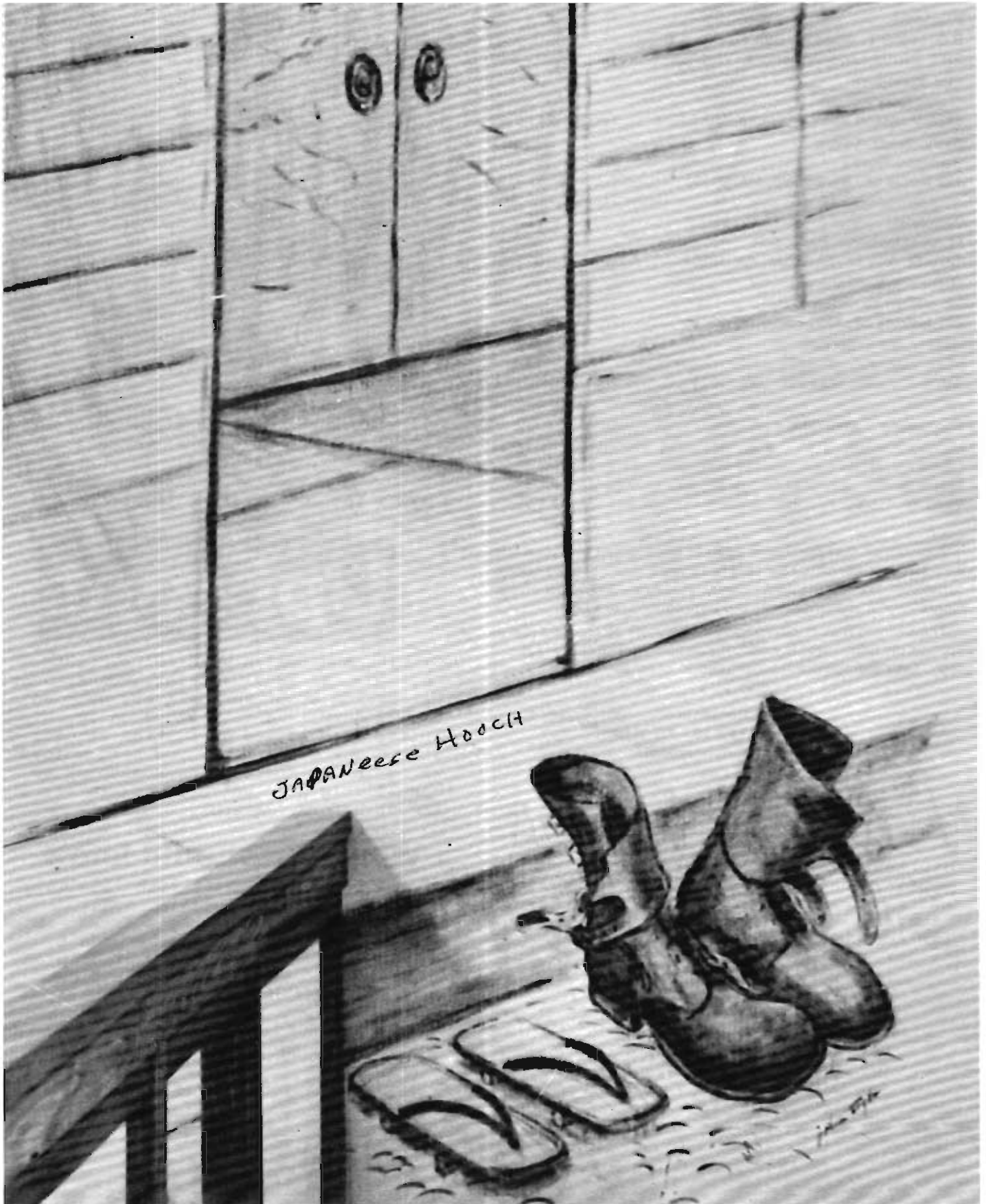


# TAROLEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXIII — No. 1

1979 - 1980



## TARO LEAF

Vol. XXXIII — No. 1

1979 - 1980

The publication "of, by and for those who served or now serve" the glorious United States 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION whose officers are:

**President:**

B.G. Lester L. Wheeler, USA Ret.  
2108 Stirrup Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308 .....Tel. 703-360-7597

**Vice President:**

Walter Cunningham  
2828 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218 ....Tel. 301-243-6191

**Sec'y.-Treas.-Editor:**

Kenwood Ross  
120 Maple St., Springfield, MA. 01103 ..Office Tel. 413-733-3194  
Home Tel. 413-733-3531

**Chaplain:**

Fr. Christopher J. Berlo, C.P.  
1239 St. Ann St., Scranton, PA. 18504 .....Tel. 717-347-5691

**Membership Chairman:**

Howard R. Lumsden  
167 Hickory St., Wood River, IL 62095 .....Tel. 618-259-5771

**Convention Chairman:**

Victor Backer  
178 E. 73rd St., New York, NY 10021 ..Office Tel. 212-535-9202  
Home Tel. 516-482-5055

**Convention Committee:**

Michael Mochak .....1143 Walnut St., Springdale, PA 15144  
Charles E. McMichael .....158 Freeport Road, Butler, PA 16001  
Dallas Dick .....1701 Bridge St., New Cumberland, PA 17070  
Virgil W. Scott .....2911 Clayton Ave., Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Association membership is open to anyone and everyone who wears or ever wore the Taro Leaf or served in any unit ever formally "attached" to the 24th Infantry Division. Dues are \$10.00 per annum inclusive of a subscription to the publication, Taro Leaf.

The Division History covering 1941-1980 will be released just as soon as the Editor, who is writing it, can finish it. The cost — \$20 per copy. Only members will be allowed to purchase copies.

.....  
**1980 Convention**

**August 14 - 15 - 16 - 17, 1980**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**  
.....

## *Precious Moments*

Lexington - where our gang once again inhaled the rose-pink vapors of sentimentalism. Yes, the military fraternal season reached its Zenith in August - in the land of the blue grass.

### **Readers talk back**

You know you're getting old if you can remember when:  
movies had newsreels  
McDonald's didn't have Big Macs  
gas stations washed windows and gave away maps

# Hooray!

It is one of the splendid rites of the American summer: the Association's annual garden party. On a sun-kissed weekend in mid-August, members and more guests came to tea with President MICHAEL and First Lady Loretta RAFTER. Among those invited was Taro Leaf Miami Bureau Chief ROBERT HARDIN. His report:

At the Association's garden fete, blublooded regulars literally rubbed elbows with ruddy-faced first timers from towns across the country. The accents differed, but the purpose was the same - to walk among the royals. Well, almost walk. It was more like squirming into position for a chance for a word or two with our Generals - IRVING, NEWMAN, ROSENBLUM and WHEELER. No great palace society event. Ours is a more democratic affair, mixing ordinary folk who have served their country with the brass sans their flowing robes and not listing to port under the weight of their medals. Just a big, happy family is what I mean. The weekend was one of which every particular is worthy to be treasured in memory.

## UpFront

MIKE and Evelyn WASKIEWICZ, (19th '41-'45), of 3805 Castelar, Omaha, Nebr., are asking about the delivery date on the History. We're working on it, folks, as hard and as fast as we can. It's a one man affair, you see, which we do in our spare time, something we have little of. We're trying to get it out before '79 ends.

### **What you should know**

FRANK WILLIAMSON (A 19th '39-'45), of 11 Pakesso, Litchfield, N.H., reports breaking his right arm. Frank can still write however; he didn't have to call on Jeannette for help on that score. He made a down payment toward a Life Membership. Frankie says "you know it's going to be a bad day, when you put your bra on backwards and it fits better".

Honk if you ever rode in a rumble seat.

1980 Convention - Pittsburgh, Pa. - August 14, 15, 16 & 17

By which we introduce the  
new Division Commander--  
Major General JAMES E. COCHRAN III



General Cochran extends to each of you an invitation to be present at the 38th anniversary of the activation of the Division, same to be observed at Ft. Stewart on Friday, September 28th. This weekend was selected since it so closely aligns with the actual October first organization day. Individual and unit activities have been planned for the day. Those planning on going to Stewart for the birthday should contact Lt. Ogilvie, Division Protocol Officer at 912-767-2972. And in the meantime will you permit us this one loud rousing cheer--

Happy Birthday, 24th Division

# PAGE SIX

We would be remiss if we didn't signal kudos to outgoing President MICHAEL RAFTER (A 34th '42-'45), for a glorious year at the helm and to the LOWREYS, both PORKIE and Ginny, for another year of yeoman duty in manning the convention registration desk, surrendering their rights to much of the pleasures and much of the fun - there's a next line about chewing doublemint gum but we'll skip that. What we're really trying to say is that all of us are deeply appreciative.

**TAKE  
YOUR  
MOVE**

A couple of inquiries came in concerning a return to the Philippines in late '79 or sometime in '80. We'll give the idea as much publicity as possible if there is a reasonable amount of enthusiasm shown. Two letters of interest are hardly enough to call out the band. Let's start with this - how many would go if we started something? Or let's put it this way - how many would put down \$1000 to cover the per person expenses of such a venture? If the real interest is there, we'll report it and will get the roller to generating steam.

## Gold and Silver

Paying his dues for our August to August year was Lt.Col. ARTHUR G. H. ANDERSON, (19th 1/47-2/50). Art and Josephine are retired and are hanging their hats at 5855 U.S. Highway 1, Cocoa, Fla.

## Comment

Total membership as we moved into Lexington was 1202. We were up to #298 in our Life Membership roll. 15 of those Life Members are deceased.

The failure of the motel to accommodate all of our people is laid to the fact that neither we nor they anticipated the turnout. Guesses have to be made based on past experience. Your committee and the motel was out-guessed. To those who had to go a mile and a half down the road, our deep apologies. We must say: they took it all in good stride.



## Surprise!

Newly-elected V.P., WALTER CUNNINGHAM, our own version of Falstaff, made merry with a description of the three ages of man: Youth - Middle age - and "My, you're looking well!"

## CLOSE UP

The first class women at WP start their last year this month. Three years ago, 119 joined the class of '80. Today 62 remain. It'll be interesting to see how many really go the full distance. Stay tuned.

## FLAP

BILL WILLMOT says that what this country really needs is a washing machine that turns out an even number of socks.

1980 Convention - Pittsburgh, Pa. - August 14, 15, 16 & 17

# SNOW JOB

With this issue, we celebrate Taro Leaf's 32nd year of publication. Vol. 1 No. 1 appeared in August of '47, the name having been adopted after many had been proposed, including the Poi Leaf, The Taro Leaflet, the Alangalang Clarion, Hoi-Poi (how corny could we have gotten?), V-Mail, Veescrpts, Oahu Wahoo, Tarogram and Tarograph. Somehow we personally feel most comfortable with Taro Leaf, an idea that caught on. The 32 years represents better than 3 decades of adventure and discovery, of controversy and success, of nostalgia, of good times, of sad times. We look ahead to 32 more.

## splashdown

RAY and Helen DENDE, (724 Ord. '46-'47), of 1435 Woodlawn, Scranton, Pa., have returned from a "superb" tour of Poland. These wonderful folks are responsible for much of whatever "artwork" one finds in these pages. For too long they have gone unheralded. You're heralded now, Ray and Helen. Happy the Poland trip was a success. Did you bring back any new jokes. The old ones are wearing a little thin.

## FASCINATING

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons is planning to end free mailing privileges for inmates. Postage bill: \$1.2 million per annum. Can you believe it?



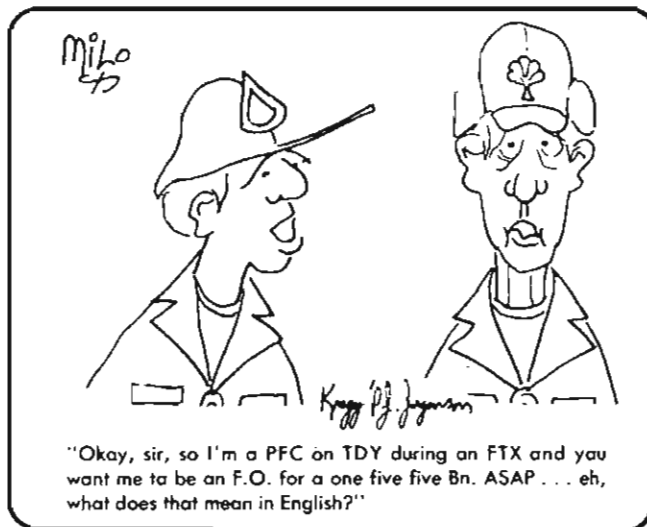
JOE KELLEY, (D 19th '51-'53), of 917 N. Main, Brockton, MA, sends in his dues, along with the message: "You know it's going to be a bad day, when your only son tells you he wishes Anita Bryant would mind her own business".

Sick Call: C.G. HANLIN safely out of a 3 week stay in hospital. Slight stroke. Made Lexington. Looks great. He's at 1399 Belcher Road, Largo, Fla.

Also DON WILLIAMS has had an "episode". Hypertensive Crisis and Transient Cerebral Ischemic Attack. Is back at work. He and Irene were at Lexington. Postcard him and Irene at: 21925 Flanders Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48024 (Tel. 313-972-7714).

BILL SANDERSON well on the mend after losing 75% of his pot. Ulcer. Went to Alaska in July fishing for salmon. Made Lexington. Looks as frisky as ever. Try him at 57 Peck, Attleboro, MA.

GERRY STEVENSON made Lexington on a walker. Broken hip. Fell off a ladder. Was really suffering at our gathering. He's at 168 Center, Wheeling, Ill.



## PRACTICAL

LEW and Mary AHNERT, (13th F '43-'45), 467 W. 6th, Peru, Ind., had such a "grand time" at Lexington, their first reunion, that they've decided to go to a Life Membership.

Pfc. GAIL SCHMIDT and Sp 4 DOUG WARD both of A Co., 24th Sig. Bn., were recently married at Stewart. And none of your comments either.



## Cochran Assumes Command In Fort Stewart Ceremony

The Division command was transferred Friday, August 3rd from Maj.Gen. JAMES B. VAUGHT to Maj.Gen. JAMES F. COCHRAN III before a crowd of 4000.

Under warm, clear skies, the change of command ceremony took place on Cottrell Field where 22 battalion-sized units assembled for review by the two generals plus local, state and military officials.

Senior officer present for the change of command was Lt.Gen. John Forrest, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command.

In a brief address following the transfer of division flags from Vaught to Cochran, Forrest noted the command was passing between two soldiers, "distinguished in war and peace."

He praised Vaught for the job done during his two years as division commander and cautioned soldiers who had "come to know and respect" the abilities of the outgoing commander that they must now adapt to new methods and skills to be demonstrated by the incoming commander.

Vaught, who moves to a Pentagon post as Director of Current Operations for the Army, expressed his feelings about division command, noting that "all good things must, at some point, come to an end. About the best thing that ever happened to me as a soldier was the honor and privilege of commanding the 24th Infantry Division, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield."

Cochran also praised the outgoing commander, noting that, "He is a soldier and there is no higher compliment in my vocabulary."

Cochran told the Division that the first task at hand is the mechanization and training for mechanization of the division.

"The chief of staff, Lt.Gen. Glenn Otis, told me yesterday that he expects this division to come on line as the finest division in the U.S. Army," Cochran said.

Cochran comes to the 24th Infantry Division from his position as Director of Force Management Directorate at Army Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

A native of Tallahassee, Fla., his service career spans 28 years, during which he has been stationed in Korea, Vietnam, Fort Benning and the University of Alaska as well as Pentagon assignments.

Vaught looked back at his period of command at Fort Stewart with both pride in the accomplishments and disappointments of the goals that were not achieved.

Among the accomplishments, Vaught noted the progress in housing was the most significant although he said there is "still a lot to be done in the community."

He said that the training and relationship between the 24th Infantry Division and its "roundout brigade" the 48th Infantry, have been marked by cooperation and achievement. He complimented the men under his command for "going that extra mile" while taking part in the training of the National Guard unit.

His chief disappointment, he said, was that he had not had enough time to be personally present with the soldier of the division as often as he would have liked.

He said, however, that the training of the soldiers is the area where militarily, the most progress has been made.

"I know a lot about training and fighting," he said, noting that he would have liked to personally impart these skills to his men.

His new post, his first assignment to the Pentagon in nine years, will give him the responsibility of making decisions on daily operations in the Army including possible military responses to foreign events.

# Why not?

(pourquoi pas?)

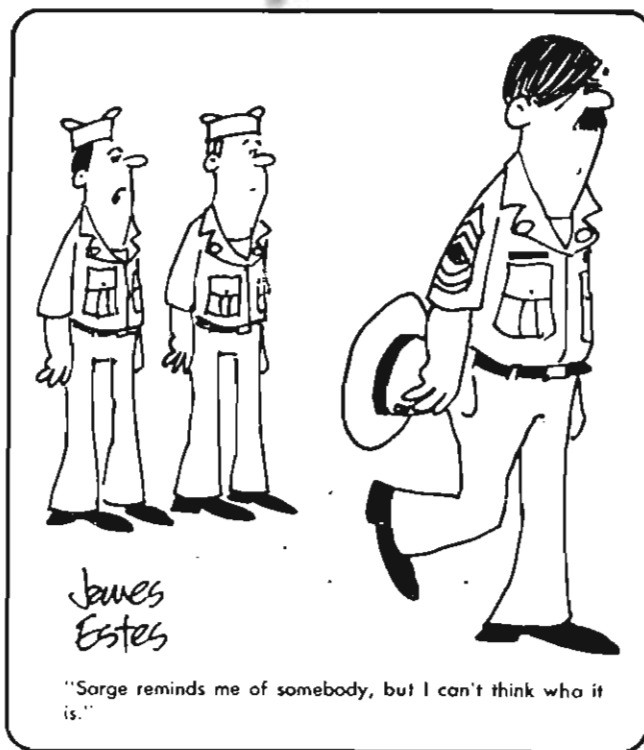
Inevitably the discussions at Lexington got around to the national malaise and what has caused it. As everyone knows, it's an ailment of epidemic proportions that has most people hanging their heads and sighing deeply at the hopelessness of life and the bleakness of the future. Not so with our gang who were going around whistling and urging all others to have a nice day. And we look forward into the future, our own organization to be happily under the leadership of our newly elected President, Brig.Gen. LESTER WHEELER who has seen service in each of our regiments including the 5th, our newly elected Vice President, the old curmudgeon WALTER CUNNINGHAM, our Chaplain Rev. CHRISTOPHER BERLO who assented to punch our tickets for another year, our Membership Chairman, the indefatigable HOWARD LUMSDEN who hasn't learned how to say "No" and our '80 Convention Chairman VICTOR BACKER, who had done it all before. We'll be bringing up the rear with the other jobs which somehow got intermixed and intertwined because, in truth, it's easier that way. So instead of pressing the razor blades to our wrists, we're ready to go on, still believing that what we fought for was all the more worth while. Like America? We love her!!!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

How could the feds make 500 million Susan B. Anthony silver dollars before realizing the goof? Who's minding the store?

## Shining Example

JERRY VON MOHR was on hand at Lexington, having retired from his V.A. position earlier in the week. Jerry, fit as a fiddle, had no objection to the fact that the banquet Color Guard was made up of Marines.



## On Center Court

Even before Lexington, August, by all auguries, was shaping up as a dream month. In a rare show of unanimity, Congress had resolved to suspend for 30 days while they went home or checked out such trouble spots as Acapulco and Cannes.

## 'Imagine!

Good question: Do kids still play marbles?

**BY UNANIMOUS  
DECISION:  
THIS SUMMER'S  
KNOCKOUT HIT!**

Those sounds of bottles clinking were "the boys" in town once again. Once a year, they hold a division reunion to recount the stories which, unlike some of the tellers themselves, never seem to fade.

It is not in doing what you like, but in liking what you do that is the secret of happiness.

THIS IS FOR SPOIL-SPORTS  
WHO DON'T LIKE THOSE  
MEAN LITTLE TRICK-OR-TREATERS  
AND ALL ELSE THAT THE  
UPCOMING ANNIVERSARY REPRESENTS



TACK THIS UP ON  
YOUR FRONT  
DOOR OR OVER YOUR  
DOORBELL - SIT BACK  
AND RELAX - WATCH  
T.V.! - AND HAVE A  
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!



# Yours Sincerely

LEON OVERBECK, (E 19th '44-'45), of Greeley, Colo., says of his days in the Philippines, "I was wounded twice, but got out with my life and limbs. I offer a belated thanks to the 3rd Eng. on Mindoro for their excellent food (it subsidized my 10 & 1 rations), and for the accuracy of the 13th Field Artillery on Leyte. Two smoke rounds was the maximum they ever needed for zeroing. Their third round was for real, and it was deadly accurate..... A few names that I remember from Co.E are: Jim Higbee, a BAR man from Fresno, Calif., Red Cahill from Brooklyn, N.Y., Sam Fracica, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Joe Misciagna, Bronx, N.Y., Louis Polito from Rock Island, Ill., Mike Lawkovitch from Johnson City, N.Y., Tony DeBellis, Flushing, N.Y. and Pete Vencuk of Chicago, Ill." Thanks Leon.

## Yum! Yum!

From the files of Maj.Gen.  
AUBREY S. NEWMAN:

Spring is here  
And so am I,  
But at my age  
I wonder why

If Nature can be  
Born anew,  
Why can't I be  
Recycled too?

## SUITE ONE

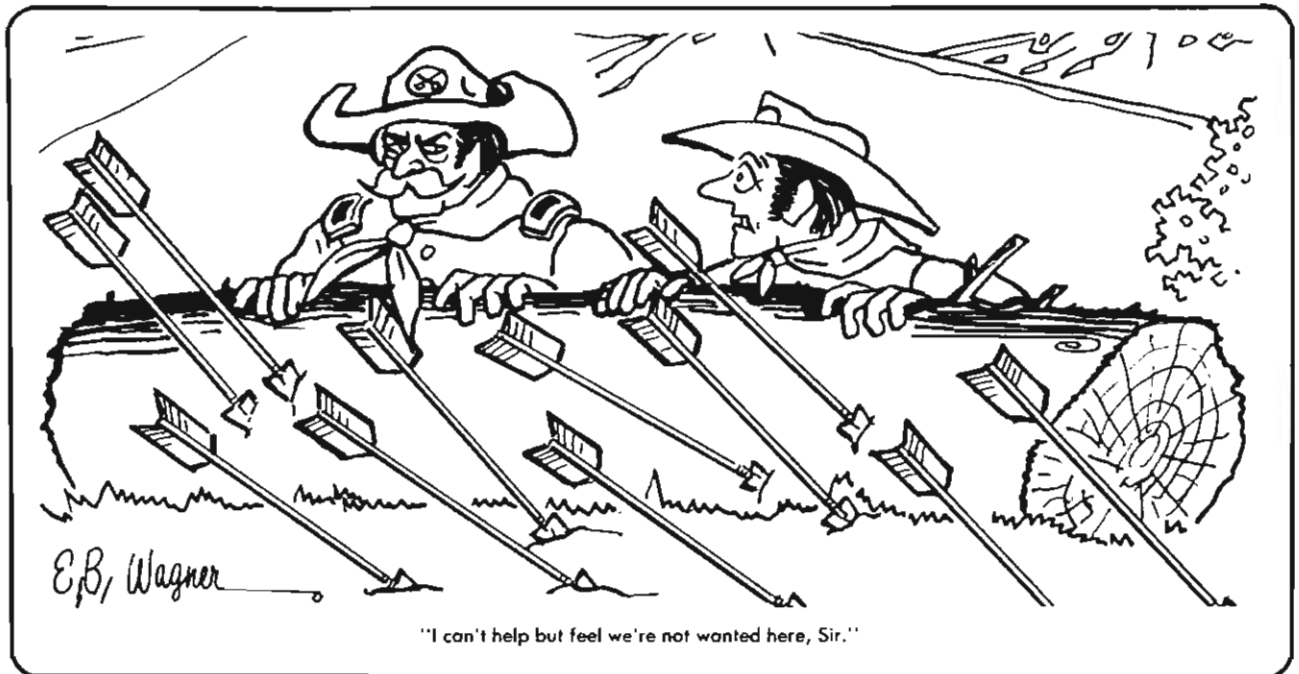
RALPH and Jean HALEY, (24th Sig. 5/43-12/45), of 6406 Eagle Crest, Charlotte, N.C., regretted missing Lexington. Son Mike was getting married.

Not too late for contributions for our History in the way of anecdotes or pictures. C.W.FRANKLIN, (B 19th '50-'51), of Cedar Tree Farm, Milford, Cal., has sent us a nice one which we'll use. This is the LAST CALL for your stories and pictures. LAST CALL! LAST CALL!!



Jo POE, WILLARD's "secretary-treasurer", sends us these of a 24th Signal meeting in Las Vegas in April. In the first one, it's CHARLIE ABELEE on the left and Bud Poe on the right. In the other, it's, l. to r., Bud, PAUL FRITSCH and AL HAMMOND. Charlie's at 1316 Paloma, Burlingame, Cal. Paul's at 4915 Dover, Beaumont, Tex. Al's at 22 E.Gibson, Stockton, Cal. Also present but not Kodak'd was WAYNE RUGH, of 2861 LaRosa, Grove City, Ohio. All were in JIM PURCELL's gang between '42 and '45. Thanks Jo for the pix.

# WHO, WHERE & WHEN?



## SUPER YEAR

Past Prexy DICK LIGMAN made Lexington. With him, as with the others, conversation was aplenty. The initial talk usually concerned marriage, just as it eventually got around to women 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.

## MAIL CALL

Almost 400 sat down at our Lexington banquet. All nicely dressed. Unlikely prospects for a recruiting sargeant. Who were they? They were those who "have had it". The uniform of the evening: a plain business suit. And not a single "ruptured duck" in a lapel. And the ladies were gorgeous.

## The Concept

Bill Cosby reportedly making \$5 million for his Fat Albert commercials.

## CLIFFHANGERS!

SIEGFRIED and June STEINBERGER, (K 21st '42-'45), have gone for 34 years not knowing of our Assoc. Meantime their youngsters have grown to manhood - Karl 27, Bruce 26 and Mark 22. Sieg and June are at Box 95, Mendenhall, Miss., but he's V.P. of Universal Mfg. Corp. of Paterson, N.J. We'll bet commuting is a devil of a problem. Sieg writes: "You know it's going to be a bad day when you call Suicide Prevention, and they put you on Hold".

## GATHERING TOGETHER

Division reunion is the place 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.

## It's easy

What's a cannibal? He's a guy who loves his fellow man - with gravy.

1980 Convention - Pittsburgh, Pa. - August 14, 15, 16 & 17



The Census Bureau Director, Vincent P. Barabba, says that the 1980 census will include illegal aliens in its count next year of the nation's inhabitants. Such may help to give California and Texas one or two more congressmen, not to mention additional federal funds where they are based on numbers. We ask: if we can count 'em, why can't we send them home? We called the Census Bureau and asked "What do you estimate there are in the way of illegal aliens in this country?" The answer - between 4 and 5 million. Ho hum!

## ON STAGE

JOHNNIE BROWN, (D 21st 12/39 - 3/44), is now retired at 6002 Sudbury, Jacksonville, Fla. We call Johnnie one of our early birds; he was there before Division was.

## Perfect timing

ROSCOE CLAXON who worked so hard to make Lexington, '79 the success that it was climaxed the activities by making a \$250 contribution to the Association just before our annual business meeting.

## POST TIME

Greetings were earthy at Lexington. "Hey, look who's here - the best damn 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". Oh it was grand just being together once again, if only for a few hours.

## Names

RUSS and Zelpha ARNOLD, (24 MP '45-'47), of Urbana, Ohio, made Lexington. It was grand seeing them after all these years. Believe it was at Columbus in '52 that we last met. Observed Russ: The majority of veterans never seem to 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 one only they knew well enough to gripe about - and they still gripe - and love it.

## TABLE FOR ONE

While we were heralding the halcyon days of summer at Lexington, Hirohito was observing the 34th anniversary of the surrender. At the Budokan Martial Arts Hall in Tokyo, the 78-year old emperor told a gathering of 6000 people, "It brings pain to my heart when I think of the many people who died on the battlefields of the war, and of their survivors."

"Together with all the people of Japan, I will pray here for global peace and the country's development...and express my condolences to the war dead from the bottom of my heart."

Don't forget that Japan suffered more than 3.1 million deaths in that mess.

## Your's Alone\*

VINCE SUILMAN, (Hq. 3rd Bn 19th '42-'45), is now at 312 Market, Wabasha, Minn., one of the landing points of JC during his recent week on the Delta Queen.

## LIVE!

### ...from the City Room

Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, 79, is the oldest military officer still on active duty.

# SPOTLIGHT on PEOPLE

Add to the line of recipient's of the WILLIAM J. VERBECK BOWL, the Association's highest honor, the name of WILLIAM SANDERSON, the 1979 awardee. GERALD STEVENSON, the 1978 awardee, made the presentation at the Lexington Banquet. Others who have received the honor have been SAMUEL GILNER (posthumously) in '77, Maj.Gen. FREDERICK IRVING in '76, ROBERT DUFF in '75, Maj.Gen. AUBREY NEWMAN in '74, VICTOR BACKER in '73, JOSEPH PEYTON in '72, THOMAS COMPERE in '71, JAMES O'DONNELL in '70 and EDMUND HENRY in '69. We proudly add that we received it in '66.



## The Last Touch

Congress costs us more than \$30 million a year in salaries alone. Ask any of them what they're really doing about the national malaise.

# GETTING AROUND

AL and Marie GARNER, now at Pinewood Park, Chillicothe, Ill., couldn't make Lexington, but they had a message waiting for us at the motel. Thoughtfully, they gave us a news release about the Simara Island skirmish. It's going in the History.



## NOTES ON OUR DESK

The Treasurer at Lexington summed up the years activities as monies received in amounting to \$18556 (coming in by way of dues, life memberships, payments for the History, payments for crests, patches and decals, and pure-oh so pure - contributions) and as monies paid out amounting to \$14,951 (going out for printing and mailing the Taro Leaf, getting ready for the History, underwriting '78 and '79 convention expenses and administrative costs). We even were able to feed \$5000 over into our savings accounts for interest purposes. We have in two savings accounts, as of convention time, \$29,937.93. It was only sheer forgetfulness that made us fail to feed \$63 more into those accounts to push them over the \$30,000.00 mark. Sorry 'bout that.

## THE JOY OF GIVING

FRED DEMSHAR, (24 Sig '42-'45), of 416 S. Missouri, Clareme, Okl., will be interested in the news that Koreagate is now history. The 36 counts against Tungsun Park have been dropped he having testified that he gave out about \$850,000 to 31 present and former members of Congress. Only one, Hanna, a California Democrat, went to prison and he was sprung after serving a little more than a year. Passman, a Louisiana Democrat, was tried and found innocent. The rest? Zilch.



## SHOP TALK



The New York Times/George Talbot

Lieut. Gen. Edward J. Rowny addressing Senate panel on foreign relations

## HOUSECALL

Nice to see that BOB KILGO's son, Bob Jr., has now joined his Dad in the law firm of Kilgo, Alexander & Kilgo, Darlington, S.C. Bob, incidentally, joined up HENRY C. LAMB of Seward, Pa. Henry was a Sgt. in Easy of the 21st at P.H. and stayed with us until we left Australia for Goodenough. Welcome to the Club, Henry - and thank you, Bob Kilgo.

Contributing to the heat of the summer was the appearance in July of Lieut. Gen. EDWARD L. ROWNY, (Div.CG 1965), before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The subject of the strategic arms treaty and he was contending that it was seriously flawed and suggested that it be renegotiated.

Gen. Rowny told the Committee that the treaty did not meet the objectives the United States had sought, did not fulfill the minimum requirements of a sound arms limitation treaty and "is not in the interest of the United States."

Gen. Rowny, who served for six years as the representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the treaty negotiations, resigned from the Army on June 30 in protest over the accord signed by President Carter earlier that month.

The criticism did not go unanswered. A majority of the 15 committee members seems to be leaning toward approval, and several challenged the arguments of General Rowny.

Senator Edmund S. Muskie's voice rose and he speared the air with a finger as he took issue with General Rowny's statement that "there is little doubt in my mind" that a better treaty can be negotiated with the Soviet Union if the Senate kills this one.

"It is difficult to see how you could perceive something to which everyone else was blind," Senator Muskie said.

General Rowny said the United States had been so eager to achieve a treaty that it had given up too early on attempts to get a reduction in Soviet heavy missiles, to count the Backfire as a long-range weapon and to obtain greater Soviet cooperation in assuring verification.

"The emerging treaty," he said, "is not in our interest since it is inequitable, unverifiable, undermines deterrence, contributes to instability and could adversely affect NATO security and Allied coherence."

## ROBUST

American Legion has 2.6 million members; VFW has 1.9 million; DAV has 623,000; AMVETS 200,000.

Boston hosted the DAV during the summer where it was revealed they have 280 full-time staff members with an operating budget of 17.6 million and total revenues of 26.8 million.

"The trouble with the guy who talks too fast is that he often says something he hasn't thought of yet."

1980 Convention - Pittsburgh, Pa. - August 14, 15, 16 & 17

# ITS A SMALL WORLD

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 if the small circle that lived (and survived) in the adjoining hole also showed up. And he is bitterly disappointed if they don't show.

## INTERESTING

VIC BACKER (A 34 '41-'45), had to pay a visit to ROSCOE CLAXON's town of Stamping Ground, only a few miles away from the hotel, as the crow flies. He saw an old man sitting by a cabin door and stopped to talk with him. "Been living here all your life?" asked Vic. "Not yet, I haven't" was the reply.

## UNCONVENTIONAL

The trouble with being a leader today is that you can't be sure whether people are following you or chasing you.

## LETTERS

Correction, thanks to this memo from WOODSON C. TUCKER of Hot Springs Village, Ark. Our face is very red. Writes Woody: "Yesterday I received the Taro Leaf and was spurred to write. It shows John Clark as Div. Cml O '42-'44. I don't know who committed the error but actually I was the Div Cml O for this period. John replaced me when I was transferred by request of the Hawaiian Dept. Cml O. I joined the 24th, as its first Div Cml O, on 8 Dec '41 and remained in that capacity until March or April 1944." We're glad to be able to correct the record, Woody, and please accept our apologies.

CHARLES R. GRIMSHAW, (Co.A, 1st Plt., 5th RCT 1950-51), of 15825 S.E. 132nd Place, Renton, Wash., is looking to contact anyone who was close by when he was KO'd by a Chink shell on 5/31/51. Would especially like to contact Lt.Col. Wilson, 1st Bn CO, Dale Jenkins, Cross, Drews, Lanini, and Belhman. Charley will appreciate any contacts anyone can help him make.

## CAMEO

IF YOU FIND MISTAKES in this issue, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone; and some people are always looking for mistakes!!!

## PORTFOLIO

A farmer drove up to the Hilton with a load of vegetables the first morning we were there. We asked him what he had in his load, and he told us. Then he got to explaining that a Kentucky breakfast consists of a big beefsteak, a quart of bourbon, and a hound dog. "What's the dog for?", we inquired, in all innocence. The farmer answered, "He eats the beefsteak."

## Bookshelf

Good report in from TOM KILFOYLE, (24th Recon. '48-'51), of Glendale, Ariz. In a chatty letter, he reports working for the NYC Police for 21 years after Korea, retiring and then moving with Genevieve and the 5 kids to Arizona where he now works with the Capitol Police in Phoenix.

"None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm." (Thoreau)



The Fort Stewart Personnel Processing Center was destroyed by fire last summer. The Fire Department received a call and arrived as the fire spread into the attic of the World War II vintage wood building. The blaze was brought under control with the assistance of two fire trucks from nearby Hinesville. No injuries. The cause has not been determined and is being investigated by military and civilian authorities. Estimated loss is in excess of \$50,000.

The Wilson Avenue building housed offices from several departments on post. All were placed under one roof in June of 1978 in order to provide a one-stop processing center for arriving and departing soldiers. Among the offices were Travel and Finance, Housing, Hospital Records reception point, ID Card section, Army Community Services, Adjutant General records reception point and G-2 Security clearance representatives.

## ON STAGE

"On stage" is right. RAY TATMAN, (19th WW II and Korea), of 4828 Brigadoon, Virginia Beach, Va., came on recently - from out of nowhere. He had been one of us, but moved around quite a bit and lost track of us. We're happy you're back, Ray.

## On the Light Side

One of ROSCOE CLAXON's farming neighbors owns a fairly good sized hunk of land - 200 acres. He says, "If you get up early enough, and work late nights, you'll make a fortune - if you strike oil". He says that he had won a huge sweepstakes a few years ago, and some news reporter came out to him and asked, "Now that you've won the sweepstakes, what are you gonna do with all that money?" The farmer squinted, looked him in the eye and said, "Well I guess I'll just keep farmin' 'til it's all gone."

"Just praise is only a debt, but flattery is a present."  
(Sam Johnson)

## LIVELY

Army Times ran a column in which they published the letters of subscribers who wrote in with answers to "If I were C/S, I would....". Wrote one: "I would have a policy allowing every battalion commander to fire one individual from the service every 30 days. The procedure would be simple, direct, swift, and with no questions asked of the battalion commander....". Think about it for awhile. Not a bad idea, is it?

## INSIGHTFUL

BOBBY MYERS, (Cn.Co. 34th '43-'45), of Orange, Cal. sends in his \$100 check and became our Life Member #296. As if this wasn't enough, he also proposed collecting into one place as many of the "odd ball sayings" as we could, such as "Hurry up and wait", "Grab your socks, leggo \_\_\_\_\_" etc., etc. We assured Bobby that we'll print 'em if you'll send them in. So let's hear it gang.

"A man rarely succeeds at anything unless he has fun doing it."  
(John Delore)

# Extraordinary!



West Point firstclassman (sic!) Joan M. Smith has been named by Glamour magazine as one of the country's top college women for the year. Was featured in its August issue.



Recently qualified as a parachutist. Commanded a tactical communications platoon of 45 soldiers in Germany last summer. She'll be one of the first ladies to graduate from WPMA. As the song goes, "We were born 40 (give or take 10) years too soon."

# FIRST-RATE



Meet Jean and Bud COLLETTE - you've seen him before. Bud has made 6 of our last 7 issues. Anyway this gives us a chance to see Jean - and we're delighted Jean. Note the Division plate in the lower right corner of the Camper. Good man, Bud. He brings in new members.

# TIMELY

At the Lexington airport, as we were waiting to take leave of the gang and our glorious weekend, we ran into an old Kentucky mountaineer who got to talking with us. He told us one about how he told the doc that he shot his son-in-law in the leg and wanted to fix him up. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself, shooting your son-in-law", the doc scolded him. "Well, doc," the old man explained, "he warn't my son-in-law when I shot him."

# ABSORBING

If you try to keep faith in your hopes  
and your dreams  
In facing whatever life brings...  
If you're cheerful when dark clouds  
appear in the sky  
And you're grateful for life's  
"little things"...  
Then it won't matter much if,  
once in a while,  
Things aren't all you would like  
them to be...  
Any day can still be your most  
wonderful day -  
Just try it awhile and you'll see!

# ELEVATING

LOU PERRY, (I 19th '44-'45), of Abbeville, La., asks, "Who was the top-kick of Item Co. on Mindanao?" We dunno, so we're throwing it to you fellows.



## Views of

## Our Readers

GENE LEW, (13th F '40-'44), of 78 Victoria, Cheektowaga, N.Y., wrote us a doozy of a letter. We're so tickled with it that we're giving it to you in full, just as Lew wrote it:

"Just had to write and express my thanks and feelings regarding the convention.

"It was my first, and believe me, it won't be the last. Just prior to the convention, I was full of anxiety, wondering if I'd know anyone. Well, in about 2 minutes after checking in, I felt that I knew everyone. Sure was made to feel lik I was one of them.

It was the friendliest bunch of people I ever ran into.

"I must take this opportunity to thank all the elected officers, past and present, who had the foresight to keep the organization going. And also many words of appreciation to you for your very enjoyable "Taro" book and especially the Directory. I brought it with me to the convention, and it sure got its workout, being referred to many times.

"So now in conclusion, with the impending winter season, I am already thinking of Pittsburgh in '80."

We think we're going to frame this one. Thanks Gene.

## It's a strange world

The medic in the 1st Bn., 5th RCT, in '51. Anyone know his name?  
CHARLEY GRIMSHAW, (A-5th RCT '50-'51) of 15825 S.E. 132nd Pl., Renton, Wash., wants to know!!

## Love Letters

Maj.Gen. and Mrs. DONALD ROSENBLUM, (otherwise known as Don and Laura,) seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves at Lexington; almost as much as we enjoyed having them as our guests of honor. Don gave a salty, down-to-earth appraisal of today's army in his remarks at the banquet. They made tough listening if you were intent on really catching what he was saying and then reading between the lines. And Don has been in the front trenches in the past few years and knows whereof he speaks.

## ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Robert Petee has gone home to Michigan after 28 years in hiding.

Petee became a soldier in 1948 in Beaverton, Mich., took basic training at Knox, and was sent to West Berlin. It was there in 1949 that he met his friend, Rita, and it was there, on May 15, 1951, that he began an unauthorized absence from duty that he says kept him inside all day every day for 28 years, with two exceptions.

His first outing came in 1961, when Rita rented another apartment and Petee sneaked into it during the night. The second occurred last May, when Petee headed for a subway to kill himself after Rita died, but ended up turning himself in.

"I repaired lamps, I helped with the cooking and (Rita) and I cleaned up the apartment," he said when asked what he did all those years.

28 years of cleaning an apartment? Ye Gods, it must have been dirty.

Petee, who says he has only a third-grade education, had 65 days left in his tour of duty when he went AWOL. The Army resumed the countdown of those days when he returned to the service this spring.

Though 28 years late, he finished his hitch here last month at Walter Reed Army medical Center, where he had been sent to be treated for a hernia.

The Army has dropped desertion charges against Petee, given him a general discharge and is sending him to a Veterans Administration in Ann Arbor, Mich., for further observation and treatment.

He turned himself in, Petee recalled, the day he walked onto a West Berlin subway platform intent on throwing himself in front of a train. "My girlfriend was dead, I could see no reason for living. But the people on the platform looked at me suspiciously, and I couldn't do it."

So he reported his long absence from duty to American authorities instead.

"They didn't know what to do with me at first," Petee said of the Army's initial reaction to his confession.

He indicated that the Army had not informed him that desertion charges had been dropped. But he said he had "no complaints" about the treatment he has received since returning to duty.

BERT A. LOVELL, (F 19th '43-'45), has sent in his dues from Pegram, Tenn., for which our thanks. He goes by "B.A.," never "Bert".

# PFFFFFFFFFFFFFF!

\*\*\*                      \*\*\*

We received mail from Maj.Gen. HARRY L. JONES, (Div. Fin. Off. 3/43-5/46), of 7725 Gran Quivira, El Paso, Tex. He sent us a news item out of Army Times headlined "Museum at Stewart Offers New Displays". It read: "Fort Stewart, Ga. The 24th Inf Div and Fort Stewart Museum has completed a major enlargement program, Stewart officials say. New diaplsy show the 24th in Hawaii, in Germany and in the China-Burma-India Theater in World War II. A fourth new display shows German sidearms."

Harry's cryptic note pinned to the item read: "Ken - I sure don't remember that China-Burma-India bit!?! Harry."

Nor do we, Harry, nor do we.



"I'm taking reservations for New Year's Eve!!"

## today and tomorrow

"20 for dues and a little extra to keep the work going"; that was the message of TOM SUBER, (21st '42-'45), of 1700 Watson, Whitmire, S.C. Wonderful message from ye olde 3rd Bn C.O. Thanks Tom.

# Worthy of note

CHARLIE STANCIL of 1217 Green Mountain, Little Rock, Ark., writes: "Thanks for the letter, old pal. I needed it. I have been so busy the last few years that I have neglected to keep up with the Assn.

"I have one daughter in medical school and another ready to go. They have kept poor old Charlie's nose to the grind stone. I finally got to retire over 2 years ago but have been so busy trying to educate my kids I haven't had time to enjoy it.

"I thought maybe I was going to make the convention this year, but no such luck. I called BERNIE BJORKMAN to see if he could come with me. He said he was sorry but he had already made other arrangements to go somewhere else. I can't come by myself because I am a heart patient. I had an attack 4 1/2 years ago and even though I am doing O.K. the doctor doesn't want me to make trips by myself. Charlotte doesn't want to come with me because she has just had a three weeks vacation with the kids in California. As Rodney Dangerfield would say, "I just don't get no respect".

"By the way I hope you can give a write-up in your book about us charter members who attended the first convention in Baltimore. Do you have any pictures to show from that one? Those were the good old days.

"Again let me say I was delighted to hear from you. It brought back pleasant memories from yesteryears. After all we are all old men now and memories are what we cherish most."

## -the problem and the cure

DOUG KEYSER, (D 21st 7/40-10/44), of Elgin, Okla., came to Lexington loaded with materials for our forthcoming History. Thanks, Doug.

1980 Convention - Pittsburgh, Pa. - August 14, 15, 16 & 17

# OUR DAILY BREAD

We were telling someone at Lexington how we once had occasion to write Red Smith, the N.Y. Times sports columnist. Our letter went:

"Dear Mr. Smith:

"During the commercials of our Sunday football afternoons, the debate gets around to which sport requires more brains in its execution - baseball, basketball or football. There's no argument about the brawn - but our group is hopelessly divided as to which of the 3 calls for the greatest flow of the cranium juices. The only consensus has been that the expertise of one Red Smith must be looked to. Hopefully, he will answer and should he favor us with his opinion, we'll agree to abide thereby and be quiet evermore.

"It does give rise to the possibility of a darned good Red Smith column - but then all of the Red Smith columns are darn good - especially this morning's tribute to O.J.

"We read you faithfully - and admire your work."

In a few days came back the brief and concise answer.

"Baseball - hesitantly.

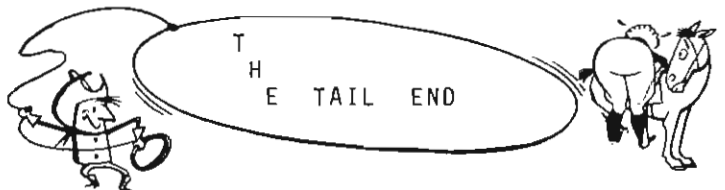
"Dick Siebert, an educated 1st baseman, once told me: 'If there was as much mental about this game as some people say, a lot of us guys couldn't play it.'"

It was simply signed with the initials "R.S."

## You Asked

A few months ago there happened to be a fast Major League baseball game. In it, pitcher Hi N. Outside managed to get by with the minimum number of pitches possible. He played the entire game, which was not called prior to completion. How many pitches did he make?

ANSWER: In order to avoid pitching the last half of the ninth inning, Hi had to be on the losing side. Thus he must have allowed at least 1 run, which would have required at least 1 pitch. 24 more pitches were necessary to produce 24 outs. The answer therefore was 25.



"No question about it, Looie . . . Ol' Spider's the best dam'd sentry dog I ever worked with . . . !!"

It's "Welcome aboard" for GEORGE SELF, a Korean vet, of R#2, Hot Springs, N.C. George loses no time - gives us the definition of a cannibal as "one who loves his fellowman - with gravy". Oh you'll get along with this gang, George. Have no fear.

gershwin  
garbo  
and poe  
to go

KEN GETTER, (Cn. 19th '53-'54), of Rt. 3, Viroqua, Wis., called us - spotted an item about us in the American Legion magazine. We told you that such publicity "pulls". He's looking for LLOYD CUNNINGHAM (last known to be in Pa.) and BOB ERKS and LOUIS FISHER (each last known to be in the Dakotas). Anyone got any reading on any of these chaps?

## here, here and here!

REMEMBER WHEN YOU....

Think kind thoughts...you become kind.  
Think happy thoughts...you become happy.  
Think success...you become successful.  
Think good thoughts...you become good.  
Think evil thoughts...you become evil.  
Think sickness...you become sick.  
Think health...you become healthy.  
YOU BECOME WHAT YOU THINK!



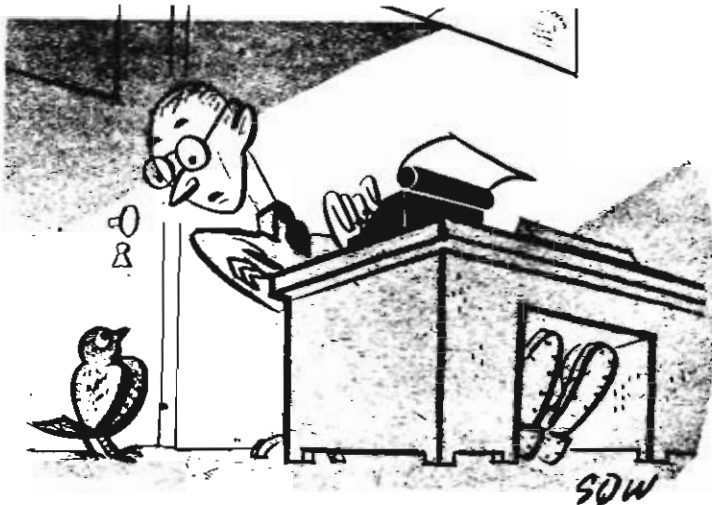
The doorman says it's a new address for JESSE R. HILL, (724th Ord, Div.Hq.Co. & 21st '48-'51). It's now Rt. 4, Box 148A, Waynesboro, Ga. - "5 wonderful acres in the country".

## Memo

JACK ANDERSON, (A 19th '40-'42), of 402 E 18th, Kannapolis, N.C., recovering nicely from surgery. Old Preparation H had run its course; then they went to the knife. We missed you at L. Jack. And thanks Jack for the extra twenty for our history. By the way, less than half of our 1202 members have contributed their \$20 for it.

## How Sweet It Is

BERNIE and Edith LENSKY, (C 52 F '41-'45) of 1777 N.E. 177th, North Miami Beach, Fla., sends in another payment on his Life Membership. It goes for \$100. Thereafter, no more dues. Payments can be made at the rate of \$20 a year for 5 years.



"He's not in now. Do you want to leave a message?"



We don't know whether JACK KIRK, (E 34th), of Burbank, Cal., was putting us on or not. When we were gathering material for this book, he sent us one, taken in Hollandia, showing a white baby concerning which we shall say no more. Jack added another of some of his Company mates. That was BILL PYNON, upper left, holding the burp gun and LEN CAMDEN (kneeling). Jack also sent in a solo of himself. Wouldn't you know?

DUES '79-'80  
ARE DUE  
NOW!  
SEND YOURS TODAY

# who's what, where

In Washington recently, we were the happy guest of our new President LES WHEELER and that most-delightful-of-the-delightful ladies, Dorothy. Lamb chops done to perfection - oh for starters, chutney on small crackers whilst we drank - try some chutney today - a wonderful treat for the tongue. As we started out to say, President Les has ' begun his term of office. This arrived in one of his first mails:



23 August 1979

Brigadier General Lester L. Wheeler, USA Ret  
2108 Stirrup Lane  
Alexandria, Virginia 22308

Dear General Wheeler:

As the new commander of the 24th Infantry Division, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to tell you, as president of the 24th Infantry Division Association, how honored I was by my selection to command the "Victory" Division.

The Division's splendid record in war and peace is well documented in the history of the United States Army. Today at Fort Stewart we are committed to adding further laurels to this outstanding record and to maintain the traditions established by you and the other members of the Association.

Please extend my greetings and best wishes to your members. I look forward to a meaningful relationship between the active elements of the Division and the loyal members of the 24th Infantry Division Association.

Sincerely,

JAMES F. COCHRAN III  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

# where else ?

MYRL BROWN (M 34 11/44-2/45), was the hit of Lexington with his terrific movies on the Division. He brought them with him all the way from Prairie du Chien, Wis., where he is the local "warden". Thanks, Brownie.



Judy CARLSON will likely sue us for printing this one - but Judy, we just had to print one of ROSCOE CLAXON and this is the only one we had. Sorry 'bout that.



Our publisher cringes every time we ask him to reproduce a Kodachrome. Black and white is every offset man's meat. Just thought we'd throw that gentle hint in before we introduce the registration desk beavers, Bonnie FLANARY and Louise CANTER being wrestled by BERT "Porkie" LOWERY. The shining head in the right foreground is that of ALTON HALSO as he signed in.



Our only reunion photos - as we go to press - came from RICHARD LUM who came all the way from Wahoo to make this one. Lum first went to Dayton, Ohio to visit the FLOYD NELSONS, rode with them to Lexington, hopped with MOODY CROWE to Charlotte, N.C. to visit JACK WALLACE and Jack brought him to Sanford, N.C. to see CHARLIE and Lois McBRYDE. He missed seeing JACK FINAN; we all missed Jack at Lexington.

Above its front row, left to right, GRANTON E. WILSON, FLOYD NELSON, and GEORGE HIGGINS; back row it's BILL MULDOON (who left L. to fly to Japan with daughter Pat), LUM, and ENSLEY BOYCE.



We're grateful to RICHARD LUM for his Lexington pix. Here's one of, counterclockwise from the left, Vivian NELSON, Jean BOYCE, G.E. WILSON, Emily WILSON, and who else but LUM

The New York Mets have just announced a new program for next year concerning season's tickets. For \$175, you can get a box seat for the 82 home games, or you can play in the outfield. Take your choice.

TRUE STORY: A man complaining of nervous headaches was examined by his doctor who said, "I'd suggest you cut down on your smoking."

"But doctor," said the patient, " - I don't smoke at all."

"Well," said the medic, "try not to drink so much coffee."

"But I drink only about three cups of coffee a year."

"I see," said the doctor. "Well.... cut it down to two."



## *Father Berlo Dies*

"A knight there was, and that a worthy man, that from the time that he first began to ride out, he loved chivalrye, trouthe and honour, freedom and courtesye...". So Geoffrey Chaucer began his description of Christopher Berlo.

It is of little import that Chaucer wrote these words some 500 years before Christopher was born. Chaucer was a great poet; great poets have a way of seeing a long way ahead; they write for all time. He just looked up one day, saw Chris working over his Book of Honored Dead, and jotted down his impressions. Thus Chris took his place in the immortal procession of the Canterbury Pilgrims.

The association of Christopher Berlo with Geoffrey Chaucer is an easy one. The 14th century was a nasty time. Wholesale murder was commonplace, standards of conduct had collapsed. There were still crusades to redeem the Holy Land from the Infidel, but there was nothing holy about the crusaders. People knew they had to fight, but had forgotten why. If they were Christian invaders, they knew that the alternative to being drafted was to be plundered and jailed at home. Chris Berlo lived in such times.

Suddenly the world was into the 20th century - Chris was just being born - and civilized warfare had become an acceptable term. Civilized nations thought they knew the rules. Rules of war, they called them. Ridiculous. War follows because there's an absence of rules, a total disrespect for respect. But the 20th century thinking was that armies would be expected to mobilize, march, fight battles, capture strategic places, and then stop. It had been like that in our Civil War went the reasoning, even in the Prussian War which next followed. Ah, we'd fight if we had to - but we'd be gentlemen about it.

For those who experienced the fighting, it has been a grim business. The people on the path of Sherman's march to Savannah, like the people of Paris during the Commune, had a taste of the 14th century. But most people born in Chris' time were as innocent as cows in pasture of any understanding of the forces released for the destruction of the human race, not once, but twice, three times, four times in his lifetime.

Well we recall some of our always pleasant meetings, usually at reunion time; twice when we had the pleasure of hosting him here at our home. Always the conversation got around to the horror of it all, the senselessness of war.

The social system, as he saw it, had no means to cope with machine guns, tanks, airplanes, poison gas, atom bombs, intercontinental missiles, and space satellites. And it was equally unprepared to cope with Karl Marx, or Mussolini, or Hitler, or Hirohito, or Stalin, or Breznev, Castro, or their like.

So when hell broke loose in 1914 - and again in 1939 - and then again in 1950 - and then again somewhere along that line between 1963 and 1973 - the hell that is still loose - civilized man descended into the trenches. In one of those times, Chris Berlo was one of those to observe the experiment at first hand. Chris Berlo went into a foxhole.

Each time the Americans returned, almost satisfied with their crusade, glad to be back, glad to turn their backs on war, Chris Berlo was one of those to return.

Chris loved people and he liked to be in any cheerful throng on its way to Canterbury or wherever else to pay tribute to past saints whose acts we thought had achieved modern freedom. That was behind his annual pilgrimage to be with we Taro Leafers.

The skillful organization of hatreds was slowly being recognized as one of the successful means of manipulating the body. Into that trap, Chris never fell.

What he liked best to do, and what he often succeeded in doing was persuading his colleagues that insurmountable obstacles left yet some way to get around them.

The Berlo we knew, the Berlo in Chaucer's visions, operated according to a very elevated code. He knew no more than the rest of us whether he was going, or why. It was simply customary to fight the pagans and that was the business of his life. Wherever pagans were to be found he fought them. But he did his fighting in a way peculiar to himself. "And though that he were worthy, he was wys, and of his port as meek as is a mayde." Never in all his life did he say a disagreeable or unkind word to any person, least of all to any one less fortunate than himself.

Although his body was covered with the scars of battle, his eyes were kind. In an age seldom surpassed for planned cruelty and savage, anonymous hate, he set a standard of personal service and consideration in high office that later, more enlightened generations might come to imitate. He was "a veray parfit gentil knight."

He lately had slowed down - gone were the sports cars he had loved - but he did find the strength to be with us at our annual gathering of the fold. And when he did, friends and admirers went the "extra mile" to shake his hand and bid him well. Such, as Justice Holmes once said, is "the subtle rapture of a postponed power".

He was an extraordinary human being, known to thousands, loved by many, and a perpetual inspiration to those who had his acquaintance.

Born a perfect autodidact, he was blessed with total recall for people, figures, facts, dates, events, quotations and anecdotes.

His gusto, wit and instinctive gift of phrase never deserted him. Likewise undiminished were his courage and refusal to acknowledge physical handicaps, even after four bouts with the surgeons who "refitted me with all new pipes".

It was a year ago when we asked him if he had quit work. "Give up? Quit now? Never! I'll keep working until I die, I'll die with my boots on" adding with curmedgeonly aplomb that "he who rests, rots". We enjoyed his pretended indignation because we knew that his physical state had already dictated retirement.

Berlo simply wouldn't accept the fact that he was failing, that life would go on without him. No, he'd allow them to "rewire me" and would then believe that he'd been given a reprieve "for another 40 or 50".

By fighting his 77 years, by railing against them, the good priest realized what many fail to. He knew in his bones that you have to work, enjoy, complain, react, joke, assert yourself each minute good or bad, until the end in order to live.

Our last memory of Chris is the Lexington banquet - just 3 weeks almost to the exact hour as this is being written. Tom Compere had called upon him for a closing prayer - and he fumbled for what seemed an eternity, finally rising to the occasion. Sitting almost in front of him, we uttered a silent prayer, "God, be good to him."

Earlier in the day, the Association had honored him with election, again, to its Office of Chaplain. Therefollowing, we had spent an hour in private conversation with him. He outlined his plan for revising the Memorial Service, his creation - of which he was justly proud. But he was still honing. It yet had "a couple of rough edges" and he was anxious to "sand them down". Then talk shifted to the Book of Honor, a project to which he had devoted some 27 years - he started it in '52. He was out to include on its pages the name of every deceased man who ever wore the Taro Leaf. We did not know that this was to be our last talk with Father Chris.

Chris Berlo worked hard, played hard, lived hard. All of us mourn his death.

We will insure that the name of Chris Berlo is inscribed in his book of Honored Dead.



## OBITUARIES

reports the death of ABLE sometime during the ng Lexington. Sothoron Association member but ack of him several years ago. mmander of I of the 21st, ng from Saluda, S.C., he was ed on Leyte and on Mindanao. s Bronze Star award for work r Pinamapoan, Leyte, read in part: November 11, 1944, Capt. (then 1st Lt.) Able with the remnants of his platoon of infantry was directed to furnish rifle protection to a platoon on foot under enemy fire, Captain Able escorted the tanks to the crest of an enemy held ridge 2000 yards southwest of Pinamopoan. From this point the tanks and Infantry were able to advance and hold ground. Captain Able then assisted in the removal, under fire, of our wounded who had been lying near the crest for two days.

His Oak Leaf Cluster award for work on Mindanao read in part: As a commander of a rifle company Captain Able contributed to a marked degree to the successful participation of an Infantry Regiment in the Mindanao operation. By his outstanding leadership, exemplary conduct and tactical ability, Captain Able exerted a driving force upon his company which kept it on the initiative in spite of strong enemy resistance and heavy losses to our troops. Captain Able led and directed the advances of his company courageously and continually exposed himself to heavy enemy fire until seriously wounded on 7 May 1945. Throughout the operation he maintained coolness and composure in a manner befitting a combat company commander.

LAFE COCHRAN reports that he has heard from Crystal, the beloved wife of VINCE BULLER (24th QM), who has called him to tell him that Vince passed away in January. Heart attack.

ELI J. KOSTOFF, of 414 2nd St., Toledo, Ohio, inquires as to the whereabouts of Maj.Gen. CHARLES L. DASHER, (Div. CG '52-'53). Sadly we report that Gen.Dasher passed away on Nov. 1, 1968.

JOHN BORZILLIERI, (24th Rep. 3/51-2/52), of 2125 Bella Vista, Paris, Tex., was recovering from appendicitis when his Dad passed away. We extended to Johnnie the sympathies of us all for his double barreled troubles.

Estella WETTERAU wrote the obituary notice on her husband, JOHN, all by herself, and we use it, just as she wrote it:

Maj. JOHN A. WETTERAU, one of your faithful members of the 24th Infantry Division Association and ardent fan of the TARO LEAF magazine, passed away May 11, 1979 very suddenly. I am endeavoring to get all of his, and my, affairs in order and am writing you to notify you of his death and also to cancel his membership.

Maj. Wetterau enlisted into the U.S. Army at Fort Slocum, New Jersey in 1913. He served under Gen. John J. Pershing in fighting against Pancho Villa along the Mexican border. At the onset of World War I, he was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Oahu. There, he was one of the party that captured the first German prisoners of war from an interred German naval vessel. Maj. Wetterau was then assigned to Ft. Lewis, Wash. to await assignment to a European post when the war came to an end. Other assignments for him were at Ft. Vancouver, Wash., Camp Travis, Tex., Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyoming, then Schofield Barracks, Oahu, where he was with the 21st Inf., then with the 19th Inf. (Service Co.) when the Japanese attacked. His last assignment was with the Intelligence Dept. in Seattle, Wash. when WW II came to an end. He served his country faithfully and honorably for 34 years when he retired. His love of his country and his patriotism were great and unquestionable. Not being satisfied with inactivity, he was the Juvenile Counselor in this country (Josephine) for 15 years. Survivors include his wife, Estella, Grants Pass, Ore., two daughters, Trubee Jones, Monterrey, Calif., and Joan Blankenburg, Glendale, Calif., and five grandchildren.

Maj. Wetterau was 86 years of age at the time of his death.

Died, Nov. 12, 1977. Ivan M. Weathers, age 80, the beloved father of Mary FINAN. A WW I veteran, he served with the 78th Div.

JIM SMITH, (34th Art. '58-'60), of Harrisburg, Pa., was looking for several 34th Art. men, including RON CHANEY. Has learned from the VA that Ron passed away in '73.

DIED: June 29, 1979 - JOHN FEDOCK, (K 19th 3/40-3/44), of Shippensburg, Pa. DALLAS and Peggy DICK advised us of this sad news; they represented the Association at the funeral, for which our gratitude.

Taro Leaf  
24th Inf.Div.Assn.  
Kenwood Ross, Editor  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield, MA  
01103



THIRD CLASS MAIL

Roberts, Clinton A., Jr.  
RR #2  
Howe, IN 46746

EX 507. D. S. M. C. 1375110  
53-58

VOLUME XXXIV

NUMBER 5

1979-1980