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**1953: March 8 for April 20, 2016**

As would be expected, our class provided several members of the Board of Trustees – **Beck, Cape, DeNunzio, Hauptfuhrer, Ed Matthews, and Rivers**. Jim Floyd \*69, kindly sent me an essay by **Bob Rivers** adapted from a talk Bob delivered to a group of African-American seniors about to graduate from Princeton. The essay (see “Mercerspace.com”) is ‘*Growing up in a neighborhood where history matters*’. It chronicles Bob’s life as a youngster growing up in Princeton at 21 Green Street and his experiences as an undergraduate. After Princeton Bob obtained his MD and practiced surgery in Rochester for many years. Bob and Ruth have returned to their Princeton Green Street residence. Bob’s grandfather planted the original elm trees you see lining Washington Road as you drive into Princeton. His father worked for 43 years serving Princeton as a Tiger Inn servant and university dormitory janitor. Bob tells of our other 1953 African-American classmates: **Grady Smith** who tragically drowned at the end of our freshman year, and **Royce Vaughn** (also accepted at Columbia, Harvard and Yale) who came from Jersey City. Vaughn gained recognition for his California Collector’s Series and was CEO of Omni Business League San Francisco. He remained a close friend of Bob’s prior to his death last year. I have posted Bob’s essay on our website and strongly encourage you to read it fully.

Chance encounters with classmates enliven our lives. I remember spotting **Louis Marx** wandering down Bond Street about 1960 when I was working in London. Frederica and **Jim Neff** were on a Met Muse trip down the Doure River in northern Portugal when they ran into Julie and **Bayard Henry** and then encountered **Peter Ross**’s widow Anne. Good wine was had by all.

**Gunn Weber**, widow of our late classmate George, died February 16. Gunn was a lovely lady from Norway whom many of us admired. See her memorial service on our website, provided by their daughter Ann.

I apologize for my misspelling of **Fred Coffman** in our previous issue.

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Fran: I am submitting this early because we leave March 5 for New Zealand for 5 weeks.