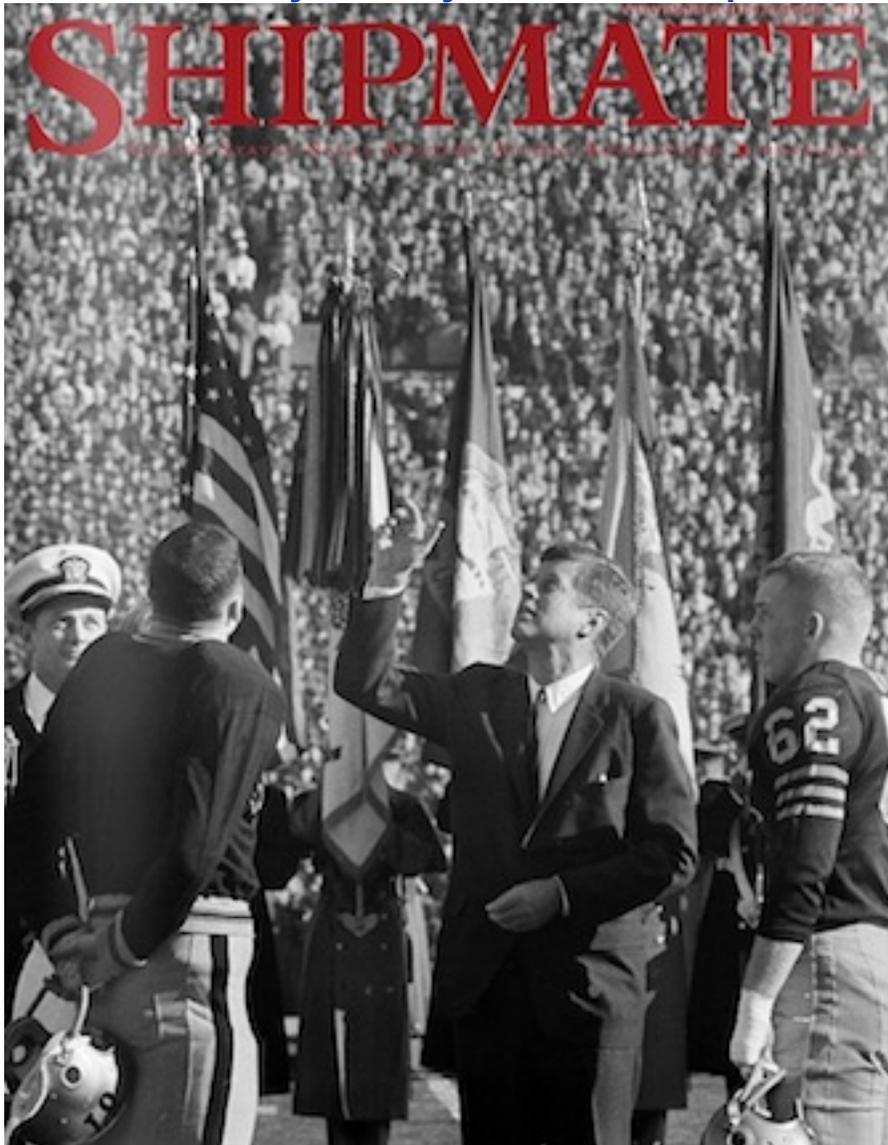


Army-Navy Coin Toss 1962
Steve Hoy-Navy Team Captain



At the game, Army was the visiting team was entitled to make the call "Heads or Tails". John Ellerson was the Army captain. John later became a Major General and is the older brother of the current Army coach, Rich Ellerson. As it turned out, John called it wrong and after JFK picked up the coin, he handed it to me saying, words to the effect, "I believe you get the

coin". As the president then turned to be escorted to the Army side, John leaned close to me and said "I think I should turn him in for giving away government funds" (words to that effect) my memory is that JFK turned and smiled. John was one cool customer, he stood very relax through it all, whereas I was hyped and so anxious about the game I could barely speak, or keep my knees still. You can almost see that in comparing John's posture to my own. No wonder he became a Major General ... cool under fire.

So, I brought my coin to the sidelines wondering where I could secure it. Peyton Carroll, who was the birddog from the west coast that had recruited me, along with about 16 other players from California, was there so I gave the coin to him to hold for me. From there, I did not see the coin again until after graduation. On graduation, my mother gave me a small plastic case containing a silver dollar and a small photo from the coin flip. She told me Peyton had given the coin to her after the game. I had always wondered if it was the real thing or if mom had just substituted another coin and added a bit about Peyton giving to her. The coin in the case was dated 1923, which seemed odd.

When I read about Tom's coin that he received from Cyrus Vance with a note that it was the coin that JFK would have flipped, I noticed that it was 1923. Of

course, I then knew that my coin was most likely authentic. I wrote Tom a note, telling him just about all of the above. Tom wrote back, saying "Thanks for the remarkable history on your coin toss in 1962 which helps me because knowing Army was the visiting team in 62, then they were the home team in 63 and explains why Cyrus Vance as Sec Army had the Kennedy coin. I guess he sent it to me because I won the toss and we won the game.....a wonderful gesture by him. I do not know who flipped the "other" coin in 63."