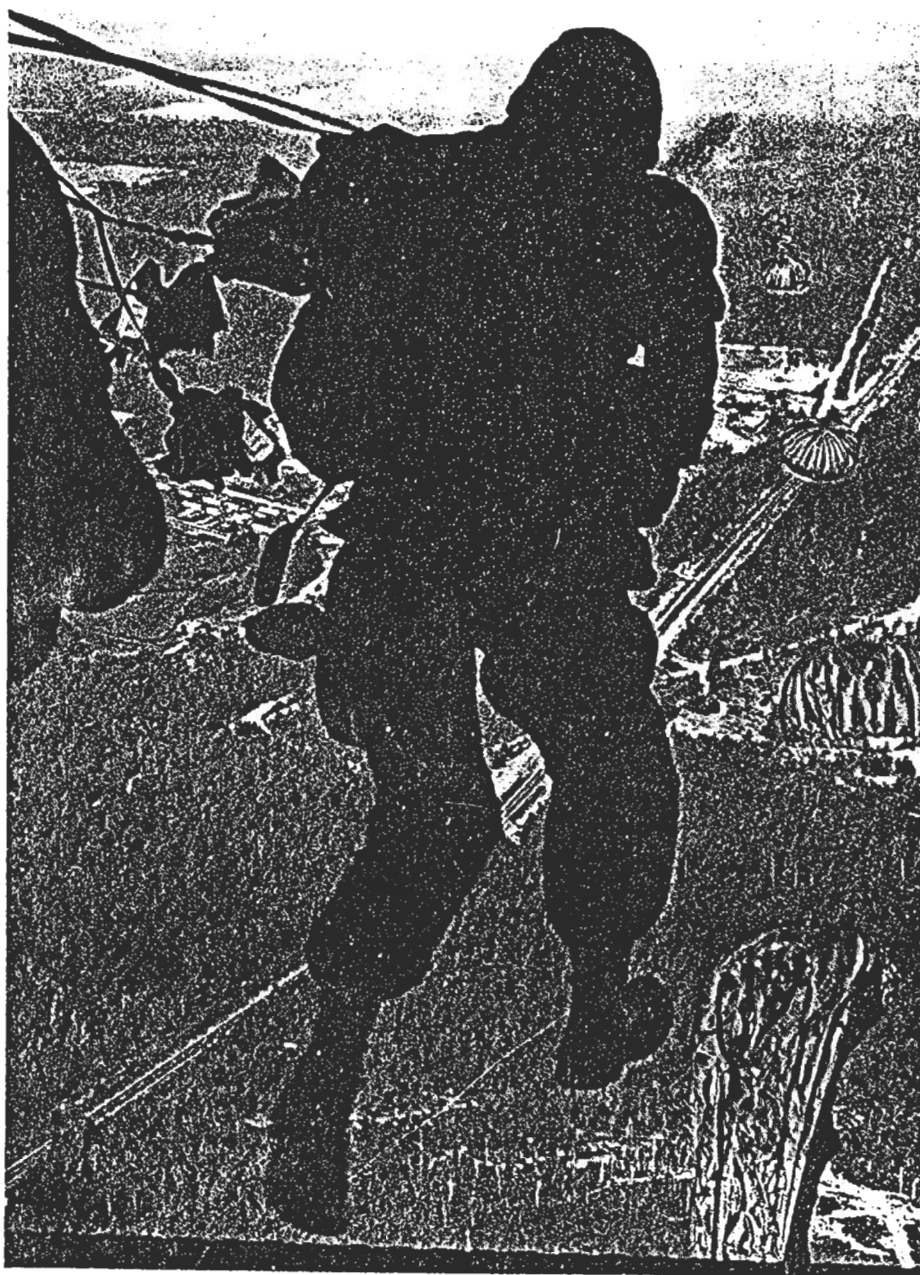


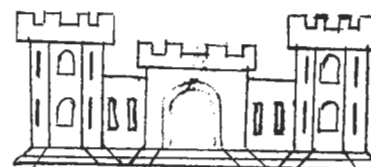
# NEWSLETTER



596  
PARACHUTE  
COMBAT  
ENGINEERING  
COMPANY



APRIL 1985



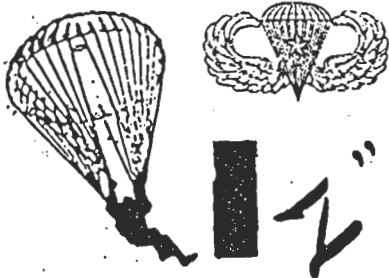


517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

THE 596 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1985

Official publication of the  
596 Parachute Combat Engineer Co.



Chief Engineering Officer: Don Saunders  
Junior Engineering Officer: Earl Dillard  
Editor: Charles Pugh

THE EDITOR'S

GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS TO ALL 596ers!

This issue was scheduled for February and I had 3 pages of text and 6 pages of photographs set up and somehow I managed to lose them. I spent the next 2 or 3 weeks reorganizing my files, my desk, my closets, and my dental office in the hope that I would find them. No luck. I had to start over. Most of the photos had been loaned to me by 596ers and fortunately I had made copies and returned the originals. Nevertheless those photos are lost to this issue. I hope those of you who sent me photos and don't see them in this issue will lend them to me again for use in the next issue.

Bill Lewis (Sectry-Treas) tells me the registrations for the San Antonio Reunion are coming in great numbers in spite of the fact that he neglected to include the amount of the registration fee in the December issue of "The Thunderbolt". The amount is \$50.00 per person.

A registration form is included in this Newsletter and you should also have received one in "The Thunderbolt". You must also make your reservation at the El Tropicano Hotel and the rate is \$49.00 per day, single or double.

I am told that "F" Company of the 517 PIR is making a determined effort to dethrone us as the reunion attendance champions that we have been for the past two reunions. Don't let it happen. We are the nonpareil role models for unit pride and esprit and we will not easily relinquish that image.

We are going to enjoy being with several 596ers who will be making their first reunion. Don't miss the fun of seeing them try to identify us, if they don't see the name tag first.

I regret to report that three of our 596ers who had planned to be at their first ever reunion have gone to that great final DZ. They are Glenn Spangler, Max Grona and Ray W. McMullen. We also lost Jim Nolan who had planned to be at his second reunion.

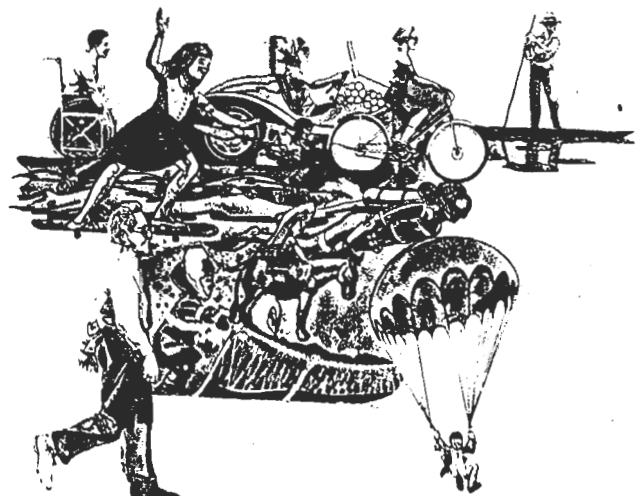
*San Antonio*

**COME**

ANYWAY YOU CAN—BUT COME

**It's not too late**

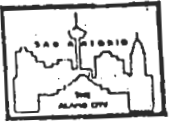
to register



For the pleasure of your company

We've got your number in Texas.

*Where It's Happening...*



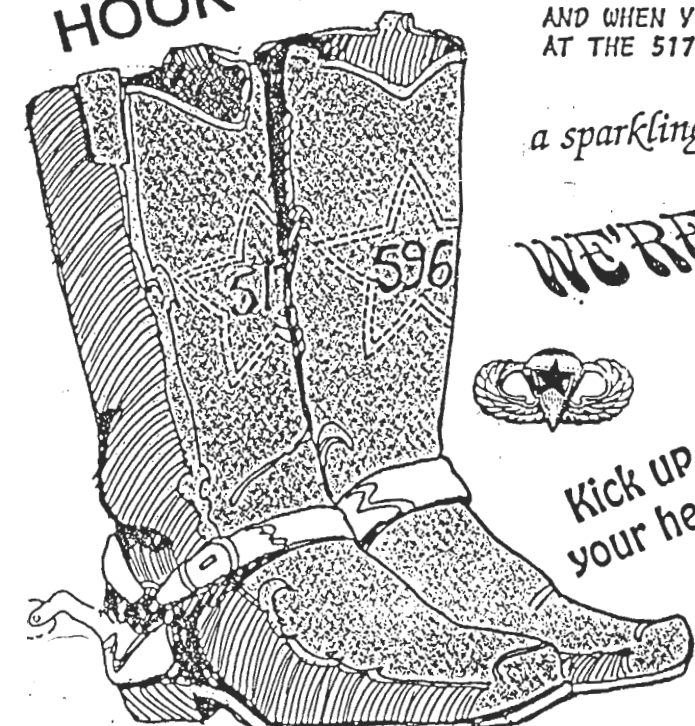
LET US PUT YOU ON THE SPOT

Texas-style bash

Enliven your life.

Welcome. This is it.

dream come true  
the time of your life  
HOOK UP!



...A Superb Place to Get Together

Let's make it the Biggest Ever!



# In the great tradition 12<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

EL TROPICANO HOTEL  
San Antonio, Texas  
26-28 June, 1985

WHEN YOU'RE HOT YOU'RE HOT  
AND WHEN YOU'RE NOT YOU'RE NOT  
AT THE 517 PRCT REUNION

a sparkling event.

**WE'RE BREWING UP A WINNER!!**

**BREAK LOOSE AND LIVE THE TEXAS-SIZED LIFE**

Kick up your heels

meet your friends  
Camaraderie

GET A TEXAS ACCENT

MEXICO IS READY...

A Trip You'll Never Forget!



The Texas cowboy cigarette lighter.

Come for the fun of it.



Tex-Mex Adventure

It's a Mexican Festival!

It's fun for everyone. Mucho food, mucho song, mucho dance and, ah yes, mucho Bolla Grande Margaritas. Come to the festivities.

Por favor make reservations early  
Muchos Gracias!

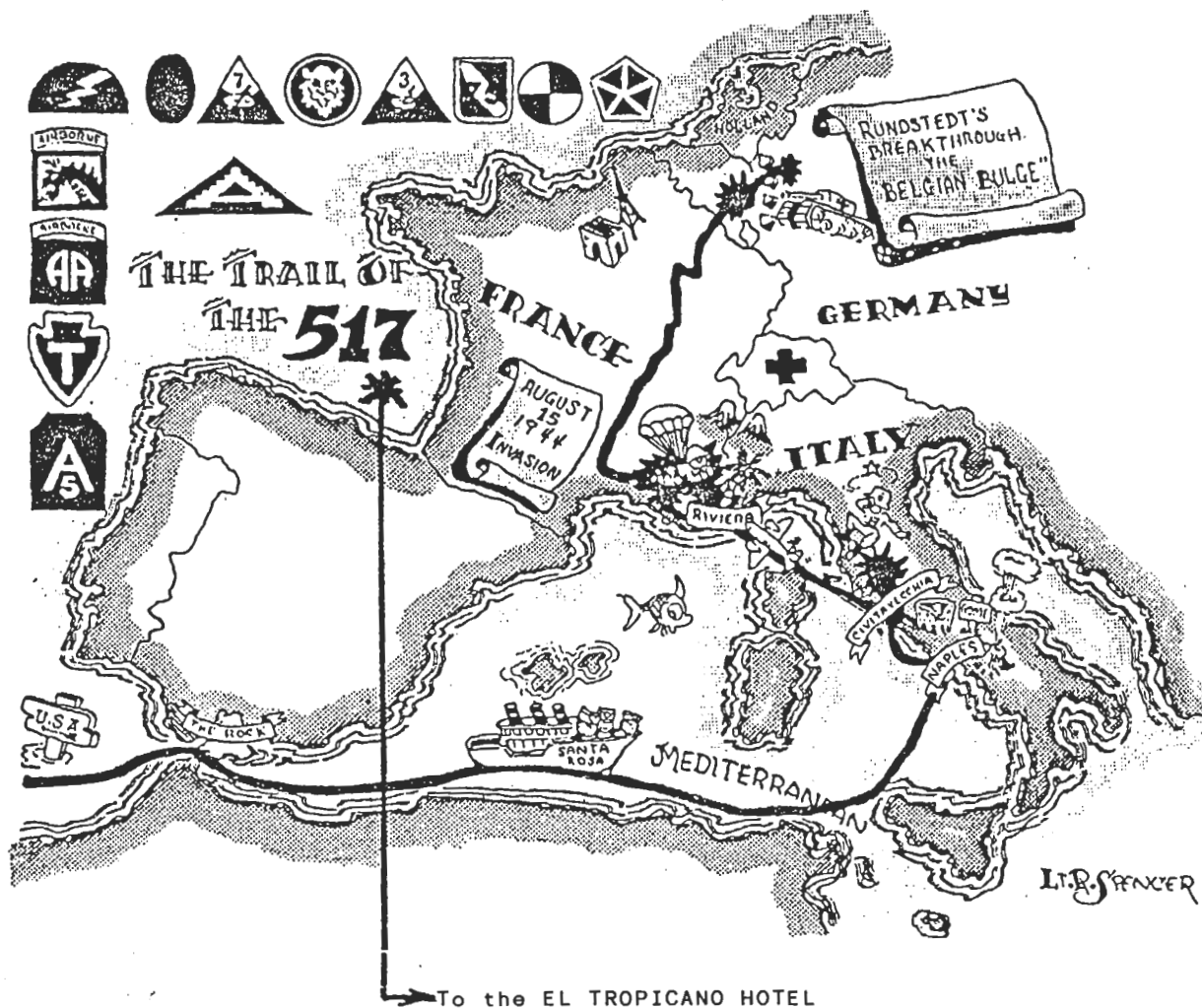
IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!



*It's the Best Little Party in The Heart and Soul of Texas*

Everything you expect and then some. 3



To the EL TROPICANO HOTEL  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 26 June 85-0900-1700 | Registration-Main floor of hotel.   |
| 1730-1930            | Happy Hour around swimming pool. Casual Dress. Mariachi band and door prizes. Cash bar.   |
| 1930-2030            | Mariachi Mass at San Fernando Cathedral.  |
| 27 June 85-0900-1700 | Registration-Main floor of hotel.   |
| 0800-0900            | Past-Presidents Breakfast at Laguna Restaurant in hotel.  |
| 1030-1400            | Ladies seated brunch in Coronado Ballroom. Fashion show, door prizes, music, live entertainment. No extra charge.   |
| 1415-1730            | Sightseeing tour by bus of San Antonio. Visit the Alamo, La Villita, King William district, El Mercado (Market Square) and the Lone Star Brewery Museum. No extra charge. Leave from hotel. |
| 1930-2030            | Dinner on boat on San Antonio River. Tex-Mex food and Margaritas. Reservations necessary. Cost \$20.00 per person. First 100 persons only. Leave from hotel.                                |
| 28 June 85-0900-1000 | Board of Directors meeting in Pres. Pugh's suite.   |
| 1000-1200            | Business Meeting for ALL 517 PCT TROOPERS in River Room.  |
| 1400-1600            | Photo sessions for units according to posted schedule in River Room.  |
| 1800-1900            | Cocktails in Coronado Ballroom. Cash bar. Photographer.   |
| 1900-2130            | Banquet in Coronado Ballroom. Seating by units and by 24 hour advance request by groups of eight.   |
| 2200-2400            | Dancing in Coronado Ballroom to music of 1940's. Cash bar.  |

WEAR YOUR REGISTRATION BADGE AT ALL FUNCTIONS. IT IS YOUR ADMISSION TICKET. HANG ON TO YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKET. WE HAVE SOME VERY DESIRABLE AND VALUABLE DOOR PRIZES TO AWARD LUCKY TICKET HOLDERS AT THE WEDNESDAY EVENING HAPPY HOUR. ENJOY YOURSELF, YOUR FRIENDS, AND TEXAS. HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME, ADIOS Y VAYA CON DIOS. AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!!!

Two different post-reunion tours of Mexico are being offered. One is for 5 days and the other 7 days. San Antonio is a delightful and very interesting city. Our hotel is on the famed River Walk.

# Geronimo!



# San Antonio

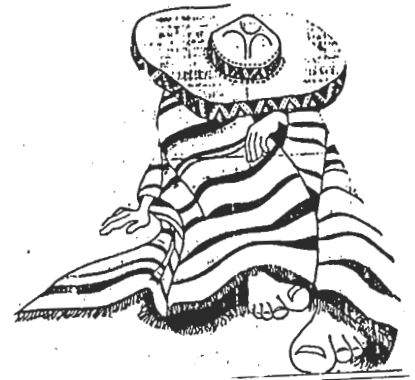
## SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio has been described as one of America's four unique cities, and once attendees arrive here, they'll agree. From the handful of founding Franciscan fathers and friendly Indians to the San Antonians of today, each generation, each nationality and each era of progress has added its own influences to what is modern-day San Antonio. San Antonio has a aura of friendliness and acceptance of a slower, more enjoyable life-style, which is quite rare in the hurry-up atmosphere of most big cities.

Area code: 512  
Population: 1.3 million

### Airport

San Antonio Airport is located 8 miles, 10 minutes, from downtown and is served by American, Continental, Delta, Eastern, Mexicana, Ozark, Southwest, Texas, Texas International, TWA and USAir and United. San Antonio has 140 arrivals and departing flights daily. Limo, \$3; taxi, \$8. Bus service, 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; 50¢, exact change.



AMIGO COUNTRY

### Climate

**Average days of rain:** Jan., 8; Feb., 8; Mar., 7; Apr., 7; May, 8; June, 6; July, 4; Aug., 5; Sept., 7; Oct., 6; Nov., 6; Dec., 7.  
**Average temperature (°F):** Jan., 52; Feb., 55; Mar., 61; Apr., 68; May, 75; June, 82; July, 84; Aug., 84; Sept., 79; Oct., 71; Nov., 60; Dec., 54.

NOTE →

**Clothing:** Casualness is stressed. Regardless of the time of year, short-sleeved shirts and blouses are suggested. There is a permissive attitude toward evening dress requirements at restaurants and night-clubs, so jackets and ties are seldom required.

If you would like any additional information about San Antonio, call this toll-free number:

1-800-292-1010



110 Lexington  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
(512) 223-9461

NOTE → SPECIAL LUNCHEON FOR LADIES OF THE 596

Remember the great time Alice Goodman arranged in San Mateo? Winston Shull has arranged for the 596 ladies to get together for lunch on Friday, 28 June, in San Antonio. She has picked a gem of a spot! It is LOS PATIOS, a charming cluster of sophisticated boutiques, small shops, galleries, restaurants, and a garden nursery along the river in a wooded area out from the city. There is informal modeling during lunch. Finger sandwiches, choice of soup or salad, coffee or tea costs about \$7.50 including tax and tip. No credit cards. Reservation required and dress is casual. Winston is taking your reservations and arranging for drivers. She will need seven cars to handle the transport of our group. Do you want to go? Can you provide a car? Write or call Winston as soon as possible at [REDACTED]



# San Antonio...Let Her Spirit Embrace You

street car makes two 30 minutes trips weekdays, except Monday (more trips on weekends) from the San Antonio Museum of Art to Pearl Brewery, back to the Museum of Art and then on to the Hays Street overpass and return to the museum. The motorman and conductor give a guided tour for passengers.

*San Antonio*



If you think the only boom in Texas is oil, you haven't seen San Antonio. Located in the heart of the Lone Star State, San Antonio is an energetic city of nearly one million people that retains its romantic and historical aura year after year.

Twenty feet below street level in downtown San Antonio is another world, the Paseo del Rio, or River Walk. World famous for its originality and colorful nightlife, the River Walk peacefully winds its way through the center of downtown.

Hop an open-air, wooden trolley or a graceful horsedrawn carriage from the past and see the city on street level. Stop in at the Alamo where 188 brave men fought and died in the name of Texas Independence.

Step into El Mercado, the bustling Mexican marketplace, and suddenly you're south of the border.

Shop and browse at La Villita or the Little Village along the banks of the River where local artists not only sell their wares but demonstrate their crafts to interested spectators.

Spend a quiet afternoon at one of the many museums, whether it's the San Antonio Museum of Art where different national art exhibits open every six weeks, or the Institute of Texan Cultures where 27 ethnic cultures of Texas are exhibited. See works of the old masters Rembrandts, Monets, and others at the McNay Art Museum.

Step back in time when you tour the stately, Victorian mansions, restored to their original condition, in the King William District.

Continue south, after touring the King William area homes, and venture into Old Spain—the four, historic missions established by Franciscan Friars and now a part of the National Park System.

Ride horseback in the near-downtown Brackenridge Park or jog along the Riverwalk.

Enjoy sunny San Antonio's subtropical weather at fiestas and festivals commemorating everything from Mexico's independence from Spain, to Texas' independence from Mexico.

Come to San Antonio and be a part of a romantic and exciting city, full of history and embracing some of the most charming and original sites in the world.

La Villita, one of San Antonio's original settlements, is a restored village which has recently reopened after extensive work on the historic buildings and plazas. La Villita is an arts and crafts community with twenty-six shops, three restaurants and an exhibit of San Antonio's past. The atmosphere is that of a bygone era where visitors may shop, dine, or enjoy one of the many events that take place in La Villita.

After two years of renovation, San Antonio's 1913 vintage streetcar, "Old 300", is on the tracks again. The



Ripples. As you pull away from the banks. As drinks are poured. As smiles turn into laughter. As the fun of San Antonio begins to

**the friendliest welcome... and nearest foreign flavor.**



A balmy breeze. The sun on your shoulders. A jade-green river running beside you.

REUNION



WE NEED YOU!

YES I (WE) WILL BE ATTENDING THE REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO.

Enclosed is a check (money order) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the 517 PRCT Reunion to cover the cost of our participation.

Name.....Guest.....

Address.....

City.....State.....ZIP.....Unit...../.....

Send your registration fee to our Secretary/Treasurer at the following address:



The registration fee is \$50.00 per person.



We've got your number in Texas.

DO IT NOW! The time is short for you to make arrangements to be with your "Battling Buzzards" friends in San Antonio, Texas, 26-28 June.

ROOM RESERVATION  
 Send to EL TROPICANA HOTEL  
 110 Lexington Avenue  
 San Antonio, Texas 78205  
 telephone (512) 223-9461  
 Room rate. \$49.00 single or double.  
 When you make your reservation notify the hotel of your 517th affiliation.



The Texas cowboy cigarette lighter.

Make your hotel reservations now



Golference



I PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 517 PRCT GOLF TOURNEY

Date: 25 June.....PECAN VALLEY GOLF CLUB . 1:00 p.m. TEE OFF

Name.....Phone(.....)

Address.....

City.....State.....ZIP.....Unit...../.....

Mail to: Bill Lewis \$23.00 per person for green fee and 1/2 cart.





# México IS READY...



MEXICO CITY AND ENVIRONS

FIRST DAY  
SATURDAY  
June 29, 1985

Depart San Antonio on Mexicana Airlines flight 729 at 4:45pm to arrive Mexico City at 5:30pm.

You will be met and transferred to your hotel HOTEL GALERIAS PLAZA, or similar.

Evening will be free.

SECOND DAY  
SUNDAY  
June 30

This morning you will depart your hotel around 9:00am and proceed to the Palace of Fine Arts for a performance by the superb Mexicana Folklore Ballet. Then continue onto Xochimilco. Embark in flower bedecked boats for a ride through the canals of the "Floating Gardens".

Return to Mexico City midafternoon. Remainder of the day is free.

THIRD DAY  
MONDAY  
July 1

Depart hotel this morning at 9:00am for a tour of Mexico City including the National Palace, Zocalo, Metropolitan Cathedral, Chapultpec Castle. Then continue onto the famous archeological zone of San Juan Teotihuacan. Lunch is included today and the return to the hotel will be about 6:00pm.

FOURTH DAY  
TUESDAY  
July 2

Depart this morning for a full day tour to Cuernavaca and Taxco. You will cross the Sierra Madre mountains down into the lush, tropical vegetation of Cuernavaca where you will visit the Cathedral and Cortes Palace. Continue onto Taxco where the 18th Century atmosphere is preserved with the narrow cobblestone streets. Lunch is included and you will have time for shopping before the late afternoon return to Mexico City.

Evening is free.

FIFTH DAY  
WEDNESDAY  
July 3

Your flight will depart Mexico City at 9:45am on Mexicana Airlines flight 728 to arrive in San Antonio at 12:30pm. You will have Customs and Immigration clearance on arrival.

YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT, VOTER REGISTRATION CARD, OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE THAT HAS A RAISED SEAL IN ORDER TO ENTER MEXICO AND RETURN TO THE USA.

TOUR COST: Land only per person  
2 people to a room \$300.00  
3 people to a room 260.00  
1 person to a room 385.00

Airfare round trip from San Antonio \$189.00\*per person

TOUR INCLUDES: Round trip transfer to and from airport; tips for baggage handling at airport and in and out hotel; 2 luncheons including tips and tax and hotel room tax.



barbara's travel place, inc.

210 West 6th St., Suite 300 Fort Worth, Tx. 76102  
817-335-8200





MEXICO CITY AND COLONIAL MEXICO



FIRST DAY  
SATURDAY  
June 29, 1985

Depart San Antonio on Mexicana Airlines flight 729 at 4:45pm to arrive Mexico City at 5:30pm. You will be met and transferred to your HOTEL GALERIAS PLAZA or similar. Evening will be free

SECOND DAY  
SUNDAY  
June 30

This morning you will depart your hotel around 9:00am and proceed to the Palace of Fine arts for a performance by the Mexicana Folklore Ballet. Then onto Xochimilco. Embark in flower bedecked boats for a ride through the canals of the "Floating Gardens. Return to Mexico City in Midafternoon. Remainder of day is free.

THIRD DAY  
MONDAY  
July 1

Depart hotel this morning at 9:00am for a tour Mexico City including the National Palace, Chapultpec Castle and onto the archeological zone of San Juan Teotihuacan. Lunch is included today with return to the hotel about 6:00pm.

FOURTH DAY  
TUESDAY  
July 2

Depart Mexico City this morning as you begin your tour of "Colonial Mexico" first stop will be Queretaro popularly known as the Opal City. Short sightseeing tour of the City and continue onto San Miguel de Allende for sightseeing and overnight at POSADA de SAN FRANCISCO OR similar.

FIFTH DAY  
WEDNESDAY  
July 3

This morning you will stop in Dolores Hidalgo as you travel to Guanajuato, one of Mexico's most intriguing cities. Time for sightseeing then onto Morelia for a short tour and continue onto Patzcuraro for the night at POSADA DON VASCO or similar.

SIXTH DAY  
THURSDAY  
July 4

Sightseeing this morning in Patzcuraro with a launch ride to the Isle of Janitzio then back to Patzcuraro and onto Lake Chapala and Guadalajara. Overnight at the Sheraton or similar.

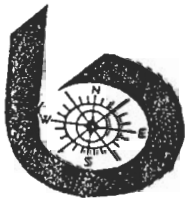
SEVENTH DAY  
FRIDAY  
July 5

Morning departure on Mexicana Airlines flight 724 at 12:05pm arriving San Antonio at 3:35pm. You will have Immigration and Customs on arrival San Antonio.

TOUR COST: Land only per person 2 people to a room \$ 445.00  
3 people to a room 413.00  
1 person to a room 588.00

Airfare round trip from San Antonio \$189.00 per person

TOUR INCLUDES: Round trip transfer to and from airport; tips for baggage handling at airport and in and out hotel; Tips for 1 luncheon and hotel room tax.



YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT, VOTER REGISTRATION CARD, OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE THAT HAS A RAISED SEAL IN ORDER TO ENTER MEXICO AND RETURN TO THE USA.

barbara's travel place, inc.

210 West 6th St., Suite 300  
817-335-8200

Fort Worth, Tx. 76102

**Come to know Mexico.**



**barbara's travel place, inc.**



300 Executive Plaza Bldg.  
210 W. 6th Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
(817) 335-8200

**BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS AND CONDITIONS**

**RESERVATIONS/DEPOSIT:**

A deposit of \$100.00 per person is required at time of booking. The balance of the tour cost is due May 20, 1985. The tour cost is based on prices in effect March 1, 1985 and are subject to change. Should these cost change, it may be necessary to request an additional amount on the tour.

NOTE →

**MEXICAN TOURIST CARD:**

It is necessary for entry into Mexico. U.S. and Canadian Citizens need to have proof of their citizenship and the tourist card will be issued by our office. For all others it will be necessary for special arrangements to be made. We suggest at time of booking if you are not an American or Canadian citizen, you advise us so we can assist you in have the proper documents for entrance into Mexico and re-entry into the U.S.. on receipt of your tour deposit we will forward the forms for the tourist cards that you will need to return to us as soon as possible.

**WEATHER AND CLOTHING:**

While Mexico City is almost a mile and half above sea level at an altitude of 7,350 ft., the days will be warm in the 70's and low 80's, June is the start of the rainy season (June -Sept.) so bring your raincoat and umbrella ...most of the time it is just the warm rain and comes and goes so should not hamper your fun. Be sure to include a jacket for evening as Mexico City will turn cool after dark and be similar to San Francisco. Bring comfortable shoes for walking.

**TOUR APPLICATION**

CHECK ONE -

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

5 DAY TOUR   
7 DAY TOUR

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # home \_\_\_\_\_ business \_\_\_\_\_

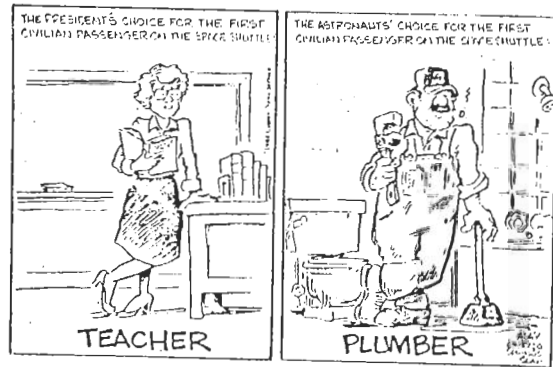
Single \_\_\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_\_\_ Triple \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Tour must be paid by check. The air portion of the tour maybe paid by credit card.

YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT, VOTER REGISTRATION CARD, OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE THAT HAS A RAISED SEAL IN ORDER TO ENTER MEXICO AND RETURN TO THE USA.



Mary and Joe D. Miller in Nice, France, last August.



### SUPER SAVER AIRFARE

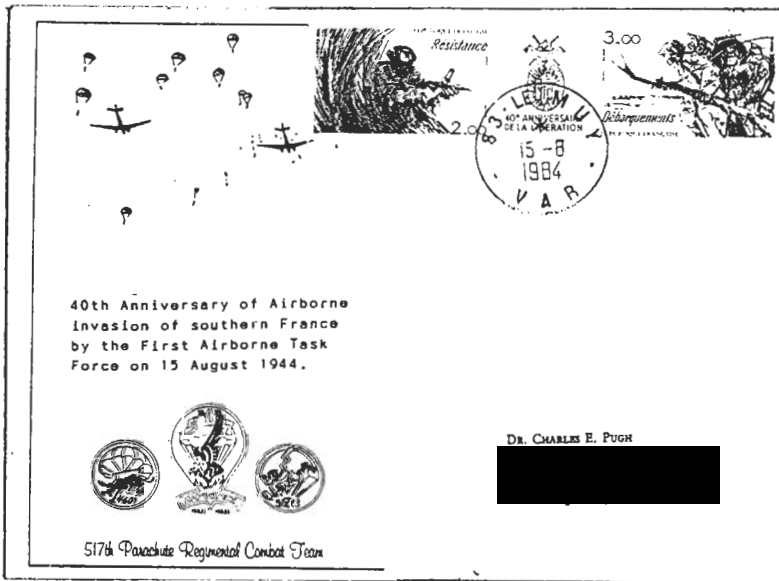
If you are planning to fly to our reunion i.e. June on a commercial airline, you will be interested in obtaining the lowest possible airfare. Most airlines now offer "Ultimate Super Saver" air fares that can be as much as 70 percent less than normal coach fares. This great bargain does have some restrictions and caveats that include:

1. A 30-day advance purchase. I suggest that you buy tickets as far in advance as possible because the airlines limit the number of these bargain seats on each flight. The later you wait to purchase one of these seats the greater the likelihood that none will be available.
2. A stay over a Saturday night. If you stay over an extra day after our reunion ends on Friday night in San Antonio, the hotel room will cost \$48. Depending upon where you are located, the savings on the air fare may more than offset the hotel cost.
3. A maximum stay of 21 days.
4. A cancellation or change penalty of 25 percent of the price after the ticket is issued.
5. The fares will not be in effect over some holidays.
6. The fares will go up on May 23.
7. Fares are subject to change without notice.

### REDUCED COACH FARE--35%

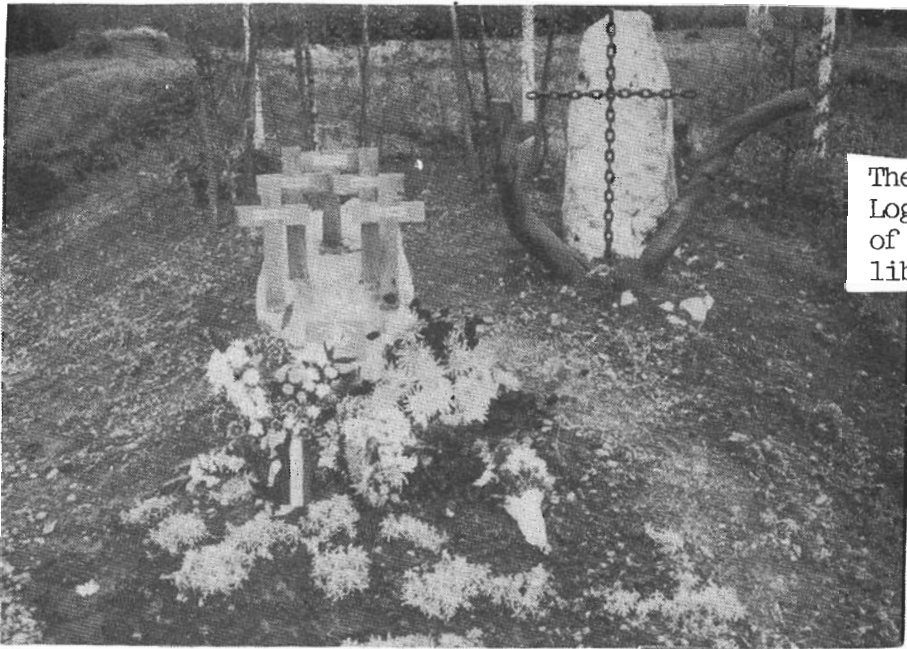
If you cannot get a Super Saver air fare with some airline, arrangements have been made with American Airlines to help our reunion attendees secure the least expensive and most direct route to our meeting. American is offering a Meeting Saver Fare of 35% off its full day coach fare for tickets purchased 14 days prior to departure, or any special published fare, whichever is lower. This special fare is valid for travel within the USA on American Airlines segments only and is available only through Meeting Services Desk.

For complete details, call American Airlines toll free (or have your travel agent call) Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. your local time: (800)433-1790. Tell the American meeting specialist that you are attending the 517th Parachute Combat Team Association Reunion and the Star file number is S-5303. This special fare will be available for travel from 22 June through 5 July.



These envelopes were postmarked on 15 August 1984, at Le Muy, France, and commemorate the 40th Anniversary of our combat jump there. If you would like to have one of these covers, please write the Editor and enclose \$5.00. Only 50 of these covers exist and will continue to increase in value to those philatelists who have an interest in collecting militaria.

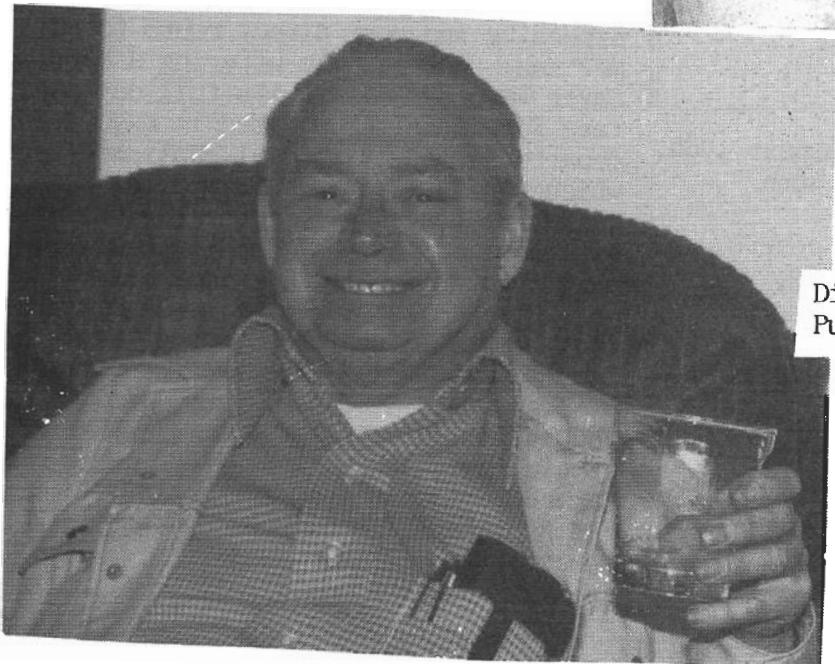
One nice thing about TV is that it takes your mind off worrying. On the other hand, one nice thing about worrying is that it takes your mind off TV.



The Memorial erected last September in Logbierme, Belgium to honor the 5 men of the 517 PIR who were KIA while liberating this village.



One of our tour buses inching its way back and forth as many as eight times in order to get around some of the hairpin curves on the way from Sospel to L'Escarene last August. (Photo by Hank Simpson)



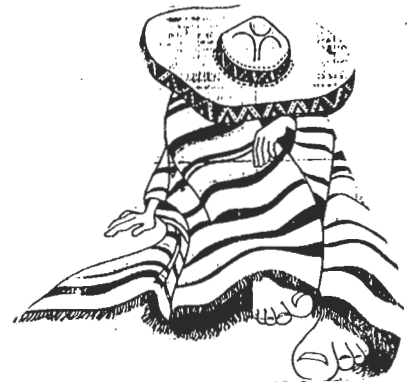
Director Hank Simpson lifting a cool one in Pugh's Pub, Ft. Worth, in January, 1985.



# Geronimo!



# Si San Antonio



AMIGO COUNTRY

## Another Texas First

The first Texas Historical Commission marker for an outhouse was recently bestowed on a Victorian structure in Henderson.

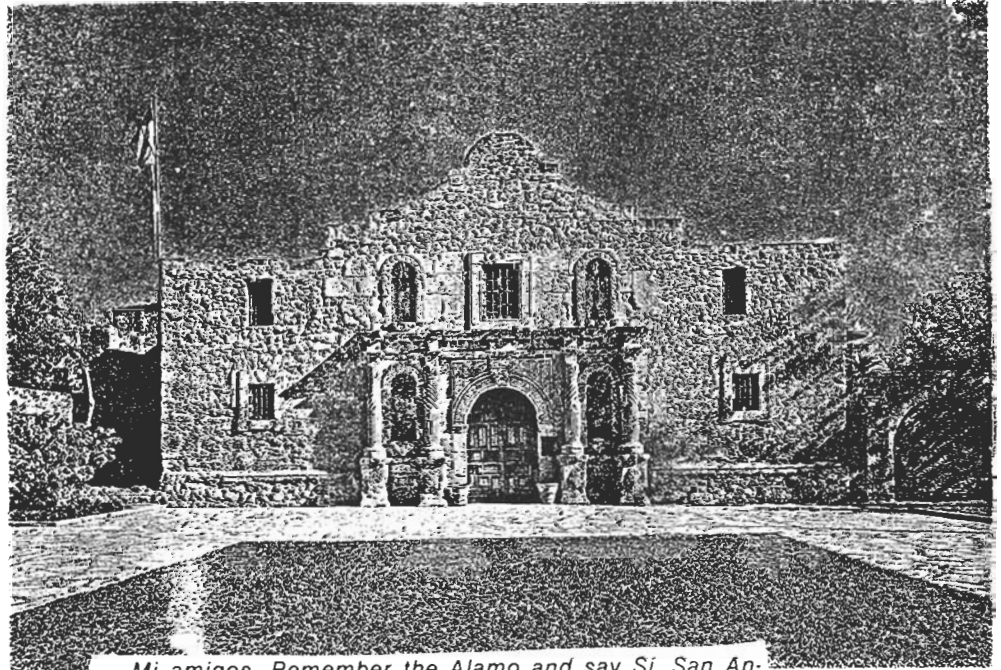
The Arnold Outhouse, built in 1908, has three holes of varying sizes to accommodate young and old alike. It includes louvered shutters to provide privacy, ventilation, and light for reading, an awning over the door, fancy trim, and a paneled interior.

The "Fanciest Little Outhouse in Texas" belonged to John R. Arnold, a prominent man in the early days of Rusk County.

Members of the Rusk County Historical Commission became aware of the need for a marker on such a structure after local school-children touring a restored 19th Century cabin wondered where the bathroom was. When told that people back then used outhouses, they asked, "What's an outhouse?"



# Remember The Alamo



*Mi amigos, Remember the Alamo and say Si, San Antonio, por favor. Muchos gracias All the Way.*

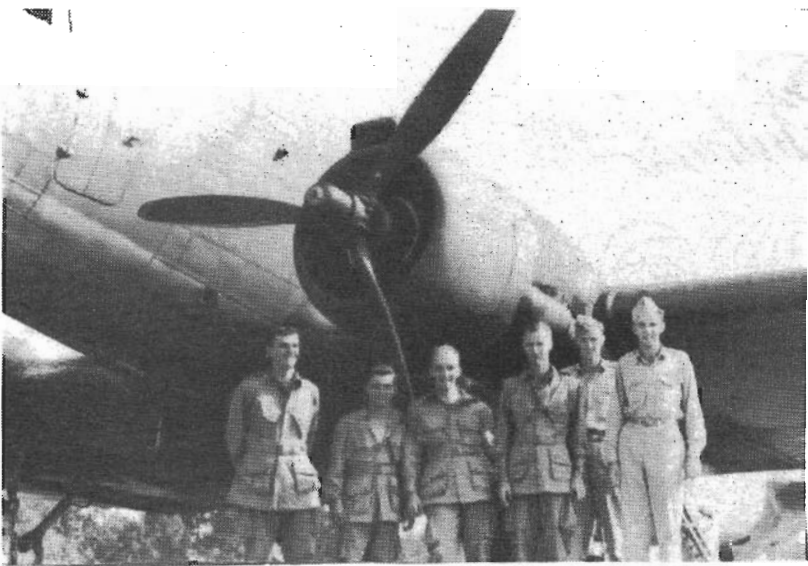
### When . . . Where . . . How

The Alamo, at the corner of Alamo Plaza and Houston Street in San Antonio, is open every day except December 24 and 25, from 9 to 5:30 Monday through Saturday, and 10 to 5:30 Sunday. Admission is free. Large groups will be guided through the complex, with advance notice. Write Box 2599, San Antonio, 78299; call 512/225-1391. The adjacent Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library is open 9 to 5 Monday through Saturday; call 512/225-1071.

The State of Texas purchased the Alamo church from the Roman Catholic Church in 1883. The city and state later acquired adjoining property and restored the Alamo complex that now finds itself in the center of downtown San Antonio.

## San Antonio... a city to love

The cliché is that Texans envy Dallas, admire Houston but love San Antonio. It's not hard to understand why visitors and meeting groups feel the same way about the city, still the state's number one tourist destination



Dalrymple, Zavatiero, Flannery, Fisher, Lucas(?), & Kosan



Durland (Bucky) McCauley



Dalrymple, Salonis(?), & Phillips



596 formation prior to training jump  
Camp Mackall, NC



Charles Pugh receiving medal for  
517 PRCT from Adjutant Mayor of  
Cannes, France.



Col. John Lissner, Babbie and Col. Bill Boyle  
at Vin d'Honneur in Nice, France---August 1984

# The Mail Chute



Our present CEO, Don Saunders, and wife Marian are the travelingest people I know. They are on the go almost constantly with Airstream groups. Don has retired from teaching and has time to gad about the country. They have visited with Hal and Polly Eddy in Indiana at an Airstream Rally. They have also visited with Bill Lewis and others in Florida.

Dr. Bernie Lyon writes that he isn't physically able to travel but wants us to have a drink on him at our Hospitality Suite in San Antonio. He and Kathy have 6 children and 4 grandchildren and he has retired from practicing dentistry.

Irene O'Neal is the sister of Ernie Coffelt, who is still buried at the US Military cemetery in Draguignan, France. The French-American Souvenir Society offered her a two week all expense paid trip for two to southern France to participate in the annual Memorial Day Service there. Unfortunately she was unable to make the trip.

George and Winston Shull now have 5 grandchildren and are expecting a sixth in February, 1985. Winston is recovering from recent surgery but nothing slows her down for long. She teaches needle point classes, and George's "thing" is quail hunting. George, in a recent letter, was remembering a training jump at Camp Mackall when his planeload was dropped in error from about 150 feet. He said he thought that was when the word "quickie" was first used.

When we were bivouacked outside Frascati, Italy, there was a railroad cut almost in the middle of our area. One night most of the 1st. Platoon was warming and making coffee around an open fire. There was probably some strong drink in the crowd.

For some reason B.E. Spencer was wandering around and fell into the railroad cut. It must have been at least 12 feet deep and muddy. Nobody heard him or even knew he was in the railroad cut and probably nobody cared. He had to walk about 1/2 mile to the end of the cut to get out. When he got back to the fire he was muddy, wet and about half sober and mad with me and Dick Shaw. We didn't push him or even know he had fallen in the cut.

All the way,

James. M. Moses

## Sign of Success

Success is something you fold and mail to the Internal Revenue Service.

—Gwen C. Meza



In addition to scores of cards and letters from you non-pareil masters of midnight requisitioning, scavenging, and long-term borrowing, there have been numerous telephone calls and visits by Hank and Marian Simpson, Charles "Doc" Keen and his son, George and Millie Correa, Dennis Shipley, Earl and Edith Dillard, Tex and Betty Lowe, Arlan Spillman, Al Dearing and Frank and June Huffman.

I want to relay the thanks of the entire Combat Team to those many of you who sent documents, photographs, records and narrative's for inclusion in our forthcoming book. That material was very important to the proper and accurate presentation of the activities of the 596 PCEC. Special recognition is due Al Goodman, Ernie Kosan and Earl Dillard for the importance of their written reports and for their excellent memory.

Joe Senter had surgery for diverticulosis in January but is recovered, back at work, and looking forward to playing in the golf tournament in San Antonio in June.

Ed Phillips is planning on being in San Antonio. He reports that Kaye had surgery to remove a blood clot from her brain and is now in a nursing home.

Harold and Jeanne Roberts went to the Northwest All-Airborne Conclave last year and enjoyed it very much. They are still buying rental properties in Seattle as fast as they can. They epitomize a positive mental attitude and enthusiasm.

There's a new theory as to why women live as long as they do. They want to see if men ever shape up.



Ulcers show you care.

# The Mail Chute

(continued)



After my discharge I returned home to marry my wife, Virginia and we have been married 38 years. We have five children--four boys and one daughter. All five finished high school and all five went on to gain the extra schooling they needed or wanted to put them into the work world. We have four grandchildren.

When I got home from the army I did odd jobs to keep busy till I decided what I wanted to do. I opened the first self-service grocery store in my home town. After about 2½ years, I sold the grocery store and went to work in a new trailer axle plant 10 miles away. I worked my way up through the ranks from machine operator to department foreman, plant general foreman, plant superintendent and spent my last two years, before I retired, in the personnel office as assistant to the personnel manager and my job was to write contracts and settle grievances between the company and the union. Our plant employed about 1500 people. After 31 years of service, at the age of 55, I retired.

During the 31 years at the plant, we also owned other businesses. My wife's father owned a hardware store in our hometown and, after his death, we kept the business for the next seven years before we sold it.

We also started a business for two of our children and we sold it to one of our sons this past month.

With all my workload at the plant and with our other businesses, I still had time to serve four years on our school board as Vice President and Board President; twelve years on the County Hospital Board as Vice President and Board President eight years of the twelve years on the Board.

I am retired from all of this now, and we spend our winters in Florida. We own our home and land at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We also still have our home here in Ohio and spend 6 months in Florida and 6 months here in Ohio.

I enjoy keeping our homes in 'tip-top' shape, both in Florida and Ohio. We raise a lot of flowers, have a big garden, and a large yard to keep up with.

I like fishing, playing golf, and going to ballgames in Ohio and seeing the Cincinnati Reds when they come to Fort Myers to play Kansas City.

I am going to try to make it to the next reunion in June, 1985.

Ralph France

## Adolescence

Adolescence is that period when a boy refuses to believe that some day he'll be as dumb as his father.

—Henry E. Leabo

On 24 Nov. 1984, I will be 62 years of age. I know this to be true because as I thought that I was nearing the age for Social Security I presented myself along with birth certificate, army records, passport, driver's license, etc., etc. to the nearest Social Security office. In time I was admitted to the presence of a middle-age bureaucrat who started the interview by asking me point blank as to why her records suggested that I might be at least 64. My reply to this was "Damned if I know lady". Maybe you have me confused with someone else—Earl Dillard perhaps, but I think he must be nearing 100. To support this, and in spite of the fact that Earl may, to quote someone else, look like Gary Cooper and sound like L.B.J., he was driving Pat Martin's school bus, the one that I rode in 1935, the year I was in the 8th grade. So, if I am 64, how old would that make Earl? She responded by looking confused, examining the records I had presented, thereby establishing my true age as 62. No offense to Earl intended. However I will not cast my vote for him as being the best preserved of the old crowd.

In this competition I was prepared to cast my vote for Glenn Gainer of "Wanderlust" fame. I looked Glenn up last July—I had occasion to visit Glenn to see if he really did exist. You see, I had invited him to accompany me to the Bahamas for a six week cruise in late May. As Aimée was planning to go to Europe to visit our youngest, I had asked him to meet me in Miami out on Key Biscayne at a place known as "No Name" harbor. It would appear that the prospect of meeting the "Knot Known" at "No Name" for a cruise to an unspecified location for an indeterminate period was too much for Glenn. He was a "no show". Anyway, upon returning, Aimée and I sailed into Daytona and there we found the "Wanderlust" and a fellow resembling Santa Claus but claiming to be Glenn Gainer. Glenn doesn't get my vote either.

Wayne Norwood

Bob Wilson sent a check, some photos and a few words about his wartime experiences. He was wounded in Belgium and sent to a hospital in England. On VE Day he was sent thru a Replacement Depot to the 17th A/B Division somewhere in Germany. All of his records had been lost. The Division moved to Vittel, France and there he ran across 596er Sgt. Walker. Later, he met Lt. Hild who verified his contentions about discharge points and managed to get sent to the US for discharge. Last summer he talked with Francis Ropyak's sister.

## Unhappy Day

That day is here again,  
The one we all abhor...  
April 15th... that rainy day  
We've all been saving for.

—Olga McCoy



# The Mail Chute

(continued)



After service I married Dotothy. We had five children and 4 grandchildren. We left Red Wing, Minn. in 1955, when I joined a box company in Iowa.

I'm currently production manager at a Champion plant in Denver. I guess I'm one year or four years away from retirement. I can call it quits next year, but enjoy it all.

I had a bout with cancer in 1978, and so far have lucked out. Then in Dec. of 1981 I had a heart attack and had a bypass.

Enclosed is a check to cover some of your Newsletter expenses.

Merrill Seeley

Polly and I enjoy your President's letters in the "Static Line". I remember very clearly that the challenge was "Liberty" and the password was "Lafayette" on the night of 15 Aug. 1944. The blanket password was "Billy the Kid".

We look forward to SA in June.

Hal Eddy

I'm writing this note to belatedly send a big heartfelt THANK YOU for all the work, planning and the thousands of other details you did to make our trip to France such a memorable occasion.

Both Marie and I can't put into words how much we enjoyed our trip, how much we learned about the French, and how their hospitality affected us. It was truly a trip of a lifetime and for me, down memory lane.

We just added a granddaughter to the Reichwald clan...#6 grandchild.

Enclosed you will find a check for a small contribution to assist in your publication expense.

Herb Reichwald

P.S. Hope to see you in SA in June.

Elmer Szakacs has been ill and we hope he is now feeling much better.

Glenn Spangler, Houston, Texas, died 16 Jan. 1985 of a heart attack. Our sympathy to his family.

Monk Johnson wrote that 1984 was not a good year for him due to his health problems. He did take the time to write a long narrative about his wartime service and experiences for our Combat Team book.

Maxine Grona writes that Max passed away on 21 December 1983 after a long illness. Our belated sympathy to Maxine and all of Max's loved ones.

We don't have enough reams of paper to thank you and the other members of your "planning and organizing" team for our most eventful and meaningful trip to Nice and Southern France. Both of us were in awe of the respect shown us by the townspeople in the smaller towns that we "re-visited".

The group that went on the tour could not have been more congenial. There was the fun, the reunion, and the memories-(George had not seen Bill Conger or Joe Miller in 40 years)

Charlie, we are most appreciative of the time and planning (and probably money) you put into this trip-Four more words: It was worth it!! (and Ann, lovely one, for letting him neglect you to do it!!)

We are most grateful for memories, for friends, and for the fact that we can CELEBRATE!!

George and Winston Shull

When we were in France last year, there was one thing that I thought was quite a coincidence about Chateau Ste. Roseline. You probably were not there since the third platoon landed so far away, but just before sundown on Aug. 15, 1944, I was standing on the road in front of the Chateau watching a glider drop in the vineyards and being torn to hell. Exactly 40 years later I was standing with a wife of 41 years at the same place looking out at the same vineyards. This time of course, we were drinking the Baron's wine, not watching gliders. If anyone had told me that I would be back exactly 40 years later, I would have called them nuts. Old country boys just don't get that lucky.

We certainly enjoyed all of our tour. The only difficulty we had was with the agency in Paris that was supposed to get our hotel reservation in Paris. They cancelled the reservation we had confirmed and paid for (for no apparent reason) and failed to make other arrangements. We spent a whole day waiting for the man to get with it because we had to move from where we were. So, finally I had to use a little east Texas psychology on him, to wit, threatening to come over there and perpetrate dire consequences to his person. That got immediate results. Otherwise the whole trip was just great. Full of too many highlights to name. The Southern France experience we enjoyed most of all. There are so many things to talk about. I am afraid I bore people so I had better quit. Edith says that when I finally get started writing a letter its not a note but a major production. We are looking forward so much to seeing you soon.

Earl and Edith Dillard

# The Mail Chute

(continued)



## MIRABILE DICTU !!!

James and Carrie Rogers have a new baby daughter, Amber, now about 8½ months old. They have moved from Colorado to Indiana and he plans to be at the reunion.

Bob and Garnet Dalrymple spend their winters in Green Valley, AZ and keep busy entertaining family and friends. Bob assists residents with their income tax questions and forms and is very active with his all-male chorus, The Lonesome Cowboys. They sing western songs for various groups and are quite talented. (He sent me a cassette tape recently and also a newspaper article about the group-Editor) Garnet bubbles with enthusiasm and good cheer.

Jim Nolan died on 12 October 1984 with kidney problems. Bob Dalrymple writes:

"Jim was a key person in Company administration. He ran the personnel business so well that I hardly had to do anything but sign the papers he sent up. For that alone he deserved a medal. Such a solid guy with more common sense than most. What could be a more fitting tribute to Jim than to say that he was one of the very best"

His daughter Connie Howie writes:

"Dad had such wonderful stories to tell about the reunion in San Mateo. He was so looking forward to getting together with all of you again in San Antonio. That whole unit sure meant a lot to him."

Thelma Barnes had cancer surgery and is doing well at present and she and the First Sergeant plan to be in San Antonio.

Always nice to hear from you. Enjoy 596 Newsletter. Andree and Al Schroenberg and Avis and I still correspond. We visited them several years ago.

Avis still working as cashier. I still work for Nebr. Pub. Pwr. Dist. as manager. Have been at it for 38 years. We plan on retiring in Sept. 1985 or sooner. Hope to live in Ariz. during winter months.

We have four children and five grandchildren.

If we retire before Sept. 85 will plan on attending Reunion.

Bob and Avis Anderson

Concluding thought: The art of negotiation is something you learn at an early age. You'd be amazed how many teen-agers get their first car by asking for a motorcycle.

I certainly appreciate your letter and information on the 596 Parachute Engineer Company. I am happy that you took the time to look me up and send me information on many from our old outfit.

I started as one of the original Cadre officers in old C. Co. at Camp McCall in Mar of 1943. I stayed with the unit until Dec. 1943 when transferred to B. Co. and then stayed with the 139 Airborne Engineers through the Battle of the Bulge and Rhine Crossing. I ended up as Company Commander of B. Co. before transferred to 101 Airborne.

Anne O'Conner of Washington D.C. and I were married in July of 1943--while most of you were in Parachute School. Ray Hild was the best man and Freddie Zattero, Ray McMullen and Eddie Phillips attended the wedding. Four daughters and seven grandchildren later, we are about ready to retire from The Good-year Tire & Rubber Co. in Akron. I started with Goodyear right after the war as a Development Engineer and now am Corporate Director of Quality Assurance.

We plan to retire by April 1st of this year and hope to be in our condominium in Florida by July 1st. Our new address will be:  
Richard & Anne Wollam

Again, thanks for your letter and information and please put me on your mailing list so I can make some contributions, both monetary and newswise. Say "hello" to all the gang!

Best regards,  
R.L. Wollam

Rose and Pete Zubricky plan to be in San Antonio in June.

This past July Pete retired from Gen. Motors after 34 years service. He was in the hospital for something else and had a heart attack and a stroke. He says he is recovering albeit somewhat more slowly than he would prefer.

Verlin Glenn (596) hopes to make the San Antonio reunion. It will be his first. Verlin and Eva lost a son (age 32) in a motorcycle accident this summer. We send our sympathy and condolences. You can write them at

I'm retired, but Lou still works as a Nurse. She hopes to retire in three years; then maybe we can move to Texas.

We have a travel trailer and do a lot of camping and fishing the year round.

Hopefully we'll be able to make the reunion next June.

Gene and Lou Wilson



"I was a Corporal in southern France and got a Purple Heart and Bronze Star while there. Four of our Privates and I got a Bronze Star in Belgium for our work in a big minefield there. After the war ended I went to Berlin in the 307th Para Engr. Bn. of 82nd Abn. Div. for three months before I was sent home and discharged. I worked on a farm for 4 years and then for a building contractor for the next 20 years. Then I became a mason and worked at that for the next several years until my eyesight got too bad. I started receiving Social Security at age 62 and get a small VA pension. I haven't been able to see well enough to drive since 1981. Hazel and I don't have any children. I was 65 years old last March. I feel good except for my eyes and I still haven't forgotten how to drink a little beer and some booze. I wish we could come to San Antonio but it won't be possible. I send my best regards to all my old 596 buddies."

Airborne always,  
Harold Johnson

## YOU MAY SUSPECT YOU ARE GETTING OLD:

If you can remember when taking Saturdays off meant you didn't have a job.

If you can describe Dolly Parton without using your hands.

If you are against anything you're too old to enjoy.

If you feel like you're at that dangerous age and nobody is offering you any danger.

When you whistle at a girl and people think you're calling your dog.

If you can remember when your car's radiator cap was outside the hood.

If your wife, who collects antiques, says she is satisfied with you.

When your narrow waist and broad mind start changing places.

If a health club sells you a life membership for \$9.95.

If anything you have to stand in line for a half hour, is hardly worth buying, going to, or doing.

Herb and Marie Reichwald have had to revise their plans to attend the Reunion because of a prior commitment on the same dates. Herb is also planning to spend some of his summer vacation time restoring a 1926 Ford. For some reason there is a deadline of 17 August on this project. We will all Miss their smiling faces and enthusiasm for whatever they are doing.

A SPEAKER at last weekend's Texas junior college teachers' meeting in Dallas gave a brief rundown on computers, past, present and future.

The World War II type, he said, covered thousands of cubic feet and could do only fairly simple functions.

A decade ago, he said, a computer smaller than the podium from which he spoke could perform many more functions.

And a decade from now, he said, a computer the size of a man's thumbnail will have more capabilities than today's.

"There's hope for the next century," muttered a fellow in the audience. "Perhaps they'll either disappear or we'll lose them!"

## DESSERT MIXUP

A group of ministers and a salesman's organization were holding conventions in the same hotel. The catering department had to work at top speed serving dinners to both.

The salesmen were having spiked watermelon for dessert. But the chef discovered this was being served to the ministers by mistake.

"Quick!" he commanded a waiter. "If they haven't eaten the watermelon, bring it back and we'll give it to the salesmen."

The waiter returned in a minute and reported that it was too late—the ministers were eating the liquor-spiced dessert.

"Well," demanded the excited chef. "What did they say? How'd they like it?"

"Don't know how they liked it," replied the waiter, "but they're putting the seeds in their pockets."

## THE UNETHICAL PART OF BUSINESS ETHICS

"What is meant by business ethics?" asked the 12-year-old son of a store owner.

"That's easy," said the father. "Suppose a man came in, bought something and paid for it with what I thought was a \$10 bill. After he left, I discovered the bill was actually a \$100 bill. Now here is where the business ethics come in. Do I tell my partner or not?"



ENJOY



EACH

MOMENT

Kenneth L. Wickett

Enjoy each moment while you may,  
The tide of life ebbs fast;  
For no one knows from day to day  
Which one may be the last.

The sun that rises ruby red  
Proclaims another morn;  
And though, perhaps, your heart has bled,  
Each day new hope is born.

For fears and doubts of life must die,  
Where light and reason reign;  
And, if we never cease to try,  
Our goal we will attain.

So, with such hope to give us strength,  
We can each new day face,  
In the calm thought, despite its length,  
The night will strains efface.

As Seasons vary in the years,  
And balance with each other;  
So, in our life, the joys and tears  
Compliment each other

**On the Record**

Newton Minow, 59, attorney and former FCC chairman, on his study of the legal systems of four European countries: "In Germany, under the law everything is prohibited except that which is permitted. In France, under the law everything is permitted except that which is prohibited. In the Soviet Union, everything is prohibited, including that which is permitted. And in Italy, under the law everything is permitted, especially that which is prohibited."

You should be receiving "The Thunderbolt" every three months. If you are not receiving it, please let Editor Bill Lewis know your address. His address is 6600 Josie Lane, Hudson, FL 33567.

517ers present at this year's Static Line Awards were Houston Roberson and wife, James Bryant, David Grange and daughter, Donald and Vera Bolner, Robert and Emma Olsen, Bill and Naomi Baker, and Charles Pugh.

I found this clipping in my files. I don't remember the source or the author; but I think it expresses the breadth and depth of feeling that 596 troopers hold for one another.

"Rather, it was the tone of his voice, a tone that can be used only between men who are equals in each other's eyes, who admire and respect each other. It was the voice of men who have been around a lot of blocks together, who have seen the good times and bad and, consequently, know the worst as well as the best about each other. Finally, it was the voice of love, the sort of love that asks nothing and gives everything, that will go to the wall with you or for you. In my experience, it is the voice hardest to find in the world, and when it is found at all, it is the voice of blood speaking to blood."

596 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

James M. Moses  
Bob Verdi  
Hal Eddy

Don Saunders and Earl Dillard will be in charge of arrangements for the 596 Hospitality Suite in San Antonio.

The 517 PRCT Association has no dues structure; however, it does have expenses. You are cordially invited to send in a contribution in any amount any time you feel the urge. Your support is welcomed and is vital to the health and welfare of our Association.



"I need a couple of guys what don't owe me no money fer a little routine patrol."

"STARS AND STRIPES"

**West Point Appointment Too Late**

1944  
BELGIUM, Feb. 3. (AP)—In a regimental command post envious soldiers with the 517th Parachute Combat Team read a telegram:

"Cpl. Blank holds a letter appointing him to the U.S.M.A. in 1945 . . ."

It was one of those things hundreds of soldiers dream about—an appointment of a front-line fighter to the United States Military Academy. The telegram continued:

"If found physically qualified . . . will be returned to the United States to undergo training . . ."

The chance of a lifetime! No more crawling through freezing snow under mortar fire, no more shivering at night in lonely fox holes—and no more "C" rations. The soldier was a parachute corporal who had fought through Italy, France and Belgium.

A runner took the telegram to a forward company with instructions to bring back the corporal immediately with full equipment—ready to start at once for home and West Point.

But no happy corporal came back. The runner returned with this brief message from company headquarters:

"Cpl. Blank was killed in action at Trois Ponts, Belgium."

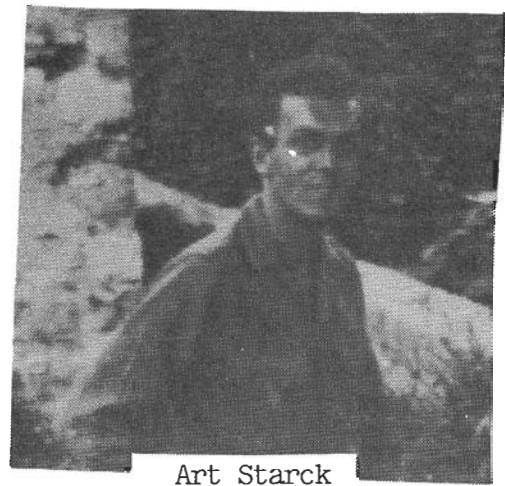
The telegram had come five days too late.



Ralph France



Glenn Gainer



Art Starck



William Morgan and  
Bernie Barnes



Bill Wickersham  
and  
Herb Larson



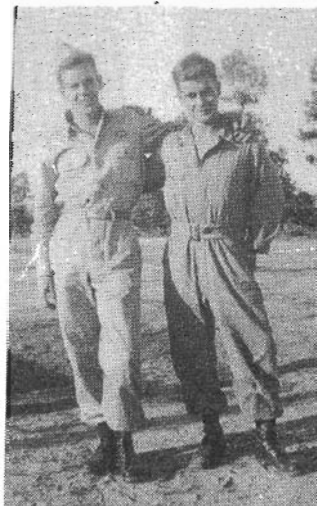
George Ayling



THERE'S NUTHIN'  
**TALLER**  
THAN A SHORT  
**PARATROOPER**



Bob Dalrymple



Don Saunders and  
Norm Willitt



Claude Mills



Virginia & Ralph France



Kyle & Shirley Kenyon

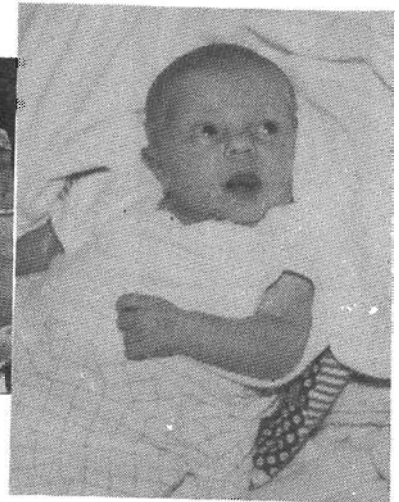


Theresa & Mason Phoebus

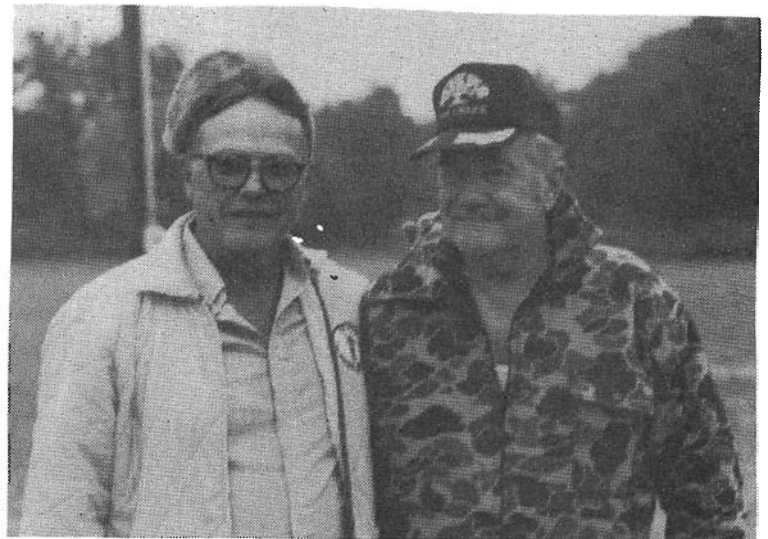
Mason retired last June,  
and now he and his wife plan to take  
it easy and do a little gardening.



James Rogers and  
baby daughter, Amber →



Russ and Mary Pearson



Deer hunters George Williamson and Dennis Shipley



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

# "THE BOOK"

The first chapter of THE BOOK has been sent to the printer. Most of the writing is completed and most of the photographic work has been done; however, there will be editing and proof reading to be done on the galleys, decisions about composition, the cover, turn around time from printer to Editor and back to printer. So, I am preparing you for the possibility that it may be physically impossible to complete it by the time of our reunion as we had so hoped. We shall see.

In connection with THE BOOK, Nolan Powell spent 4 days at the St. Louis Records Center and returned with about 3,750 documents and records of the 517, 460, and 596. A veritable treasure trove, to be sure. Not only for improving the accuracy and completeness of the historical record in THE BOOK, but also as a

most valuable resource for our members who may at some time need to establish a claim for a service connected disability, or a claim for a decoration, or for a pension, or who knows what. These reports will be a part of our Association's permanent historical file. I would be remiss indeed, if I did not express our collective thanks to him for his selfless generosity in refusing compensation for his travel expenses and four days of hotel and other expenses associated with this invaluable work for all of us.

## SAN ANTONIO BOUND

Bill & Sophie Christian, Mike & Catherine Bulino, Al & Alice Goodman, Art & Jean Starck, Al & Betty Ward, Hal & Polly Eddy, Bill & Gloria Hudson, Gene & Elaine Markle, Bob & Marie Verdi, George & Mary Williamson, Joe Senter, George Mitchell, Dennis Shipley, Bob & Garnet Dalrymple, Bob & Betty Wilkerson, Earl & Edith Dillard, Hank & Marian Simpson, Don & Marian Saunders, George & Winston Shull, Ernie & Judy Kosan, Wayne & Aimée Norwood, Charles & Ann Pugh, Ed Phillips, Wes & Gladys Williams, Ray & Mary Hild, Verlin & Eva Glenn, Red & Agnes Guthrie, Lyle & Mary Ann Madison, Gene & Mary Jo Hymman, James & Carrie Rogers, Ned & Maybelle Hosterman, Herb & Ann Larson, Pete & Rose Zubricky, Gene & Lou Wilson, Joe D. & Mary Miller, Bill & Marge Conger, Jim Botts, Pop Spencer, James Moses, Ralph and Virginia France

## PROBABLES AND POSSIBLES

Manny & La Verne Ventoza, Al & Andrée Schornberg, Harold & Jean Roberts, Russ & Mary Pearson, David & Olga Pierce, Bernie & Thelma Barnes, Mike & Violet Kovach, Roy & Naomi Herren, Judge Harrell, Bill & Beverly Cochran

DID YOU KNOW? That TEXAS is the only state in the union whose name has a specific behavioral meaning. The Name TEXAS is the anglicised word TEJAS which means FRIENDLY. It is taken from the Tejas Indians whom the Spanish met while exploring Texas. Traditionally, Texans are known through out the world for their TEXAS HOSPITALITY, perhaps that is why so many visitors to our state come back time after time.

# Big Circus Face

JULY 24, 1983

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

## with petals from a Rose

BY  
Elston  
BROOKS

Last Sunday I wrote about Amon Carter Sr. paying Broadway's Billy Rose \$1,000 a day back in 1936 to produce the original Casa Manana here.

When I got to the office Monday morning, Big Circus Face Hamilton was already waiting.

Big Circus Face is the legendary fringe member of Fort Worth's show business scene. That means he subscribes to *Variety*, knows the city's gamblers by their first names, and has bribed movie ushers to tip him off on the titles of sneak previews.

He also works at talking like a Damon Runyon character, and likes to call famous show people by their first names.

"Did you ever know Billy?" he asked me.

"Before my time," I said.

"Billy always liked to tell the story about the sideman in the band and the blue bottle," Big Circus Face said. "I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this particular tale, but it is always getting very large reactions, indeed, when Billy Rose is telling it around the Fort Worth of yesteryear."

"Pray, tell the story," I said, falling into the contagious Runyon-ese.

"It seems that this sideman, a man of no little ability and a fine lip, lived the life of a carefree bachelor for maybe 10 years before taking unto himself a baby doll bride," Big Circus Face began. "Before he got married he would spend the nights blowing with various pickup groups, and blowing grass between sets. Then he would play poker and drink booze each night until dawn with his buddies."

"I get the picture," I said.

"Then, suddenly, he's got this baby doll bride, who's barely out of high school. I mean, when they get married he doesn't know whether to take her on a honeymoon or send her to summer camp."

"A problem, I'll admit."

"I'll say! He takes her on the honeymoon, up in the Arkansas Ozarks. At one of those quaint little curio shops she sees this crazy bottle for sale that's supposed to be a faithfulness bond between newlyweds. You know, like the bottle is filled with nothing but clear water, but the crone who is selling it says that the water will remain pure in color as long as each mate is faithful. If either mate ever strays from the path, the liquid will turn blue.

"The musician knows this is from nowhere, but baby doll is spaced out on the idea. So he buys it for her and she puts it up on their mantel where it stays for months as a constant reminder of their faithfulness."

"I sense a clouding of the waters coming," I said.

"You are prophetic, indeed," Big Circus Face Hamilton continued. "One week the baby doll bride decides she will leave town to visit her mother, so the ex-bachelor jumps at the opportunity to have the boys over for a night of poker during her absence. The guys ask him about the bottle, and when he tells him the legend behind it, they really start carrying him high. I believe the term is 'hoorahing' him about it.

"Once, when the host goes out in the kitchen for another beer, one of the jokers empties a fountain pen into the bottle, coloring it a deep blue. The husband laughs at the gag with all the rest. But since the game doesn't break up until 5 a.m., he falls into bed without remembering to fix the bottle."

"And then," I inserted, feeding him the straight lines, "the wife unexpectedly comes back home while the guy is still in bed."

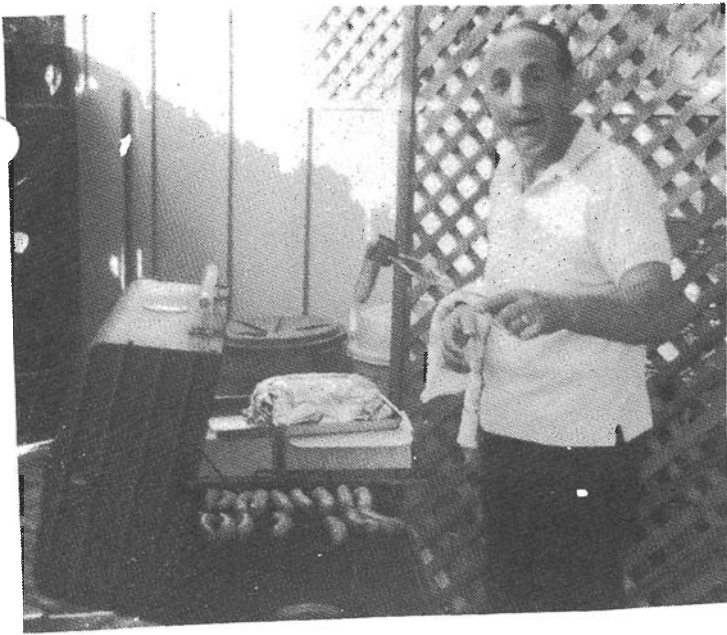
"You are right, but you don't know all, yet," Big Circus Face announced. "He gets panicky when he wakes up and hears his wife fussing around in the kitchen. He knows she believes this story about the bottle. He knows she's already seen the bottle because it's sitting there right by the front door. He hurries into the kitchen, hoping he can explain the prank to her successfully.

"But he doesn't get a chance to explain, because she's all over him, kissing him like he was the last husband in the world, and announcing that his favorite breakfast is coming right up.

"Like in a daze, he walks back into the living room to be sure he didn't dream what had happened at the poker party.

"That's when he sees that his wife has quickly emptied out the ink and filled the bottle back up with water."



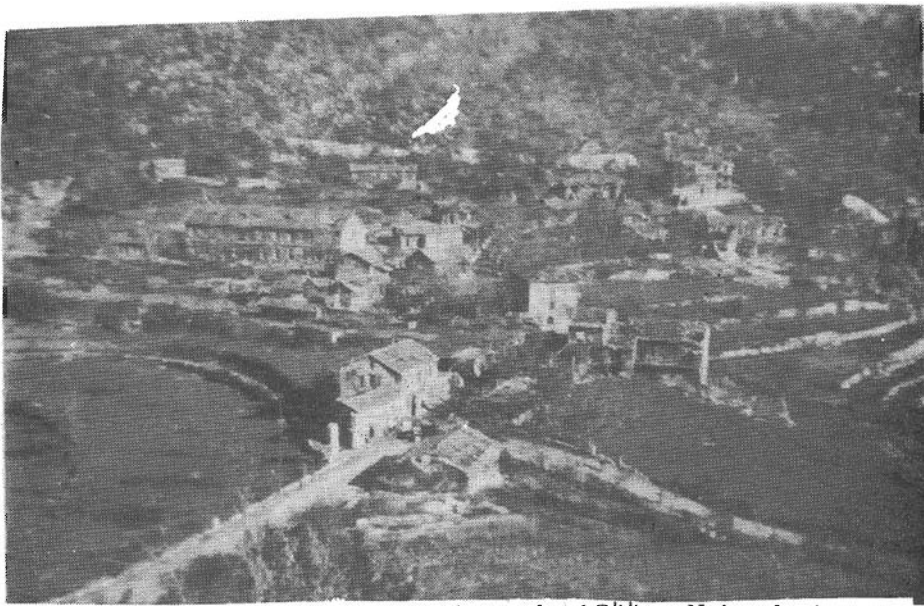


"Paisan" Bob Verdi cooking Italian sausages at the Goodman's mini-reunion in Bakersfield, CA in summer 1982.

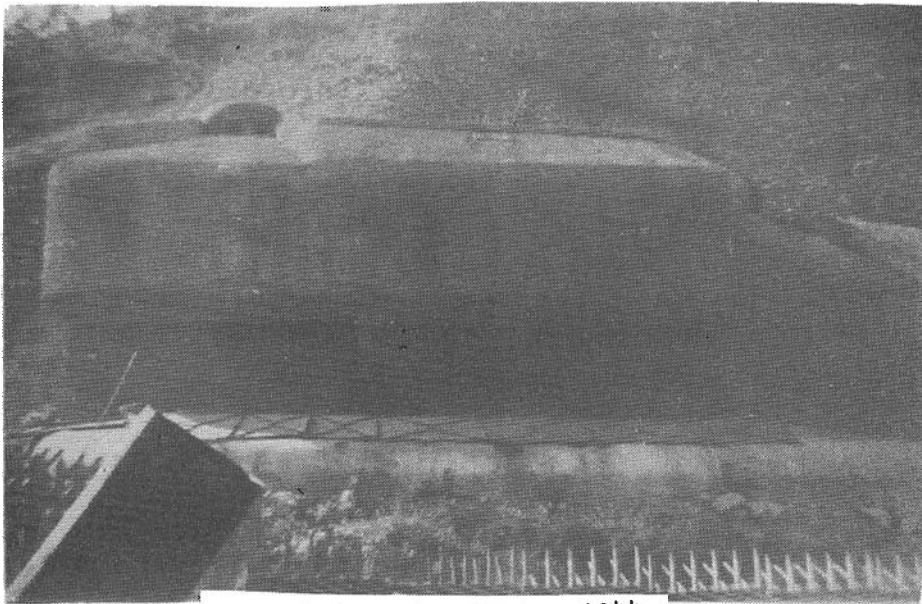
Marian Simpson at Pugh's Pub with a bottle of wine from Chateau Ste. Roseline (First CP of 517, PRCT in France, near LesArcs and LeMuy).



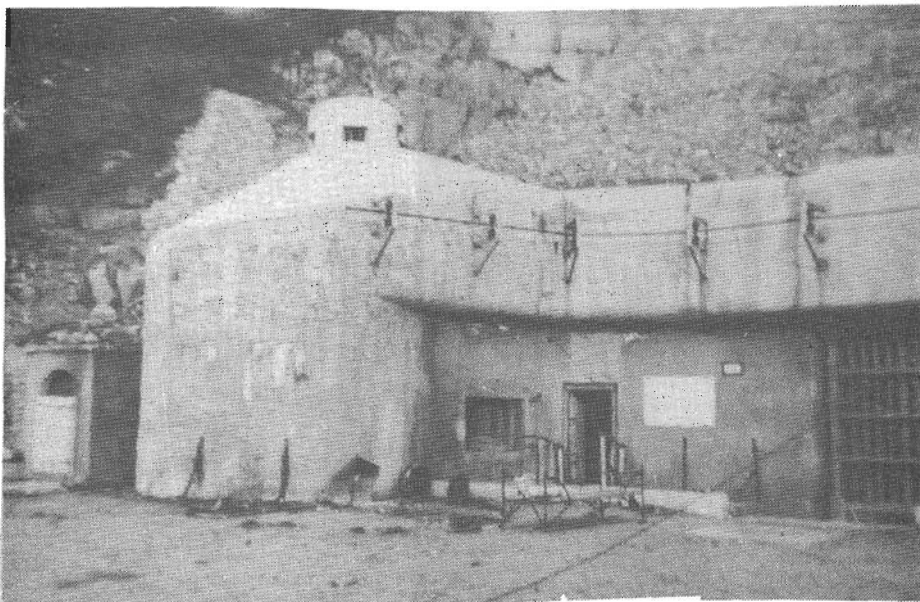
Naomi and Roy Herren at Mid-Winter mini-reunion in Orlando, FL last February.



Sospel immediately after capture in 1944. Note destroyed bldgs., much due to shelling by 460 PFAB.



Pillbox-So. France 1944



Ft. St. Roch-Sospel 1944

JOE D. MILLER gets my vote for the SHAKER AND MOVER AWARD. During the months since our sojourn in southern France to join the French people in commemorating the liberation of that area, Joe has been conducting a one man crusade. While attending the Memorial Ceremony at the U.S. Military Cemetery in Draguignan, France on 15 August of last year, Joe noticed that the headstone grave markers of the 42 men of our Combat Team who still rest there, indicated that they were in either the 13th Airborne Division or the 101st Airborne Division. He also noted that two troopers from the 463rd PFAB were shown to be from the 517th PRCT. Anyone would be proud to have served in either division; however, in the interest of historical accuracy and avoiding present and future confusions, Joe felt an effort should be made to get these errors corrected. He discussed the problem and his concerns with officers of our Association and obtained our moral support and encouragement to pursue this with the military establishment in the Pentagon. Joe picked up the ball and has run it in for a touchdown! I must add that he has accomplished this at considerable personal expense, much time, mountainous correspondence with Senators, Representatives, the Secretary of the Army, and numerous Pentagon nabobs. Joe took the bureaucracy on single-handedly and in a matter of months his tact, diplomacy, and charm combined with his menacing bulldog tenacity moved the establishment to capitulate.

I am happy to report that the American Battle Monuments Commission has agreed to make the appropriate correction of all headstone errors at the Rhone Valley U.S. Military Cemetery. I know you join me in saluting Joe and according him a BRAVO! along with our sincere gratitude.

At the Awards this year particular attention was directed toward honoring 47 troopers who had earned three Combat Infantryman's Badges. This is a rare achievement. I am pleased to report that three of these extraordinary recipients were 517ers; Lt. Gen. David Grange, Jr., Col. Donald Bolner, and Col. James Bryant. We doff our hats in pride to all of those who were infantrymen in three wars.

The boat ride with margaritas and dinner on the San Antonio River at our Reunion has proved to be very popular, as we expected it to be. Unfortunately, at the time arrangements were made for this (two years ago), there were only 5 boats available. The boats hold 20 persons each. The first 100 persons to send in reservations were accommodated and much to our regret the other checks had to be returned. But don't be too disappointed because the River Walk offers many and varied pleasures and delights and it is right outside your hotel room.

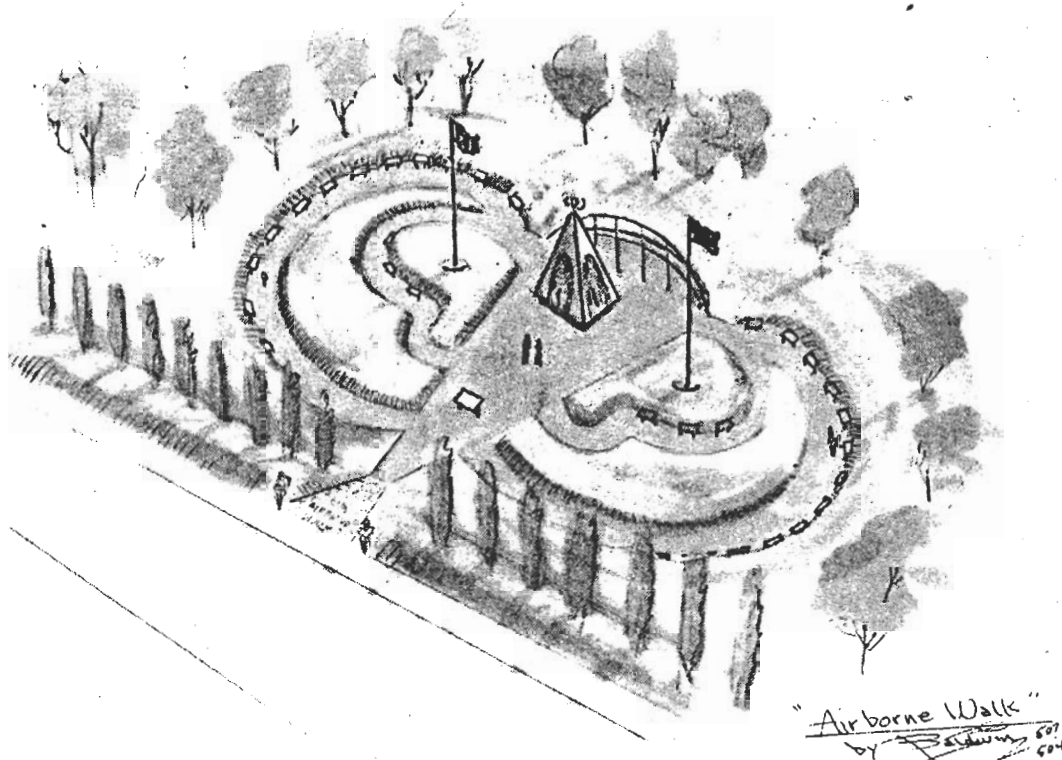
As reported in a previous column, last September in Belgium, seven of our 517 troopers participated in ceremonies in several Belgian towns as Steles and Monuments were dedicated to the 517 PRCT and to several units of the 82nd Airborne Division. A great Belgian patriot and Resistance fighter, Leo Carlier played an important role in arranging these events. In addition, he opened up his home and his restaurant to many troopers who were there for the ceremonies. He also opened his purse and his heart. In the months prior to the ceremonies he had hosted other troopers, some of whom were from the 517 PRCT.

Leo Carlier came to the Static Line Airborne Awards in Atlanta in April as the guest of Don Lassen. Don also has been a recipient of Leo's hospitality. After a few days in Atlanta, a Florida trooper, whose identity is unknown to me, picked him up in his private plane and took him to Orlando and Disney World and Epcot Center. Then he flew Leo to Fayetteville, NC where he was met by 517er Col. Clarence McCullough, who hosted him for a few days and showed him through Fort Bragg, which Leo had especially wanted to see. Then 517er Col. Bruce Chestnut drove up to Fayetteville to pick up Leo and take him to his home in Murrell's Inlet, SC for a few days. Bruce had been wined and dined by Leo last September in St. Jacques, Belgium. Leo was shown Charlestown and environs and then driven to Chester, VA where he was taken over by 517ers Charles (Doc) Keen and Dr. Phil Di Stanislao. They took him to Williamsburg and to Washington, DC. This is happening as I write this column. Leo may decide to go on up to Ontario, NY to visit with 517er Nolan Powell if time will permit. Powell, Keen, and DiStanislao were all three guests of Leo in Belgium last September. They were all delighted to have the opportunity to reciprocate Leo's many kindnesses to them and to many other American veterans of the Ardennes campaign.

I had the pleasure of meeting and visiting with Leo in Atlanta and he presented me with a beautifully decorated porcelain plate for the 517 PRCT. It will be on exhibit in our 517 Hospitality Suite at the June reunion in San Antonio.

Speaking of the Reunion---the registrations continue to come in great numbers. The program is complete; extracurricular tours and activities have been arranged. San Antonio has stocked additional booze and warned the citizenry about our impending visit. There was a time when those warnings would have been well advised, but I have noticed that the Young Lions of yesteryear have turned into the pussycats of today. Tempus fugit!

# AIRBORNE WALK



ARTIST RENDITION OF THE ACCEPTED VERSION OF THE AIRBORNE WALK

The Airborne Walk Committee had its' first meeting last February at Ft. Benning and Cecil Embry was our representative. They discussed cost and design and conducted some studies between that meeting and the latest one that took place in Atlanta at the Airborne Awards. I was the representative for our Combat Team at this meeting. There was a mock-up of the design that seemed to meet the approval of most of the representatives of about 19 airborne units. In my opinion, it will be a beautiful, dignified, and

fitting tribute to Paratroopers and will serve admirably to preserve the identity and history of Airborne units. There are approximately 25 military units that are expected to wish to place a marker. The cost per marker will be \$2500 and is all inclusive. Maintenance of the Airborne Walk will be taken care of by the Department of the Army. Three units paid their \$2500 at this meeting. All other unit reps approved the concept but must obtain approval of their members for the expenditure of funds. This will be on the agenda at our membership business meeting in San Antonio.

## AMENDMENTS TO MURPHY'S LAW

The Static Line Award annual clambake was delightful as always and as smoothly handled by Don Lassen, his wife Fran, and Daughter Chr as one could wish. There are always many pioneers of Airborne that one can meet, converse with, and admire. There are always the current leaders of all elements of present day airborne military units and briefings about past actions and current plans. There are impressive demonstrations of their skills by present day troopers. There is fun and games and banter and camaraderie and new friendships. If you haven't been to one of these festivals, I commend it to you and urge you to get your reservation in early because only 450 can be accommodated.

Jones' Motto-friends come and friends go,  
but enemies accumulate.

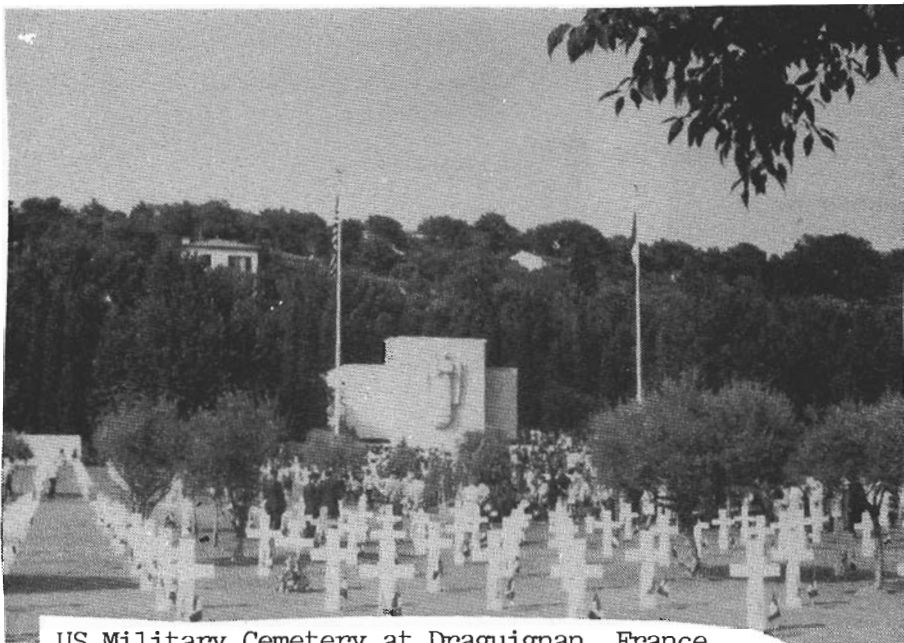
Newton's Little Known Seventh Law-A bird in the hand is safer than one overhead.

First Law of Socio-Genetics-Celibacy is not hereditary.

Simon's Observation- Everything put together falls apart sooner or later---except at Christmas, when it is impossible to put anything together.

Lewis's Law-No matter how long or how hard you shop for an item, after you've bought it, it will be on sale somewhere cheaper.

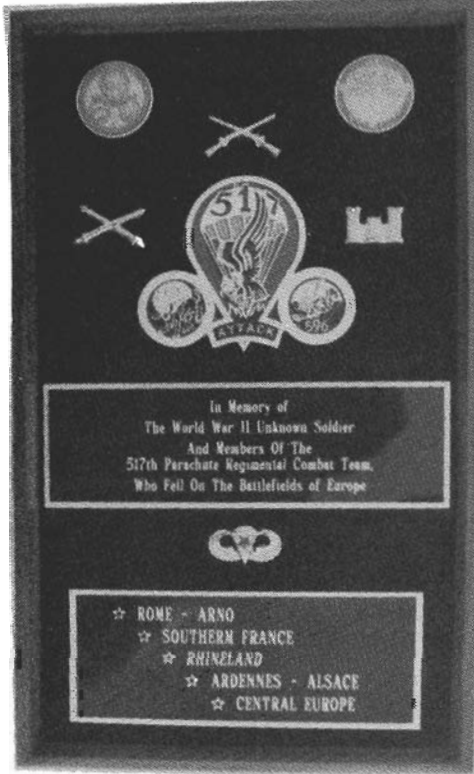
Pugh's Postulate-Toothaches tend to start on Saturday night.



US Military Cemetery at Draguignan, France  
 About 40 of our men still rest there (4 from 596)  
 Ernest Coffelt, Herbert McLamb, Patrick Michaels,  
 and Henry Wickins. Flannery & Ropyak rest in Italy,  
 Jones in Belgium.



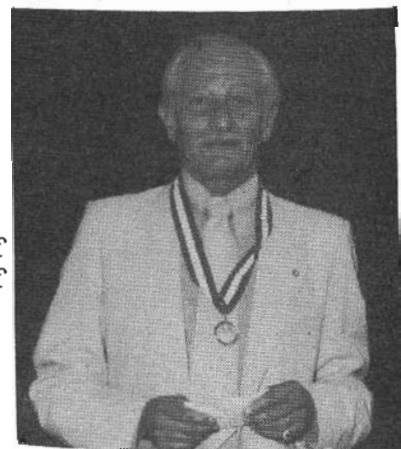
Generals Dick Seitz and  
 David Grange in Nice



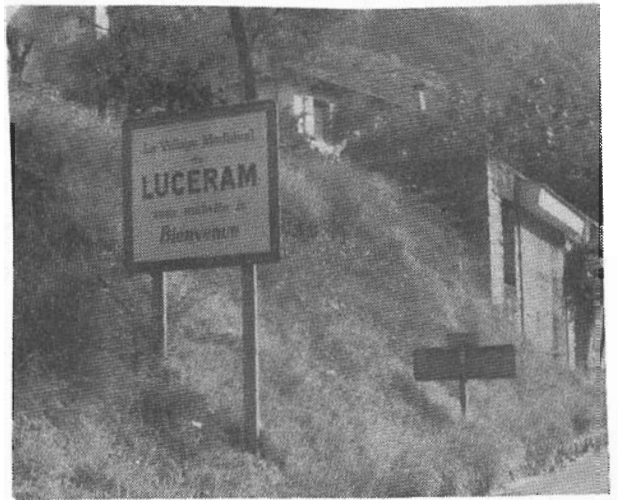
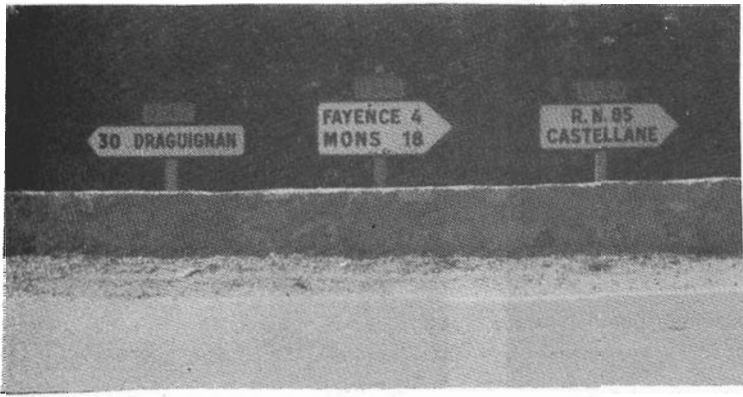
Plaque that we placed in  
 the Memorial Amphitheatre  
 at Arlington National  
 Cemetery in September, 1984.



Monument in Draguignan, France, honoring the 517 PRCT

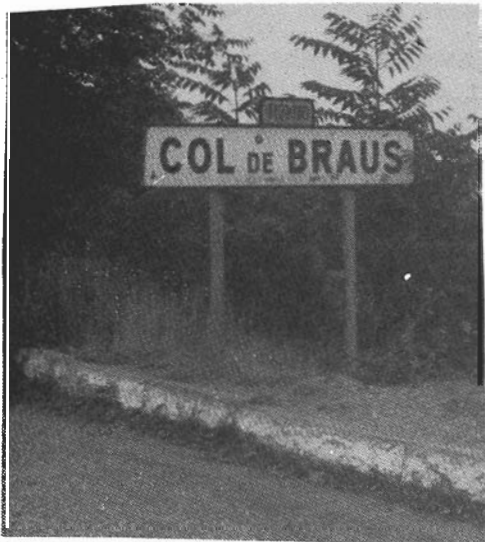


Baron Louis de Rasque de Laval of  
 Chateau Ste. Roseline (first CP of  
 517 PRCT in France) who had a  
 lovely wine reception for 200 of  
 us at the Chateau last August.



Clark Archer

SIGNS  
OF  
TIMES  
PAST  
CIRCA 1984



HI AND LOIS



A friend of mine named Bill, while clearing brush at his ranch, found a sick goat. He treated it for several days but wasn't able to save it.

The goat had exhibited all the symptoms of rabies and when Bill was handling it his hands had been scratched up from working with the brush. So he began taking rabies vaccine shots.

Last week, Bill, who serves as board chairman of a large corporation, announced at a meeting of the board that tests finally had determined the goat wasn't rabid and he was able to discontinue the vaccine shots.

Then he took a folded sheet of paper from his pocket and tore it up.

"That", he said, "is a list of the people I was planning to BITE."

A local high school teacher received this note from a student's mother:

"Please excuse (her son) for being mean, ornery and absent Monday. He was absent because he had a sore throat and fever; the rest is because he takes after his father".

While we were in Italy, one of our regimental physicians examined an Italian civilian who was ill and seeking help. He diagnosed the illness but wasn't sure he had the facilities to treat it so he sent a message by Jeep back to the nearest field hospital commander. The message was "Have a case of Beriberi. What shall I do?"

A prankster at the hospital sent back this message, "Give it to the paratroopers. They'll drink anything."

Bill and Tom went out together in a boat to do some fishing. After a little while Bill took out his dentures and placed them on a seat between them. As a joke when Bill was looking the other way, Tom took out his own dentures and exchanged them for Bill's so he could see the expression on Bill's face when he put them in his mouth. In a few minutes Bill reached over, picked up the dentures, threw them in the lake and said, "These damn teeth never did fit." After a moment or two of stunned silence, Tom reached in his pocket for the other dentures, threw them in the lake and said, "You know, mine never have fit either."



Y  
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S



### PLAIN AND FANCY

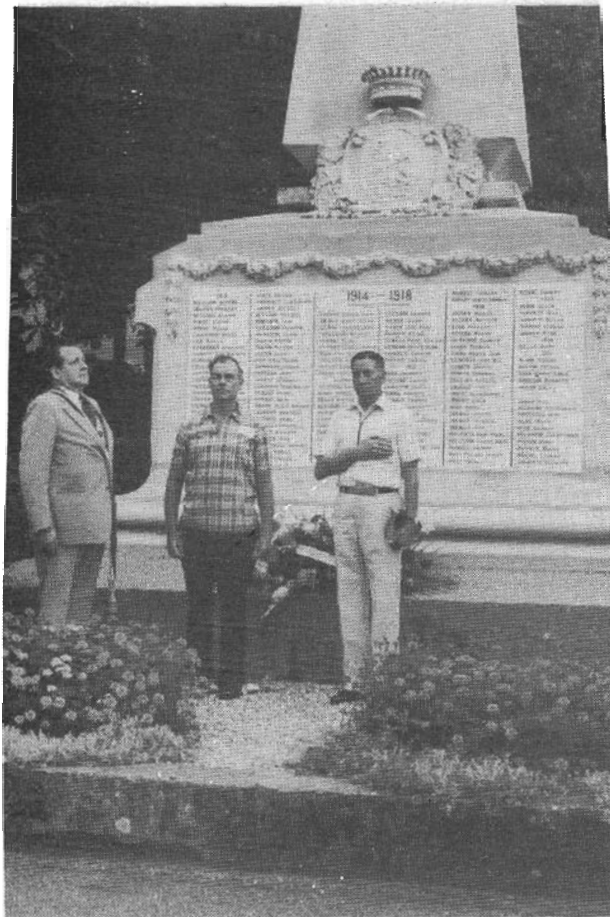
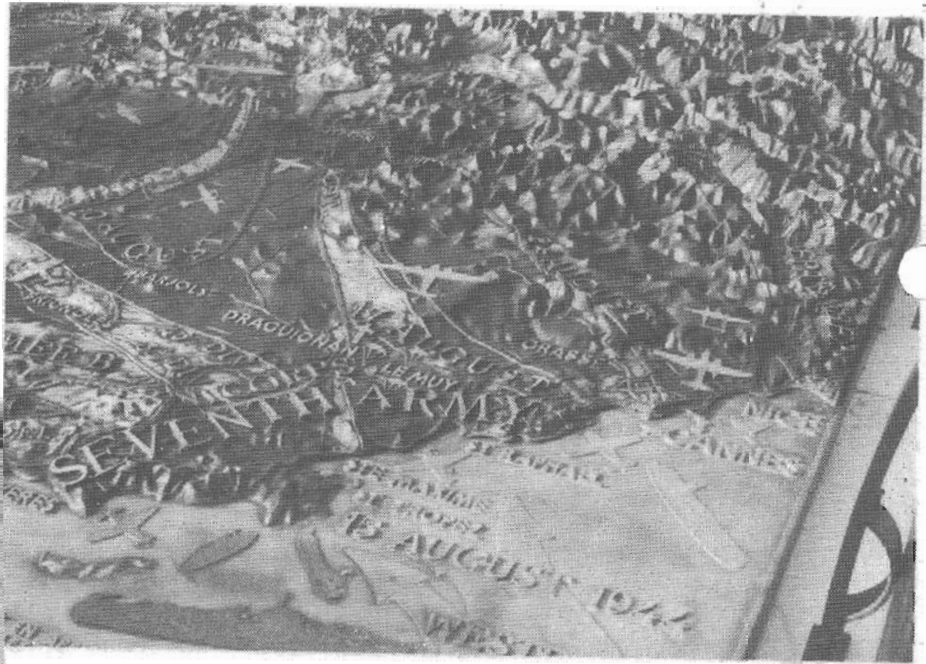
The executive was just buttoning up his coat after a physical examination.

"Doctor," he said, "if there's anything wrong with me, don't try to hoodwink me by giving it a long scientific name. Just tell me in plain English what's the matter with me."

"Well," the doctor replied hesitantly, "to be perfectly frank, you are just plain lazy and need more exercise."

"Thank you, Doctor," murmured the patient. "Now please give me the scientific name so I can tell the people at the office."

Above and to right:  
Bronze diorama of the southern France 1944 invasion . US Military Cemetery at Draguignan, France.



The Mayor of Sospel with Floyd Polk and Gen. Dick Seitz at wreath laying ceremony in Sospel in August 1984.

We continue to receive letters of appreciation from our friends in France. In some cases it is for the Honorary Combat Team Membership conferred on several persons. In others, it is for the part we took in their liberation 40 years ago and for the fact that we returned to visit with them and to remember with them. We renewed some old friendships and made a lot of new friends for ourselves, our Combat Team, and our country.

*There will definitely be a contingent of our friends from France joining us in June in San Antonio. We look forward to this opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality and many kindnesses shown us last August.*





Chas. Pugh accepting Prop-Blast Wassail Cup on behalf of the 517 PCT from Gen. Louis Walsh in San Mateo, CA—August 1983



Mayor Jean Peregrini of Roquebrune-Cap Martin and Aimé Léocard, founder of Franco-American Souvenir Society and great friend to the 517 PRCT



Col. Tom Cross and Col. Rupert Graves February, 1985, mini-reunion in Orlando, FL



Clark Archer



Chas. Pugh and Gen. Dick Seitz placing wreath at Ceremony in Le Muy—August 1984



Anne Frederick-Hicks receiving posthumous award of Honorary Membership in 517 PCT to her father, Gen. Robt. T. Frederick Nice, France, August 1984



Drop Zone near Le Muy --circa 1984



To right and below:  
Panoramic display at Airborne  
Section of Infantry Museum at  
Fort Benning , GA



### Check Your Readings

First Voice: Our radar has you on a collision course with us. You should alter course 10 degrees south.

Second Voice: We have you on our radar. Suggest you alter course 10 degrees north.

First Voice: We have Adm. Goodman aboard. Strongly suggest you bear 10 degrees south. This is a *battleship*.

Second Voice: This is Seaman Farnsworth. Still suggest you bear 10 degrees north. This is a *lighthouse*.

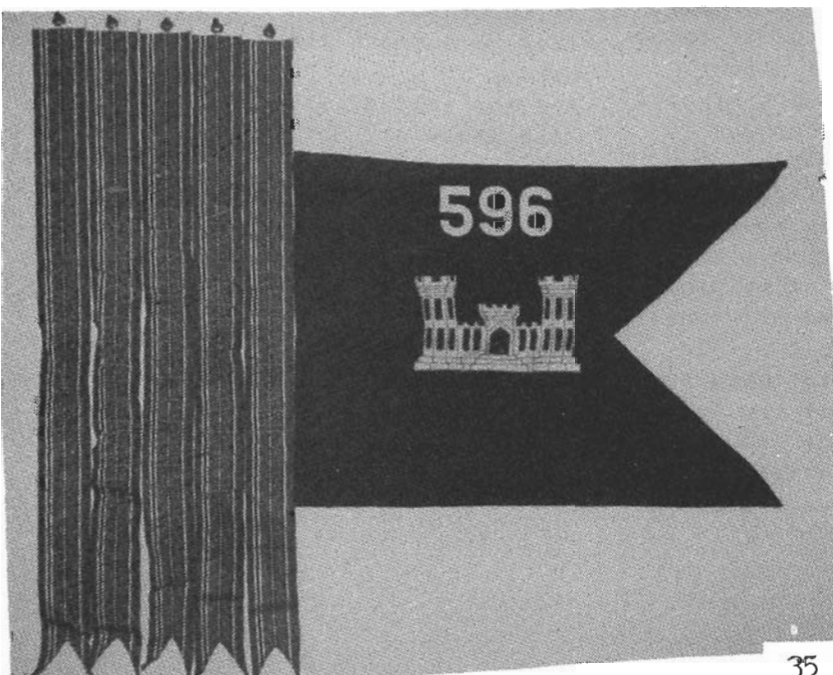
—Don Newman



The Dillardes, Schornbergs, Shulls, Mary Miller & Congers at Banquet in Nice, France, August 1984



Above: Regimental colors with Battle Streamers and the 460 and 596 Guidons.



Left: 596PCEC Guidon with 5 Battle Streamers



McMULLEN, Ray W. Lt. Col., retired, 70, of Tucson. Passed away October 19, 1984. He is survived by sister, Jane McMullen-Browne, Charlottesville, VA and brother, Malcolm McMullen, Potosi, MD. Col. McMullen was interred at Arlington National Cemetery. He served in the 517 PRCT and the Airborne Engineers in the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions, participating in the Ardennes Campaign, and crossing the Rhine River in WWII. During his retirement years in Tucson he worked in the transportation industry with Arizona Moving and Storage Co. and followed his lifelong avocation of golf. He was president of the Southern Arizona Seniors Golf Association 1975-1976.



ELEGY FOR COL. RAY W. MCMULLEN OCT 23 1984

By Don Hall

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. was not only one of our greatest Supreme Court Justices, but was also one of our greatest writers about the duties of soldiers and the meaning of war. We who knew and loved Col. McMullen know he would agree with these words from Justice Holmes Memorial Day address to the students at Harvard in 1895: (Ed. Note: The following has been shortened slightly due to space requirements.)

War, when you are at it, is horrible and dull... but it is a teacher of the kind we all need. In this snug, over-safe corner of the world we need it that we may realize that our comfortable routine is no eternal necessity of things, but merely a little space of calm in the midst of the tempestuous untamed streaming of the world, and in order that we may be ready for danger. We need it in this time of individualist negations, with its literature of French and American humor, revolting at discipline, loving fleshpots, and denying that anything is worthy of reverence,--in order that we may remember all that buffoons forget. We need it everywhere and at all times. For high and dangerous action teaches us to believe, as right beyond dispute, things for which our doubting minds are slow to find words of proof...

Perhaps it is not vain for us to tell the new generation what we learned in our day, and what we still believe: That the joy of life is living and one must put out all one's powers as far as they will go. That the measure of power is obstacles overcome. To ride boldly at what is in front of you, be it fence or enemy. To pray, not for comfort, but for combat. To keep the soldier's faith against the doubts of civil life... To remember that duty is not to be proved in adversity, but then to be obeyed unquestioning. To love glory more than the temptations of wallowing ease, but to know that one's final judge and only rival is oneself.

Three years ago died the old colonel of my regiment, the Twentieth Massachusetts. He gave our regiment its soul. I went to his funeral. Up the main aisle of the church advanced his coffin, followed by the few gray heads who stood for the men of the Twentieth, the rank and file whom he had loved, and whom he led for the last time. The church was empty. No one remembered the old man whom we were burying, no one save those next to him, and us.

And I said to myself, the Twentieth has shrunk to a skeleton, a ghost, a memory, a forgotten name which we other old men alone keep in our hearts. And then I thought: It is right. It is as the colonel would have had it; for this also is part of the soldier's faith: Having known great things, to be content with silence... There is a song which seemed to me fit for a soldier's last word, another song of the sword, but a song of the sword in its scabbard, a song of oblivion and peace. A soldier has been buried on the battle-field.

ELEGY

And when the wind in the treetops roared  
The soldier asked from the deep dark grave:  
"Did the banner flutter then?"  
Not so, my hero, the wind replied  
The fight is done, but the banner won,  
Thy comrades of old have borne it hence,  
Have borne it in triumph hence,  
Then the soldier spake from the deep dark grave:  
"I am content."  
Then he heareth the lovers, laughing, pass,  
And the soldier asks once more:  
"Are these not the voices of them that love,  
That love--and remember me?"  
Not so, my hero, the lovers say,  
We are those that remember not;  
For the spring has come and the earth has smiled,  
And the dead must be forgot.  
Then the soldier spake from the deep dark grave:  
"I am content."





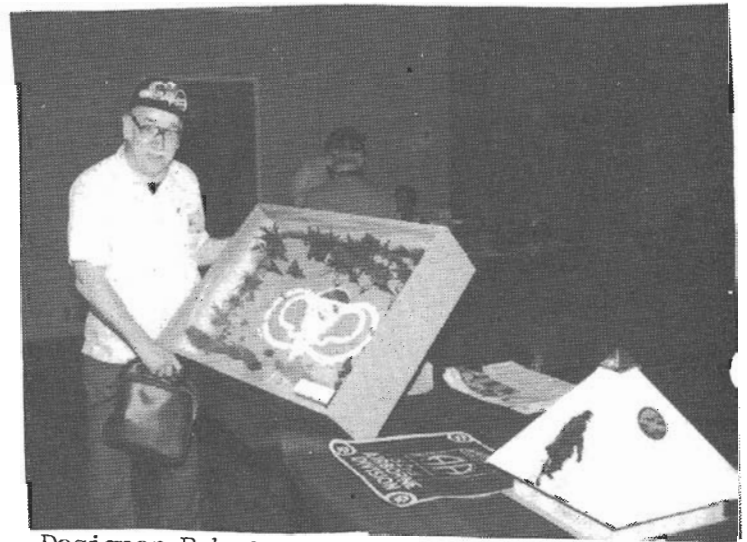
Triple CIB Award to Gen. David Grange presented by Sec'try of Army John Marsh



Gen. Dave Grange with lovely daughter at S/L Awards



Triple CIB Award to Col. Donald Bolner (517)



Designer Bob Baldwin holding mock-up of Airborne Walk at S/L Awards. The tent-like structure is a model of the centerpiece of the Airborne Walk area. It is a reproduction of the first drawing ever of a parachute by Leonardo da Vinci.



Triple CIB Award to Col. James Bryant (517)



Emma & Robert Olsen (517) at S/L Awards



Leo Carlier & O.B. Hill (508PIR) at Static Line Awards



The Airborne Clown and another dummy at Static Line Awards



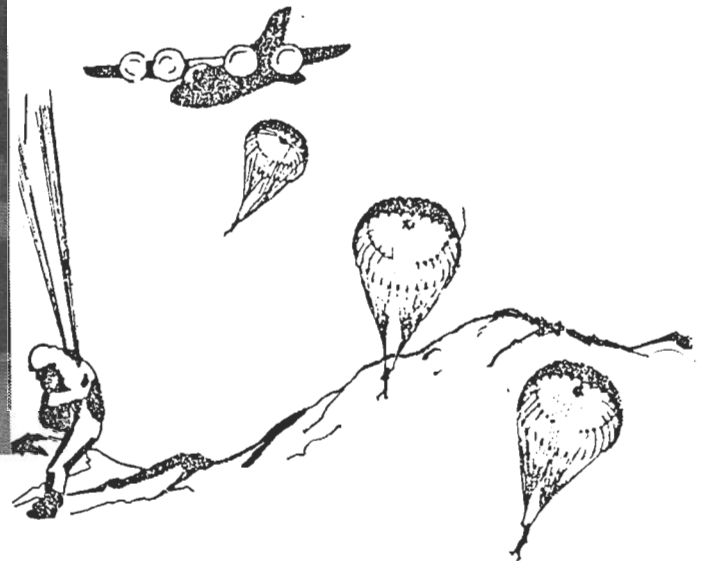
Leo Carlier, Gen. Trobaugh (CG 82nd A/B Div.) & O.B. Hill at S/L Awards



Bill & Naomi Baker (517) at S/L Awards



Helen & Houston Roberson (517) at S/L Awards  
Houston is cousin of our Paul Roberson



**A TEXAS-STYLE FESTIVAL  
OF FOOD & FUN  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**



We are expecting between 500 and 600 of our troopers and their ladies and other family members. This promises to be our best attended reunion ever. Try to be a part of these three emotional and memorable days with some of your longest, finest and most loved friends.

In the November, 1984, issue of "Esquire" magazine, William Boyles, Jr. wrote a most thought provoking article about men and war. From that piece I have excerpted, with minor revision, the following three paragraphs that explain with impressive clarity why we continue to have reunions.

*"The enduring emotion of war, after everything else has faded, is comradeship. A comrade in war is a man you can trust with anything, because you trust him with your life. It is unlike marriage. It is a bond that cannot be broken by a word, by boredom or divorce, or by anything other than death.*

*"It was as if comradeship were some sort of collective life-force, the power to face death and still function. It is more than mere friendship. It is a kinship and bonding that needs no reasons, that transcends race and personality and education — all those things that would make a difference in peacetime.*

*"Participants in team sports, especially the more violent ones such as football and hockey, often say the thing they miss the most upon retirement is the camaraderie. War is the most violent 'game' of all where the stakes are not only winning or losing but life and death. These circumstances generate a uniquely intense, and profound brotherly love that endures because it was burned into the soul by the fires of adversity, peril, pain and fear."*



CONTRIBUTORS

The following men have made a financial contribution to the 596 Newsletter fund since the last issue. All of us are grateful for their generosity that makes this publication possible:

Harold Roberts	Geo. Shull
Merrill Seeley	Herb Reichwald
Robert Wilson	Hank Simpson
Dennis Shipley (also a bottle of Scotch whiskey for the Editor)	
Dr. James Lyon	
Monk Johnson	
Herb Larson	

Little known Airborne facts;

In addition to being called upon to breach the largest enemy minefield encountered by U.S. troops in WWII in Belgium while under fire, at night and in extremely adverse weather conditions, the 596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company removed and deactivated more than 2300 mines and booby traps of all types in southern France in a period of 9 weeks. Cost: 8 men killed and 7 men wounded. In one 7 day period, 16-22 September, 1944, the Third Platoon removed and deactivated more than 1244 such devices.

"What other country teaches calculus and Russian in grade school and remedial reading in college?"

**SIMPLE PROBLEMS**

Most people's financial problems are simple. They're short of money.

BOOK REVIEW

Joe Klein has written an extraordinary book, "Payback", about five young combat infantry men who fought together for a few months in Vietnam. In this book he writes tersely and realistically about how men respond to combat in any war---the whipsaw of emotions, the fear that hits you in the gut, the exhilaration of invulnerability, the eerie calm, the chaos, and the fear again, grabbing your breath, stealing your voice, driving you into the ground, sometimes immobilizing you. He writes about the confusion and isolation of combat; how leadership is spontaneous and indifferent of rank; how the men respond to the needs of their friends with whatever courage happens to well up in them and often to their own surprise. He writes of the emptiness and loneliness felt after combat has thinned the ranks of close friends.

# WANTED!

# WANTED!

# WANTED!

Martin J. Costello--Brooklyn, NY

John D. Cullen--Brooklyn, NY

Joe Diaz--St Paul, MN----(Has unlisted phone) Will someone in Minnesota call their local operator and give her Diaz's name and tell her that he has an unlisted number and there is a medical emergency. Claude K. Mills--Inez, KY Richard W. Shaw--Bronx, NY Edgar L. Wurch--Bronx, NY Elmer Szakacs--Turin, NY Ask her to relay this message to Joe and ask him to call you COLLECT and give her your name and number)

Edward T. Horrigan--Bronx, NY

Kaara A. Johnson--Staten Island, NY

Arthur M. Kemp--Camden, NJ----(Has unlisted phone) Will someone nearby use the tried and true medical emergency ploy with Arthur?

Marion J. Kroll--Chicago, IL

Patrick A. Kelly--Brooklyn, NY

Gustav Larsson--Quincy, MA

Joseph C.H. Laliberte-- New York, NY

George E. Misaage--Brackenridge, MN

John J. Moon--Buffalo or Hamburg, NY

Laverne B. Moore--Auburn, NY

Donald F. O'Neil--Buffalo, NY

John J. Riccardi, Yonkers, NY

Charles F. Roberts--Bryn Mawr, PA

William A. Ross--Syracuse, NY

Ray Clevenger--Kansas City, MO----(Has unlisted phone number) Will someone please try the medical emergency approach with Ray?

William F. Thompson--Syracuse, NY

Charles E. Swanson, Edmore, ND

William H. Morgan--Collingston, LA

## Where Are They Now ?



"Just gimme th' aspirin. I already got a Purple Heart."



Happiness is holding a yard sale and your first customer is the Pentagon.



"Beautiful view! Is there one for the enlisted men?"