

Reflections of the Class of 1956

**“I Like Ike”
By Foster Ulrich**

Our time goes back when America had a man as president whom the county trusted as no

up front. I hardly said a word but Bruce and the former president carried on a conversation during the entire trip like two old friends. As they say, Ike was easy to be with, so was Bruce. When we arrived at the Eisenhower Farm in Gettysburg, the General invited us in for a drink.

greatest generals and one of the top ten greatest presidents of our country. That man was Dwight David Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe in World War II and President of the United States from 1953 to 1961.

The event was our 176th Commencement, and the date was Sunday, June 2, 1963. Keith Spalding, the College President at the time, invited Ike to receive an honorary degree at our commencement exercises that year, and he accepted. For reasons Dr. Spalding never explained, I was asked to chauffeur Ike and his aide to the various activities designed to welcome him and honor him that day.

To guarantee the former Five Star General and President rode in style that day, the local Lincoln dealer was happy to provide the biggest and newest Lincoln on his lot. On Sunday morning, Ike arrived on campus by helicopter from his farm in Gettysburg, and I was privileged to transport him to various sites on campus. When it was time to leave, bad weather would not permit him to

In other words, I turned down the opportunity to sip a Manhattan with one of the most famous men in American History, my new friend, Ike. I call it the dumbest thing I ever did, and Fuz will never let me forget it.

In my career I met many people who, by reason of their degrees, experience or station in life, *thought* they were important. Dwight David Eisenhower accepted his prominence without