

MEMORIES, ENDEAVORS AND LIFE'S LESSONS:

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One of the most life long memories I experienced at BHS although a very private moment, has stayed with me for over 50 years. I was standing with Henry Sawyer, Hank VanBeaver, and Roy Fowler. Roy looked down and saw a penny lying on the ground. He said to me; "Doug there's a penny" looking down at the ground. I was too proud I guess to bend down and pick it up. Roy looked right at me and said " well I'm not too proud" and bent down and picked it up and put it in his pocket. Such a small moment and embarrassing to say the least but was one of those once in a lifetime experiences that stays with you forever.

From that point on anytime I saw a coin on the ground I bent down to pick it up. While we were visiting Nantucket with Sinclair and Julie Weeks, my wife and I were walking to town. On the way home I was walking by a bush and there perched amongst the branches was a twenty dollar bill. Where else in the world would this happen? From lessons learned I of course bent down to fetch it out of the bushes. Who says money doesn't grow on trees! Speaking of which brother Bruce's favorite saying was; "Pecunia in arbotis non crescit". For those of you that don't recall your Latin translations it translates to " money doesn't grow on trees. I think I proved him wrong!

With Bruce's passing in late 2019 it has left a big hole in my life and heart. Both our parents passed away when they were 71. Bruce didn't make it to 69 and I turned 69 this past February. I guess it is up to me to overcome our family's short lived history. I have such great admiration for Bruce and all he did for the Rivers School during his 28 year tenure there and all the help he gave me running my building business. I remember he had applied to be the Business Manager at BHS and was passed over in favor of another manager that at that point had more investing experience. All I can say about that is Belmont Hill's loss and Rivers gain! I attended many of the ceremonies where he received recognition for his deep devotion and foresight to ensure the continued financial health of that school. His memory lives on at Rivers where the Conference Room at the business office was dedicated in his name.

I never would have thought that while at BHS that Roger Duncan would have had such a lasting influence on me. In 1984 my mother gave me Roger's book titled FRIENDSHIP SLOOPS. I remember being glued to his book during most of Christmas day and at the end of the day I vowed to own one of these most beautiful gaff rigged sloops ever designed.

Well a couple of years later I bought a Pemaquid design Friendship Sloop. It was 25' on deck but 34' overall with the long bowsprit and boom overhanging the stern and sported a cuddy cabin where you could camp out. At the first skippers meeting at the annual Friendship Sloop Regatta Roger came right up to me welcoming me into the Society. I raced against Roger in Boothbay Harbor and Rockland Harbor for many years. I would occasionally see him out sailing as Pemaquid Harbor, where we kept our boat and East Boothbay are not that far apart, But with his boat being significantly larger and sporting 5 sails I did not see much of him after the start of any race. Well I met my wife, Irene and it quickly became apparent that a bigger boat was in

order that had more creature comforts so traded the Pemaquid for a 31' Dictator design with an overall length of 44' which had standing headroom, an enclosed head, and a more or less full galley. During our membership in The Friendship Sloop Society I rose to become the Membership Chairman for about 15 years and also started their Chandlery and Publicity Departments. We had that boat for many years and had it brought back to Sugar Hill from Maine's Pemaquid Peninsula every year so I could take care of the maintenance that any mostly wooden boat needs. It was quite a sight to see it being trucked through the steep Crawford Notch to get it back to Sugar Hill. So eventually I sold DEPARTURE mainly because of the extensive and time consuming maintenance it required was wearing me down and the times of being able to use the boat versus the amount of time I spent maintaining it just did not equate, But being boatless did not last very long and went on to acquire a 1964 Pearson Vanguard (33' L.O.A.) and still own that boat. I have two other smaller boats, a 16' gaff rigged Herseshoff 12-½, and a 14' Cape Dory Handy Cat also gaff rigged. So my passion for sailing obviously runs deep. I think it is ironic that I live in the middle of the White Mountains of NH and am so far from salt water.

I think back to what inspired me to carve the Pieta for my panel. I am still not entirely certain it was the right image for me to leave my mark at the school. Sometime during my 10th grade year I was sent to McLaine Hospital to be tested to see what conventional occupation I might be better suited for as a career in an intellectual field was obviously not in the cards. The tests came back in this order: 1) Clergyman, 2) Carpenter, 3) Electrician, 4) Plumber. I think I have pretty well mastered the Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing trades but that Clergyman thing still eludes me. This might be best left for some future Psychologist to sort out.

I was thinking that I might have been the youngest Zamboni driver at least at BHS. Both Roy Fowler and Henry Sawyer I guess took a shining to my skills of driving. I've held a CDL commercial licence for over 40 years now as that is one of the requirements of being in our local volunteer fire department which I have been a member of for 46 years. I was Assistant Chief for about 12 years and am still the Treasurer since the late 1980's.

I well remember the Lawrenceville Hockey Tournament and the year we won that. I recall the final game when we were playing Nichols and being down I think it was 4 to 1 in the third period with little hope of winning the game. Their captain, a PG student, was larger than any of our team members by quite some and was pretty much their "whole" team. I distinctly remember him cross checking Jim Mardulier right off his feet fortunately within sight of the referee. Well he was thrown out of the game and we emerged the winner after the smoke cleared I believe it was 7 to 4. That brief moment during the time at BHS has also stayed with me as a reminder that no one person should have enough influence to affect an outcome.

Well no walk through the woods would be complete without commenting on your health issues. That seems to dominate any social gathering I attend nowadays. In 2010 I had same day bi-lateral total knee replacements. It had gotten to a point where I couldn't climb a ladder and it

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was very difficult using stairs. Sleep was equally elusive because of the constant pain. I had an extremely long recovery period (according to my surgeon it was the longest recovery period he has ever encountered.) But it was the best thing I ever did. It changed my life! Rotator cuff surgery (60% tear) and ligament damage repairs in my foot were also on my list of body rebuilds. Wearing eyeglasses and hearing aids are the norm now.

Of late, when clients have asked me about where I went to school I have mentioned BHS and have minimally gotten a raised eyebrow that obviously indicated that they have heard about BHS and evidently hold it in high esteem. I am proud that I went there but do have reservations that it was the best school for me. I obviously had artistic abilities but they were not encouraged or promoted at BHS. They were considered "extracurricular" while we were there. I sincerely hope that has changed.

Don't want to end on a sour note so will sign off with the fact that I am doing exactly what I want to be doing right now and content with the thought that retirement from the building business is in the not too distant future. Stay well my friends.