

# taro leaf

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXII

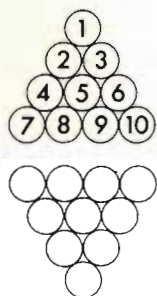
NUMBER 7

1968-1969

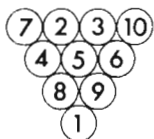


Happy Day!!! April 14, 1969. Division meets Association. Who was it who said never the Twain Shall? In photographer SP5 Roger E. Hester's left-to-right pattern, it's Past Presidents TOM COMPERE and JAMES O'DONNELL, Maj.Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT, our gracious host, Convention Chairman HOWARD LUMSDEN, and President DON WILLIAMS. It's a U.S. Army Photograph, by courtesy of the Fort Riley Photographic Lab which is helping us gloriously these days.

PRZYBYSZEWSKI, EUGENE S., (A 52 F '39-'43), of 24 Barwick, Floral Park, Long Island, N.Y.



Gene and Mary liked the puzzle in our last issue. Remember that you were to make the top triangle look like the bottom one by moving only three circles. Gene says that it requires more patience than anything else. It's a tough solution and tougher still to put it in words so Mary



wants you to see the thing worked out using numbered circles. The solution is simple once you know where to start. Thanx, Gene and Mary.

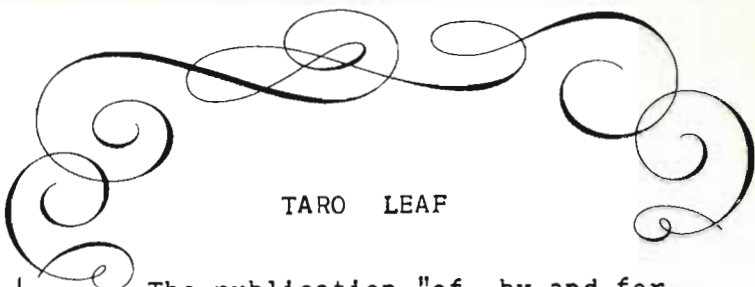
Reservations confirmed for BILL and Margaret BYRD (21st '42-'45) for our funconventional convention. Writes Bill:



"Expect to set up a 21st OP in my suite for all 24th'ers. As BILL VERBECK used to say of his parties, "I'll show you the beer and the latrine; after that, you're on your own". We're delighted that the Byrd's are coming to Capistrano. Delighted too are we that Bill is giving us all that favorable publicity in his Arkansas publications.

Fidelity is a key word in every officers commission. Bill Byrd stands out like Mars at Perihelion whenever fidelity is mentioned.

News on Reforger I was hard to come by. What little we did learn, we learned through the news services. It seemed to sum up to this. Yes, we can airlift a Division to Germany - 22,000 Army and Air Force personnel and 7000 vehicles for an exercise in 500 square miles of the woods and fields of Bavaria, 25 miles from the Czechoslovakian border. No sweat. Yes, the fly boys can lift us, and yes, the Division can move forward to defensive positions along the Iron Curtain. Impressive! But is it worthwhile? The essential question is: Do we maintain a Division in ETO or hand it back and forth between here and there? This is a rough simplification of a complex military, political and economic argument. The answer will be forthcoming after the results are all in.



## 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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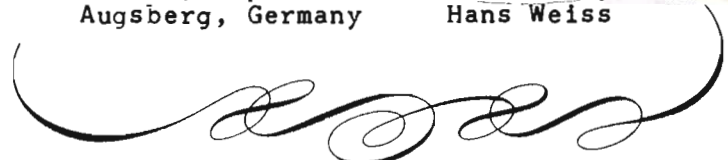
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People meet in the strangest places. DICK GOINY, attending a funeral in Chicago, intercepted a Ft. Leonard Wood soldier. It developed that the soldier, S/Sgt. CLARENCE A. PURVIANCE was a Division man in Korea. They exchanged the usual pleasantries, Clarence indicating that he was interested in putting Adventure in his August by joining with us at St. Louis. We look forward to meeting you Clarence. Korean brethren are most cordially welcomed at our annual gatherings.

It's the "Big" NCO of Division, CSM CARROLL J. GRIFFIN, now an Association member you can bet, and one of the many who extended courtesies to our left-to-right boys, Spike Tom, Don and Howie, at Riley on the 13th and 14th of April. Happily we acknowledge the craftsmanship of SP5 Roger E. Hester, who Kodak'ed as he went. He's no Richard Avedon, but then look at what we gave him to work with. Again we salute the Riley Photographic Lab for the U.S. Army Photo.



"Our reception couldn't have been more gracious", happily reported President DON WILLIAMS. He was referring to the manner in which he and three other Association members were received on the occasion of their visit to Division at that "Cradle of Cavalry", Ft. Riley, on April 13th and 14th.

Said Past Prexy TOM COMPERE excitedly, "The spirit with which we were taken into Division's bosom simply defies description; you had to be there to sense the completeness of Division's welcome".

Team member #3, Past Prexy JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL, competing with Don and Tom in enthusiasm, put it this way: "For too long we had been suffering from a profound catharsis concerning Division and Association. We had wondered if we could ever unisonly develop our common concerns. We were completely shaken by their unabashed interest in us. We went in, expecting a freeze like Christmas at Crawford Notch. The reception was as warm as that July the Fourth at Osan. In a few words, they were glad we came".

The fourth member, Convention Chairman HOWARD LUMSDEN, accompanied by wife, GLADYS, likewise effervesced with words that went: "Division's interest in our Association and our raison d'etre exceeded even our very wildest of dreams. Division couldn't possibly have shown more interest in or desire for a joining of hands and purpose. We, who have seen commanders come and go, owe much to Maj.Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT for what portends to be a bright new day. He not only put down the red carpet; he laid it wall-to-wall".

Meeting the "advance party" at the Manhattan "Strip" was no less than the Div. C/S himself, Col. JAMES E. TOWNES, JR., and Lt. PETER B. ROCHE, to escort the group back to "base". The gracious greeting was an augury of things to come.

First, it was a quickie tour of that 116 year old post, sitting there at the confluence of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers, and named for Maj.Gen. Bennett Riley of Mexican War and Indian notoriety. Lt. Roche served admirably as tour guide for a series of keyhole shots at places and spots that had once known "Buffalo Bill" Cody, "Wild Bill" Hickock, George Custer, J.E.B. Stuart, "Blackjack" Pershing, Leonard Wood, Jonathan Wainwright, George Patton, et al.

The "introductory tour" was brought to an abrupt end to enable our "point" to freshen up before proceeding to the Officer's Open Mess for cocktails and a dinner hosted by no less than the Division Commander, Gen. BOATWRIGHT, and his lovely lady, Lucille.

The party, attended by the G's and senior commanders and their wives, could not have been more pleasant.

Gen. Boatwright formally extended the Division's welcome and tastefully made it a genuine welcome to the entire Association. He was talking to men who once wore the Taro Leaf and he knew it. He left no doubt but that they were welcome back "home".

Don Williams responded in kind with a "Happy to be back" statement, in words which attempted to do justice to the gratitude glowing in the Williams, Compere, O'Donnell and Lumsden hearts. The effort to make them genuinely welcome was most obvious. How to leave no doubt that it was appreciated was Don's task; he did it. Tom Compere capped the effort with a choice selection of seconding words.

Between the two, the whole Association concept was laid bare. Little doubt was left that the Association serves only to perpetuate that which each of the membership feels so strongly in his heart - a love of Division. Dispelled were the beliefs, if in fact any existed, that we were organized with a chip on a shoulder, an axe to grind, an

advantage to gain, a book to sell, or a treasury to raid. Sold was the single ideal for which the Association stands - to foster the friendships made among those who serve or who once served the 24th Infantry Division.

For a Division which, until recently, has never been in the continental United States, and for an Association whose only excuse for existence is that very Division, it was a case of "together at last". There were no regrets on either side.

Division had been at Riley for almost one year, planting its colors there on May 1, 1968. This first meeting of "undergraduates" and "alumni" was considerably overdue.

The Sunday night pleasantries yielded at long last to the hands of the clock, and Monday morning saw Lt. Roche breakfasting our group at the Officer's Mess and leading the way to Division Headquarters.

The visit "to the front office" once again conjured up memories of the Headquarters of other days, be it on Scofield, or Townsville, or Goodenough, or Lake Sentani, or Tunga, or San Jose, or Taloma Beach, or Matsuyama, or Okayama, or Kokura, or dozens of spots up and down that peninsula called Korea, or Munchen, or Augsburg. And now this. Our Division has gone almost full circle.

The Chief of Staff was host for the rounds which followed by way of informative briefings by the G's in seriatim: G-1 Lt. Col. ARTHUR J. MAYER, G-2 Maj. JACK T. IRWIN, G-3 Maj. ROBERT J. LESTER substituting for Lt. Col. ANDRE C. LUCAS, and G-4 Lt. Col. ARNOLD S. STALLMAN.

Then, with Lt. Roche, on to 1st Brigade Hqs. out at Custer Hill, on the way passing various signs of earlier times at this old equine post. Other Divisions had served here (in WW I, the 89th, 10th, 110th and 92nd had trained there, the 89th and 35th had demobilized there, and the 7th had returned to station there; in WW II, the 2nd Cavalry and the 9th Armored had activated there; since WW II, the 10th and 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions had been stationed there).

The Brigade Commander, Col. WILLIAM T. COUND, received the party and proudly led the visitors through his impressive compound.

Today's 1st Brigade is a hybrid made up of the 1st of the 19th (Lt. Col. THOMAS R. WHALEN, Commanding), the 2nd of the 34th (Lt. Col. JOHN C. EVANS, Commanding), the 1st of the 70th Armored (Lt. Col. ARTHUR J. MAYER, Commanding), and the 1st of the 63rd Armored (Lt. Col. LOUIS C. WAGNER, JR., Commanding).

During a 2nd Bn. coffee break, Col. Evans served up a special 4-layer cake to the visitors, one good will gesture of the many which were extended during the two-day visit.

Colonels COUND and EVANS conducted the visitors to a nearby company barracks within which the entire company was waiting, alert and ready for an inspection. Equipment and weapons were on display with a specialist at each to explain the use and capabilities. Same old Army, but oh the modernization!!!

Then on to Camp Funston, there to be received by the Div. Arty. Commander, Col. KENNETH R. BULL, who conducted a quick look-see at Lt. Col. RALPH D. SCHRENK's 2/7th Arty., Lt. Col. WILLIAM T. SCOTT's 1/13th Arty., and Lt. Col. BRUCE F. BUCK's 3/11th Arty. Gone were the 52nd and 63rd. Quietly, and privately, they were missed.

Next on to Lt. Col. HAROLD B. PHILLIPS' 24th Signal Battalion, also a part of the Funston scene, for a peek followed by a delectable luncheon. Confirmed is the fact that the Signalmen serve as good chow today as in days of yore when hairy-chested JIM PURCELL led the wire boys' contingent.

Following lunch, it was back to Patton Hall for the penultimate scene, a press conference, and then on to Post Headquarters for farewells to Gen. Boatwright and his oh-so-gracious staff.

The real clincher came when Gen. Boatwright was invited to participate in our St. Louis festivities - and get ready - here it is - ACCEPTED. The team reports in unison - "You'll love him; he's a terrific gentleman".

Surely to be included in these mentions for courtesies extended are Command Sgt. Maj. CARROLL J. GRIFFIN and his lovely wife, Mildred. In the words of Gen. Boatwright, Carroll is "the Sergeant Major of the Army". Meeting these folks left no room for doubt that they're our kind of people.

And then back to the A/P and homeward bound.

No time had there been for a call upon Col. ARLAND H. WAGONHURST's 2nd Brigade made up of 2/21st Inf., 1/34th Inf., 2/70th Arm., and 5/32d Arm., or upon Col. JACK F. MATTESON's Division Support Command. But there will be other visits; of that we feel sure.

When the gala weekend was over and becoming a part of history, Don addressed himself in a bread-and-butter way to Gen. Boatwright saying: "This letter is being written in an attempt to express in some small manner the pride and appreciation that we of the Association experienced after having been so graciously received last week by yourself and your staff...Writing specifically for each member of our delegation and also on behalf of the entire membership whom we were representing, we must admit to having been somewhat overwhelmed by the sincerity of reception and the effectiveness of planning which allowed us to leave with a knowledge of the present Division, the scope of which seemed impossible to cover within a 25 hour visit....We each have individual memories that pinpoint and highlight our collective impressions - all of which we intend to im-

part to our fellow Association members.....To attempt to recount each of the many pleasant incidents would become redundant, however a very straightforward and sincere 'Thank You' directed to those who helped make our visit so successful will, it is hoped, be more expressive than pages of words....It was, in a phrase, 'a highly successful mission' and we do look forward to a continuation of our friendships during the meetings next August in St.Louis.....I would like to express to you, Sir, my personal thanks for everything. We rest well assured that the Division is in the most perceptive and capable care....My regards, too, to Mrs. Boatwright and the wives of your Staff who helped to make us all feel very welcome that Sunday evening.....Thanks so much to you all!"

And so, here we are, together at last. For people who share this enthusiasm for "things Division", it was, and is, all very heartwarming. That Division accepts Association, we are each of us, humbly grateful. We have been legitimized, and it's a nice feeling.

RILEY FLASHES: Brig.Gen. FRED E. KARHOHS, assistant division commander, has been assigned as Deputy Chief of Plans, Office of Deputy C/S for Military Operations, Pentagon.....Command Sgt. Maj. CARROLL J. GRIFFIN, sergeant major of Division recently reenlisted for three more.....Lt.Col. CHARLES D. PHILLIPS recently arrived from the Pentagon to assume command of 5th Bn., 32nd Armor.....From Lt.Col. to Col. for JOSEPH L. SCHMALZEL who left command of 5th Bn., 32nd Armor for a new asgt. in V..... 1st Lt. to Capt. for HOWARD W. CLARK, S2 of 1st Bn., 19th Inf.....Legion of Merit for Lt.Col. ANTON F. MAYER, Div. G-1, for his Korea tour in '67-'68. We offer our congratulations.....Sfc. JEFF DAVIS, JR., of Hq.Div.Arty., recently presented 7 medals for service in V. - Yes, 7 - OLC for BS, Army Commendation, Purple Heart and OLC, and Vietnam's Gallantry Cross with Silver Star and Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star. Real heroism in Davis' story. ....Nice cooperation coming from John D. Montgomery, Publisher of "The Fort Riley Post", a civilian enterprise published in Junction City, Kans. for the Riley people.



A few tips are in order.

What do I wear, you ask?

Believe it or not, it's mainly Hawaiian shirts for all moments save for the Saturday night Banquet and Memorial Service when we appear in regular business suits and cocktail hour dresses.

The hotel is located at 212 North Kingshighway Blvd.

A word about the Chase-Plaza's rates:

\$13 per person for singles  
 \$ 9.50 per person for twins  
 Free for children under 14 when occupying room with parents.

We waited weeks to catch "Escape to Mindanao" on TV and finally made it. Starring George Maharis, it was the story of a couple of GI's escaping from a POW camp in Luzon to the big island via boat with a stopover on Cebu. All we saw of Mindanao was a last 30 seconds glimpse of the shoreline as seen from a canoe 5 miles off shore. Big deal! Don't waste your time, if they ever run it again, which they shouldn't. You'd be better off looking at the "Lovely Lennon Sisters" or Godfrey pushing Axion.

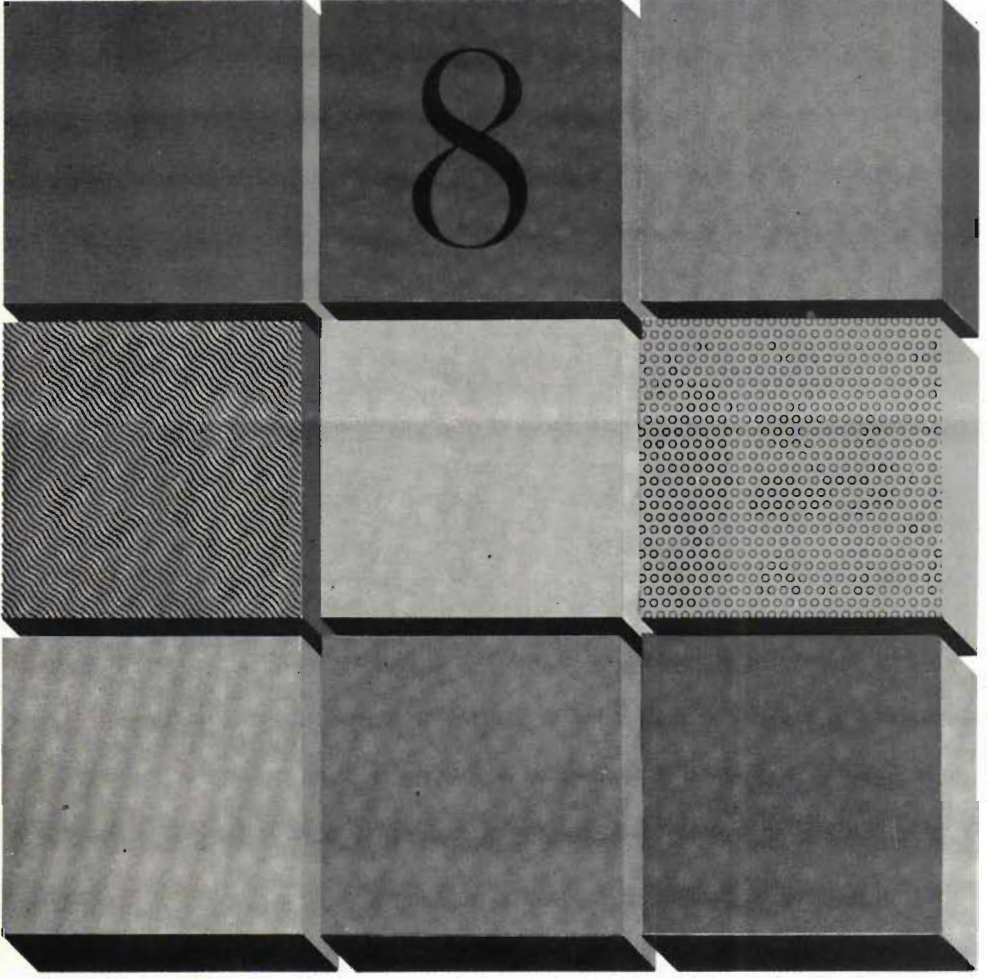
We caught the delight of the ladies, Paul Newman, and the delight of the boys, Lee Marvin, in a late late TV rerun of that '56 film, "The Rack", the other evening if only to see Newman wearing the Patch. Newman, playing a POW returned from a North Korean camp, was charged with collaborating. Good acting. Thought provoking plot. Wonderful patch; beautiful on color TV.

We're growing! Now members are two 34th'ers, LAWRENCE MOORE, of 114 N.Delmar, Hartford, Ill., and CHARLES BULL, of RR1, St.Charles, Mo. and also KENNETH J. McNABB, whose unit is unknown, but we reach him at Box 81, Robinson, Ill. Welcome to the fold, men.

The Pueblo incident was a most inglorious chapter in the history of the Navy. But the circumstances of its capture were so unusual that it couldn't be seen how traditional naval standards of behavior could be applied. While surrender of a vessel without resistance can hardly be condoned, it is still true that the ship was not armed for adequate defense. While failure to destroy secret materials may have violated the elementary rules of security, there yet remained the question of a skipper's direct control thereover. We called it a "can of worms" before it began; we believe all the more that we were correct, now that it's over. The Navy came out second best in tackling Bucher, just as the Army came out second best when it tackled McCarthy. They won, but they lost. In each case, no one man was to blame; everyone was at fault. And oh yes, "Remember Pearl Harbor".

Maybe the next crater they discover on the moon will be that missing judge.

MIMS, JAMES W., (114 PI), of 811 Lawson, Midland, Texas. Jim has a puzzle. He asks you to number the rest of the squares so that each row, column, and diagonal of three squares totals 15. AND, no number may be repeated. Solution in our next issue:



Ordnance men of the 724th met last year in Kansas over the very weekend that we were meeting



at Myrtle Beach. The good word in from BERNARD P. THOMAS (on the right) and MARVIN ELLWOOD (on the left) is that they're going to meet with us this year in St. Louis.



It's a photo, somewhat faded, of a few of the boys of Charley Co. of the 19th in the Eucalyptus Forest on Oahu. We suffer from a lack of any other identification, It was too "precious" (forgive the word) to heave it into "file 13".

# PICTURE YOURSELF IN NEW, DYNAMIC ST. LOUIS!

VARIETY AND WARM HOSPITALITY make the new St. Louis a great convention city

The dramatic stainless steel Gateway Arch typifies the new "Spirit of St. Louis"—a gracious city that now has better facilities and accommodations than ever.

St. Louis' hotels and motels are famous for their comfortable, tastefully-furnished rooms—their courtesy and hospitality. Whatever your requirements and budget, you can easily find what you want.

May I personally invite you to visit our City . . . to share in our vision of a new, dynamic St. Louis.

A. J. CERVANTES, Mayor

The place: Infantry Parade, Camp Funston, Ft. Riley. The occasion: Maj. Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT, Div. CG, and Sgt. Maj. CARROLL J. GRIFFIN, Div. Sergeant Major, are on



the reviewing stand as the Division passes in review. U.S. Army Photo.

The troops heard Gen. Boatwright praise them for their efforts during Exercise REFORGER I which saw the Fort Riley portion of the unit flown to Germany to participate in a NATO maneuver and then return. Gen. Boatwright stated, "Before we all get tied down with our day to day duties of the garrison, I want in a small way, to recognize your superb performance as a division prior to and during the maneuver. As division commander, I could not be more pleased with the performance of the Division!" We add our own "Well done, gang!" to the praises of Gen. Boatwright. We're glad they are all back.

Ever hear of a fellow with a Bronze Star who doesn't know what it's for? We have. TOM O'MARA received one from DA and doesn't know why. Can anyone help? We get all kinds of questions, but this is a new one. Writes Tom: "After I became a 90-day wonder, was assigned to Co. B of the 19th at Goodenough and Hollandia. Was fortunate to miss the ground action on Leyte. I pulled duty as an airborne observer from a Carrier. Co. B's objective was Hill 522 just off the beach, and whenever I wanted to get oriented in the back seat of the plane, I looked for 522 (and said a silent prayer). The job lasted only a few days as the carrier ended up in pretty bad shape during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Got on shore on Leyte in time to pack up for the soldier's dream of an assignment. When we settled down, we unloaded ships. The compartment of one ship was filled with nothing but beer, and there were enough buckets aboard ship to cool off any desire for cold beer for days. From there, I pulled duty with the 3rd Bn. to bring it up to strength to go up to Luzon where our assignment was to follow up the 11th Airborne. The day before the return to Corregidor, we attacked Ft. McKinley and I was blinded, so got my ticket back to the States. I've still got one eye and with glasses I've got almost normal vision. One of the many fortunate ones."

## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS:

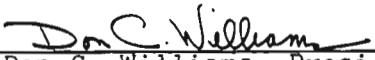
We hope that our paper changes from issue to issue. Changes reflect our conviction that such a paper has a special purpose to fulfill for Association members (alumni) and their Division.

The publication is an extension of its Division and should, we believe, reflect the Division's role in life.

Our premise is that alumni are older than the sophmores. We do not scorn humanity, frivolity and memories - far from it. We just recognize that the vitality and purpose of the Division are bigger stories. We should like to interpret that institution as the preoccupied press cannot or won't do. Our pride must have 20-20 vision, but our faith must be wholehearted, large, contagious.

We are competitive - with Harper's, Life, Popular Mechanics, Scientific American, and, (minus the centerfold), Playboy. Such competition rests on the expression and interpretation of ideas. We cannot successfully compete if we allow the magazine to deteriorate into a periodical compendium of marriage statistics. Compiling such a fact book is the easier course, but it would utterly misrepresent the parent institution and continually short change our readership.

We are ready to embark on a "full steam ahead" course of close cooperation with Division.

  
Don C. Williams, President

Some of the soldiers we've been seeing on the streets of late are looking pretty seedy. We continue to believe that uniform and appearance violations are the responsibility of command. We'll not insist that a soldier's efficiency is affected by his long hair. It isn't! The real question is: just how efficient is he to begin with? The man who cuts the corners on the simple things (i.e. getting a haircut) invariably cuts corners on everything he does.

It used to be SELKOWITZ but after leaving the 21st and the Band in '45, LARRY changed the name to LAINE. Larry, who has an orchestra in Washington, D.C., tips us to the happy fact that Maj. Gen. FREDERICK A. IRVING is the local chairman of the annual Cystic Fibrosis Fund Drive.

It seems to us that we have long since passed the time when someone has to draw the line between "demonstrating" on one hand and rioting, trespassing, burglarizing, vandalizing, assaulting and burning on the other.

Everybody reads "The Philadelphia Inquirer", so the slogan goes. At least VARIAN HOOVER, (C 34 '43-'45) does as he sent us a clip which reads:  
**PHILIPPINES AIDED BY JAPANESE LOAN**

"A multimillion dollar loan from Japan has paved the way for a 2000-mile-long streak of asphalt and concrete to link the major islands of the Philippines for the first time.

"It will be the Philippines-Japan Friendship Highway - a giant step toward pulling together this country whose 7100 islands make up one of the most fragmented national boundaries in the world.

"A \$30-million Japanese loan signed in February completed financing for the five-year first phase of the project.

"The money, together with \$66.5 million from the Philippines is to pay for 185 permanent bridges, two ferry crossings, 513 miles of cement roadway and 330 miles of asphalt.

"Plans call for most of the highway to be two lanes wide with four-lane stretches through densely populated areas like Manila.

"The chain of roadway, bridges and ferry service will link for the first time the main islands of Luzon, Mindanao, Samar and Leyte. They have roughly two-thirds of the Philippines' 36 million people.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The initial phase officially gets under way in July, based on some 875 miles of the existing Pan-Philippines Highway.

"From the starting point on the northern tip of Luzon, the road will curl down the elongated jigsawed islands and peninsulas to end in southern Mindanao.

"Bridges and ferry services will link the islands in between. The main bridges will be a concrete crossway at Liloan Strait in southern Leyte and a steel bridge at San Juanico Strait linking Samar and northern Leyte.

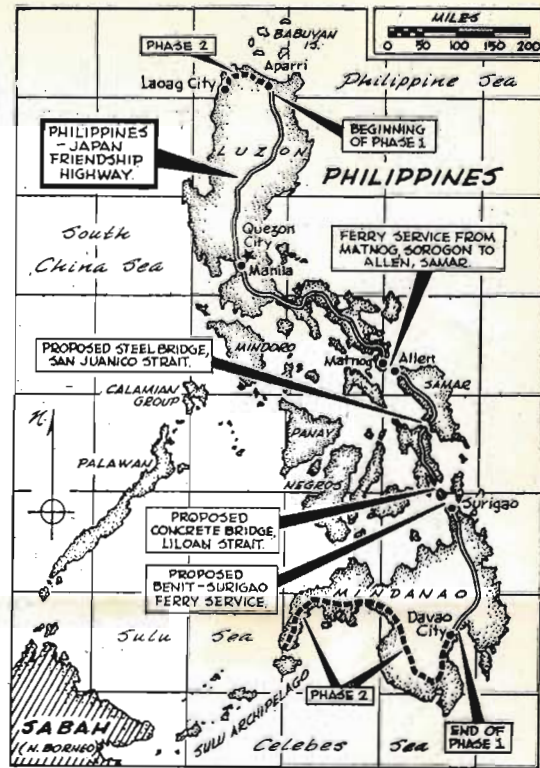
"A second phase is expected to follow the initial five-year program. Talks already have been proposed to discuss an additional \$30 million loan from Japan.

"The second part will concentrate on east-west extensions at both ends of the highway from Allacapan Junction to Laoag City in the north, and from Davao City to Zamboanga City in the south.

"The whole project calls for 2058 miles of roads of which 72 percent will be wholly new or improved existing highway. There will be a total 250 permanent bridges.

"The first phase loan will provide \$20 million the first year and \$10 million the second, to meet the foreign exchange requirements of the project. It was granted by the Japan Export-Import Bank and has a 5.125 percent annual interest.

"Negotiations for the loan have been under way since the state visit to the Philippines in October 1967 by Japanese Prime Minister Eisako Sato."



Inquirer Map by Dave Milne, Staff Artist

Map traces route of highway through Philippines for which Japan will give funds.

Word in from FRANCIS X. SMITH, (3rd Eng.) who is powerfully convinced that there are at very least 25,000 able-bodied relievers whom the City of New York should be striving to prod into paying jobs. One day recently, he and a news reporter took a two hour tour through 23 employment agencies at 25 W 14th St. (where next to nobody was seen seeking a job) and through the welfare center at 12 W. 14th St. (which was swarming with persons applying for relief). You take it from there. Had enough yet?

Hear about the two hippies who got married in a bathtub? It was a two-ring ceremony.

We dispatched flowers in the Association name immediately we heard that HENRY MARINELLO, (19th '43-'46) was hospitalized in Rochester, Minn. Methodist Hospital.

#### SEASON'S GREETINGS

'Tis the season for Hawaiian shirts.

Time to wish yourself a Merry Summer and a Happy New You.

Time to wrap up, and gift yourself with a trip to St. Louis.

Hello to each and all of you wonderful people" writes LARRY HICKMAN, (21st). Come on out to St. Louis, Larry, and pass out your sweetmeats yourself. Unzip your psyche and you can blurt out all sorts of katzenjammers.