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FIRST CLASS MAIL

SPRINGFIELD, MA 011
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1987

USA 39

Wells, Richard H.
102 W.Pike St.,
Attica IN 47918

"Aren't you a bit early with the holiday spirit?"

TARO LEAF

Stand by, technical difficulty

TIME Out!

Troubles? We've got 'em -- ergo this quickie issue.

As you may or may not know - or care - we write copy every day and paste up every day. We're giving you here what we have to date.

But the trouble? Our gal Friday, Beverly Corris, has broken her arm so things are almost at a standstill for a few weeks.

And there was - is - so much yet to be written.

F'r instance, the full story on where we're going next - and when.

It's a new time - at long last - Wed., Sept. 28, Thurs., Sept. 29, Fri.,Sept. 30 and Sat., October 1 - with departures Sun., Oct. 2.

And why the change? Because Oct. 1 is Division's 47th birthday - and CG MICHAEL SPIEGELMEYER wants us to celebrate it with him - or vice versa.

And the place - or places? Ft. Stewart, of course, with all that that implies - and a new Savannah caravanserai, Sheraton Savannah, which we'll take over en toto from the lobby to the kitchen. Everyone there will be a Taro Leafer save for the help. Prexy DON ROSENBLUM and Veep BOB ENDER met a few days ago and sealed the deal. Only one kicker. If more appear than the 300 room Sheraton can hold, we'll have to overflow into Savannah's Mulberry House, Ramada Inn et al. DeSoto Hilton wouldn't budge on price; Hyatt already booked solid for that weekend. So we end up with the absolute prime cut, grade A - so let there be no beefs. Get it?

More of this brief update --

We've got oodles and oodles of pictures on our Schaumburg fiesta. We'll work them all into future issues. Okay?

Now just how did Don in Georgia and Bob in California ever get together? By telephone? Not on your life. Bob flew east to attend a ceremony - but that's another story and here it is.

On Monday, Sept. 28th, the Division dedicated its brand new 10 million dollar gymnasium in the name of our beloved Maj.Gen. AUBREY S. NEWMAN. And what a beautiful ceremony it was - with a good handful of the Division "alumni" on hand to lead the cheers for the honoree. Details on that in the next issue.

So for your patience,we thank you whilst we try to adjust to a greatly decelerated pace -- all because of our "right arm" - who herself has a broken right arm.

Peace,

KENWOOD ROSS

BOB and Jeanette HARPER, recall the bombardment of the rain during the night, Thursday/Friday over 9 inches in a period of a few hours - leaving O'Hare an inaccessible island. Those of our crowd who landed were held captive for hours - finally arriving at our hotel late Friday evening. Others of our crowd never left their own airports after O'Hare had to cancel incoming flights. When O'Hare closes down, air travel from coast to coast also closes down.

But, thank fortune, Bob and Jeanette made it. JM photo.

Ah, education - 1987 type. We may not be able to teach kids how to subtract or divide; we may not be able to teach them how to read or write; but we sure as h--- are going to teach 'em how to fornicate with a condom.

The always-amiable PAUL HARTLEY who invariably manages, with his lovely bride Ruth, to make our gatherings, enjoyed the story RR has been using lately. It's making the rounds. Says Ron: "You can tell a lot about people by the papers they read. The people who read The New York Times know they run the country. The people who read The Washington Post think they run the country. The people who read The Washington Times think The Washington Post runs the country. The people who read The Wall Street Journal think the people who own the country think they damn well run it. The people who read USA Today don't care who runs the country just so long as the weather map is in color."

We're writing this on Labor Day. We are awaiting the annual Rites of Fall. No, not birds flying south. We're talking football. And as you read this, we'll be up to our ears in it. Two will get you ten, BENNY MASHAY that with the colleges, it'll be Oklahoma all the way - and with the pro's, the Giants.

Meet DON and Eloise SLETTEN, (A 11th F. '41-'45), of Rt. 2, Box 264D, Isabella MO. This terrific pair have 3: Connie, Darwin and Terry who in turn have given them 4 grandsons. Don speaks of member VIC BAZANEC of 219 W. State, Niles OH and BOBBY ORR, 811 W.Main, Washington IN who was a member. We had to drop Bobby; he had a thing about paying dues. Don, why don't you see if you can set a fire under him. Don is looking for Lt.Col. DONALD C. LITTLE who commanded the 11th Field for awhile.

We hafta use some of the stories we receive from you good members. Some are a little raunchy -- those we keep all to ourselves. Others, like this one, well -- JOHN MCKENNEY (AT 21 '43-'45) of 14 Lake, Millbury, MA gets the blame:

"Two men, friends for years, talked of nothing but baseball. One day, one said to the other, 'I wonder if they play baseball in heaven.' Of course they had no answer so they decided that when either one passed on, he would come back and tell the other. One did go and did appear back to his friend. He said, 'I have good news and bad news; the good news is that they do play baseball in Heaven; the bad news is you are pitching tomorrow night.'"

Belle STEVENSON tells about a friend of daughter Donna. Seems that the friend was showing off her newly-received engagement ring. "Well" said the showee, "I'm glad to see he's not a spendthrift". Love it, Belle. Glad you and Donna made it. JERRY would have been proud. PH photo.

NAME THAT REGISTERS

Calling your attention to the next-following page, we would tell you first that four different members sent us the item out of a Dayton, OH paper. We're happy to reproduce it here because it involves a member whom we each so very much admire.

"YA KNOW, WHEN I WAS A KID I USED TO BE CRAZY ABOUT RICE."

Members had been requested to bring male hounds to a fox-hunting party. One longtime member, however, owned only a female, and out of courtesy was permitted to include her. The pack was off in a flash and soon completely out of sight. The confused hunters stopped to ask a farmer in a nearby field, "Did you see some hounds go by here?"

"Yep," said the farmer.

"See where they went?"

"Nope," was the bemused reply, "but it was the first time I ever seen a fox runnin' fifth!"

RITTER COLLETT
SPORTS EDITOR

Sports

UD legend: 229 home games in row

"Sometimes people don't pick up on it when they ask me how I'm doing and I say, 'I can't kick.' "

Jerry Von Mohr has the best seat in the house for Dayton Flyer football.

He brings it with him.

Von Mohr owns an incredible record of attending the last 229 home games the Flyers have played in either Baujan Field on campus or in Welcome Stadium.

He was in his wheelchair, perched at the 50-yard line at Welcome Saturday night, ready to yell at any official who dares drop a yellow handkerchief against his team.

The streak began with one of the legendary games in Flyer history — the 7-0 victory over Miami in 1948.

Jerry is a UD legend in his own right, even though few if any of the present student body know anything about the guy who is always there in the chair.

Von Mohr left his legs in an Army portable surgical unit in the Philippines, the same type of unit featured as the base hospital in the great television series, *M*A*S*H.*

He was riding in a jeep on May 20, 1945, when the vehicle struck a land mine.

"I woke up on my back in a ditch with my pot (helmet) still on my head, rifle in my arm," he recalled. "I looked down at the smashed legs, and believe it or not, said to myself, 'I guess I won't be using them again.' I don't know how I was so calm."

Jerry has retained an inner calmness that has served him well in the 42 years he has functioned in the chair.

At the time of his injury, Jerry had no ties with the school that was to become so much a part of his life.

"I graduated from Stivers in 1943 and soon enough was in the Army," he says. "I was a sports nut as a kid but never played very much. But I had gone to a lot of UD games."

After nearly two years of rehabilitation in Army hospitals, he came back to Dayton with money in his pocket from his disability pay and was leading a casual life when a friend changed the course of his life.

"He really lit into me one night, challenging me, wanting to know when I was going to straighten my life out and amount to something," Jerry recalls.

He enrolled at UD in February 1949 at age 24 and became a celebrity of sorts as the only person on campus in a wheelchair.

"I started going to football practice and the guys sort of adopted me," he said. "I've been life-long friends of guys like Ed Clemens, Pat Maloney, Jim Raiff, Bobby Recker, Frank Siggins, Chuck Noll and a lot of others."

"He can still call Chuck (the Pittsburgh Steeler coach) and be assured Noll will return the call," says Frank Maloney, an assistant coach during the years Von Mohr became a part of the team. Joe Gavin, the head coach, invited Jerry to sit at the end of the bench on the field.

LAURA SHAGORY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jerry Von Mohr is never hard to find when Flyer gridders are home

"The players accepted me in the right way," Von Mohr insists. "They ribbed me like I was one of the guys and I ribbed right back." For Christmas in 1951, one of his gifts from the team was a pair of tennis shoes.

Von Mohr used to become involved in pickup basketball games with his macho buddies, shooting the ball from his chair, sometimes tumbling out of it.

It was at the end of one of those pickup games that an accident happened and denied him the opportunity of going to the 1952 Salad Bowl, the one post-season football game the Flyers played at the Division I level.

"We were coming out of the fieldhouse, and if you remember, there was sort of a double terrace out in front," Jerry says. "A couple of guys, it may have been Jim Raiff and Jim Akau, were trying to hold my chair back. I told them I could handle it and they let go. The chair stopped at the first terrace, I didn't and broke my hip in the fall. Spent five weeks in the hospital and missed the trip."

Raiff recalls the time a group, including Jerry, traveled to Toledo for Recker's wedding. "Four of us sent out our clothes to be pressed at the hotel and the bellhop brought them back, and asked, 'Who gets the pedal pushers?'- I've never seen Jerry so mad."

Frank Maloney tells of the team going to Marshall University in chartered buses. "I picked Jerry up and he was riding my back off the bus, arms around my neck. A couple of Marshall people were staring at us and Jerry said, 'We had a helluva tough game last week.' "

"When I was in school, there was no elevator on the campus," Von Mohr says. "But I got around all right. In addition to going to all the football games, I never missed a basketball game in the old fieldhouse. I've missed some in the arena. I was the first to get an athletic letter who never played and I'm proud of my varsity D membership and proud of my degree in business."

After he graduated in 1953, Jerry stayed on as director of veterans affairs, but in 1956 went to work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He is now retired. His wife, Mary, has been dead 14 years, but Jerry finished raising their three children. The oldest, Paul, is a UD graduate. Beth attends Eastern Kentucky and Jay is at Sinclair.

"Honestly, I've never permitted myself to feel sorry for myself. What happened was beyond my control," Jerry says. "I don't dwell on what might have been."

Now It's Up To You!

Odds and ends from a "miles-long" memo by Veep BOB ENDER about our next watering spa:

"The Sheraton Savannah is a Resort and Country Club type facility on Wilmington Island complete with beautiful grounds and landscape, golf course, large pool, tennis courts, pro shop and many other amenities.

"Every room will be $60.00.

"Golf: Their course is rated #2 in the entire state. Clubs can be rented. Green Fee is only $15.00.

"Made a reconnaissance. The rooms in the outside villas are of good size. Buildings are two stories high. Some of the Baguio people may prefer/request ground floor.

"Jody McIntyre, at the Sheraton, stated she will have the Mulberry Inn hold 100 rooms for us, and for the $60.00 rate. She also mentioned that the rack rate at the Ramada is $60.00, and would try for a $45 - 50.00 rate there.

"Those who, of necessity, will be lodged in the Mulberry Inn should not fret, since it is a more upscale and upbeat modern hotel than the Sheraton. The lobby, restaurants and room accommodations are the pride of Savannah. Ample transportation will be provided, complimentary, by the army and Sheraton vans.

"Some of the members driving to the reunion may want to check into the Ramada, which is in the vicinity of the Mulberry, and at rates $10 - 15.00 per night saving. Again ample transportation.

"Transportation: Complimentary transportation will be available from airport to hotels, from hotel to hotel, and from hotel to and from Fort Stewart/Hunter for any functions at those bases.

"We will be operating our own Hospitality Room and Bar resulting in very nominal prices for the elbow benders.

"Two extraordinary reasons to attend this 'reunion of reunions':

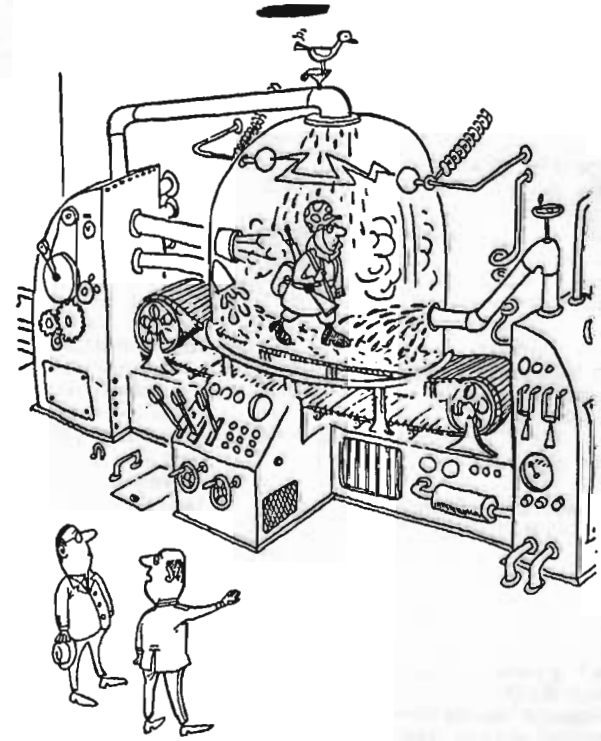
1. The outstanding programs planned at the hotel by the committee and the exciting demonstrations and tours planned for us by the Commanding General at Stewart. We will probably never again have access to such events at any future reunions.

2. Budget-wise. General is keeping costs to a minimum; to the point where members cannot afford not to attend. In today's market, this will be the bargain of bargains!"

Nice report, Bob. Thank you.

What follows is - in a sense, a little late - as a news item - as it was read by BG WILLIAM PAGE at the Schaumburg Banquet. But in a far greater sense, it is timely, for it embraces the genuine enthusiasm of the Division Commander, the ADC BG WILLIAM PAGE, the G5, Lt.Col. EUGENE NEVILLE, in fact the entire active Division, in anticipation of several joyous days next September and October when we jointly celebrate the 47th natal day of our beloved Division.

Here's the letter:



"...AND THIS MACHINE, JUST TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW SCIENTIFIC OUR MODERN QUARTERMASTER CORPS IS, PUTS EXPERIMENTAL FOOTGEAR THROUGH EVERY KNOWN..."

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED) AND FORT STEWART
FORT STEWART, GEORGIA 31314-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEAR FELLOW COMBAT VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION,

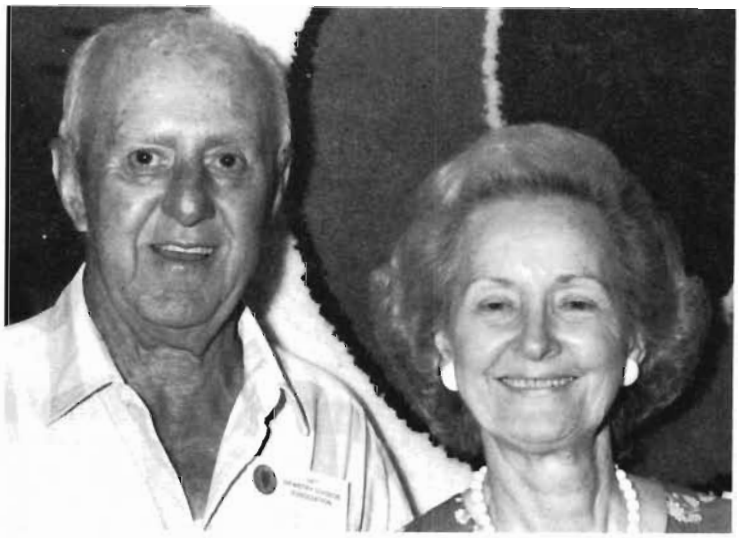
I KNOW THAT THIS IS A GREAT TIME FOR EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO BE TOGETHER AND TO RELIVE THOSE EXCITING AND CHALLENGING TIMES OF YOUR PAST WITH THE VICTORY DIVISION. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ALTHOUGH I AM NOT HERE PHYSICALLY, MY HEART IS WITH YOU, BRAVE COMRADES. BUT AS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND AND AS I AM SURE YOU WOULD PREFER, TONIGHT I AM IN EGYPT WITH YOUR DEPLOYED VICTORY DIVISION SOLDIERS WHO ARE UPHOLDING THE STANDARDS OF OUR ARMY AND THE VICTORY DIVISION ON EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR. JUST AS YOU REPRESENTED YOUR COUNTRY AND FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM IN THE PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS DURING WORLD WAR II AND DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT, SO TOO ARE THESE PROUD YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VICTORY DIVISION FOLLOWING IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I KNOW THAT YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF THEM AS I AM.

MY WIFE, DIANE, AND I HAD BEEN PLANNING ON BEING WITH YOU THIS YEAR BUT IT WAS JUST IMPOSSIBLE. I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATION FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION TO COME HOME TO THE VICTORY DIVISION. I WOULD CONSIDER IT A PERSONAL HONOR AND PRIVILEGE IF YOU ELECTED TO CHOOSE THE SAVANNAH/HINESVILLE, FORT STEWART/HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD AREA FOR YOUR CONVENTION NEXT YEAR. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET AND IT WILL BE A REUNION THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

ONCE AGAIN, MY BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL REUNION AND MY SINCEREST THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR YOUR COUNTRY IN THE PAST AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO PLANNING THE FUTURE TOGETHER. FIRST TO FIGHT. VICTORY 6.

MICHAEL F. SPIGELMIRE
MAJOR GENERAL, U. S. ARMY
COMMANDING

DECKED OUT



HUGH CROSSON is giving us that eyes-a-poppin' look - and his gracious charming Doris has just a bit of a squint. Blame it on the photographer's lights, folks. A perfectly delightful couple, all the way from Jacksonville FL. PH photo.

Mary Lou stood loyally by while JIM HARTMAN told us about the Russian who wanted to buy a car.

He goes to the official agency and is told that he can take delivery of his auto in exactly 10 years.

"Morning or afternoon? the purchaser asks.

"Ten years from now, what difference does it make?" replies the clerk.

"Well," says the car-buyer, "the plumber's coming in the morning."

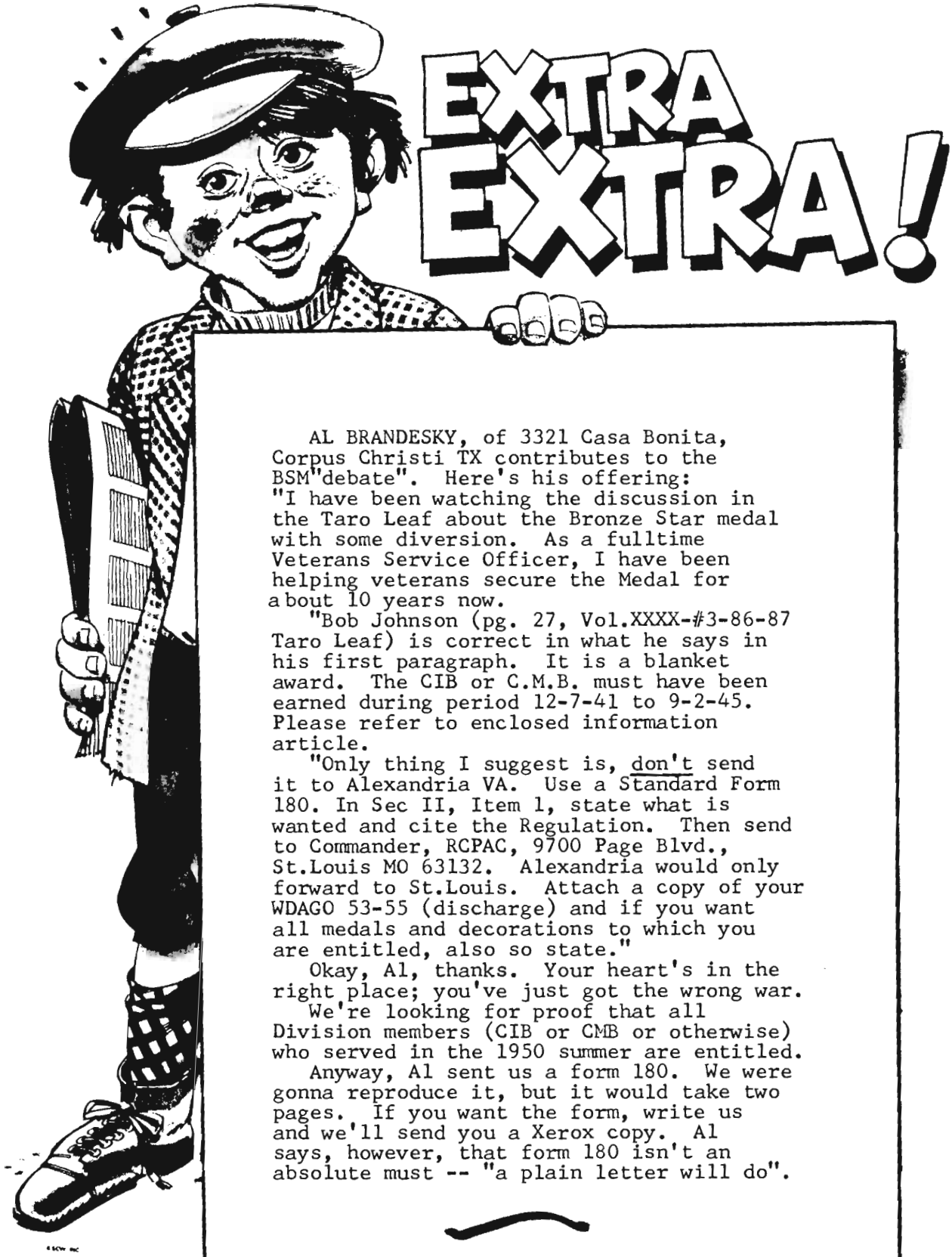
Loved it, Jimmy - and Mary Lou.

Thrilled you made one more of our clambakes. JM photo.

RALPH and Dorothy ATHERTON are typical of our reunion folks. We all have the same dreams, the same goals. We see through our pals that age is a state of mind. With active, inquisitive, productive minds, we can feel "forever young" - or so it seems when we are with fellow Taro Leafers. On the whole, time has been kind to us. Right, Ralph & Dot? Both with Hawaiian gear, didja notice? JM photo.

CALVIN E. GARRETT (Hq.Co. '44-'45) of 806 Linden, Hanover PA 17331, reports "Am pretty good. Able to be about and take nourishment. Not getting too far from home." Cal tips us to a fellow in Freeport, MN who has formed Veterans Directory, Inc. Is publishing a directory of veterans' addresses. We're contacting him as to his gimmick. There's gotta be a pitch in there somewhere. Watch this space, next issue.

"Hey, punk! The line forms in the rear!"



AL BRANDESKY, of 3321 Casa Bonita, Corpus Christi TX contributes to the BSM"debate". Here's his offering: "I have been watching the discussion in the Taro Leaf about the Bronze Star medal with some diversion. As a fulltime Veterans Service Officer, I have been helping veterans secure the Medal for about 10 years now.

"Bob Johnson (pg. 27, Vol.XXXX-#3-86-87 Taro Leaf) is correct in what he says in his first paragraph. It is a blanket award. The CIB or C.M.B. must have been earned during period 12-7-41 to 9-2-45. Please refer to enclosed information article.

"Only thing I suggest is, don't send it to Alexandria VA. Use a Standard Form 180. In Sec II, Item 1, state what is wanted and cite the Regulation. Then send to Commander, RCPAC, 9700 Page Blvd., St.Louis MO 63132. Alexandria would only forward to St.Louis. Attach a copy of your WDAGO 53-55 (discharge) and if you want all medals and decorations to which you are entitled, also so state."

Okay, Al, thanks. Your heart's in the right place; you've just got the wrong war.

We're looking for proof that all Division members (CIB or CMB or otherwise) who served in the 1950 summer are entitled.

Anyway, Al sent us a form 180. We were gonna reproduce it, but it would take two pages. If you want the form, write us and we'll send you a Xerox copy. Al says, however, that form 180 isn't an absolute must -- "a plain letter will do".

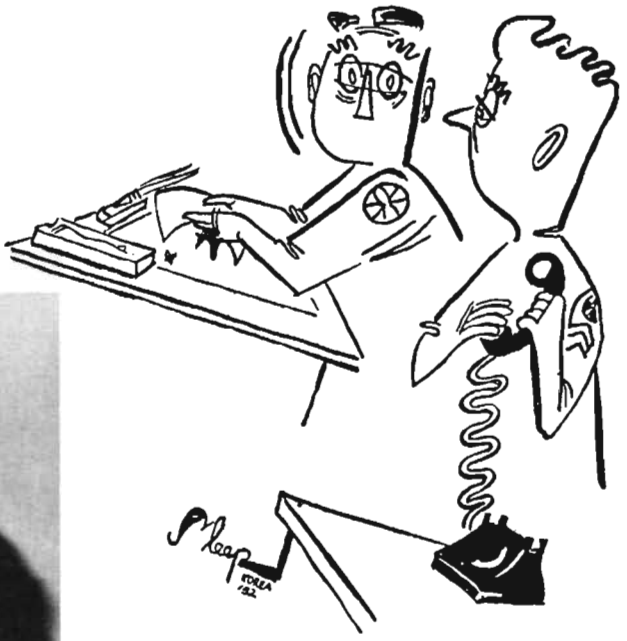
HOLIDAY GREETINGS

To all of our friends,
we of the Association
staff extend our
warmest wishes for
a Merry Christmas...
and the happiest of
New Years in 1988.
In the true spirit
of Christmas, our
thoughts turn to the
gifts with which
Divine Providence has
enriched our lives.
We have much for which
to be thankful ...
warm and enduring ties
with families and friends,
especially Army friends,
peace in a manner of
speaking, and that great
blessing which most of us
are enjoying ... good health.
May you and your family
have, in abundant measure,
health, happiness, and peace
of mind during this Holy
Season and in all the years
ahead.

Over-40 & Young!

It doesn't require a residency in psychiatry to understand why Dr. HARRY MAYS went into medicine. Bedside manner? You better believe it. And blessed with lovely Frances as his mate. No, we're not slighting you, Gil. Just takes time to mention everyone. That's good friend GIL HAEBERLIN in the center. PH photo.

Had to give you one of the outside of our caravansarie. Darned if we can identify either chap. Sorry 'bout that. PH photo.



"He claims eligibility by direction of Par 6, AR 615-361—discharge by pregnancy!"

We see you, Inez REICHMAN but no MARVIN. He was supposed to be in Joe's next frame - but the negative was truly negative. Nice shot of you alone, Inez! JM photo.

First the good news about the Postal Service:

Letters from Los Angeles arrive in two days.

A postcard from the Alps in France arrived in seven days.

Now the bad news:

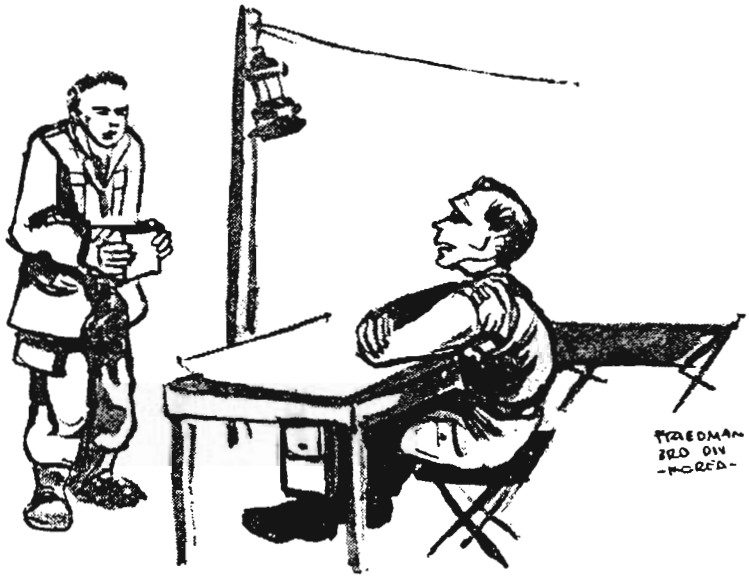
A letter from Long Island took eight days.

Question: Should we send our letters to Long Island via California or France?

The very apogee of embarrassment is to be unable to identify the folks in a photo. This is such a time. Our apologies, please. Of course, the bandsmen are our men from Savannah -- and they made beautiful music - for which our profound gratitude. PH photo.

"Wal, sir, she's sorta like a mascot."

LESLIE LONG, HORACE HOGGATT and CHARLES BEAGLEY are enjoying themselves. Their tongues, loosened by the grape, clacked away like so many metronomes. Clarice KEMP, that is you in the background is it not? And you're talking to Doc HARRY MAYS, aren't you? PH photo.



"Captain, this is a going away present from all the men in the company ...except Harkinson who thinks you should drop dead."

Here's one where we'd like to know more - and MAURICE LEHMAN is not likely to tell us. Anne Day was (is) an absolute vivacious doll, Maurice. Carry on! JM photo.

More on that Bronze Star Medal saga. BOB HUTCHISON (Amb.Co., 24th Med.Bn. '50) of 2413 Westchester, Springfield IL, sends us a copy of GO 37 of Div. dated 1-10-51 in which 21 members of the 24th Med.Bn. are awarded to BSM, including including our Bob. The issue is -- or has been -- by what order were all of the men of the Division awarded the BSM -- in one fell swoop. GO 37 proves ZILCH,Bob.

With our luck, when our ship comes in, we'll be at the airport.

One thing about Joe's camera - it catches - and exaggerates bifocals. Hope you don't mine our mentioning it, GEORGE and Patricia WILLIAMS. It did a job on us, too. JM photo.

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.

Back in the fold after 24 years - JOE MASHETT (5th RCT '50-'51) of 24 Rose Lane, Rosemont PA 19368. Gee, Joe, it's great to have you with the gang once more. Joe, by the way, is Life Member #19 - so you can see how old he is. Welcome home, fella.

BG LES WHEELER has an expression which we love - may we use it Les? - it goes: "He couldn't get a job playing Santa Claus in a parking lot." Bet you got that from Spike.

Bit of gossip: ED DAVIS (I 19th '44-'45) of 519 Third, West Haven CT has retired from Upjohn Co.

HIGHLIGHT

We are without the pictures to support the story - ever have one of those months when nothing goes right? But we do have the remarks of the honoree, Maj.Gen. AUBREY S. NEWMAN on the occasion of the dedication of the Newman Gymnasium, at Fort Stewart on a beautiful late September forenoon.

These words, full of emotion, and emotionally delivered, went like this:

General Spigelmire, General Irving, General Rosenblum, Officers, Soldiers and Guests:

As a former member of our great 24th Infantry Division -- also as a competitive athlete, before and during military service -- I am deeply honored to have this outstanding Fitness Center bear my name.

Further, I am doubly honored that others from our war time Victory Division -- from General Irving to former Sergeant "Spike" O'Donnell -- are here to share this occasion.

After my retirement, I learned from one of those here today that -- as chief of staff -- I was known around division headquarters as "that redheaded SOB" ... only Ed Henry did not abbreviate it.

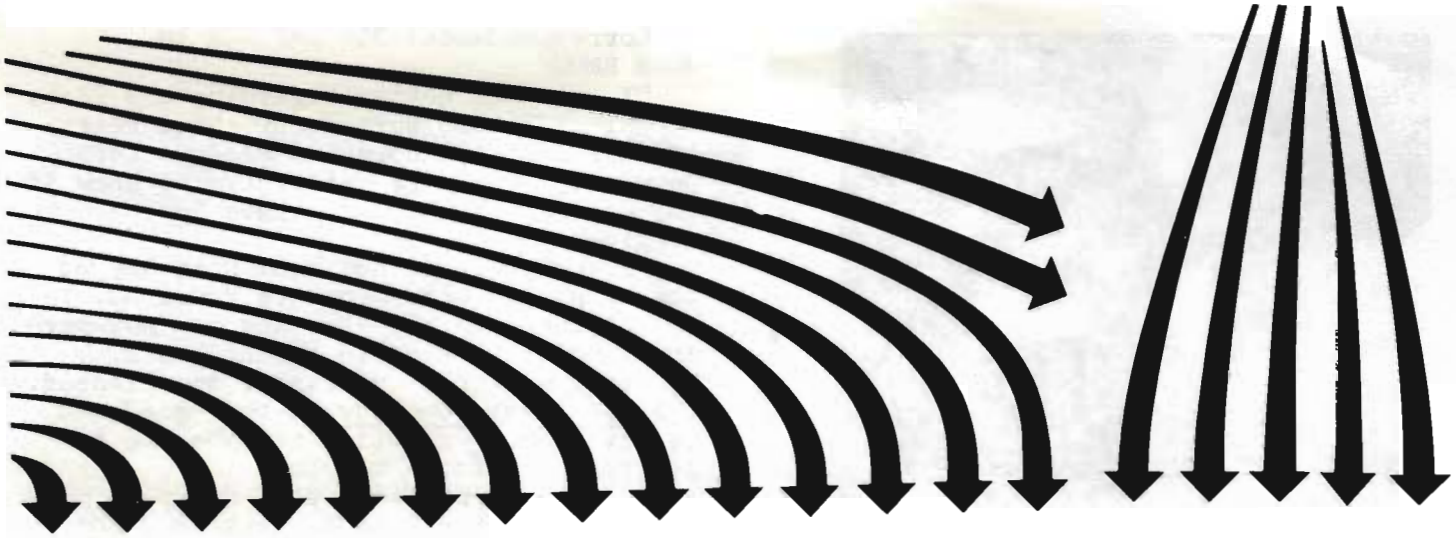
Well, I'm a sentimental SOB too -- and, if I tried to express my feelings, my voice would surely fail me. So I will summarize a few memories that, in one fashion or another, may highlight the mission of this fine Fitness Facility for battle-ready soldiers.

When I entered the West Point gynasium for the first time (1921), I faced an archway over the stair leading to the second basketball court. Above that arch, bronze letters were set into the gray brick wall, forming these words:

Upon the fields of friendly strife
Are sewn the seeds
That, on other fields on other days,
Will bear the fruits of victory.

Those words were composed by our superintendent, Brig.Gen.Douglas MacArthur. Nobody has ever said it better.

On a wall inside the gymnasium, I found a picture of the great undefeated football team of 1914. After my retirement, I researched the individual military records of those who had remained in the Army. All but two had reached General Officer rank... including such names as Bradley, Eisenhower, Van Fleet, Hoge, Harmon and others.



This connection between active competitive athletes and good soldiers has continued everywhere I went in the Army. At Ft. Benning, my first duty station in the Army (1925), there were outstanding athletic facilities, including a football stadium, and Gowdy Field -- the baseball park named for the first big league baseball player to enlist in the Army for WW I.

At Benning, I coached a soldier basketball team that lost the post championship to a team led by Sgt. William H. "Big Bill" Biggerstaff - a dynamic athlete and outstanding soldier.

After 22 years enclisted service, Sgt. Biggerstaff was commissioned when WW II began, and served in Hqrs., 24th Infantry Division, in Hawaii -- others here will remember him. At Bill's request, he was then transferred, for a chance at promotion -- and former Sgt. Biggerstaff ended the war as an eagle colonel, the Adjutant General of an Army Corps.

In my opinion, his remarkable career would not have been possible without his competitive drive and wonderful physical condition as a long time soldier-athlete.

In early 1941, I coached a basketball team of young lieutenants at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, which won a cup in the civilian league there. Later combat records of the starting five included:

Jessie Meachem, 19th Infantry, who received the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumous) as a battalion commander.

Thomas E. "Jock" Clifford Jr., 21st Infantry, who commanded a battalion in New Guinea, then received the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star, commanding the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry on Leyte -- and, finally, as regimental commander of the 19th Infantry, received a second Distinguished Cross ... this one posthumous.

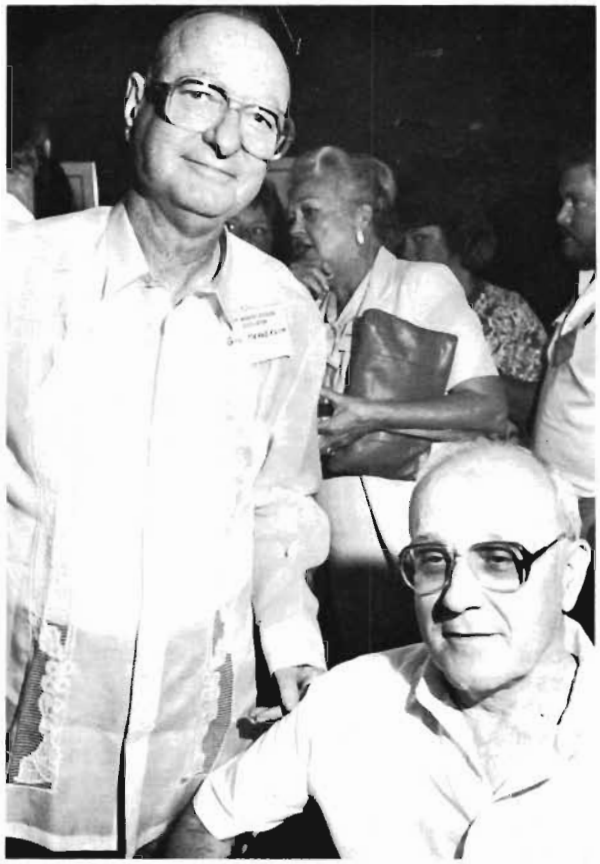
Charles R. "Monk" Meyer, 32nd Infantry Division in the Pacific, where he was awarded 2 Distinguished Service Crosses, 2 Silver Stars, and 2 Purple Hearts.

Also let me add this soldier-athlete note:

Our greatly-respected war time division commander, General Irving, was an outstanding competitive athlete in his day. As a cadet at West Point, he was the boxing champion of The Corps in his weight.

Reading battle citations reveals vividly the fundamental requirement for physical fitness in combat. As regimental commander of the 34th Infantry on Leyte, I never ceased to admire the will, determination and physical endurance of my young soldiers in action.

Hence my understanding pride in this great Fitness Center, and the part it will play in preparing our soldiers of today and tomorrow for whatever battle destiny may await them.



Another great camera man, GIL HEABERLIN, and old faithful LOU DUHAMEL, looking terrific after all of his medical problems. Thanx, PHIL HOSTETTER, for these wonderful shots, including this one. Lou reminded us of General Jackson's order at the Battle of New Orleans: "Elevate them guns a little lower!"

FAMOUS LAST WORDS:

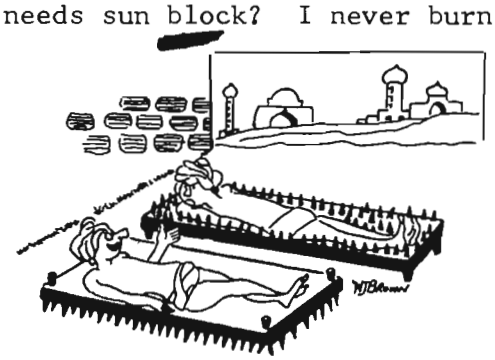
"No, I didn't lock the back door. I thought you did."

"Don't worry about it. When it shows empty, there's at least two gallons left."

"So what if it's a classy restaurant. In this town they wear bathing suits everywhere. Besides, what are they gonna do? Throw us out?"

"I don't care what the sign said. We don't get off until the next exit."

"Who needs sun block? I never burn."



"I don't know why I didn't think of this before."

Correspondence: BOB GARDNER to HUGH BROWN -

"I saw your notice regarding the 21st.

"Since I also served for three years in this unit, although in Headquarters Company, I would be interested to know if the Regiment or Division have any reunions.

"Frankly, I did not know that any of the companies held separate reunions. I had belonged to the VFW, and had not seen any reunions listed in recent years.

"So I was most surprised, and pleased, that at least somebody in the 'good old Twenty-First' was still remembering to get together for a reunion.

"I would appreciate your dropping me a note, when you get time, regarding any knowledge of other reunions. Or, for that matter, an address that I might write to for further information. Many thanks, in advance, for your kindness. Have a good Holiday!"

Bob's at Apt. 940, 4061-55 Way North, Kenneth City FL.

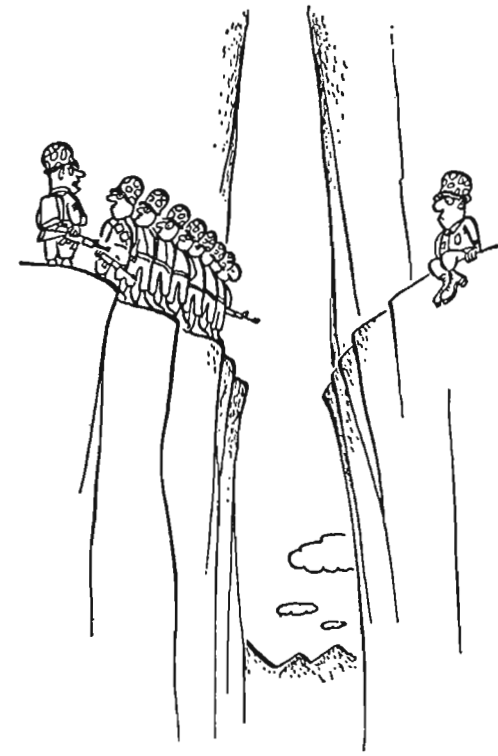
CHARLES V. REED (H & S, 3rd Eng. '38-'40), of 321 W. 1st St., Frankfort KS, tell us that he heard the General Royal T. Frank which ran the boys over to Hilo from Wahoo was torpedoed in Hilo harbor circa '43. All who disagree, raise their hands. All who agree, keep quiet. We're getting a little gunshy on reporting things that are passed on to us as rumors.

Retaking the Philippines: America's Return to Corregidor and Bataan, October 1944-March 1945. William B. Breuer. St.Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Av., NY NY 10010, 284 pages; illustrations, maps; notes, bibliography; index; $18.95

A colorful account of the liberation of the Philippines, the narrative is marred by numerous errors and oversimplifications. Roughly one-third of the book is devoted to the recapture of Corregidor, for which the author has interviewed a number of participants.

Why Breuer had the unmitigated gall to bring the work to a close in March '45 escapes us - and annoys us. Hell, we didn't go into Mindanao until Apr. 17th. We have written Breuer, asking the question.

HARRY WITTMAN, down there at 1385 Terri, Keyser, WV, says he wants this published. Okay, Harry, but you'll be sorry. It's a color shot of G of the 21st '50-'51 at S. - and you know what our printer says to us everytime we come up with a fancy Kodachrome. Anyway, let's be quiet - and print. In the back row, we give you Harry himself, ROSCOE "Bob" COLLIER, of Paw Paw, IL, our just retired prexy WARREN AVERY of North Haven CT and LEN KORGIE of Peoria IL. Down in front is the busily-occupied STEVE NWRANSKY of Hacienda Heights CA, DOUG SYVERSON of San Antonio TX, the Company Commander, if you please - you notice where he sits, don't you - the boss always sits front row, center - and GOERGE WILLIAMS of Brooktondale NY. Says this gang: "On to Savannah!"



"ALL VOLUNTEERS TO RESCUE THE MAJOR TWO PACES FORWARD."

One chap suggested that "your convention issue will not be complete unless you include a shot of the Saturday night head table." So here it is - and for you who will surely ask, you're looking at BOB ENDER, Roberta ENDER, DONALD ROSENBLUM, Laura ROSENBLUM, BILL GAGE, TOM COMPERE at the rostrum - oh that jacket - WARREN AVERY, Ann AVERY, Tom's empty chair, Margaret PEYTON and JOSEPH PEYTON. Who was the planner who placed husbands and wives side-by-side. Didn't we usually try to "mix'em up"? PH photo.

closer encounters...

ruffles

We're using this, just as DICK LEWIS, (11th F. WW II; 555 Korea) of 2000 N.Daniel, Arlington VA wrote it after returning home, empty-handed, from O'Hare - not Schaumburg - O'Hare, poor Dick never got beyond O'Hare. Here's what he wrote about his adventure:

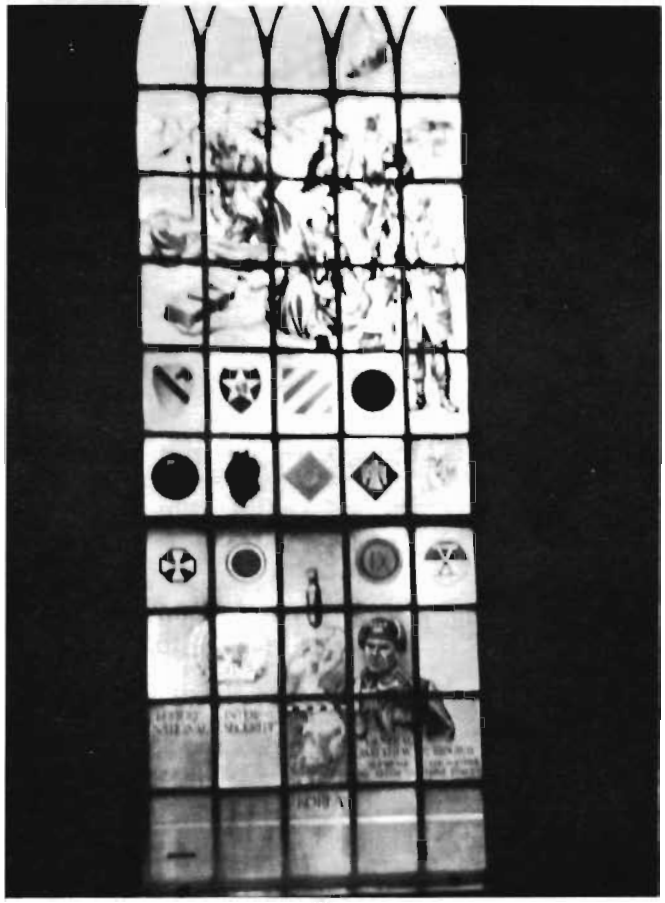
"Friday, 14 Aug., 0930 hrs., was loaded aboard a plane at Wash-Nat'l, pulled away at 1000, and was then told there was trouble at O'Hare. 45 mins. later, we took off. Landed 1 hr., 26 mins. later, at a wet O'Hare. One hour and 40 mins. later, we gained access to one of the 36 American Air gates. During our wait, it rained. Was told there were NO buses IN or OUT of O'Hare and that it would probably be some 6 - 7 hours before this could be remedied. Here I am 15 mins. from all my buddies of the 24th. Looked around at the mass of people, in some kind of same situation I was in. Was hundry, so found a restaurant and had a meal, thinking that I should do this before the terminal would run out of food and have to be supplied by air drop. 'Triple Nickle' had taught me that we may not be relieved or get out of an encircled position, soon, if at all! While eating, it rained! Very much! Now thinking futuristically. With a job that does demand some responsibility and expects me back on Monday, if I am able to make that 15 min. trip to Schaumburg, with continuing rain, would I ever be able to make it back to O'Hare on Sunday? No person likes lines, and I sometimes think back while in one, to one that some of y'all may remember in Korea: Steel helmet, fatigues, underwear, socks and boots, with weapon and belt, all you owned. Strip down and shower. On the other side, from a pile, pick out clean fatigues, underwear and socks, put them on. Then they give you back your steel helmet, boots and weapon and belt. You are ready for combat again. At American Air, I got into one of the longest lines that I have ever been in. In some time, got my ticket changed from Sunday to Friday A.S.A.P. Four tries to get my hotel reservation cancelled. That too was in after numerous hassles. Finally an absolutely loaded AA plane arrived at Wash.Nat'l. 'My Day': WASH. OUT: 0930 hrs.; WASH. IN: 2030 hrs. Saddest moment of this whole day was unpacking that which would have been unpacked around 12 hours earlier in Schaumburg. One whole day wasted -- and never met a single Taro Leafer.

Let's give the floor to CHARLES "Bill" MENNINGER, (A, K, Hq. 3rd Bn. 34th, 2nd Bn. 21st '47-'52), of 5009 N. LaMadera, El Monte, CA. He writes:

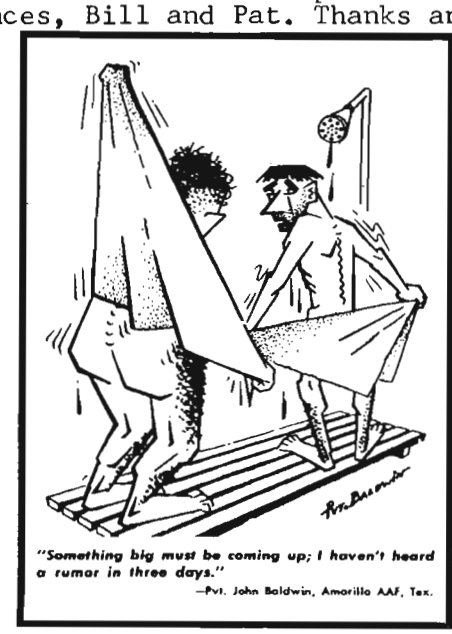
"I have grown tired of introducing myself as a former member of the 34th, only to have someone pipe up with, 'Oh yeah -- that's the Outfit that lost their Colors in Korea'. That is about the only thing that wasn't lost over there -- and the record of the Regiment proves it. To those of you who look through each issue of the 'Taro Leaf', searching for old comrades, go back and look through every issue you kept and see how many indicate service after 1946. Of the more than 2000 men who entered Korea on the 2nd of July '50, only 184 remained on August 31st; the rest were killed, wounded or Missing in Action. It was then that General Walker, in discussions with General Church, decided that it was impossible to re-build the Regiment. Records indicate that the 34th, along with the 63rd Field, took the brunt of the fighting during those first fifty days. Without negating for one minute the blood and tears shed by the 19th and 21st, the mere suggestion that the 34th didn't do its job makes me boil with anger.

"I served with the 34th for five years, '47 through '51. I knew almost everyone in the Regiment. I've spent years, most of them fruitless, trying to find former friends. I've put notices in every Organization paper I could find, to no avail. A friend remarked recently, 'Bill, why don't you give up...there just aren't enough of them left to find.' Well, the 34th didn't give up and I won't either. They're out there somewhere."

"AND THAT, ROUGHLY SPEAKING, IS HOW YOU COME TO HAVE ALL THOSE BABIES."



Card from the BILL HOSLERS (Pat) touring Alaska gratefully acknowledged. Their son, Jeff, had worked on the pipeline. Folks were checking it out. They're at 409 Sharon, Mechanicsburg, PA, by the way. Bill's brother, George, is in Alaska, as is son, Jeff. The two boys, Jeff and Greg, are graduates of Valley Forge, MA so the whole family went up recently for the dedication of a window in the chapel. It was dedicated to the Korean War. Bill sent us this picture. The Division patches are all there. Hope this reproduces, Bill and Pat. Thanks anyway.



"Something big must be coming up; I haven't heard a rumor in three days."

—Pvt. John Baldwin, Amarillo AAF, Tex.

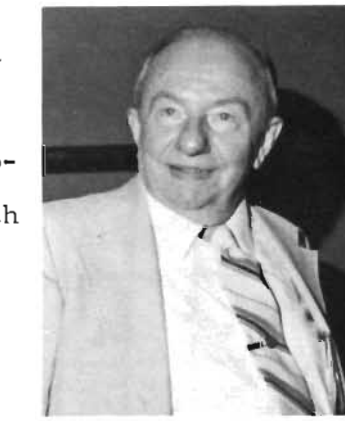
And here's one of EDWARD ROBINSON (19th Hq. & Anti Tank, 4/41-7/42) 500 Denton Hwy.,Apt. 420, Haltom City TX 76117 and JOHN DANCOE (19th), 95-025 Hokuiwa St., Mililani HI 96789 on the day that Ed signed him up while visiting in Hawaii. That's John on the right and Eddie on the left.

Newsy quote from a JOHN and Lorraine MCKENNEY letter. They're (AT 21 '43-'45) at 14 Lake, Millbury MA, and they write: "We have been to Senegal, West Africa, to visit our son and his family. We were there for ten days. It is a different world and although we enjoyed it, we think once is enough. Although the suffering is not as great there as in East Africa, it still is not a great place to live. We found it too hot. Although I spent time in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines where the weather is rather warm, we felt the heat in Africa very much. Of course, I was 40 years younger then. Son, John, was here for Thanksgiving. They found it cold here. John has been in Africa for six years. Three in the Peace Corps as a volunteer, a year and a half as an instructor in the Peace Corps. Now he is working in Rural Development for a company from the states."

Bad luck still dogs Pvt. Eddie Slovik. A lot of men break and run from the hell of combat. But the U.S.Army, near the end of World War II, chose to make an example of the 24-year-old Slovik: He became the only American shot for desertion since the Civil War. For 42 years, Slovik rested in a French graveyard with 94 other soldiers hanged for wartime crimes. While we were getting ready for Schaumburg, his remains were finally flown to the U.S. for burial beside his wife and were lost by the airline entrusted with them. Before retrieving the coffin in San Francisco, and speeding it on to Detroit, a TWA spokesman said: "It's just a matter of lost luggage."

Great to see KEITH PERKINS up and around after his painful medical history. Pound for pound, he's one of the most delightful members in the Chicago area. Stay well, Keith. JM photo.

Joe asked DICK GOINY to look into the camera. Dick paid no more attention than if he'd just been promised the latest flavor-of-the-month at Baskin-Robbins. PH photo.



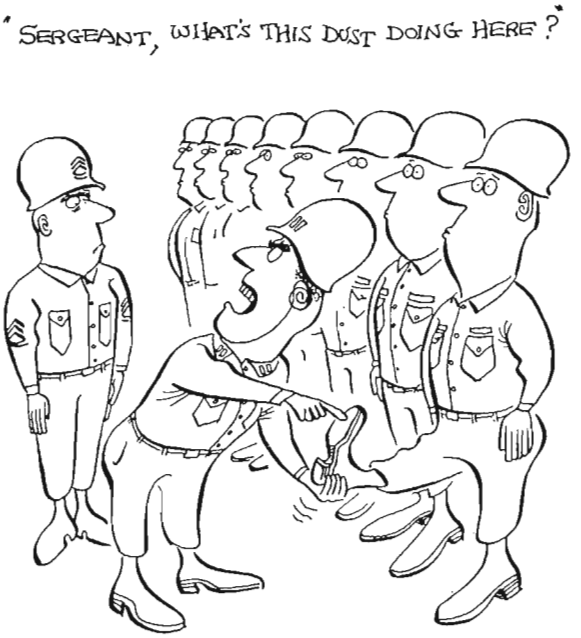
Here's a couple with freshness and effervescent gayety. We never see enough of Irene and DON WILLIAMS at our parties. JM photo.

"He says the idea was used extensively in New Guinea."

What are Dottie and PAUL WISECUP (L 34th '44-'46) doing these days? Glad you asked. Retired; they winter at 1265 Kasa Mada, Ft.Meyers FL 33901; they summer at 7148 Eldoranda, Hillsboro OH 45133. Those Florida summers are a bit much - yes?

Reading about the paths to espionage as they have been developed in the recent spy trials gives us cause to wonder if we can ever trust any spy -- theirs or ours. Especially "lady" spies. And as for those defectors, we'd send the whole bunch back forthwith.

"I must say," put in the friend of the basketball coach comfortingly after the team had completed a miserable season, "that your boys were always good losers."
"Good!" screamed the coach. "They were perfect!"



Listen to this little story, will you?

Just before S., a sweet voice on the line made inquiry about our convention plans "for my husband."

We responded with a welcoming package, the works.

She and the husband did not make S.

But a few days following, came this from JOE and Sue BARGET (34th 11/47-8/51) of 7415 Nancemond, Springfield VA:

"I want to thank you for your invitation to become an association member.

"Please accept my apologies for not joining in the activities in Chicago. After 36 years of no association, I was very apprehensive about joining in your meeting.

"I would appreciate a second chance.

"I am enclosing an application for membership and a check for the membership, a copy of History, and a small donation."

Imagine being apprehensive about melting into our crowd. We made a quick reply, trying to disabuse Sue and Joe about their fears.

Prediction: They'll make our next one.

A favorite Ft.Knox story is the one on the rule about saluting officers, even if they were riding in private vehicles.

To aid in distinguishing cars, blue decals were issued for officers and yellow for the EM's. If a failure to salute was noted, it was one's duty to stop the offender and set him straight.

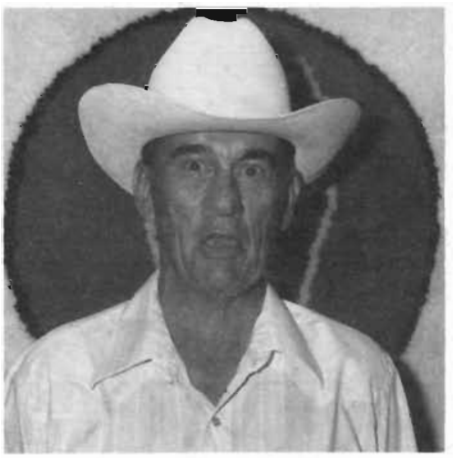
One day a raw recruit gave a snappy salute to a beautiful blond WAC with a yellow sticker on her car bumper.

An officer stopped the recruit and assured him that he need salute only officers, that the yellow meant, etc., etc.

"Yes, sir," replied the green rookie, "I know that, sir. But I was hoping she would stop and correct me."

Not so green, eh?

We've just told MATT SLOWIK one of our jokes. It has gone over like a dead sparkplug. JM photo.



Meet TONY BAKER - usually grinning from ear to ear with a smile wide as the Pecos River. JM photo.

ED FARMER is always a joy to be with. When he laughs, it starts in his midriff and works its way up to his throat. Love ya, Ed. JM photo.

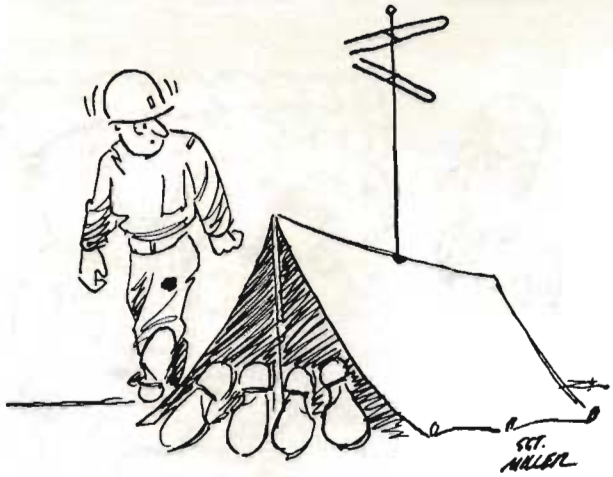
A hillbilly was visiting the big city for the first time. Entering an office building, he saw a pudgy older woman step into a small room. The doors closed, lights flashed, and after awhile the door slid open and a beautiful young model stepped off the elevator.

Blinking in amazement, the hillbilly drawled, "Shoulda brought mah wife!"

Just hung up on BILL SHOWEN (21st & 24th Recn. '41-'44) way up there at 1911 Francis, Waukesha WI. He wanted to tell us about a jailbreak in Waukesha the other evening. Seems the inmate took all the toilet seats and scrammed. Says the police have nothing to go on. Just who's writing your stuff, Showen?

Over There

A Mover and Shaker, GIL HAEBERLIN, is getting great friend, JACK BROWN, all jazzed up to a neurotic pitch. Wonderful pair. PH photo.



between us

GREGORY JELINEK (3rd Eng. '49-'51) of 5167 Sherrill, Sherrill, Iowa, writes: "Would like a list of members who were in C or H & S when I was." And we have an answer - at this moment we cannot supply that information without manually running through 2200 files - a monumental task. Time estimate: easily 8 hours. BUT - through the good offices of JOE MCKEON, with whom we are cooperating we soon shall have our data computerized. Then following, we'll be able to punch a key and print out information such as members in any unit, members in any state, etc., etc. And we'll certainly print out a complete roster or directory of members and release it as a supplement to Taro Leaf. Please bear with us.

Doris and EDWARD THOMPSON thought the hotel deceiving in its size. Said Ed, It's actually larger than the Cathedral at Chartres". JM photo

If we don't use this one of Johanna and BOB JOHNSON, we'll hear about it. Bob can be as unforgiving as a hanging judge. JM photo.

BOB and Angie SAAL are thankful to have been involved in this annual ritual of reunion.

It's time for observing our colleagues, separately and as a group. Watching them reduces our fear of growing old. We visualize through them the contentment of aging with someone who shares the same memories with people like Bob and Angie. JM photo.

As Tonto said to the Lone Ranger: "Kemo Sabe" - That was all of 50 years ago - and we still don't understand it. But this we do understand: here's a trio of Bay Staters: EDDIE "Steady Eddie ROBINSON, JOE CENGA and

Absolutely delightful couple, the JOHN P. JORGENSEN's. He's "Jack" and his sweet bride is Christel. Sweetheart of a name, Chris. Jack's last reunion was Chicago 1950. Two months later, he was back in again for a second tour, not with us. Jack was ours in '44-'46 - Div.Hq. They're from Eau Claire, Wis.

Kam and VIC HABEEB (G 21st '42-'45) of 278 Ward, Watertown NY, were wondering why there weren't more Hawaiian shirts and muumuus in evidence. We had to admit we were perplexed. If you want to see a catalog full of them, write Liberty House, Box 2690, Honolulu Hawaii. You can start planning for '88 by ordering now. PH photo.

"YOU OLD RASCAL, YOU WEREN'T IN GREENLAND ALL THIS TIME AFTERALL, WERE YOU!?!"

KOREAN COMBAT VETERANS REUNION?

Would you be interested in having a 1988 reunion in Colorado Springs? If you served in a combat or medical unit in Korea from June 1950-July 1953, please drop me a line. Include your unit, dates of service and what activities would interest you at the reunion.

DUTCH NELSEN, 812 Orion Dr., C.S., CO 80906
(1st Lt. 13th F.A., Bn. 24th Div.)

This ad spotted in a veterans' paper. Wouldn't it be grand - and glorious - if all Taro Leafers could assemble in one place in 1988 -- and what better place than the home of the present Division? How about it, Dutch?

As cozy as a pair of carpet slippers are JOHN and Hilda KLUMP moving everywhere to help ensure that reunion functions in no way suffer. Thanks, kids. JM photo.

We told HOWARD WAGNER (B 11th F '40-'44) of 1712 N.Hancock, Grand Isle, NB, that he needs exercise the way Dom DeLuise needs another cream puff. JM photo.

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☐ **Neptune** — 11" x 14", for crossing the equator
Ship _____ Date _____ Longitude _____

☐ **Neptune Subpoena** — 8½" x 7½"

☐ **Arctic Circle ("Blue Nose")** — 11" x 14", for crossing the Arctic Circle
Ship _____ Date _____ Longitude _____

☐ **Golden Dragon** — 11" x 14", for crossing the 180th Meridian
Ship _____ Date _____ Latitude _____

☐ **Recommissioning** — 16" x 20", commemorating the recommissioning of a ship
Ship _____ Date Recommissioned _____

☐ **Plank Owner** — 11" x 14", commemorating the commissioning of a ship, installation, or squadron
Ship _____ Date Commissioned _____

☐ **Golden Shellback** — 11" x 14", for crossing the equator at the 180th Meridian
Ship _____ Date _____ Longitude _____

☐ **Round the World** — 16" x 20", for going around the world
Ship _____ Start Date _____ Finish Date _____

☐ **Icelandic Domain ("Bless")** — 11" x 14", for service in Iceland
Ship _____ From _____ To _____

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Unlettered certificates,	_____ @	$3.00 =	_____
Custom-lettered certificates,	_____ @	$6.50 =	_____
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Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Mail this form (or facsimile) with check or money order to:
Certificate Service, U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, MD 21402

L O C A T O R

RAY BARNES (D 21st '35-'37) of Gen.Del., Greenville MO is looking for CLYDE ANDERSON, same outfit, same time.

Old friend URBAN THROM, retired medic out of Denver, gave us his description of New York City: the only place where you can park your car, walk two blocks, and find your tires on sale. You're doing great, Urb. PH photo.

JIM HOFF wears that warm half smile- half grin from the moment he arrives until he goes home. It's a bit like the festive glow of Christmas tree lights. We mean it as a compliment, Jim. You're delightful to know. JM photo.

We were telling LEW KEPLER (G 21 WW II) how to keep postage stamps from sticking together -- buy them one at a time. Responded Lew, "If you were in Texas, they'd serve you up for red-eye gravy and send you home in a jar." JM photo.

This is one we had hoped we'd not have to write. Our Chaplain, the much respected, much loved JOSEPH PEYTON has serious medical problems. The prognosis is not good. You may recall that, at Schaumburg, Joe was complaining of a baffling numbness in his hand. Since then, the situation has steadily worsened. The family request is that members please refrain from contacting Margaret - and Joe's own request is that he be without a telephone by his hospital bed. And no visitors please.
Cards to Franklin Square Hospital,
Franklin Square Drive
Baltimore MD 21237
or: 1405 Belmore Ct.,
Lutherville MD 21093,
would help. Prayers would help even more. Thank you for your understanding.

'Simply grab your opponent's arm like this and . . . and . . . and!'

Here's what a "Taro Leafer" looks like after 33 years of teaching high school students. It's LEN KORGIE, (L 34th and G 21st '50-'51).

HOMER E. DAILEY (C 19th '50-'51) of 210 Sixth, Carrollton KY writes: "Enclosing my dues and dues for HERMAN F. NAVILLE (C 19th 6/49-7/50 - POW 7/50-8/53, of Rt. 2, Box 195E, Floyd Nobs, IN. In the past 2 issues of 'Taro Leaf' found 3 men from my company. All were POW's. This was the first time I knew where they were. One of them, Marion J. Morgan, invited me to their Korean Ex-POW Convention in St.Louis. I went July 23 to 26 and was able to see and speak with them. There were 8 there from my company. All were former POW's. They welcomed me with open arms. Had a most heart rendering Memorial Service. I gave your address to a couple of more men of 24th who wanted to become members. I want to thank you for your work that helps us find one another after so many years. Sincerely."
It's what it's all about, Homer. Thanx for your enthusiasm.

Who was the buddy who made the cheap shot about showing us a star and we "go ape"? Here we are, all "ape" -- with 5 stars between these two, our President, LG DONALD ROSENBLUM and the Division Commander, Maj.Gen. MICHAEL SPIEGELMEYER. So stuff that in your trumpet. This picture goes into this issue as it gives you the best likeness yet of the CG. And only in the last issue did we say something about not crowding these pages with our own physiognomy. That didn't last long, did it?

Running one of our conventions is a bigger headache than facing Bret Saberhagen with the bases loaded and two outs, but JOHN, or "Bob", SHAY handled it ably, aided and abetted (or is it "abeted"?) by the very able Mary. Kudos to them both; we are grateful to each of them for all they did, not only during convention week but in the 12 months preceding. Great show, kids.

IN MEMORIAM

We are advised of the decease of LESTER STUDEBAKER (L 21st '50-'51) of 1045 E.Jefferson, Flint MI. We are without any additional facts, we regret to say.

Warm message from FRANK STEELE (E 34th '61-'63; H & H 70th Armored '63-'68), of 33-18 Andrew, Manchester NH: "Regretfully I inform you of the death of one of our most devoted members, HARRIS POWERS. Harris passed away on May 11, 1985. A true soldier to the end, we are thankful that his suffering has ended. It was his most fervent wish that he attend the convention in Louisville. He will be there in spirit only. I hope those who attend raise a glass in his honor. He would like that."

Our condolences go to JOHN WELCH, (63rd FA Bn. 10/41-9/44) 627 Montecito Blvd., Napa CA 94558, in the loss of his brother, Col. William E. Welch, a career army officer and an attorney-at-law, following what John reports as a "long, lingering illness". Tragically, the passing occurred while John and Jay were en route home from Schaumburg. They spent some time in the Black Hills, Mt.Rushmore, and Yellowstone, on the way back to Napa - and the relatives couldn't find them.

Comes that cold marking "Deceased - return to sender" on a Taro Leaf mailed to Sue MCNEELY, widow of JOHN C. MCNEELY (C 19th '42-'44). Sue's last days were spent at the Asbury Care Center in Charlotte NC. Regretfully, we know no more.

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