

TARO LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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*"He's gittin' th' fever, Joe.
Now let 'im edge in a little."*

*"We just landed. Do you know
any good war stories?"*



TARO LEAF

The publication "of, by and for those who served or serve" the glorious 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th Infantry Division Association, whose officers are:

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SAM UMPHREY, (Div.Hq. 3/46-11/47), is back in Korea after a 60 day tour of the U.S. and Europe. By the time this is read, they will have had their Christmas holidays in Tokyo and a ten day sprint in Honolulu. On top of all this, Sam has found and purchased his dream house in 'Frisco overlooking the city, the Bay, and the mountains. He already has homes in Texas and Scotland. Sam, you're living!! During the USA/Europe jaunt, he and his family hit San Juan, Lisbon, Madrid, Rome, Florence, Venice, Vienna, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, New York, Boston, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans and Miami. A letter from Sam reads like one of those old Kirkpatrick travel films. "And now, with great reluctance, we take leave of Sam to come again another day, and as the sun sets...."

Good friend ELMER L. VAN ZANT, (24th MP '46-'48), of 2102 Sibley, Augusta, Ga., appointed himself and Becky as a committee of two to check out our convention site. Let Van tell it: "When I read of next years convention at Myrtle Beach, I decided to make a personal investigation. I secured my passport (all Georgians have to do that), crossed the river and proceeded over So. Carolina's fine roads to the Ocean Forest Hotel, where I looked it over, front to rear. Beautiful place. Then came home again. Becky was with me, as usual, and stated flatly that we shall attend the convention. I agreed to go, of course, so I guess I will see you for the first time since we split that bottle of Kamikaze whiskey at your house many years ago, which resulted in Becky not speaking to me for days, and I am sure your folks felt the same way after I left. For the life of me I can't understand why they all would get mad at us. All we did was fall asleep at dinner. All joking aside, it will be a swell place to hold the convention. Don't tell anyone from S.C. that I admitted this. And during that time of the year the weather will be just right for bathing".

Reprinting these bouquets is distasteful to us but here's one we had to print. It's from VINCENT VELLA (K-21st '44-'46) and reads: "I have been receiving the Taro Leaf for many years and I have never thanked anyone for this. I've enjoyed reading every issue, even about people I don't really know. I just received the latest copy and decided to write and pay up my dues." Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!

Deceased in November of 1960: JOHN V. VONELLA of the 2nd Bn. of the 34th during New Guinea and Philippine days.

Elsewhere we have told you how we have been appealing for help in writing our history. In yesterday's mail came a letter from M/Sgt. JOHN F. STAPLES, (2nd Battle Group, 28th Inf. and 2nd Bn., 21st Inf. from 6/59 to 6/61), 1915 Lincoln, Seaside, Calif., making good on an offer to help by sending some valuable material. It tells of the 2nd Battle Group, 28th Inf., assigned to the Div. in Germany. We are using some of this material in our Taro Leaf issues and are saving some of it for the History. Thank you, John Staples. John says: "There's a line on the ocean where, by crossing it, you can lose a day. There's one on the highway where you can do even better."

Joined: ARTHUR E. STIMSON (I & K 21st & Div.Hq. 11/42-12/45), of 21 N. Cheska Lane, Houston, Tex. Arthur and Eleanor have 2: A. Coleman, 13 and David L., 11. Art is in Land Title Research. We welcome the Stimsons aboard. Art commented on our promise to PM Harold Wilson to help out in Britain's embargo against Rhodesia's white supremacy government in the face of Britain's concomitant failure to stop trade with Red China and North Viet Nam. Enough gall here to be divided into three parts, sez Art.

WANTED: a better address than 119 Argus, Buffalo, N.Y. for JOHN O. STRONG (G 34th '42-'45). Last we heard from Johnnie, he was saying: "Nobody can cook like my wife, 'though they came pretty close to it when I was in the Philippines."

Jackie and URB THROM are making the most of their time while in Europe - home in July, meaning they might be with us at Myrtle Beach. They are some travellers - Scandinavia for 2 weeks - found Norway "spectacular" - then made Italy, Cannes, Monaco and all the rest. We remember missing taking a 'round the world trip with Urb way back in '46 - courtesy Uncle Sam. Twenty years later and Urb still likes to remind us of some of what we missed. Urb especially remembers the Taj Mahal, which is, in reality, a tomb. Urb says: It's the only tomb I know of that has a men's room". As for postcarding you from Hawaii, Jackie, the truth is that we did mail 900 cards from Honolulu, including, of course, one to the Throms. Urb, do they still call you the "Virgin Surgeon"?

Brig. Gen. LIVINGSTON N. TAYLOR is the new assistant deputy chief of staff for operations for the North American Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo. He was CO of the 53rd Art. Bn. at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

JOHN W. THORNBURG, (34th), 1031 Wyley, Akron, Ohio, has his troubles. His father-in-law has just died and his father is seriously ill in a nursing home. Son, John, is stationed at Cannon AFB, Clovia, N.Mex., as Personnel O. Bob, the baby, is in college and expects to follow his brother in the service.

Col. OLIVER E. and Virginia TRECHTER, (Div.Hq. '46-'48), are at 251 Medio, Los Angeles, Calif. Trech has been in charge of the UCLA Faculty Center for the last 7 yrs. He had a serious tussle with the medics a little over a year ago; Trech won. Had a 3 handicap too. Virginia and Trech both ask to be remembered to all of those who remember them. Once met, how could anyone forget this wonderful couple?

RAY KRESKY, (24 Recn.), of 2519 W. Jerome, Chicago, Ill., was one of us in Hawaii.

MARTIN WIGLESWORTH, (C19th), Rt. 2, Cynthiana, Ky., reports receiving a wonderful set of Xmas cards from Taro Leafers. He plans to drop in on Jim Wilson on a Florida trip he should be on as you read this.

BILL WILLMOT, (21st), posts his dues from 485 Watts, Cocoa Beach, Fla. Nice to hear from you and Florence again, Bill. Remember, don't play ping pong with your mouth open.

Mail undeliverable for NORMAN E. WOLAK, of George of the 21st (from 8/50 to 10/51). We had him at 8622 Phillips, Chicago. Last time we heard from Norm, he sent us this delightful puzzle: If you count 19 residential houses and 4 stores on your right on your way to the post office, and 19 residential houses and 4 stores on your left in walking back home again, how many different buildings have you counted during your jaunt? Give up? So soon? Norm said: 23; you twice counted the same 19 houses and 4 stores. And to think a nice guy like that can drop outta sight.

JAMES Y. WILSON, (Cn. 19th), President of Wilson National Life Insurance Co., Lake City, Fla., advises that his father has passed away. The father, Hugh A. Wilson, Sr., founded the company which Jim now heads. Our sympathies go out to you Jim. You're close by, Jim - how about bringing Olema with you to Myrtle Beach next August?

Telephoned word from Maj. Gen. ROSCOE B. WOODRUFF, (Div.Hq. 11/44-11/45), 208 Elizabeth, San Antonio, Tex., is that a detached retina problem of last July has been solved, for which the thanks of all of us. He advises that Col. ROBERT and Dottie DANIELS, (Div.Hq. 11/44-8/48), are now assigned to Fourth Army Hqs. in San Antonio.

HOWARD L. LANAM has left his Missouri pad and now lives in Yoder, Colo. Howie was a Chick from 4/47 to 7/51. He missed WW II, but says he saw it in the movies and was very disappointed. It was nothing like the book, he comments.

Point of Order!! Point of Order!! Don't waste your time with former Senator Charles Potter's "Days of Shame", being his account of the Army-McCarthy hearings. Potter tries to paint himself as the real hero of those horrible six weeks of 10 years ago and fails in the attempt. For our money, there were no heroes - just a few bums and a roadside full of innocent victims, including our own Maj.Gen. RALPH W. ZWICKER (Div.Hq. '53-'54). We still mourn for Ralph and the squeeze play he found himself in. He was damned if he talked; he was damned if he didn't. At very least, the book does only a little better by him than did the press 10 years ago when "Who promoted Peress?" was on everyone's lips.

BILL LIVINGSTON, (34th), of 11 Kent Square, Brookline, Mass., flatters us with "the Verbeck issue is by far the best thing that you have ever done". Thanks, Bill.

Science and Mechanics has leaked the story that troops are due to receive in '66 the world's smallest electronic computer - to weigh less than 1# - will receive Morse code and translate into written messages.

Condolences to MATTHEW G. D'ALLESANDRO, (L 34th), on the passing away of his mother.

BOB WESTON, (5th RCT), remembers us with: "Special Orders, Post #6 - To walk my post from plank to plank, to salute all officers from rank to rank, these are the orders I just received, From the s--- of a b---- I just relieved." Thanks, Bob; will we see you in Myrtle Beach, come Aug.? The 43rd meets in Portland, Maine, your own backyard, Bob. But be with us, will you please?- and be sure to wear that beret.

It was more than 20 years and 7 months ago. BILL VERBECK had slugged it out with the Nips all the way across Mindanao, only to reach that seeming dead end in those hills north of Davao. He had been hard at it for over 100 days, almost without interruption - and now it was almost over. Hiroshima was about to be atomized; then Nagasaki. Maj. Gen. ROSCOE B. WOODRUFF had more than passing concern for his Gimlet chief; after all, his Chicks and he had only recently lost Col. "JOCK" CLIFFORD. The thought of losing Bill to the same enemy was anathema. Woody had good cause for worry; in "Jock" and Bill, he had a couple of peas from the same pod. Completely without fear, each insisted on leading in the purest sense of that honorable word. Neither would push; each would only pull. Each had to be with his men, when the going was most rough. He had lost "Jock"; and Bill was dog-tired and Woody knew it. It was that serious kind of fatigue that could spell a deterioration of the thought processes, a dulling of the reflexes. Woody solved his own dilemma. He would bring Bill out of the line. He would relieve him and kick him upstairs. It was a moment when the throne of his Chief of Staff was vacant - AUBREY "RED" NEWMAN had not made the recovery expected of him and had once again suffered the embarrassment of evacuation - and THOMAS D. DRAKE had not yet made his entry from stage left with his vexatious penchant for demoralizing 15000 men, almost unisonly. Bill came down from the hills and mounted the throne. He wore the crown well, and hour-by-hour, day-by-day, we who cared, watched this gallant man restore himself to normalcy. No man within our acquaintance seemed more to show the toil of combat; but then, no man within our acquaintance gave more of every fiber of his being in the pesky business.

Maj.Gen. EDWIN A. WALKER, (Div.Hqs.), had his award of libel damages from the Associated Press and the New Orleans Times Picayune Publishing Corporation reduced from \$3 million to \$2,250,000. The original award was the jury award and exceeded the amount of the suit. It was reduced by the District Court judge to the full amount Walker had sought. Of course, the paper boys have appealed. The suit related to news reports dealing with Walker's alleged participation in the outbreaks accompanying the entrance of James Meredith into the Univ. of Miss. in Sept. of '62.

BILL WEIDLE, (F 21 '41-'42), reports from his address at 1095 Byberry, Cornwell Heights, Pa., that MARION BLACKWELL, also of Fox of the 21st, died recently in a V.A. Hospital. Marion was from Kings Mt., N.C. and was with us from Hawaii to New Guinea. Adds Bill: Somehow or other, as we get older, work seems a lot less fun, and fun seems a lot more work.

JERRY VON MOHR, (AT 19th), who, with Mary, made our Hawaiian clambake, has asked about train service to Myrtle Beach, S.C. Jr. Harris answers that he's not quite sure, but he's working on it. One of the natives told him that, not too long ago, a train did pass through; says it was filled with Confederate soldiers.

Telephone book sent in by GLENN F. MURRAY. We are grateful, Glenn; you can't imagine how helpful such can be. Have you yet sent us your local book? If not, will you please? The other day, Glen was riding a bus in Newton, N.C.; he lives at 430 Davis there. He says that the bus driver said to a young lovely as she stepped aboard, "Your fare", to which the young lovely smiled sweetly and said, "You're not so bad yourself".

At Hawaii with us were the ROBERT GOLDTHWAITS, (Div.Hq.). Bob and Connie are at Box 461, Fitchburg Savings Bank, Fitchburg, Mass. The address looks phoney to us. How about it, Connie?

"Not at" say the Zip Code people about SAM TOWNLEY, whom we have listed at Woolman, Masonville, N.Y. An old Easy of the 19th man (from 11/44 to 5/45), how do any of you reach him? Suggestions gratefully received.

Living, as we do, in the shadow of the G.&C. Merriam people, who publish the Webster Dictionary, we are perhaps especially aware of the new set of code words being distributed by the Washington in-group. For instance, there's "defoliate" and "escalate" and you're not with it unless you can purr out "Purd'nalis". The New Frontier crowd gave us "dialogue" and "thrust", and the Great Society fellows have given us more. This business really separates the sheep from the goats. Whether you're in politics, or advertising, or music, like junkies, you live by the private code; and it seems to be ever-changing. Adolescents seem to be the worst; they change the teen-age code faster than a cryptologist can crack it. To all of you, we say "You're spaz" (Translation: "You're strictly from 23 Skidoo").

Send us your Zip Code, will you please, if we haven't used it on the envelope which brings you this issue? Failure to use it means that we don't have it, natch!! P.O. is demanding that 3rd class mails use the Zips. No tickee, no shirtee; no Zip, no Taro Leaf, they say. Don't be like the guy who is so snobbish that he has an unlisted Zip Code number. We need your help on this one. Please!

WILLIAM and Margaret VOSS, JR., (Hq. B. 11th F 5/42 - 7/45), 402 North Lancaster, Margate, N.J., expressed regret at missing the fun of Hawaii when they mailed in their dues. Bill is V.P. of the Boardwalk National Bank of Atlantic City. Bill explains that 3/4 of the earth's surface is covered by water and only 1/4 is covered by land, which gives you the answer to why the boat being pulled behind a car is usually 3 times as large as the car.

Lost: FRED D. NELSON, (C 21st '50-'51), flew the coop from Zelienople, Pa. With a town by that name, we don't blame him.

JOE F. SMITH, (3rd Eng. '42-'45), Catawba, N.C., one of the many gratefuls for our Bill Verbeck notice.

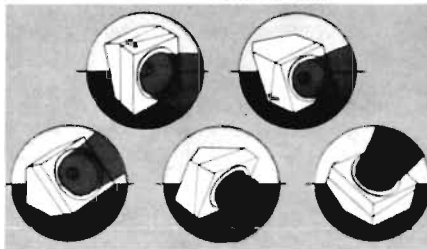
'66 is the year when we see what we can do about drumming up business for one another. An amazing number of our members are in a business of their own, trying to make a buck. If we can but spread more of the word on who sells what, reciprocity might ensue. Why not?

Deceased: WILLIAM R. JAMES (34th 6/45-1/46), of Prophetstown, Ill.

JOHN M. ROSS, President of Angle Beam, Inc., Hammond, Wis. 54015, is putting out an Angle Beam and thoughtfully sent us a few samples. So delighted are we with it that we want to share the news with you. After last fall's "Northeast Blackout", we are convinced that every home and every car should have one. It's an emergency light. See ad. Johnnie still remembers his piquant experience during the Big Snow of '47 when the trains of the Long Island RR were stranded for a couple of days. There we were, sez John, miles from anywhere, and there was a pregnant woman among the passengers. A voice was raised to ask: "That's all well - but the real question is: 'Was she pregnant before she got aboard?'"

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7th Armd. Div. meets at New Orleans next August: we? - Myrtle Beach, S.C.



"You fellers oughia carry a little dirt 'd dig holes in."

Maj.Gen. GINES PEREZ (21st -Korea) is C.G. of Fort Jackson, S.C. Proud we are of this gentleman as we recall to mind that horrible summer of '50.

Retired: Brig. Gen. RALPH W. COOPER, JR. is now at St. Augustine, Florida.