

THE ECHO



2007 Winner "Best National Newsletter" Award

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

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Vol VII No 1

PRESIDENT WELCOMES BLACKWATER ATTENDANCE

Dr. Ed Ridgley, President of Echo Company, Kemper Military School released a statement earlier in which he urged attendance of all Kemper Old Boys and those who wish to respect the memory of Kemper to attend the May reunion in Blackwater, Missouri.

"I want each member of the Kemper Military School family of cadets and friends to know that you are welcome and encouraged to attend the events in Blackwater. We began this affair as a humble tribute to our old school, and each year it has grown.

I have heard compliments and received tributes regarding the events which is why each year the staff works to expand and diversify the activities. I cannot disclose to you the full range of activities which we have planned. Some are still in the developmental phase, but I promise you will be impressed.

Whether you travel from the east or west coast, or just take a short drive from Boonville, your visit will be worthwhile and rewarding. Some of you have suggested changing our location to a major metropolitan area. Allow me to explain why we have kept Blackwater as a meeting place and why we intend to continue doing so.

First, the folks in Blackwater represent the finest in Midwestern hospitality. They are, quite simply, fine honest hardworking folks who welcome us into their community with respect and dignity.

Secondly, the location of Blackwater allows all of us to be in close physical proximity to Kemper while allowing us a certain degree of personal discretion as to when and if we visit the campus. The experience is unique to each Old Boy and is sometimes quite an emotional one, not unlike visiting loved ones' final resting place.

I hope that you will consider attending this year's gathering in Blackwater, make new friends and renew friendships from earlier days. All of us have a deep respect for the memory of Kemper and we serve that memory well when we gather to recall the good which came from our association with Kemper. I look forward to seeing you there! "

1955 Saturday Evening Post Article Makes Interesting Reading

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reprinted from the Saturday Evening Post as excerpted from the 1955 Kemper Military School yearbook.

"I have been a good deal interested lately in scientific management, the main principle of which seems to be that a man ought to be able to look over his work carefully and find out where he is weak. In some ways I am a successful man I have built up a good business- my credit at the bank is first class and other businessmen listen to my opinions with respect; but as a parent I am a flat failure. If I had no better control over the subordinates in my office than I have over the members of my own household who are supposed to be subordinates to me, I should be 'broke' in six months. I know a number of men who are trying to hold down jobs for which they are plainly incompetent, and I have considerable contempt for them. I think they ought to clear out and turn the jobs over to men who are competent.

I know, too, from my business observation, that an incompetent boss usually demoralizes the people under him. If he isn't up to his job, his subordinates - especially the younger ones - don't really have a fair show. I argue that as an incompetent parent, I must be having a bad influence on my children. As I look over the families of my friends, I conclude that at least fifty per cent of parents are no more up to the job than I am. Also, I notice this: If I had charge of my next door neighbor's children I wouldn't for a minute let them do some of the things they do now, although my own children do pretty much the same. I like his children very well; yet I am so besotted but that I would stop them from doing things that are harmful. Very likely he would stop my children, too. I think we need a class of professional parents to take charge of children and be just and kind to them - but not foolish."

Kemper Military School offers itself for this service. You may well appreciate the wholesome condition which exists at Kemper, where all boys are under the same rule, where there is no divided authority and where spare time is filled with profitable guidance in such activities as guided study, drill, athletics, and other recreational projects. It gives boys who reached the high school or early years of college the education and training necessary to complete their preparation for college, university, or business life. At the same time it applies expert methods, developed by long and successful experience, to character building and the formation of habits and attitudes of the efficient man, especially striving to create an environment that develops the best in the boy, and suppresses that which is harmful.

BLACKWATER

14-16 May 2010 you will have the opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new acquaintances. You can enjoy spring in Missouri, dinner with friends, reminisce and even rededicate your signature to the Standard of Honor.

Whether you went to Kemper Military School for one year, six years, or you simply have a love for the school and what it stood for, you are welcome - WE WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!

Come and join with us in celebration of our common heritage. Remember the things which have made us strong, unite with us and feel the pride which comes only from personal achievement and success. Your association with Kemper identifies you as unique and different in countless ways.

Whether you went to Kemper ten years ago or fifty years ago, it doesn't matter; the bond is so strong that Kemper folks generally have more in common with each other than with many members of their own family.



If you are a Kemper Old Boy this is your family and this is your family reunion. You are welcome and we encourage you to come! It may be that you are concerned that no one you know will be at the Blackwater reunion, that none of your classmates will be in attendance. Don't let that stand in the way of your attending, we are all brothers joined in a common bond.

Come and join us in
Blackwater this 14-16 May
2010!!

BUTT PACK



"GIMME A REAL CLOSE SHAVE!
I'M GOIN' TO BLACKWATER TO
BE WITH ECHO COMPANY!"

You chowder heads all wake up! It's mail call and time to read what others has been sayin'! Off yer ass and on yer feet outa the shade and into the heat, answer up when yer name is called!

Charles Berlemann – Bellingham, WA "Hey, you misspelled my name in the last issue of the *ECHO*! I still enjoy reading it though.

ECHO - Sorry about that Chuck. It was an honest mistake.

Steven McCollum – Joplin, MO "Here is my tuition for two years...my name is spelled S-T-E-V-E-N!"

ECHO – Thanks Steven, sorry about the spelling.

Bill & Patty Simpson – Fulton, MO "Our furnace went out and we're freezin' our butts off! Looking forward to seeing all of you in Blackwater.

ECHO - We all look forward to seeing you both as well.

BOONVILLE ACCOMMODATIONS

This information is provided for your planning in attendance at the May 14-16 Kemper reunion to be held in nearby Blackwater. Rates shown are per person, non-smoking, advance booking.

Days Inn
2401 Pioneer
I-70 exit 103
Boonville, Missouri 65233
(660) 882-8624
Room Rate: \$49.28

Holiday Inn Express
2419 Mid America Drive
Boonville, Missouri 65233
(877) 863-4780
(660) 882-6882
Room Rate: \$82.00

Super 8 Boonville
420 Americana Road
I-70 & Exit 103
Boonville, Missouri 65233
(660) 882-2900
Room Rate: \$67.74

Comfort Inn
2427 Mid America Drive
Boonville, Missouri 65233
(660) 882-5317
Room Rate \$99.95

Echo Company will operate a shuttle service from hotel pick up points to Blackwater and back to hotels. Details of the shuttle service are pending.

Jerry Russell – Oklahoma "Dear Friends, Happy New Year!!! I hope 2010 is a great year for all of you. I went into the hospital for 7 more days. I had an infection to my kidneys. I spent a total of 24 days in December in the hospital. I have a pic line in my arm that connects to my heart. I will be on home health care with an IV machine and antibiotics 4 times a day. If that doesn't kill the bacteria in my body then the bacteria may kill me. Anyway I'm fighting it. Take care Your Friend, Jerry Russell "Jerry and the Gents"

ECHO – Get well soon Jerry! You have many friends who extend their best wishes for a full and complete recovery. Editor's note: Jerry Russell is shown in this photograph from November 1964. The group, "Jerry and the Gents" featured D.F. Woodward and Robert S. McClary (standing), Ken A. Rust (straddling cannon), and left to right at top, Chris H. Cable, Carl F. Baxter, and Jerry A. Russell.



Dr. James Jasmin – Roswell, NM "I'll be in Blackwater and I am going to write an article for the *ECHO*! I hope to be granted tenure at Eastern New Mexico College where I teach English courses."

ECHO – James, we look forward to seeing you in Blackwater and we also are looking forward to publishing your work here in the *ECHO*.

Mike Mehlhaff – Pierre, SD "I am working on procuring a copy of 'As We Go Marching' performed by members of the Kemper Corps of Cadets for your use in conjunction with the Hall of Fame."

ECHO – Thanks Mike! We look forward to receiving the recording and will add it as soon as it arrives.

Dr. Joe Drew –Olympic Valley,CA "Happy New Year! Working this ship (USS Independence) would be so cool. Boys and toys! I took the girls to the Virgin Islands for Christmas Holiday. We had lots of fun. I definitely plan to be on a sailboat one of these days. I hope everyone is well. Let me know if anyone wants to come out. We are in the storm gap. They are lining up off west in the Pacific. At least 4 to five feet of snow is expected. I'll wait until it's piled high and then take a day off for some fresh pow pow! Take Care."

ECHO – Thanks for the invitation Joel! Skiing and island sun, great combination.

Steve Paxton – Indiana "All I remember of Christmas at KMS was Major Dundee would send a new boy to get my butt out of the rack, I would promptly send him out the door with a curse and a boot, until Dundee showed up instead of the new boy, He wasn't too happy with the boot, I did have to make reveille for the remainder of the year, I guess the S2 had to be up with the rest of Staff!!!"

Dan Ochenschlager – Florida "I am kind of wondering if there is any information on Tom Swope?"

ECHO – We are wondering if anyone has any information on Tom Swope too! Here is a photograph



from the *ECHO* archives to help loosen some memories. In 1962 Swope was sidelined with a broken arm causing the Yellowjackets to lose their starting quarterback.

Kemper lost more than a star quarterback also losing the season opener against Fulton's Hornet's by a score of 32-6.

If you have any information on Tom Swope please contact the *ECHO*.

CLASSMATES AND FUTURE LEADERS



JOHN GOULD



ED GILLER



Above: They were classmates, friends, competitors and fellow cadets. They shared triumph and tragedy, care packages, letters from home and the distinct pride which comes from being a Kemper cadet.

John Gould graduated from Kemper and went on to lead that school for nearly fifty years. Ed Giller is a highly decorated WW II aviator who rose to the rank of major general and was the top nuclear advisor to president JFK.

Below: In 1964 these two high school juniors never thought that only a few years later they would be responsible for a Kemper Corps of Cadets which was so large the school would be divided into two battalions. They accepted the challenge, led the corps, graduated, and went on to become distinguished leaders in private life. Today Bush, Giller, and Fershtand are active members of Echo Company.

Although this group of cadets were separated by nearly thirty years, they demonstrated that excellence in leadership and dedication to the principles for which Kemper was founded did not change over time.



George E Bush



John B Fershtand



Der Allmächtige hat uns Kemper, jetzt beruhigt unsere Meere.

WHERE'S YOUR AIRPLANE?

We were sitting around the water cooler and talking about how many Kemper Old Boys seem to have been military aviators, in particular during WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. We'd like to know what happened to your aircraft. Will you help us out?

Take the "Glamorous Gal" Major General Ed Giller's P-51 Mustang. It has been restored by Robert Baranaskas of North Point, New York.



Or how about this Hellcat which was fished out of Lake Michigan recently? For nearly fifty years it sat resting at the bottom of the lake in 50° salt-free water which served to protect and preserve it.



Tell us what happened to your aircraft. We'd really like to know. Just write:

ECHO COMPANY
Aircraft Research Archive
1518 Kaby Avenue
Crivitz, WI 54114

Fighter Pilot's Prayer VMF 215

I pray this night that I may sleep
And not be called to fight
Not smell the grease nor feel the heat
But live till the morning light

Now here they come
A red tailed yellow beast
Making life a hell
Engines revving, A screaming dive
A terror from the east

You want to fight?
You little bastards,
You got one fast and right!

Both chock away and dust behind
The throttle is full forward
Guns ready, nose up
To the evil I fly toward

The air is filled with anger and fright
And what of sleep?
No not this night!

HANS DRESSLER

by **ECHO** staff assistant
George W Gruenwald

Hans Dressler was conscripted into the German Army in 1940 at the age of eighteen. He served with the 334th Infantry Division of the AFRIKAKORPS before being captured in Tunisia on 9 May 1943. This is his story and an interesting connection to Kemper Military School as told from several points of view.

HANS DRESSLER Back home in Bavaria I had a girlfriend, Ingrid, and a dog, Tanji. I lived with my parents who operated a small inn. We also had a farm of several acres. The German Army food was not always so good, as I remember, but I felt it was because I had grown up with my mother cooking such a good variety and having access to fresh meats and vegetables.



In May of 1943 most of us knew that the war for us was over in North Africa. One night I and several others set off to find some British soldiers to surrender to. The Americans we did not know much about, so we wanted a British soldier.

On the second night of our search we found a deserted truck and decided to sleep in it. The next morning I was awakened and there were fifty rifles pointed at us – all American!

We were taken to the British, transported to Gibraltar, then on to Scotland before finally sailing to New York. I never remember anyone of us feeling any fear from being sunk by one of our own U-boats, though I knew this was a real possibility.

When we arrived in the United States we passed through New York's Penn Station before going to Camp Reno in western Oklahoma. All of us were happy to be away from war and upon arrival at Camp Reno we were shown to a wooden barracks and told it was ours and to find a bunk. We went inside, but all the bunks were made and there were toiletries on each bed. Our building sergeant went back outside and told the MP that all the bunks were taken. It was then we learned that each

of us had a bunk and the toiletries were ours for us. It was like a holiday! The YMCA from Oklahoma City came to our Camp and gave us post cards on which we could write to our families back home. They also gave us some balls and other recreation equipment. A church (I don't recall which one) gave us some used musical instruments and we even had a band.

ROBERT CROWDER I farmed nearly 700 acres about 14 miles outside of Hinton, Oklahoma before and during WWII. My two oldest boys, Robert Jr and Douglas, had joined the military shortly after Pearl Harbor. Kevin, my youngest, was a student at Kemper Military School in Boonville, Missouri. I raised primarily beef cattle and wheat. With the war on I was severely short handed, so when the call went out to register for labor help on the farm I went to the Post Office and signed up. Whoa! I never thought that I would be getting a bunch of Nazis, but that's just what I got.

I received a letter in the mail saying that I qualified for three male laborers and that I was responsible for feeding and housing them. In addition I would be paid \$3 per "prisoner" per day while they worked for me. Well, before I could get to town and tell them that I didn't want Nazis, a truck pulled up in the yard and a soldier with a clip board said, "Sign here! You're getting" Rolf Klempke, Otto Doershner, and Hans Dressler!"

That soldier started to get back in his truck and I asked him where the guards were? He just smiled and said, "These boys won't give you a problem! I'll check in on you after a week or so."

When the threshing crews come through I usually put them up in the barn, which is where I made a place for these boys. When they were settled, Mom called us for dinner. Those Krauts ate like they were starved and, as I remember, we had ham, potatoes and beans, with pie for dessert. Mom sat the pie down on the table and the boys proceeded to pass that pie from person to person each of them eating some right out of the pan.

Mom and I got a big laugh out of that. That night I was plenty worried that those boys would run off and I would have to explain their absence. I pointed at the clock (not one of them spoke English). I raised four fingers and they all nodded. I walked them to the barn and they seemed plenty happy.

When I got back to the house, I told Momma about my concern that the boys would run off. She surprised me when she said, "Let's put them up here in the house. Roger, Doug, and Kevin are all gone away to the army or in school and we have three empty bedrooms." I resolved that the next day I would have them move up to the house.

In the morning I went to the barn and they were all gone! At first I was scared they had run off but I soon learned Rolf was cutting wood and the other two had found chores to do. I told them to stop and come to the house for breakfast.

HANS DRESSLER When Mr. Crowder told us to collect our things and move to the house I did not know what we were in for. He showed us to bedrooms and told us we would be sleeping in the house instead of the barn. It was most comfortable. During the day we worked on the farm with the cattle and helping with the wheat and other livestock. At night we listened to American radio, or Mrs. Crowder taught us English. She was a very good teacher and I learned to speak English, enough to get by, in a month or so. Rolf did not like the English lessons though and preferred to listen to music in the evening.

(Continued on page 5, Hans Dressler)



NEW EDITOR PROMISES TO "MOVE ECHO FORWARD"
Boonville Resident Accepts Challenge to Lead Award-Winning Newsletter.

Carol Hyatt, one-time Executive Secretary to the President of Kemper Military School, has consented to accept

the position of Executive Editor of the **ECHO** newsletter. Hyatt, a native of Macon, Missouri, held various administrative leadership positions throughout her career and was, most recently, a technical specialist with the University of Missouri Medical School.

PROMISES EXCELLENCE. Hyatt asserted that her key goal would be to develop systems which allow for accurate monitoring of on-line readership in order to better gauge the total readership of the **ECHO**, now estimated to be around 4,000 readers per issue. "The format, style, and features will not change! Said Hyatt, "This is a great newsletter, more than that it is a vehicle for Old Boys to remain connected and to explore the rich history of their school."

EXPERIENCED WEB DESIGNER. Hyatt's mastery of office technology, and in particular computer information systems, places her in a unique position to lead both the web site of www.echocompany.org and the **ECHO** newsletter. Within days of assuming her position, the Kemper Hall of Fame was launched after having been stalled in development for nearly six months.

FRIEND TO ALL OLD BOYS Hyatt knows Kemper Old Boys and has met her fair share over the years in her capacity as the Executive Secretary to the President of Kemper. "I want Old Boys to feel as though they have a friend they can reach out to and talk with,"said Hyatt as she accepted her new position.

THE ECHO ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION

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Echo Company, Kemper Military School, Inc does not recognize any group, organization, faction, or club which purports to speak for the Old Boys of Kemper Military School and members of Echo Company, Kemper Military School. Such notice having been placed in this March 2010 issue of the **ECHO**, all interested parties are advised that Echo Company, Kemper Military School is a legally registered corporation in the State of Wisconsin and that a violation of this claim of proprietary management may subject the offender to civil penalties.

THE ECHO is the 2007 national winner of the "Outstanding Newsletter Award" presented by the Wisconsin Regional Writers Association.

PUGET SOUND NAVAL ACADEMY



Around 1937 Joseph Hill, founder and owner of the Hill Military Academy in Portland, Oregon, bought the closed Moran Junior College for \$5,000 in back taxes and re-named it Puget Sound Naval Academy.

The academy began operation September 15, 1938. The school was for boys 12 to 18 -- a prep school for the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, and the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut. Lieutenant Commander N.N. Gates, U.S. Navy, retired and a former Annapolis instructor, served as Puget Sound Naval Academy's first headmaster.

The rooms were small, which made neatness mandatory. Room and personal inspections, held daily, soon made order a habit. Even the sloppiest of cadets learned that slovenliness lead to something known as demerits.

Demerits could also be acquired for a number of offenses. Merits were issued to each cadet regularly and automatically, any infractions of the rules incurred demerits. Cadets having sufficient merits to cover their demerits - which were issued at weekly Captains Mast -- were okay. Those who ran over either worked off the remaining demerits on work parties or by marching, rifle on shoulder, on the drill field. Each hour worked or marched canceled one demerit.

Early in 1950 the owners of the school decided to change its name from Puget Sound Naval Academy to Hill Naval Academy. The cadets, to the boy, resisted the change and continued to refer to "their" school by the original name.

The academy leased a 136-foot minesweeper from the navy and added it to its fleet. The economy struck the school, and in June of 1951 the final class of cadets graduated from the old academy. Shortly after, the school closed forever. Today it is known as Messenger House and its occupants are on the other end of the age scale.



The ship above is the USS YMS-328, a high speed minesweeper kept at Puget Sound Naval Academy. The ship was subsequently purchased by John Wayne and is today moored at Newport Beach, California.

During the 13 years of its operation, hundreds of young men enrolled at Puget Sound Naval Academy, survived the strict discipline and intense schooling and emerged on graduation day as officers ... and gentlemen. Puget Sound Naval Academy has joined many other private naval and military schools which have since closed their doors.

Even though the school no longer exists, In the hearts and minds of the former cadets, Puget Sound Naval Academy lives on. Echo Company, Kemper Military School salutes the sons of Puget Sound Naval Academy and welcomes them as honorary members of Echo Company, Kemper Military School. When their school attempted to change names they resisted, showing pride, spirit and determination. For their efforts and loyalty they are named distinguished members of the Eternal Corps of Cadets.

MISSOURI MILITARY ACADEMY
 204 Grand

Mexico, Missouri 65266
 (888) 564-6662

info@mma.mexico.mo.us



Missouri Military Academy continues to rise above all other contemporary military schools it is compared with. If Kemper were still open these two schools would be great rivals. Instead, our brothers at MMA have extended their hands and opened their hearts to Kemper Old Boys, offering a \$5000 scholarship to the son or grandson of any Kemper cadet who otherwise meets admission requirements. Call, write, or e-mail Missouri Military Academy and find out for yourself what tradition this school has.

Missouri Military Academy – Leading the Way

DAVE & MITCH

By Erin M. Blochette

Editor's Note: This is part three 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.

Noon formation found Dave and Mitch standing on the court. The fresh haircut Dave had received that morning was really more a buzz job than a haircut and it had left thousands of tiny hairs clinging to his neck. Some of the hair found its way down his collar and now, in the hot sun, sweat mixed with the hair to create a most uncomfortable itching sensation.

Mitch too looked odd without any hair. His hat seemed to fit less squarely on his head. Now everyone around them was dressed in fatigues. This all seemed to be very military and almost unreal. The lieutenant turned toward the new cadets saying, "When I give the command 'Right Face', everyone will turn to your right, just do it! When I give the command 'Forward March!' you will step off with your left foot, follow your squad leader to the mess hall!"



"When we get in the mess hall, just do what I tell 'ya and agree with me!"

Inside the mess hall the boys watched and waited following the queues of the old boys at their table. They stood behind their chairs, patiently watching for the sign to sit. It was quiet for so many boys to be in one place without any ruckus. Finally someone said, "Let us pray!" and, afterward they were commanded to sit.

Once lunch began Mitch looked across the table and chose a suitable subject for his torment, another young new cadet who seemed lost and confused. Mitch elbowed Dave sitting next to him in an effort to get his attention. "Hey, cadet! he said, only loud enough for the subject of his practical joke to hear, How long ya been here?"

The new cadet answered that he had arrived that same morning. Mitch began to prepare him for his joke. "Well, I hope you don't get too attached to this place. With the war on and everything, the Army just takes kids left n right. Hell, just yesterday they took the boy who was sittin' right where you are now!"

The new boy looked startled, dazed and confused. "But my parents enrolled me in Kemper, not the Army!" he stammered.

"Don't matter!" Mitch said confidently. Your ass is in the Army, yer in ROTC! And that's one step from active duty. What do ya think they gave ya them fatigues for?"

Now the new cadet was anxious, squirming in his seat and uncomfortable. Those seated nearby began to eavesdrop and they too grew uncomfortable. Soon the new cadet blurted out "BUT I DON'T WANNA GO IN THE ARMY...NOT YET ANYHOW!!"

Upon the outburst, the table head, Lieutenant Hagen, commanded that all the new cadets sit up with arms folded. He admonished the cadets to eat in silence and that no talking was allowed with the exception of requesting a food item. It did not matter, the damage was done. Mitch had inflicted a mental beating on the

new cadet the likes of which Dave had never seen before. It was masterful, a work of art, a thing to be proud of! A thing of cruel beauty...!

Later, Dave and Mitch sat in the library pretending to read their text books. In actuality Mitch was already well on his way toward planning his next joke." Hey Dave!" Mitch whispered, "Do ya' know those carbide tablets in the science classroom?".....



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

Hans Dressler

Continued from page 3

I recall quite clearly that it was Saturday and Mr. Crowder had said we would all be going to town. "We will go for supplies, then to dinner, and Mom will go to her Eastern Star meeting while we have a beer at the tavern."

Rolf, Otto and I were somewhat apprehensive about this situation and did not want to be shot by a cowboy in a saloon as we had heard about the west in America. Instead, when we got to town, we helped Mr. Crowder load barbed wire, salt, chicken feed and other supplies into his pickup truck, then went to a small hotel for dinner. Mrs. Crowder did leave for her meeting and the four of us went to a "gasthaus" for bier.

Mr. Crowder told us to have a seat at a table and that he would buy the beer. A cowboy stood up near the back of the room and shouted something; but Mr. Crowder turned to him and said, "They work for me, and I told them that if they work I will give them a beer and that's what we are going to do!"

We drank our beer, but it was very quiet and I felt as though we had perhaps jeopardized Mr. Crowder. Afterwards, on the way back to the farm we sang songs in the back of the pickup. It was the first time I did not miss home since being in the army.

One Sunday Mrs. Crowder asked us if we would like to go to church. Rolf and I are Lutheran, but Otto said that although he was Catholic he did not care much about religion. Otto stayed at the farm to nurse an expecting cow while the Crowders took us to Hinton for church. They dropped us off at the Lutheran church on their way to the Methodist meeting. It would have been easy to escape but really, the thought never crossed our minds.

Mrs. Crowder even fitted some of her sons' clothing for us to wear to church that day. And Sunday dinner? It was always a feast fit for a king? I never wrote to my momma and papa about how much food we had to eat because I knew it was more than they had.

When it was time for threshing we all worked as hard as we could to harvest the wheat fields. The long days and short nights seemed to go by quickly and when we found ourselves there at Christmas it all seemed rather unreal. Rolf, Otto and I stayed at the farm and looked after things while Mr. and Mrs. Crowder went to Oklahoma City to pick up young Kevin from the train. He was returning from the military school in Missouri he attended so Rolf and I had to bunk together while he was home.

Kevin arrived looking like a band master in a fine orchestra. We each greeted him and told him how happy we were to be on his farm. He was a young boy of perhaps fifteen or sixteen and did not seem to like us being there.

On the third day of his visit he asked if I would like to go hunting with him on horseback and I said yes, sure. We rode to a ravine looking for game birds, and when several flushed he shot two. "Your turn!" he said and handed the gun to me. I could have been shot on sight for accepting a firearm but I knew the boy was wagering he was a better shot than I was. We continued to ride the ravine and, when a covey of birds kicked up by our horses, I shot three with two shots. Kevin was thrilled that I knew how to shoot and we returned home victorious in hunting that day.

We sang songs and listened to the radio in the evening and I even managed to teach Kevin a few German folk songs, one called "klopfen, klopfen!" which is a children's song.

Only three days before Christmas the army truck arrived and the guard told us to collect our things. We were on our way back to Camp Reno. Before I left I gave Kevin the only piece of my German uniform I had left, an eagle which I had been told to cut off my shirt when I was captured.

After the war I was sent to Great Britain in March of 1946 and then eventually to Germany. My parents were both happy to see me and we had a wonderful reunion. Ingrid, my girl, had married a construction manager so I filed papers to return to the United States which I did in 1949. I lived in New Jersey for several years, met and married my wife Ellen and raised two daughters.

In 1994 I took a driving trip with my wife and we went to Oklahoma to find the Crowders. I showed my wife Camp Reno and tried to find the Crowder farm but everything was quite different. The town of Hinton is quite changed but still has some of the features I remembered.

A Little Sister's Gift

May 29th 1936, the Johnston Field House, graduation ceremonies for the Kemper Corps of Cadets. Seventy – eight college and high school students are present for the award of their diplomas. It is warm, almost hot, and only eight o'clock in the morning. The Corps is awake with anticipation and eager for summer dismissal. One student is absent – W. "Pete" Laird, who is hospitalized with acute appendicitis.

The speaker (Reverend Sam West's Father) gives a well prepared speech, then one by one the cadets are called to receive their degree. Alphabetically each student comes forward when his name is called. The Corps waits, knowing that Laird is absent and wonders whether he will be skipped over or his diploma accepted by a teacher or parent.

When Laird's name is called, five year old Evelyn, Pete's little sister, walks with pride to the front of the assembly amid thundering applause and cheers to accept her brother's diploma. A little sister's gift to big brother.

PRESUMED LOST

Alec D. Knost



The story of the USS Scorpion SS-278

The United States was already a year into WWII when the keel was laid for SS-278, a "GATO" class submarine at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. This was a fast submarine capable of nearly 10 knots submerged and the ship reflected all the latest advances in submarine warfare.

For nearly five months starting in June 1942 the naval yard at Kittering bustled with the sound of riveters, grinders, and welding torches. Every day, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the workers cut, bolted and welded thousands of metal pieces into 312 feet of raw fighting courage.



The SCORPION SS-278 undergoing sea trials off the east coast of the United States in fall 1942

The USS Scorpion was launched on 20 July 1942 and weighed just over 1500 tons when she slid into the cold water of the Atlantic. She was sleek, lethal, and ready for some serious duty dealing death to Japan.

The Scorpion transited the Panama Canal on her way to Hawaii where, because of the rapid rate of technology advancement, she was fitted for a bathythermograph, a kind of early stealth system which would allow the Scorpion to hide in thermal layers of the ocean avoiding detection.



Maximilian "MACK" Schmidt was deeply admired by his crew for his skill in stalking and killing enemy ships. The Kemper Old Boy kept a Kemper transom cover on the door of his cabin.

The crew was experienced and had a good working knowledge of submarines. Even the newest crew members were excited about being aboard. They were teenagers for the most part, like 19-year-old Lawrence Deane from Chicago, Illinois, and 18-year-old Edward English from Churdan, Iowa. They were determined to take the war to Japan and, on the 5th of April 1943 they got their wish! The Scorpion got orders to sink enemy shipping right in the Jap's own backyard, Honshu!

A few days later they sank their first enemy ship, a Japanese gunboat. For the next several days the Scorpion alternated between dives and surfacing, destroying enemy ships with the skill of a seasoned predator. On the 28th of April the Scorpion continued sinking Jap war ships and brought a furious tempo of devastation to the fight, sinking three ships in two days.

When the crew arrived back at Pearl Harbor on May 8th they were given liberal leave policy. A week in port allowed the Scorpion enough time to refit, resupply and refuel. By 29 May the Scorpion was underway en route to Takara Junta where, it was hoped, she would sink more enemy vessels.

On July 3rd the crew got the test of their training. They had fired on a Jap convoy and sunk at least one tanker. However, the enemy set upon the sub and the Scorpion settled to the bottom at full stop in an attempt to divert attention and elude detection.

The Japanese destroyer used depth charges and even dragged a chain across the bottom in an attempt to locate the hiding submarine. Hour after tension-filled hour dragged by. Commander Max Schmidt had a habit of rolling his Kemper class ring around his finger using his thumb. The crew had taken to gauging the seriousness of situations by how many revolutions he made with the ring in one minute.



Schmidt, shown here in his official US Navy photograph upon his promotion to Commander. He never forgot that he was first, and foremost, a Kemper Old Boy!

Schmidt's first officer, also an Annapolis graduate, had long ago stopped asking why the "skipper" did not wear his US Naval Academy ring. He knew that Kemper was the Captain's boyhood school. There was even a Kemper flag on the Captain's door. At least that's what the first officer called it – until he was corrected by Schmidt. "It's not a flag! It's a transom cover!"

Rumors had it that Commander Schmidt screened the records of all his crew to insure that no "undesirables" were allowed on board. When a sailor was put ashore at Pearl Harbor after their first war patrol it was rumored that the reason was because the sailor had graduated from Wentworth Military Academy. "He can't be trusted!" was the only comment Schmidt would make on the sailor.

In any event the depth-charging incident of the 3rd was not only nerve-wracking, but also badly damaged the ship. While underway back to Pearl harbor, the Scorpion was again attacked, this time by a Japanese bomber.

By 14 February 1944 the Scorpion was a seasoned ship with battle ribbons and a veteran crew who each knew their job. Commander Schmidt noted in his log that a number of the crew had instituted a kind of "old west gunfight game" using their Zippo lighters. The contestants would stand several feet apart with other crew members looking on. The challenger had to "draw" first and either contestant was "killed" if his Zippo did not spark and produce flame. This was repeated over and over until one of the contestants' lighters did not produce a flame. The champion of the contest was Torpedoman Robert Hutchinson from Buffalo, New York.

These pseudo gun fights were hugely popular and Schmidt saw them as a way to alleviate the tension and boredom. Schmidt, himself a smoker, carried a Ronson lighter and willingly accepted a challenge from Hutchinson to a friendly duel. With officers and crew looking on it took three strikes before Schmidt's lighter did not produce a flame.

Commander Schmidt allowed Hutchinson to give the command to surface the submarine and light the smoking lamp when it was time to charge the batteries. This made Hutchinson a hero on board the Scorpion even though a kind of unofficial scandal had it that Hutchinson had used fuel from a torpedo instead of diesel fuel in his Zippo.

On the morning of the 16th of February 1944 Commander Schmidt gave the command to sound "General quarters! Emergency dive! Rig for depth charge!" Operating on the surface and looking for enemy shipping the Scorpion had been sighted by a Japanese destroyer which began pursuing and dropping depth charges on the Scorpion.

Hour after hour the Scorpion withstood the dull thuds of distant explosions and the teeth-chattering, hull-testing bangs of near misses. At one point the crew heard the familiar sound of a steel cable rubbing against the hull. Just like at Takarta Junta, the crew all thought at first the Japs had simply lowered a cable or chain and were seeking the Scorpion.

The cable rubbed against her hull making a screeching, binding kind of noise inside the boat. Commander Schmidt turned to look at his first officer who looked back in knowing frustration – it was a mine!

"ALL STOP!" commanded Schmidt, REVERSE ENGINE, Steering, HARD TO PORT!" The crew listened and held their breath. Everyone knew this was not a chain dangled from a Japanese destroyer. Schmidt twirled his Kemper ring furiously around his

Continued on next page

Schmidt spent four years at Kemper and graduated as a cadet officer. His father was the Lieutenant Governor of Missouri and resided in Boonville. He received one of three academy nominations the school had in 1927



5

finger, Hutchinson clicked his prize-winning Zippo. The crew all understood the risks of submarine work, they were all volunteers. The Scorpion began to respond, she lumbered, seemed to stop, suspended in time for a moment, and then entered onto eternal patrol.

Schmidt, the officers and crew of SS 278, The Scorpion, have been posthumously inducted into the Eternal Corps of Cadets and made honorary members of Echo Company, Kemper Military School.



Schmidt, shown in the photo above (white arrow) along with his brother officers at Kemper in front of the Johnston Field House. Schmidt was the Corps Range Officer and an honor roll student in 1927.

HOROSCOPE

By Karl Schwindler

Especially prepared by noted astrologist and astrographer, Karl Schwindler, for readers of the **ECHO** for the period between 1 March 2010 to 30 May 2010.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You have a destiny which is calling. You can expect a call from someone out of the past who will open your eyes. Luckiest day April 9th. Lucky number 12

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your environment is an expression of who you are, make it uplifting and a place of joy. Luckiest day March 30th. Lucky number 27

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Avoid the heavy lifting of objects in the month of May. There is no such thing as a sure thing no matter what the guest might say. Luckiest day April 18th. Lucky number 06

CANCER (June 22-July 22) An arrow of passion is quick to find its mark. Break bread with the one who seems out of place. Luckiest day May 12th. Lucky number 11

LEO (July 23-August 22) Do not be boastful in company or you will lose that which you cherish most. Even though your health is threatened, you have a long way to go. Luckiest day April 9th. Lucky number 17

VIRGO (August 23-September 22) Your passion is both a strength and weakness. Set aside the desire you feel on the day which finds you mourning. Luckiest days March 4th and May 2nd. Lucky number 41

LIBRA (September 23-October 23) Place back that which you have taken. Your gratification is a physical desire which tortures your soul. Luckiest day May 18th. Lucky number 39

SCORPIO (October 24-November 21) Blessed be the peacemaker and you have become known as one! Now use the gift within to forge a new beginning. Luckiest day April 23rd. Lucky number 19

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21) Everyone hates traffic tickets but you are going to get one soon. At least put on your seat belt! When it's over put on a happy face and be thankful it was not as bad as it could have been. Luckiest days March 29th and May 11th. Lucky number 12

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18) Do not enter the place that promises happiness without cost. You will lose much more than money. Luckiest day May 19th. Lucky number 32

PISCES (February 19-March 20) For whatever reason, music begins to pour from your heart and soul, let it flow! Dance to a newfound happiness and joy which has awakened inside you. Luckiest day May 2nd. Lucky number 41

Aunt Suzie's Advice

Dear Aunt Suzie,
Why won't my husband make me happy? I tell him what troubles me and how he can change to accommodate, and things get better for a while but eventually he falls back into the same old pattern. Any suggestions? Frustrated in Grand Fork

Dear Frustrated,
Listen carefully, your happiness is not the responsibility of anyone but yourself! You, and only you, are responsible for how happy or how miserable you are. You need to change your expectations and your attitude or I will personally come out there and kick your ass!

Dear Aunt Suzie,
My parents have forbidden me to see a certain boy with whom I am deeply in love. We have to sneak off to be together. We have made plans to be married but so far we are holding off in hopes that my folks will change their minds. Can you help me break the news to them? Maybe I could just show them your answer? In Love in Lewiston

Dear Lewiston Loser,
Your dad is a Kemper Old Boy? I am sure he did not teach you to lie, cheat or steal, but that is exactly what you are doing. You are lying to your parents, cheating on them, and stealing their love which they give freely to you.

Dear Aunt Suzie,
I am pretty sure that my next door neighbor, is either a drug dealer or is mentally unstable. I like my home and all my other neighbors but this guy drives me crazy! Any suggestions? Sign me Planning to move

Dear Planning,
Try to be a good neighbor and work on patience. Something tells me that it will change in time.

If you have a question for Aunt Suzie you can write to her C/O:AUNT SUZIE, 1518 Kaby Avenue, Crivitz, WI 54114

YOU ARE INVITED

Blackwater, 14-16 May 2010

You're going to have a ball! It's Kemper style entertainment with Echo Company as your host! The weekend is casual and this year we are predicting a near capacity crowd of 100 Kemper Old Boys, faculty, and friends from Kemper Military School. Come on!! Join us for a weekend of fun and celebration.

Friday 14 May 2010

**1200-1600 Arrival Stein House, Boonville
1700-2230 BBQ Reception with "Oldies DJ"
and refreshments -Restored Union Station
in Blackwater, Missouri**

Saturday 15 May 2010

**1000-1130 Echo Company Board meeting -
patio of Iron Horse Hotel
1200-1330 lunch historic J Huston Tavern,
Arrow Rock, Missouri**



**1630-1730 Reception Old Union Station,
Blackwater**

1730-1830 Dinner

1830-1900 Awards & Recognition

1900-1945 Standard of Honor Ceremony

Saturday Dinner
Menu
Boneless chicken
breast with herb
seasoning
Salad
Potato
Garden vegetables
choice of soft

- Friends you haven't seen in a while
- Historic artifact display
- Latest Kemper news

\$25 Advance Reservation

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE NW KEMPER CLUB

Notice is hereby served to members of the Northwest Kemper Club, Ben Beard President, that your presence is desired and welcome in Blackwater, Missouri 14-16 May 2010. Should your organization accept this invitation the Sergeant-at-Arms has requested that your organization be responsible for presenting the Kemper colors during the evening meal of the 15th of May 2010.

The metal plating on the footbridge to the athletic fields was actually surplus armor from Ford Motor Company used in construction of the model 1918 3 ton tank.



“Oooooohh! It feels good here!”

This is our salute to the boys of the Scorpion lost in WWII! We asked Meribeth Walker to sit on a Kemper cannon while we painted her portrait but she kept giggling and laughing saying how big it is, we honestly don't have any idea what she's talking about!

One thing we do know something about is **value!** Right now through June 1st 2010 Echo Company will embroider the Kemper crest on any article of clothing you send us for only \$20!!

Come on!! you can buy your own sweat shirt or T and we'll do all the work you only pay postage and a small service fee to offset expenses.

Just mail your clothing article to:

ECHO COMPANY
Kemper Military School
Special Offer
1518 Kaby Avenue
Crivitz, Wisconsin 54114
TAPS

Kathy Miller – Tucson, Arizona, Friend to Kemper Old Boys, devoted sister, loving mother, and wife to Gene Miller. She joins the Eternal Corps of Cadets official reviewing party and assumes duties as the official librarian of Kemper Military School in perpetuity.

Leonel Gomez – Salvadoran human rights activists and Kemper Old Boy who attended Kemper 1955-57 departed this world for the Eternal Corps of Cadets.

Sergeant Major Richard D Becker – An instructor with the office of the Professor of Military Science, for Kemper Military School from approximately 1969-1971 passed from us peacefully. Sgt Maj Becker joins the official reviewing party of the Eternal Corps of Cadets and assumes the duty of NCOIC, Drill & Ceremonies.

Kenneth W Whiteaker II – KMS '61 departed this life to be with the final formation of the Eternal Corps of Cadets. Whiteaker assumes duties as the Chaplain's Assistant to the Corps.

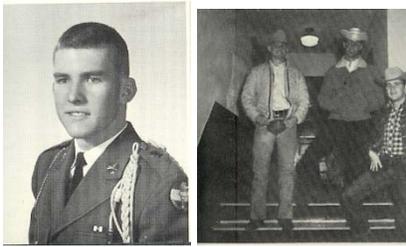
Lynn S. Fuller KMS '43 – Formerly of Dubuque, Iowa and Fort Myers, Florida joins the final formation and the Eternal Corps of Cadets.

Dudley “Sonny” Doolittle – Emporia, Kansas KMS '46 joins the Eternal Corps of Cadets and is appointed as audio/visual technical support specialist to the Corps.

Dr. Robert W Heath – Rockford, Illinois KMS '47 Joins the Eternal Corps of Cadets according to a report from **Dr. Don L Sandifer**

John Henry Holekamp It was reported in the St. Louis Post Dispatch on 20 January 2010 that John has attended his final formation and will be taking his rightful place in the Eternal Corp of Cadets. This according to **Bill Harrison KMS '65**

C. McGregor(Greg) Ramsay KMS '58 Greeley, Colorado joins the Eternal Corps of Cadets. This according to **Jack Mackey KMS '61**



Quarterly Winner
RONALD LEE McCUTCHIN

Undeniably one of the most recognized figures of the 1965 Kemper Corps of Cadets was Ron McCutchin of Dallas, Texas. When the school badly needed identity, character, strength and a healthy dose of good humor. Ron McCutchin, together with Rex McCubbin and Tom Swope formed the “Texas Club bbq and Shindig”.

So ingenious was the plan that the school administration could hardly say no. Consequently, the boys were able to wear civilian clothes and hold a Texas style holiday right under the noses of authority. What were they to do? Say “no” to Texas!?

We're pretty sure Ron, Rex, and Tom are still just as ingenious and innovative today, so they will have to figure out a way to share Ronnie's copy of “Cadet Days of Will Rogers”. Congratulations Ron! You are our quarterly winner and your book should arrive shortly.

You could be our next winner, but you must be a subscriber to qualify. Subscribe (it's only \$4 for a one-year subscription) and keep reading to win.



NEW MEMBERS

Echo Company, Kemper Military School is proud to welcome Jake Ryan Ridgley as our newest future member! Jake was born on December 17th 2009 and arrived just in time for Christmas. He is the newest grandson of Echo President Ed Ridgley. We are proud of Jake and congratulate his parents, Tedsan and Marisela Ridgley, for doing everything they can to insure a fresh supply of little Echo members!

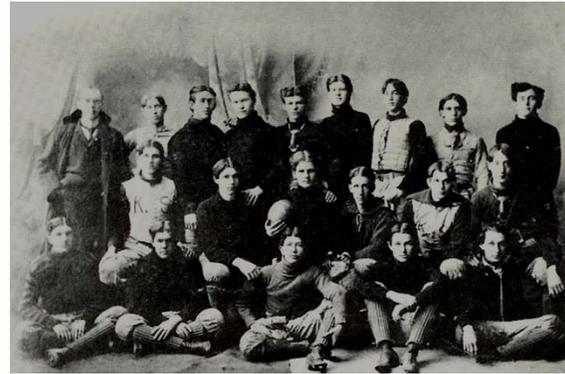
PROMOTIONS

By direction of the President, Echo Company, Kemper Military School and upon consent of the Board of Directors the following named individuals are hereby promoted to the rank indicated effective upon receipt of this notice. Now therefore you are advised that all customs and courtesies are due these officers and the rank they hold:

To Second Lieutenant:
MERRITT, T.O.
HAMNETT, David H

ECHO EFFORT SCORES RESULTS

Extensive preservation and restoration efforts involving historic photographs within the Echo Company, Kemper Military School collection produced some interesting results when this photograph was discovered. The image depicts the Kemper Yellowjackets' 1897 football team and Will Rogers is shown seated in the front row second from right.



Rogers was a fairly rough-and-tumble kind of youngster, so it comes as no surprise that he enjoyed the sport.



The collection, restoration, preservation, cataloging and referencing of the image archive involves more than 25,000 individual photographs, some of which are in various stages of decomposition.

Ben Beard – Washington “After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.” Will Rogers!

ECHO – Thanks for that tid bit Ben.

ECHO BOARD MEMBER NAMED TO YACHT CLUB BOARD



Echo Company Board Vice President, Donald Bruning was recently elected to the Racine Yacht Club Board of Directors. We couldn't resist taking a shot across Bruning's bow so we added this picture of Ted Knight from “Caddyshack” just so Don will know how to dress for all those special affairs the yacht club hosts.

MISSOURI MILITARY ACADEMY

204 Grand
 Mexico, Missouri 65265
 (888) 564-6662

info@mma.mexico.mo.us

Missouri Military Academy continues to rise above all other contemporary military schools it is compared with. If Kemper were still open these two schools would be great rivals. Instead, our brothers at MMA have extended their hands and opened their hearts to Kemper Old Boys, offering a \$5000 scholarship to the son or grandson of any Kemper cadet who otherwise meets admission requirements. Call, write, or e-mail Missouri Military Academy and find out for yourself what tradition this school has.



Missouri Military Academy – Leading the Way