

U.S. soldier honored in small town

USA Today

February 22, 1994

Fold open →

LILLEHAMMER '94 SCENE

U.S. soldier honored in small town

First American to die in World War II

By Ron Schoolmeester
USA TODAY

DOMBAS, Norway — Almost every little town in Norway remembers its war dead. But the words carved in the stone monument in this little town seem, at first, to be a rewriting of U.S. history.

In Memory of Captain Robert Losey USAAC.

Killed in Action at Dombas. 21st April 1940. The First American Serviceman to Give His Life for His Country in World War II.



CAPT. LOSEY: Military attache in Oslo.

The first American soldier to give his life in World War II died here? In a little town two hours up the mountain valley from Lillehammer?

Yes, before Pearl Harbor, there was Dombas.

On April 21, 1940, with Europe already in turmoil but more than 1½ years before the U.S. formally entered the war, Capt. Losey was killed here — the first of about 400,000 American soldiers who would eventually fall in far better-known places like Iwo Jima and Normandy.

The incident at Dombas, in fact, was almost forgotten until 1983 when the then-U.S. ambassador to Norway, the late Mark Evans Austad, uncovered an old document about Capt. Losey, who in 1940 was a military attache to the U.S. Embassy in Oslo.

Many of the details are still shrouded in uncertainty, lost in the chaos of Norwegians trying frantically to resist or at least escape the surprise onslaught of the Nazis. Nobody, for example, can say exactly why Capt. Losey was in Dombas, a relatively small town back then (pop: 600) but strategically important because of its railway and road links.

"Records during the war weren't the best," admits Arthur Svennevik of the Sons of Norway, a



By Marty Baumann, USA TODAY

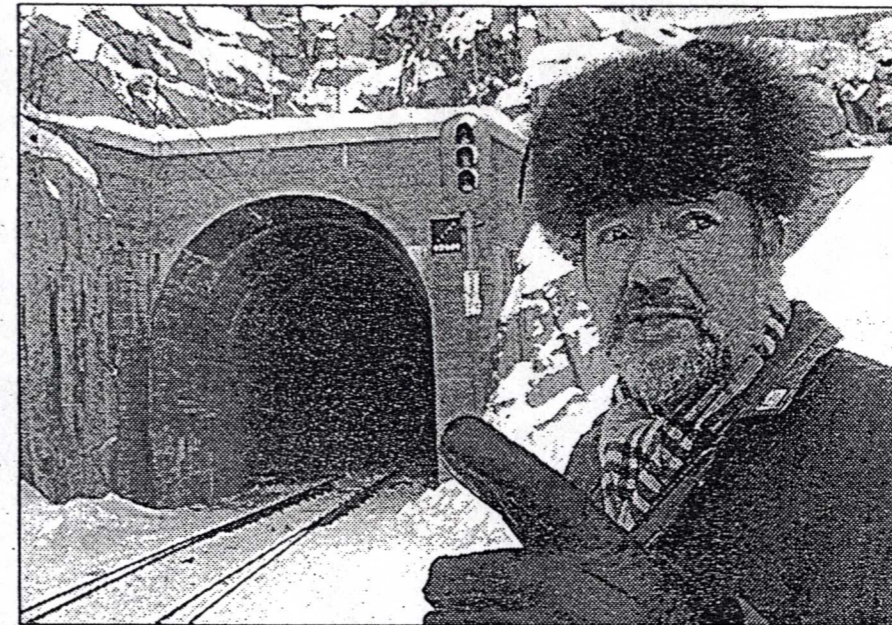
group active in getting the memorial built. "In fact, when the monument was unveiled (in 1987), they had Capt. Losey's first name wrong. They had it as William. We found out only later that it was Robert Moffat Losey."

What can be said with certainty is that Capt. Losey died after taking shelter in a railroad tunnel during a German air attack on that spring day 54 years ago. A bomb exploded just outside the tunnel, killing him and five Norwegians.

What else is known: Capt. Losey, a graduate of West Point, was born on May 27, 1908, in Andrews, Iowa, son of a Presbyterian minister. His family moved around — including stops in Wyoming and Montana — before the young soldier-to-be graduated from high school in Trenton, N.J., in 1925.

"Many attempts were made to find his family, but without success," says Johan Solli, schools superintendent and cultural director for Dovre, the name of the region that includes Dombas.

Two other monuments in the town's memory park are dedicated to the locals who persevered through the German occupation of 1940-45 and to the 29 Norwegians who died during the two weeks in which Dovre so heroically resisted the Nazis (the



By Don Marquis, Reno Gazette-Journal

HISTORIC SITE: John Solli explains the fate of the U.S. soldier killed in 1940 when he took cover in a train tunnel from the German bombing.

bombing raid that killed Capt. Losey occurred only after the Nazis suffered heavy casualties in a surprise but failed paratroop drop).

Enige og tro til Dovre faller ("United and true, until Dovre falls") still is a battle cry familiar to many Norwegians.

Since the war, Dombas has grown to about 1,600 inhabitants and remains a major transportation hub. The townspeople, many of whom have ancestors who helped settle North America, were ecstatic when the U.S. biathlon team chose their mountain as a training site just before the Olympics.

"I'm told," says Solli, "that they (the U.S. biathletes) have more support here in Dombas than in the USA."

Hardly anyone would argue. Winter sports — many of which, like biathlons, are largely overlooked in the USA — command a huge following in Norway. Also unlike so many Americans, the people of Norway in general, and Dombas in particular, are determined not to forget what happened here a half century ago.

"It's important to remember Capt. Losey and all the others," insists Solli. "Very important. So it will never happen again."



THE PRIME MINISTER

Oslo, 4 May 1995

Robert Losey Lee
Margareth Lee Braneff

I have been informed that you will be visiting Norway in order to attend a commemoration ceremony in Dombås in honour of Captain Robert M. Losey, who was killed during a German bombing raid on 21 April 1940, while helping to evacuate US citizens from the combat zone.

We wish you and your family a warm welcome to Norway and hope that your stay will be a memorable one.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gro H. Brundtland".

Gro Harlem Brundtland

West Point memorial to Captain Robert M. Losey, first US serviceman killed in WWII

BY ELSE HVISTENDAHL

WEST POINT, NY — "I certainly don't want to be killed," the young American officer told the woman at his side. The task of leading American citizens out of the war zone to Sweden after Germany attacked Norway on April 9, 1940 had fallen to Florence Harriman, the U.S. Minister to Norway. Assistants were needed. Despite his feelings, Captain Robert Moffat Losey, a 31-year-old West Point graduate, gallantly volunteered to assist her in the sudden, sad and dangerous mission.

In April, the young Captain, who was Assistant Military attache for Air in Helsinki, Finland, had been detailed as Assistant Military Attache for Air to Norway and Sweden as well. He had thus spent only a few days in Norway when he escorted Mrs. Harriman out of Norway and the combat zone. On April 21st the evacuating group was at Dombås in the Dovre mountains and took refuge with other civilians in the railroad tunnel, while Germans bombed this important railroad center. Captain Losey did not have to expose himself to the danger of the bombs, but he chose to move away from the protection of the wall of the tunnel in order to observe better the enemy's tactics and weapons of war. In one instant, he was dead. A piece of shrapnel had pierced his heart. He was the first Amer-



Mrs. Margaret Losey Lee receives a sabre from Major Putko at West Point.

ied at his alma mater in May 1940.

It was more than forty years after his death that Captain Losey received a permanent memorial. In 1983, the U.S. Ambassador to Norway, Mark Austad, heard about this tragedy in Dombås. After verifying the facts in Washington, Austad began planning a memorial to Losey, and to the contribution made by the people of Norway during the war.

On August 22, 1987 in Dombås, a World War II Norwegian-American Memorial Park was opened. Captain Losey's monument was dedicated by the King of Norway, Olav V, who as Crown Prince had passed through Dombås just hours after Captain Losey's death in 1940. The Norwegian government was headed out of the country to establish a government in exile. The King emphasized the brotherly relationship between the United States and Norway.

On May 8, 1995, the monument to Captain Losey was rededicated during the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Norway. Captain Losey's niece and nephew, Margaret Braniff and Robert Losey Lee were present. The family placed a wreath by their uncle's monument, while representatives from the American, British and Russian embassies watched.

On May 19, 1995, a memorial service for Captain Losey took place in the chapel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. This is the country's premier military academy, dating from 1802. Present for the May 19th service at West Point were Captain Losey's sister, Mrs. Margaret Losey Lee, and her son, Robert Losey Lee. Norway was represented by Consul General in New York, Jan Flatla, Mr. Dag Berggrav and his wife, Mrs. Dora Berggrav.

A large contingent from Norway also attended, mostly members of Sons of Norway, who are in the U.S. on an escorted tour led by Arthur Svennevik of Grimstad. The solemn chapel memorial, led by Major Christopher Putko, was held with precision and dignity. The organ prelude preceded a color guard of four cadets posting the colors. They stood next to a big wreath decorated with red, white and blue ribbons. After the invocation, Major Putko gave his welcoming remarks, touching upon the accomplishments, bravery and sacrifice of Captain Robert Moffat Losey, and the good re-

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ROBERT LOSEY LEE

ican in the uniform of his country to be killed in the Second World War, a forerunner of the

292,131 Americans who followed. A memorial service took place in Stockholm. He was bur-



Captain Robert M. Losey.



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lationship existing between the United States and Norway. The plaintive strains of a bugler underlined the solemnity of the occasion.

Mr. Dag Berggrav, the head of the Norwegian government's Committee marking the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Norway, traveled to West Point to honor the American hero. Captain Losey had been a symbol of American and Norwegian friendship, said Mr. Berggrav. The events at Dombås in 1940 were a forerunner for all the American assistance to Norway during the war and the decisive role the United States played in the liberation of Norway and the rest of Europe.

At the end of the service, Major Putko ordered "Retire the Colors." The two wreath bearers carried the wreath from the altar, followed by Mrs. Lee and her son, Dora and Dag Berggrav, Jan Flatla and the group of Norwegians and Americans, while the organist played the postlude.

The Losey family representatives led the group into the grey dampness outside the chapel. They moved slowly to the Captain's grave site in the beautiful cemetery. A feeling of peace prevailed. Everyone stood, solemn and silent, while Taps sounded through the air. Robert Losey Lee felt the need to address some words from deep within his heart to those present.

"Next to my wedding day, no two days have meant more to me than those at Dombås when my uncle's memory was hon-

ored," he told us, struggling unsuccessfully to hold back his tears. The menacing clouds kept their damp cargo until the bugler had sounded his last haunting note.

The Losey family told NT that they greatly appreciated the attendance of the highly respected Mr. Berggrav and Norway's distinguished Consul General Jan Flatla.

Later, at lunch at the West Point Club, a video was shown of Captain Losey's life. On behalf of the Academy, Major Putko presented a sabre to Margaret Losey Lee.

"This event once again emphasized the strong ties between Norway and the United States," Captain Losey's spirited 82-year old sister told us. "This is a very precious moment," she said, summing up the emotional occasion.

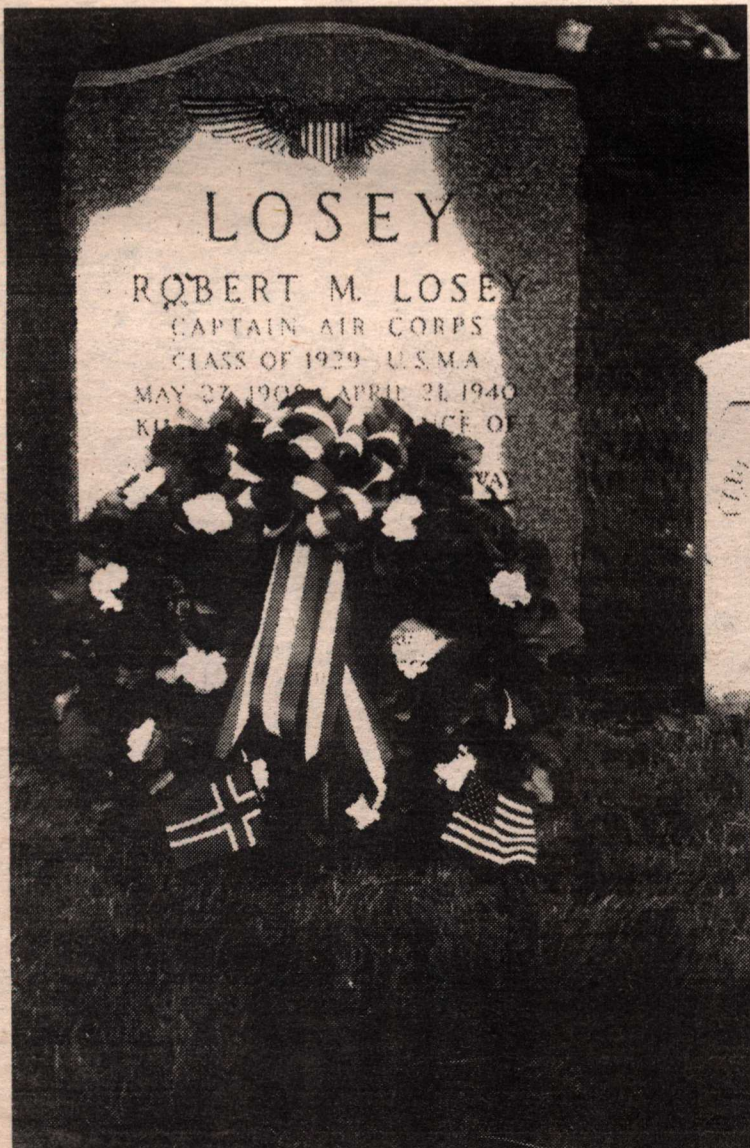


RIGHT, ABOVE:

Gathered at Capt. Losey's grave site after the memorial service was, from left: Robert Losey Lee, Margaret Losey Lee, Arthur Svennevik and Dora and Dag Berggrav.

BELOW:

Captain Robert M. Losey's grave site at West Point, New York.



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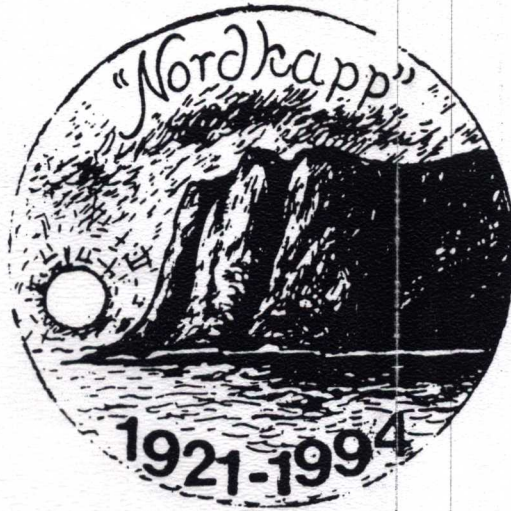
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October



You can add your name. Contact either Soc. Director Shirley Sunderland or Nordkap News Editor and sign their list.

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Torbjørn

Editor
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Page 58 Letter Dated 20 September 1994

Dear Ms. Sorteberg:

20 September 1994

On behalf of the family of Captain Robert Moffat Losey, the first American serviceman to be killed as a result of hostile action in World War II, I am writing to request your support and endorsement of a proposal to create a commemorative stamp honoring his memory. Complete documentation of Captain Losey's death and the subsequent news coverage is available upon request.

Serving as the Assistant American Military Air Attache, Captain Losey was killed by a German air bomb fragment during a raid on Dombås, Norway, a strategic railroad junction on April 21, 1940 (see enclosed copy of *USA Today* article featuring Captain Losey's story).

Captain Losey's untimely death at the age of thirty-one captured the interest of the nation as major newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* and news magazines such as *Newsweek* featured detailed accounts of his death. This tragic event also elicited a response from the German High Command when Field Marshall Hermann Göring, German Minister of Air, sent his condolences to Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring, General George C. Marshall, and Captain Losey's widow.


However, with all the attention paid to Captain Losey at the time of his death, it was not until some forty years later that a movement developed to erect a permanent memorial to honor his memory. In 1983, Mark Evans Austad, then U. S. Ambassador to Norway, first learned about Captain Losey's death in Dombås. Mr. Austad quickly set the wheels in motion to create a memorial that would commemorate Captain Losey's sacrifice and at the same time recognize the Norwegian people's major contribution to the war effort. As a result, a World War II Norwegian-American Memorial Park was unveiled on August 22, 1987 at which time Olav V, King of Norway, dedicated a monument to Captain Losey.

On May 8, 1995, the Kingdom of Norway will rededicate the Losey monument as part of its 50th anniversary celebration of the liberation of Norway. It would be most fitting for the United States to join Norway in honoring the memory of Captain Losey, and what better and more lasting way to pay him tribute than by creating a commemorative United States postage stamp.

The Losey stamp proposal has been sent to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. I ask that you sign and mail the enclosed endorsements to the Committee and to the United States Postmaster General, the Honorable Marvin Runyon. Stamped, addressed postcards are enclosed for your convenience.

If the stamp is approved, it will be due in great part to the efforts of Captain Losey's family and Americans such as you who take the time to give the assistance and support needed to see this project through to a successful conclusion.

Captain Losey's family will be very grateful for your attention to this matter. We look forward to seeing the Captain Losey commemorative stamp in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Keith G. Thienemann
Losey Family Genealogist

Continued next page

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the lovely
message!
Keep up the prayers !!

Surgery Mon. & Tues.

Here's the video —
Really admired Capt. Josey !!

Fred M. Jupp

Capt. Doug Blaha

804-693-4360

27 July 94

Bob,

Hope the enclosed is useful for you. - After we spoke on the phone yesterday I looked again at the picture of Capt. Losey that is in the Attache Hall of Fame. The picture is not very clear and, in fact, was taken from a newspaper clipping and enlarged for our use. He is not in uniform and the ~~hat~~ he is wearing shades his eyes. If you have something better we would be happy to get it enlarged for our use and return the original to you. However, if you decide to do this I would recommend that you get a copy made there before sending it as there is always the chance that an "only picture" could get lost in the mail or damaged in the enlarging process. -

Best wishes to you. - Thanks,

Larry O. Attanasio



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Defense Intelligence Agency



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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-5000

September 21, 1994

Mr. Keith G. Thienemann
205 Cornwallis Drive
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-2732

Dear Mr. Thienemann:

Thank you for your letter of September 5, 1994, concerning Captain Robert Losey and your efforts to have the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative stamp.

While I hope that Captain Losey's story continues to be told, as he represents the ideals to which we are committed, I am unfortunately unable to support you from my official position.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors and look forward hopefully to the issue of the Losey Commemorative Stamp.

With best wishes from West Point,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. D. Graves", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Howard D. Graves
Lieutenant General, US Army
Superintendent

Looking forward to seeing the tour itinerary! Chris, her daughter Meredith and I will meet you in Oslo on Friday, May 5th as requested. Would it be best for us to fly to Oslo on Thursday evening (from Paris) so that we would have the entire day of Friday for the tour? We don't want to miss the Oslo sights. We would need some recommendations about lodging in Oslo. Meredith will be flying back home directly following the Dombås events. I do not know what Chris will be doing but I think she is intending to do the entire Norway tour. I want to stay the entire time through Constitution Day but I cant' make that decision until I see the costs involved!

Thanks again for all your continued support. Please let me know if there is anything else I can provide from over here to help in planning the Dombås and West Point events.

Sincerely yours,

Keith G. Thienemann

times on the cadet swim team.

Linda
Editor-- please insert Mrs. Simkin's letter starting with "My father,
your classmate,Whitside Miller,-----" page 5

Next issue of Assembly
In the last issue of Assembly, appreciation was expressed to George Sibert, Cl."58 scribe, for sending information about Bob Losey being the 1st American killed in WW II when he was the Air Attache in Norway. Our local research specialist unsuccessfully tried to get some information about Bob in our library. In mid Sept.Keith G. Thieneman, the Losey family Geneologist in Lynchburg, VA, sent me a swell brochure about Bob with the request that we support a proposal to create a Commemorative Stamp to honor Bob. Letters were sent to the Postmaster General and to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee. A copy of the letter to the Postmaster General follows---- speaking for us all--

Linda
Editor-please insert my letter to the Post. Gen. and the marked letter starting with--- "On behalf-- and ending with Postage stamp"

Of further interest, Bob's widow remarried in Cal and there is no other info about her. Bob's relatives in N.J. are vitally interested in this. We all did so enjoy being with Jack O'Hara, his wife, his son- John, Jr. and his daughter Elizabeth O'Hara Lane from Cal. at the reunion. Ethel (Betty) called to tell me that Jack had finally succumbed to his cancer in August 24th. His funeral services will be held at The Arlington Cemetery on OCTOBER 21st. Our classmates in the D.C. area will be notified by George Keeler. I have received Jack's Cullum file from WP and a fairly complete biog sent to me by Ethel O'Hara ; so that his biog and obit should appear in the Dec. issue of Assembly. Each of us at the reunion are grateful to him and his family for Jack's determination to attend his 65th and last reunion.

for sending info about Bob Losey being the first American killed in WWII when he was the Air Attaché in Norway. Our local research specialist tried unsuccessfully to get some info about Bob in our library. In mid-Sep, Keith G Thienemann, the Losey family genealogist in Lynchburg, VA, sent me a swell brochure about Bob with the request (a part of which is incl below) that we spt a proposal to create a commemorative stamp to honor Bob. Ltrs were sent to the Postmaster General and to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Cmte. A copy of the ltr to the Postmaster General follows--speaking for us all.

"I am the VP, Secy, Treas and Scribe for '29 and wish to express the enthusiastic spt and endorsement of the proposal to create a US postage stamp commemorating CPT Robert Moffat Losey, US Air Corps, the first American killed in WWII, our classmate.

"Ea mbr of our CI spts this request. The Pres of '29, GEN Paul W Thompson, received the award as the USMA distinguished grad on 23 May 94, and he joins me in speaking for all USMA grads and ofers of the Army in requesting that CPT Robert M Losey be so honored.

"Since the Kingdom of Norway already has paid tribute to CPT Bob Losey with a monument to his memory, it is very important to the mil that the US remember him in an honorable and enduring way through this proposed Commemorative Stamp. Sincerely and respectfully, Lester S Bork."

Keith Thienemann incl the following info: "On behalf of the family of CPT Robert Moffat Losey, the first American svcmn killed as a result of hostile action in WWII. I am writing to request your spt and endorsement of a proposal to create a commemorative stamp honoring his memory.

"Serving as the Asst American Military Air Attaché, CPT Losey was killed by a German bomb fragment during a raid on Dombas, Norway, a strategic railroad junction. CPT Losey's untimely death at age 31 captured the interest of the nation as major news orgns such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Newsweek* featured detailed acct of his death. Field Marshall Hermann Goring, German Minister of Air, sent his condolences.

"However, with all the attention paid to CPT Losey at the time of his death, it was not until some 40 yrs later that a movement developed to erect a permanent memorial to honor his memory. In 83, Mark Evans Austad, then US Ambassador to Norway, first learned about CPT Losey's death in Dombas. Ambassador Austad quickly set the wheels in motion to create a memorial that would commemorate CPT Losey's sacrifice and at the same time recognize the Norwegian people's major contribution to the war effort. As a result, a WWII Norwegian-American Memorial Park was unveiled on 22 Aug 87, at which time Olav V, King of Norway, dedicated the monument to CPT Losey.

"On 8 May 95, the Kingdom of Norway will rededicate the Losey monument as part of its 50th anniv celebration of the liberation of Norway. It would be most fitting for the US to join Norway in honoring the memory of CPT Losey, and what better and more lasting way to pay him

tribute than by creating a commemorative US postage stamp...Sincerely yours, Keith G Thienemann, Losey family genealogist."

Of further interest, Bob's widow remarried in CA; there is no other info about her. Bob's relatives in NJ are vitally interested in this.

We all did so enjoy being with Jack O'Hara, his wife, his son John Jr and his daughter Elizabeth O'Hara Lane from CA at the reunion. Ethel (Betty) called to tell me that Jack had finally succumbed to cancer on 24 Aug. His funeral svcs were to be held at the Arlington Cem on 21 Oct. Our classmates in the DC area were notified by George Keeler. I received Jack's Cullum file from WP and a fairly complete bio from Ethel O'Hara. Ea of us at the reunion are grateful to him and his family for Jack's determination to attend his 65th and last reunion.



As rep earlier, "Ster" & "Gibby" Wright toured the Normandy Beaches in Jun. They were part of a group of 15 USMA grads, sponsored by the AOG, and incl a tour historian, Dr. Lewis Sorley '56. He gave interesting lectures before and during their time on the beaches. He also wrote the ASSEMBLY article on pg 27 in the Sep issue titled "Normandy Revisited," as well as a recent bio of Creighton Abrams. Ster was the only mbr of his gp who had actually crossed a landing beach on D-Day. Other tour companions were largely of Classes '42-'56, so when Ster spoke he had little fear of contradiction. Everyone enjoyed the ceremonies, the martial music and the camaraderie. Thereafter they had the usual 4 days in Paris. In summary, Ster found the rural and small town people truly grateful for America's war effort; whereas the city people "have their hand out." Many thanks, Ster, for your welcome ltr.

A mo later, in view of "Fuddy" Wing's death, as rep in the last notes, Ster Wright sent me the pic above, which is outstanding. It shows Fuddy and Ster in 37 when, as mbrs of the US Army Equestrian Team, they won the Pairs Jumping Class competition at Madison Sq Garden. It is interesting to see that the blue ribbons were pinned on their mounts,

which they would probably agree appropriate. Many, many thanks for this historic pic, Ster. Many th for your gracious offer to prepare obit. We will all be grateful.

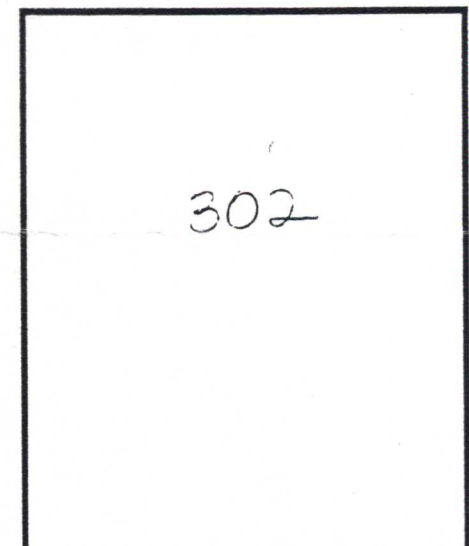


1930: Fuddy Wing and Ster Wright with "friends" after winning Pairs Jumping Competition at Madison Square Garden for the US Army Equestrian Team, 1937

We all are keenly interested in the progress on the new Alumni Ctr at WP for obvious reasons. A ltr dated 26 Aug from COL TB Russell, AOG, dir of Major Giving, had this to say:

"Herbert Hall, the new Alumni Ctr, is nearing completion. The AOG expects to move into it in Jan, and the formal opening is scheduled for late Feb. The funding for the bldg has all come from private sources. A \$3 mil bequest from BG (Ret) James K Herbert '30 started the ball rolling, and many classes and individuals have contributed the rest needed to bring the bldg to completion.

"Another significant bequest from the CI of '30 will be received shortly. It is \$800,000 from BG (Ret) Walter W Thiede." I hope our CI will be well-represented at the opening ceremony.



1930: Henry Royall spends his 90th birthday at the Spa Health Club, where he's a regular

"Hank" Royall wrote in Aug to rep that he

memorial in Cullum Hall, rep the story of a father-and-son lesson of family sacrifice. Two bronze plaques list all WP grads killed in WWII. One bears the name of Lesley J McNair '04, and the name of his only son, COL Douglas C McNair, field artyman like his father, who was killed by Japanese defenders as he was clearing a site for a cmd post on Guam. Sadly, his death came only 12 days after his father's.

Tom Wells flew from Honolulu to WP to attend the CI of 1894 centennial of his father, GEN Briant H Wells. Tom was named honorary pres of the 1894 gathering of about 120. Many events were held but the review by the Corps was cancelled due to rain. Most of Gen Wells' descendants were able to attend. Tom sent a nice pic of them [see below]. Tom is 3rd from the left in the front row.

Also among those present for the 1894 celebration was a large contingent of GEN Wells' roommates' descendants. Also, an added pleasure was seeing the daughter of Tom's First CI roommate, **RA (Parson) Howard**, whose wife, **Anita Aultman**, had an 1894 father too. Thanks for your long ltr and pic, Tom.

Unfortunately, there are two deaths to rep. **Richard M (Dick) Ludlow** died 3 May at St Simon's and was buried in the same place. He is survived by **Ann**.

Mrs **Barbara Goodell**, whose health had declined since Dec, died in her sleep on Easter Sun, 3 Apr. She is survived by her sons Joseph and Peter.

Received a long ltr from **Fran Myers**, who moved from Del Rio, TX to live with her daughter Anne & Bill Bartlett '57. Her new address is: Mrs Samuel Myers, 7973 Glengary Dr, Columbia, SC 29209-3064.

Your scribe celebrated his 90th birthday on 5 Aug. Our 3 children, 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grands came from various parts

of the country to join in the celebration. Among my treasured mementos shall be a beautiful album and a ltr from AOG Chm, GEN Edward C Meyer.

Correction: A ltr from **Dave Traub** shows I transposed some numbers. We have 45 mbrs still living. This includes 3 presumed living whose addresses are unknown: **Bisson, Coleman** and **Wetherill**.



George Sibert, '58 scribe, sent a very informative ltr about **CPT Bob Losey**. Bob was the first American ofcr killed before the start of WWII. Bob was the asst mil attaché in Oslo, Norway when he was sent to Dombas--a small town in Norway--where he was killed on 21 Apr 40. The probable reason for his presence there was that the top spy for Ger had a rendezvous with his girlfriend in the Dombas hotel. Five or 6 other interested countries had sent spies there, too. Dombas is not too far from Trondheim, where heavy water for missiles was being processed. During a German air raid, Bob and 5 Norwegians were killed when a bomb exploded just outside the railroad tunnel where they had taken shelter. The Norwegians erected a monument to Bob in Dombas and have tried to trace his family without success. Bob was a delightful, fun-loving friend to all of us who knew him.

As **Bill McCulla** wrote to all of us before the CI reunion, **Paul Thompson** had been selected as a Distinguished Grad and his splendid citation was given to him at both the "Old Grads"

parade and again at the Grads Luncheon. When Paul was asked about it, he replied in his usual self-deprecatory manner that the citation was puffed up; but you can be assured that it was not; check it in the Jul ASSEMBLY. See especially: He was selected to cmd the US Assault Tng Ctr for the European Theater. Located on the W Coast of England, the ctr was responsible for training the American and Allied Engr forces which were to lead the Opn Overlord assault on Fortress Europe. While cmdg the Ctr, then-COL Thompson developed the tactics and techniques to be used in the D-Day attack. As D-Day approached, GEN Thompson sought and was appointed to cmd the 6th Engr Special Bde which spearheaded the assault on the beaches. For his courageous ldrship in the initial wave of those forces on 6 Jun 44, he was awarded the DSC. Later on D-Day, he was severely wounded. In 45 he returned to the European Theater of Opns and served for a yr as GEN Eisenhower's Chief of Info and Education. In this capacity he was responsible for publication of the daily newspaper *Stars and Stripes* and the Army weekly *Yank*, as well as supervision of the Armed Forces Radio Network in Europe. Upon ret, GEN Thompson was sought by *Reader's Digest* mag to expand publication of this domestic mag into Europe. Not only was he directly and personally responsible for the initiation of the publication and distribution of *Reader's Digest* in Europe but also, after returning to *Reader's Digest* hq in NY, directed the expansion of the *Digest's* overall opns into the Far E, notably Japan.

Sam Silver called from Columbia, SC on 30 Jul to rep that **Jean Horridge** passed away at her home in PA. I asked Sam to send me his retirement bio soon. He has been living in Columbia for about 20 yrs and now is down to 168 pounds. He is remembered as being a 200-pounder. Recently, he sliced off half of his right foot in a mower accident. He now uses a prothesis but not too well. I last saw him at Camp Dix, NJ when he brought his unit there for training in 31. We were so short of ofcrs that, as a 2LT, I was the post cmdr.

Mrs **James M Gavin**, now living at 469 Seaview Ave, Osterville, MA 02655, will be living in FL again during the winter mos at 511 Oak Haven Dr, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

Whitside Miller's daughter called from CA in early Jul and told my **Betty** that her father was seriously ill. Several wks later she called again saying that her father had passed away. I was unable to get her name or address.

George Keeler rep that he & **Miriam** moved from Charleston, SC to Knollwood, DC. The pic of them with **Jackie & Ken (Nick) Nichols** at Knollwood appeared recently. You will recall that George was the capt of the cadet golf team. I understand that he carried a two handicap in the AF.

George Sibert '58 wrote that **George & Miriam's** son--Hap Keeler '57--was the cadet co cmdr of M-2; that at the grad parade, the bulk of the CI broke ranks and ran forward, but Hap Keeler kept his co in formation along with two others cos and marched to the reviewing line as planned. Am sure that George & Miriam were



1928: Descendants and in-laws of GEN Briant Harris Wells at the CI of 1894 Centennial

Fairfax, where they live. Poor Dotty--she has had more than her share.

Mac rep that old man arthritis has caught up with him and he has about turned in his suit in golf. He & Jean still bowl with a gp of friends, without outstanding success. But, fortunately, Mac is able to carry out his manifold duties as secy-treas of the CI, and what would we do without him?

Jack Kirby, one of our most reliable correspondents, sends a Christmas card with a good status rep: "Happy to say that I am physically active, mentally alert--I hope--and self-sufficient. I hope the same applies to you and the remainder of '27. My beloved wife, Irene, passed away 1 Jul 75. Since that time I have lived here in our home, with occasional visits from son John W Kirby Jr and his daughter Jill (13)--my pride and joy." Two other sons are ret and looking back to VA for residence. Not a bad idea, Jack, since the Old Dominion seems to be much in the family background. His grandfather was a CSA veteran from Bedford, VA who married Jack's grandmother, who lived to be 100.

You have a long way to go, Jack, and welcome to the Old Country. Also, thank you for your note.

From Vachel Whatley I had one of the most upbeat ltrs I have yet received in our project to send classmates greetings and best wishes on their birthday. I had begun to believe that the project, which to me seemed to represent the true spirit of the "Long Gray Line," had begun to "fall between the cracks" after about 4 yrs of fair success. But Vachel says it better, and I quote his ltr in full: "Dear Art: Your kind ltr to me on my 91st birthday is most welcome. You are doing a fine job of keeping us informed...we thank you! During the 4 yrs at WP our classmates formed and consolidated friendship for one another that has lasted for 67 yrs; that friendship will continue regardless of where and how we are. As for me, I'm fine! I see no evil, I hear no evil. In fact, Art, I had a stroke about two yrs ago and it left me with ghost vision. I just can't read a word, hear poorly and mumble, but I'm improving so in a few more mos I'll be back at work, even reading financial reports of corporations. There's much joy but no sorrow in sr citizenry. Best regards, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Yr to you and our classmates. Sincerely, What."

Thank you, What, for your fine note, and may it result in a resurgence of communication between old friends who have spent a large part of our lives together.

On his 92d birthday, I had a fine ltr and a long call from Trapnell, who rep no aches or pains and is still trying to keep his tee-shots in the middle of the fairway. All this after more than 100 parachute jumps, and if this suggests airborne tng as the key to cure for lower back pains I am not far from Ft Benning. Trap appears to be the quintessence of good health and painless seniority, and I sincerely hope this happy state of affairs continues. Trap mentioned something about a reunion at the 70th in 97. As usual, I am a little behind on the rumor, but the hot rumors are always late in coming to Bristol.

Harry Paxson rep he missed a couple of issues due to a subscription foul-up, causing him to temporarily get behind on current CI activities rep in ASSEMBLY.

Harry also rep that Elizabeth is about to return from a stay in the hosp and nursing home. He also says that being 89+ and not being able to talk to anybody about mil activities is a little hard to get used to.

Your scribe reads *First Call*, the new publication to soc mbrs from the AOG. In the Nov issue was an item re a ltr from the Supe in response to a recent ltr in the *Washington Monthly* entitled "The Case Against the Mil Academies." The 5-pg ltr is too long to print but is available for (and I quote) "downloading from the AOG EBBS under the file name ACAD TXT."

From another item I learn that if you have a car registered in VA you can get a license plate adorned with an Academy crest. Cullum no, CI yr, cadet co and other distinctive messages have been suggested as personal identifiers on the plates. All this is available to grads for \$25-35/yr.

One more item from *First Call* rep that, in celebration of the bicentennial in 2002, a commemorative coin will be issued. Five-hundred-thousand of these gold and silver pieces will be sold as collectors' items.

May you all have a wonderful spring, with good health. Please tell your scribe about it so I can spread the word.

'28
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Very little news for this issue. Re my article in the Nov ASSEMBLY where it says "Forrest has been renamed for *grammatical correctness*," I quote from a ltr from Denny Sweney: "This yr in a move it appears the forces of *Political Correctness*." My error.

Received a phone call from Jean Barnes. She rep the sad news that Mable Walters died on 7 Nov after a long illness. Funeral svcs were held at the new chapel in Arlington. Interment was at Arlington Natl Cem.

'29
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Sea Pines Plantation
Hilton Head Island, SC
29928
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Bob Losey--Previously the saga of Bob Losey was rep as the first American killed at the start of WWII by a German bomb in Dombas, Norway. USA had published a partially correct acct. A proposal on behalf of all of our classmates was sent to the Postmaster Gen and to the secy of the stamp cmte for a commemorative Losey stamp and published in the last ASSEMBLY. On 11 Nov, Bob Losey's nephew, Robert Losey Lee of Barrington, IL, called to ask the CI to spt the commemorative stamp proposal, which we have already done. Next May, the entire Losey family, incl Bob's sister--mother of the

nephew who called me--plan to visit Dombas, Norway to join the King of Norway in dedicating a monument to Bob and the 5 Norwegians killed in the bomb blast. Incidentally, Bob's widow married Howard Bunker '28 and passed away in the late 70s in L.A.

George & Miriam Keeler (who now live in Knollwood, DC), accompanied by Alice Nesbit, attended the funeral svcs for Jack O'Hara at Arlington Natl Cem on 22 Oct 94. Jack had vowed to attend our 65th reunion, no matter how ill he was due to cancer. He did attend along with Betty, his son and daughter. All 4 were splendid additions to all our CI events.

Hank Royal was made a mbr of our CI at our 65th reunion. He lives in Chapel Hill, NC and continues to work on his doctorate at the U of NC. He will attend his '30 reunion next May at WP, as he has attended the reunions of his two classes for yrs. He stated that a yr and a half with the CI of '29 prepared him for his 3 very happy yrs with the CI of '30, which were most rewarding for him. We are sure glad to claim him as one of us again.

Here are excerpts of my ltr to George Bush on 22 Oct. "Dear George: Hope that this is a surprise. It is for me. Betty & I will be driving to Detroit for my qtrly bd mtgs and will be passing through Henderson heading for Chillicothe on Route #35 at about 11:15 am on Thu, 3 Nov. For yrs I have thought of stopping to see you, but we are always in a hurry to get to Detroit or back home. Will it be convenient for us to stop for 15 min? If it is, please send me explicit directions starting as we get off the bridge at Henderson. We drive so often that we can generally hit a destination within 10 min of our scheduled arrival time. We will be driving back on Sat, 5 Nov and would try to arrive in Gallipolis at 3:30 pm, heading for Charleston and stopping overnight in Princeton, WV, which is our normal drive. Would that date be better for you?"

His response was a delightful phone call on 29 Oct. Betty & I visited George at his apt in Gallipolis, OH. We planned to stay for 15 min but chatted for two hrs and could have talked for another 6 hrs. George is the mil patriarch in that part of OH and was involved in many civic activities. He was asked by the ed of the local newspaper to describe his experiences on 7 Dec 41 in HI, where he was stationed. His story was so fascinating that instead of printing only the highlights, he had decided to run the whole article in 3 successive editions. George prepared his bio so completely that only certain excerpts follow. He lives in a very attractive apt on the town park, with a wonderful view of the OH River flowing by. He arranged for his daughter Susan, who lives in Columbus, OH--about 113 mi away--to graciously join us, and she served a delightful tea party. The visit was so pleasant that we decided we should visit ea of our classmates. Before reading the excerpts below, George very proudly asked me to notify ea of our classmates that on 4 Nov, George Bush's granddaughter Lucy Norvell Barclay delivered her second child, Catherine Bush Norvell Barclay, in Charlotte, NC. She is George's second great-grandchild.

The following is a personal bio sketch of

George Elial Bush Jr: "At the time of Pearl Harbor, George was a MAJ cmdg the 3d Bn, 27th Regt, 25th Div, at Schofield Bks, HI. He & **Helen** and their 9-yr-old daughter Jane lived at Schofield Bks, which was about one mi from Wheeler Field, an Army AF base which was demolished during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"A yr after the Pearl Harbor attack, as a LTC, **George** departed Oahu with his unit and ended up landing on Guadalcanal on New Yr's Eve 42. On 10 Jan 43 his unit was heavily engaged in combat. About two mos later, in Apr 43, the US Forces on Guadalcanal were victorious, so his unit was sent in Apr 43 into the battle for Munda Airfield on New Georgia in the Solomon Islands, then to New Zealand and New Guinea and the invasion of Luzon, PI on 9 Jan 45.

"After the war, COL **Bush** attended the first Cmd Cl at Ft Leavenworth, KS in late 45-46. He served on the Army Gen Staff in the Pentagon (Org & Tng Div) for about a yr, then was assigned to and grad from the first Cl of the NWC (Jun 47 grad). He then served on the DA Gen Staff (Org & Tng Div) until Jul 50, when he was assigned to the Staff and Faculty of the Inf Sch, Ft Benning, GA as the dir of the Staff Dept. The Korean War broke out the day George left DC, so the Inf Sch classes started increasing immediately. He was promoted to BG in Jun 53 and served as C/S of the Alaskan Cmd, with Hq at Elmendorf AFB, AK, near Anchorage, until Jul 55.

"In Jul 55, he was assigned as dir of Mgt Analysis in the Ofc of the Comptroller of the Army from Aug 55 to Nov 57, when he was assigned as the CG, 1st Cav Div in Korea. He was promoted to MG on 16 Mar 56 and cmded the 1st Cav Div until Apr 59.

"MG **Bush's** next asgmt was CG, VIUS Army Corps (Reserve) with HQ at Ft Benjamin Harrison, IN from Jun 59 until Jun 61, when he became ch of US Mil Aid Gp (Greece), with HQ in Athens, Greece. He held this asgmt until ret from the Army at Governor's Isl, NY on 1 Aug 64.

"Upon his ret, Gen **Bush** and his family established residence in Gallipolis, OH. **Helen** suffered a massive stroke on Christmas Eve 92 and died 1 Jan 93. She is buried at Mound Hill Cem, Gallipolis, OH. George has two daughters, Jane Bush Norvell and Susan Denyse Bush. He has two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren, a boy and a girl."

Charles & Anita McClelland both wrote. I think that all would enjoy Mac's ltr; so here it is: "Dear Larry: Enjoyed your ltr and its enclosures very much. Hope you have some success in drawing **Fate Fagg** loose from his eventful history. He was my roommate for 3 yrs at the academy and disliked talking about himself. I had not heard that **Jack O'Hara** was dead until I received your ltr. There are only a few survivors still kicking. I am lucky to be one of them, but I do not know how much longer since I am still suffering from a stroke that I had 4 yrs ago. But what the hell, into ea life a little rain must fall, and 87 is long enough for anybody. I am responding to your request for an autobiographical sketch below.

"**Charles B McClelland** was born 3 Feb 07, Greenwood, MS. Ret 59. Took master's de-

gree, then taught and took PhD degree in English at the U of TN, leaving TN in 68. Taught English at AR State U, ret as head of the dept in 76. Moved to Hot Springs Village, AR in 77. Played golf, loafed and danced. Traveled a bit. My stroke hit in Jan 91. Now, finally, I am walking with the aid of a cane. Sincerely, Mac."

I should add that I asked **Mac** if he knew Norm Barry in Auckland, New Zealand, but he did not reply to my query. Maybe one of you will know. **Betty** & I took a yr's Asiatic trip in 76 with the help of the Nationalist China Airline-Taiwan. We had arranged to join my roommate, **Chick Cooper**, in San Fran for dinner before flying on to HI, Japan, Taiwan, most of Asia, Australia and New Zealand. When we reached Chick's house, his tearful widow, **Polly**, told us that Chick had a heart attack a wk before when their cruise ship was in Acapulco, Mexico. Polly was not able to notify us as we were driving across the country from VA. Polly was Chick's 5th wife. Her dr & his wife, family friends, persuaded us to delay our flight to HI and help Polly with her legal and mil problems. We did. Polly then called 31 of our classmates in the San Fran area. All responded. One, I have always thought that it was **Mac McClelland**, who, when he learned that we would spend a mo in New Zealand after Australia, told us to look up his friend in Auckland--Norm Barry. It was a splendid and fortuitous break for us because we could not use our Visa and Mastercards in either Australia or New Zealand. We had to take a bus from Sydney to Canberra to the American Embassy to cash checks ea wk--4 times. In Auckland, Norm Barry arranged our tours, let us stay in his hotel after ea tour, set up a wonderful tour of the South Isl and then let me settle up with one check in full. He became a fine friend and visited us in DC 3 times. Whoever the classmate was, we have always been so grateful to him. Whoever it was, do tell me.... We then spent two more wks in Australia before heading for Borneo and the PI again. **Anita McClelland** enticingly described their present home area in Hot Springs, AR. When Mac was head of the English Dept at the U of AR my cousin was a prof under him.

Jim Stevenson, who hosted a splendid lunch at Eisenhower Hall for the reunion, rep that he again lives in Venice, FL and is directing bridge tournaments there and loving it. Oddly, in the first item above, I asked Robert Losey Lee how he had heard of me and he replied, "You know Jim Stevenson, who drove his huge busmobile to your WP reunion? He told me to call you." Don't know whether Jim has kept his suite in San Ant. Jim's postcard was sent on to **Paul Thompson**, who keeps an updated address list. Jim's new address is 638 Michigan Dr So; Venice Gardens, FL 34293.

Our finances--**Paul Thompson** transferred our funds to me with some difficulty. The amount **Bill McCulla** had at the Largo bank for us was \$2767.11. No interest has ever been paid by the Largo Bank. Our USAA acct (with 3.67% interest) finally was opened on 13 Oct. For the half mo, we earned \$5.11, so as of 30 Oct we have \$2772.22. Paul Thompson has never billed the Cl for his Cl expenses, such as the Cl

gifts to our reunion aides, his postage costs for his address lists and other items. I plan to follow Paul's procedures, too, so the fund will remain intact unless I have to use the interest for a Cl happening. There should be no requests for additional Cl funds.

Bill Francis wrote from Pacific Grove, CA that a Presidio of San Fran historian had been commissioned to write an official history of Japanese-American mil intel troops in WWII and that **Kai Rasmussen** would be mentioned prominently therein. He also wrote to **Emma Rasmussen**, sending a copy of the item to her. Kai was my roommate with **Chick Cooper**, but I hope to find out more from Bill about Kai.

We depart on 18 Nov for a repeat 23-day USAA *Odyssey* cruise to the Med, No Africa, Tenerife, Cape Verde Isls, 5 days across the Atlantic to 5 Carib isls and home from San Juan on 9 or 10 Dec. Hope to include items on **Jack O'Hara's** bio and his obit herewith on our return and will bring you up-to-date on our new classmate, **Bill Yost**.

'30

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65th
Reunion
28-31 May
1995

Harry & Ila Packard's daughter, Mrs Janet Packard Pritchett, rep on 6 Oct about her mother Ila moved from DC 24 yrs ago to be near her son Harry Jr, and his young family in San Diego CA. The golf courses and the climate in SD also were persuasive reasons to move W.

Mrs Pritchett also wrote that her mother died early on 3 Oct 94 in her sleep. She had enjoyed excellent health until 92, at which time a series of small strokes gradually removed her from the real world. She chose to be cremated and her ashes scattered in the Pacific Ocean and her husband at last.

Ila is survived by her daughter Janet, son Harry Jr, 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Harry was in the first wave of '30 grads returned to WP for duty as instructors. He & I were very popular with classmates and many other mbrs of the faculty. They lived for a time in Cornwall-on-Hudson. While there, he and I were tutored in the fine art of making wine from the very plentiful local Concord grapes. sheer luck we achieved a delicious sparkling burgundy. After a few wks "on the shelf," the

and...
Bark
Catherine
1/1/57
by
Norma

I think

begs
Norma