

# PHANFARE

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THE PHAN RANG WEEKLY

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## BASE RECEIVES HUGE GOLD TROPHY FOR BEST MISSION SUPPORT IN 7<sup>th</sup> AF

Major General Gordon W. Graham, outgoing vice-commander of 7TH Air Force, recently presented a huge gold trophy to Phan Rang Air Base symbolizing victory in a new quarterly 7th Air Force competition to determine which of its bases is providing the best mission support.

The ceremony took place beneath American, Vietnamese, and Australian flags outside the recently completed headquarters of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Colonel Lewis R. Riley, base commander, has placed the trophy, which stands almost three feet high, at the entrance to his office. The 50-year-old native of Kansas City, Mo., said "Without the high morale, and everyone pitching in and doing his job, we would never have won it."

Ten bases in South Vietnam competed for the  
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## FIREMEN'S MONKEY HAS A PET CAT!

Lieutenant Tom, a small six pound, Vietnamese Spider monkey, is the mascot of the Phan Rang Air Base Fire Department and is probably the only monkey in the world with a full grown "Tom Cat" for a pet.

The small grey monkey receives nothing but "VIP" treatment and in return gives the 58 member fire brigade one laugh after another.

Lieutenant Tom's pet the cat, who is also grey has to watch out for Tom, who loves to fight with the cat and bite at his tail; but the cat always comes back for more.

To a visitor, it almost seems that the cat and monkey love each other.

Lieutenant Tom, is an excellent swimmer and dives with precision into the big black

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## 'LUCKY DEVILS' DONATE \$1,500 TO LOCAL SCHOOL

The An Phuoch District High School, which is located near Phan Rang Air Base was recently given \$1,500 dollars to build two additional class rooms and a modern kitchen and dining hall by members of the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang.

All construction work on the new buildings is being accomplished by the students; This is one case where the progress being made is matched only by the pride taken by the builders, which is immense.

For the past six months, this squadron has been sponsoring needy students in the Phan Rang area and though, this is the first time they have financed a building program for a school, they are old hands when it comes to helping poor children.

Captain Ralph L. Brown, 35, of Jackson, Mississippi is the civic action officer for the squadron and donates much of his time and money to the Vietnamese children.

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## 35<sup>th</sup> CES BUILDING SNAZZY 'LOX' PLANT

Phan Rang Air Base will soon have the latest model (LOX) Liquid Oxygen Generating plant in South Vietnam. The five ton plant which is being constructed wholly by Air Force personnel under the supervision of a factory technical representative is programmed to be operational in 90 days.

Phan Rang Air Base has many uses for liquid oxygen: First and foremost, is the large quantities needed by fighter and bomber crews who have to have oxygen during many of their combat missions., Next in importance comes the base hospital where it is used to treat lung infections and diseases, and lastly is the oxygen needed to

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## WING SELECTS TOP CREWCHIEF

Staff Sergeant Ronald Y. Cho, 31, of the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron was recently picked as crew Chief of the month for the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Sergeant Cho, is a veteran of 11 months Vietnam service and has been a crew chief on F-100 jet aircraft since arriving in this war torn nation.

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## C-123'S DROP PARATROOPS NEAR BASE

Anyone looking up above the NCO Open Mess shortly after 8 a.m. on Monday saw a C-123 of the 309th Air Commando Squadron dropping a string of Army paratroopers into a valley four miles beyond the perimeter of the base.

It was the third day of such paratrooper drops, as the air commando unit teamed up with the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division to bring about jump-qualification of over 40 members of the Army and several Navy frogmen.

The prelude to these jumps occurred on Monday, Aug. 14, as Lt. Col. Quintin P. Sunday, commander of the support battalion of the 1st Brigade, and more than 40 qualified paratroopers of the unit jumped from a C-123 to test the new 'paratrooper school' program.

This is the first time that the new K-model C-123's, boasting two jet engines as well as the regular two prop engines, have been used for paradrops of Army troops.

Maj. William Robinson of the tactical operations branch of the 315th Air Commando Wing said the K-models provide more safety for the paratroopers than the old B-models, and climb "a lot fas-

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## PHAN RANG ON TOP

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award, which Colonel Riley described as being directed by the commander of 7th AF.

The base commander said the award is based on points scored in a management control system encompassing "the various activities across the base in support of the mission."

"You know Phan Rang is noted across Southeast Asia for its high morale," he continued, "and this high morale is what goes to make this management control system a going proposition."

He noted that recreational facilities and base appearance and maintenance were two of the more important categories in the point system for the award.

Other categories included: specialty knowledge testing, officer effectiveness reports, motor vehicle 'down' time (denoting vehicles temporarily out of commission), ground safety, and effectiveness of navigational aids.

"We went out to win it, and we won it," said Colonel Riley about the new award. "I don't think it was any great surprise"

Tuy Hoa scored second in the 7th AF contest, and Pleiku was third.

Named as the winner of the award was 35th Combat Support Group of Phan Rang.

## BASE SNAKE-HOUSE WILL OPEN ON SUNDAY

Come one, come all...See the 11-foot python, the spitting cobra, and poisonous crait snakes ....Meet George, the meanest lizard in the valley.

The new base serpentarium (snake house) near the MARS station will open at noon on Sunday and stay open till 10 p.m. It will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6 to 10 p.m., according to its fearless proprietor, ALC Bill Gaither, Motorola Systems Monitor in the 1882nd Communications Squadron.

Furnished on a self-help basis, the new base attraction features 45 snakes of all sizes and degrees of deadliness, as well as five types of lizards, including George, a cranky Monitor Lizard more than four feet long.

These are live snakes and lizards, and they're housed in attractive display cases complete with scenic backdrops. Airman Gaither says it okay to take photos, with or without flash bulbs. Eleven tree snakes were moved in on Sunday.

## GOOD NEWS FOR OFFICERS

Some welcome news has been received at the Consolidated Base Personnel Office for all officers who do not plan to stay in service.

Time limitations previously imposed on submission of separation requests have been rescinded.

Officers may now apply for a date of separation (DOS) at any time, provided it is at least six months in advance of the requested separation date.

However, officers having an assignment selection date (normally the fifth month of Vietnam service) are ineligible to apply for a DOS until they arrive at their next duty station. Officers who previously incurred an involuntary service commitment and filed a non-volunteer statement are advised that these statements are no longer authorized.

Officers concerned must act by Sept. 19 to confirm their involuntary status by submitting a separation request. This new policy is expected to be beneficial to both career and non-career officers. For the former it opens up quotas for regular commissions, professional schooling, AFIT training, and specialized assignments.

For the latter, it provides a guaranteed separation date. For further information, consult a June 21 letter on this subject which has been sent to squadron orderly rooms, or call Captain Enoksen at CBPO at Ext. 2962.

## FAST ACTION FOR 'LUCKY DEVIL'

An F-100 Super Sabre pilot of the 614th TFS 'Lucky Devils', 1st Lt. Louis Distelzweig Jr., didn't have to wait long for combat action when he joined the Air Force. The 25-year-old native of Springfield, Ill. came to Vietnam five months ago immediately after F-100 school in the US.

## CLUB HI-LITES

FRIDAY - At the Airmen's Open Mess it will be 'Bring Your Own Date' Nite. Airmen are requested to have their dates at the Main Gate by 6 p.m. A bus will leave the club at 10 p.m. to take the girls home. The Rhythmaires will entertain from 7 to 10 p.m....Meanwhile, at the NCO Club it'll be Happy Hour from 6 to 7 p.m. and then a show featuring Oliver Pacini and Miss Baby, an artful dancer, from 8 to 9 p.m....This same show will be at the Airmen's Open Mess on SATURDAY from 7 to 8 p.m. Also on Saturday, the Rhythmaires will be at the NCO Club from 7 to 11 p.m....On Monday the Airmen's Open Mess became officially independent.

## MOVIE MIRROR

TONITE: Funeral in Berlin -- A fast-moving spy drama of the Cold War.

THURS: A mystery.....This movie has not yet been announced, and the mystery consists of figuring out what's coming.

FRIDAY: Ship of Fools...A shipboard drama starring Lee Marvin, Vivien Leigh, Jose Ferrer, Oscar Werner, and Michael Dunn. The movie revives the Nazi atmosphere of Germany in the 1930's.

SATURDAY: Red Line 7000....A splashy car-racing drama featuring the guys and gals of the younger set and their 'rigs'

## SPORTS BRIEFS

The weight-lifting room (near the base theater) is open from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday thru Saturday, and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. Personnel services check-out room open 8 to 12 noon daily.

SAY! WHO INVITED HIM?.....

SHORT \*\*  
TIMERS  
\*\* PARTY



## RED CROSS NEWS

The evening programs of the Red Cross recreation center start at about 7:30 p.m. Coming up tonight is the second meeting of the Phan Rang Photo Club. Bring your own photos. Tomorrow night there'll be a movie on a medical Civic Action mission. Karate training will be offered on Friday at 8 p.m., along with a pinocle tourney. On Sat., a modern American jazz demonstration, on Sunday a fun-filled relay race, on Monday a bridge session and on Tuesday a hair-raising snake program. The new Book Club will meet Thurs. at 7:30 pm

## 'BLACK PANTHER' GOES FROM SPORTS TO COMBAT

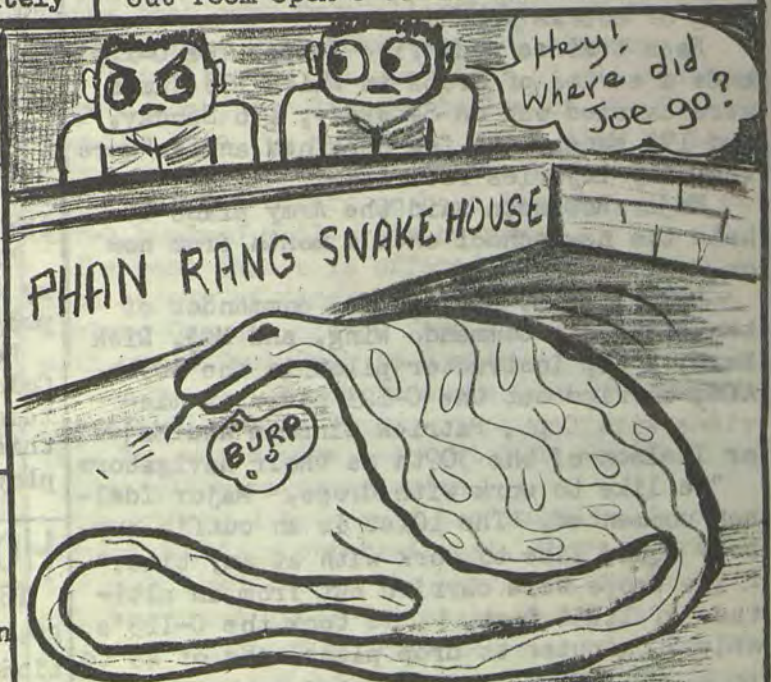
"The thrills and excitement are definitely there," said Capt. Charles L. Henn, 28, from Laramie, Wyoming, as he compared his sports career at the University of Wyoming a few years back to his new career as an F-100 Super Sabre pilot in Vietnam.

A veteran of 125 combat missions with the 615th ('Black Panther') Tactical Fighter Sq., he graduated from the university in 1962.

Captain Henn held a track scholarship for his first three years at the university and a skiing scholarship during his last year there.

As a skier he participated in cross-country, 'downhill', jumping, and slalom events.

"Probably, standing at the top of the downhill (ski slope), waiting to race, is a little more frightening than waiting to fly a combat mission in Vietnam....or at least it was to me," said the pilot, who now lifts weights.



## 'GRIM REAPERS' POUND NIGHT TARGETS

The Devil's Own Grim Reapers (13th Tactical Bombardment Squadron) have been wreaking havoc in North Vietnam since their B-57's flew into Phan Rang not long ago to launch a new rotational combat tour.

The commander of the distinguished unit, which celebrated its 50th birthday in June, is Lt. Col. George W. Cap, 48, from Wichita, Kansas. During their latest combat tour the Grim Reapers have been flying many night interdiction missions over North Vietnam.

Such missions place "quite a bit more strain on the air crews" than the daylight strikes flown by these crews in South Vietnam, Colonel Cap commented, but "the morale in the squadron is at its peak, I feel, and I do have very highly and well-qualified crews flying with me."

According to the combat narratives logged by the crews, their B-57's have located and destroyed large numbers of enemy trucks, boats and gun positions in the dark of night, and have ignited many petroleum fires.

The colonel noted that on these night strikes "we have to work under flares, exposing ourselves to very heavy anti-aircraft fire."

Back at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, home base for the 13th TBS, the air crews had received intensive night strike training. "Our main effort," said Colonel Cap, "was in training our crews in night low-level attack against rolling stock, trucks, trains, and boats on rivers." Colonel Cap has been in service for 25 years.

## 'PARATROOPERS' JUMP

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ter."

He added that the school is a real innovation since Army paratroops are usually trained at jump schools back in the U.S. In this case, he explained, the Phan Rang jump school enables the Army to jump-qualify men who recently came into the unit from other units.

The major said that the training jumps were preceded by Army security team sweeps in the area to make sure there were no Viet Cong or cobras around.

Each trainee made five jumps. The C-123's made a series of drops in which 173 jumps were carried out on Saturday, 136 Sunday, and 174 Monday. "A few sprained ankles" were the only injuries recorded.

Major Robinson said the Army plans to hold the new school once a month from now on.

Col. Bill M. Richardson, commander of the 315th Air Commando Wing, and Maj. Dick Mead, a top instructor pilot in the 309th ACS, carried out the C-123 paratroop missions with Capt. Patrick Tinsman and Major Idelson of the 309th as their navigators.

"We like to work with drops," Major Idelson commented. "The 101st is an outfit anybody would like to work with at any time."

The drops were carried out from an altitude of 1,250 feet. It took the C-123's only 20 minutes to drop planeloads of 45 to 50 paratroopers and get set for their next loads.

## SOFTBALL TOURNEY ROUGH ON PITCHERS

As the base's softball 'World Series' opened on Sunday, pitchers could do little besides tearing their hair out.

In the 2nd game, the 35th Services Sq. stretched four hits into 13 runs to beat 435th MMS, which got five runs on one hit.

AIC Westcott struck out eight of the munitions men. His mound opponent was AIC Pilatich. The cooks' bunts did much damage.

In the first game, the Medics upset Hq. Sq. 6-0 behind the pitching of Dick Goodblanket. Loss went to AIC John Norris, who had to watch from the mound as the medics squeezed all of their runs out of one hit.

In the last game of the day, Red Horse engineers squashed the 600th Photo Lab 13-4. The Red Horsemen got all their runs on only four hits. Winning pitcher was Sgt. Sips. Loser Qualbaum deserved sympathy as the engineers got five runs on one hit in the bottom of the fourth inning. See games tonite, thru Sun. at 5:30 p.m.

## COLONEL RILEY CITES CONSTRUCTION 'BLOOM'

The base commander, Col. Lewis R. Riley, said recently, "We consider now that we're about 70 per cent complete with the (base) construction, as it pertains to the support of our missions.....In another year, we'll have the construction complete."

He described Phan Rang as a permanent facility, and revealed that a ten-year construction plan has been drawn up to chart the over-all development of the base.

"We make it as Stateside as we can," said the colonel, "primarily for the morale of the troops."

"Steady streams of people come through my office," he added, "and comment on the progress since they have been here."

Newcomers to the base have come up to Colonel Riley, (he stated,) and said, "We certainly didn't expect to find a base like this over here." The 554th and 35th CES are playing major roles in the building boom.

## HOMeward BOUND

TSgt. Donald D. Holmes, 33, from San Diego, Calif., homeward-bound NCOIC of munitions control for the 435th MMS, was hailed for outstanding work by CMSgt. P.N. Thiebaud.

## BELLY-LANDING OF B-57 PRAISED

Fellow pilots have hailed the skill of Captain Donald C. Orlando, 31, from Middlesex, N.J., in making a smooth and successful belly-landing here recently when his B-57 jet bomber's nose gear malfunctioned after a night strike.

Captain Orlando, a member of the 13th TBS, admitted that "I was a little apprehensive.....I had confidence in making a gear-up landing, but I hadn't thought about making one at night before."

A veteran of 160 combat missions in North and South Vietnam, Captain Orlando added "I was very fortunate in that the aircraft stopped in about 2,000 feet with very little damage to the underside of the fusilage."

The emergency began when he was unable to get the gear to extend while making a radar-controlled landing approach upon returning from a night interdiction bombing run.

"Fire crews on the base foamed the runway...to preclude the possibility of fire on landing, since the bottom of the fusilage would be scraping the concrete," added Capt. Orlando, "The fire teams were there as soon as the aircraft stopped... Everyone commented on how smooth a landing it was."

A wing safety official praised the pilot for making a successful landing despite the reduced vision and depth perception encountered in night landings.

The captain's emergency procedures included jettisoning of external ordnance. Then, during the landing approach, he jettisoned his canopy to prepare for a fast exit.

## RECREATION GALORE

For those who might be new to Phan Rang, or if you are one of many who think that there isn't anything to do around here after work hours, Uncle Dudley's gonna take you on a guided tour of the after hours possibilities for relaxation on base.

For those who like group participation, the Red Cross Recreation Center host airmen each night to 'old fashioned parlor games with new flair'. For instance, Charades, the old art of pantomime to spell out titles of songs or books or proverbs. This is only one of the various games that are offered nightly at the center.

'Aussie Nite' when some of our friends from the No "2" Squadron of RAAF, drop by the center to share the highlights from the 'land down under' with us 'blokes' from the U.S. The Phan Rang Players, a nutty group of would be 'hams', are seeking others that might like to trod the boards with them in their 'thespitorian goulash', much fun!

For you photo bugs, personnel from the photo lab are conducting seminars on how to take better pictures, at the RCRC, periodically.

Pinochle and pool tourneys round out the activities at the center.

If you wish to escape from here for periods of time you might try the movie. We are constantly receiving better shows.

Care to tone up those sagging muscles? The personnel services offers weight lifting and other opportunities for physical improvement.

If the roar and din of crowded rooms, cheerful conversation over a cold beverage, or a snack appeal to you, our three open messes are at your service. Weekly they have fine live shows that come from all points over the globe to entertain with musicians and singers.

If you like to get away from it all and read a good book, our library is one of the finest for its size. Or maybe you would like to improve you education while over here, the Education office offers on base courses, plus several hundred mail-order courses.

The best chance is offered for collecting a good supply of fine stereo tapes at the Tape Center. One can choose from 150 master tapes with music from Bach to Beetles.

Many people use their spare time helping the local citizens in Civic Action programs, if this be your desire, contact your squadron Civic Action representative.

If nothing I have said has interested you for an evenings entertainment, there is still the bull sessions in the barracks, or that all important daily letter to those at home who want and need to know how you are. And if nothing else can hold your interest, for heavens sake man.....Sleep.

## 'HO CHI' MAKES HIS DAILY ROUNDS

Keeping on the move is a must for SSgt. Donald B. Carl, 30, from Pittsburgh, Pa., who travels about 150 miles within the perimeter of the base each day as unclassified-distribution courier.

"I know everyone on base...just about," said the sergeant, whose 'office' is a metro truck in which he delivers from 300 to 500 letters, folders, and packages each day to 'every organization on base.' He makes 84 stops each day.

He spends two hours 'breaking down' the incoming unclassified items for base units when he makes his pick-up at the post office, twice daily.

One of his jobs is playing paper boy since he distributes the Stars and Stripes.

The well-known face of the sergeant is adorned with a thick black brush mustache. "They call me Ho Chi" he grinned. Ho Chi, is assisted by A1C Oscar Scott, 24, from Jersey City, N.J.

# MONKEY MONKEYS AROUND WITH CAT

rubber tanks which are near the fire station. According to Master Sergeant Harold L. Engle, 41, of Corbin, Kentucky, the base fire chief, Lt. Tom was a departing gift from the U.S. Army's 87th Engineer Battalion which has rotated back to the States.

According to several members of the pumper squad, Tom is also at making a shambles out of their living quarters, and can enter the small houches without any help! much to their dismay, but they still love the little primate.

Many of the fire brigade members feel that without his daily antics and Vietnamese charm, their days would be much lonlier, and there would not be so many smiles around the old fire house.

As for the cat, who shall remain nameless (largely because he has no name); Chief Engle, says "before the cat joined the brigade, six inch rats made their home around the fire station, but in the short space of a few months, the cat has been the demise of the pesky rodents.

The Cat has been observed by some of the hose and bucket brigade members using dead rats for Basket Ball practice; He bounces them off of the fire house walls with his paws and has a great time.

Although the cat is not as smart as the monkey, he is just as valuable and continues to do his part for Phan Rang Air Base.

Lieutenant Tom, is much more selective about what he eats than the cat, but then monkeys are smarter than Cats.

Life around the old fire station is not all fun and games. This tireless and energetic organization has nine pieces of fire fighting gear which are on stand-by 24 hrs. a day to serve hundreds of incoming and out-going aircraft daily. Many aircraft with an emergency have been saved by the gang at the old fire house.

## HAWAIIAN CITED

According to Sgt. Cho, his day starts early since many of the missions flown by his aircraft are morning missions and he said "pre-flight maintenance, which consists of looking for leaks in the fuel tanks, running a power-on check in the cockpit, checking the aircraft's oxygen system, checking the tires, and and for exterior battle damage if a night mission was flown the night before are all a part of his endless job".

Sergeant Cho's wife Shige, and his two children presently live in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Cho has also been selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant in the closing months of this year.

## 'DEVILS' ASSIST SCHOOL

For many members of the squadron, civic action work comes after a hard day at the controls of an F-100, or repairing a battle damaged aircraft, regular maintenance work or any number of different jobs it takes to keep the F-100's flying.

Everybody from the Commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth T. miles, 39, of San Antonio, Texas, to Airmen who work on the wings' aircraft, take an active part in the civic action program.

The men of the 614th TFW, have also provided the school with surplus beds, lumber and other building materials.

The school has grown from 60 students to an enrolment of 150 students in the last year. Most of the students come from poor families, and would have no chance of receiving an education were it not for the An Phouch School.

## LIQUID OXGEN PLANT

run cutting and welding torches in Phan Rang's many service organizations.

According to Master Sergeant George W. Becker, 37, of Pitman, New Jersey, the Air Force inspector on the project for seventh Air Force, "Installation work on the new plant is proceeding rapidly and barring no unexpected material difficulties, the construction of the physical plant should be finished on time.

The concrete slab for the plant was laid by the 35th Civil Engineer Sqdn. at Phan Rang and all plumbing and Wiring work on the project was accomplished by the same organization.

Installation of the LOX generating equipment: Air Compressors, the refrigeration unit, heat exchangers, the air purifier and distillation column is being accomplished by TSgt. Zettle, A1C. Koeler, A1C. Yarbrough and six Vietnamese laborers.

## PHAN RANG FLASHES

The weather station reports last week's temperatures ranged from highs of 94 to 98 degrees to lows of 77 to 78 degrees.

Lt. Col. Julian D. Sawyer, 615th TFS commander had high praise for the squadron's outgoing flight surgeon, Capt. (Dr.) Jaroslav Richter The Bronze Star winner was hailed by the colonel for both his on-base work and his numerous Civic Action medical missions to local villages and hamlets.

In the 352nd TFS, Captains Ralph B. Savarese, Lawrence A. Woodcock, and George A. Ward Jr. have become qualified 'Night Owls' in their combat strikes, and the squadron has greeted two new pilots, Maj. Lawrence O. Prestjohn and Capt. Art Chase.