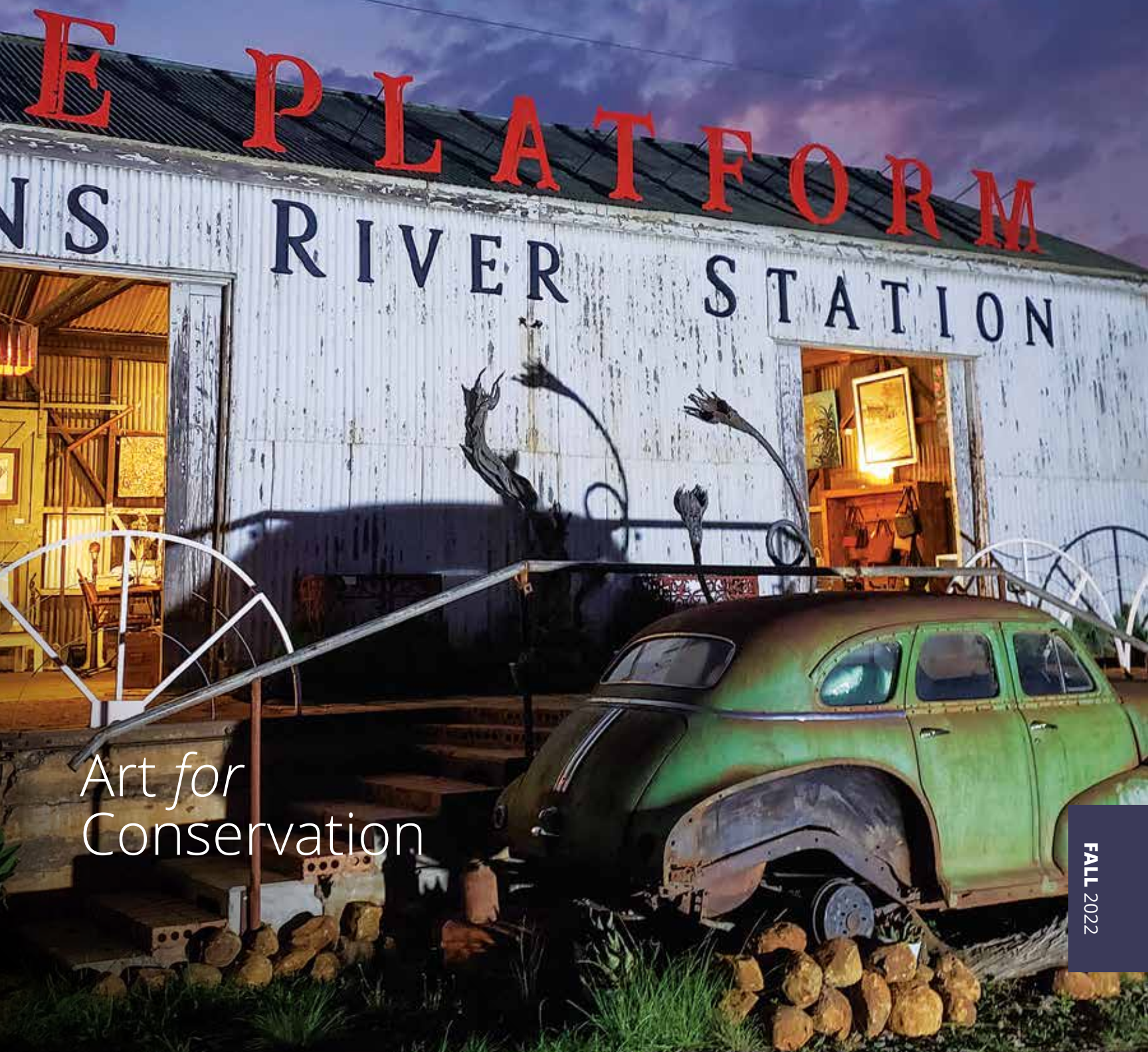


Taft

BULLETIN



Art for
Conservation

FALL 2022



Dick Wechsler '67, Bill McCarter '67, Brooks Barnett '67, and Bruce Johnson '67 during Alumni Weekend.



Members of the Class of '67 at the 1754 House in Woodbury, Connecticut, during Alumni Weekend.



1967 classmates John Wabiszczewicz, John Plume, and Jim Taylor recently got together for wine and pizza in Middlebury, Connecticut.



Deb and Bob Bayer '69 in Rockland, Maine, for the North Atlantic Blues Festival.



Cammie and Henry Bertram '69 in Dataw Island, South Carolina, this past July where they met up with former Taft employees Terry and Suzanne Giffen.

out of date, but he was a serious scholar at the LSE. Under the radar, Elizabeth worked hard, particularly in the Commonwealth, to fight apartheid and work with African and Asian leaders to achieve better outcomes for people in poor countries. A lot of this work is not well known, but the high regard in which she was held by Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama (grandson of a British army cook in Kenya), Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, etc., is testimony to how hard she worked out of the limelight to accomplish good things. There is an amazing picture of her dancing arm in arm with Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana (and recent British prisoner) during Independence celebrations in 1957. It would have gotten them both lynched in Mississippi in that era had it happened there. Her willingness to forgive and forget when she shook hands with the IRA commander Martin McGuinness was also remarkable. She was not just a warm and fuzzy grandmother." **Bob Whitcomb** commented, "A fixed point of graciousness, dignity, and duty." And **Rich Blossom** followed with "Hear, hear. She was an amazing woman." A bigger challenge in the Commonwealth countries is facing their new King Charles III. **Bob Adams** shared his "two cents given that

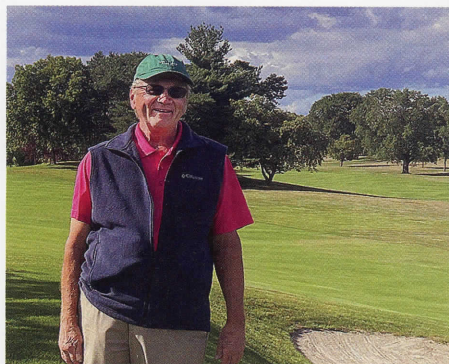
for not quite 28 years, I have lived in Australia where the 'love/hate' relationship between the Aussies and the 'Poms' continues to animate the nation's capital in Canberra, every state and territory parliament, and every sporting contest between these two cheerfully, rabidly, determined rivals." He also asked if "any of you, have you worked at the same job for 70 years? Yes, her Royal Highness enjoyed privileges and 'hot and cold running' assistance wherever and whenever she snapped her fingers the likes of which none of us, well most of us, will never know. Just the same—and please know that the debate about Australia becoming a republic continues to animate innumerable conversations any number of which emanate in Canberra; however much you believe that she was the monarch (head of state, not a butterfly) of a nation (an empire in eclipse) that rapaciously traduced numerous nation-states, cultures, and environments; she rarely 'put a foot wrong' as many Aussies are wont to say."

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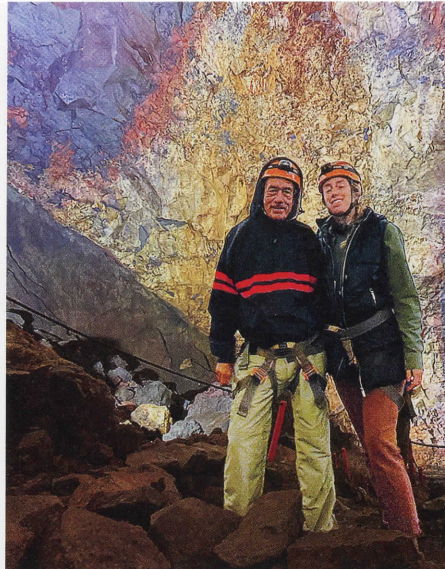
Class Secretary: Bruce Johnson, bjaia@charter.net;

Head Class Agent: Jim Taylor, jbtaylor@jbtaylor.com

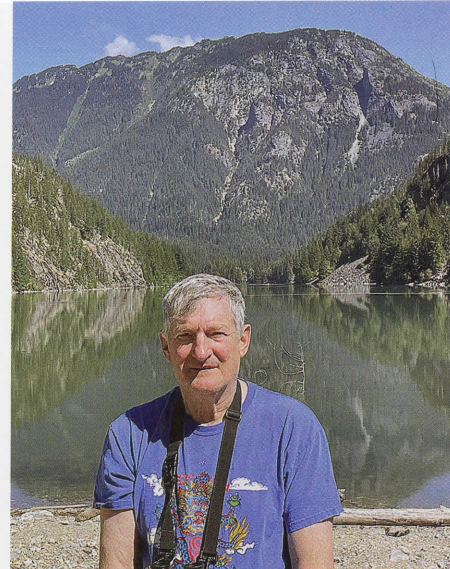
We had a few news notes and some additional photos from our 55th Reunion sent in by our new class agent, **Jim Taylor**. Jim also sent these comments on **Karen Stevenson '75**, "You should check out page 9 of the spring *Bulletin* honoring Karen Stevenson, who is the recipient of the Horace Dutton Taft Alumni Medal. I heard her speak at the Old Guard Dinner and was blown away. First group of women admitted to Taft, first Black woman to receive a Moorhead Scholarship to UNC (my alma mater), first woman from UNC and first Black woman in the nation to be named a Rhodes Scholar, first Black woman to serve as a federal magistrate judge in the Central District of California, first woman of color to receive the HDT Alumni Medal. I don't get impressed easily by a typical speech, but she was great. Finally, the other big news (yawn) is that our class agent, **Bill McCarter**, has decided to retire as class agent, and I will be taking his place. I have more fun keeping track of our class and playing Sherlock to find those that are missing, but I will do the best I can with my class agent responsibilities." **Bruce Dunne** sent news about **John Gwynne**, "Greetings, August 10 *New York Times* has a major feature on a splendid garden created by our classmate, John Gwynne, and his



Jeff Johnson '69 at his "work," Somerset Country Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.



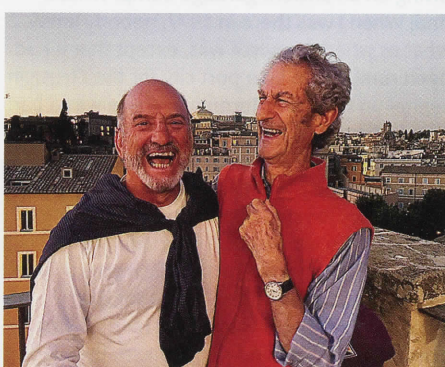
Jim Reed '69 and daughter Katherine on the floor of Thrihnukagigur, a dormant volcano in Iceland.



Mike Macy '69 at Diablo Lake, Sourdough Mountain, North Cascades NP.



Bob Leary '69 and Tim Moran '69 "studying" together in Georgia.



Dennis Vitrella '69 in Roma with longtime friend Nino Azzarello.



Photo taken by Mike Macy '69 of the fire lookout atop Sourdough Mountain, North Cascades NP, made known by beat poet Gary Snyder.

partner in Rhode Island. Lots of photos. Quite amazing! Congrats to John." **Richard Wallstein** sent this tidbit about Skunk, "Hello everyone, my wife just now came across a reference in a thriller she is reading, to **'Jeff 'Skunk' Baxter**, a self-taught specialist in terrorism, missile defense, chemical and biological warfare... better known as a guitarist with Steely Dan and the Doobie Brothers,' *Afraid of the Dark*, by James Grippando. Class of '67 everywhere."

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Class Secretary: Mac Whiteman, nummer99@yahoo.com; **Head Class Agent:** Jim Sterling, cheehaak@gmail.com, **Reunion Chair:** Jack Smith, jmcgsmith@gmail.com

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Class Secretary: Dennis Vitrella, dvitrella@gmail.com; **Head Class Agent:** Bob Leary, bleary14@yahoo.com

Writing from Italia, I'm sure we, the Class of '69, would make many legendary figures proud... Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci, Leon Battista Alberti,

Dante Alighieri, Francesco Petrarca, Giovanni Boccaccio, Niccolò Machiavelli, Amerigo Vespucci, Galileo Galilei, Filippo Brunelleschi, Michelangelo, Verrocchio, and Donatello. **Jay Geary:** "Finally decided to call it 'semi-retire.' Wrapped it up on August 31, and I DID NOT let the doorknob 'hit me where the good Lord split me' on the way out. I said 'semi,' because I'm going to devote time to mediation practice, and I'm going to be taking the Rhode Island Bar exam next July—so I'll have something to amuse me when I eventually move up there." **Jim Reed:** "My travel group enjoyed a fascinating and fabulous three-week journey to Iceland and Scandinavia. In Iceland, we visited a dormant volcano where you are lowered 400 feet by lift to the crater's floor. It was an amazing experience. Visits to several glaciers, an ATV ride along the black, volcanic beaches, and bus journeys to spectacular waterfalls and rock formations were also memorable. We then went on a Regent cruise ship to Scandinavia. We particularly enjoyed Bergen, Oslo, Hamburg, and Copenhagen along with many memorable side trips. Traveling with my daughter, Katherine, always provides me with the best days of my life. Visited **Alan Denzer** for a couple of days before departing for

Iceland and see **Bill Cobb** frequently in Chapel Hill. I had my quinquennial colonoscopy...all good...told doctor that I really didn't need to drink the Gatorade/Miralax mix the night before as I all I had to do was check my stock account the day before at 4:00 to get the bowels going." A note of sweat and cedar...Our beast of burden, **Mike Macy**, reports that he continues to tread that fine line between list, bucket, and kicking: "54 years after Dexter Newton showed me Gary Snyder's *The Backcountry*, I finally made my pilgrimage to the beat poet's fire lookout atop Sourdough Mountain, North Cascades, NP. Ascending was the easy part, descending was...forever. As were the views. Carried you all with me. No wonder my pack was so heavy." Cammie and **Henry Bertram** visited Dataw Island in South Carolina this past July, during which time they met up with **Terry and Suzanne Giffen**. Henry writes, "Terry was the director of college counseling at Taft and Suzanne was the technical services coordinator in the library until their retirement in 2014. We had great fun reminiscing about all the mutual Tafties we have in common." **George Potts:** "All continues to go well up here in northwestern Connecticut, as the world works its way