

THINGS THAT HAPPENED AT GMA BACK IN THE DAY

1. The day Captain Cook, Assistant PMS, was promoted to Major. I remember applause in his presence and smiles all around. He kind of smiled too.
2. Colonel John Moore and his “Harry Truman” steel-rimmed, round-lens, glasses. Also, his timeless comment about liking “the way she carried her groceries.” The punchline was met with enthusiasm by us teenage cadets.
3. Col. John Moore’s story about escape and evasion training in Germany and the folding bicycle (I still have never seen one of those).
4. John Peacock on the pommel horse.
5. John Peacock on the rope climb.
6. John Peacock on the parallel bars.
7. John Peacock doing just about anything in the gym.
8. Tom Harris doing 700 pound leg presses and making it look like he was flexing.
9. Rembert Wyatt and the 19 forward grip pullups.
10. The cooking smells in Lottie Crosland Wilson’s house when getting tutored in Latin and math.
11. Mike Gillis, sex on the bandstand and the unplanned pregnancy (the first fact from Gillis, the second on hearsay).
12. The aroma of new uniforms in Major Gillis’ store above the Cadet Store.
13. Sitting up high in the back of the bleachers at the little gym in the Junior School, with Major Hayes directing us in singing old British Army songs – I got six pence, jolly jolly six pence, etc.
14. The day John Bagiatis got acute appendicitis in 7th Grade and needed a medevac. Whose classroom was that?
15. Coach Sanderson’s comment about smoking – “you will never be the athlete you could be if you did not smoke.”
16. Coach Sanderson’s comment about remembering to use the “little chrome plated lever.”
17. How the Goose Step and Heil Hitler Salute Infection (my recall is that it came from Central America) was ended by Colonel Fish, who dressed in a perfectly-fitting SS uniform and called the massed Cadet Corps into the main auditorium. After his introductory remarks, the maroon curtains slowly pulled back and we were shown a movie about “our great achievements.” Never saw another Heil Hitler salute at GMA thereafter. Unforgettable even if you lived 10 lifetimes.
18. The “Make Sheet.”
19. Charlie’s unique arm swing movement.
20. Mrs. Wilson’s many, many displays of cadet analytical geometry drawings that decorated her classroom above the blackboards.
21. The overwhelming smell of stale cigarette smoke in the bathrooms at the top of the staircase in Founders Hall.

22. The 2 small signs on wall on the landing outside Mrs. Wilson's classroom, one on each side of the stairs – yellowed and torn but never removed or replaced. One said “the test of your character is what you would do if you knew that no one would ever find out.” The other quote I don't remember. Anyone?
23. The post-graduation party (or maybe pre-graduation but only by a few days) in downtown Atlanta with the Hot Nuts performing.
24. Ray Swavely's Pontiac 2-door GTO – maroon with silver trim.
25. Ray Swavely's sociology class and reading Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*.
26. The camouflaged (pretend camo – only a few small pine branches and maybe a couple of sandbags) .50 Cal. Machinegun on a tripod at the Military Ball in the big gym.
27. Wearing a spiffy.
28. Breaking starch every morning.
29. Dancing “too close” with your date at the Military Ball to provoke Mrs. Brewster's peeved intervention.
30. The day the massed Cadet Corp (not all, but a significant part thereof) ran for cover when a sudden rainstorm hit then, embarrassed, slunk back into formation (Sophomore Year I think?). In mitigation, we were not under arms at the time.
31. Staring at the list of the names of WW2 war dead engraved on that small monument by the Bull Ring and never imagining that anyone in our class would have his name on that kind of list.
32. Dismay after finishing Maj. Thelander's year-long class in geometry in which we started on circles late but knew everything there was to know and more about triangles, only to find that the final exam for geometry was a departmental exam prepared by Col. Cavelli who had been working on circles for about six months and didn't seem to care much about triangles at all.
33. The strong smell that some days wafted over the morning formation that seemed to come on the breeze from somewhere behind the parade ground and wondering what it was. Not really offensive; more like strong and mysterious. Still wonder – was it a cotton mill? Peanut manufacture? Anyone know?
34. The smell of linseed oil on those days when rifle cleaning included us putting it on the stocks of the M1s. Doing rifle cleaning on those long side tables in the rifle range which was always poorly lighted.
35. Not getting out of school until noon on Thanksgiving (Junior School). Didn't seem that odd at the time.
36. Cy Perkins in Junior School carrying a huge keyring of school keys on his belt. Why? What was that for?
37. The time in the last year of Junior School when some Senior School cadets came over and gave a us talk in one of our classes telling us for the first time about calculus (they didn't call it that, they just posed a question about how you could

- mathematically account for movement of a wheel if each point on the surface of the wheel was, for an instant, stopped in one place where it touched the ground). They said we would learn the answer when we got to Senior School. I never got beyond Trig so that did not turn out to be correct (at least for me).
38. When we got the letterman type jackets (gray leather and maroon) instead of wearing pea jackets. I always liked the pea jackets a lot more. That must have been in Senior year?
 39. Mr. Farabee – how did he get an exception to being designated as “Captain Farabee?” Or was he Captain Farabee and I just don’t remember? Same question about Ray Swavely except that I can’t even imagine him in a uniform of any kind.
 40. Never being told or finding out about how the male faculty ranks were determined. Captain This or Major That? Looking back I believe it must have been that if they were wearing real U.S. Army rank insignia, they probably held that rank either in WW2 or in the Reserves/National Guard but if they were wearing ROTC type insignia, they either didn’t serve in WW2 or were not commissioned officers. Probably never going to know the answer unless someone knows.
 41. Cadets passing out during parades and that being thought unremarkable. No paramedics on site, etc.
 42. Seeing the adjutant’s walk done the right way (better than it is often done on active duty today).
 43. How great the GMA band was and, for lack of having anything to compare it with, not really understanding that at the time. So versatile – marches, marching and looking great doing it, playing big band and popular music at formals, everything.
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TO BE CONTINUED