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



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When I interview John A. "Bud" Hatfield, Jr. '44, on a sunny spring afternoon, his tall, lanky frame brings to mind John Wayne or a Texas Ranger, absent the ten-gallon.

Bud, a denizen of the alumni association's ROMEO group (Retired Old Men Eating Out), is perhaps best known as the Crusader's "Number 1 Fan," having missed nary a St. Paul's game in the past 25 years. Reclining on the porch of Brooklandwood, he regales me with Tom Sawyer-like tales of his boyhood in and around the Valley Inn, which his family operated for most of the 20th century.

I first learn that Isaac Emerson's Brooklandwood estate, which Emerson bought in 1916 from Alexander Brown, went as far south as the Valley Inn, and included today's Montessori School campus and Meadowood Park. (Emerson's fortune came from his creation of the Bromo Seltzer pain remedy.)

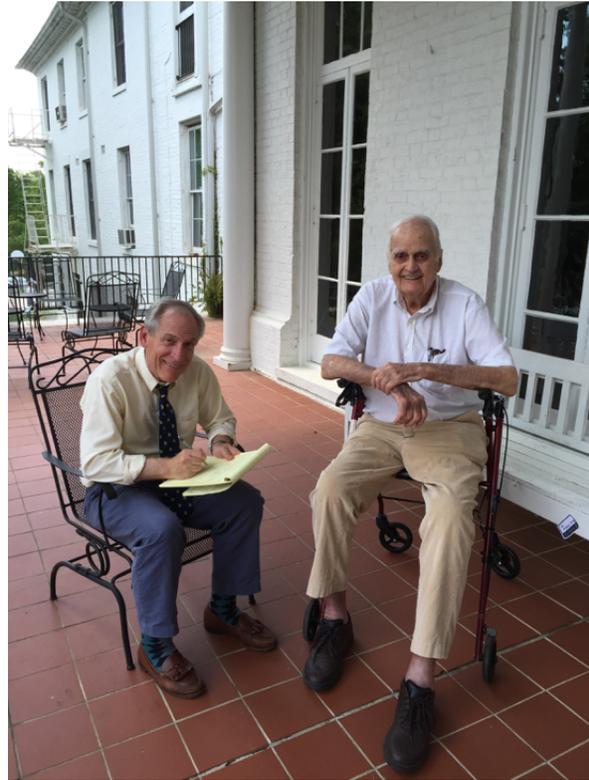
"I started hanging around the estate when I was about 7 or 8," Bud recalls. He'd see Capt. Emerson going up and down Falls Road, with driver and footman, in a Pierce-Arrow, then the vehicle of choice for celebrities and tycoons. "Sometimes, when you went into the dairy barn, a cow-milker would squirt you with milk right from the udder—talk about a fresh-milk bath! Every day the Emerson farmhands drove the cows across Valley Road to the south fields. The farm workers lived in a boarding house run by Mrs. Davis." Bud says the swimming pool (now filled in) was added in 1905 by Mr. Brown: "He was throwing a huge, month-long party—folks came from all over; they stayed in teepees on our lower playing fields."

Bud played with boys whose parents worked on the estate: "Billy Hibbert was a buddy—his father, Granville Hibbert, was the farm manager; he always wore a coat and tie, regardless of the weather." The Hibberts lived in a house, still standing, at the southwest corner of Seminary and Falls Roads.

Bill Rhinehart, Jimmy Volk and Parker Taylor were other pals during those summer days—Bill's father harvested hay and corn while Jimmy's had charge of the calves. "The big milking shed is still on the Montessori campus," Bud tells me. "The Grand National was run across Emerson's property and finished at that wall along Valley Road." In the summer of 1936, a fire destroyed the estate's large hay barn. The 12-year-old Bud remembered how "it lit up the whole valley," but that the ice cream parlor south of Valley Road survived intact.

Bud's family began operating the Valley Inn—an oasis for legions of Crusader alumni, parents and friends—in 1921, when it was still controlled by the descendants of Brooklandwood's first owner, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, under the terms of a hundred-year lease. The Inn, constructed in 1832 and known then as Brooklandville House, was a country store from 1890 to 1912; Bud thinks it doubled as a boarding house. After sitting empty for a decade, Abercrombie & Fitch, moved in. "They lasted less than a year," Bud says of the company known then for its expensive shotguns, fishing rods/boats and tents, "and then my father opened the Valley Inn."

Bud's father served with Harry Truman in France during World War I. "Both were first lieutenants and got to be good buddies, even went to Paris together," Bud recounts. "Truman came to the Inn at least once, when



he was a U.S. Senator. Drove a '38 Buick. They always kept in touch—I have several letters Truman wrote my father. My sister got to be good friends with Margaret Truman.”

I ask about other famous folks. “Oh, we had lots of major and minor celebrities” he replies, eyes lighting up. “Clark Gable and Carol Lombard visited once. Shirley Jones was there, and so was Ilona Massey (film, stage and radio star). H.L. Mencken and Scott Fitzgerald were there pretty often. Scottie [Fitzgerald’s daughter] would ride out in the jitney with my girlfriend for lunch with her Bryn Mawr friends.” Others included Bill Veeck, the colorful owner of baseball’s St. Louis Browns who sold the team to a group from Baltimore, giving birth to the Orioles; and, much later, local film star Bess Armstrong.

We get around to Prohibition. “We had a house bootlegger, Homer,” Bud says, asking I not use Homer’s surname. “Pints were \$2.00, half pints a buck. One time an IRS agent came in and put his finger in this lady’s drink—he tasted it and said ‘you’ve got alcohol here.’ While he was writing up a citation, a guy punched him—he got up off the floor and left; that was the last we heard of it!”

Chicken dinners were 75 cents, steak \$1.25. “We had lots of entertainment, with bands and a radio station under the bandstand that went through the phone wires. We broadcast shows live and people would call in from Maryland and other states with requests,” Bud remembers. “We had a seven-piece Russian band for two years, and Tex Conley, who was in over 130 silent films. He’d crack a whip and snatch a cigarette right from a woman’s hand.”

One of Bud’s most colorful stories involves Wallis Warfield Simpson, who lived with her mother on Preston Street, and who would help bring down a king of England. “She and Carter Osborne were engaged, and they went to the Hunt Cup one year. They had an argument, so she took off his diamond ring and threw it into the creek. Probably still there,” he says with a chuckle.

“We had dog races back then, too, though with whippets; greyhounds couldn’t make the turns. The track was 200 yards and went out to where the Beltway is now,” Bud recalls. “We used cotton tape from the Rockland bleach mill to mark the lanes. Eight races a night and dollar bets—I got a dollar a night for putting the dogs in the starting boxes. Nick, our bookie, knew the local cops, so when they showed, he’d push a button that sounded a buzzer in the basement so the bookmakers could scam.” Bud says racing went on from 1929 to about 1950.

As the surrounding area grew more affluent, the Valley Inn prospered. “There were lots of landed gentry, with lots of money,” says Bud. “When I took over the Inn, I always greeted my guests, and many are friends today.”

## Crusaders Trump Lakers in the Second Annual Alumni Challenge

Though we fell to the Lakers in lacrosse, we triumphed in the contest for the most alumni donors during the May 6-10 span, starting with Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend and running through the final whistle of the game. The alumni association added \$50 to every gift over \$20, and both schools benefited from the generosity of their alumni—[see the Challenge video here](#). To the victor go the spoils: Our Crusader flag flapped for a day in the bright sunshine on the Lakers' campus.



## Voices from the Hill: Court Levering '03



The figure emerging from the mist of an early Kentucky morning at Hill 'n'

Dale Farm is **Court Levering**, Crusader class of 2003. Hill 'n' Dale is one of the largest thoroughbred breeding farms in the country, with approximately 1,600 acres and between 250 and 400 horses. "We stand 13 stallions that range in stud fee from \$3500 to \$100,000," says

Court, who also manages one of the farm's broodmare divisions. He oversees the care of 150-250 mares in a breeding operation in which he's responsible for ensuring safe birthing of the foals, which are either sold at public auction or sent to one of the many training facilities around the country—in November 2015 the farm sold approximately 150 horses and grossed over \$28 million.

During his years at the University of Kentucky, where he received a B.S. in Equine Science in 2008, Court worked at the university's Maine Chance Farm, where he oversaw daily care of horses, facility maintenance, assisted with research projects and helped run hands-on equine science labs. He became the interim manager from 2007 to 2008 while a full-time student when the farm manager came down with advanced stage cancer. "I was given the reins," says Court. "Sadly, he passed away a few years later, but I am forever grateful for what he taught me during that time."

Court then had a stint as a veterinary technician, assisting in reproductive and surgical procedures, and he began advising clients on horse care, sales and breeding recommendations. He spent a year as a stallion handler at Three Chimneys Farm, a large thoroughbred breeding farm that was home to Kentucky Derby and Preakness winners Smarty Jones and Big Brown

Court and his wife, Shanon Hawkins, were married last October. Shanon is in the business, too, employed as the sales coordinator at Eaton Sales, a large thoroughbred consignment company. They've both recently joined the Big Brother and Big Sister program.

The Levering ties to St. Paul's are deep. Court's father, brothers and uncle are all Crusaders: Father Ted '68; brothers Topher '96 and Whit '98; and uncle Whit Hauprich '74. "One of my fondest SP memories occurred several years ago, when I stopped by campus," recalls Court. "In the upper school I ran into Skip Darrell, who invited me to his statistics class, where he had me spend the whole class discussing my college and work experiences and give advice to students. That day still makes me smile."

## Remembrance of Things Past:

J.B. Noel Wyatt to Miss Thompson, July 1910: "It gives me pleasure to tell you that the trustees of the St. Paul's Boys (sic) School have...ratified the decision of the Executive Committee in appointing you to the position of School Mother...your salary is to be \$400 a year, and you have the privilege of having your mother to live with you at the school."

Trustee Minutes, May 24, 1921: Twenty four of 34 places in the school "shall be for singing boys so as reasonably to assure 20 available boys for the choir; that the tuition of non-singing boys be placed at \$250 and singing boys at \$200."

From the Spring 1944 Crusader Yearbook: Written of a graduating senior: "As Pikesville's gift to our Alma Mater, his defense of that roaring, wide open metropolis is irrepressible...for one of his favorite amusements, Carrot-top greatly enjoys harassing Doc Wooden...if his hair-brained activities are any indication of his future, he will go through life like a knight of the padded cell."

From the 1952 Crusader: referring to the Monitor: "The first issue of the St. Paul's misguided bi-monthly arrived in November and was highlighted by an editorial which almost ruined the varsity football team and brought about a reorganization of the senior class. It was effective journalism, the effect being that the Associate Editor was tarred and feathered and run out of town."

## Alumni Association News

Officers and Board of Directors for 2016-2017: President, Steve Silverman '84, VP: Brent Hargest '02, Secretary, Todd Garliss '87, Treasurer, Dave Hughes '74

- We thank outgoing president George Ritchie '84 and Mike Myers '97, whose terms are up; bid a hearty farewell to Rafi Guroian '97, who's moving to Richmond; and welcome three new members: C.J. Ilardo '03, Cody Wilt '08 and Brian McGettigan '03.

Thanks to class chairs for organizing a great overall turnout for Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend on May 6-7. Amidst a pelting rain, the association recognized five alumni for their support of the school, professional successes and contributions to their communities:



- Distinguished Alumnus: Joe Carter '58 (posthumous); Bill Childs '72.  
Outstanding alumnus: Ken Keverian '75.  
Distinguished  
Young Alumnus: Andrew Farrand '03.  
Honorary Alumnus: John T. Ordeman
- We were especially happy to welcome the class of '66 back for their 50th reunion and enjoyed sharing with them their service of remembrance on Saturday for their fallen classmates.

The Crusader Network continues to grow. Close to 100 alumni are now signed on as mentors, to help with networking and career advice, and more Crusader seniors and college students are using the CN. Let the alumni office know if you would like to be a mentor, or would like to contact one.

We held our first Crusader Roundtable in March, wherein a dozen alumni of varying ages and professions met over lunch to discuss the Baltimore-area business climate and exchange ideas and business cards.

Thanks to Steve Van Besien '81 for hosting an alumni reception at the Yale Club in New York City that drew 25 alumni ranging from the classes of '58 to '09.

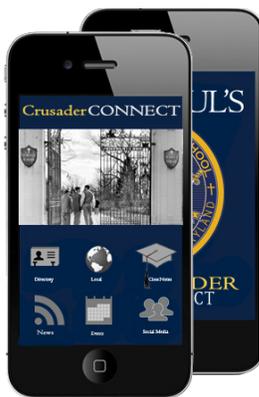


## To The Editor

Bill Barr '66 writes: I read your *Crusader Connection* comments with a smile about Mr. Middleton accelerating his retirement. Actually I think it was me along with several of the newly formed Gun Club walking from Brooklandwood to the then new classroom buildings, with WW II rifles over our shoulders. This occurred in the spring of 1966! I think Sam Williams was our

sponsor/teacher liaison. Mr. Middleton was unaware that the sanctioned club existed and it gave him quite a fright. I look forward to attending my 50th in May!

## 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

Howard Franklin Knipp '40 (March 2016)

G. Randolph Walker '58 (April 2016)

Kenneth N. Gilpin III '68 (May 2016)

Richard A. McClary '64 (May 2016)

## Insomnia? Read Back Issues!

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

Alumni participation in annual giving stands at 18%. **So please [remember the Annual Fund](#)—your School needs you!**

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