

RANCH HAND NEWSLETTER  
March 1976

Cowboys,

It's reunion time again. The country has a 200th anniversary and the RANCHHANDS have their 10th. The world's greatest group of combat veterans will have their 10th reunion on 22 May 1976 at Andrews AFB, Maryland. Let's not forget WHO WE WERE, WHAT WE ARE, AND WHAT WE STAND FOR. This will be one of our best reunions. See the end of the letter for more details.

Haven't been able to keep up the semi promise of a semi annual newsletter this year since the old kitchen table I write this on was in storage for awhile during a move. No matter, we're back in business and bigger than ever. Please note new address for information on rosters and other items, like a donation or two.

Let's get right to what we know about--who's where and what they are doing. Right off the top, Hank Good is doing the cross country skiing thing among others in Seeley Lake, Montana. Hank forwarded a promised \$100 check for "a drink for the attendees" at the '76 reunion. With guys like Hank and Vito Longo and Bernie Dallas and some other high rollers, we could put out a weekly newsletter and have regional reunions. While I'm thinking about that, why not? Why not have a couple of regional reunions at the same time the (national) reunion is going on. How about it, Eglin, Colorado Springs, California, etc. Check your rosters, it only takes two cowboys to have a reunion.

Jack Gentry now in Tulsa, Oklahoma. No letter, just a check--that's Jack, the RANCH HANDS Howard Hughes. Marv Zepf moved to Johnsonville, NY. Has a 6-bedroom colonial on his feudal fiefdom. Thinking of teaching. Would you send your child to a school he was teaching in? Bill King has his M.S. from Ohio State and a reservist in HQ ADC at Colorado Springs. Says he sees Norm Desroachers there and of course he sent along a little forget-me-not for the scholarship fund. Ken Bramble at Randolph learning the intricacies of T-38 IP for duty at Lubbock. Another beautiful Xmas card from BGen & Mrs. Heinie Aderholt. Nice letter with it for all the RANCH HANDS. MSGT Ron Fowler now settled in Langley AFB, looking forward to seeing him at the reunion. No excuses this year about being overseas. Paul Knese back in school for a couple of years at Univ. of Dayton. Congrats on the Below the Zone promotion, Paul. Dick Slay right here in the Andrews area (retired like me) and working on becoming a futures broker. Dick sent a little for the future of the RANCH, thanks Dick. Floyd Heffner remembering us with a nice donation from Smyrna, Georgia. Bill Knothe doing fine in Niceville, Florida. Should have a Masters by now and be in the teaching game. Bill and Pete Hartwick are the only two guys I know who send odd amounts of donations. Come on guys, I'm no bookkeeper, keep it simple for me will you? Discovered Ralph Evans in Aurora, Colorado, and still active with the Buckley Air Guard. See Colorado, there are plenty of Cowboys out there to have a regional reunion.

I have just got to find the secret that Frank Almeter and Ron Mead have (must not forget Keith Yale) over getting their wives to write all their replies to the RANCH newsletter. I've been trying for 18 years to get my wife to scratch out thank you notes unsuccessfully. Anyway, the gals write better and more informative letters than the guys, so keep it up. Jeanne Yale said she really enjoyed the last reunion, so it will be "with wives" from now on sports fans. The gals are really great and we best make them part of our plans from now on. Carol Mead writes that Ron is a Major and upgrading as C-5 AC at Dover. Great.

Saul and Irene Speyrer sent one of the funniest letters I've ever read about moving into their new home in Greenville, TX...excerpts..."While erasing the writing from the walls of the bathroom with a new coat of paint, kicked over the paint bucket. Installed new tile to cover the spilled paint...by selling our extra vegetables from our garden, we almost made enough profit to cover the cost of the section of hurricane fence we destroyed when the roto tiller got caught in the fence." etc. etc. I know the feeling, Saul.

Dick Peshkin here in the local Wash., D.C. area, as is General Phil Larsen, Redmond and another BTZ L/C Paul Clanton. Any of you that caught the name of Colonel "Bud" Day when he was awarded the Medal of Honor recently will remember he was made an honorary RANCH HAND not only for flying superior top cover for us, but also flying missions with us to see how the F-100's could improve fighter cover for us. I was honored to be invited to a "Misty" FAC reunion and was awed by the respect these folks have for us and that on top of the really gutsy mission they had! Bud's VIP pilot bringing him to the ceremony was our own Phil Templin.

Some of our folks asked me to pass on the following information to you "punctured" purple scarvers. There is a National Organization officially known as The Military Order of the Purple Heart, it is chartered by Congress and publishes a frequent magazine. Many chapters around the country. If you want more information write: National HQS, Military Order of the Purple Heart, P. O. Box 1901, Washington, D. C. 20013.

OK, back to the reunion. It will be held 22 May 1976 here in the Andrews area. Some quarters may be available at Andrews, make reservations with the base early. There are two civilian motels within walking distance of both clubs. At the main gate is the Interstate Inn on Allentown Road in Camp Springs. Singles run about \$19, Double \$23. Also on Allentown Road at the main gate to Andrews is a Holiday Inn, Singles about \$24, Doubles more. You can get more current info by dialing the Toll Free number in your phone book. Please make your own reservations at either the base or the motels. However, I need to know if you are coming so I can make a down payment on a place for the party. It will be in the local carea, but not at any of the base clubs, since they are all booked up. It looks like we can get all the booze, the room, the supper, etc., for six hours at about \$20-25 a head. It is getting tougher every year. If you will let me know then I will recontact those of you coming with more info. Good deal. But I got to know who is doing the Reunion trick-- let me know early!

Whether you are coming or not, please keep in touch. Return the attached slip and give me any change of address, change in rank, (hopefully), and whether you are coming to the reunion. Also any info you would like passed on in the next newsletter. My address and phone number: (sorry no more autovon... Charlie Hubbs, 6002 Summerhill Road, Camp Springs, MD. 20031; Home Phone: 301-899-6716.

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TEAR OFF AND RETURN

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEND REUNION? \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ WANT MORE INFO? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ARRIVE FRI OR SAT? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ BRING WIFE OR? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ DRIVING OR ? \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THOSE WHO CAN REACH HERE BY CAR, GET A GANG TOGETHER AND YA'LL COME.....

WIVES ARE WELCOME. CAR POOLS WELCOME. FRIENDS OF RANCH HANDS WELCOME.

DONATIONS WELCOME.

CHEERS TO THE HAND!

## COWBOYS.

We successfully completed our 10TH Annual Reunion on 21-23 April, at the Holiday Inn near Andrews AFB.

This was our first attempt to formally make it a co-ed event and we were pleasantly surprised to find that some of our raunchiest Cowboys are married to some absolutely fascinating, beautiful, intelligent ladies. We hope to meet more of the wives at subsequent reunions.

As usual, we were plagued with "no-shows" whom all of us wind up paying unnecessarily for. Over the past three reunions alone it has cost us more than one year's kitty reserve for this lack of consideration.

However, it is folks like Gary Lahmon who drove non-stop from Ohio and Marv Zepf from his baronial estate in upper New York that make it all worth the effort. The most disappointing statistic is the few who would not drive the 15 to 45 minutes locally to attend. All those DC area folks who have complained that the reunion "was too far away" had no excuse this year.

Our business meeting was spirited and brought to light some interesting items. To assure that all Cowboys have full knowledge of our position and our future plans the following is presented:

1. Until further notice all reunions will be held at Fort Walton beach (probably Hurlburt) the 3rd weekend in April. It will be the individuals own responsibility to make room and transportation etc. arrangements. More details in next Spring's news letter.

2. It was decided that due to the difficulty and possible inequity that could arise from the selection process, that the scholarship program will be held in abeyance. We will search for less controversial programs (refugees, deserving organizations etc) on a case by case basis.

3. It was unanimously decided that with the passage of time, the caliber of the reunions had improved and had now evolved into a family event. Therefore, with the restrained, dignified and professional atmosphere which prevails, wives, friends and others are welcome to enjoy the matured comradie marking our "new look" reunions.

4. The closing of last years minutes and a report on our finances (including a somber review of the escalating cost of producing a newsletter) closed the business meeting.

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I REPORT THE UNTIMELY LOSS OF TONY TELLEZ, ONE OF OUR MOST COLORFUL ORIGINAL COWBOYS. TONY WAS A FIRST COMMANDER OF THE TDY COWBOYS. HE ALSO FLEW AS A FAC LATER. HE WAS KNOWN AS "THE PURPLE BARON". TONY DIED OF A HEART ATTACK AT HIS PARENTS HOME IN TEXAS JUST DAYS BEFORE THE REUNION. OUR FLORAL PIECE WAS INSCRIBED-

"The Purple Baron Flies With God-  
Rest in Peace"

Here's what I've heard from Cowboys 'round the world-

First, we wish Rex Stoner's wife Esther all the best in a complete recovery from a major operation. RON RANTA will retire in November to Wakefield, Mich. RON MEAD was to make the reunion from Dover AFB, but a C-5 TDY to SEA interfered. KEN BRAMBLE to have brought two T-38's full of Cowboys in got caught up in LP upgrading tests. MARV ZEPF (now a cleanshaven, business like retiree) arrived early. Nothing is sacred - I told you the reunions had changed. CAROL HUGHES hale and hearty at the reunion (Carol unnecessarily paid for two meals to help defray the "no show" expenses - Thanks Carol).

VERNE UHLER still going strong in Knob Noeter, Missouri, (Still sky diving?)

JACK BAILEY donating to the kitty from Bentonville ARK. Jack's raising quarter horses. GARY LAHMON drove in from Whitehall, MO where he has a home remodeling business. LEN BOCHICCHIO planned to fly in with his wife in his own plane, but we haven't heard from him yet. However, BURT KELLOG and JOHN RICHMOND enlivened the reunion after they drove in from McGuire AFB. BOB SHADE in contact from Meridian, Idaho. BUD WATTS in Springfield, VA. DAN HEJDE Also at McGuire with Burt and John. JOE DOUGHERTY in new job with SECDEF in DC.

GENE ROBERTSON Crossed trained into the pharmacy field and pill pushing at Andrews AFB. ED KRAFT now a LT COL and has 2 years to go on his PACAF tour. JERRY HARROP at Travis AFB. DOUG RIFEY in touch from McDonough, GA. Thanks for the sizeable contribution Doug. JOHN CARNEY and wife in holding pattern for a new baby at Kirtland AFB. I don't believe it, but JACK SPEY says he'll retire at years end and return to CONUS. He's still in SEA you know. He and Hoinie Aderholt have been over there since '66. Jack put me in contact with an original Nav ('62), JOHN HODGIN. John has been on the missing list of addresses for 10 years, so perserverance pays off again.

ROGER MEEKINS reminds me from Mateo, NC that we held the reunion the same date as the Daedalion convention. (Sorry Rog, I'm a Daedalion also and just flat goofed). JOE MEADOW role playing the world's greatest mobile home park manager. Sends his regards to all and recommends we all visit the HQS of the Confederate AF. PETE SPIVEY at Dyess and working 26 hours a day as usual. I can't remember a reunion Pete has missed before. That's probably because he and Jack Spey ran them all. We wouldn't have had a 10th if it hadn't been for them and a few other hardy souls DAN PHILLIPI with the Reserves at McClellan, living in Sacramento and sending his regards to PAUL CLANTON here in the DC area. KEN RITTER an L/C working the war games at Shaw AFB.

BILL WILDMAN sending \$\$ while studying for the real estate exam in Colorado Springs. CARL MARSHALL in touch and pumping up the kitty from Carrollton, Miss. (Didn't mention whether he won the election or finished his house) JOHN MARTINI back at 100 feet altitude and 125Kts. He's a DC-6 forest fire spray pilot and ski instructor at Colorado Springs. Look him up. ROGER ROTHWELL at Warner Robins AFB (same message for you Rog on the Daedalion convention - sorry)

BRUCE COLVIN has one more year of law school in Winston-Salem. Maybe Bruce can decipher the \$\$\$ IRS letter I got which spells out the RANCH HAND tax free status. You wouldn't believe the gobble degook in that gem. Heard from DAVE ANDERSON who's working at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford.

TOM KASYCH now a security police officer in Hawaii. As he puts it he's the cop on the rock. DICK NELSON can make next years reunion since he's in Fort Walton Bch. ED KRAFT reminds me there is still a spray flight squadron in Ohio. I know Ed, the same outfit that last year killed all the farmers bees in Utah and got a \$3 million lawsuit.

BERNIE DALLAS contributing hugely while on rotation to Mildenhall for the summer. Hope you got the plaque I sent you Bernie. JIM TANNER on faculty staff at War College (congrats on the eagles). PAUL MITCHELL retired to Navarro Beach (near FNB) and available for next reunion when his house is finished. Paul, keep an eye on my property over on Santa Rosa Shores for me, I'll be there for keeps by and by.

FLOYD HEFFNER sending in \$\$\$ goodies from Smyrna, GA. BOB (not William) TURK now in rated supplement as a procurement officer at McChord. RAGS RAGLAND still thinks I gave him a good deal on the Honda I sold him in SEA. Wonder if he knows the story on the 7 court martial charges it had on it? RALPH DRESSER does, he had to pull my fat (head) out of the fire.

WALT CUNNINGHAM in Glendale, CA recalled by American Airlines - great. It helps to know which airlines select the most superior pilots. HARRY LEMLY sending appreciated \$\$\$\$ from Riverside, CA.

DR. SCHALLER (Ph D in Physics) proving he is one of our more intelligent Cowboys according to University of Denver. He's now a physics Prof at AF Academy. BURRELL HILL retired May 28 and with the US Forest Service. Some of our former tree killers get some interesting jobs. JOHN MESIC hanging in down in Hampton, VA. We missed you and a lot of the other Virginians (Yale, Coates etc). DECK WAGONER sending some \$\$ from Riverside, CA.

ART MCCONNELL a chapter officer of the Aviation/Space writers Assoc. in CAL. Art is planning a west coast reunion in October. Hope the new roster helps. This is a superior idea, help support this program please. Cowboys don't care where reunions are held, how often or when, they just go to them. How about some more regional parties?

HANK GOOD interested in our plans. Hank we're still waiting for "PATCHES" to go the AF Museum. We have money earmarked for this project. I've already told you of some of the difficulties with the scholarship item. That was also complicated with getting info on just what dependents we were trying to support. I had a great deal of difficulty locating any of our KIA kin etc. We will look at the Air Commando park idea at the next reunion down at FWB.

WILLIAM ROGERS on orders to Ramstein from Dover. Have a good tour cowboy, see you in three years. LARRY HANFLAND and sweet wife have a new addition named KATIE MICHELLE as of 17 April. JOE BOYER retired and cited for parsing the \$1 million paid business mark with United Services Life Co. in Pineville, LA.

JOHN SHIPE Commander of 380th BW at Plattsburg. BOB IKELMAN with IG at Norton. RAY LEMAIRE escorting his lovely southern Belle at the reunion after driving in from Hampton, VA. TOM STEVENSON (did I get it right this time?) at WPAFB. JOE DOUGHERTY, WAYNE JEFFERSON and CHARLIE ROTH telling tall tales at the Reunion. DICK PESHKIN and JACKIE volunteering great amounts of time and effort and spectacular snacks for the reunion. HOWIE CLARK and beautiful wife drove in from New Jersey. BILL SELK, BILL "DOC" REDMOND and others doing the normal things at a reunion - like trying to tell a two handed war story with a drink in one hand. SMUTTY GEORGE ADAMS back in CONUS which makes the State Dept breath a little easier. DON STEWARD contributing heavily to the kitty for "one for all the cowboys at the reunion". Preciate it. CADET HANK GILL from the Citadel has been in contact with RALPH DRESSER (Yokota) on RANCH HAND historical data. Cadet Gill sent us a very nice card wishing us well with our reunion.

SNUFFY SMITH running the Arrow S Co. in Paradise, CA. I lost snuffy for a couple of mailings, but he's back in contact. PAUL KNESE back in school at Univ of Dayton. BILL KING a reservist at HQ ADC. I'm still waiting to hear from NORM DESROACHERS at ADC HQ. Bob IKELMAN helped me track him from the Phillipines. I need someone to get him to drop me his correct address.

JACK GENTRY in Tulsa, BILL KNOTHE in FWB, RALPH EVANS in Aurora, CO.

For any of you that this effects, I was asked by a DC group of retired regular officers to pass on the word that they have formed a "DUAL COMP ACTION GROUP" to file a civil suit to rescind the dual comp law. Interested parties should write to P.O. Box 9284 Alexandria, VA. 22304.

Also, the League of Families who are concerned with the MIA issue has also asked for our support. You can contact them locally.

Received a note from B/GEN HEINIE ADERHOLT wishing us a happy 10th reunion. His views on the recent events in SEA are quoted in part as follows:

"We, the US, are in the final phase of our abandonment of SEA. This is the most tragic event this old Commando has seen in 34 years service.... With the withdrawal from Thailand we will have disestablished our US shield over SEA, giving the communists a green light for further expansion".

AIR COMMANDO ONE also included in his note a quote I feel is worthy of further distribution to our Cowboys.

"I believe that, as a result of my own experience, no officer of our military, especially our flying forces, should hesitate to break with tradition if, in his judgment, a departure will improve the chances of success for his unit or his side in the over-all picture.

However, I am obligated to point out, any officer who decides to depart from the customary method of military business by exercising his individuality must be fully prepared to accept the consequences of failure. He can be certain that those consequences will be immediate and probably painful. I have known several officers who failed miserably after executing their orders in strict conformity with doctrine, accepted techniques, and established practices who were decorated and promoted promptly. In some of these cases, it was my firm belief that a resort to individualism might have averted failure or at least diminished the degree of failure.

On the other hand, I have never known any officer whose failure was condoned by higher authority if any taint of individualism was attached to the execution of his orders. Peculiarly, the officer who exercises initiative, dares to think differently and succeeds, no matter how brilliant his success may be, is often side-tracked in his career at the first opportunity. Neither his associates nor his superiors understand him, and lack of understanding leads to lack of confidence. But I believe that men who "insist upon flexibility in all things" and who retain their individualism are the ones who win battles, especially in the air. Fortunately, our nation has had enough of them when they were needed. I hope we always do." -- MAJOR GENERAL CLAIRE L. CHESNAULT

As I re-read what I've written in this newsletter it comes to me that maybe it's time we had a change of editorship to get some new blood in the writing of it and get a better writer. I've asked Pete Spivey to pick it up for the next issue and maybe when Jack Spey gets back to FWB after the first of the year he can pick up on it also.

I'm sure you all knew this is a "kitchen table" operation and I can only feed back to you what you make available to us. If you have some things you'd like passed on to your friends, just add a couple of lines to your replies and you'll see them in the next newsletter.

I know you are tired of hearing the costs associated with putting the letter out, but unfortunately we do not meet the total annual output to qualify us for the lower (1.7¢ vs 13¢) bulk rates. Additionally our print costs are rising at an astronomical rate. All of the set up work is done through Commando-acquired freeties at various offices, but the actual printing is done commercially. If any of you know a better way, we are open to suggestions.

A personal tip to any of you coming up on retirement. Do not sell yourself short. I haven't seen a thing on the outside or a person I consider anywhere near the caliber of a US Air Force veteran. Every one of you can call himself a manager, an analyst, a supply specialist and a host of other things. There are mighty few job descriptions on the outside that you can't fill. As a RANCH HAND, you're even more qualified - you've got spirit, you're determined and more important you have a great number of friends and comrades who can be of invaluable assistance to you.

In the meantime, keep those cards and letters coming. We sincerely want to hear from you and above all, keep your addresses current. We lost another 20 with our last mailing. The postal service is definitely not one of our boosters. Totally unreliable at best.

CHEERS,

*Paulie*

TO THE RANCH