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The request for information for the twenty-fifth reunion class book has been sitting on my desk for several months now, and, on the eve of our summer vacation, I feel I can put off responding no longer. (I really appreciate the extension from June 15 to July 15.)

You ask what I’ve been doing for the past twenty-four-plus years but you don’t want a cv. (Who writes these instructions?) Family: Marnie and I have four kids. Our oldest, Katie (Yale ’89, the first legacy of our class to graduate from Yale) is no longer a kid and is about to start her third year of landscape architecture at University of Virginia. Number two, Andy, was in a serious auto accident the week before Christmas of his senior year in high school (1987) and spent two-plus months in a coma and seven months in hospitals. He now (still) lives with us, has bad short-term memory, a great sense of humor, and works two mornings a week in my office. Peter has finished his first year at the University of Vermont. Our youngest, Gretchen, is a sophomore at our new Exeter-West Greenwich Regional High School.

Home: After spending five years living on the “East Side” of Providence, we decided to move to the country and in 1977 bought a 250-year-old farm in Exeter, which is thirty minutes southwest of Providence (and ninety minutes up I-95 from New Haven). We have forty-five acres which we use for large gardens (through Mamie’s efforts we are now certified organic), cutting wood, walking, and enjoyment. We have raised pigs, chickens, goats, bees, and a horse. (Only the first two species were eaten on the premises.)

Work: After graduating from University of Virginia Law School in 1972, I accepted an offer from Tillinghast Collins & Graham in Providence and became a partner in 1978. My work for a number of years has been concentrated in energy facility licensing—transmission lines, power plants, and a natural gas pipeline. In my spare time at work I look for new ways to use computers in my work. (Yale taught me to program in 1966 and gave me my first programming job.) I have argued many utility cases before the Rhode Island Supreme Court; however, my best argument was while representing parents and students (pro bono) in our school district against the school committee which had refused to honor the teachers’ contract because the voters had cut the budget at the financial town meeting. The Court held that the voters must honor the obligations, and if they did not do so, the courts could impose a special tax to support the schools. The general assembly created a process for reviewing school budgets at the time, but the issue has recently become hot again in Rhode Island.

Offices: (Now this is starting to sound like a cv. Sorry.) Shortly after we moved to Exeter, I was asked to represent the volunteer fire company in the financing of a new fire truck. After the closing I innocently offered nonlegal assistance to the chief and now find myself the President and Deputy Chief of the company. Of all the activities in which I am involved, the fire company (Exeter No. 2) shows the most appreciation for volunteer help. Exeter is a rural town with few commercial or industrial occupancies, so our work is primarily residential and wildland fires (the town includes a 15,000 acre state park).

I helped found and was the second President of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (the Wood River is our west boundary). I served as volunteer counsel to the ethics committee of the 1986 Rhode Island Constitutional Convention (after an unsuccessful run for delegate) and served on the Exeter Home Rule Charter Commission last year. Last fall I was elected Town Moderator and have now presided at my first financial town meeting. (The position requires a night or two of work per year—just about the right commitment.)

Other Stuff. (Loves, losses, disappointments and dreams) I have a great life with a nice mix of a sophisticated law practice and a rural home life. Occasionally we think that perhaps we are missing something by living in the country (it is hard on teenagers, especially before they drive), but on the whole it is great. Andy’s accident was a tremendous loss and will cause continuing challenges to us and the other children in the future.

It is probably foolhardy to mix politics with this document (especially when no one will read it for eleven months) but I was thrilled to see Bill Clinton elected last fall. Now if he can get his administration and the country back on track...