

RAY BOAS Biography prepared to share with the Class of 1964

It has taken me some time to get to write a brief biography as we approach the 50th Class Reunion of Wilton High School due to the exigencies of life. I have not even had the time to read what others have written - I work with deadlines, so those readings will come as we approach October 17th.

My life so far has been in thirds, and I look forward to the next two fifths, or hopefully at least the next fourth plus. First third, growing up and education (22 years). Second third (1968-1990), Commander, US Navy, Supply Corps, and raising family. I have three wonderful children, David (45), Gary (43) and Julie (39), and four grandchildren. Retired in January, 1990, from the Navy and then I began the third portion of life (to date) as an antiquarian bookseller. My first book shop was in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

In 1995, Cathy and I married and we moved to New Preston, Connecticut, where we purchased the old mill on the waterfall for our shop and residence. Then, it was a chance meeting with old friends, and a non-verbal split second decision that prompted our move to Walpole, New Hampshire (a town of about 3,500 residents). Our "miracle story" is on this page of my website - <http://rayboasbookseller.com/message.htm>

Life slowed down as we settled into our 1806 Colonial on the Village Common, in a village that has not changed (well a tad) since the mid-19th century. But, our friends were right and "life is too short." I lost Cathy in 2008 at age 52.

As I have been concluding the current third of my life I still buy and sell books to pay for my toys and trips. Those trips throughout the world, and locally, I have for the last 4 years documented in my travel blog - <http://shunpikingwithray.com> But I have become increasingly involved in community activities to fill my time and give back.

Since 2007 I have been the president of our local theater group, The Walpole Players, but am most proud of my own adaptation and production of Charles Dickens novella, A CHRISTMAS CAROL. We present this as a benefit for the local food shelves, and in the past six years I have raised over \$20,000.

Three years ago I filled a void in town by founding and publishing a 24-page "slick" monthly newsletter which I mail to 2,000 addresses (<http://thewalpoleclarion.com>). Much of my writing is in the publication. In addition, I wrote and published a book this year, AS IT WAS... AND STILL IS... WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE. For the past three years I have served as Town Treasurer, and recently was elected as Treasurer of The Walpole Historical Society. My love of history has extended to another historical building in town that I am currently restoring.

Hobbies and interests have always been never ending. But, I still do drive a Model A Ford - LADY RAB, a 1931 Tudor Sedan. In early 2010, I completed restoration of a desire since pre-high school. BLACK BEAUTY is a 1958 Triumph TR3A, and joining her, and LADY RAB, in my stable is BLUE BELLE, a 1960 MGA (tucked in also are CORNELIA, my 1906 Cretors No. 2 Sidewalk Popcorn Machine, and my sidewalk peanut roaster). One of the ladies and I are usually to be found out exploring the wonderful Vermont and New Hampshire back roads.

Whenever I have a chance, I encourage those around me to be thankful for each day and live it to the fullest. Stay cheery and happy, and do what you can to help others. And one should especially be open to new experiences and adventures. There is just so much “to do and learn”. As long as I continue to run circles around my 40 year old friends, I do not ever want to stop “to do and learn”.