

# The 1955 trojan Alumni PRINTS

December 2001

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Issue 8



Photo of Charlie Jett and Big Jim Gardner taken at Phoenix International Raceway on Oct. 26. Charlie was a Jim's guest at the racetrack. Jim is owner of car #32 now in the Busch series. Charlie says he had a very enjoyable get-together with Jim and his crew. *Charlie Jett*

## Late News About The 2001 Trojans Football Team

*Dateline: November 11, 2001*

The Portsmouth Trojans defeated Ironton last night on Ironton's home field 36 to 27 in the regional semifinal game. They are once again in the race for a state championship. Ironton was ranked #1 in the state in the newspaper poll and the computer rankings.

Portsmouth also took a giant step into the future this week when the voters overwhelmingly approved a bond issue to build a new state of the art high school and four new elementary schools. I am very pleased with how the future looks and felt that those of you living in other places would be interested.

Please remember to send in pictures and articles that Frank can use in the newsletter. Also, it is time for dues payment once again. Send your \$5 to me as soon as possible.

*Gene Lucas*

*Dateline: November 19, 2001*

Well, It's all over for the 2001 Trojan Football Team. They lost to Licking Valley (LV) 28-27 in overtime. The game was tied 21-21 at the end of regulation. It was an thrilling game with two big runs by Jo-Jo Parker. Portsmouth defense played really well, but the offense was inconsistent, except for some good runs by Parker. They again had a pass intercepted that resulted in a LV touchdown. Kicking game was weak again too; a PHS punt was blocked for a touchdown, an extra point blocked, and an crucial extra point missed in overtime. I'm not sure, but I believe Parker scored all four PHS touchdowns. I know he scored three, twice on two long 60-70 yard runs in regular play and on a 20-yard run in overtime. PHS did make a great comeback with less than 3 minutes left in regular play. They were down 21-13 and I was making my way toward the exit when Parker broke loose on a 65 yard run to

close the score to 21-19. Parker then scored the 2-point conversion to tie the ball game. In overtime in Ohio High School play the ball is placed on the opposing team's 20-yard line and each team is given an equal opportunity to score until one team comes out on top. The Trojans got the ball first in the overtime and on 1st down Parker immediately skirted right end for 20 yards and a touchdown. PHS kicked and missed the extra point. LV then got their opportunity to score from the PHS 20-yard line. They quickly got a 1st down on the PHS 9-yard line. Then the PHS defense made a great stand, but not quite good enough to keep Licking Valley out of the endzone. On 1st down LV picked up about 4 yards to the 5. Then PHS stopped LV for losses on 2nd and 3rd down forcing them back to the 8. On 4 down LV threw and incomplete pass into the left corner or the endzone, but PHS was called for pass interference. LV then had a 1st and 10 from the 4. On three downs the PHS defense backed them up to the 9. LV then threw a screen pass to the left side and scored. The extra point kick was good and LV won 28-27.

I was really impressed with Parker. He is a great back, but a little small at 180 pounds. But on one run he lowered this shoulder and literally ran over a defender. Because of his size, I'm not sure he could make it as a College Division 1 running back, but he certainly has the speed, moves, and toughness to play a some position at Division 1 level. PHS defense impressed me, though they were a little inconsistent, they played hard and made some big hits. They forced at least two fumbles during the game.

I must say I enjoyed watching the 2001 PHS Football Team; they played with heart and made you proud to be a Trojan.

*Don Wallace*

## Overheard - 1957

"I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a weeks groceries for \$20."

"Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long when \$5000 will only buy a used one."

"If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.."

"Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"

"If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."

"When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."

"Kids today are impossible. Those duck tail hair cuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls."

"I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more.. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in 'Gone With The Wind,' it seems every new movie has either "hell" or "damn" in it."

"I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."

"Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president."

"I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."

"It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet."

"It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work."

"Marriage doesn't mean a thing any more, those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat."

"I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business."

"Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to congress."

"The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."

"There is no sense going to Cincinnati or Columbus anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel."

"No one can afford to be sick any more, \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."

"If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it."

*Kitty Clark - 1957*

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## 1940-1950 RADIO TRIVIA

1. "The Green Hornet" aired from 1938 until 1953. On this half-hour series, young publisher Britt Reid disguised himself as the Green Hornet and hunted down the biggest game of all, public enemies who try to destroy America. Like the Lone Ranger, Reid had a "faithful companion" who aided him in his crime solving and served as his valet. The series theme music was "The Flight of the Bumble Bee." One of the sponsors was Orange Crush drink. What was the character who played the faithful companion called?

2. No fewer than six actors played the lead character in this series that ran on CBS from 1949 until 1962. He was an insurance investigator with the action-packed expense account. The show always ended with the private eye itemizing his expenses and then signing off his report to his client with the name of the show. It was sponsored over the years by Wrigley's gum, No-Doz stimulant, Philip Morris cigarettes, and Mentholatum Deep Heating Cream. What was the name of the show?

3. "The Baby Snooks Show" was on the air from 1944 to 1951. It was sponsored by Maxwell House coffee, Sanka coffee, Spic-n-Span floor cleanser, and Jell-O pudding. What famous Ziegfeld Follies comedienne played the title role?

4. "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!" This popular mystery series that aired from 1930 until 1954 began. "The Shadow" was about a man who, while in the Orient, learned the secret of how to make himself invisible and used this knowledge to track down and bring to justice various evildoers. Frank Readick, Jr., who made the character a national sensation with his venomously sin-

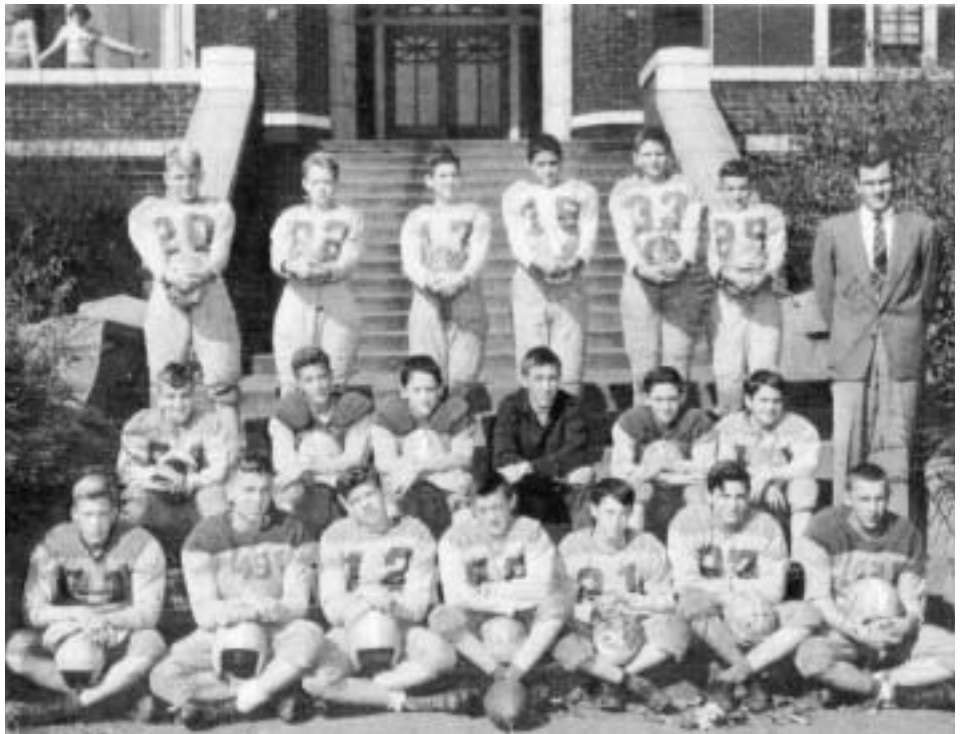
ister laugh, played the Shadow. The show was sponsored by B. F. Goodrich tires and Wildroot Cream-Oil hair dressing. What was the Shadow's name?

5. "The Life of Riley" was on NBC from 1944 until 1951. Riley was a typical blue-collar American factory worker. His family consisted of his wife, Peg; son, Junior; and daughter, Babs. Another regular character on the show was the "friendly undertaker," Digger O'Dell. Sponsors were Ivory soap, Dreft detergent, Lava soap, and Pabst Blue Ribbon beer. Who played Chester A. Riley?

6. From 1935 until 1952 you could hear this phrase, "The weekly wheel of fortune... Around and around she goes and where she stops, nobody knows." It was "The Original Amateur Hour." Every conceivable type of "talent" was featured on the show from spoons and washtub players to opera singers. Frank Sinatra received his first national exposure on this program. The show's theme song was Irving Berlin's "There's No Business Like Show Business." One of the show's many sponsors was Old Gold cigarettes. Who was the show's host (1949-1952)?

7. Our Miss Brooks ran on CBS from 1948 until 1957 on Saturday evenings. Connie Brooks was a single, high school English teacher, who taught at Madison High School. She was madly in love with science teacher, Mr. Boynton; was a constant thorn in the side of her principal, Osgood Conklin; and had a favorite student, Walter Denton. Among the show's sponsors were Lustre Cream shampoo, Toni Home Permanents, and Kolynos toothpaste. What film actress played the title role?

Answers: 1. Kate 2. Yours truly, Johnny Dollar 3. Fanny Brice 4. Lamont Cranston 5. William Bendix 6. Ted Mack 7. Eve Arden



Garfield School Football Team (1951-52?) Gene Williams

Row 1, L to R: Keith McManus, Wayne Hamilton, Kenny Bowling (Deceased), Gene Williams, Billy Biggs, ?, Roger Henson (Deceased). Row 2, L to R: ?, Harlan Frazier, Tony Price, Jim Baker (Deceased), Buddy Bundy, ?. Row 3, L to R: ?, ?, ?, ?, Darrell Lanthorn, ?, Coach Lou Carson (Deceased). Top L.... Two pretty cheerleaders ??.

## Comments on Wayne Hills

You made me recall playing West of Thomas Avenue in what we called the flat. This was where the mental health building was built (I don't know what it is now) after we grew up. My brother Harold, who lives on Grandview Ave in Portsmouth said the flats was once a large hill but the soil was taken to fill in the railroad yards by the viaduct.

I played with the Sutter children that lived in the big two story house across from there. There was an over grown cemetery there that we got up the nerve to visit one time. We had been told that ghosts were everywhere. Being girls and not as brave as you fellows, we were sure it was the truth. I still carry a large scar (from the barb wire fence surrounding the cemetery) on my leg. I was afraid to tell my mother what happened so I made up some lame excuse that I am sure she did not believe but never the less treated my wound with love, and that sure hurt!

The Eck family had two relatives living on Thomas Avenue that were very friendly. I believe, if I'm not mistaken, it was two old maids and one or two bachelor brothers that lived in the house where you played. (North of the Wayne Hills coal pile) I know my mother knew the family, but as a kid I never listened to the stories about them.

There were three houses on the right hand side of Thomas Avenue after the Fresh Air Camp area. The first one belonged to Al and Mame Eck and a sweet widow lady that I sold bittersweet to in the fall. That was Mrs. Eck. Next door was the Sutter home. The Eck family came from a wealthy background but I don't remember too much about them. My Mother was a friend of Mame.

The trailer park you referred to was owned by the Anderson family. I also remember the house that was by the flats was the Huffman home. They had a clay tennis court.

I too, had to leave Garfield school where all my friends were, and I never got over that. We lived on Dorman Drive which was not in the Garfield district but my parents sent the older children there so I guess that is why I went there. I was transferred in the seventh grade.

I also like Blaine Bierley's stories. There is so much that both of you relate, that I never knew or have since forgotten. I have been away from there so long it is like another life. You all do such a wonderful job, and I wish you the best.

*Jenny Lyon Salzman.*

## Dues Reminder from Gene

We now have 180 subscribers to the newsletter and 80 of them have paid for the coming year. If you have forgotten, please take a moment and send \$5 to Gene Lucas at 1419 Second St., West Portsmouth OH 45663.

In addition, we need you to send newsy items and any photographs (old or new) for publication. Someone would love to know about your family, career, retirement, etc. This is a great way to renew old friendships. We promise to run them and will edit if you like. Also we need your e-mail addresses. And remember, all PHS 50's classes and other interested parties are welcome to subscribe and submit items.

## Mercy Hospital

Some of our classmates were born at Mercy Hospital, I know that several of the "girls" in our class graduated from the Mercy School of Nursing, and some of our classmates worked or had family members who worked there. My mother graduated from the school in 1935.

What follows is excerpted from two articles in the SCIOTO VOICE newspaper dated Thursday, October 18, 2001.

Southern Ohio Medical Center is honoring Mercy Hospital with a special "Day of Reflection" on October 21, 2001, at the Friends Community Center. Mercy Hospital touched the lives of countless residents, friends, and families in more than 80 years of medical care for the Portsmouth area and surrounding communities.

SOMC has announced that the hospital building has been closed and will be razed in November and December.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, Minnesota, a Roman Catholic order, established and operated Mercy Hospital for much of its lifetime. SOMC Health Care Center, which will open in the spring of 2002, will be located across from Friends Center on the former Mercy Hospital site.

The Portsmouth Fire Department announced that it will use the former Mercy Hospital for firefighter training from October 15 thru November 2, 2001. They will have a unique opportunity to practice in the building which is scheduled to be razed later this year. Residents were told that they can expect to see smoke coming from the building at times. A nontoxic smoke will be generated for the training sessions by the Fire Department, but no actual fires will be used. A great disclaimer: No actual fires will be used in the destruction of this historic building.

## Richard's News is Closing

The local newsstand, variety store, Richard's News has been a fixture in the area of Gallia and Offner Streets for nearly 70 years, but it will close as of the first of January, according to Wendy Towns, the current owner. The popular store was opened in 1932 by James (Jimmy) V. Richards and his wife Ida. It was originally located at 1422 Gallia Street, in the Chabot Building. Later Adam H. (Hetz) Rayburn, and his wife Violet bought into the business, and it was moved to its present location at 1328 Gallia at the corner of Glover.



For those of you who have inquired about my work and where to see it, this 6'x4' acrylic painting exists somewhere in the bowels of the Southern Ohio Museum. Tom DuPuy has placed others on [www.phs1955.com](http://www.phs1955.com). Click on "Class of" and then my name. *Frank Hunter*

## Santa Claus on WPAY

Beginning right after Thanksgiving, just about all the kids I knew would carefully compose their letters to Santa Claus. Our letters didn't have to go far—we sent them to Santa in care of Radio Station WPAY (1400 on your dial) on Gallia Street. Of course, we kids didn't know the "real" identity of our "Sanda" Claus. It was Mr. O. T. "Sandy" Dresbach, the station manager of WPAY, who performed each afternoon from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. His show, as I recall, ran from after Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve. I can still remember Mr. Dresbach's deep, resonant voice and his hearty Santa laugh! There was no doubt in our minds—this was the real Santa from the North Pole—right here in Portsmouth.

The show was sponsored, I believe, by Kobacker's ("A Department Store For All The People") and Marting's ("Portsmouth's Oldest And Largest Department Store"). However, Santa wouldn't be so crass as to do commercials. He just talked about the stores in passing, much in the style of Arthur Godfrey.

Mr. Dresbach made it a point to read every letter that was sent in. He also read the letters that were sent to Santa at the North Pole which were sent over to WPAY by the Portsmouth Post Office. It was always a thrill to hear your letter being read and to know that getting the gifts that you requested was a possibility. As I remember, Santa would never promise anything as a sure thing.

"Jimminy Cricket" (a recording played at fast speed) would call Santa to the microphone: "San-tee-Claus, San-tee-Claus." If a kid asked for a BB gun or a knife, or other questionable presents, Santa would defer the request by saying that he would have to check with the elf in charge of that department, "Ichabod Is-it-Safe." When matters arose concerning behavior, the elf in charge of that particular department was "Welston Were-They-Good.?"

Each program also had interludes of music (also speeded up) when Santa had to take a break to feed his reindeer. Another memorable segment of the program was the daily story read by the charming Story Lady, "Merry Christmas."

I've recently learned that a great deal went on behind the scenes to make the program as good as it was. One, was the absolute determination of Mr. Dresbach to get every letter read by Christmas Eve. Second, which I didn't even recall, was the fact that Santa would call one child personally on the telephone each day. Third, to assist Santa, the Story Lady would edit each letter by underlining boys' names in blue and girls' names in red.

It always seemed to make the time until Christmas go faster listening to Santa Claus on WPAY. I hope you enjoyed this little trip down Memory Lane as much as I did.

I am indebted to the Story Lady who helped me greatly to rekindle many of these memories. "Merry Christmas" was Mr. Dresbach's daughter, Cheryl. Now Cheryl Fenneken, she lives in Columbus and is a 1958 graduate of PHS. Cheryl assisted her father on the show up until 1960 by reading stories, playing the piano, and editing the many, many letters he had to read on the air.

*Blaine Bierley*

## Cloverine Salve

Do you remember selling Cloverine Salve? I do. I'll bet that all the kids on Charles Street peddled that stuff at one time or another. There were ads in all the comic books that I read that claimed that you could become a young entrepreneur (they didn't use that specific word in those days) by selling it to your friends, family, and neighbors.

The company sent a supply of Cloverine and a catalog of the prizes I would earn after selling a dozen, two dozen, or more tins. I felt let down when I saw the catalog because I had envisioned from the ad that "ambitious young men" would make money. When I went back and read the fine print I found that I had misunderstood it.

Anyway, I set out on my route. My goal was to sell at least one or more tins of the stuff at each house on both sides of Charles Street for its entire length- from Offner to Harmon. I sold six tins (two of them to my mother). The tins of salve that I did sell to legitimate customers, I suspect, was not due to my outstanding salesmanship, but

because of the "premiums" that were provided by the company. The premiums, which I carried along in a big roll under my arm, were huge and garish color reproductions of religious subjects - copies of the Ten Commandments with blue and pink doves flying around the border - and various other sentimental paintings of dogs and family scenes. These works of art were printed on heavy, glossy paper and were "suitable for framing."

Six tins of Cloverine Salve weren't enough to get me any kind of prize. I tried, in desperation, going back over my route and offering two or three premiums with each tin, but I only got rid of one more. I wrote to the Cloverine Company and asked what they wanted me to do with the tins I hadn't sold. I never heard from them. I suppose that it was unthinkable to them that anyone carrying their product could fail to sell it all.

Eventually, I gave it all away. The Cloverine Salve Company would have been proud to know that nobody ever refused a free tin of their product.

*Blaine Bierley*

## Web Page Comment

Fellow classmates: If you will look at the web page that Tom DuPuy has constructed for all of us who graduated in '55 ([www.phs1955.com](http://www.phs1955.com)), you probably would not believe the effort that Tom has put forth! He has spent over 100 hours of his time for us! He does not get paid and does not want to be paid. He is even paying for the web site out of his own pocket! Bottom line: We need to help him as thanks for his efforts.

To those of you who care about our web page, please do this: Send any, (I mean any) snapshot or picture of yourself or you and your better-half, to Tom DuPuy at 1311 Hilllake Lane Lebanon, TN 37090. Please include any brief comments such as grandkids, hobbies, exciting recent trips, girlfriends, boyfriends, or anything that is news for our website. Let us all take 10 minutes of our time in order to help make the site a success!

Thanks a million! p.s. None of us are as beautiful as we were in 1955, so send some snapshots (we don't expect professional portraits)

*Mike Zuliani*

## A Note from Nancy Hamilton



Nancy (Hamilton)  
Thomas & husband  
Harold

I've really enjoyed receiving the "Class of '55" newsletters this past year. Thank you, Frank, for all the time that you spend on it.

Although I wasn't a very outgoing person in high school, I still was a part of that class. I have shared my copies with our neighbors, Bill and Gayle (Price) Wilburn - Bill from the Class of '53, and Gayle from the Class of '57.

I can remember Study Hall 321 (duh) Miss Trowbridge, Bert Leach. Mr. Richard Sunderland as the Band and Chorus Director, I think in room 320. Chorus was my favorite class, next to lunch, even though I had to carry a brown bag lunch most of the time, that had a smashed sandwich and chips, from trying to lug my books, notebook and lunch.

It was good to see Virginia Combs and Larry Dailey's articles, some of the Lincoln Grade School kids... whatever happened to Leroy McCracken, August Miller (deceased?), John and Marlene (Cottrell) Voorheis, Sonny and his sister Sharon Stephenson, Skip and his sister Betty Keyser, Virginia Mussetter? I know Larry said Ray

Lenegar lives in WV. Paul Spears lives near Portsmouth on the Kentucky side. I believe that George his older brother has away recently. My husband, Harold, worked with Paul at Dayton-Walther for a number of years. Eleanor Singleton lives in Georgia, I believe. Most of the Coyle kids (Catholic schooled) are still local, I think. Do you remember?

The big grassy lot on the south side of the Chillicothe Street viaduct, where there was many a game played. The horrible heated permanent machines in the beauty shops? The ice man with the ice tongs and ice pick? Mom had a card that had 25/50/75/100 that hung in the window on ice delivery day to let the man know how many pounds of ice was needed on that day. And then they had to empty the water from the ice box drip pan or it overflowed onto the floor. The flags that the parents of service men hung in their windows indicating they had sons in the Armed Forces, and the number of stars told how many men from that household was serving. The hand crank ice cream makers? The "snow" on the first TVs? When there was a death there was a wreath or spray placed on the front door. Schisler's Butcher Shop on Spring Lane, Sebastian's Market on Findlay Street, Modern Grill and the Cameo, Anne's Coffee Cup, Fred Shy's Grocery Store on Findlay Street, Frantz's Market near 11th & Waller Streets. Good old Gallaghers and Smith's Drug Stores at 5th and Chillicothe Streets, where Eleanor Singleton and I walked for a Cherry Coke many a summer evening, Price's Pool Room on Front and Sinton Street.

I've recently gotten re-acquainted with Norma and her brother Ron Gulley through Sunday School class. (Ron's a great teacher.) I'm not sure if either of them graduated from PHS, although I think they did, but I do know they're our age.

Keep up the good work.

*Nancy Hamilton Thomas*

## Opal Stetzing from John

For those of you who knew Opal and Me...

I need to write this tribute to her. She spent her life as an Army wife, supporting me in my career. She hosted general officers and presidents in her home, and raised two beautiful children (Tracy Lyn and John Andrew). She spent a total of six years in Panama, another three years in Chile and two years in Paraguay. She helped me progress from a private in the Ohio National Guard to my retirement as a full Colonel in the Regular Army. At her passing, she was a food demonstrator at our local Sam's Club... a job that she thoroughly enjoyed. Many of her customers came to the funeral mass.

She was a wonderful lady. She touched many hearts with her kindness, her smiles and good cheer. I have found many "families" down here in Florida, really due to her, give me support in this time of heart ache.

It is really hard writing this, but it helps me to heal the hurt in my heart. We had a wonderful 46 years together. As many may remember, we married during spring mid terms in 1955, our Senior year. My thanks to all who have expressed their condolences.

*John Stetzing*

## Back to the Mainland

Gene,

Could not believe how many of the former football players showed up for the reunion. Just received my copy of the newspaper 2 days ago - takes snail mail quite a time to cross the Pacific. You are right - Ray Mitchell looks great!

Just closed on a house in Roanoke Va yesterday. I actually gave my daughter power of attorney to close for me. I am retiring from the Department of Defense December 1, 2001 and moving back to Roanoke in time for Christmas. I am sure I will freeze!!!! I will be working 3 days a week for my daughter. I also plan to return to the Island during the cold months starting 2002. Have a great Labor Day weekend. Take care,

*Marlene Larch*