Sounds of the Sixties:   
**/\*/ NARRATOR** Good Afternoon. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 40 year reunion of Engineer OCS class 11-67-L.

First, we would like to call your attention to the dignitaries present.

All the way from Benicia California and Scottsdale Arizona,

KATHY BERTONCINI AND HER DAUGHTER GINE BERTONCINI

From Newington, CONNECTICUT

MICHAEL J. FOX

And from Weems, Virginia

TAC LLOYD HILL

Some months ago, our own BARRY SMITH compiled a collection of hit songs that were on the charts from 23 October 1966 to 14 April 1967.

This was a time that the men in this room shared a common experience; that of Engineer Officer Candidate School. Most certainly our guests have heard us speak of this experience. Still. It would be difficult to truly comprehend what went on there without experiencing it yourself.

One of our classmates likened the experience to the perfect fraternity; having to be with each other 24/7 for six months. We did everything together; got up at the same time; ate at the same time; went to bed at the same time. It was Cooperate and Graduate.

Most of our guests did not even know us at that time. We were mostly kids; 19, 20 21 years old. So we apologize in advance if we seem to act like kids as OCS memories are brought to the consciousness level once again.

During the next hour or two, before, during and after lunch, we would like to take a nostalgic look those six months that we spent at Fort Belvoir, Virginia,

The popular music of that time alone will jog your memories of the 60’s, but there was a lot going on in the world so we will call some of that to your attention as well. And while events both important and trivial were going on in the world, we were in out own world, that of Engineer Officer Candidate School or OCS.

The Army in general and OCS in particular had its own distinctive sounds. One of those distinctive sounds we heard at least twice a day, as the OCS Battalion staff made sure that all candidates were in fact present and ready to perform their duties.

It was a sound of the sixties, but unless you were in the military, it was unlikely that you heard it:

BARRY: BAT-TAL-ION  
 COM-PANY-Y  
 AT-TEN-TION  
 RE-port  
1 Alpha Company present and accounted for sir  
2 Bravo Company present and accounted for sir  
  
1st Battalion United States Army Officer Candidate Regiment is Assembled

PHIL: And so we were. It is October, 1966, and 120 new officer candidates report to Ft. Belvoir Virginia for six months of officer training. By April, 1967, Class 11-67 would number 83 including just over half of the original members.  
  
As the ranking member of our class, it is my duty to read to you the following disclaimer  
 DISCLAIMER - During the hour or so that follows, you will be repeatedly reminded of the days of yesteryear. THE DETAILS AND EVENTS THAT YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT HAVE BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY RESEARCHED; UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR AUTHENTICITY HAS NOT. ANY SIMILARITY TO EVENTS THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

*I know you would get tired of hearing my voice all afternoon, So we will go from Table to Table, taking turns jogging our memories about our OCS days. And do not hesitate to jump in and ad lib a little if you as you recall those sounds of the sixties.*

**/\*/** THE YEAR WAS 1966. When the year began, we weren’t class 11-67 yet, we were college grads and college dropouts and holding down jobs. Some were becoming engineers and some were employed as engineers. We served in the Peace Corps and played semi-pro baseball and combed beaches and played cards instead of studying. Al Reeves left college to find himself but Uncle Sam found him instead. Jim Sartoris enlisted for OCS instead of being drafted.

**/\*/** In January, some 8,000 U.S. soldiers land in South Vietnam bringing the total U.S. troops engaged to 190,000.

**/\*/** In February, the unmanned Soviet Luna 9 spacecraft makes the first controlled rocket-assisted landing on the Moon.

**/\*/** On March 19, 1966, coach Don Haskins made history when his Texas Western College men's basketball team that included five African-American starters stunned and defeated the heavily favored, and all-White, Wildcats of the University of Kentucky, coached by basketball legend Adolph Rupp, for the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship at College Park, Maryland. This became the subject of the 2006 movie Glory Road. In 1967, Texas Western became the University of Texas at El Paso.

**/\*/** During April, 1966, Pope Paul VI and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met in the Vatican. This was the first meeting between leaders of the Roman Catholic Church and the Soviet Union.

**/\*/** By the end of the month, U.S. troops in Vietnam total 250,000.

**/\*/** On May 12, 1966 Busch Memorial Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri opens.

On May 25th also in St. Louis, Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall dedicate the Gateway Arch, as part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. On May 28th Fidel Castro declares martial law in Cuba because of a possible U.S. attack.

**/\*/** By May or June, we were in the Army. We were drafted, we enlisted, got college options and choices of schools. We came from Colorado and California, Massachusetts and Michigan, Indiana and Wisconson, Pennsylvania and Ohio, New York and New Jersey, and Kentucky and Florida and Georgia and Texas. We were from everywhere.

/\*/ We got haircuts and OD clothes and shots and TA-50. We went to Basic in Kansas, and California and South Carolina. We went to AIT and qualified for OCS.

**/\*/** While we were becoming soldiers, Muhammad Ali was stripped of his World Heavyweight Champion titles and was banned from boxing by the various commissions for his refusal to be inducted into the United States Army

**/\*/** In June, U.S. planes begin bombing Hanoi and Haiphong.

July 28 - The U.S. announces that a U-2 reconnaissance plane has disappeared over Cuba.

**/\*/** August 1 - Sniper Charles Whitman kills 13 from the University of Texas at Austin Main Building.

August 5 - Martin Luther King Jr. leads a civil rights march in Chicago, during which he is struck by a rock thrown from an angry white mob.

**/\*/** September 7 - The final new episode of The Dick Van Dyke Show airs (the first episode aired on October 3, 1961).

**/\*/** It was in 1966 that Ted Williams was inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame. Williams, the last batter to hit .400, receives 282 of a possible 302 votes. Roberto Clemente is the National League MVP. Frank Robinson is the American League and World Series MVP. Baltimore Orioles win the series 4 games to 0 over the Los Angeles Dodgers and soon after we make our way to Ft Belvoir to begin Engineer OCS.

**/NARRATOR** ON THE POP CHARTS FOR THE Week of October 18, 1966

Reach out by the Four Tops

96 Tears by the Mysterians

Pshchotic Reaction by Count Five

What becomes of the Broken Hearted by Jimmy Ruffin

The Poor Side of Town by Jimmy Rivers

**/\*/** OUT IN THE WORLD

October - Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton founded the Black Panther Party.

October 16 - Grace Slick performed live for the first time with Jefferson Airplane.

October 24 - Negotiations about the Vietnam War begin in Manila, Philippines.

**/\*/** October 23, 1966 Class 11-67 begins OCS

PHASE I ENDOCTRINATION weeks 1-3 Remember those first weeks in OCS when food was scarce and pushups were plentiful? Lieutenants Ely and Hill and Lyons and Stone put us through the paces. The barracks bays and even the cadre rooms were full but would not be for long. Some only lasted a day and others a week but soon the faint-hearted were weeded out. We learned SMEAC knowledge and SMEACed in our chins. How many windows in the Engineer Castle? What is the meaning of Essayons.

**/\*/** How about these for sounds of the sixties:

**/TAC HILL** LAY-HOOOOLD . . . HEAVE!! SMEAC IT IN BEANHEAD

DROP, SMEAC BER-TON-CI-NI GET OVER HERE  
  
**/\*/** When we had completed two weeks of OCS, actor Ronald Reagan, a Republican, is elected Governor of California.

**/\*/** We were to spend eight weeks as underclassmen or SMEACS; eight weeks as Junior Candidates and wear white tabs under our OCS brass; and five weeks as Senior Candidates and wear red tabs under our OCS brass.  
  
**/\*/** We mastered the horizontal ladder and the dodge run and jump; the low-crawl; the grenade throw, and the one mile run. Lt Hill thought rain meant it was time for 3rd platoon Alpha to run; 3rd platoon Bravo would be inside studying. But it was the Beanheads of Bravo who set a Regimental record, averaging over 400 on the PT test.

**/NARRATOR:** How about this as another sound:

THE SIXTH EXERCISE OF ARMY DRILL ONE: THE PUSHUP

I’LL COUNT THE CADENCE, YOU COUNT THE NUMBER OF REPETITIONS

IN CA-DENCE. . . EXERCISE

one two three ONE!!! one two three TWO!!!

one two three THREE!!! ONE TWO THREE HALT!!!

**/\*/** In the mess hall we sat at attention and ate square meals, for a time it seemed we were eating nothing at all. There was a senior candidate at the head of the table; other senior Candidates were on his left and right and white tabbed Juniors next to them. We sat at the end of the table and looked straight ahead. We made sure bites were not more than one square inch and passed trash to the Gunner. We only spoke when spoken to and ate when given permission.

Of course, meals with this structure produced very little eating and the need for pogey bait runs. . . . as it really 10 burgers for a buck? or, a dozen donuts for a buck? Did we really eat them all at once?

????/NARRATOR Anyone care to elaborate on this?

Here are more of those great sixties sounds: TA-BLE . . . EAT!! SIT UP!! TOO SLOW!!

Then a congressman was called and we ate too much and inch-wormed back to the barracks.

**/\*/** One memorable experience was reported like this: “Early on, one of our classmates got caught trying to sneak out with a pork chop in his pants pocket. He was told to continue with it in his pocket for ? days. Made good grease stains in his fatigues”

???? SKINNER - can you tell us what really happened?

/NARRATOR All that mess hall talk makes me kind of hungry.

As we prepare for lunch to be served, we will start to listen to that collection of the Sounds of the Sixties that Barry put together. When we have finished lunch we will pick up where we left off.

But first, let us pause for a few moments to remember, each in his own way, those who are not able to be with us today.

CARRY ON

Now lets Reach Out with the Four Tops

(Start music)

**/NARRATOR** ON THE POP CHARTS FOR THE Week of November 15, 1966

Good Vibrations by the Beach Boys

Mustang Sally by Wilson Pickett

**/\*/** PHASE II SMEACBEANS After the initial stress period we settled in to being Smeacbeans. SMEAC is the acronym for the Five Paragraph Field order: Situation; Mission; Execution; Administration and logistics; Command and signal. We learned to work together or not at all; Cooperate and Graduate was our byeword. Everything was uniform. One footlocker and wall locker looked like the next with a white towel on the tray and rolled up socks and underwear. We each had a set of field manuals and training manuals; 5 dash 34 and 22 dash 5 and soils and floating equipage. Our bookcases were uniform and our gig lines were straight

**/NARRATOR** You know you’re a Smeacbean when you can comb your hair with a washcloth . . . .

???? WHAT ARE SOME OTHER WAYS YOU KNOW YOU’RE A SMEACBEAN???

**/\*/** Our day started with Battalion formation in the dark. Then it was breakfast and make sure the barracks was in order then march off to class. HERE ARE MORE SOUNDS:

ROADGUARDS . . POST REGUARDS . . . RECOVER.

**/\*/** We marched everywhere, but now were calling cadence with class. No more sloppy EM HUT - HORP - THREEP - FOR but a very distinctly enunciated:

ONE - TWO - THREE - FOUR ONE - TWO - THREE - FOUR

**/\*/** And some of us got to be known for our flair for keeping cadence.

Surprisingly, when asked what songs remind you of your OCS days, only one mentioned John Philip Sousa and JODY. While we do not have a Sousa recording perhaps we could come up with a rendition of JODY.

**???? /NARRATOR** BALDRIDGE do you think you could get us started with that tune from yesteryear???? Ain’t no sense in going home; Jody’s got your girl and gone . . ETC

. . . .

**/\*/** After weeks of enduring the rigors of square meals and small amounts of food, Thanksgiving was upon us. And what a contrast it was. The Alpha Company Thanksgiving Day Menu included:

Shrimp Cocktail Crackers

Roast Turkey with Giblet Gravy Bread Dressing Mashed Potatoes

Cranberry Sauce Candied Sweet Potatoes Buttered Mixed Vegetables

Assorted Relish Tray Hot Parker House Rolls & Butter Fruit Cake

Mincemeat Pie or Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream

Assorted Fresh Fruit Assorted Nuts Tea Coffee Assorted Candy Milk

**/NARRATOR** ON THE POP CHARTS FOR THE Week of December 13, 1966

Words of Love by the Mamas and the Papas

Standing in the Shadows of Love by the Four Tops

We Ain’t Got Nothing Yet by the Blue Magoos

Gimme some Lovin by the Spencer Davis Group

**/\*/** OUT IN THE WORLD

December 2 - U Thant agrees to serve a second term as U.N. Secretary General.

December 15 - In Los Angeles, Walt Disney died of lung cancer at age 65.

**/\*/** December 23 - How the Grinch Stole Christmas (television special), with narration by Boris Karloff, is shown for the first time on CBS. It will become an annual Christmas tradition, and the best-loved film ever derived from a Dr. Seuss book.

December 26 - The first Kwanzaa is celebrated by Maulana Karenga, the chair of Black Studies, at California State University, Long Beach.

**/\*/** IN SPORTS While we were in OCS the Philadelphia 1966-67 76ers had a dream season. Led by head coach Alex Hannum, the 76ers started 46-4,[1] en route to a record of 68-13, the best record in league history at the time. Chamberlain, Billy Cunningham, and Hal Greer, along with all-stars Chet Walker, Lucious Jackson and Wali Jones led the team to the Eastern Conference finals. This time, with the Celtics aging and hurt, the 76ers beat the Celtics in five games. In Game Five of that series, as the 76ers went to victory and the NBA Finals, rabid Philadelphia fans chanted "Boston is dead!"--a symbol that the Celts' eight-year reign as NBA champion had ended. The Finals were almost anticlimactic, with the Sixers ousting the Warriors in six games to give them their first NBA Championship.

**/\*/** In football, the 1966 season championships were played in late 1966 and early 1967

AFL Championship: Kansas City Chiefs won 31-7 over the Buffalo Bills

NFL Championship: Green Bay Packers won 34-27 over the Dallas Cowboys

**/NARRATOR**

And so, after our eighth week in OCS, the regiment was closing for a holiday break and we actually were going home on leave. It was indeed a welcome break in the action, and of course undeserved by us lowly SMEACs. It gave us a chance to recharge, to indulge in those forbidden things like food, and prepare to return to the OCS rigors in January, 1967.

BARRY: COM-PANY  
 PLA-TOON  
 AT-TEN-TION  
 RE-port  
1 First Platoon present and accounted for sir  
2 Second Platoon present and accounted for sir

**/\*/** PHASE III SUPERSMEACS weeks 9-11 We returned to those familiar sounds of OCS, only now it was somewhat different. We came back from Christmas leave and were no longer Alpha and Bravo Company, we were the first and second platoons of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, USAEOCR.

**/\*/** Ordinarily, we would have become Junior Candidates at the end of eight weeks in OCS. But the regiment had reorganized and we would remain SMEACS for three more weeks. Not only would we continue to be beanheads but, with our new company, we would be Lima beans.

**/\*/** We were indeed unique. We had no upper class. We had no underclass, We held Company and Battalion leadership positions. But we still had no white tabs. That made us SMEACs with an attitude, Especially when we spent our first weeks as SuperSMEACs at Camp AP Hill with Class 10-67, who had received their white tabs a week before Christmas leave. Class 10 soon learned that it was better to keep their distance.

**/\*/** We spent a week at Camp AP HILL . . . and it was cold. We did Escape and Evasion.

DUNN reports getting lost on the Escape and Evasion course and coming in dead last

GREGURICH reports that he slept for 24 hours straight in the cold rain and no one ever missed me.

???? /NARRATOR Want to tell us about that guys.

**/\*/** ON THE POP CHARTS FOR THE Week of January 17, 1967

Snoopy vs. the Red Baron by the Royal Guardsmen

Kind of a Drag by the Buckinghams

Baby I need your loving by Johnny Rivers

Ruby Tuesday by the Rolling Stones

**/\*/** January 15 - The Rolling Stones appear on The Ed Sullivan Show. At Ed Sullivan's request, the band changed their lyrics from "Let's spend the night together" to "Let's spend some time together".

**/\*/** OUT IN THE WORLD

January 2 - Charlie Chaplin opens his last film, A Countess From Hong Kong, in England.

January 10 - Segregationist Lester Maddox is sworn in as Governor of Georgia.

**/\*/** January 12 - Dr. James Bedford becomes the first person to be cryonically preserved with the intent of future resuscitation.

January 14 - The New York Times reports that the U.S. Army is conducting secret germ warfare experiments.

**/\*/** January 15, 1967, Super Bowl I: Green Bay Packers won 35-10 over the Kansas City Chiefs

January 18 - Albert DeSalvo, the "Boston Strangler", is convicted of numerous crimes and sentenced to life in prison.

January 27 - Apollo 1: U.S. astronauts Gus Grissom, Edward Higgins White, and Roger Chaffee are killed when fire erupts in their Apollo spacecraft during a launch pad test.

**/\*/** Peggy Fleming was dazzling the ice skating world winning five U.S. titles, three World titles on her way to a gold medal in the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble, France

**/\*/** In stock car racing, Mario Andretti won the 1967 Daytona 500

NASCAR Championship — Richard Petty won the NASCAR championship and the Indianapolis 500 was won by A.J. Foyt.

**/NARRATOR** While in 1st Battalion, we had referred to 3rd Battalion as Disneyland because of it’s gaudy company areas. Now it was home. The barracks that we moved to were not in nearly as good of shape as the ones we left, so we went to work cleaning up. Schatz and Company refinished the floors and Kunde remodeled the 1st platoon latrine while Szmansky did the same for 2nd platoon. Of course, the TACs liked things to look spit shined and clean so we could scuff them up during another stress period.

The sounds TACs liked was our grunting out pushups on newly polished floors.

PHASE IV WHITE TABS Finally, in late January, 1967, we receive our white tabs. One of our major operations during that time was preparations for our Junior Dance. A couple of guys from each platoon served as liaisons to the University of Maryland. Logistics included getting everyone to complete a sort of date application. Then they compared notes with their Coed counterparts and set up dozens of blind dates. They even coordinated mass movement of the coeds to Fort Belvoir by way of green military buses. The operation was a huge success, resulting in at least one marriage.

**????/NARRATOR** ODONNELL care to fill us in on the details?

**/\*/** ON THE POP CHARTS FOR THE Week of February 14, 1967

Sock it to me Baby by Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels

Jimmy Mack by Martha and the Vandellas

Dedicated to the One I Love by the Mamas and the Papas

Penny Lane by the Beatles

Happy Together by the Turtles

**/\*/** OUT IN THE WORLD

Habitat '67 in Montreal, Canada was designed by Moshe Safdie as part of Expo '67.

**/\*/** February 2 - The American Basketball Association is formed.

February 5 NASA launches Lunar Orbiter 3.

**/\*/** February 10 - The 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution (presidential succession) is ratified.

February 22 - 845 of the 173rd Airborne Brigade take part in Operation Junction City, the only paratrooper assault of the Vietnam War

**/\*/** At the movies in 1967, The Dirty Dozen was the top grossing film, followed by

You Only Live Twice Casino Royale A Man for All Seasons

Thoroughly Modern Millie Barefoot in the Park Georgy Girl To Sir, with Love

**/\*/** At the ACADEMY AWARDS In the Heat of the Night won for best picture with Rod Steiger winning best actor

Katharine Hepburn won best actress forGuess Who's Coming to Dinner

George Kennedy won Best Supporting Actor for Cool Hand Luke

Estelle Parsons won Best Supporting Actress for Bonnie and Clyde

**/\*/** One memorable event at OCS was the spontaneous coordination of an intra platoon snowball battle and subsequent critique by TAC Ely. We of course just opted for P equals Plenty and round off to all you got, but Ely was quick to point out the error of our ways.

Among our other more exciting adventures was the trip to Quantico to run the Confidence Course; and of course the TAC ATTACK following that.

**NARRATOR/** Several times during our twenty three weeks, we were required to fill out Peer Rating Forms, better known to us as bayonet sheets. Each classmate had to list every member of the platoon in order of their perceived ability to lead. Those at the top of the list as we neared graduation became our Distinguished Military Graduates. Some of those at the bottom were counseled out of OCS. Others were set back to repeat several weeks of training. Notible among them was DeFrancesco’s “are you keeding me, meester!” and McGee’s rendition of The Lion Sleeps Tonight. One of our classmates was in OCS for 40 weeks, but he made it and made a career in the Army.

ON THE POP CHARTS FOR THE Week of March 14, 1967

I think we’re alone now by Tommy James and the Shondells

Baby I need your lovin byJohnny Rivers

I’m a Man by the Spenser Davis Group

(at some point; call for a song or two from the list)

**/\*/** OUT IN THE WORLD

March 7 - Jimmy Hoffa begins his 8-year sentence for attempting to bribe a jury.

March 14 The body of U.S. President John F. Kennedy is moved to a permanent burial place at Arlington National Cemetery.

**/NARRATOR** PHASE V SENIOR CANDIDATES

It seemed like forever coming but we had red tabs at last. By then, we were thinking more about being officers than being candidates. As Senior Candidates we were a relaxed bunch. We were having uniforms fitted and buying cars. Paul remembers the parking lot after we got our orders. Did anyone count the number of Camaros, Mustangs, Firebirds??

How about those muscle car sounds of the sixties?

A few days before commissioning, we would at times be off post in our new officer greens, minus the gold bars. While at a car dealership, Ron had a non com politely point out that he forgot his brass.

We would soon be getting used to the sounds of Good Morning, Sir & Good Afternoon, Sir

/\*/ ON THE POP CHARTS FOR THE Week of April 18, 1967

Western Union by the Five Americans

Friday on my mind by the Easybeats

I got Rhythm by the Happenings

Don’t you Care by the Bunkinghams

Mirage by Tommy James and the Shondells

/\*/ OUT IN THE WORLD

April 1 - The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum opened in Nashville.

April 4 - Martin Luther King, Jr. denounces the Vietnam War during a religious service in New York City.

/\*/ April 7 - Six-Day War: Israeli fighters shoot down 7 Syrian MIG-21s.

April 9 - The first Boeing 737 (a 100 series) takes its maiden flight.

/\*/ May 1 - Elvis Presley marries Priscilla Beaulieu at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas.

/NARRATOR PHASE VI GRADUATION 14 APRIL 1967, OUR DATE OF RANK

**/\*/** On graduation day, April 14 The Bee Gees release their first international single, New York Mining Disaster 1941 on ATCO Records.

In San Francisco, 10,000 march against the Vietnam War.

Do you remember who you gave a dollar to for your first salute?

**/\*/** Fig Newton celebrated his birthday. Jim Krekel got married.

Ron’s 40 year old nephew was born 3 days before graduation, so the first thing he did after graduation was drive his mother to New England to meet the new grandchild.

???? WHAT WAS THE FIRST THING YOU DID WHEN YOU GRADUATED FROM OCS

**/NARRATOR** We had completed our OCS training, but of course the events of the time continued on. Many sounds that were prevalent in those days were the sounds of protest.

**/\*/** April 15 - Large demonstrations are held against the Vietnam War in New York City and San Francisco.

May 6 - 400 students seize the admin building at Cheyney State College, Pennsylvania.

**/\*/** We continued our journey through life and became bankers and accountants and professional engineers. We have been supervisors and managers and CEOs and CPAs. We have been realtors and ITs and PhDs. The Sounds of the Sixties have followed us all the way to where we are today. And we are here today because of the sound of the telephone with Ralph or Mike on the other end.

???? Anyone care to comment on that experience?

**/NARRATOR** In the year 2000, when Ralph Bertoncini and Michael Fox decided to locate the members of US Army Engineer Officer Candidate Regiment Class 11 of 1967, they set in motion a series of events that, among other things, resulted in 21 members of our class gathering at Arlington National Cemetery in November, 2002, to pay respects to our fallen comrade, David Padgett. The presence felt that day was greater than the twenty-one who were physically present. It became evident that we never had ceased being a cohesive group, and would continue to support each other for years to come.

As remarkable as the search for classmates was, every bit as remarkable is the story of how John Gregurich came to learn of Dave Padgett’s MIA status and his subsequent involvement with the Padgett family as they completed their too long journey to Arlington to lay their son to rest.

While these two quests began independent of each other, they merged just after 9-11 and brought together again the Belvoir Brothers of Class 11-67-L. Truth be told, this story may be unremarkable in the scheme of things; but it is our story.

**Nelson DeMille said in Up Country, “The journey home is never a direct route; it is, in fact, always circuitous, and somewhere along the way, we discover that the journey is more significant than the destination, and that the people we meet along the way will be the traveling companions of our memories forever.”**