

From Ruth Downing Swings
'37

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By happy coincidence I believe Tom and I arrived at Bennington the same year. For us fortunate Social Science majors he provided a wealth of wisdom and humor. One course I remember vividly on "International Relations". After only three weeks of study we were asked to organize a panel for the whole College presenting the League of Nations - suddenly I became the expert on the World Court! Given such an expression of confidence it was easy for all of us to become convinced we were inevitably headed for distinguished professional careers.

I became best acquainted with Tom when he and Jean took six of us to Mexico. My past "non-resident work term" - many happy memories of this trip remain with me after more than fifty years - a day with Diago Rivera at his home, trips to mountain villages by donkey back, exploring ancient ruins and the wonders of native Mexican art. However, the greatest challenge to Tom's leadership came from the conduct of his charges at a Mexican bullfight. Having thoroughly disgraced ourselves in the eyes of Mexican spectators by loudly cheering for the only bull that would not fight, we drowned our sorrows at a Tequila party which soon got out of hand. A potential crisis was

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avoided by Tom's sense of humor. One of my treasured memories is of Tom on all fours, pretending he was a bull prancing around the cafe floor - The Brockways were ideal companions for this unique adventure.

As the professional historian of Bennington Tom has provided a continuity and perspective on the great "Benningtron Experience" for all of us. For this, and for a life-long friendship, I am deeply grateful.

Congratulations to Tom for reaching 90 with increased wisdom and humor, a great inspiration for all the rest of us!

Ruth Ewing '37