the Reunion class dinner at The Nassau Club, but only five started in the Parade the next day with only three finishing, namely **Ernie Chamberlin, Bob Clifford** and **Frank**. He said they were accompanied by Bayard Stockton's wife and daughter, Marty, who added a lot of enthusiasm to the activity. We will do better next time, Frank.

As has been reported in the past, the recipients of the **Class of 1933 scholarships**, and the other scholarships given by or in honor of our classmates, are always extremely grateful for this assistance. This year I received the following from one of the undergraduates who is a recipient of this aid.

"Dear Mr. Ailes and Other Members of the Class of 1933:

At the beginning of the academic year I had the good fortune of being awarded a financial grant to support my educational pursuits at Princeton University. Without this grant my continued attendance at this great institution would be in jeopardy. Recently I learned that the Class of 1933 is responsible for this financial assistance. For that I am eternally thankful. Please accept my sincere thanks for your timely generosity. It is my dream that as a Princeton alumnus I will one day make a meaningful and positive difference in our world and that I will, as you have done, take the opportunity to help. Again, thank you for caring; thank you for supporting my future.

Sincerely,
Derrick J. Brown '97"

Finally, this comment about our distinguished classmate **Lewis Thomas** is a good place to end the Secretary's Notebook. Laurance Rockefeller wrote **Curly Marsh** when he learned that our Newsletter last year was going to have a piece in it about Lew. Laurance's letter got lost in the post and did not reach Curly until almost a year later. Curly writes: "In this case no harm has been done. Publishing this tribute to Lew from one who was a close friend and admirer and the major donor in financing Princeton's new



The '33 stalwarts who finished the P-rade this year (Clifford who finished must have stopped to chat) supported by Bayard Stockton's wife and daughter Marty (named after her aunt Martha Stockton, who married Bert Brush).

Molecular Biology Building, dedicated to Lew and named Lewis Thomas Hall, serves to keep Lew's memory alive." Laurance's letter follows:

"Dear Curly,

Many thanks for your letter of the 19th. I'm delighted to know that you are putting together an appropriate memorial to Lewis Thomas in the summer Newsletter. I'm happy to provide the following which I hope will be helpful to you:

As a good friend and great admirer of Lew Thomas, I regret that I did not know him at Princeton, although we graduated within a year of each other. Actually our paths first crossed when he accepted the Presidency of Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He had previously been dean of both the Yale and NYU Medical Schools among other things.

His intellectual stature, integrity and vision brought great credibility to the Center. People believed in him and trusted him. His talents were unsurpassed in communicating not only with the scientific community but with the public at large.

His wife, Beryl, was a talented and inspired force in his life, both in his creative writing and in his understanding and enjoyment of music.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends, of which I was grateful to have been one.

With thanks again for including me in this tribute. I, too, remember our shared Princeton summer camp experience as a special challenging event! I'll look forward to seeing your Summer Newsletter.

All best wishes, most sincerely,
Laurance S. Rockefeller"

That's all that's in the Secretary's Notebook as of now. Have a good summer.