

the Rücker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 34, No. 2, June 2023

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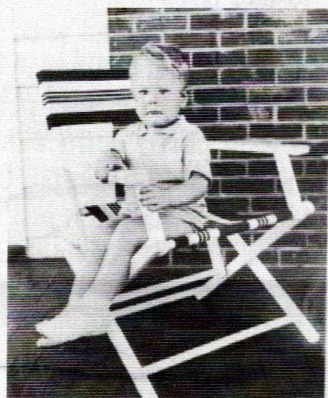
In Memoriam

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William "Billy" Wood Mann

Lewis "Jack" Marion White

McDaniel "Dan" Rucker IV



**Billy Mann, grandson of
Sudie Rucker Wood
Photo by Bob Brydon**

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In Memoriam

William "Billy" Wood Mann

Grandson of

Sudie Rucker Wood

William "Billy" Wood Mann, age 86, died July 13, 2023 after a short illness. He was the son of Roger L. Mann and Sudie Elizabeth Rucker. Billy was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. He went to V. P. I. (now VA Tech) in Blacksburg, VA. He moved to Virginia Beach and then to northern Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, son William "Will" Wood Mann, Jr., and daughter Kristen Mann.

Lineage:

Line 1 --William⁹ Wood Mann, Sudie⁸ Elizabeth Wood, Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹

Line 2 -- William⁹ Wood Mann, Sudie⁸ Elizabeth Wood, Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A. Wm. B.'s wife Mary⁶ A. D. Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

Jack White's Obit

Submitted by his daughter,
Sandy Bartell

Lewis Marion "Jack" White passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at his home in Vienna, Virginia, surrounded by his family. He was just shy of his 102nd birthday. Jack was born in Chase City, Virginia on August 22, 1921. When Jack was a young boy, his family moved to Grand Rapids Michigan where his father managed a Coca-Cola plant. Several years later, the family moved back to their farm in Cifax, Virginia where Jack lived until leaving home for college.

After two years at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, Jack transferred to Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service until his schooling was interrupted by the World War II draft. He served three years in the U.S. Army, most of them in China and India. Upon His return in 1946, he completed his education and graduated from Georgetown University.

Continued on p.17

*The Rucker Family Society
Newsletter*

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Cedric Rucker
**Honored by University of
Mary Washington**

By Michael P. (Mike) Rucker



Cedric Rucker

Former UMW Associate Vice President
and Dean of Student Life

On February 18, 2022 the University of Mary Washington Board voted to name the University Center as the “Cedric Rucker University Center.” This building is the four-story hub of student activity on the campus. Cedric Rucker served as the Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Life.

The renaming went into effect upon Rucker’s retirement on June 24, 2022, more than four decades after he arrived on the university in 1977 as an undergraduate. He was the first African-American male graduate to live in the residence halls. As an undergraduate he joined the anthropology club,

worked at the library and radio station, and formed unbreakable bonds with his classmates. He went on to study sociology and “weave himself into the fabric of the university.”

Upon naming Rucker for this honor, the university rector stated, “Cedric Rucker has had an indelible impact on thousands of Mary Washington students and alumni. He made us better people and inspired us to live lives that are authentic, pursue justice and seek to deeply understand each other. I can think of no other person who perfectly defines the Mary Washington ideal than Cedric.” “Mary Washington just felt like mine,” he said during a recent interview.

University President Troy Paino noted, “Since his arrival on campus almost 45 years ago, Cedric Rucker has dedicated his life to making the Mary Washington community better. UMW is a more caring, compassionate and inclusive place because of him, and this is a fitting tribute to honor that legacy.”

As a junior, Rucker enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Virginia, where he later earned a master’s degree, began a doctoral program and took a job there in Admissions. He made his way

Continued on next page.

Cedric Rucker -- continued from p.12

back to UMW in 1989, becoming dean of student activities, a position he held for nearly a decade, before moving on to his longtime role as dean of student life. As an adjunct faculty member for 33 years, Rucker taught sociology to hundreds of undergraduates, and worked with his colleagues to create enlightening courses, like Ethnic Studies, designed to bring inclusivity into the classroom.

Rucker was known for regaling the UMW community with annual rituals that lifted spirits and fostered a sense of connection and caring. For example, every year he would hand out Halloween candy dressed as Winnie the Pooh. He would help soon-to-be graduates adjust their regalia, and simply shows up – for the arts, for athletics, for the students.

Rucker is a collector of antiques and all things “Mary Washington.” And he’s a world traveler, having peered into the Grand Canyon, hugged the giant sequoias, climbed inside the Great Pyramid, stood on the ground in Hiroshima, gone on safari and visited the Great Wall of China. And that’s just for starters. Now during his retirement, he plans to join the Peace Corps, once again wielding his unstoppable

energy far away from Mary Washington.

“I’m stunned,” Rucker said through tears at the board meeting when the honor of his meeting, where he received a standing ovation. “It’s because of the level of engagement of this community that I’m able to dedicate myself to the success of the students and to the success of this institution.”

* * * * *

DNA Corner

Authors: Alice Rucker, YDNA Project Administrator; Co-Adm., Charles Rucker, Paul Mize and Phyllis Rucker.

Sometimes DNA results surprise you and provide an answer that is totally unexpected. Finding out who you ARE NOT can be just as telling as finding out who you ARE!

For example, Descendants of German ancestry appear in a group (also called haplogroup) of U106. As it turns out, none of the Ruckers that descend from Peter come from this haplogroup! This means we are not of German descent! So, no umlaut in the Rucker name, folks! Peter’s line belongs to a group (haplogroup) of DF27. Then

where did Peter’s group (DF27) originate?

There are many theories as to Peter’s origin. As yet, we don’t have anything conclusive. As more and more people test, knowledge will become refined and we will be able to more accurately pinpoint the originating area of Peter’s origin.

Stay tuned to DNA Corner for any late breaking DNA findings.

Genealogy Tip Corner

Authors: DNA Project Administrator Alice Rucker and Co-Adm. Phyllis Rucker

Have you run into a research brick wall? No land records, no probate records, or no Will anywhere! You are not alone! We have a tip that might help.

Consider using tax records to track your ancestor’s migration pattern. Start from where you believe your ancestor may have first paid their taxes and follow their migration pattern from county to county and state to state.

In the absence of any other information, this can be a valuable tool to help prove the existence and migration of your ancestor!

Peter Rucker Inventory From Shirley Klein

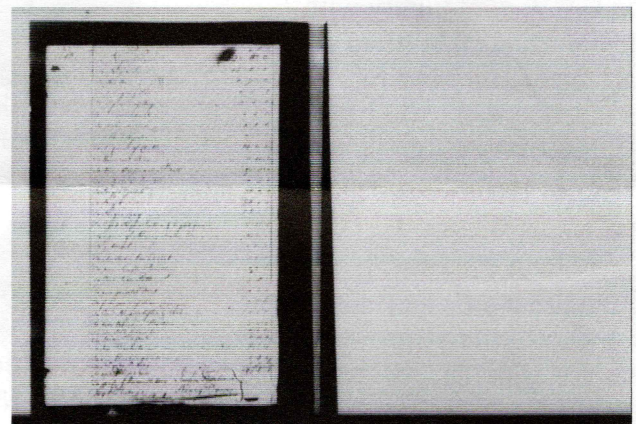
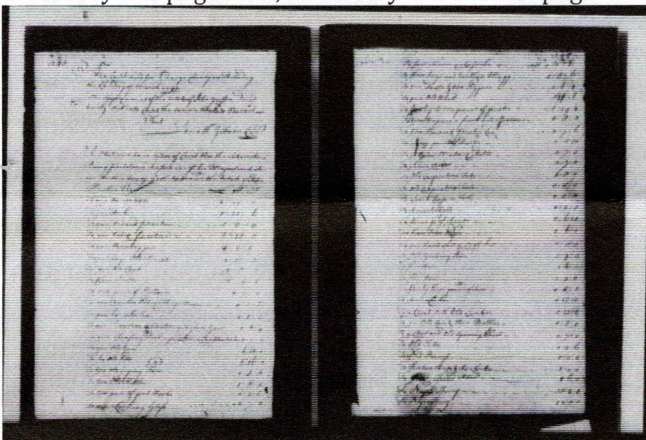
<shirleyrklein@gmail.com>

January 27, 2021

I'm attaching copies of Peter Rucker's estate inventory. I made a copy of the original and then attempted to transcribe it. It is so very interesting. Maybe you have already seen this but it was new to me. I also found a dissertation written about understanding these old wills but haven't had time to read it carefully yet. This might be a good subject for the newsletter if it hasn't already been done.

This was an interesting glimpse into everyday life of our dear Peter. I was struck by many things, one being that most of his property was described as "old." Can you imagine our children making a detailed inventory of our personal goods, done to the last piece of silverware, after we are gone?!!

Inventory 1 is pages 1-2; Inventory 2 is the last page



Translation by Shirley Klein

At a court for Orange County on Thursday
the 22nd day of March 1743

The appraisement of the estate of John Graften deced
Being Ret[urned] into Court the same admitted to Records

Test Jonath Gibson

In Obedience to an order of Court Wee the Subscribers
Being first sworn before one of his Majesties Justices for this county hath appraised the Estate of Peter
Rucker Viz -----

| PAGE 1 | £ (pound) | S (shilling) | D (pence) |
|--|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| To one Quill Table | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| To one Desk | 1 | 10 | 6 |
| To one bed and furniture | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| To one bed & furniture | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| To one Warming pan | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| To one Large Old Bridle | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| To one Old Chest | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To three Bells | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| To one pair of stillards* | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To one Chamber Pot & Sheep Shears | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To one hoe Cake Iron | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To one Box Irons & Heaters & Taylors Goor | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To one Chafing Dish & grid Iron & Candlesticks | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To one Old Gun | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| To Six Old Pots | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| To two old frying pans | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| To two Old Kettles | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| To two pair of pot Hooks | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To one Looking Glass | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| PAGE 2 | | | |
| To four knives and six forks | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To three jugs and Earthen Mugg | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| To one Dollie & two Riffin | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To one Old Wheel | 0 | 11 | 6 |
| To forty seven pounds of pewter | 1 | 19 | 0 |
| To two tin pans a funell and spoon | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To two Basons & pewter can | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| To seven pound of Pewter | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| To a spice Mortar & Pestle | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To Seven Chairs | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To Old Carpenters Tools | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To Old Carpenters Tools | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| To Some Carpenters Tools | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Seven Sickles | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To three ? of Screws | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To three Iron Wedges | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To one hand saw & cross Saw | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To Old Grubing Hoes | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| To three Hoes | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To three Axes | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| To thirty three pound of Iron | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To some Leather | 0 | 13 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|---|
| To a Chest with Old Lumber | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| To an Old Case of Three Bottles | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To a Chest and Old Spinning Wheel | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To Old Tubs | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To Old Harness | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Thirteen Sheep & Six Lambs | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| To Old Grind Stone | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To Negro Harry | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| To Negro Hany | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| PAGE 3 | | | |
| To Negro Flow | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| To Negro Sarah | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| To Old Hoes | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To a Frying Pan | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To a parcel of Hogs | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| To a Tomahawk | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To a Joynter Iron | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To a hand Joynter | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| To a Parcel of Chatle (cattle?) | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| To Three raw Hides | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| To Three Heifers and a Bull | 17? | 3 | 0 |
| To a Saddle & Bridle | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| To Negro Yourk | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| To Negro Fillis | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| To Negro Jany | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| To Eight Pound Sixteen & Eight pence | 8 | 16 | 8 |
| To a pair of Money Scales | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To a Cri??? | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| To An Iron bound Cart | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| To one snaffle [bit for horses] Bridle | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To one Iron Pott | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To one Pewter Dish | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To five pair of Iron Clamps | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To One Meall Sifter & Such | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Two Whiskey/Wicker Bottles | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| To An Old plow hoe | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Nine Old Casks | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To Six Baskets | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To one Washing Tub | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| To Negro Beding | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To one Whip Saw | | | |
| To pair of ??? ??? | | | |
| To 4 Old tubs | | | |

Signatures Jam[es] Rucker

Benj Cave
Tomas Barbour
Henry Down

Virginia, Orange, Probate records. Will Books, vol. 1-2, 1735-1778. Appraisal of Estate, Book 1, page 343.

*Stillard: balance consisting of a lever with unequal arms, which moves on a fulcrum, the article to be weighed is suspended from the shorter arm, and a counterpoise is caused to slide upon the longer arm until equilibrium is produced. It's place on the arm [which is notched or graduated] showing the weight.
<https://www2.shu.ac.uk/sfca/glossary.cfm> glossary of words no longer used.

Slaves of Peter Rucker as mentioned in his Will dated June 18, 1743 (W. B. I, p.299, Orange Co., VA) Yerksire, Phyllis, and Jeney.

In Memoriam

Jack White

Continued from p.11

In 1950, Jack passed the written test for the Foreign Service Exam in Paris where he was studying French at the Sorbonne University. After returning to the U.S., he passed the oral exam and was commissioned as a Foreign Service Officer. At one of his early posts, Jack met his beloved wife of 70 years, Dagmar Hasalová, the daughter of Czechoslovak General Antonín Hasal who was a military advisor to President Beneš in London during World War II.

For the remainder of his career, he lived and worked in countries all over the world. His posts included: Bogota, Columbia; Noumea, New Caledonia; Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic; Managua, Nicaragua; Rabat,

Morocco; and Washington, D.C. In 1957, the U.S. State Department sent him to Harvard University where he earned a master's degree in Economics. Jack and Dagmar had two children, Sandra and Tom, who loved the experiences and education they received from living abroad.

Jack was very active in his retirement. For 45 years, he was a contributing member of the DACOR organization (Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired) where he served two terms on the Board of Governors. He was also very involved in the Czech and Slovak communities in the Washington, D.C. area and co-authored and edited a three-volume series of memoirs by Czechs and Slovaks who fought during World War II for a democratic country after the war ('On All Fronts: Czechoslovaks in World War II').

Jack had many interests and hobbies throughout his life. A lifelong learner, Jack was an avid reader of foreign affairs, current politics, and global matters. He had a passion for exploring his genealogical roots and was a member of the Jamestown Society (descendants of early Jamestown settlers). He was also a talented artist and writer.

As the eldest child of Vixella Rucker White, Jack enjoyed being a member of the Rucker Society for many decades. He was the society's treasurer for several years, contributed several articles to the newsletters, and loved attending and helping organize some of the reunions.

Above all, Jack was devoted to his large extended family and kept the members connected with over 200 family newsletters he authored and published. He even kept up with his WWII buddies, publishing a newsletter and

helping to organize their reunions.

Jack is survived by his wife, Dagmar White of Vienna, Virginia; his daughter Sandra Bartell (Earl) of Bellevue, Washington; his son Tom White (Susan) of Vienna, Virginia; and grandsons Andy White (Samantha), Michael White (Haley), and Curtis Bartell.

He was interred at St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C. in the U.S. Foreign Service Officers section.

Note: Jack's profile was printed in the Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 2, p.11-13. Jack was the first Treasurer of the RFS and served for ten years. He helped run the reunion in Bedford Co., VA. See profile of Jack's mother in Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 1-2. See also Vol. 7, No. 2, p. 11.

Lineage:

Lewis⁹ "Jack" Marion White, Lelia⁸ Vixella Rucker, Waller⁷ Jonathan Rucker, James⁶ Monroe Rucker, Jonathan⁵, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹.

Lewis¹⁰ "Jack" Marion White, Lelia⁹ Vixella Rucker, Mary⁸ Russell McDaniel, John⁷ Edward McDaniel, James⁶ Pendleton McDaniel, John⁵ William McDaniel, Margaret Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

McDaniel "Dan" Rucker IV

McDaniel "Dan" Rucker IV passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 25, 2023. He was born in Richmond, VA on November 1, 1951 to Audrey B. Rucker and McDaniel Rucker III. After graduating from John Marshall High School, Dan earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Richmond and his Master's Degree in Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. He was the Headmaster at Stony Point School and then taught Social Studies at Robious Middle School for 15 years.

Dan is survived by his wife of 28 years, Joan with whom he reconnected at their 25th high school reunion; his daughter Meghan Williams, her husband, Jack and grandchildren, Dani, and Lennon. Also his stepchildren, Steven Miles, his wife, Amanda. Jody Swezey, her husband, Jason, Melissa Botha, her husband, Hein Carrie Ransom, her husband, Antoine, Jill Carmichael, her husband, Russ; and Daniel's stepchildren from his previous marriage, Kristen Horne, and Jason Connelly. He is also survived by his extended family, friends, and community.

Dan was a history buff, a talented musician, a lover of

50s and 60s Rock 'n Roll, speaker, writer, coach, dedicated PIKA fraternity brother, and strong believer in God. Dan cherished time with his family and friends.

His memorial service was held at Clover Hill Church, Friday, July 7, 2023, 12310 Bailey Bridge Road, Midlothian, Va. 23112. Following the service, a celebration of life was held where family and friends were able to share stories and memories. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the Wounded Warriors Project and Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

Published by *Richmond Times-Dispatch* from July 2 to July 5, 2023.

Editor's note: On the TV news was a piece about a man who drowned in the Swift Creek Reservoir in Chesterfield, VA. In a later article the man was identified as McDaniel Rucker. My ears perked up and I began my search for him. Being the "Fourth" made him easy to find. I found his lineage to be:

McDaniel⁹ Rucker IV, McDaniel⁸ Rucker III, McDaniel⁷ Rucker, Jr., John⁶ R. McDaniel Rucker, Anthony⁵ Thomas Burgess Rucker, Absolem⁴, Anthony³, John², Peter¹.

Articles went on to say he and his wife were celebrating their 28th wedding anniversary at their favorite spot, Swift Creek Reservoir. McDaniel went into the water and never resurfaced. It was never explained why he went into the water. His body was later found and identified.

Dan was a great teacher and was loved by his students. His daughter said, "My dad was the kind of man that will take a piece of your heart with him, and he will always have that because he can't be replaced."

Editor's note: Sorry for being late with the newsletter. I had a hip replacement in June with complications and had difficulty getting back to a normal life.

My email stopped working for six months and a newsletter is hard to do without email.

At Christmas, I had Covid. So that's the story of a bad six months.

Please send articles and obituaries to me (my address is on p.12).

Hope to see you at the reunion in Fredericksburg. More information will be mailed soon.

It's also time to renew your membership. Thanks for being a loyal member.

Obituary from 1882

From the Decatur [IL] "Morning Review," Monday Nov. 6, 1882, p.4.

Elizabeth Cowan Rucker

Elizabeth Cowan Rucker, born in South Carolina, July 8, 1804, died Nov. 5, 1882, aged 78 years, 3 months, and 27 days. Funeral services today at 1 o'clock p.m. Remains to be interred in North Fork Cemetery, near Long Creek [Illinois].

In the year 1827, Elizabeth C. Cowan, in Tennessee became the wife of John Rucker, and with her husband moved to this state and settled near Shelbyville.

In 1830, Mr. and Mrs. Rucker came to Macon County and upon Section 15, in Long Creek township, erected their modest habitation and commenced the arduous task of improving their land and making for themselves and their children a comfortable home. Farming, at best a never ceasing strain upon the physical powers, was fifty years ago, a weary, plodding, exhaustive acceptance; but cheerfully, and with the utmost zeal, did Mrs. Rucker join hands with her husband in the performance of those duties that came with the rising of each day's sun. In her household, her usefulness was everywhere apparent, and her "busy wheel" sang its song in her praise as she spun the threads that should be

woven into warm fabrics for "couch and raiment." For her whole life, she was characterized for marked habits of industry, and frugality and to the exercise of those attributes in her nature, is largely due her husband's success. In 1872, her husband died and Mrs. Rucker made her home with her grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Eldridge, of this city, where she has since remained.

"Grandma" Rucker, worn down in the weary battle of life, has left us, never to return. With no fear or trembling, she had passed through the "valley of the shadow of death," and her footfalls even now are pressing the boundaries of a happier world. The light of her life day by day, losing its brilliancy, has finally burned down in the socket and "gone out" forever, on this shore of eternity.

She did not fear to die for she had long passed her three score and ten years, and was hourly expecting death. Peacefully and calmly did she wait the end and when the final summons came without a sigh or murmur she gave her hand to the dread messenger, and like the lost child that seeks its fathers house, went home.

Lineage of her husband,
John⁵ Rucker, James⁴,
Mordecai³, William², Peter¹.

Save the Date!

2024 Rucker Family Reunion

Fredericksburg, Virginia

June 17 - 20, 2024

The host location is Courtyard by Marriott, 620 Caroline Street

Make your own reservation. 540-373-8300 --Ask for special \$169 + tax rate for Rucker Family Reunion

Nearby Historic Venues:

Fredericksburg Museum & Cultural Center

Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania County National Military Parks

George Washington's Boyhood home, Ferry Farm, James Monroe Museum,

Rising Sun Tavern Museum, Hugh Mercer's Apothecary Shop, Historic Kenmore

Mary Washington House, University of Mary Washington

Gari Melcher's Home and Studio at Belmont

Downtown is full of small shops and restaurants

Your Rucker Reunion Planning Committee,

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Mike Rucker, Chris Rucker, Alice Rucker, Nell Cordick, Ruth Pillow, Jeannie Brydon



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FROM US AIR 2024 PM