

BOOTLEGGERS
NANCY SINATRA FAN CLUB
SPRING 2000

**THE NANCY SINATRA FAN CLUB
BOOTLEGGERS**

SPRING 2000

ISSUE #3

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Hi Everyone!

And thanks for being so patient while waiting for this next newsletter. We have been working hard on it and I think it is well worth the wait!

As most of you know, **Movin' With Nancy** is finally out on video and DVD. Release date is May 2, 2000. This is a momentous occasion for all of us Nancy fans. Thanks to all of the members who sent in their "Movin' Memories".

Vietnam. A word that no doubt brings memories rushing back like the flood gates have been opened. Perhaps confusion, understanding, laughter of happier times, sadness of darker times, or just quiet reflection. No one will forget the time spent there or forget the people who fought so bravely and were wounded or were lost to us: friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, brothers, fathers, sons and daughters. This issue of Bootleggers is a tribute to Nancy and the Vietnam Vets who were **then**, and are **now**, held close to her heart. A tribute to Nancy and her visit to Vietnam in February of 1967. Nancy spent three weeks entertaining our troops and visiting the GI's who were hospitalized. We are proud to finally give Nancy, in this very small way, the recognition she deserves, from 1967 until now, for Nancy still works tirelessly for Vietnam Vets at such gatherings as the Wheel Chair Regatta and Rolling Thunder. Nancy was awarded a California State Council Proclamation from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. in 1998. We would like to thank all of the Vietnam Vets who sent in their memories for us to include in this newsletter. Nancy made a **HUGE** impression on them and their admiration for her is still **very** apparent today.

We would, of course, like to thank Nancy for sharing many of the pictures in this newsletter and for letting this newsletter "happen". We would also like to thank Johnny Grant, Frank Livolsi, Bill Moynihan, Terry Titus, "gEmUSA", the Nancy Sinatra Yahoo website and the VetNet website.

These notes are in honor of Nancy's visit to Vietnam in February of 1967. The following comments are proof-positive of how highly thought of Nancy became, and still is, to the GI's who saw her or just heard that she had been in Vietnam. We are honored to print them here in this newsletter.

Dick Detra – Door Gunner – 188th Artist

Hey Now –

This story is about a couple of crew chiefs in the 188th Assault Helicopter Company Black Widows and the GunShip Platoon Spiders. We were located at a place called Dau Tieng, in the midst of the Michelin rubber plantation of Binh Duong Province, III Corps Area of Operations. Dau Tieng was also known as Camp Rainier, home of the 3rd Brigade of the Funky Fourth and later the Electric Strawberry.

Being out in the middle of nowhere, our base camp only had a couple of Phillipino groups play for us. None of the big USO shows played there. Only the more secure base camps got those shows. I'm sure there were exceptions.

We had one for the 188th one-year anniversary – after being formed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky on November 1, 1966. When Bob Hope came to CuChi for Christmas 1967, the only people who went were part of the flight crews of our Commanding Officer and staff. The rest of us were just SOL.

At that time we were painting a lot of door art on our assigned helicopters, so a bunch of us used the names from hit songs of 1967. John Moore, a second platoon crew chief and my hootch mate, asked me to paint "Summer Wine" on the doors of his huey. Since I was in the business of painting names for others in the unit, how could I say no? John relayed how he enjoyed listening to Nancy Sinatra and that's why he wanted his huey to have that name. There was another crew chief in the unit who had me paint "Boots" on both of his doors, which immortalized Nancy as part of our unit. I was a door gunner in the unit and was truly freaked out most of the time, as were the rest of our flight. Getting used to combat is a very hard thing to do, especially under fire. Those brave souls who performed for us in a combat zone did more than they can ever know. We salute Nancy, Bob, Martha and every performer who made us laugh and forget for a few short moments where we were.

**Paul Masi – Chapter 82, Nassau County, Vietnam Veterans of America
1st V.P. USMC RVN 1966-1967 1st MARINE DIVISION, 7th ENGINEERS**

I recently read about your interest in those who saw Nancy perform in Vietnam. I am one of them as Nancy came to my camp back in 1967. We set up a small wooden stage and she performed. The pictures I had of her and other places, including Bangkok, Thailand, are gone.

Nancy was right there with the late Martha Raye and, of course, Mr. Bob Hope. What a trio of great entertainers who gave a lot to so many of us.

Walt Maxam

I was in Cam Rahn Bay when Nancy did a show there in late '66 or early '67 (not sure of the dates). At any rate, we were way back and the pics I took that night were quite small. I did take a picture of a bunch of Navy guys on a "mike" boat on our way over to the show that evening. My point is that I met Nancy at the Vietnam Veterans of America convention this past August in Anaheim. My pic of her was way too small to even see, but she did autograph the pic of the guys on the boat. I found her to be an exceptional and gracious lady. I mentioned that I had seen her and her band (Gordian Knot) during my tour in Nam. She was quite surprised that I remembered the name of the band. I gained a whole new respect for her that day as I felt she really cared and took the time to interact with vets in that long autograph line. Don't care if this makes it in the salute to Nancy – just wanted to say "Thanks, Nancy. The Navy guys love ya."

In Loving Memory – Ed Holdren – YN3, Comservron Seven Staff

Dedicated to a pilot we never knew – on behalf of all who tried to find and rescue our brave young hero.

PILOT LOST AT SEA

"Where he be?" we shouted chopping thru the sea so mean
In '66 after that brave young man in his flying machine
Flew danger close over a POL for a mere fee
Only to have a samsite make him a pilot lost at sea

Chopping slowly as we crept along
Our Lat and Long much to close to Haiphong
Peering overboard our hope his buoyant life to see
A vigil desperately searching for the pilot lost at sea

An A-4 is an awesome merchant of death
Die commie bastards, today you draw your final breath
For you are the pitiful target of this rare breed
Wanting nothing but to do his patriotic deed

Seven sleepless nights on the prowl
Commie torpedo boats dead ahead someone howled
Damn the torpedoes for now, later we can bleed
For that brave young pilot lost at sea

Honor and credit is given to all the officers and enlisted men on board the SAR ships who braved the savage seas and enemy torpedoes, none of which struck a ship.

Terry Titus

I don't remember the exact date, but rumor had it that Nancy was coming to Vung Tau to do a show! WOW!!! I remember "Boots" because it was a monster hit on the radio when we were still in the states. I had been waiting to buy a camera at the PX, but as soon as they came in they were sold. If you weren't there when they went in the rack, you lost out. All they had were 35mm half frames. The day that the show was supposed to go on, I went back to the PX. I had to have a camera and have it now! Nancy Sinatra was coming and so was Jimmy Boyd. I ended up with a half frame. The only camera I had ever owned was a Kodak. No dials, no meters, no kiddin'. While I was reading the operator's manual and trying to load the damn thing, a car pulled up on our pad in front of the fixed wing hangar. Not a jeep or $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, but a real American car. I thought it might be a general or congressman or some other dignitary. Boy, was I surprised! It was better than all of them together – it was Nancy! I threw my camera together and got a few shots as she was leaving the car and coming back from the PX.

During the rest of the day we put a flat bed trailer in our hangar and put chairs all in the bay area. Our sheet metal shop was their dressing room. I tried to get a close seat for the show, but we put all the guys – the ones who could make it – from the hospital in the front rows. They must have used up the first ten rows. We ended up about twenty rows back. The show was excellent. Jimmy sang "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" – my favorite song of the season. Then the real show came one. Nancy was just great. Here it was about 90 degrees yet she went on like a trooper. She really sang her heart out and we didn't want her to stop. I really felt embarrassed for Nancy because a guy from the Australian camp was trying to look up her skirt. I think the whole crowd was about ready to put him in the hospital!

I had only been "in country" about that time and thought if this was part of my tour, then that was a real bonus. Vung Tau was probably one of the safest areas in Vietnam. I know that she went into some pretty "HOT" areas while there and that was a wonderful thing for her to do. She put it all on the line to show us that she really cared about us. We were sent there because it was our duty to go. Nancy came over there out of love, I think. Nancy, thank you for supporting us then and for supporting us now. We never had that kind of support when we came home.

You were there then and you are here now. Thank you.

Ed Horm

"These Boots Are Made For Walkin'" by Nancy Sinatra was one of the first songs that I really liked and was one of the first records I ever bought. I still have it today.

I also bought every single and every album, except one, that she ever put out.

Upon graduation, I went to work for a railroad, which was my childhood dream. But after a few months I was getting somewhat afraid of being drafted and was told that those who enlisted at least got to choose what they did and could avoid infantry.

So I enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers as a heavy equipment operator for three years. Went to basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in October of 1968. After



A very sincere thank you to Johnny Grant for taking the time out of his busy schedule to send us the following letter honoring Nancy.

I am delighted to learn that you are saluting Nancy for the great job she did entertaining our GIs in Vietnam. On one of my trips over there, I had the privilege of following her unit and hearing first-hand the wonderful things the troops were saying about her as an individual and performer.

She was one of the most popular celebrities to ever make a USO tour. Their knowledge of her as an individual and of her great hit "These Boots Are Made For Walkin'" inspired a lot of lonely GIs to hike out of the boonies to get to the performance area. Needless to say, most of them rekindled the love that they already had for her.

It was another joy for me to appear with her in an episode of "China Beach." When the producers called to find out if I was available for the show, they asked me which girl singer I would recommend. My immediate answer was "Nancy Sinatra," and I am delighted she was able to do the program.

A Vietnamese set was constructed near Malibu, and I must tell you, both Nancy and I said, "Wow, this is so real," and "this is such an eerie feeling." When we weren't shooting, we sat around and reminisced about spending time with the troops in Vietnam. I think most of the day was spent with tears in our eyes – some out of frustration for what we had seen over there – and others for the joy of having had the experience.

Please give Nancy my best and tell her that I join all the Vietnam Vets in sending our love

and deepest gratitude! She is a classy lady and one who will never be forgotten by this very appreciative audience.

April 10, 2000

Meet Frank Livolsi, a Captain in the 11th Cavalry and Nancy's escort officer for her tour in Vietnam. Mr. Livolsi has been gracious enough to give Danny Bohin an interview via e-mail for the newsletter and we thank him immensely.

Danny: Would you tell us something about your background in Vietnam?

Frank: I was a platoon leader with the Eleventh Armored Cavalry Regiment 1966-1967.

Danny: How did you become Nancy's escort officer?

Frank: I became Nancy's escort officer when a message from main headquarters was received by our unit requesting a captain or above to escort Nancy. How I got the job is a story in itself, but the guy who put my name down is now a three-star General in charge of the troops in Bosnia.

Danny: What was your impression of Nancy, both on stage and off stage?

Frank: My impression of Nancy, both on stage and off stage, is that she is a very sensitive, caring, independent, and loyal individual.

Danny: What type of reaction did Nancy receive from the soldiers?

Frank: Without exception, every soldier in Vietnam fell in love with her. She, in turn, spent a lot of time talking and being with all the troops regardless of rank.

Danny: I know Nancy visited with soldiers in between her shows who were in hospitals just unable to attend. What was the reaction to her being there and her reaction to them?

Frank: The most heart-wrenching moments were those spent in hospitals visiting wounded men. She gave them a lift that no medicine or doctor could ever give.

Danny: What songs stand out in your mind that she performed?

Frank: The song that stands out in my mind the most is "Sugar Town".

Danny: Having kept in touch with Nancy, can you give us an idea of her continued support for the Vietnam Veterans?

Frank: Nancy continues to support the Vietnam Veteran, and as a matter of fact, will be coming to Connecticut in October during the visit of the traveling Vietnam wall, which is going to be a statewide event.

Danny: Nancy refers to you as "my Captain". Can you tell us how the nickname came about?

Frank: With regard to my nickname, that's easy. I was a Captain. I was hers for the time of her tour and probably still am her Captain.

WEBSITES FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

We at Nancy's fan club have had the good luck to come in contact with "gEmUSA" and we thank her for helping us to get in contact with some Vietnam Veterans who had wonderful things to say about Nancy. And also, thank you "g", for supplying us with a list of Vietnam Veteran websites.

<http://TheVeteran.Net> is home base for:

<http://www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=w&list>

The largest military webring in the world

<http://www.TheVeteran.Net/topgun/>

The annual TopGun on the net contest promoting healing and uniting. Nancy was among the recipients of this year's The Magnificent Seven 2000 award.

<http://www.TheVeteran.Net/nancy/>

Can't forget the veterans' tribute to Nancy. Two years ago Nancy was honored with a virtual banquet at the VVA CA State Convention. Nancy received awards for her work with Veterans and Adrian Conair sent along a wonderful tape.

<http://PeaceProsperity.com/mp2000.html>

Mission Peace 2000. A young group of doctors headed up by a Vietnam Veteran will be returning to Vietnam in November 2000. A mission of compassion, healing and love.

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/theveteran>

The Veteran Club Yahoo is a wonderful meeting place for veterans online around the world. Currently, there are over 600 members – all veterans are welcome!! And, of course, there is <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/nancysinatra> !!

www.sinatrafamily.com

There is a very nice Veterans section in the Sinatra Family website. Many photos.

<http://www.albany.net/~deavila/viet/html>

A wonderful website honoring the women who served in Vietnam. There is a very touching poem called "Our War" included. There are links of interest, also.

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—Hartford Times

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—Variety

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—Charlotte News

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—St. Louis Globe-Democrat

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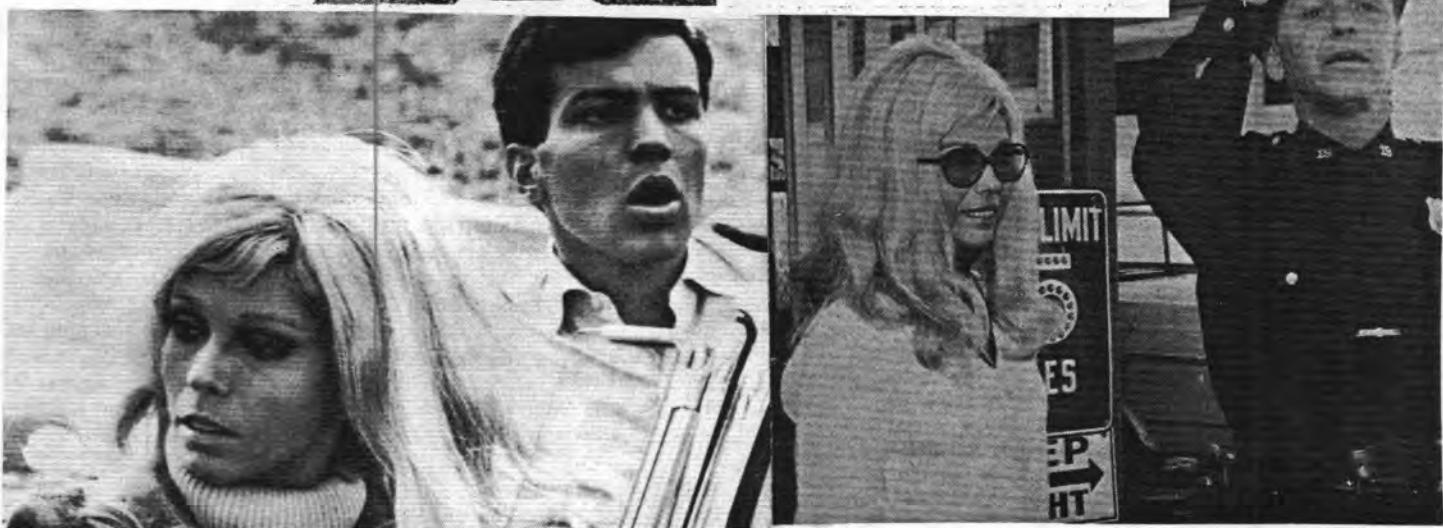
SPECIAL GUEST STARS:

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- ★ Dean Martin
- ★ Sammy Davis, Jr.
- ★ Lee Hazlewood

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Nancy



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CONTEST

ANSWER THE QUESTION CORRECTLY AND THE WINNER OR WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN PHOTO OF NANCY. YOU CAN SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO DANNY BOHIN, APT. G9, 2515 NORTHWEST EXPY. N.E., ATLANTA, GA. 30345.

HERE'S THE QUESTION AND GOOD LUCK!!

**AFTER RETURNING HOME FROM VIETNAM, NANCY WAS IN THE AUDIENCE OF ONE OF HER FATHER'S SHOWS. HE INTRODUCED HER AND MENTIONED THE SHE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ENTERTAINING THE TROOPS. HE ASKED HER TO SING A SONG. WHAT SONG WAS IT THAT SHE HAD TROUBLE GETTING THROUGH WITHOUT CRYING? **

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#



James J. Balda
Flagstaff, AZ
A Co 1/501 1968
HHC 1/501 1968

John F. Palmer, IV
York, PA
A Co 2/501 67-68

George W. Newman
San Diego, CA
B Co 2/327 66-67
HHC Sup Bde 67-68

Gary Kilroy
Middletown, RI
B Co 1/506 1968

Harvey P. Appleman
Clarksville, TN
HHC 2/327 67-68

Ossie Burton
Gainesville, FL
B Co 2/327 1967

Joe Beyrle
Howell, MI
HHC 326 Eng 68-69

Editors note: Any organization is somewhat stronger than the sum of all of its members, that holds true for our organization as well. We are strong and getting stronger each time one of our brother Screaming Eagle Vietnam Vets fills out an application and sends it in, along with his dues. We are growing and getting stronger, month after month. Welcome Home Brothers! AIRBORNE

The voice heard across Vietnam

25 years later, 'Hanoi Hannah' reflects on her role during war

By David Lamb
Los Angeles Times

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — Her voice was as smooth as silk, her English impeccable, and as North Vietnam's premier propagandist, "Hanoi Hannah" tried to convince GIs they were fighting an immoral war that America had turned against.

For eight years, the GIs tuned in to her daily radio broadcasts in Godforsaken outposts with names like the Rockpile, Ben Het and Con Thien. Although virtually no one took her seriously, they did wonder if she was as lovely as she sounded, and many considered her Hanoi's most prominent Communist after Ho Chi Minh.

Hearing this today, 67-year-old Hanoi Hannah — whose real name is Trinh Thi Ngo — giggles, feigning surprise. "Oh, my," she says. "I wasn't a celebrity. I did love that time in Hanoi, but I was just an ordinary citizen trying to contribute to my country."

Petite and, yes, lovely, Ngo did the last of her 30-minute broadcasts in 1973, when the bulk of the U.S. military withdrew. She moved to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in 1975 with her husband, an engineer now retired. They live in a modest three-bedroom apartment near the former Presidential Palace she used to call the "den of puppets," and listen faithfully to newscasts on the Voice of America.

Although she earned a First Class Resistance Medal for her work and still does occasional translation and voice-overs for the Voice of Vietnam, Ngo has slipped quietly into anonymity, surrounded by young Vietnamese who have never heard of the Rockpile, much less Hanoi Hannah.

"This is Thu Huong calling American servicemen in South Vietnam," her daily broadcast would begin, using an alias that translates as Autumn Fragrance. Then she'd play a melancholy song (*Where Have All the Flowers Gone* was a favorite), read news of anti-war protests back in America and, on Fridays, recite the names of Americans killed in action from the U.S. military newspaper Stars and Stripes.

"My goal was to tell GIs they shouldn't participate in a war that wasn't theirs," she says now. "I tried to be friendly and convincing. I didn't want to be shrill or aggressive. For instance, I referred to the Americans as the adversary. I never called them the enemy."

Her scripts were written by propagandists in the North Vietnamese army who lifted their material from articles in Time, Newsweek and The New York Times that North Vietnamese diplomats abroad had sent home. Sometimes members of the anti-war movement brought the articles to Hanoi.

Ngo smiles as she recalls those activists she befriended, among them Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda. "They were very helpful," she says, "in helping us explain to the GIs why the war should be solved by the Vietnamese themselves, not Americans."

She pauses, perplexed. "You know, Jane Fonda never came back at all after the war. I wonder why. She'd made a tape I played that was very good. I heard that some years ago she made an apology in the United States for coming to Hanoi during the war. Is that true?"

Ten years ago, Fonda made a televised apology to Vietnam veterans and their families for her 1972 visit, during which she was infamously photographed at a North Vietnamese



— Los Angeles Times
Trinh Thi Ngo, known as "Hanoi Hannah" by U.S. troops, is now living in Ho Chi Minh City.

gun emplacement.

In many ways, Ngo seemed an unlikely candidate to become the voice of communism. She grew up in Hanoi, under French colonialism, the daughter of a prosperous glass factory owner. She took private English lessons and perfected her command of the language watching French-subtitled Hollywood movies, among them *Gone With the Wind* (which she has seen five times).

After working as a volunteer at the Voice of Vietnam, in 1965 she was chosen, largely because of her unaccented English, to begin broadcasting to U.S. troops as Thu Huong.

"Yes," she recalls, "I wanted

to make them a little bit homesick."

Now, with her broadcasting career winding down and having recovered from a motor scooter accident that had laid her up for two weeks, Ngo says she hopes one day soon to visit the country she spent eight years talking about.

"San Francisco has always been a dream," she says. "And the Golden Gate Bridge and Hollywood, I'd love to see them too."

And if she could make one final broadcast to former GIs, what would she say? "That's easy. I'd tell them: 'Let's let bygones be bygones. Let's move on and be friends.'"

And bring Peace to the country.

Đem thanh bình
cho xứ sở.



KHÔNG

ruou chè be-bét !

