

M A R O

L E A F

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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Merry Christmas \* Happy New Year

# 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,  
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Artist Ann Adams at work

A word about our cover. The design was drawn by Ann Adams, a polio patient. An artist, she was 21 in 1950, when polio struck. In an iron lung for 5 years, she was resigned to a life as a vegetable. Then she was persuaded to sit up, first for a few minutes, then for an hour. Then she was encouraged to try painting again - this time by holding her brush between her teeth. Ten years after she was first put in an iron lung, she completed her first drawing. Then came the Christmas card idea. Able only to use a few muscles in her mouth and neck, she has developed for herself a successful business. Ann Adams has won a place of distinction for herself in this vale of tears. She is an inspiration to all who know her story. Write today enclosing three dollars for a box of 25 cards, to Ann Adams, 3731 Coronado Road, Jacksonville, Fla. 32217. Let this Christmas take on an added meaning for yourself.

Riley Quickie: A Junior Officers' Council has been established to foster retention of quality junior officers by providing them with another means for communicating with the commander and his staff. It is made up of 10 representatives and 10 alternates from the major Riley units.



Another convention banquet table.





The majority of veterans never sign a membership card in the professional organizations like the American Legion, or the others. But somehow they do go out of their way to seek out their own outfit - the only one they knew well enough to gripe about - and they still gripe - and love it.

Over a pleasant breakfast, we were discussing the Chase Park with attorney JIM POSTMA, (21st). Jim couldn't believe it when we reported what the Mgr. had told us: that the CP employed 1100 people. Jim's Sally and Rosalea seemed to enjoy all of our annual foolishness.

FRED and Betty PUTZ, (21st '44-'46), asked us at St. Louis how we got convention pictures for use in the Taro Leaf. "Jiminetty", we ejaculated, "this bespeaks of a brouhara that we have to endure every year during the last part of August and through September and October. We can't seem to dynamite them free for use in our pages". Once again, we are in our annual state of acute vertigo and we go to press without them. One year we are going to get to the bottom of this foolishness. That year, you'll get those pictures.

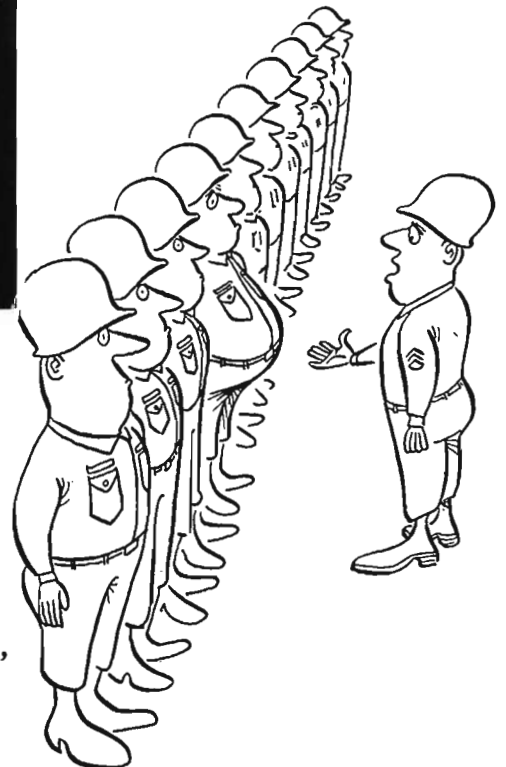
CARL and Allene WILLM (L 34th '44-'46) were happy to see so many friends made it to the Chase Park. Lovely tan, Allene. We envy you.



ANGELO STRADA, (21st '44-'46), in making another payment on his Life Membership while at St. Louis, reports that the Div. Pistol Team had a successful "shoot out" in Wichita recently.

Lt. Col. RICHARD B. STOLTZ, front left, took the .22 Cal. Slow Fire, Center Fire Aggregate and .45 Cal. Timed Fire. S/Sgt. CHARLES MORGAN, front center, took top honors in the Marksman Class. Maj. JACK LUDWICK, front right, took second place in the Sharpshooter Class. 2nd Lt. THOMAS SPEAKMAN, rear left, won the .45 Cal. Aggregate, S/Sgt. GUSTIN MAHELONA, second from rear left, won the .22 Cal. Center Fire, Sgt. EDWARD WILLIAMS, second from rear right, placed first in the Center and Slow Fire, Expert Class, and S/Sgt. WILLIAM CHISHAM, rear right, took the .22 Cal. Slow Fire, Marksman Class. Kudos to you, gang, and thanks too to the Riley I.O. for the photo.

"McINTYRE, YOU'VE SIMPLY GOTTA WRITE YOUR MOM AND TELL HER TO KNOCK OFF SENDING YOU ALL THEM GOODIES EVERY WEEK."





"I'VE OFTEN WONDERED  
WHY THE WHIPPED POTATOES  
TASTED LIKE GASOLINE."

Real thrill it was to see Col. NICK SLOAN, (21st), come into our banquet hall. Nick was Washington-bound, in from the west coast, and made St. Louis a stop-off place, all in order to be with us for a few minutes. He, a one-time S-3, found the time to visit with JIM POSTMA, S-2 (21st), and BILL BYRD, Comm. O. (21st). The last visit for the three was 24 years ago. This conversation went way back to VERBECK, WEBER, BROWNING, Little Chum LEATHERMAN, CLIFFORD, LEAHY, ALLEN, AITKEN, MALONE, FARMER, ANDERSON, and you name them.

Another lawyer made St. Louis: RAYMOND R. SMITH, (34th '44-'45) of 30 N. LaSalle, Chicago, and his lovely wife, couldn't understand why ROSS PURSIFULL, (34th), would miss a convention.



These were among the many who inhaled once again the rose-pink vapors of sentimentalism as the military fraternal season reached its zenith in St. Louis in August.



Division reunion is where old soldiers never really die. It is where arms yield to the toga and laurels to eloquence. It is where the ability to retell the battle is much more important than the wartime objective of surviving it.

STU and Marjorie STILLWELL, (L 34th '44-'45), in watching the pictures thrown upon the screen in connection with Maj. Gen. LINTON BOATWRIGHT's talk, commented "It just isn't the Division that we knew". And he meant it only in a complimentary way. We were happy to see the Stillwells. Stu is the one who will drive 100 miles in any kind of weather to attend a Detroit Chapter meeting.

We caught GEORGE SUTTERBY, (L 21st '43-'45), reading a newspaper one A.M. in a Chase Park lobby. Sez George: "I always start with the obits, skimming over them to make sure I'm not listed, and then, having winnowed the theatrical, movie, book gossip, and sports, begin reading the paper, as every enlightened coward does nowadays, back to front".

CHET and Geraldine SWAP, (Div. Hq. '44-'46), were inquiring as to the scrolls, "Certificates of Achievement" awarded this year to BILL SANDERSON and HOWARD LUMSDEN. We can tell you folks that this has become an institution with us starting years ago, in '52, at our Columbus shindig to be precise. The effort is to pay recognition to a couple of our boys each year. This year, the kudos went to Bill, long overdue for his stint two years ago as Assoc. Prexy., and to Lum, for his, and Glad's, efforts in making St. Louis the success that it was.

BILL MULDOON says he traveled 1500 miles to find JOE REYNOLDS, (11th Art), who lives in Medford, Mass., just a stone's throw away. Joe, a cop, was making his first convention and brought the whole family, wife, Anne, and Bill, 9, and Maryellen, 14, for the merry making. Bill expressed himself thus over being elected a Veep for the new year, "It's an honor I have coveted secretly for several long years."





The Color Guard at the banquet was a handsome Riley foursome: JOHN KENNETH LINK, (Div. Band '69), PHILIP KIMBROUGH, (Div. Hq. '68-'69), DNAIEL DEKORTE (HHC '69) and LARRY BECK, (HHC '69). It was a nice show, fellas, and we are grateful to you. Phil Kimbrough, a Richmond, Va. native, was overheard telling someone that "No unit I ever served with can compare with the 24th".

Ever loyal to the railroads are BILL and Mary and Patsy MULDOON, (El 19th '44-'45), who made the Boston to St. Louis trip, and return, by Penn Central. Frankly, Bill, we'd prefer to go by camel.

Hefty \$25.00 contribution received from Maj. Gen. AUBREY S. NEWMAN with the words: "While I'm a Life Member, I still have the feeling that I haven't contributed anything to the operation lately." What a man! Red has had a little trouble with his ticker. Medication has helped to correct what is wrong "without the need for surgical insertion of a pacemaker", for which our gratification. His granddaughter is a Vassar junior now and his son-in-law is a Navy captain commanding a destroyer support ship in the Pacific. Stay healthy, Red; we want you around for a long, long time.

Overheard in the St. Louis katzenjammers was the BILL BYRD story about the '43 night that Maj. Gen. AUBREY S. NEWMAN telephoned Bill who was 24th Recon. O.D. The place was Goodenough. Red was asking for a table and chairs to be brought to his tent. Bill advised Red that it was midnight and that he would bring them to his tent in the A.M. Replied Red, "Byrd, maybe you didn't understand....I want a table and chairs rat now, not tomorrow". Bill today admits the obvious: "I delivered."

CSM GEORGE ODOM, (2nd Brig. '69), was loud and clear in his happiness for having made S.L. Believe it or not, in the early '40's, George served in the British Army. Recently returned from V/N, he states that "the best outfit in the whole army is the one I'm in at this moment." Sorry Eloise couldn't make it, George.

Asked by ED HENRY's Amanda what he thought of that new book, "Senility Sets In Early", BERT LOWRY (19th '42-'45), answered: "I don't think much, and what's more, neither does my pediatrician". The award of the title "Loud mouth of the convention" gave everyone problems. Several were in the running. By a slight margin, the prize went to Tom LOWRY, 9-months old son of BERT and Ginny. Precious baby there-even if he did keep Bert and Ginny from making the boat trip.

Please! Will the one who took from Suite 719 during the Sunday AM coffee and alohas the pair of prescription glasses please return them to their rightful owner, HOWIE LUMSDEN, 167 Hickory, Wood River, Ill. No questions will be asked. Just return the cheaters, please! Lum is running in-to walls around the house.

Pennsylvania faithfuls, CHARLES McMICHAEL, (19th), and his Helen and son, Chuck, made S.L. Charley plays the role of paterfamilias with considerable brio.

Once a Taroman, always a Taroman. Lt. Col. JACK A. MERRIGAN, C.O. of 6th Bn., 67th Art., the sophisticated first Chaparral-Vulcan unit, which has now been attached to Division at Riley, was with Div. in Korea. He and his wonderful wife, Barbara, were the first convention arrivals from Riley.



Reminding each other of the days when it was wine, women and song and admitting that today it's Metrical, same old woman, and Lawrence Welk.

"The monkeys have no tails on Zamboango", so they sing, but over on the main part of the island, near Taloma Beach, there may yet be the monkey named Eleanor who one morning upped and started to run off with the teeth of Brig. Gen. HUGH CORT, (Div. Arty. '44-'46). Though it all happened 25 years ago, Hugh was still able to regale his St. Louis listeners with the story, while lovely Mildred stood patiently by. Especially tickling about the story was that Time Magazine, in an issue of the day, covered the story with a headline that went "Eleanor Steals General's Teeth".

At our St. Louis razz-ma-tazz, Sgt. Maj. EDWARD M. DODGE, (S&T Bn. '66-'69) gave WALTER CUNNINGHAM, (Div. Hq. '42-'45), a run for his money in the pipe smoking department. Ed and Norma who left Kathleen and Deborah and William and Frederick at home, were equally jovial in the merry-making. A lively pair, each pulled his or her oar in the fun department. Walt Cunningham, on the other hand, continues apace with his passionate avocation, the collecting and cross-fertilization of various kinds of money. It's always grand fun when Walt makes this annual pilgrimage.

A welcoming ceremony was held at Cavalry Parade, Riley, on 9/10/69, for Maj. Gen. ROBERT R. LINVILL, the new Div. CG and Riley post commander. Gen. Linvill came to Riley from assignment as C/S, Third Army at McPherson. Born in Urbana, Ohio on 9/5/13, he graduated from Ohio State U. in '35. As a reserve, he was called to duty in '40 and fought with the 1st Armored Div. in North Africa and Italy going through the Joint Brazil - US Military Commission in Rio de Janeiro. Back to the Army War College, first as a student and then as an instructor, and then the 82nd A/B Div. where he commanded the 504th Regt. He became C/S of the 82nd in '57 then to Korea as G-3, I Corps. On to Shafter as Deputy G/3, US Army Pacific during '59-'62. Back to the states to become asst. div. commander of the 82nd and in '64 he became C/S, XVIII Airborne Corps. Deputy CG of the ropes as a company commander, battalion commander, regimental S-4 and Div. G-4. He returned to Knox as G-4 of the Armored Center and then went to the Civil Affairs section in the Pentagon. C&GSC at Leavenworth was next, graduating in '49, then to the Basic Airborne Course, followed by a tour as an instructor at Benning, then DC/S of Benning. On to the Armed Forces Staff College in '52, then a year of studying Portuguese at the Army Language School, then to the Peace Force in the Dominican Republic and later commander of the forces there. Then back to Rio as head of the US delegation of the Joint Brazilian and US Military Commission and on to become C/S, Third US Army in 12/68. Had enough?

EARL and Donna HERRIMAN, (24 QM '51-'53), reachable at R.1, Norborne, Mo., St. Louis'd it, as Earl expressed it, "to outwit the bailiff and remain incommunicado for a spell from the tensions of existence". We're mighty pleased that you folks made it and, as for the bailiff, may he never find you.

Division Sargeant Major CARROLL J. GRIFFIN, (Div. Hq.), impressed everyone at the Chase Park with his uncanny ability to be everywhere and to know everything to the end that "peak efficiency" in all convention affairs would be the "order of the day". Mildred, "Jack's" wife, is justly proud.



Greetings were earthy. "Hey, look who's here - the best damned sniper this side of Yokohama". Or "Hello, you ol' horse. You graduated from Pusan U., didn't you?" And the ol' horse drew a hearty laugh by imitating the deep voice of command, "At ease, you men".

Dare we put this issue to bed without an expression of gratitude to that permanent toastmaster, TOM COMPERE, (Div. Hq. '42-'45), whose lovely Eilse seems to have such a thoroughly good time at each of our fun fests, while Tom sweats out getting ready with what he's going to say on the Saturday night rostrum. Before it all gets underway, Tom is as panicky as a tenor with a fishbone in his throat. Come Saturday eve, all is serene and Tom holds forth in the best tradition of George Jessel - without the uniform.

Overheard: W.L. BROOME, (21st '38-'43), explaining, in a Chase Park elevator, what a 24th Division gentleman is; he's a "man who opens a bottle of whisky and throws away the cork."

Convention "widow" was Wilma KASSAK, while OTTO, (34th '45-'46), lived it up with the boys. Says Wilma: "My favorite dog is the St. Bernard; I like a dog that can hold its liquor."

The Life Member WATSONS (RICHARD and Phyllis) of the 19th ('42-'45) of the 19th left us in St. Louis to take off for Colorado before returning home to Indiana.

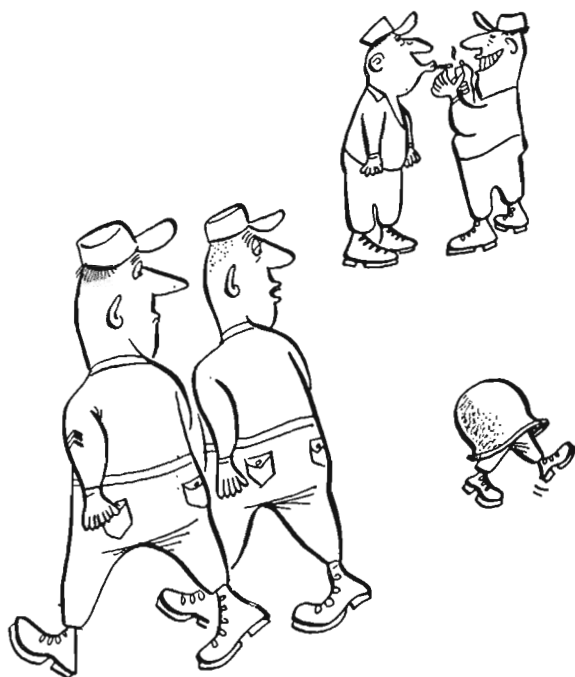
"It's the normalcy of the situation that makes it interesting. We're all normal people without a chip on a single shoulder". Impressed by the appearance of our convention people was Life Member JOHN KLUMP (34th) as he so stated to us one morning in one of the lobbies. And his perfectly lovely Hilda joined in the appraisal with a precious comment of her own which went: "And there isn't a hippie in the crowd - everyone is clean shaven and has a decent haircut." And on the subject of good grooming, charming Hilda is an authority; she owns her own beauty shop.





Banquet head table: (Port side): 1. to r. TOM COMPERE, Barbara Matteson, Lessie Harris, Lucille Boatwright, Col. JACK F. MATTESON, Mildred Cort, Maj.Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT and DON WILLIAMS.

Riley Quickie: Lt.Col. KENNETH B. AUSTIN has assumed command of the 3rd Eng., replacing Lt.Col. JAMES S. SIBLEY.



"THEY MUST BE LOWERING THE PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AGAIN."

Riley Quickie: It's retirement for Com.Sgt.Maj. LESLIE J. WALKER, (Div.Art.). In '44, it was first Bragg, then West Point before the Triple Nickle Bn. in Korea, then Hawaii, and then back to Korea. Next on ROTC detail, then Germany, Hood and Korea. More Hook, more Germany, more Hood, then Sill, followed by V/N before joining Div. in '68. How's that for an army career? Les and Naomi and their 4 - Cynthia 14, John 12, Mike 6, and Karen 4 - will hang their hats at 101 Sandy Circle, Chambersburg, Pa. Happy days, folks.

Riley Quickie: Stephen E. Coye, stepson of Col. DONALD D. BRIDENBAUGH, CO of Div. Art. is the recipient of a scholarship from the Sons of the 1st Inf.Div. Scholarship Fund. The award is presented to sons of men killed in V/N. His father, Lt.Col. RODGER H. COYE, was killed in '66 while with the 1st Inf.Div. The 13-yr.old is presently a student at the Jr.H.S. on the post.

Riley Quickie: Hospitalized by accidents: Sgt. MICHAEL M. MOUNCE, (A, 2nd Bn., 34th Inf.), Pfc. RONALD E. GROVES, (24th Sig.), and Sp.4 JOSE BRITO, (Sv.By, 13th Art.).

Riley Quickie: Just assigned to Hq. and A Co., 724th Ord.Bn., has been 1st Sgt. ALZA E. HAYES, just back from V/N.



Banquet head table: (Starboard side): 1. to r. PAUL HARRIS, JR., Brig.Gen. HUGH CORT, Elise Compere, HOWARD LUMSDEN, Mildred Griffin, Gladys Lumsden, and Div. Sgt. Major CARROLL J. GRIFFIN.

Riley Quickie: In Augsburg, 3rd Bn., 70th Armor, has a new C.O. - Lt. Col. CONRAD J. GRZYBOWSKI replacing Lt. Col. ROSS F. MAYFIELD, JR., who goes to G-3, VII Corps.

Riley Quickie: It's the Army Commendation Medal, First OLC, to Staff Sgt. Maj. JAMES ZLIKE, of the Support Command for meritorious service in Div. Hq., I.G. section.



They were a happy bunch - out to recapture vanished glory and lost youth - and what's wrong with that? It's a good idea was the feeling of merrymakers, JOE and Kathleen CONOVER, (3rd Eng. '42-'45).



Free trip to the AUSA meeting in Washington for Sp.4 WILLIAM R. STRICKLIN, (Co. B, 24th Med. Bn.), in mid October. He was sponsored by the Riley Chapter of the AUSA.





Welcome General - Maj.Gen. ROBERT R. LINVILL (right rear), new commanding general of Fort Riley and the 24th Infantry Division, troops the line at his welcoming ceremony accompanied by Lt. Col. THOMAS GIOIOSA (front), commander of the troops, and Lt.Gen. V.P. MOCK (left rear), commanding general of Fifth U.S. Army.



CUT OUT THAT  
SHOVING BACK THERE  
OR I DON'T OPEN UP!"

Over to St. Louis from Kansas came CHARLES BEST, (A 19th '44-'46), who paid \$5.00 for dues, threw in another fiver for the kitty, and then introduced his brand new bride, the very lovely Marie. Charley, you never looked happier; we're right tickled for you. Equally happy at being on "our honeymoon" were ALBERT and Jannie SELTSAM, (34th '41-'45). "This gang isn't growing older; it's growing younger". Such were the sentiments of Riley boys, BILL CAMP, (HHC), and RAY CARRINGTON, (19th), who seemed to enjoy poking fun at our new-lweds. The good spirit with which the folks accepted the boisterous antics heightened the aura of naughtiness.

Proud that they have made every one of our conventions are MICHAEL and Alice MOCHAK (19th Inf. '42-'45).

JOHN and lovely Bess O'SULLIVAN, (34th '52-'53), made our cotillion. Johnny is this year's prexy of our Chicago Chapter.

WALT PETERS, (19th), acolyte at the Memorial Service preceding the Banquet, and Jeannette, are happy that Kansas is the '70 convention site. That news acted on Walt like digitalis on George Jessel. He'll be handling the details on that one.

"We're not an organization with a cause unless the cause is merely to maintain the friendships that exist among all men who ever wore the Taro Leaf". It was JOE PEYTON, (19th Inf. '43-'45), talking in the Chase Park lobby to an interested group of Riley men. Joe looked good; if it wasn't for the bald spot, he could pass for a man of 51. All of that aside, Joe's remarks sums it up fairly well. We're not out to remake society - or to destroy it. We're not looking for a thing. We're not selling anything. We're just a bunch of people who appreciate the military experience and who are grateful for the privilege of keeping in touch with those with whom we share this common bond.

"St. Louis' parks are unbelievably well kept" was the consensus of Life Member JOE PEYTON (19th) and your Editor who "took 5" one morning for a drive through Forest Park across the street from the Chase Park. Added Joe, "I've never seen anything like it for cleanliness, not even on an Army post". It was a delightfully refreshing place to see.



PULLS RAFT - A 24 ft. bridge erection boat pulls an expedient foot bridge raft across Tuttle Creek Reservoir during field exercises by Co.E, third Eng. Bn. The raft was constructed by a squad from Co.E in 30 minutes.

Riley Quickie: Retirement for Col. HOWARD D. BAILLETT who was lastly special assistant to the CG. A direct appointment as a 2nd Lt. in '39, he served as CO of Co.A, 21st, and E.O. 2nd Bn.; 21st from '41-'44. Howard and Marilynn and 3 sons, Jeffrey, Timothy and Thomas have moved to Oshkosh, Wis. where Howard will be with the Univ. of Wis.

Riley Quickie: Sp.6 LEON O'NEAL honored with an OLC to his Army Commendation Medal proving that culinary ability can get you somewhere.

Riley Quickie: Maj.Gen. ROBERT R. LINVILL, Div.CG, laid the presidential wreath at the gravesite of the late President DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, (19th Inf.), at Abilene on Oct. 14th.



A happy banquet contingent: 1.to r. OTTO KASSAK, C.G. HANLIN sneaking a peek from the next table, Chet and Lorraine Roszak, guests, Donna and Roy Kessler, guests, BOB SHAY, Mary Shay, and GERALD LIEBER.





And there had to be at least one here who would reopen the argument as to the difference in the sounds of artillery shells "coming in" and "going out". Which one went "whee-up"? And which one went "whee-oo"? All were agreed on at least one thing - that until you learned the difference, the smart money is on him who hits the ground. RAY HARDI, who lives in St. Louis, was one of those who knew the difference and was busy explaining it to his lovely wife, Audrey.



To call the pattern of the conversation "nostalgic" would be like referring to St. Peter's as "roomy" or Lake Huron as "moist"; of course it was nostalgic. And SID and Mary Jean MATHES, (34th and Div.Hq. '46-'48), who were there, thought so too.

Riley Quickie: It's automatic data processing for the Division, the first in the U.S. to enter the program. They are using a Univac 1005. May their power never be cut off.



MG ROBERT R. LINVILL (right), commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, checks out the redeye hold by PFC WILLIAM B. BOGT, a redeye gunner in the 1st Bn. 19th Inf.

The new Division C/S, Col. JACK F. MATTESON and his lovely lady, Barbara, thoroughly enjoyed St. Louis. West Point '46, he served with the 11th Airborne in Japan and Kentucky, then a tour at Knox before going to the 2nd Armored in Germany. Back to the States for a tour and then up to Alaska in '57. Then C&GSC followed by a Masters at Georgia Tech. Then to V/N, and back to the Division as CO of the Division Support Command, followed by the stint as C/S in which we wish him well. The Matteson's have 4 - Lenice, Jack, Jim and Terry.

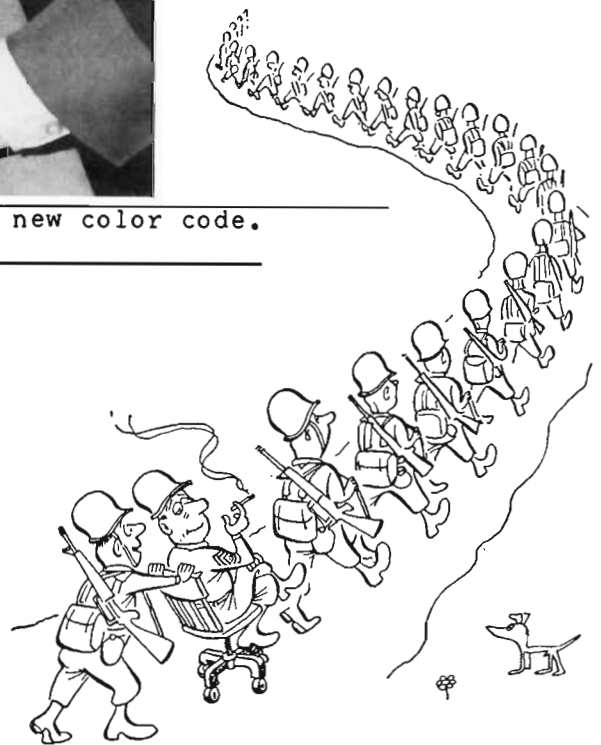
Doc. ED PLOWMAN, (19th '44-'46), was moving around St. Louis groups telling how Col. JAMES E. TOWNES, JR., former Div. C/S, "signed out" at Riley last June 11th and headed for V/N. Townes, an old 10th Mt. Div. man in WW II, also served with the 5th Armd. and 25th and 7th Inf. Divs. before coming to the Best Division of Them All in Aug. of '67, where he first commanded 2nd Brig. and then became C/S in July of '68.



Hawaiian shirts were very much "Class A" during most of the convention hours. The "wildest hues of purple" award goes this year to DARRELL MILLER, (E 19th '50-'51), much to the embarrassment of Marie! The "largest number of different shirts worn" award goes once again to Life Member and Past President JAMES "Spike" O-DONNELL, (G-21st '42-'46), who was observed wearing 13 different outfits over the 3 day span. Spike oxidized some of the gals with envy, coming in, seemingly every hour, with a new color code.



Once a year, they hold a Division reunion to recount the stories which, unlike some of the tellers themselves, never seem to fade.



"IT'S NOT VERY OFTEN WE GET MASTER SERGEANTS TO JOIN US ON OUR LITTLE OUTINGS."



CARL and Peggy TAYLOR, (860 Av.Eng. '43-'46), were two of the St.Louis gang who understood the reasoning behind going to Kansas in '70. The 24th may be "moth-balled" one of these days. Just as Dod has put the axe to the 9th, the 24th runs the risk of going the way of all flesh. We all want to see her and to be with her once again.

CHARLEY and Betty TEWELL, (L 21st '42-'45), brought with them a photo from the last Chicago convention, with which he thought he might blackmail HOWIE LUMSDEN. Lum reacted as though he had just finished a long cold drink of sauerkraut juice.

You saw double when a couple of 724th Ord. men stepped up to the Chase Park registration desk. It was BERNARD and Josephine THOMAS and OCIE and Ima TURNBOUGH who came in together and more or less remained together as they waltzed among the gang. Ordnance was also represented, by the way, with Life Member PAT and Lu CIANGI, BOB and Josephine ANDRE, Life Member, ROSCOE CLAXON, CHARLES "Gus" and Helen SCHOENE, ELLSWORTH and Pauline MILLS, and DELLMAR and Laura Jo BABB, each buzzing new found Riley friends concerning '69 equipment.

Just two more years before retirement for Col. URBAN and Hazel "Jackie" THROM (34th and Div.Hq.). So wonderful to see those precious folks again. Urb has the way the years are slipping by in their fleet fashion all sized up. He says "they leave an impressive residue of silver in the hair and none whatever in the pocket." Word of honor, Urb, you're catching on.

"24th fashion plate" was JOHN TRINCA (C21st) who dazzled the Chase Park tenants with his clothes. Not wild or outlandish; we throw him our subriquet only in a sincere, complimentary way. You simply looked twice each time Johnny would come down sporting a new outfit.

With us at nearly every party-time were PAUL and Dottie WISECUP (L 34th '44-'46) and it's always pleasant to spend a few hours again with this perfectly charming couple. They left us to go fishing in Canada.

The Thursday night hospitality hour sponsored by the ladies was a delightfully tasty spread. We owe much to Gladys (Mrs. HOWARD LUMSDEN (21st), Lessie (Mrs. PAUL) HARRIS (G 21st), Mary (Mrs. JOHN) SHAY (21st) and Alice (Mrs. WILLIAM) SANDERSON, (F 19th) for their successful effort.

JOHN ROGERS, (21st '43-'45) our ex mess sergeant out of Little Rock, showed everyone at S.L. that his own cooking agrees with him. Little hefty, Johnny. Now retired, he serves sheriff's papers on Little Rockers.



One bit of innocent horseplay went almost unobserved as BILL SANDERSON (F 19th '40-'45), played "Going to market" pushing GERRY STEVENSON (Hq.Co. Div. '41-'45), in an A & P cart down one of the Chase Park corridors one early A.M. Alice and Belle were not entirely pleased but each kept her familial patience.

Most convention repeaters couldn't believe their eyes when they saw how Alice (Mrs. WILLIAM) SANDERSON (F19th) has slimmed down. Alice, you never looked lovelier.

CHARLES L. BRIGANCE, (19th '49-'51), in making our St.Louis bivouac, considers that we are living in interesting times, which put him in mind of the one that goes:

"God and the soldier we adore,  
In time of war, not before,  
When danger is passed,  
All things righted,  
God is forgotten,  
And the soldier slighted."

How true, Charley, how very true! Only an ass, and a knavish one at that, would have the temerity to dispute that.

It's twin daughters for ANTHONY and Lorraine FARO, (21st '42-'45), and everyone at the St.Louis clambake came to understand it, as Tony is justly proud. Tony had to come to our high jinks to find out that he works for the City of Chicago with PAT CIANGI's (724 Ord.), brother.

FRED WILLIAMS, (19th), in from Riley, was standing at the bar telling DICK YOUNG, (13th Art. '49-'51): "The only dame I know who listens to both sides of an argument is my next-door neighbor."

ALLEN and Marie GARNER, (24th Cav.Recn. '42-'44), found St.Louis pleasure in meeting again with BILL and Margaret BYRD, (21st and 24th Cav.Recn.). Al, a mail carrier out of Peoria, Ill., spotted a news item about us, so showed up with Marie, and we're right happy that they did.

SAM FINGER, (19th '42-'45), and his wonderful Aide-de-camp, Minnie, were attending their first convention. They came thereto with an immense inquietude. As Sam said, "To go to St.Louis was plainly the coward's way, so Minnie and I adopted it at once." Happy note; they're glad they came.

St.Louis is the home of HAROLD and Betty GRIFFIN, (F 21st '51-'52), so of course Hal came over. They have two: Darren and Donna.

Past Prexy C.G.HANLIN, (L34th), brought son, Gordon, with him to our free-for-all. Gordon certainly enjoyed that swimming pool. C.G. just wasn't his usual jovial self this time around. He seemed to be worried, as if a caraway seed had lodged in his teeth, or something. Cheeks up, C.G.; we like you better the way you were.

Conversation was aplenty. The initial talk usually concerned when we were last all together under one roof. (During some of our last togetherness, we didn't have a roof, if you'll recall). Recollection was the effort; the pinning down of the subject, that elusive ball of mercury which is the ego, and which slips, slides, rolls, splits and recombines crazily as the conversationalist tries to contain it within his narrow vial of words. So it was for, l. to r., Sally Postma, Rosalea Postma, JIM POSTMA, (21st '43-'45), BILL CAMP, (HHC now), DAN DEKORTE, (HHC Now), LARRY BECK, (HHC now), Margaret Byrd and BILL BYRD, (24th Recn. and 21st '42-'45).

We may be a "fellowship of veterans" but SAM GILNER, (13th Art. '42-'45), seems to be happiest when his sleeves are rolled up, helping to make our monkeyshines run. Sam invariably gives out with the sort of boyish twinkle Lon Chaney used to excel at, and then let's you have it: "Just tell me what you want me to do". You look good, Sam; the ballooning has stopped, proving that it pays to avoid éclairs, Napoleons, petits fours, and strudel, which we all need like a hole in the duodenum.

"Almost didn't make it at all", said JOE BADARACCO, (Hq.Co.Div.), as he would drop in to the Chase Park for a few minutes here and there. Seems that the city employees were giving the town fathers fits with a strike threat and Joe wears the hat of President of the Board of Aldermen. As we left the fair city, word was that Joe was the "great mediator". Gossip among us is that Joe is on his way to becoming the next Mayor of St.Louis.

HEINZ and Rhoda GRATZ (G-21st), great friends of JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL, made merry in St.Louis. Heinz, one of our earliest members, was observed frequently to be musing over the past, his lower lip atremble with nostalgia.







Pembroke State College's director of student counseling is Col. FREDERICK R. WEBER. Fritz, who won a gold medal for fencing at the '36 Olympics in Germany, with Hitler watching, captained the U.S. pentathlon team at the '48 Olympics in '48.

Reappointed as Governor of the U.S. Soldiers' Home, Washington, D.C., is Gen. ALBERT WATSON II. Prior to his retirement a year ago, Gen. Watson had been CG, US Army, Ryukus/IX Corps and High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands.

Less than happy were we to see Life Member and Past President ROSCOE CLAXON, (724 Ord), who had Cadillac'ed over to our flap-doodle, come walking in, beating a tattoo on a cane. He looked like Col. Sanders with a couple of chickens in his pocket. But troubles didn't stop Roscoe from being his usual charming self in having a happy word of greeting for just about everyone. Roscoe was happy to meet GERALD and Dorothy EDWARDS, (Supp. Command '65-'69). Gerry's old Kentucky home is near Bowling Green. That was enough for Roscoe. Gerry is retiring soon from "the best outfit in the US Army".

Sgt. Maj. GERALD DAVIS, (1st Bde. '69), a 26 year veteran and retiring soon, made a mighty fine appearance in the Chase Park halls and elevators. A Columbia, S.C. native, he's as fine a looking soldier as we have ever seen. He and Ruby, whom he left at Riley, have Gerald Jr., Yvonne, George, Gregory and Glenn.

We like what Eric Hoffer, the former migrant worker and longshoreman, now an author and commentator on contemporary America, recently told the Investigations Subcommittee of the Senate. Hoffer was testifying about the need for strong-willed administrators to counter the disorders sweeping the college campuses. He suggested a system under which students would pursue their interests and take one final examination after 4 years. A student who failed, he said, would get a certificate stating: "This son-of-a-bitch isn't good for anything." We like Hoffer.



JOHNNY and Violet PETERSON, (3rd Eng. '44-'45), asked us in St. Louis if we were going to use all of the photos snapped during the convention. We replied that we'd use all that came our way but that we'd not try to name everyone. We made a bad goof in identification years ago, and we don't dare run that risk a second time.

News out of the DON and Ruth BELL household - he's 63F and Div. G-3 Sect. from '43-'46 and they're at 1120 E. Davenport, Iowa City, Iowa. They have 5 so have found "a bigger house". Dave 22 is out of the Navy and going to S.U.I. Marcia's 19, Caroline's 18, Gary is 15 and Doug is 10. Ruth still recovering from a serious operation of a year ago. Don's still with S.U.I.

MIKE and Katherine BALASCHAK (A 21st), write us from 218 Green, Syracuse, N.Y. Mike was with us at Pearl Harbor as a Co. A Sgt.; then to AT Co. as a staff; then to Sv. Co. as M/Sgt. Regimental Supply. Was permanently disabled and he is a member with our compliments.



Reunion? Why do they come? For sentiment mostly. The serious issues of the day are only lightly touched. Rather they come for the uplift, to relive the days of glory. He's not there to see everybody; he's there especially to see the small circle that lived - and survived - in the adjoining hole

A SPECIAL WORD TO YOU GOOD FRIENDS AT RILEY

Membership in our Association - YOUR Association - is urgently solicited. It is open to anyone who wears - or ever wore - the Taro Leaf.

It functions as the vehicle for keeping in contact with friends whom you will surely one day come to see, if you do not yet see, as being some of the finest friends you could ever hope to have.

Service together in "the Pineapple Army" does something to people. We can't describe it. We can't define it. So we shan't try. It's a "something" that just happens to be, that's all. It's a simple heartwarming fact.

That this Association may grow - and better serve Taro Leafers, past, present and future - we beg of you your support now.

Organized only to insure that "This thing called Division and all the blood spilled in her name will never be forgotten", we seek only to provide a means by which the friendships forged under the Taro Leaf banner will "last as long as life itself".

Won't you join the Association and the Fort Riley Chapter today?

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CSM Carroll J. Griffin,  
Div. SGM - Div.Hq.  
24th Infantry Division  
Ft.Riley, Kansas 66442

Count me in as a member of both the local chapter of the Association and of the national organization as well - for which I enclose \$2.00 for annual dues - all with the understanding that membership entitles me to a subscription to the Association's publication, "Taro Leaf", and all of the privileges of membership in the 24th Infantry Division Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Division Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Date joined Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address other than Division address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You think you've got troubles? Listen to FLOYD EYLER (I & L 21st) out in Waynesboro, Pa. In the last few months, he's had 3 hemorrhaging duodenal ulcers plus mumps plus a bad kidney. He sold the gas station - after 37 years - unable to work. Cleovesta is with Waynesboro Knitting. Says Floyd, "Wonderful people in our little town. They've given me 32 pints of blood." We're pulling for you, Floyd.

Just out of hospital: TONY FIERRO in Marion, Ind. Tony doesn't tell us any details. We got a note off to him.

HERB WERKHEISER, (13th Art.) of Bath, Pa. is looking for Sgt. ED. B. DOLBOW and SEIKO TOKUDO and RUSSELL TELLER, each of 13th Sv.Btry. during '50-'52. Can anyone help us? Herb advises that DICK "Slim" ZOTTERS, (19th '50-'52) is in the bus business in Allentown, Pa., that DAN WEAVER (A 52 Art. '50-'52) has a heavy trucking repair business in Bethlehem, Pa. and that BOB BOYLE (Sv. 13 Art. '50-'52) is working for the city of Jacksonville, Fla.

We warned you in our last issue that news of our August get-together in St.Louis, the departure of Maj.Gen.LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT and the arrival of Maj.Gen.ROBERT R.LINVILL would spill over into this issue. It couldn't be helped.

"You know we are the best and God's chosen few" signalled FRANK SPENCER, of 10314 S.Avers, Chicago, when he announced an inability to make S.L.

SAM UMPHREY, our one time chemical officer (Japan '46-'48) is retiring from his long time civilian job in Eighth Army Hqs. in Seoul to return to 'Frisco where he is setting up Intrapac Corporation to engage in trading in Oriental items, hardware, industrial equipment, office machines, optical goods, air conditioners, household items, etc., etc.). Sam tells us that stock in the venture is available (\$1.00 per share). Write Sam at G-4 Section, Hq. Eighth US Army, APO 'Frisco 96301, if you're interested.