

Jerome M. Fien

January 15, 1997

Mr. Jack Druckemiller

Dear Jack,

Bob Bendure sent me the Round Robin package -- so now it is my turn to do an update. By the way, your former mayor, Ivan Lebamoff, called me last week to confirm that I was going to St. Maarten on 2/7. Small world.

Where have the fifty-two years gone?!! Seems like yesterday that the Evans slid into the water at Staten Island and our adventure began -- reminiscing today brings to mind what a super bunch we were with Harry Smith in command. We even managed to stay that way inspite of Frank Swartz (the early version of Captain Queeg?)

For those who remember -- I really was not the most seasick member on the bridge at General Quarters -- I was just "sick". In June of 1946, the doctors discovered that I was a victim of Gaucher's Disease -- a Jewish genetic disease manifested by an enzyme deficiency in the blood stream -- and a very enlarged spleen and liver. The theory was that my large spleen hitting organs in the abdominal area could have been the cause of the discomfort that appeared to be sea-sickness...John Annegars could really not have diagnosed it at that time.

Decided to take the Evans back to California instead of waiting for the troop ships to leave their moorings in the Hwangpoo. Got back to New Jersey in June, 1946 and then:

- \*second honeymoon in Canada
- \*enrolled at Graduate School of Business, New York University in the evening program -- got an MBA in
- \*worked at a small accounting firm during the day - Samuel Klein and Company, Newark, NJ

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- \*achieved partnership status in June, 1950 - eventually became Managing Partner of what would develop into a 95 person firm, retired in 1986
- \*moved to a condominium in 1987, became President in 1988 and ended up developing a new "career" as a Community Association Consultant

- \*Ruth and I (we'll celebrate 52 years of marriage in April) are very active in pro-bono community services but manage to spend one month in St. Maarten each year, and some time on the West Coast (Encino, CA; Palm Desert and Scottsdale.) Ruth and I created a Jewish Historical Society for our community which is a model for most of the country. Ruth just completed six years of duty as President and is now functioning as a "Founding President". I am still serving as Treasurer.

- \*We are the proud parents of Mark (computer data base specialist in Encino, CA) and Judie (Director of Budgets and Planning for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, DC). Mark is married with two daughters now attending University of Pennsylvania; Judie is married with two sons and one daughter - 17, 13, 10. The grandchildren are great fun, good students and community involved.

- \*Was thrilled to hear about and from you guys -- Jack, your persistence in rounding up the group is exemplary!

Best wishes to everyone for a great 1997.

Cordially,

Jerry Fien