

THE ECHO

"Continuously in print since 2002, Serving Kemper Old Boys and the Kemper Family"

Official Publication of Echo Company, Kemper Military School

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Don Bruning
Vice President, Membership

Echo Company is growing and that is a good thing. However, along with growth always comes the accompanying aches and pains of expanding and getting older. Let me come right out and tell you that Echo Company is not a spectator sport! We need everyone to redouble our efforts to reconnect our lost brothers.

I can't begin to tell you how many times I have heard one or more of our members refer to another Kemper Old Boy and add, "He should be in Echo Company!" When I ask if he has an address for the Old Boy the answer is invariably "yes!"

Send in your referrals! Build Echo Company one nominee at a time, spread the word and let your friends know about Echo Company. If you are a card carrying member of Echo Company then you have a duty to make referrals and nominations for membership.

Let's finish out 2011 with a real burst of energy and a big push to gain new members. I am challenging each of our more than six hundred Kemper Old Boy members to find and refer just two new members each. If we all do this then we can assure that Echo Company will live into the future and touch the lives of even more Kemper Old Boys.

God bless you and God bless Echo Company, Kemper Military School!

PHELPS ASKS ECHO COMPANY ASISTANCE TO ARRANGE KEMPER DISPLAY

Colonel Ben Phelps, USA,Ret. recently contacted Echo Company to determine details of the process for donating his substantial Will Rogers collection to the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma. Colonel Phelps, Kemper's Vice President during the last few years of the school's operation, traveled to Boonville in 2002 with the expressed intent of purchasing at auction the impressive collection of Will Rogers memorabilia. He was successful and today Phelps is owner of the largest collection of Rogers memorabilia outside of the museum itself.

Phelps, a retired US Army officer and former Vice President of Kemper Military School, purchased the Will Rogers collection with the expressed intent of keeping the collection intact. He has asked Echo Company to assist in facilitating the disposition and donation of the collection to the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma where an area will be set aside denoting Rogers' cadet days at the school.

The Will Rogers Museum collects, preserves, and shares the life, wisdom, and humor of Will Rogers for all generations. It is a fitting tribute to both Kemper and Will Rogers that his boyhood experiences regarding Kemper are preserved and noted in this distinguished place.

The Echo Company Board of Directors traveled to Claremore, Oklahoma during the summer of 2010 and engaged in meetings with the staff of the museum to determine what level of participation the museum would like to enjoy. While in Claremore, several Board members noted the Kemper chapter of Will Roger's life seemed to be lacking in interpretation.

A special thanks goes to Colonel Phelps for his desire to share his Will Rogers mementoes.

CITY OF BOONVILLE HERALDS ECHO COMPANY HISTORICAL MARKER WITH DEDICATION CEREMONY

KEMPER MILITARY SCHOOL & COLLEGE 1844-2002

On this site stood one of America's premier military schools. Founded in 1844 by Professor Frederick T Kemper, the school became known as the "Oldest Military School west of the Mississippi" and was regarded as the "West Point of the West". The school's graduates went on to serve in all the professions and have been represented in every war the United States has fought from the Civil War to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Cadets who attended Kemper came from every state in the Union and from nearly every country in the world. Will Rogers, a noted American actor and humorist, attended Kemper as a young man. The school's "Gold Star" Alumni Roll of Honor denoting those who had fallen in time of war is one of the largest for a school this size.

Founded as a male boarding school, Kemper used peer leadership and a system of voluntary compliance called the Standard of Honor for instilling and maintaining order and discipline. Professor Kemper's creed for his beloved school, "*The object is to develop in harmony the physical, mental, and moral abilities, not to create mere scholars but to make men*" became so copied it has been used by most institutions of higher learning and even some of the Armed Forces of the United States.

At the school's peak from about 1920 through 1970, the school annually enrolled nearly 500 cadets. The orderly conduct and day-to-day routine of the Corps of Cadets was administered by the students themselves. Today the Eternal Corps of Cadets through four founders of Echo Company, Kemper Military School, presents you with a portion of our heritage - "Nunquam Non Paratus" or "never unprepared". Be prepared for whatever may come, the future is yet to be written.

Cont. on page 2



BUTT PACK

Do you remember what little Miss Melodie looked like when you took her to the station that Sunday morning after Military Ball? She was crying when you promised to write to her. She caught her ride and today you don't even have her address but you can still write to us here at the Butt Pack!

Jim Everett - Missouri "I checked the Kemper Hall of Fame but my picture is not in there yet. Is there a problem?"

ECHO - We didn't have a photograph of you Jim, You have since provided one and you're added in!

Bob Gaskill - Michigan "Can you check the spelling of my name in the Hall of Fame? And the image is from when I was a new cadet..."

ECHO - Sorry about the misspelled name Bob, it should be corrected by the time you read this.

Wade Davis - Missouri "Love the **ECHO**, keep up the good work!"

ECHO - We intend to keep it going for a long time to come! Only recently the staff learned of an outside interest in purchasing certain creative rights to the **ECHO**. If this happens it will secure the future for a our organization.

David S Arthurs - Florida "Continue my subscription, thanks!"

ECHO - No problem David! Glad to help, hope you like the t-shirts which you ordered.

MG Ed Giller- New Mexico "Great publication! I enjoy the stories. Unfortunately there are not many left from my class of 1936."

ECHO- We're glad you are here General and we remain hopeful that you might join us in Blackwater, Missouri this year or next.

Gene Miller - Arizona "I accept the job of counsel to the Standard of Honor Commission. However, I should tell you I do not believe in capital punishment."

ECHO - Gene Miller has already accepted his first case, a review of Johnny Stompanato for admission to Echo Company, Kemper Military School and the Eternal Corps of Cadets.

Ray Kendeigh - Ohio Question? What is the difference of the marker that's going to be erected on the lawn and the marker/plaque that's on the entrance to the Admin Building (I think that is a national historic landmark marker). Is one state and the other federal?

ECHO - The plaque on the admin building at Kemper is simply a designation of National Registry of Historic Landmarks and denotes Kemper Military School. The plaque does not describe the school, why it was important, or the contributions of her sons. There is no mention on the National Registry plaque of the Standard of Honor. The historical marker commissioned by Echo Company is a sort of traditional marker story board and tells the story of Kemper.

Clarence Darrow - California "I have come across some old Kemper photos which I would be happy to share with your readers. If you think they have any value."

ECHO - We are happy to receive the photos Clarence, and thank you for your thoughtful gift of sharing these important images.

Tony Mittry - California "I sure would like a lapel pin if you have one available."

ECHO - Here you go Tony we are happy to help.

Tedsan Timberlake Jr - Virginia "I sure would like a lapel pin if you have one available."

ECHO - Here you go Tedsan we are happy to help. (Is there an ECHO in here?)

Rick Ragsdale - Pennsylvania "My first memory of Kemper was sitting on a Cadet's desk in C barracks eating a CARE package cookie in the fall of 1967 when I was three years old. My dad had brought Mom and me to visit the school. I have several memories of that day. A three year old got quite a bit of attention from the Cadets."

ECHO - You may remember "B" barracks from the fall of 1967. However, "C" barracks had been taken off line and was no longer used to billet cadets.

Mike Dundee - Oklahoma "My dad was a WW II veteran and survivor of Omaha Beach, as well as North Africa. He once said, 'that Major Timberlake is one hell of a man!', I agree."

ECHO - Mike you have every reason to be proud of your own accomplishments and continue to aspire to the example set by two men who lived exemplary lives. We doubt anyone would challenge your statement that Tedsan Timberlake remains as one of the most important examples of an entire generation. He influenced hundreds (if not thousands) of young men and gave them hope, pride and self respect.

David S Arthurs - Florida " Here is a donation to keep the **ECHO** going and to pay for a couple of t-shirts."

ECHO - Thanks David! By now you should have your t-shirts. The QM may not be fast but they get the job done!

Freya Barger - Illinois I was in Boonville from the 8th thru the 12th grade. I went to many dances, balls, and parades at Kemper and have lots of beautiful memories from those years.

ECHO - You are the newest member of Echo Company and I am sure that you will spark a lot of pleasant memories from our Old Boys. Welcome!

John Lawson -Kansas "Thank you for publishing the **ECHO**. I enjoy reading it and it certainly brings back fond memories of Kemper. I was planning on coming to Blackwater this year but my niece is getting married so I will not be able to attend. I will make it one of these years!"

ECHO - We are going to hold you to that John! We look forward to seeing you at the next round up!

Boonville leaders are meeting with Linn Tech reps to determine if the Kemper campus is suited for their needs.

ECHO ANNOUNCES 2011 MEETING PLANS

Echo Company has announced plans to host a general membership call-up and reunion for the classes of 1961, 1971, 1981, and 1991 at Blackwater, Missouri **10-12 June 2011**.

Echo Company will host a reception at the train station in Blackwater on **10 June 2011** from 4:00pm until 10:00pm. A presentation of the colors as well as an historical display of artifacts from Kemper will be displayed at that time.

A formal dedication of the historical marker for Kemper Military School will take place Saturday morning, **11 June 2011** at 10:00 am on the south lawn of Kemper Military School.

A luncheon will be held at the Blackwater train station from 12:00 until 1:00 pm followed immediately by an open board meeting of Echo Company in the dining room of the Iron Horse Hotel. Class photos will be taken immediately after the meeting.

Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm on **11 June 2011**, to be held at the train station. The evening meal will consist of prime rib, potato, vegetable and choice of beverage. The cost is \$25 per person.



Friday 10 June 2011

1400-1700 Reception old train depot
1700-1900 BBQ dinner at the old train depot
2200 Taps

Saturday 11 June 2011

1000-1030 Dedication honors ceremony
1200-1300 Lunch Iron Horse Hotel
1300-1400 Open meeting of Echo Company
Lobby of Iron Horse Hotel

1700-1800 Reception /Old Train Depot

1800-1900 Dinner / old train depot

1900-1930 Awards and recognition

1930-2030 Standard of Honor ceremony

Sunday 12 June 2011

0700 -? Breakfast Iron Horse Hotel / photos

COME AND JOIN WITH US IN CELEBRATING KEMPER'S HISTORY!!

Echo Company honors and recognizes the graduating classes of 1941, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001.

Come and renew friendships, feel the energy of days gone by.



KEMPER, part one

By Ben R. Beard KMS 46-47

I was 14 years old when I left Lansing, Michigan in September of 1946 on the Grand Trunk Western Railroad bound for Chicago. I arrived there and transferred via the Parmalee transfer taxi service to the Southern Railroad terminal. I found my train to St Louis and settled in.



I arrived in St. Louis the next morning and found the Missouri Kansas Texas "KATY" Railroad going to Boonville. It was a freight train but my ticket allowed me to ride in the caboose.

When I arrived in Boonville I entered the train station to find out how to get to Kemper. There was no one there except for a taxi driver whom I asked for directions. He told me if I was going to walk to school it would be a long way and that for fifty cents he would drive me there. I only had two dollars left from my trip money. My dad had given me ten dollars when I left home. I may have only been fourteen but I had traveled with my dad on business trips several times and I knew how to budget my money when traveling.



The cab driver took me to the administration building at Kemper and dropped me off. I went into the office, signed in, and filled out some papers. They gave me a name tag to wear so the others would know I was a "new boy". They had an Old Boy cadet show me where my barracks room was and he even helped carry my suitcase to my room.

We chatted as he led me to "D" barracks and we walked up three flights of stairs to the wing where my room was. I remember walking down the center of the hall and following him to a room he told me was mine. He threw my suitcase into the room, pointed to another boy standing there and said, "That is your roommate! Charles Shipman."

I was upset that he had thrown my bag like that but before I could even respond there were four more Old Boys standing at the door of my room. My guide said only, "Listen to them! Maybe you will learn something."

These four Old Boys explained the fine points of Kemper's military life and cautioned me to do as I was told. I was just a new boy and felt I had a lot to learn.

My roommate was already standing at attention as they spoke. So the Old Boys showed me how to brace at attention. In case you aren't familiar with bracing, it is standing ramrod straight with your arms at your sides, hands on the seams

of your trousers, shoulders back, chin tucked into your chest, head straight, ears listening, mouth shut!

Now the instruction began in earnest with the Old Boys telling me exactly what my duties would be. I was constantly reminded that I was lower than the ground I was walking on and I only did that with their permission. I was instructed to call the room to attention if a staff member (teacher) or Old Boy walked into our room. We were told the procedure for knocking and asking permission to enter an Old Boy's room and a similar process for leaving.

The rules kept coming! There was a stripe six inches from the wall which we were to walk on and never leave for any reason. We were to walk there and only there! We had to walk everywhere at the position of attention and that included the whole campus.

We were told to sit at attention in the classroom, to stand when a teacher entered the classroom, and to remain doing so until the teacher said, "At ease!"

For over an hour the Old Boys grilled us on rules we were expected to follow as new boys for the coming entire year. We would continue to receive instruction on formations and mess hall conduct.

Later we had marching instruction and then were released to unpack and get ready for the evening meal. We were called to the court or the "grinder" as we termed it, to form in companies. We marched into the mess hall and lined up behind our chairs with our backs to the table.

We stood at attention as announcements were made and orders were read for the next day. Then came the command, "Be Seated!" We all grabbed our chairs and swung around while pulling the chair out to sit.

New boys only had the first three inches of their chair on which to sit and we remained seated at attention. This position amounted to holding our arms out straight from our bodies, bent at the elbow, hands overlapping, forearms raised four inches apart.

When the Corps Commander was satisfied he said simply, "At ease!" All this meant to us was that we could lower our arms to our lap and wait to pass the dishes of food. No one ate until everyone was served.

New boys ate a "square meal" although Old Boys sat and ate as regular cadets. There was no talking at the table for new boys except to answer the occasional Old Boy question. Even then the shortest answer was always the best answer, usually "Yes Sir!"

After the evening meal, Old Boys were released to their rooms in order to prepare for the next day of class. After

the Old Boys had passed from the mess hall, the new boys were released to finish unpacking and ready their rooms for inspection the next morning.

My roommate and I made our bunks with help and approval from the Old Boy assigned to us. He answered our questions about duties and such as we readied our room.

Rather than sleep in our bunks and risk having to remake them in time for the inspection, my roommate and I decided to sleep on the floor our first night at Kemper. After reveille the next morning our room passed with flying colors!

After formation and breakfast, we were sent back to our room to receive the inspection results. We waited for the first call to classes and our year had begun. The \$1.50 I had left from the travel money my Dad given me? It lasted the rest of the week. Then dad sent me \$3 each week in a letter my entire first year. Thanks, Dad!

Next: The school year goes on

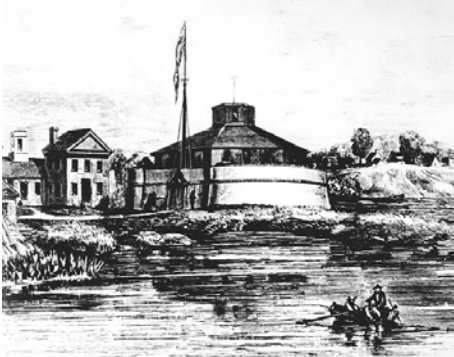


After leaving Kemper the summer of 1947, I finished my high school in Lansing, Michigan. After my high school education I joined the Naval Reserve for two and a half years. I was a bricklayer until I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. I spent twenty years working in Flight Simulator, I was in the service during the Korean and Viet Nam conflict, I finished with enlisted rank of SMSgt (E-8). Retired from the USAF on a Friday and was hired and started work for Flight Safety International, then Ozark Air Lines, then Trans World Airlines until I retired Oct 31, 1992. I was in the Boy Scouts of America for 18 years with in my community as an adult leader with the council staff. I worked as Director for the Alumni for Kemper Military School, Oregon and Washington State, for over seven years. Now is the time to retire, I'll be 80 in March 2011. "Hurrah" for KMS, It did so much for me in my life.



That just about sums it up! Come on and answer Uncle Sam's call by being someone who cares enough to make a difference. Come to Blackwater 10-12 June 2011.

The United States Naval Academy By V.Akins



One year after Kemper Military School was founded the Secretary of the Navy, George Bancroft, founded the United States Naval Academy from what was Fort Severn or Windmill Point. Commander Franklin Buchanan opened the school with seven instructors and fifty midshipmen. Buchanan later commanded Confederate forces at Mobil Bay.

In 1848 something of a mutiny was held wherein midshipmen rebelled at the idea of being required to drill like their counterparts at the United States Military Academy – West Point. The midshipmen adopted the maxim "A messmate before a shipmate, a shipmate before a stranger, a stranger before a dog, but a dog before a soldier."

Not until June 1854 was a graduation held for nine student officers. By the end of the Civil War 400 graduates served in the Union Navy, 95 in the Confederate Navy; 23 graduates were killed in battle or died of wounds.

Make no mistake about it; The US Naval Academy was not endeared to the hearts of the military Old Guard, West Pointers called Annapolis a "dancing academy" since the school taught social graces and athletics as well as engineering and maritime skills.

In 1882 the Naval Academy consented to allow graduates to be commissioned in the US Marine Corps. In 1911 the first naval aerodrome was established at Annapolis and later moved to Pensacola, Florida.

Midshipmen at Annapolis do not sign a Standard of Honor. Instead they are held to an ethics and honor conduct standard and may report violations or refer questions about honor and conduct to a unit advisor.

In 1890 the US Naval Academy Midshipmen met the cadets of West Point for the first time in the game of football. Since then they have met 111 times and Navy has the winning edge 55-49-7.



Samuel W Preston is shown here in USNA midshipman dress uniform about 1854. Preston started at the academy when he was 17 but he was not the youngest to ever enter Annapolis. John Singleton Copely entered Annapolis when he was only 14 years old.



The United States Naval Academy had no uniforms upon its inception. Parents and families provided their own attire for students. Copely, shown above, wears a uniform patterned after a British seaman apprentice.

The Navy football team was the first team in US history to introduce and use helmets in the sport.



US NAVAL ACADEMY TODAY

When Annapolis was started the course of instruction was five years. Only the first and last years were spent at the school while the intervening years were spent on board warships at sea.

Kemper has had its fair share of USNA graduates even though the roots of soldiering are deep within an Army tradition.

JOHN M CHAMP KMS '10

John Champ was the oldest Kemper Old Boy to die in World War II. He was fifty-one when his ship sank on March 28th, 1943. This story is about his last day.

The ship was the Walter Q. Gresham, named after a famous postmaster. She was a Liberty ship launched only twenty-five days earlier and under her maiden voyage.

John M "Pappy" Champ was the most senior crew member aboard the ship and he was well seasoned to his merchant marine duties. Champ was a veteran of over thirty years at sea; he had agreed this voyage would be his last. Captain Byron Miller, the ship's master, had sailed with Pappy before and he wanted the skilled seaman to insure his first turn at the helm was a smooth one. He nearly begged Pappy to help him break in the crew for her first journey, Champ reluctantly agreed.

The morning was not unlike countless others which Champ had seen at sea. The crisp March air of the North

Atlantic made the huge twenty-foot swells heave the concrete vessel in giant gallops. Champ was glad the bowels of the ship were filled only with powdered milk and sugar, 10,000 tons of it altogether. A more volatile cargo of ammunition or combustible material might make the ship less safe. This was to be an easy run, Santiago, New York, Clyde, England.

Trailing just behind the convoy which carried Champ and the others to Clyde was U-221 with U-boat Ace Captain Hans Trojer at the helm. Trojer was already the winner of the Knights Cross to the Iron Cross and had sunk 23 ships so far in his career. Trojer wanted another and had previously issued orders beginning the pursuit of the Walter Gresham.

John "Pappy" Champ was engaged in drilling the gun crews of the Gresham all afternoon on that fateful Sunday. This meant, for the most part, cleaning and polishing the 5" and 3" guns. The five inch gun was a massive piece which shook the entire ship when fired. For this drill, each gun was fired ten times and the cleaning begun.

Champ wanted this exercise completed before dinner, which was beef and rice. The last of the fresh fruit was to be consumed for dinner as dessert. At 4:45pm Captain Trojer fired three torpedoes at the Gresham, one of which was a "FAT" or highly advanced special weapons torpedo.

The Gresham was blown nearly in half. One of the conventional torpedoes hit mid ship and detonated internally, igniting the magazine. Another torpedo blew the stern off and the Gresham was dead instantly. Convoy HX-229 vanished in the horizon, leaving the doomed ship to roll over and sink.

Pappy Champ had seen disaster before. In fact he had been on an earlier torpedoed ship. He did not panic but helped the ship's master account for the crew. The three life boats were loaded and all but one crewman was present. He had been killed earlier in the violent explosion of the magazine.

The pressing importance now was to put distance between the sinking Gresham and the U-boat which had done the damage.



The Gresham as she appeared outside her slip in New Orleans. This official USCG photograph dates the original day "out" as 8 March 1943. In less than a month she would be sunk.

Captain Trojer listened to the underwater sounds of the dying Gresham and knew he did not have to use another torpedo. His concern now was for his crew, and to hunt another victim, he set course for St. Nazaire.

John "Pappy" Champ finished loading the lifeboats and saw to it that one was designated to hold the wounded, of which there were seven (including himself). The giant swells heaved the tiny lifeboats and eventually swamped Champ's little floating ambulance.

(Cont on page 7)

DAVE & MITCH

By Erin M. Blochette

Editor's Note: This is part eight of a continuing serial adventure involving two Kemper cadets during their first year at Kemper. Read and follow along with them as they find answers to everyday problems.

When your future is at stake the minutes seem as if they are hours and the clock itself works as though the gears are coated in molasses. Dave looked at Mitch and grew angry as the two sat in the small annex room. Dave saw the access panel to the loft where the projection crew operated the motion picture camera for movies. Although it was the first time he had ever been in this room he understood its simple utility. Right now it was he and his roommates detention cell as they awaited the outcome of their hearing.

"Damn you, Mitch!" Dave said, "Why are you such a practical joker? Why is everything such a joke to you? Don't you understand that those assholes are going to kick us out?"

Mitch looked at Dave and nodded. "I understand, Buddy. I'm sorry that I got you into this. I never meant for that to happen. I tried to explain that you had nothing to do with it but they are going to do what they want. They like blood, Buddy! They are sadistic jerks. They don't care about you or me, all they care about is their rank and the comforts which come from being an upper classman!"

Mitch reached into his pocket and pulled out a mangled pack of cigarettes which had only two or three cigarettes left. He opened up the top and pulled one of the Winston smokes out an inch offering it to Dave.

Dave shook his head saying, "I can't believe that you think you're going to smoke a cigarette in here! They're in there debating our future and you're going to light a cigarette? Unreal!"

"I got a flash message for you, Buddy Boy, said Mitch. Those guys are going to make an example of us and nothing we can do will change that. Now share a smoke with me and relax."

Before Mitch could decide whether or not to accept the offer of the smoke, an MP opened the door and simply said, "The accused will present themselves for verdict!" It made the whole issue of whether or not to smoke moot.

Mitch and Dave walked to the door and through it, the other MP's surrounding them as before. They walked back into the assembly hall and halted, the lead MP saluted and reported once again, "Sir, the accused cadets are present!"



"I got a flash message for you Buddy Boy!"

The Corps Commander rose and looked at the two boys, who both stood rigid and straight as they awaited their punishment. He began in a sober voice.

"I do not enjoy the duty of investigating violations before the Standard of Honor. I wish that none of us were here this evening. I am certain that each of you wish that you were not here.

It deeply troubles me that you, cadet Mitch Pierson, have such a low regard for some level of maturity. Kemper can teach its cadets discipline and fundamentals of leadership, but maturity must come from within by desire. In the time you have been here, Pierson, you have shown a complete and total disregard for authority and a contempt for cadet leadership.

All of us truly desire to see you someday look back on this and know that we have no contempt for you. I hope that you someday realize that we all wanted to help you grow and become a better student. I regret that you do not look upon Kemper in the same way as we do.

Cadet Wilford, your roommate has attempted to exculpate you from responsibility in this matter. His attempt to exonerate you is the one honorable thing he has done since he arrived here. I believe that you want to be a Kemper cadet and continue here at school. It is most fortunate for you that the Junior Warden, acting in your defense, noted that you have not yet signed the Standard of Honor.

While this is not an active defense and all cadets are bound by the Standard whether they have signed it or not, you are given the utmost leniency as a new cadet.

This Court is not a punitive exercise and is not intended to demonstrate school sanctioned hazing. Regardless of what either of you may think, it is our duty to at least try and impart to each of you a sense of caring. It is why Kemper is called a 'school' and not an institute or something like that. We are all still learning! The Senior Warden will read the verdict."

The assembly hall was silent as the Senior Warden stood to read the verdict. "Now in the matter of cadets Pierson and Wilford we the Standard of Honor Commission having heard the charges and, considering all the evidence, do find that both cadets Wilford and Pierson are guilty of said violations!"

Again the Corps Commander stood as the Senior Warden turned to sit. "Cadet Mitch Pierson, it is the recommendation of this Court that you be referred to the Commandant for separation from the Kemper Corps of Cadets and expelled with prejudice.

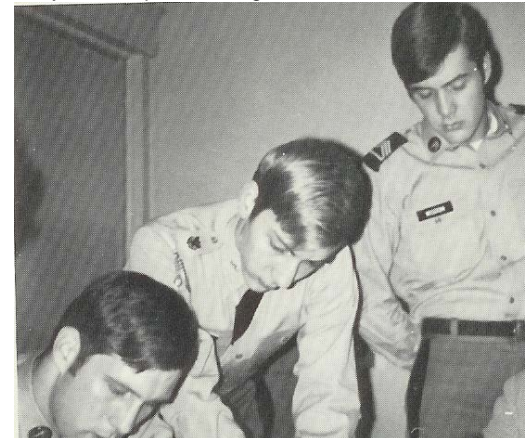
Cadet Dave Wilford, it is the recommendation of this Court that you be referred to the Commandant and incur as punishment for your actions of omission a term of special area to be determined by him."

The Corps Commander looked at Mitch and said, "Pierson, do you understand the

punishment as I have read it to you? You are going to be expelled. We have recommended that this be done with prejudice which is to expel you in front of the Corps, do you understand that as well?"

Wilford, you have not been expelled but you may very well wish that you had. You will walk so many hours around that court that you will wear out a pair of shoes! Almost every cadet in this Corps will have nothing to do with you. Some will blame you for the departure of Pierson, others will say you got off easy while he paid the full price. The remainder of your new cadet year will be much like a living hell for you. To that end I have instructed your Company Commander to insure you are isolated and unhazed so that you may have the maximum opportunity to reflect on these events.

Do either of you have anything to say?" Both cadets stood numbed in silence before the Court. Again the Corps Commander spoke, "In about an hour the Corps will be assembled in this room where they will witness the discharge of Cadet Pierson. If your conduct is honorable at that assembly and without outburst or interruption I will instruct the Provost Marshall to make accommodation for you pending your parent's arrival. If you do not conduct yourself with dignity but demonstrate an outburst then your personal effects and you will be deposited at the curb on Third Street and you can spend the night there. You are dismissed!"



"Cadets Pierson and Wilford, we, the Standard of Honor Commission having heard the charges..."

Both Dave and Mitch saluted and did an about face. Dave watched as the familiar MP's surrounded Mitch and commanded "forward, march!". Dave had no such escort and followed the MP's and his roommate to his room. Once there the MP's quickly took one of Mitch's blankets and spread it on the floor filling the center with the personal possessions of Mitch Pierson.

An MP was stationed outside the door to their room standing at parade rest. Dave could not speak but extended his hand to Mitch in a gesture of thanks. "It's okay, Buddy!" Said Mitch. "I didn't want to be here anyway. I'd rather smell perfume and gasoline than Kiwi and Brasso."

Mitch again took the rumpled pack of cigarettes from his pocket and offered a smoke to Dave. This time both cadets lit their smokes and had what each knew was their last cigarette together.

Be sure to read the next issue of the ECHO for more adventures of "Dave and Mitch"

The Board of Directors for Echo Company, Kemper Military School, cordially invite you to attend a weekend of remembrance and celebration which will feature the dedication of a marker recognizing our school. Please join with us 10-12 June 2011 in Blackwater, Missouri as we pay tribute to Kemper.

"MUSICIAN SUPREME"

By Alex Tetringer

In the fall of 1945 Kemper very well reflected the mood in the rest of the country. A sense of "getting back to fun" seemed to obsess American values. Radio shows seemed more vibrant and humorous, music radiated the mixing of cultures which the war had brought about.

Everywhere musicians were growing in popularity, even at Kemper. This year of stability seemed to inspire and even transcend the normal, cadets all wanted to be part of the "big band".

Only a few were good enough to be a part of what was seen as the coalition of talented musicians. Colonel A.M. Hitch was not blind to the talents of the young cadets and he seized upon the opportunity to make this group the greatest band Kemper had ever known. In short he succeeded beyond his wildest dreams.

On a cold Saturday morning in November 1945 the telephone rang at the Hitch house. Bertha answered and immediately recognized the voice as the pastor of the Boonville Methodist Church. He explained that he was in something of a difficult position and needed Colonel Hitch's help. Bertha fetched her husband, who listened to the pastor's problem and simply said, "I think we can help you."

A short time later the telephone rang in the OD's office and the Officer of the Day was instructed to have Cadet Silverberg report to Colonel Hitch's home at once. To a young cadet the only reason for such an appointment was serious trouble. Silverberg wondered if he was being expelled or if everything was okay at home. He reported to the Hitch house without delay.

Colonel Hitch greeted Herb Silverberg, invited him in and offered a chair. "Silverberg, he began, the Methodist Church here in town has a bit of a problem. The organist is sick and the doctor thinks it is pneumonia. The pastor called me this morning and asked if I knew anyone who could fill in on a moment's notice. You immediately came to my mind. Will you play the organ at church tomorrow for the Methodists?"



Silverberg did not hesitate but agreed to play. Now keep in mind that Herb was a good Jewish boy who had never even stepped foot into the Methodist Church and had never seen the organ or the sheet music there. But play he did! The congregation was wowed and astounded by the Mozart-like complexity of the music Silverberg was reading and playing for the first time.

Keep in mind though that this is a Kemper cadet and, boys will be boys...Silverberg could not resist

the temptation to jazz things up just a bit so he added "Down by the Old Mill Stream" to his repertoire of Christian hymns.

The congregation loved it and calls soon came pouring into Hitch's office thanking him for sharing this fine young man with the community. Hitch had hit the jackpot!

In short order Colonel Hitch announced that the Kemper Dance Band would be going to Kansas City for competition in the LOOK magazine amateur jazz bands contest. They went, and it wasn't even close. Kemper claimed all honors and reporters were left running to telephone their news desks of this phenomenal band.

Here they are:

Dick "Buddy Rich" Radasch

Herb "Kenton" Silverberg

Bob "Kemper" Cale

Les "The Artist" Langsford

Alvino "Beer" Pfathad

Jack Hall

Jack Coultas

Martin "The Mayor" Hathanson

Jim "Benny" Davidsmeyer

Ron Smith

Roger Bell

Norm Van Diest

Ray Russell

Gordon Friedel

You think you had it rough at Kemper? How about following your normal routine and adding four hours a day for practice? Add in another twelve on weekends, but don't forget that you are expected to practice on your own time as well. It was grueling, but the determined cadets stood up to the test with determination.

In January 1946 the Kemper Dance Band was invited to New York City where they would play Carnegie Hall for the final round of elimination in the LOOK magazine competition. Once more it wasn't even close!

The Kemper Dance Band took national honors and a huge trophy for their efforts. The school was the beneficiary of the prize money donated by LOOK magazine.



Shortly after returning to Kemper, the band leader held a reception at Colonel Hitch's home honoring the Kemper Dance Band and insuring everyone had a chance to hold and admire their trophy. It was a good thing because shortly afterward the trophy vanished and was never seen again.

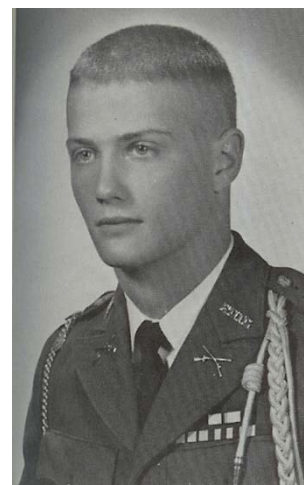
No other group of Kemper musicians before or since



have captured as much fame and glory as did that 1945-46 group. Echo Company, Kemper Military School salutes the accomplishments of this "band of renown" and adds all fourteen members to Echo Company and the Eternal Corps of Cadets where they will play to the entertainment of all.



Herb Silverberg shown here in 1994 at the identical organ he played in 1945. Silverberg reported that the memories brought back by the experience were all good ones.



This issue of the **ECHO** recognizes one of the very few winners of the Military Cross, Stew Hagan, who came to Kemper from Sioux City, Iowa.

We've lost Stew and believe that his busy schedule selling real estate in Arizona has precluded him from greater involvement in Echo Company.

Hagan was the Adjutant in 1961 and was a distinguished member of the

Kemper Corps of Cadets during his time at Kemper.

If you have contact with Stew Hagan, or if you know of someone who can contact him, please have him get in touch with Echo Company at:

**Echo Company
1518 Kaby Avenue
Crivitz, WI 54114**



Don Rust sketched little Emily just as WW II was ending. The thoughtful influence of Norman Rockwell can easily be seen. Rockwell influenced Rust, but it was Rockwell who thanked the younger artist for doing artwork Rockwell could not. We don't know where Rust was when he used watercolors to capture young Emily but it looks a lot like Southeast Oklahoma and that smile on her face can only mean she has a new rope trick to show her Kemper cadet when he gets home from school.

We don't have any rope tricks but we have some great deals in our Quartermaster!



Gatlings to the Assault

San Juan Hill, Santiago de Cuba, 1 July 1898. An important yet little known incident in American arms occurred during the assault on San Juan Hill in the war with Spain. The going was tough up the hill, since the Spaniards were well entrenched. Lieutenant John H. Parker was in command of the Gatling Gun Detachment composed of men from four different infantry regiments. Parker believed that his guns, which normally played only a defensive role in battle, could be of decisive importance in the attack by giving superiority to the infantry just when most needed. Receiving permission to advance the guns, Parker brought his detachment abreast of the infantry- in fact ahead of some elements of it- and opened fire. This, the United States Army's first use of close support machine guns in the attack, was decisive in the capture of San Juan Hill.

Lieutenant Parker's initiative developed an important principle of fire and maneuver – the use of close support machine guns in the attack.

For years the framed Department of the Army posters which hung on the walls of the military

science department at Kemper were viewed with passing interest by most cadets. Echo Company has all of these posters preserved within the archive.

While doing research on this particular poster, DA Poster 21-46, it was learned that after the Spanish American War Parker was appointed to Kemper Military School as the Professor of Military Science.



Parker was decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross four times making him the only officer in the history of the US Army to receive this award four times in a single campaign.

Born in Sedalia, Missouri on September 9th 1866 he always wanted to attend Kemper Military School but never managed to make that happen. He did manage to capture an appointment to West Point in 1884 and graduated in 1888.

After the Spanish American War, Parker was assigned to the US Army Training Regulation Command where he wrote volumes on the employment of machine guns and machine gun tactics. In 1912 he was assigned as the Professor of Military Science at Kemper.

During WW I he deployed with the 28th Infantry Division as a colonel of infantry. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of general and died in 1942. Parker's son, Robert W. Parker, attended Kemper from 1918 to 1922.

THEODORE VAN RAVENSWAAY MD

Long time physician and resident of Tiburon, California, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2011, at Kaiser Hospital at age 83. He is survived by his wife, Nancy van Ravenswaay of Tiburon, son Dr. Paul van Ravenswaay of Washington, D.C.; daughter Carolyn van Ravenswaay of Jackson, CA; his brother Lyle van Ravenswaay of Lexington, Virginia; his sister Sharon Topel, of Wichita, Kansas; grandson Nicholas P. Donovan, of Tiburon; his extended family in the US and the Netherlands, and many life-long friends. We all loved

him and will miss him very much. Theodore was born on July 29, 1927, to Dr. Alex van Ravenswaay and Bernice Brummell van Ravenswaay in Boonville, Missouri. He attended Kemper Military School in Boonville after which he was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in post WW II Germany. He attended University of Missouri and received his medical degree from Washington University in 1953. He interned at Barnes Hospital, had residencies in pathology at the University of California, San Francisco; Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. He taught pathology at the Free University of Amsterdam on a Fulbright fellowship in 1958-59. Returning to Missouri in 1959, Theodore was the pathologist at Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital in Columbia, Missouri, and returned to San Francisco as a pathologist at Kaiser Permanente. In 1964, Dr. van Ravenswaay began residencies in dermatology at UCSF, and trained as Assistant Registrar at Saint John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London. He returned to a position in



dermatology at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco, in 1967 becoming a dermatologist at Kaiser Terra Linda. During his years there, he was instrumental in establishing the Mohs Clinic for cancer surgery, was an Associate Clinical Professor in

Dermatology, UCSF, and also served as Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He was board certified in Pathology, Dermatology and Dermatopathology and retired from Kaiser Permanente in 1987 as chief of the San Rafael Kaiser Dermatology Department. While in medical school, he married Nancy Anne Neef, also of Boonville, Missouri, on August 7, 1950 and his children were born in St. Louis at Barnes Hospital. Theodore enjoyed sailing and traveling with his wife and family, especially to visit family in the Netherlands. Following their year in London, the family traveled from the Netherlands to the Mediterranean on their sailboat. He was a lifetime member of the Corinthian Yacht Club. Private services are planned. Donations are preferred to the Scholarship Fund, Washington University School of Medicine, Medical Alumni and Development Programs, CB 1247, 7425 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri

VAN RAVENSWAAY REMEMBERED ASTHOUGHTFUL AND CARING

Dr. Ted Van Ravenswaay will long be remembered for his many thoughtful, caring acts many of which deeply touched Echo Company members. Notably among these was the sharing of his collection of 8mm home movies which have been digitalized and uploaded to www.echocompany.org

We scoured the archive in an attempt to find an image of Ted but the best we will be able to do is leave you with his impish smile and hand salute from a youthful Kemper cadet which closes the film we titled "As We Go Marching".

It was cadet Van Ravenswaay mugging for the camera in 1945, and it will be him eternally smiling to everyone who watches. We will miss you doc, our thoughts and prayers are with your family and friends.

"So says Echo Company, so say we all!"