



Issue 20, November 2015

## **A Note from the Alumni Director**



**Charley Mitchell '73**

[cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org](mailto:cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org)

**410-821-3036**

"Hello, boys, how are you?" asked the rider of two young chaps playing on a large Baltimore County estate in 1929. He flipped them each a ten-cent piece and rode off.

One of the boys was five-year old John Laslett, son of a native Englishman of the same name. The rider was Captain Isaac Emerson, owner of Brooklandwood, the 550-acre estate he had purchased in 1916 from Alexander W. Brown. Young John's father was one of two chauffeurs for Emerson, the wealthy inventor of the pain remedy Bromo-Seltzer and owner of the stately Emerson Hotel in Baltimore City and the Maryland Glass Co. Laslett's mother was a maid and laundress for Mrs. Emerson at Brooklandwood.

Young John, many years later, wrote of his childhood growing up at Brooklandwood. This story draws heavily on that manuscript (courtesy of Steve Stenersen '78).

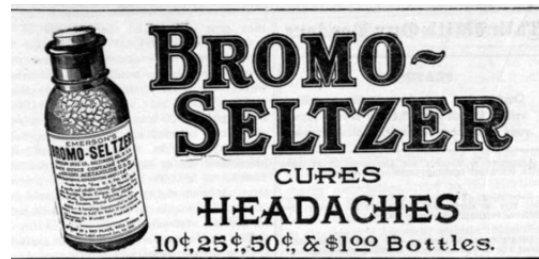
Emerson spent lavishly on his Brooklandwood estate: a formal Italian garden, intricately carved European statuary, climate-controlled greenhouses, pools, ponds, a five-hole golf course and a tennis court (on which, Laslett tells us, Gene Sarazan and Bill Tilden played, respectively). Tom Mix, the cowboy actor, was a frequent guest. In 1911 Emerson built the Bromo-Seltzer Tower at Calvert and Baltimore streets, which featured a 51-foot revolving Bromo-Seltzer bottle.



The proprietor of Brooklandwood rode around his property on horseback wearing a grey Homberg —“slightly on the portly side but always very erect and distinguished,” as Laslett described him. He was a generous man, giving his winnings from the races at Pimlico to his chauffeurs and paying for both young John’s surgery and college tuition for the chauffeurs’ sons.

Approximately 50 people were employed at Brooklandwood, with half in and around the mansion and half at the dairy and on the farm. Emerson’s garage housed several Rolls Royces and a 12-cylinder Packard. The estate extended south into the Green Spring Valley, where the Grand National steeplechase ran across the property, and included the 582-acre Sagamore Farms. Water storage tanks to the east, across Falls Road on the estate property, supplied water to Brooklandwood.

Fires destroyed the garage, stables and apartments in 1935 and badly damaged the dairy two years later. “The Dairy provided the most creamy ice cream you can imagine,” John recalled. Emerson, trained as a chemist, concocted a ginger ale and an orange soda; more fortified beverages included 30 barrels of scotch from Europe prior to Prohibition.



Laslett recalled the festive Christmas atmosphere at Brooklandwood. “The Big House at Brooklandwood had a large glassed-in porch or veranda,” he wrote. “On Christmas Day about 3 o’clock all the help and their families would gather for a party. Everyone would file in and receive a gift. I received a crisp \$5.00 bill.”

Emerson’s stepdaughter, Ethel McCormick, married Frances McAdoo, whose father was Secretary of the Treasury in the administration of Woodrow Wilson, and Wilson’s son-in-law. Wilson attended their wedding reception, becoming the only U.S. President to visit Brooklandwood (so far). Emerson’s own daughter, Margaret, married Alfred Vanderbilt, who died in 1912 when the passenger ship *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German U-boat.

Isaac Emerson died in 1931. His wife, Anne Preston Emerson, lived at Brooklandwood from October to June, when she decamped to White Hall. Her granddaughter, Ethel McAdoo married Walter Keith, whom, during a divorce proceeding, she accused of threatening her with a pistol in the parlor. Mrs. Emerson died in 1946, leaving Brooklandwood to her daughter until its sale to St. Paul’s in 1952.

## **Voices from the Hill: Ken Keverian '75**



Ken Keverian '75 always had an academic bent. At St. Paul’s he ranked at the top of his class and, if his yearbook is to be believed, won numerous academic awards, read most everything William Faulkner wrote and repaired ceiling light fixtures. Ken earned undergraduate degrees from MIT in both electrical engineering and math and an M.S. in electrical engineering

The next seven years found Ken at AT&T Bell Labs, where he headed a group that designed computers and landed six patents; one of those, which scanned an image just by placing it against a computer screen, was Ken’s alone. Following Harvard Business School, where Ken was a Baker Scholar (a distinction granted the top five percent of the graduating class), he landed

at The Boston Consulting Group, where as a senior vice president he headed the firm’s Technology Media and Telcom practice in the Americas, among other leadership positions.

In April of 2014, Ken joined his long-time client IBM as senior vice president of corporate strategy, reporting directly to Chairman, President and CEO Ginni Rometti. His team is responsible for developing strategies for a new era of computing, according to Ken's biosketch on the IBM web site.

Ken met his wife, Dorota, at MIT; they celebrated their graduation by marrying. "I got the better end of this deal for sure," he says. They raised their three daughters in Boston, which turned Ken into a passionate Red Sox fan—though the allegiance of two daughters to the Yankees has led to occasional family discord. Ken's an avid hiker and traveler who loves digging clams and snagging lobsters on the North Shore in Massachusetts. He's issued an invitation to all Crusaders to join him—"I can use the help," he says.

Ken was happy to reconnect with old friends from St. Paul's at his 40th class reunion in May. "We picked right back up after 40 years without skipping a beat," he reports. "Our time together reminded me how special the school, and those friends, are. I was very lucky to have been a part of it."

## **A Look Back At St. Paul's**

Fall 1941: The Monitor captures first-place honors in the class for "smaller schools" in the Washington and Lee University's journalistic competition. Judges cite its "fine sense for news." The editor at the time was either Marshall Austin '39 (post-grad year 1940) or Bernard Michaux '41. (*Editor's note: Anyone know?*)

November 14, 1953: The Mothers' and Fathers' Clubs (precursors of the Parents' Association) sponsor the St. Paul's "Christmas Circus," with a magic show, tractor rides, an auction and a performance by the Boys' Choir. The impressive number of program ads includes ones for Eddie Jacobs ("clothes of character"), Burgee Funeral Home ("air conditioned throughout") and Gerald G. Hall Medals & Trophies, where one can "secure your official school buckle."

From the 1962 Yearbook: "The Monogram Club is completely self-supporting, earning most of its money from the sale of cokes. Members sell cokes and hot dogs at all home football and lacrosse games...and Christmas trees in downtown Baltimore. The club has the privilege of a "club room" which members are allowed to use at certain times during the day.

November 1971: The Crusaders meet the Lakers at St. Paul's, with both teams undefeated in the Tri-County League and the championship at stake. We win it all a nail-biter, 12-6. [Watch the 16-minute game film.](#)

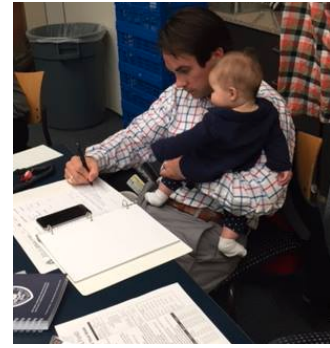
*Note at the start the parade of Crusader students marching down the hill, some riding on the fire engine.*

## **Alumni Association News**

- Live or work in or near the nation's capital? Join us on November 18 at the Sulgrave Club (1801 Mass. Ave.) at 6 pm, for a D.C.-area alumni reception, hosted by Polly & Mark Walsh '72. RSVP to [Jessica Schwartz](#).
- Planning for our 45th annual Bull Roast & Auction is under way! Wanna help out? Contact the alumni office. Look for a new theme and a gym you'll barely recognize. Will Gore '08 and Josh Scheinker '92 are chairing.
- Seniors joined alumni and parents in October to call on behalf of the annual fund. The seniors had great conversations with alumni and earned prizes (along with wages and dinner) for the most donors procured and dollars raised. Johnny Black '04 had help from daughter Parker.
- The Crusader Network is flourishing! Close to 100 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 wish to contact one.

- SP has contracted with PCI to publish a new alumni directory (at no cost to the school). Early in January, alumni will receive a postcard asking them to call PCI and verify/update personal/professional contact information. PCI will ask if you wish to purchase a print and/or electronic version of the directory—while we hope you will verify your information, please do not feel obliged to purchase. The directory will publish in 2017.



## The Alumni Scholarship Fund

The ASF was established in 2004 by the St. Paul's Alumni Association to provide need-based financial aid to children and grandchildren of alumni who otherwise would not be able to attend St. Paul's. The Fund, currently valued at approximately \$550,000, continues to support two alumni children, one each in the Lower and Upper Schools. To learn more, or contribute to the Fund, contact the alumni office.

## Crusader Connect



Need to find fellow Crusaders in San Diego? Download our free SP Alumni app for the iPhone, iPad and Droid and find contact information for any alumnus in the U.S. who's in our data base. Update contact information, share photos and class notes and network with fellow alumni via LinkedIn. This convenient app helps us all stay better connected—download the app for [iPhone](#), [iPad](#), or [Android](#).

You won't be able to download if your email address does not match the one in our records. If so advised, please [email me](#) with your preferred email address so we can make the change.

## In Memoriam

Roy M. Norris '66 (October 2010)

William T. Conklin '46 (October 2015)

## Insomnia? Read Back Issues!

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

**Your School Needs You!**

[Remember the Annual Fund!](#)

**Physical Address: 11152 Falls Road Lutherville, MD Mailing Address: PO Box 8100 Brooklandville, MD 21022 410-825-4400 [Contact Us](#)**

[Unsubscribe](#) from this eNotice.