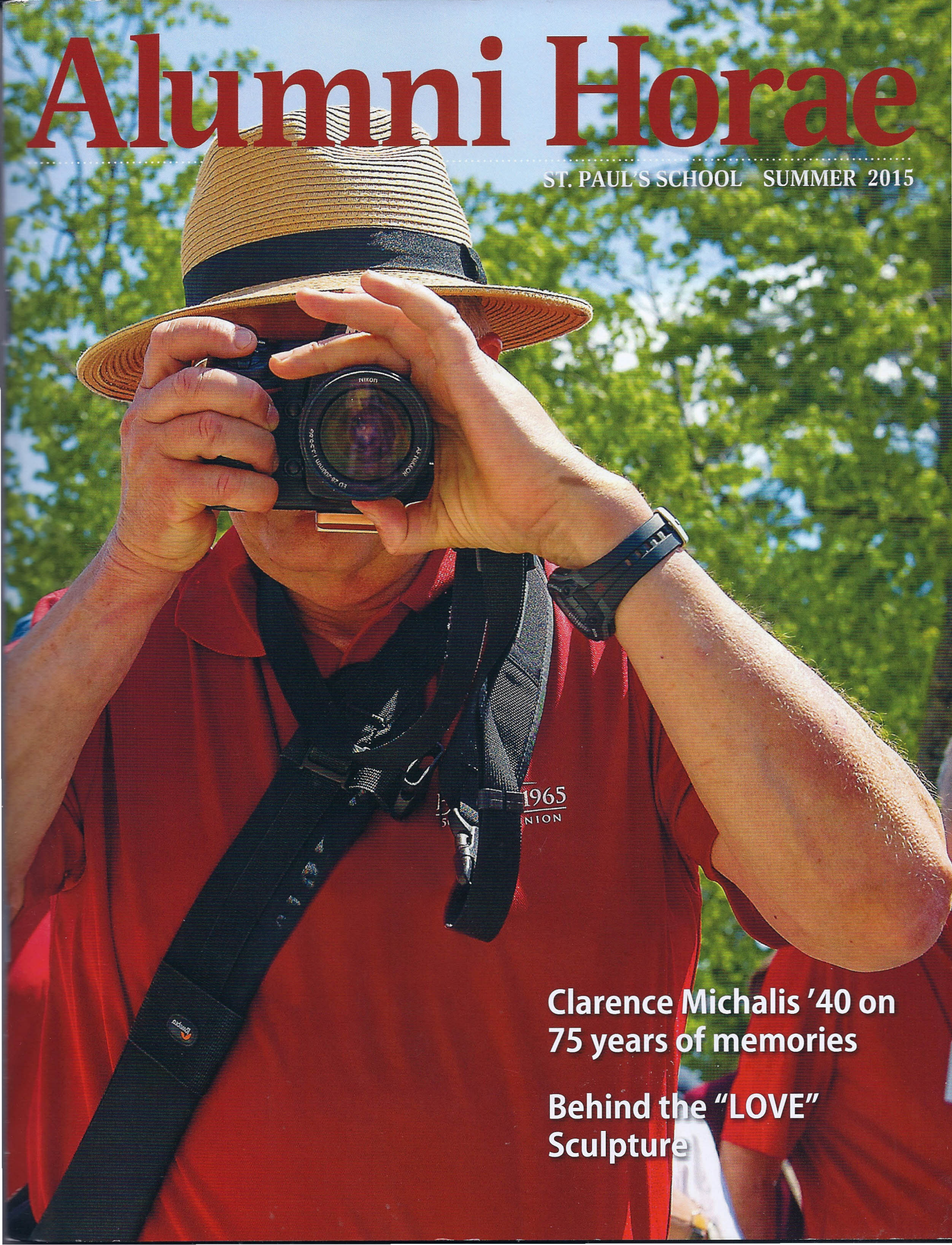


# Alumni Horae

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL SUMMER 2015



Clarence Michalis '40 on  
75 years of memories

Behind the "LOVE"  
Sculpture











# REUNIONS

We broke a Reunion record!



ART SWENSON

**FORM PHOTO (l. to r.), row 1:** John Eldridge, Chris Phillips, Shreve Cameron (daughter of the late Mark Cameron), Colly Burgwin, Fritz Newman, George Host; **row 2:** Brooke Roberts, Tom Bedford, Clem Wood, Tres Davidson, Chris Bartle, Bill Craumer, Nat Niles; **row 3:** Don Lippincott, John Martin, Nat Wheelwright, Steve Moorhead, Steve Crandall, Doug Bateson, Brock Holmes; **row 4:** Patrick Currie, Chip Gowen, Peter Culver, Lex Breckinridge, Craig MacColl, Frank Kenison, Alec Haverstick, Lorne Johnson, Bert Honea, Peter Blair

## 45th: Form of 1970

by John Martin

Those of our formmates who, under the gentle guidance of Bill Abbé and Guy Nouri, placed the imposing LOVE Sculpture on the Chapel Lawn in the fall of 1969, could not have envisioned how powerful a symbol it would become some 45 years later.

Our reunion opened with the first annual SPS SPARKS Neighborhood Day of Service on Silk Farm Road on Friday morning. One SPARKS group, under the guidance of Fritz Newman, cleared land at the NH Audubon Society, while another, supervised by Miles Herter, put up roofs over exposed kennels at the Pope Memo-

rial SPCA. In the evening, we gathered for dinner at the Crumpacker Boathouse. There, Tres Davidson, who has led so well as form director for the last five years, passed the walking stick to George Host, who – along with Steve Crandall, our form's impresario – will guide us all to our 50th in 2020. Peter Culver, our form agent, has been no less than extraordinary in his stewardship as we broke all 45th reunion Annual Fund records.

Craig MacColl and Lex Breckinridge led us in worship on the Chapel lawn early on Saturday. In front of a small replica of the



Bill Craumer

Love Sculpture, we shared warm memories of the many classmates we have lost. Later that morning at the Alumni Service, Lex helped us all understand more clearly the enduring meaning of the sculpture.

"As the student creators of this masterpiece were quick to point out," Lex told a packed Chapel, "LOVE in this context was a verb, not a noun – and an imperative one at that. The sculpture was referencing





SPS SPARKS Neighborhood Day of Service

agape, New Testament Greek for love as an act of will. Love that is self-giving and unconditional. Love that works for the benefit of the other."

Lex's words reminded us that the sculpture had appeared in the midst of a time of turmoil and alienation at the School and that it did much to help our community heal in this transitional period. As Sixth Formers, we may have looked upon the LOVE sculpture as the expression of the counter-culture of the late 60s, but today we see the values it embodies tapped into the deepest traditions of the SPS community. Many in our form hope to donate a permanent version of the sculpture to the School as part of our 50th reunion gift. We believe, if it finds the right setting, the LOVE Sculpture can continue to serve as a symbol of service and caring for others to future SPS students, especially in times of transition.

Just before noon, we carried the replica of the sculpture in the Alumni Parade. After lunch, many formmates enjoyed a stickball game on the lawn near the Lower School Pond, with Chris Bartle picking up the award for MVP, but with many showing remarkable skill in this sport that has become our form's signature activity. In the meantime, Charlie Bell, Tres Davidson, and I made our way to Turkey Pond for the Boat Races, where Tom Bedford was greatly pleased to see the Shattucks trounce the Halcyons as soundly as they did in 1970.

We all commented on the beauty of the School. It is almost perfect. But, as Nat Wheelwright (our ornithologist) reminded us, we can't take the beauty of SPS for granted. As Nat noted, we now hear far less birdsong than we did 40 years ago and the bird population has fallen significantly. Nat's comments are a profound reminder that we have an obligation to be observant.

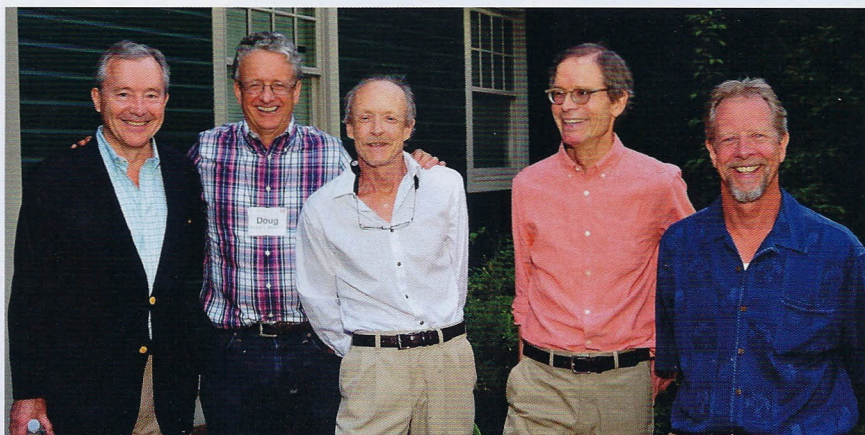
On Saturday evening, we gathered for our form dinner, where Colly Burgwin, Alec Haverstick, George Host, Frank Kenison, and Don Lippincott spoke in honor of our form's special guests, Bob Rettew '69 and his wife, Annie. We were especially pleased to be joined by Terry Hunt, Tom Iglehart, Dave LeBreton, and Tom Whitney – Bob's friends from the Form of 1969 – as well as by his faculty colleague, Terry Wardrop '73 (Guy Nouri's newbie in '69-'70). Our form not only has vivid and variegated memories of Bob from the late 60s but also deeply appreciates

the wisdom with which he has led the SPS community on so many fronts over the past 22 years of exemplary service to SPS.

On Sunday morning, we lingered over breakfast before saying our farewells. Several formmates – including Brock Holmes, Steve Moorhead, and Nat Wheelwright – had managed to join us on Saturday after celebrating at Yale the night before – and Pat Currie, who had not been with us for a long time, made it all the way to Millville from Rome! It was wonderful to have so many in our midst.



Chris and Jane Phillips, Bert and Joyce Honea, and Alec Haverstick



George Host, Doug Bateson, Colly Burgwin, Clem Wood, and Miles Herter



# SPOTLIGHT

## 1970 LOVE

by Jana F. Brown

In the fall of 1969, as the Vietnam War raged on and the United States was mired in the turmoil of the late-sixties, the Sixth Form members of the SPS Art Association were busy conspiring.

"They were very heady times," recalled Fritz Newman '70, "but they were also confrontational times, tense times. Unfortunately, some of this permeated the atmosphere of the School."

Realizing as 17-year-olds that drastic times call for drastic measures, Newman and friends, under the guidance of legendary SPS art teacher Bill Abbé, banded together to create a symbol of peace, hope, and – quite literally – love.

The result was a 16-foot-high, four-foot-wide, 54-foot-long sculpture, arranged in a clandestine operation on the Chapel lawn under cover of darkness. On Halloween morning, Saturday, October 31, 1969, the St. Paul's School community awoke to this surprise burst of affection, as members made their way to morning Chapel.

As Newman explains it, Rector Matthew Warren initially believed, without reading the message on the lawn, that students had been up to no good in the twilight hours, until he realized that the towering sculpture read "L-O-V-E." The Rector used a stepladder that morning to conduct a service reflecting the concept.

"The important thing was," said Craig MacColl '70, an Episcopal priest, "that the administration and the clergy knew that this *meant* something. I mean, nobody understood what this meant because it was a surprise, but it was emblematic of



something and I think maybe, without reading much into it, that everybody embraced it – they knew this was kind of cool and that it was a statement."

At the time the "Love Sculpture" was conceived, the Sixth Formers of the Form of 1970 were studying Paul's theology, and had become familiar with the term "agape," a Greek word meaning love.

"When the sculpture appeared," said the Reverend Lex Breckenridge '70, "it was very clear that this was agape. This was going to be love in action and it really came to incarnate an ethic of service, an ethic of observance, of inclusivity that has stayed alive in the form of 1970 and informed our friendships for the last 45 years."

In 2013, members of the Form of 1970 founded SPS SPARKS, a service arm of the Alumni Association that encourages graduates to create outreach projects in their own communities. Formed in the spirit of agape, in 2015 SPARKS-based initiatives became an official part of Anniversary Weekend, with form-sponsored projects at the Concord, N.H., Audubon Society and SPCA.

To commemorate the form's 45th anniversary, Newman teamed up with former SPS Art Association President Guy Nouri and formmates Steve Crandall, Tres Davidson, Charlie Wagner, and Brooke Roberts to recreate the original four-lettered sculpture with the help of Rhode Island-based High Tech Molds. Sitting on the Chapel lawn on the weekend of May 30–31, 2015, was a smaller, "high-quality, yet more manageable sized" version, of the original sculpture, explained Newman. The modern sculpture, made from Styrofoam coated with a hard plastic resin, measured two-and-a-half feet high by one foot wide by seven-and-a-half feet long. The four red letters were marched proudly by members of the Form of 1970 in the Alumni Parade.

"The response at Anniversary far exceeded even our own wild expectations," said Newman. "We knew the sculpture would prove a moving and meaningful symbol for those in our own form. The reaction from alumni, parents, and students, however, was hugely gratifying."