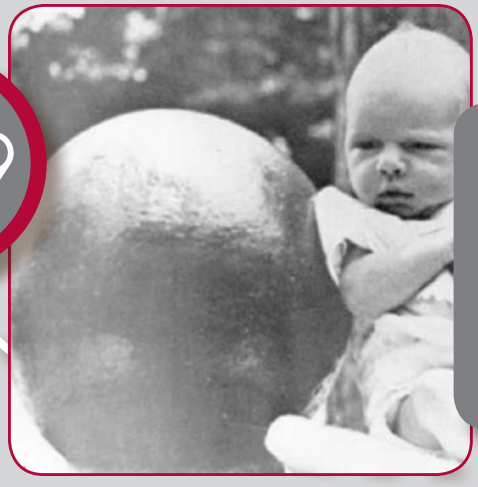
STRAY SHOT THROUGH THE AGES

The sharing of the latest Stray Shot find in our fall *Bulletin* piqued the interest of many alumni whose accounts were told over the winter on Peter Becker's blog (www.gunnery.org/blog). Paula Krimsky, our beloved archivist, went digging for photos and recounted her stories to put together the following timeline. As always, if you have more details to add to our ever evolving story, please send them to strayshot@gunnery.org.

1959



T. RODERICK DEW '59, editor of the *Stray Shot* magazine, persuades father to purchase beach ball-sized Civil War cannon ball from antique store and donate to The Gunnery in honor of his graduation. [Photo of Jonathan Whittle '80—faculty child born 1960—for size]

1975

WYKEHAM RISE GIRLS with the help of faculty member Pam Taylor steal the ball and roll it down the aisle at commencement, Glen Nalven '76 captures it for The Gunnery.

1977

BALL RUMORED to be lost in Rumsey pond during a party there. This part of the history is still very murky. We think a second ball was introduced around this time and placed in the hands of Ed Zyskowski '78 and his team (possibly with initials SE, BSH, and LMA) according to Phil Dutton '81. Scott Schereschewsky '76 thinks his brother, John '74, had the ball in 1976 and, indeed, the name, "Sherry" is etched in the ball.

1972

HUTCH BEASON and **PAT MOORE '72** drop the ball from their 2nd story window in Gunn and it rolls down Rte. 47 into the Mayflower Pond. Rule established "ball must stay on campus."

1979

EDGAR AUCHINCLOSS '82 admits to stealing it from his brother Leonard '84's room and absconding with it in his mother's car, storing it briefly at Scott Craig '82's house on the Green.

1969

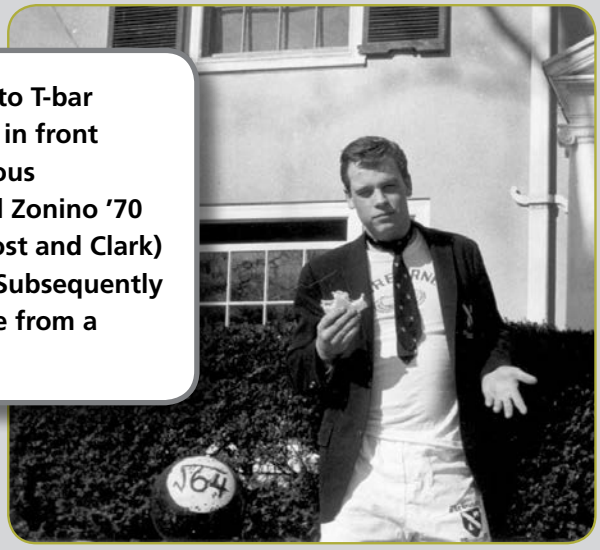
P.T. CLARKE '70 says that at one time he took the ball home to Maine but he returned it in '69. He remembers it being painted with quasi-psychedelic colors.

1980

POPPY BALDWIN '80, BEN O'NEIL '80, MELISSA (VARLEY) O'NEILL '80, AND MITCH MAGNOLI '80 etch their names deeply into the ball and feature it in the *Red and Gray*.

1968

DEAN LEMCKE welds ball to T-bar and cements it in the wall in front of Gibson because of various shenanigans. In 1968, Fred Zonino '70 and friends (Johnstone, Post and Clark) pry it off with a crowbar. Subsequently recovered by Dean Lemcke from a melting snowdrift.



1987

COURTNEY FEBBRORIELLO '93, editor of the *Stray Shot*, remembered researching the ball's history in her senior year and uncovered photos of Headmaster Michael Eanes H'90 P'90 GP'20 holding two similarly sized cannon balls in the company of members of the class of 1987: Steve Curry, Pietro Belluschi, and Ray Whitney, III.

1987

DOUG DESALVO '87 had the ball at the end of school year 1986. He lodged it at the lake house of a dorm parent for safekeeping and convinced his father to help him steal it away after graduation that summer. He and Jay Gervasoni '87 handcuffed and blindfolded Steve Curry '87 to show him the ball down in the stream behind the tennis courts. Steve then hoodwinked the team and stole it, having spent the night filing through chains.

1991

Supposedly, **MATT HOLLOWAY '71** presented the lost ball to the new head of school, Susan Graham in a school meeting in 1991.

1997

According to **PETER FEEN '99**: in 1997 the Stray Shot was stolen from the head's office by the senior class and passed down by Dean Scherza '97, DJ Bulawa '97, and Andy Marchetti '97 to Mike Okun '98, Francisco Pauly '98, Josh Feil '98 and Brian Hutchinson '98. Feen, Jack Dempsey '99, and Ted Stonbely '99 impersonated the members of the class of 1998 and took possession from maintenance which was engraving the names on the ball. Pauly '98 threatened to take the ball to Venezuela and the ball disappeared.

2004

THE KEEPERS OF THE BALL in the class of 2004 included Mark Rhoads and Max Sirkin, who lost it at the Prize Night dinner. The commencement speaker, Patrick Dorton '86, presented the ball to Justin Sherman and Andrea Marron, prefects of the class of 2004.

2002

SHANE O'MARA '02 spent a good part of his senior year trying to locate the ball rumored to have been taken by the hockey team in 1997; a book of his research is in the archives. Unsuccessful, he prevailed on Judy Stevens, sister of Roger Netzer '71, to purchase a much smaller ball to reinstate the campus game. The new ball was approximately 30 lbs. and the size of a softball. He presented the ball at the senior picnic in May. [Photo of 2008 group: Priyanka Shetty, Erin Kelly, LB Schmidt, and Lindsay Lincoln with 30 lb. ball]

2009

50TH ANNIVERSARY of the gift of the ball. Josh Johnston '09, Joe Mashburn '09, J.P. Gould '09, and Kevin Tarsa '09, working as a team, found the 30 lb. ball, digging it out from under a bush near Gibson. Anonymous alumnus presents "1997" ball to Jim Graham which is also presented by the 2009 team at Prize Night. The 2009 team enlists Phil Dutton '81 and Russ DeGrazia '11 to plumb the depths of the Rumsey pond with an underwater metal detector and a crane to search for ball #1. Unsuccessful.

2009

AT THE ADMINISTRATION'S BEHEST, Charlie Finnemore makes an elegant glass case for permanent display of the ball in the Admissions reception area. During Alumni Weekend, the ball is stolen and a wooden replica is installed.

2013

THE 2013 TEAM OF ALEC CORNELL '14, SKYLAR CLARK '14, LUKE PERDA '14, AND OLIVIA JUDD '14 grace the cover of *The Bulletin* after finding the ball at the top of Steep Rock.

2013

AT A JANUARY SCHOOL MEETING, Patrick Baker '89, Scott Schwind '89, Van Wilshire '89, Brandon Dufour '02 and Alie (Noto) Carlin '97 of The Gunnery Council presented the "lost" 2009 ball which was promptly stolen by the prefects, Ian Riley '13, Tristan Kishonis '13, and Wyatt Clark '13 with Tom Burger '13.

2010

THE LAST RECOVERY TEAM FOR THE 30 LB. BALL consisted of Sean Marks '10, J.J. Noel '10, Connor Ahearn '10, Brandon Lundie '10, Justin '10 and John Charles '10, and Stuart Orfuss '10. That ball is now missing.

2016

IN SEPTEMBER OF 2016, freshman Michael Zhang comes across a long-lost ball exposed in a stream behind the tennis courts. With the help of class of '20: Jarred Drickler-Bourgart, Mary Carew-Miller, Will Hambley, and Cailin Kessman and faculty Chip Miller, Jess Baker, and archivist Paula Krimsky, etched names and initials are identified from as far back as 1977 with many names from the eras of 1987 and 1997. This year being a reunion for those three classes, we expect some lively stories to be offered.

Who knows where the
STRAY SHOT
will turn up next!