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New Yorkers – are you tired of the shenanigans in Albany? Be comforted, knowing that 1953 has a star in the city. To quote in part from the Albany Times Union: “Philanthropist and civic-minded benefactor **Matthew Bender IV** has done a lot of heavy lifting for social and cultural causes in the capital city, but nothing prepared him for the 10-year toil required to publish a new edition of “Capitol Story,” an indispensable history of Albany’s most storied building first published 50 years ago.” ‘I’m relieved the goddam thing is done’, said Bender, 83, who is normally soft-spoken and gentle-natured. The Capitol Story’ project was a labor of love for Bender, long-time chairman of the state Commission on the Restoration of the Capitol. He was appointed to the commission when it was first formed in 1979.” Albany’s Capitol building is a National Historic Landmark. See the whole story about Matt on our website. Now you can appreciate why our 1953 series of 5-year reunion yearbooks is one of the best that the University can acclaim.

Who will be our Class Secretary for the 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion? And the 80<sup>th</sup>? I’ve been honored to so serve ’53 for our 25<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup>, and certainly there will be classmates around for our 75<sup>th</sup> and most likely for our 80<sup>th</sup>. Class Agent **Jim Donnell** sent me an amusing article from the Wall Street Journal about Ed Gerson, Dartmouth ’35 who is 100 and has been Secretary since he was 87. Now he has only two additional centenarian classmates, whom he calls before each column is due. If they don’t provide any news, Ed turns his column into a bully pulpit to seek change or make observations as he sees fit. We still have plenty of news to share, so send it on in!