

STORIES FROM "PIPA BILL"

THE SHATTUCK CRACK SQUAD

From the moment I first saw the performance of the Shattuck Crack Squad, I was absolutely determined to become a member. This would require hard work, considerable dedication, concentration, athletic skill, even charisma. More than half the student body (which then was over 250) showed up for the 1945 tryouts. Eleven new members were selected. (The Squad became sixteen; today, it totals half that - a smaller school.) There has never been an achievement that would match the significance to me of being a member of that organization. That would include graduating from Amherst College and Harvard Business School, election to the Presidency of a national trade association, becoming a member of the Million Dollar Round Table's "Top of the Table" (whose members total even less than the Crack Squad alumni). There is a powerful mystique surrounding the Crack Squad, very much akin to being a Black Belt or a member of Skull And Bones (Yale), and not too unlike the Heidelberg Dueling Societies. I have yet to meet another member of the Squad who did not feel the same way.

The Crack Squad started in 1882 when three Shads, billed as the "far famed fancy drill squad," performed between acts of a minstrel show observing George Washington's birthday. The name Crack Squad was first used at Commencement in 1883. Within a few years, The Squad had become self-perpetuating, with new members being selected on the basis of tryouts conducted each fall by the captain and returning members.

After the membership is completed each year, about 200 hours of practice is required before the first drill is presented. The Captain, without adult supervision and suggestion, is responsible for developing and perfecting the drill which is given without spoken commands.

The maneuvers and formations in the drill are patterned after those of the Omaha Zouaves developed by General John J. Pershing in the late 1890s when he was a second lieutenant stationed in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1941, General Pershing accepted honorary membership in The Squad.

When in motion, The Squad uses a distinctive 4-inch roll step at a cadence of 250 steps a minute. (The usual marching cadence is 120 30-inch-steps a minute.) The step, although imitated, has never been duplicated by other drill teams.

The uniform of black midshipman's type blouse and white trousers was designed by Charles Cotton. Class of 1890, who had attended the U.S. Naval Academy before entering Shattuck. It has been used since 1889. The Crack Squad pin was designed by Anker B. Henningsen, Captain in 1921.

The Crack Squad Manual of Arms is basically the same as the regular Army Manual of the 1880's when the 53-inch, nine pound army rifles (Model 1876, Calibre 45-70 Springfield) now used by The Squad were regular army issue at Shattuck. The old Springfield rifles were declared obsolete in the 1890's.

The Crack Squad has never been defeated in competition with other precision teams.

Marlon Brando (who was ultimately expelled from Shattuck) was made a member in 1943 but made these seemingly contradictory remarks:

"It is only through order, submission to discipline and the exorcising of individuality that you make a good soldier. Many people really enjoy it; I witnessed it at Shattuck, and I've seen it in a hundred different ways since then. But I hated it. To regiment people -- to make them march in step, all in uniform, marching in a unit -- was nauseating to me."

But later in his autobiography,

"In my second year at Shattuck, I made the drill team, which was called

the Crack Squad. It was considered one of the best in the country and was a prestigious assignment. In parades and competitions with other schools, we marched in close-order formation, threw our rifles into the air and did complicated drills with everything synchronized and coordinated. We were never defeated in competitions, but it was hard work; for every minute of our performance, we probably spent ten hours practicing." From Brando, Songs My Mother Taught Me, Random House, 1994.

In the first paragraph, Brando demonstrates his rebellion against authority, discipline, and conformity, which was later displayed in many of his acting roles. But in the second, he reflects on the "prestigious assignment" where he has been selected by his peers and has become a member of an elite team accorded the highest of cadet credibility.

An article (attached) appearing in a 1986 Shattuck . St. Mary's Alumni Magazine, entitled, "*The Last Drill For Vic*" will demonstrate the powerful fraternal traditions and the camaraderie that this organization calls forth.

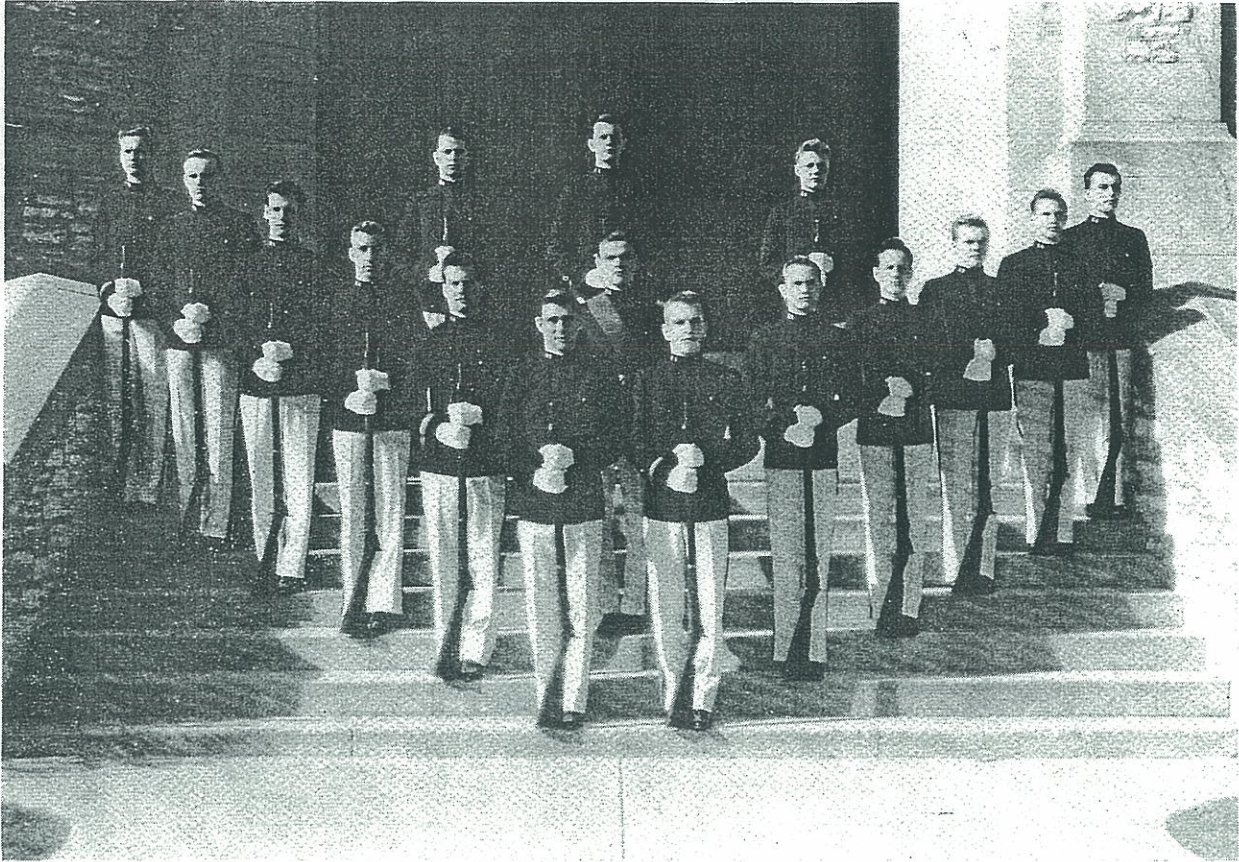
Somebody had to teach me the Crack Squad manual. My mentor was Eugene F. "Jerry" Huse ('45), also my floor officer in my first year. Jerry was a perfectionist in everything he did (as anybody familiar with sailing at Lake Okoboji - where his record is unequalled - will confirm). He was first in his class academically and was given a special star for being the Squad's best driller. However, he told me, "Peverill, you will never make it!" The challenge was all I needed.

I entered Shattuck at the middle of my junior year. As a "new boy," one was expected to shine "old" boys' shoes, run their errands, and become demonstrably servile, as well as be subjected to some hazing. "New boys" were not allowed to try out for the Squad, but while I was still technically a "new boy" in the first semester of my senior year, they let me be a candidate. When I made the Squad, I made

history: The only "new boy" ever to be a member of the Shattuck Crack Squad.

In 1971, one of my roommates at Amherst - John Greenbaum - invited Katie and me to the Kentucky Derby. John numbers Churchill Downs among his legal clients, and we were invited to all the "inside" parties. One party was at the Bingham (owner of the Louisville paper) estate (The Bingham's were later part of a nationally celebrated real live soap opera, culminating in the sale of the paper to the Gannett organization.) One house in the Bingham compound was cleared, and room was made for the party, providing a large dance hall. There I found Charles B. (Bud) Wilkinson (Shattuck '33). I said, "You know, Bud, we have something in common." "What's that?" he asked. I told him: "We both were members of the Shattuck Crack Squad!" Bud responded, "Hey, let's do the Squad step right here and now together!" During this, Katie appeared, and I introduced her to "Bud" to which she remarked, "Bud Wilkinson, don't I know you for something besides the Shattuck Crack Squad?" I have kidded her about that ever since.

Bud Wilkinson may have been the most celebrated football hero ever. Captain of the Shattuck football team, he later won the Big Ten medal for outstanding scholar athlete in 1937. But he truly excelled as a coach: as the Oklahoma coach, he won three national titles and twelve straight conference championships. His record of 47 straight wins is still an all-time national record. He was special consultant to President Kennedy and was a member of President Nixon's White House Staff when I met him in 1971. But for Bud Wilkinson, the Shattuck Crack Squad had special meaning. He died in 1994. His obituaries typically were headlined, "Longtime Coach Dies At 77: Sooner Legend Wilkinson Remembered as Class Act." Indeed, I thought so.



Fifty years ago: The 1945-46 Crack Squad

Left to right: Dennis Kelley '46, David Fesler '46, Larry Jackley '46, Prentice Hill '47, James Olson '46, Carleton Magoun '46, Rooney McInerney '46, Anker P. Henningsen '46, Eben Dobson '46, William Peverill '46, Blaine Kincaid '46, Cornelius Hook '47. Center: Edgerton Bronson '46. Rear: Benjamin Jaffray '47, William Anderson '47, William Sadler '48.

Nineteen forty-six was a momentous year for Shattuck Cadets. The headlines in the Spectator told of Old Shads returning home from the war or being decorated for bravery and service to country rather than the previous years' headlines that told of Old Shads missing or killed in war. Brig. Gen. Lewis E. Beebe, commandant at Shattuck from 1932 to 1938, was released after 30 months imprisonment in a Japanese prison camp and returned to his old school to review the Shattuck Corps of cadets. Dr. Henning returned as Rector after serving for three years as Chaplain in the Army, and Dr. C. Walter Rumpf returned to his post as Shattuck's physician.

Due to the war, there was a critical shortage of the fabric used for Crack Squad uniforms, and a plea went out to old Squad members to please donate their uniforms. Anker Henningsen was presented with his father's Crack Squad pin on his birthday. His father was Captain of the Squad in 1921.

The 1945-46 Squad presented seven drills that year, at Winter Carnival, two drills at the Chicago Colosseum for the Sportsman's Show, at the Sportmen's Show in

Minneapolis, the Junior-Senior Ball, once for Government Inspection and at the Commencement dance.

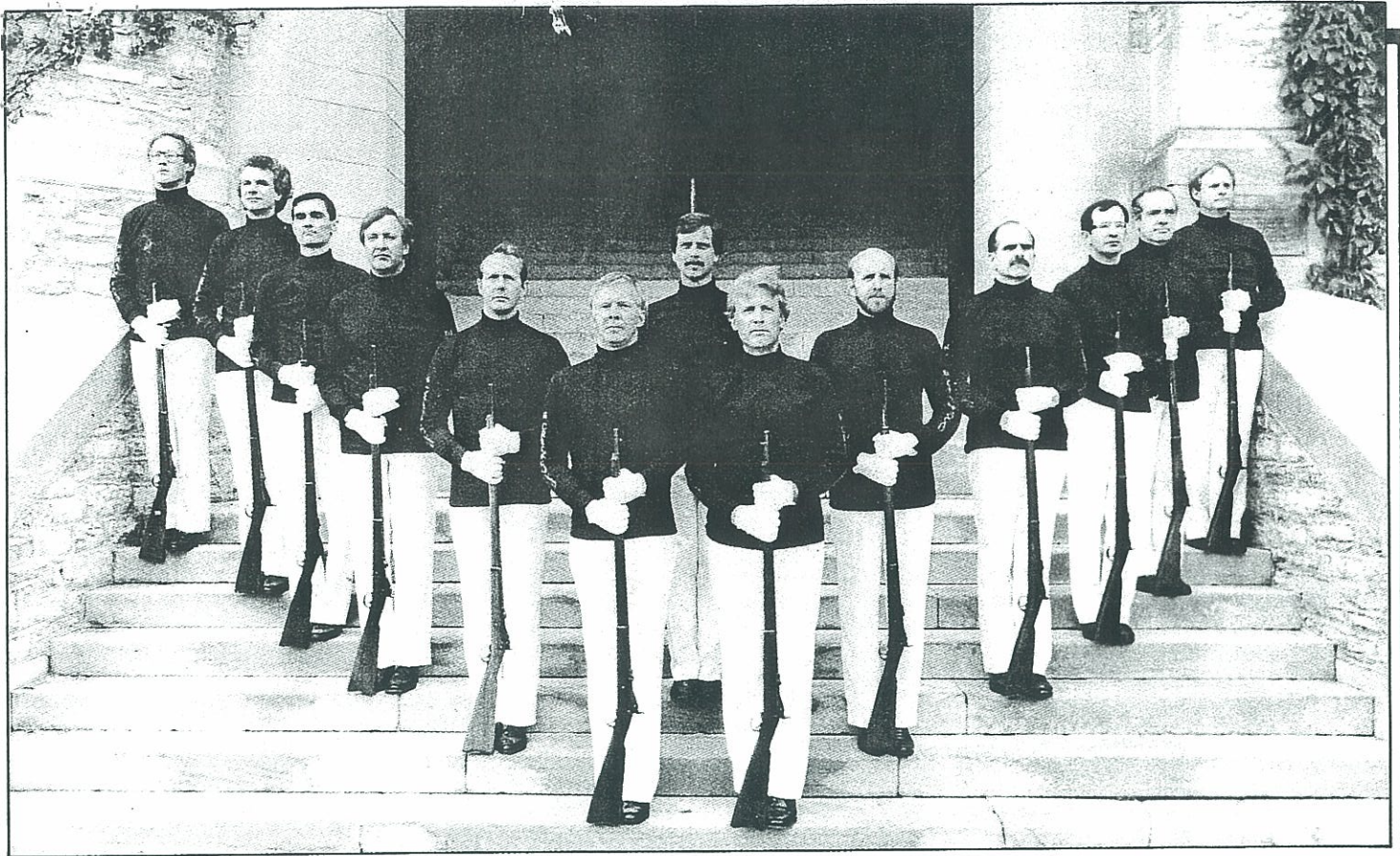
Where is the 1945-46 Squad fifty years later?

Kelley - Lakeland, FL
Fesler - St. Paul, MN
Hill - Eden Prairie, MN
Magoun - Sioux City, IA
Dobson - Eugene, OR
Kincaid - Wilmette, IL
Jaffray - Wayzata, MN

Hook - Atlanta, GA
Jackley - Alexandria, VA
Olson - Seattle, WA
Henningsen - Medford, OR
Peverill - Des Moines, IA
Bronson - Woodbury, MN
Sadler - Sallisbury, MD

The Alumni office records show Rooney McInerney as deceased, and show no current address for William Anderson.

It is hoped that all the Squad members from the Class of 1946 will return to campus in June for the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation from Shattuck School.



One Last Drill for Vic

G. Victor Malmgren III '62 died July 1, 1985. The inscription next to his senior picture in "The Shad" states, "Vic, intelligent, immensely capable and very personable, throughout his four years at Shattuck exemplified the true leader. Many as Battle Group Commander, Captain of the Crack Squad and honor student would have perhaps lost their balance. However, Vic remained his wonderfully modest self, dating regularly at St. Mary's, participating in dramatics and still finding time to joke with fellows.

"It was largely through Vic's understanding, sacrifice and hard work that the class of '62 was unique in being united, and the entire class will always be indebted to him for his unselfish devotion in obtaining this end."

Even though 25 years have passed since that inscription was written and Vic is gone, his ideals and the spirit of his leadership continue to unite his classmates.

Vic was a member of the Crack Squad for three years and Captain in his senior year. At the time, Marshall Froker '62 and Todd Musburger '62 wrote to Vic's friends and classmates to inform them of his death, and the idea for one last drill was conceived by John Bednar '61. During reunion weekend, thirteen

members of the '61 and '62 Squads, from California to Connecticut, from Texas to Alaska, came home to Shattuck-St. Mary's to drill for Vic.

It wasn't easy. Muscles that hadn't been used for 25 years protested in pain. Formations that were long thought to be forgotten were dredged up from memory and practiced at home. They bought white pants and black turtle-necked shirts and had "1961 Crack Squad" printed in gold down the sleeve. The first time they all practiced together was on Wednesday, one day before their public performance.

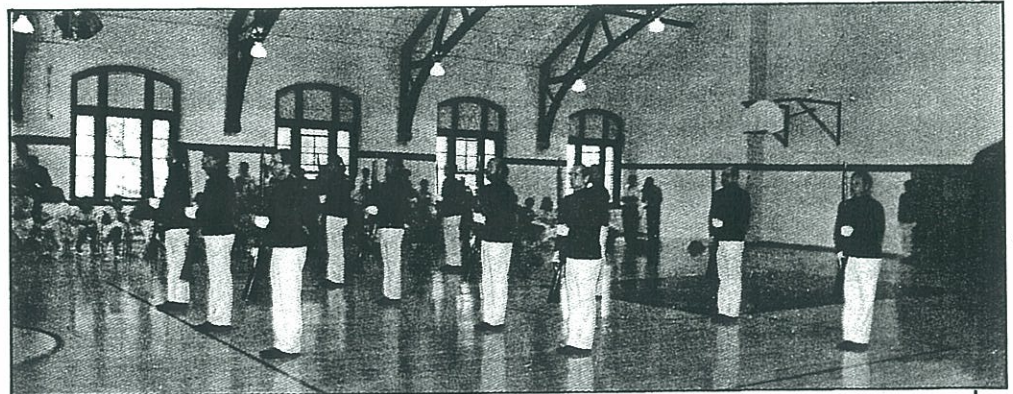
They never missed a step. Twenty-five years melted away and their bodies moved as one as their hearts and purpose were one. Twice they paused for a

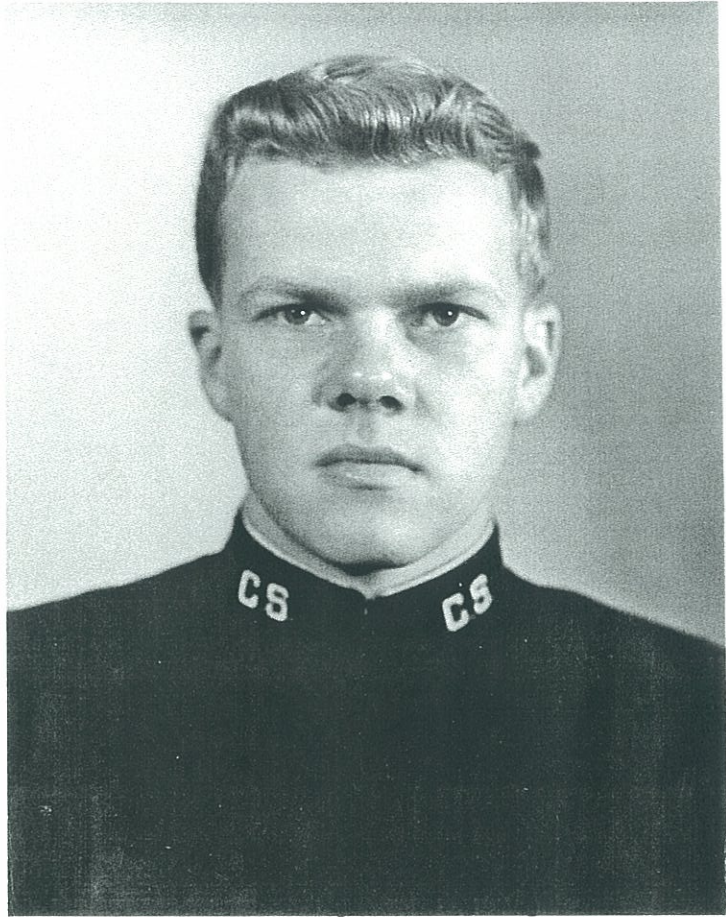
moment of silence in memory of Vic.

At the end, they formed in one line, facing the double doors: Bain Smith '61, Bill Strasburger '61, Webb Barnett '61, John Bednar '61, Bill Spear '61, Nick Wilson '61, Greg Fahlund '61, Rick Layton '61, Ralph Keith '61, John Hilton '61, Todd Musburger '62, Mark Sconce '62, Marshall Froker '62.

A long, silent moment passed, then the doors crashed open and the '86 Squad marched onto the floor, forming face to face with the '61 Squad. One by one the '61 Squad presented their rifles to the '86 Squad, their gift to the school in the memory of Vic.

The '61 Squad had performed their last drill.







Charles Burnham Wilkinson

Minneapolis, Minnesota

BIG SWEDE

WILKERSON is a triple threat man, not only on the athletic field, but in the halls of St. Mary's as well. Besides, he's one of the most popular fellows in the class, and an officer at that.

Entered Fall of 1929

Corporal 3; Sergeant 4; Second Lieutenant 4; First Lieutenant 4; Officers' Club 4; Crack Squad 3-4; "S" Club 2-3-4; Secretary and Treasurer, "S" Club 4; Bridge Club 4; First Team Football 2-3-4; First Team Baseball 1-2-3-4; First Team Hockey 1-2-3; Badge Football 1; Vice-President of Class '33 3-4; Captain Football Team 4; Fall Orpheum 2; Business Staff Shad 3; Business Manager Shad 4; Undeclared Hockey Team 2; Undeclared Baseball Team 2; Flag Company 3; Commencement Play 4; Cum Laude.

Addenda

Crack Squad Story

Dent, Jim. *The Undefeated: The Oklahoma Sooners and the greatest winning streak in college football*. St. Martins Press, 2001

“Perhaps (Wilkinson’s) most satisfying accomplishment was not only making the Crack Squad – the nationally known precision drill and rifle unit – but also excelling as its finest member. It was the Crack Squad that representatives from the War Department deemed the greatest unit from any military school in the country. Thanks to long hours of work and discipline, the Shattuck drill unit had never lost in competition. Ten hours of practice usually equaled one minute of performance.”

Higham, Charles. *Brando: The Unauthorized Biography*. Nal Books, 1987

“Marlon was also a member of the Crack Squad, which his father had joined in 1916. This was a precision-drill team whose members were considered the school elite. To join it was Shattuck’s highest honor; the squad had never been defeated in intercollegiate competition. To be part of the squad involved two hundred hours of flat-out training for just twenty minutes before parents at the annual parade. Marlon Jr.’s membership in the squad was one of the few accomplishments that his father ever appreciated.”

(Note: His father lied; he was never a member.)

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William J. Peverill, CFP

John A. Peverill, CFP

September 24, 2001

The Editor
The New York Times Book Review
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

Also: books@nytimes.com

Re: *Marlon Brando* by Patricia Bosworth

Dear Sir or Madam:

Gary Giddins should have been assigned the writing of the Brando biography instead of reviewing the latest story of his life. Investigative writing uncovered Louis Armstrong's actual birthday in Giddins' definitive *Satchmo*. In his recent Bing Crosby biography, the in-depth statistical review of Crosby's accomplishments documents Crosby's powerful significance. Patricia Bosworth's study, while an absorbing read, relies so heavily on secondary sources that some doubt is cast on a legitimate conclusion: "Brando [like Armstrong] changed the world as well as his profession."

She misnames Shattuck School (It was never named Shattuck Military Academy), and she misspells its location (which is Faribault, not Fairbault). She accepts the not-even-apocryphal story that cadets went on strike to protest his expulsion; although he had friends and admirers, his was a quiet exodus. More importantly, she omits Brando's greatest and surprising achievement (considering his anti-military attitude): his selection as a member of the elite, prestigious and nationally known precision drill and rifle unit, the Shattuck Crack Squad. At Shattuck, this easily trumped his acting performance. His membership was one of the few accomplishments his father ever appreciated. Brando, Sr. claimed to have been a Crack Squad member (in 1916), which was a lie. Bosworth states that the central drama of Brando's life is to prove his father wrong. Unknowingly he had already done so in 1943.

Sincerely,

William J. Peverill
President

Bud Wilkinson during his playing days as a quarterback for Minnesota in 1936. *University of Oklahoma*



Bud Wilkinson as a student at Shattuck Military School in 1932. *University of Oklahoma*



The 1952 backfield: (left to right): Buddy Leake, Heisman Trophy winner Billy Vessels, quarterback Eddie Crowder, and fullback Buck McPhail. *University of Oklahoma*

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William J. Peverill, CFP

John A. Peverill, CFP

August 14, 2000

Dr. John Niederhauser
2474 North Camino Valley Verde
Tucson, Arizona 85715

Dear Dr. Niederhauser:

While I realize that what brings you to Des Moines is the celebration and recognition of the contributions made by yourself and others toward alleviating hunger and malnutrition throughout the world and that nothing could begin to match the importance of these accomplishments, I have always wanted to acknowledge yet another very significant (while less consequential) achievement of yours.

I write stories for my grandchildren (who call me "Pipa Bill"). Enclosed is one of these: The Shattuck Crack Squad. To have had three sons who were members of that organization (two of them captains!) is a feat never again to happen.

Hope to see you during one of your visits here.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'WJ Peverill', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

William J. Peverill
President

Enc.

JOHN S. NIEDERHAUSER

2474 Camino Valle Verde
Tucson, Arizona 85715

Sept. 12, 2000

Dear Bill -

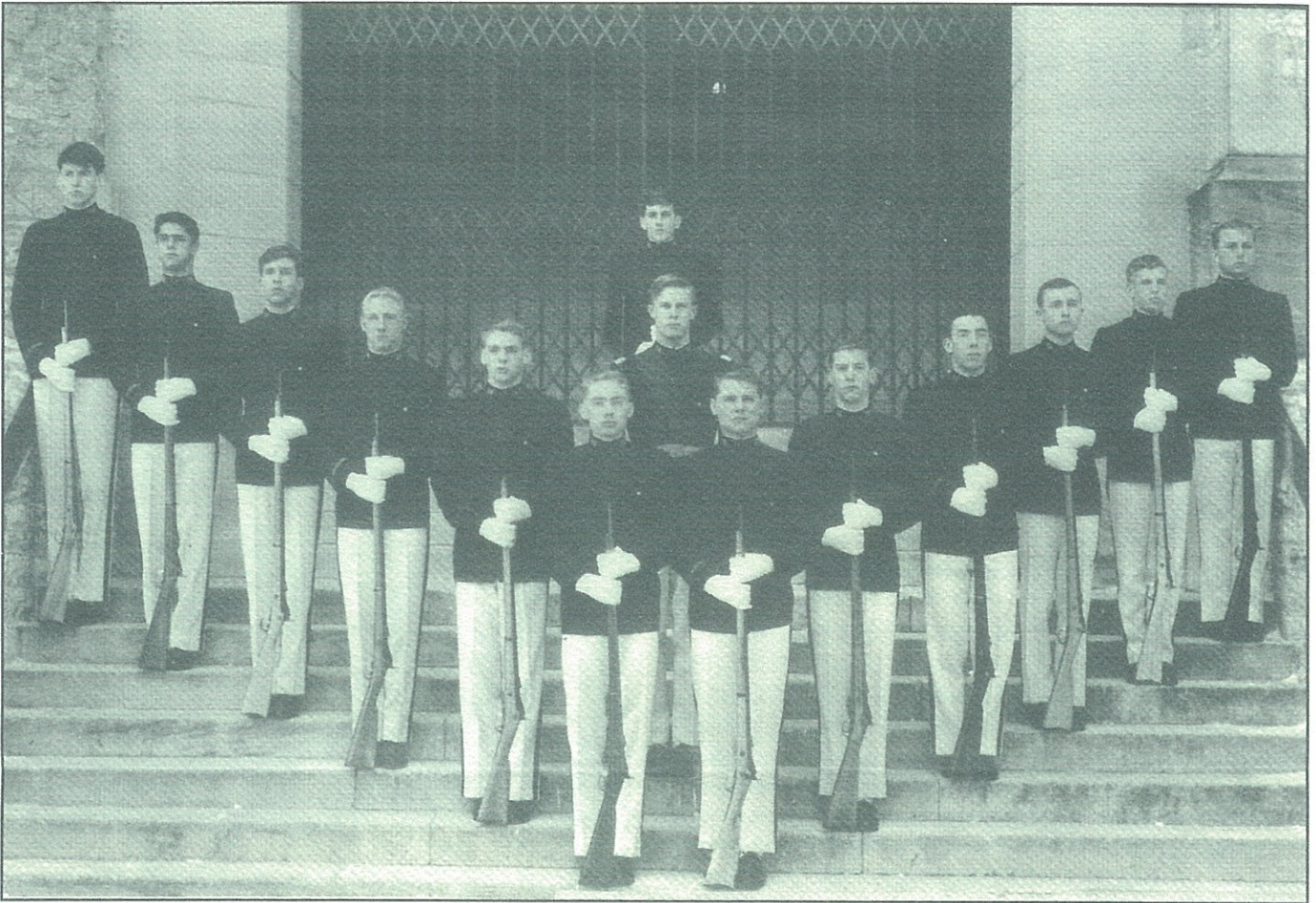
Thank you so much for your good letter of August 14, together with the story on the Shattuck Crack Squad, and your membership in 1945-6.

I have shared this story with my 3 sons, and as you know, they were thrilled to read it. Since they are only in their '50s, I am not sure if they are old enough to be polite and thank you, but I hope they do!

If there is a convenient time in October to meet with you, I would look forward to it.

Best regards,

Sincerely,
John



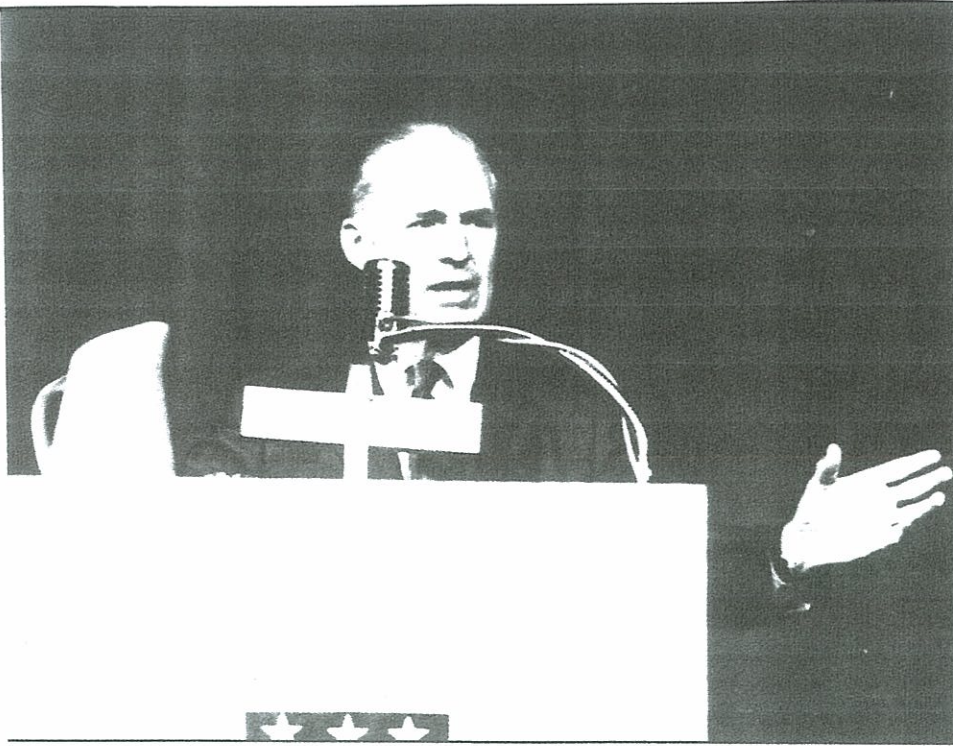
Left to right: Robert Anderson, Enrique Stieglitz, Harley Armentrout, James Landes, John Bannister, John Oliver, Bruce Howe, Dwight Mackay, William Meierhoff, John Nelson, James McAvoy, Frederick Swendson. Center: Captain Robert Niederhauser. Back: Mark Van Dyke.

Remember Mexico in 1963?

Thirty-five years ago, the Crack Squad had a unique tradition. Each spring vacation, the group performed in the home city of the captain. In 1963, this tradition afforded the Squad its first trip outside of the United States. In March, Squad Captain Robert Niederhauser '63 and the Squad's 12 members boarded a plane in Minneapolis and flew to Mexico City. Niederhauser had lived in Mexico for 16 of his 18 years. His father, a Rockefeller Foundation representative, had his headquarters there. From Mexico City, the elder Niederhauser traveled about South America supervising basic agricultural projects that were the object of the foundation's philanthropy. Coincidentally, another of the Squad's members, Enrique Stieglitz '63, was also from Mexico City. The boys did not

know each other until they met at Shattuck.

The trip proved to be quite exciting. Two drills had been scheduled prior to their arrival, one at the Universidad Militar Latino Americana and the other at the American School. A third was added upon request of the American Colony. They also performed at a special taping that was televised. On their way to the Hacienda Club for some swimming, a motorcycle policeman stopped the cars in which the Squad was traveling. After some explanation, it was learned that the policeman had seen the Squad on TV the night before and had recognized them and wanted autographs. The Squad autographed a dollar bill for him.



Family News

The University of Minnesota has dedicated a new building, Borlaug Hall, to Norman Borlaug, father of **William G. Borlaug '65**. Norman Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for developing the "green revolution" wheat that fed millions around the world. Dr. Borlaug was featured in an impressive article in the University of Minnesota Update.

Bill

WILLIAM GIBSON BORLAUG

Mexico City, Mexico

Bill was one of the big guys in our class. He excelled in athletics for four years, lettering his freshman year in baseball. He was the only catcher in the conference who could call signals to the pitcher and cut up the batter and umpire in Spanish.

Bill also had the capacity for making friends. Although a lot of us stayed out of Bill's way because of his great strength, he kept a level-headed attitude toward his athletic achievements and got along well with all of his classmates. Bill's ever-present smile will always be remembered by his classmates.

Entered Fall of 1961

First Lieutenant 4; Sergeant 3; Corporal 2; PFC 2; Officers' Club 4; Guidon Bearer 2,3; Flag Company 4; Baseball 1,2,3,4, Captain 4; Football 2,3,4; Wrestling 3,4; C Football 1, Captain; B Basketball 1,2; Conference Football Champs 4; "S" Club 1,2,3,4, Vice-President 4; Crack Squad 3,4; Ski Club 1,2,3,4; Sportsman Association 2,3,4; Hockey Mealey Baseball Award 3; Capron Award, Most Valuable Player Football 4; All-Conference Tackle 4; Third Place MISL Wrestling Tournament 3.



Pro Patria et Ecclesia

The World Food Prize



Kenneth M. Quinn
Ambassador

Recognizing that hunger and poverty are the most compelling challenges of the modern world, in 1990 John Ruan established a foundation that assumed sponsorship of The World Food Prize. The Prize dramatizes the urgent need to ensure food security for future generations and alleviate hunger and malnutrition by recognizing those people whose achievements have brought us closer to these goals.

Former President Jimmy Carter, Member of The World Food Prize Council of Advisors says, “The World Food Prize does three things. It recognizes achievement, inspires others to do greater work, and acquaints the public with the importance of providing high-quality food to the world’s growing population.”

The Laureate honored each year receives \$250,000 at a ceremony held in Des Moines. In addition a symposium and Youth Institute are held in conjunction with the event where new ideas, tools, and methods—from scientific breakthroughs to financing plans—are thrust onto the world stage for all to see.

Each year The World Food Prize Foundation carries out a search to identify the man or woman who has made the greatest contribution to addressing these problems. The names Swaminathan, Chandler, Scrimshaw, Niederhauser, Yunus, and He Kang may not be familiar to everyone, but they are now very well known to the leaders of governments around the world.

One is a Swiss entomologist whose innovative pest control method saved the cassava crop in 30 African countries. Another is a businessman whose dairy cooperatives boosted milk production in India. Some are plant geneticists who developed new crop varieties. Others created distribution systems that put more food on the tables of impoverished nations. They come from many lands, but all are laureates of The World Food Prize.

John Ruan’s partner in developing this global award is Norman Borlaug, architect of “The Green Revolution.” Borlaug won the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in agriculture. Both Norman Borlaug and John Ruan were born in 1914 in small Iowa towns. Their careers took them in different directions, but ultimately their paths would cross. In a nationally syndicated article, Pulitzer Prize winning editor, Michael Gartner, explained what happened.

“John Ruan, living here in the most bountiful part of the most bountiful land . . . and Norman Borlaug traveling through the poorest areas of the poorest nations, determined that something should be done to encourage those who would find better ways to feed the world. And, independently, each came up with the idea of a world food prize. Lucky circumstances brought them together; lucky for them and lucky for the world.”