



**Albert Winsborough Yancey    Co L-2**

**Former Classmate**

**Born** – 6 Aug 1938, Chipley, FL.

**To USMA** – Came from Florida. Appointed as a Qualified Alternate. Nicknames – “Al” to West Point classmates and “Bert” to the Professional Golfers.

**Died** – 26 Aug 1994 (age 56) at Park City, UT. Buried at Oakland Cemetery, Tallahassee, FL.

**Military Awards** – Unknown.

**Schooling** – Unknown.

**Family** – 1<sup>st</sup> wife – 4 children (Scott, Jeff, Charles and Tracy) – 4 grandchildren – 2<sup>nd</sup> wife – Cheryl Yancey – 1 child (Andrea) – 2 plus grandchildren.

**Contact** – Cheryl Yancey, Address unknown, Phone unknown, Email unknown.

It was his last year at West Point when Al returned from his summer activities to embark on Reorganization Week that something seemed to happen. Initially, everything seemed to be going smoothly, but then it was evident Al was not quite right. He did not sleep and would rant about things that made no sense to anyone but him. Finally, he went to see the golf coach and the head psychiatrist and he was immediately taken to the West Point hospital and then to the US Army psychiatric hospital at Valley Forge, PA. He suffered from a debilitating illness known then as manic-depressive illness, but today it is more commonly called bipolar disorder. Al remained there for nine months and was then honorably discharged from the Service.

His illness went dormant after that and his pro career flourished until the mid-1970's. His record included:

- Seven PGA Tour wins.
- Twice finished third in the Masters, and once fourth.
- Twice finished third in the U. S. Open.
- Once tied for third at the British Open.
- Held the best putting record on the PGA circuit for eleven years.

Bert continued to play in Senior PGA tournaments up until his death. He later formed Bogeys, Birdies & Bert, a group for the education and support of depressive illnesses. He put on seminars, golfing clinics, tournaments and other charitable events – in an effort to spread the message on manic depression and mental illness. Al / Bert passed away on 26 August 1994, from a heart attack at a Senior PGA tournament, the 1994 Franklin Quest Championship in Park City, UT. The Bert Yancey Mental Health Golf Tournament, based in Augusta, GA, is held annually to benefit local chapters of national non-profit mental health organizations.

Footnote from Al / Bert – “Look forward, always try to do your best, eat right, exercise, tee it up, and go for the next hole. Don't look back”.