

May 2006

SACO VETERANS

OF
THE RICE PADDY NAVY
CHINA

WHAT

Perpetual Skipper

THE

WELLY?

VAdm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles



Sino American Cooperative Organization

Issue No. 31

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PALM MOUNTAIN RESORT & SPA

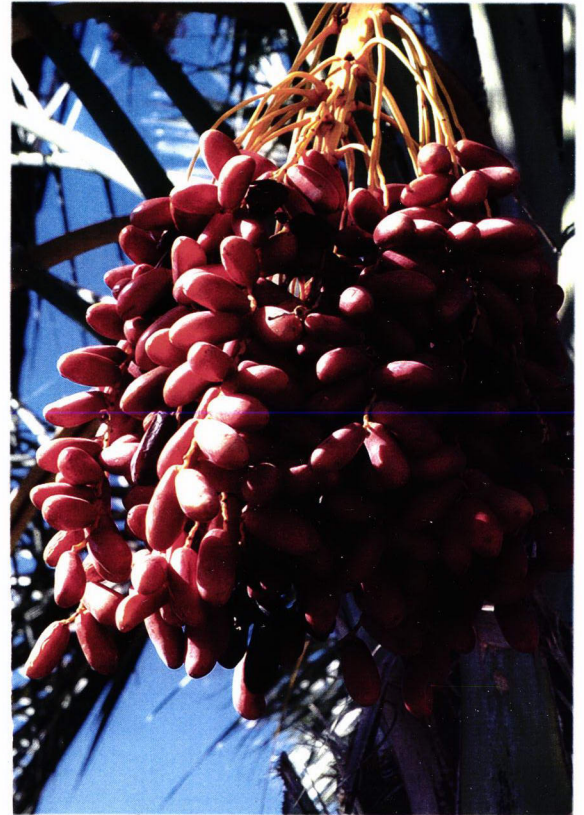
Headquarters of 51st SACO Annual National
Reunion in Palm Springs, CA Nov. 2-6, 2005
"The Days of Wine and Roses"

*Activities of THE DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES
51st Anniversary of SACO Reunions- Palm Springs, CA
November 2-6, 2005*

We couldn't have expected more beautiful weather that came our way – averaging around 80 degrees – living up to opinions of many our valley residents that our desert is paradise in fall, winter and spring.

Wednesday, Nov. 2, was registration time, greeting and hugging old SACO friends. The next morning, we toured the Coachella Valley from 9:00a.m.until 1:00p.m. approximately a 50-mile round trip from West to East Valley and return. The guides pointed out many points of interest and we visited a date farm where many sampled date-shakes which are delicious and fattening. I am told that 97 % of the dates in the United States are grown here.

Then we traveled to the Indian Canyons where the Indians lived in summer where mountain streams and native Washingtonian Palms made for cool living. They traveled down to the Valley floor in winter. We spent about an hour so people could stretch their legs and walk upstream for different views and take pictures. It's quite a revelation to find rapid running water about 2500 feet above the Valley.



Returning to Palm Springs, the buses took us through what is known as *The Movie Colony* where all the famous stars had homes. This was as close as these celebrities from the film studios of Hollywood could find a resort area and the weather certainly conducive to living in a quiet area away from the big city, Los Angeles. Jack Benny & Mary Livingstone, Lana Turner, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Ginger Rogers, and the list goes on and on. Not in this area, but about 8 blocks from our hotel was the former home of Liberace. In downtown are likenesses of Lucille Ball and Sonny Bono, former mayor of Palm Springs, in bronze statues.

Getting back to the hotel, we had about 3 hours to relax. My cousins Jack & Diane got up early that morning and made ham salad and chicken salad sandwiches along with cheese to have snacks before we loaded the buses and headed for the Tramway to climb over 8,500 feet in cable cars holding 80 people. At that elevation we spent about 3 hours – some walked short distances on paved mountain trails, visited a movie showing the tram under construction, the gift shop and eventually having dinner whatever time they chose. Dinner was part of the tour – a buffet that you chose one of about 5 or six entrees. The tram is on Mt. San Jacinto which is over 10,000 feet and has the highest escarpment of any mountain in North America. We went up in daylight and descended at night when we could see the lights of the Valley. Palm Springs has a Street Fair every Thursday night – they close the main street- only a half-block from our hotel and residents set up stands with various merchandise they have for sale. Some SACOs enjoyed that returning from the mountain.



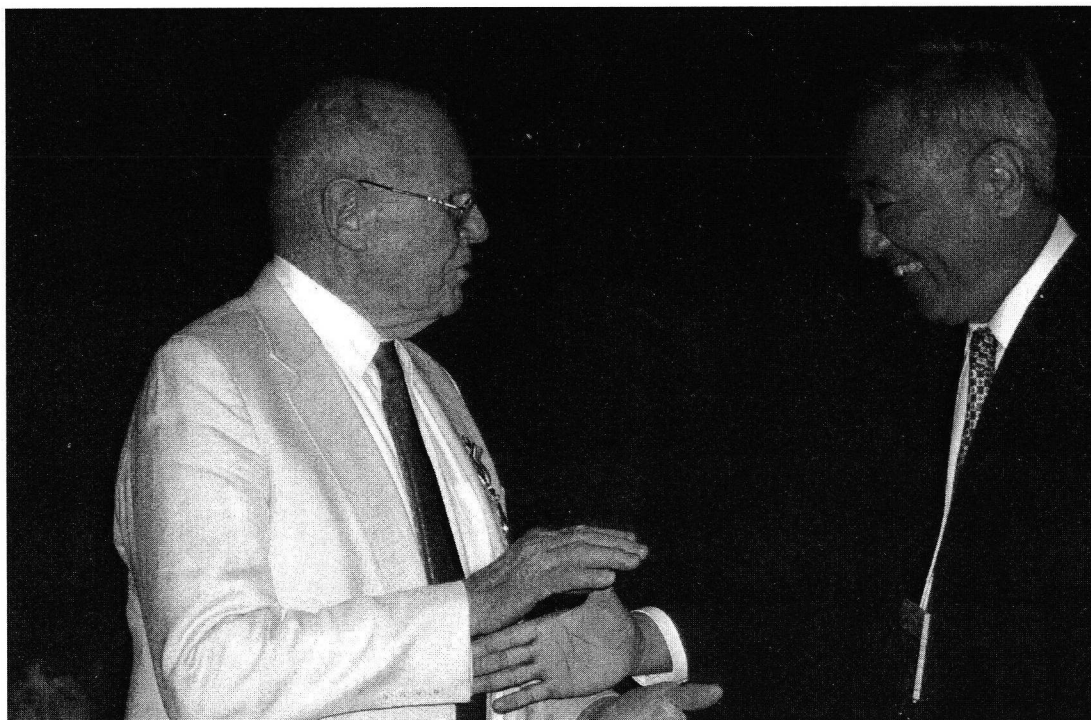
Friday, June 4, - the morning was free. At one o'clock, we all walked to the Plaza Theatre (just a very short distance from the hotel) and were entertained at *THE FABULOUS PALM SPRINGS FOLLIES*. It's truly one of the greatest shows of modern times and visited by many from foreign countries. The regular price that day was \$75 for our seats, but being a group, we got them for \$45 – quite a savings. The show let out at 4:30PM and the evening was free.

Saturday, Nov. 4 – the usual annual Business Meeting and Ladies Auxiliary Meeting were held in the morning after which was free time until the buses loaded for the trip to Fantasy Springs Resort and Casino, about 25 miles in Indio. Several expressed wanting to have some time for gambling, so we arrived in time for some to “pay their dues” before the Cocktail Hour started at 6:00PM and dinner at 7:00. We had a beautiful banquet room – two stories – a huge balcony, where we had cocktails, overlooking the banquet floor below. The room had a stage which accommodated a V-shaped head-table with extended platform for a trio with

keyboard, vibraphone, bass guitar and drums as well as a female vocalist. They played during cocktails and dinner. In keeping with the theme, we decorated with 30 dozen roses. Following dinner, we had 15 door prizes to award. The last one was a wall hanging made by Mary Ellen Hirt, daughter of Henry Scurlock and won by Guy Tressler, Jr. Guy didn't open it until they got home and because it was so beautiful, he was truly regretful that he hadn't opened it at the banquet for all to see.

Returning to Palm Springs, there was the usual gathering in the Hospitality Room for farewells and another big party was over.

Awarded SACO Medal



William Young, Jr. of San Jose, CA is being congratulated by MGen Kuo, Rong-charng upon being presented the SACO Medal. Young was the only member in attendance to receive the medal this past year.

???!****

Readers please note: Send your comments and newsworthy contributions including your SACO experience for future issues to the editor:

**Richard L. Rutan
45-480 Desert Fox Drive
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214
(760) 217-8327**

SACO HISTORY

SACO (pronounced "SOCKO") stands for Sino American Cooperative Organization established during WWII with approval of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Highly secret, originally known as U. S. Navy Group China, it was placed under the joint command of General Tai Li, (*Head of BIS – Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, i.e. Intelligence*), as Director of SACO and then Commander (later to become Vice-Admiral) Milton Edward "Mary" Miles as Deputy Director. The Chinese and American members of SACO joined in combined effort to perform intelligence and guerrilla operations. The group soon became known by the sobriquet, "THE RICE PADDY NAVY." Saco men were and are popularly known as "SACO TIGERS" who served hundreds of miles behind enemy (Japanese) lines in China, establishing vital weather stations to report to the Pacific Fleet, coast-watching to report on enemy shipping, intercepting Japanese code, rescuing downed allied airmen and being involved in numerous other military, medical and humanitarian endeavors. The American personnel numbering approximately 2,500, were volunteers from several branches of service, but for the most part, Navy and Marine men.

Three books: "*THE RICE PADDY NAVY,*" "*A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR,*" AND "*THE ARMY-NAVY GAME,*" as well as one movie, "*DESTINATION GOBI*" were based on SACO's activities.

*(Another note of interest: It has been noted that this group may have held the unique distinction of being the first American Military Group to ever serve under a foreign leader in time of war.???!!**)*

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SACO NEWS

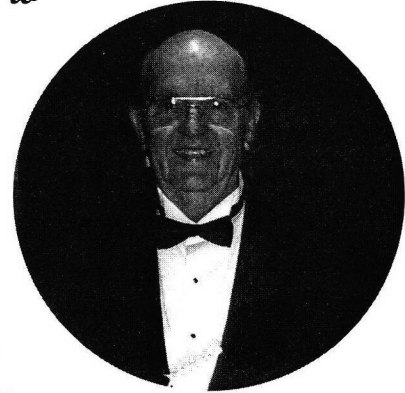
A non-profit periodical published by and for the WWII Veterans of the SINO-AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION (SACO) aka U.S. NAVY GROUP CHINA and more popularly, THE RICE PADDY NAVY. The publication is funded by annual dues of the members and their donated subsidies.

The publication is sometimes referred to as "What he Hell" magazine due to the pennant shown on the cover of every issue, which is symbolic of SACO members. It was a pennant dreamed up by our skipper, which he would fly on his ships as a personal novelty to arouse curiosity in his naval career. It actually depicted 3 question marks, 3 exclamation marks, and 3 stars – a mild form of profanity such as cartoonists would use. To Admiral Miles, it was translated as meaning "What The Hell," as frequent inquiries through the years as to the pennant would be just that, "What the Hell is it?" "What the Hell does it mean?" and from many encounters came many interesting stories through the years. During WWII as SACO was formed by Miles and the Chinese counterpart Tai Li, it was natural and apropos that "WHAT THE HELL" be the symbol or logo of this special group. In addition to being known as "SACO TIGERS," we might well have been "WHAT THE HELLERS!"

From the Editor's Desk

I just want all of you to know how privileged I was to have the honor to host the 51st SACO Reunion in Palm Springs, CA last November. It was a great challenge for me and kept me busy at a time in my life when I needed to supplant moments of grief and sorrow.

And it did, I came to the realization that there were still deeds and aspirations to be fulfilled in the later years that would produce joy and excitement. I couldn't help but wish Erma might have shared this venture and I was apprehensive as to how I would perform without her presence. But you know, I could refer to her as I spoke with all of you and maintain composure, because I was among loving SACO friends of both of us and convinced myself that she, too, was with us. Therefore, I take consolation that all the hours, days and months of preparation for our annual party, without a doubt, was a "fait accompli." You have told me so, in person, by phone and by cards and letters.



PS: If down the road you are unsuccessful in locating a "sucker" to entertain us, please know that I am ready and willing (like tomorrow) to live the thrill all over. Just ask! I've got good helpers in Jack & Diane.

With love to all,



NOTE: Annual Dues Now \$25

DUES

Regulars & Associates \$25

Treasurer Willie Baker
2810 Highland Blvd
Spring Valley, CA 91977-3341

Ladies Auxiliary \$15

Treasurer Laura Sellers
1291 Eastern Parkway
Louisville, KY 40204-2440

Mail Call

To Paul Casamajor 25 Aug, 2005

. . .60 years is such a long time to remember things. Sometimes I find it hard to believe that I was actually in the service. Some time ago, while moving into our new home, my son was helping and found an old teakwood box that I'd forgotten about. In it were things I brought back from China – a telegraph “bug,” khaki clothes, and a silver carved cigarette case from the Park Hotel and a leather jacket with CBI flag on the back. He wanted to know what kind of code key a bug was. This started my memory process.

At NAS, Memphis Radio School, I was the only one that showed a proficiency with a bug and that was the first time I heard of SACO. I remember attending a crash course in Chinese in Hawaii, then being rushed to Okinawa to board a Destroyer delivering mail to Shanghai-DD Duncan or some such name. The memory bank fails me here and there and most things are sketchy, but I arrived none-the-less. I remember making a trip over the “Hump” with supplies and returning with equipment. I remember cleaning out the Glen Line building only because I picked up 2 Jap pistols that were left behind. I remember the Jeep Café and Bianca, a White Russian waitress. I remember Gen. Wedemeyer being presented with a vehicle that was a cross between a Jeep and a Plymouth sedan. I remember taking a 9mm “broom handle” pistol from a Jap officer somewhere across the Wangpoo River from Shanghai. These things have not all come up at once; it's bits and pieces; I remember no one. I can't bring up faces. I remember bunking with a guy in the hallway of the Chinese American School. I remember shipping the teakwood box home, but everything else was stolen at the American School.

I remember getting fitted with a new suit of clothes at a men's store in Oakland, CA. I had done a good job of forgetting about WWII

until, while looking for a new home, I came across a place west of Anderson, CA called of all things - “Happy Valley”!!!! Go figure.

Mel Goguey

(Editor's note – Mel is a “new-found” just coming to our attention last year and attended the Palm Springs Convention.)

????!!***

To the editor 21 August 2005

The 51st SACO Reunion in Palm Springs sounds great, but we are sorry we cannot attend. Phyllis, an Alzheimer patient, is meeting the challenge; but travel is difficult and a bit risky.

Phyllis, like all of us, was a member of Tom Brokaw's *GREATEST GENERATION* – she was a lady engineer for United Aircraft Corporation – Hamilton Standard Propeller Division as a propeller blade design engineer, post-war wife, mother and after 4 children grown, a government teacher in our local high school for 22 years.

I was a 20-year-old Ensign in the Amphibious Roger II group. After arrival in China, a member of Lt Cdr Bob Schoetler's Pact Shot on the Min River at Fuchow and in Shanghai, the Glen Line Bldg Naval Port Facilities Legal Office – Capt Beyerly CO, Lt Cdr Fay Miller's legal office. I was not a lawyer, but an investigator for the United States Foreign Claims Commission with Ensigns Ed Small, Jim Dess, Chuck Miller (all amphib Rogers) – A Great Learning Experience!!

Phyllis & Jim Jones

????!!***

To the editor Christmas 2005

Your reunion was outstanding and memorable. Thanks for fixing it so I could share the room with Dick (Terpstra) – a great guy.

I wonder how many more we will have? I suspect the SACO group would never have continued if it hadn't been for you. You have brought a lot of happiness to the survivors of 1941-1945.

Dave Clarke

Very kind of you, Dave, and many thanks – hope I have been of some help....Ed

???!***

To the editor 21 March 2005

I am enclosing two checks made payable to SACO. The \$25 check is for a copy of "Rice Paddy Navy." . . .The \$500 check is for dues and any other items needed for SACO.

The boys in the powerhouse, when we played poker, were not very good card players. Two of the names I remember were Bradmuller and Drexel. Drexel was particularly terrible. This (\$500) is for a contribution by the losers.

I enjoyed talking to you and thank you for all of the excellent work for *SACO NEWS*. It is very good.

Ernest Griffin

???!***

To the editor 7 July 2005

Thank you very much for your kind note of 11/29/05 and particularly its enclosures (SACO hat and banquet program). It was very thoughtful of you.

Congratulations on now becoming President of SACO! Who are the other officers and trustees? Where will next year's reunion be held and when?

I am currently struggling with medication. Once that is stabilized, I will be much better and the stress will be lifted from Mary's shoulders!

The program was splendid! Did you make any profit? (*No we went a little in the red*)

It is gratifying to have capable fellow veterans like you leading our organization.

Looking forward to seeing you again at next year's reunion. Unfortunately, my wife, Mary, tells me that our usual February trip to Palm Desert is not available much to our chagrin.

Allen & Mary Tanner

???!***

Dear Friends 5 March 2005

I am writing this letter for my brother Ralph T. Hankins. He has received your cards and letters and he enjoys hearing from everyone. I had to read the letters to him because he cannot comprehend what he reads.

Ralph has medical problems, some of which are under control. One of his problems is dementia, which is not under control. He is taking a new medicine called Aricept for his dementia. His short term memory is quite poor and he cannot think clearly enough to write, but he can still remember a lot about the past, especially Woolworth days and the time he spent in the Navy during WWII.

You probably know that his wife Anna died 5 years ago in September of 1999. Anna's sister, Marie, was living with him and Anna. Marie stayed with him and cooks, washes his clothes and makes sure he gets his medication, etc.

I take care of all his other needs, such as trips to the dentist, doctors and trips to see our sister Betty who lives in Millville, NJ.

Ralph appreciates hearing from old friends, especially his family, friends who worked with him at Woolworth's and friends from SACO when he was in the Navy. Thank you for your cards, letters and remembering him.

If you would like to call him on the telephone, his number is 856 231 1437. Any cards or letters should be sent to him at my address:

William J. Hankins, 114 E. Cedar Av., Somerdale, NJ 08083-1408

Bill Hankins, Ralph's brother
(*And what a brother you are! It's always heart-warming knowing someone is cared for and loved.*)

???!***

To the editor and fellow members of SACO
1 April 2005:

How much we enjoyed meeting you and the fellow SACO Members at the 2004 SACO Reunion in Renton, WA! Cathy and I both enjoyed it so much – so much that she joined the Auxiliary. Congratulations to Bill and Sissy Miller – our wonderful hosts – for a superb job planning and administering that wonderful Reunion!

We both are definitely looking forward to seeing everyone in Palm Springs, California in October. (*original date which was moved up to Sept*). Per our phone conversation with you, Richard, Cathy's son, Tom Lang, is going to join us for dinner that Saturday. Tom is also military, but he was in the Army for 3 years.

...Thanks again to you wonderful people of SACO...It was great getting to meet everyone and looking forward to November.

Dr. David A and Cathy Baker

????!!***

To the editor 5 May 2005

It was so nice of you to call so Chuck gets his *SACO NEWS*. He's doing real well with his business & also making at least 2 or 3 trips a year to Maryland.

I'm so fortunate to have 3 men still around and also an ex-daughter-in-law that keeps me moving. Still have Paul's wife and 2 young grandsons that keep in touch.

Can't believe Moe has been gone 15 years in December & Paul 14 this month and here I am still a survivor. Hope I can keep going a bit longer...

My best to you, my dear, have a wonderful Reunion – stay healthy!

As ever, Ruth Cox

To the editor 18 April 2005

This is the third of about fifteen notes I've promised to write before tomorrow's sun shows its face.

That's right, Richard,. . .no cavorting at the local pub this eve. It's what you know as a self-inflicted wound. One of "those days" – I wouldn't be surprised if it's a mortal blow if I continue to procrastinate as I've been known to do all the time. And I'm the one who knows. I really don't think I have a death wish. But then, what do I know. But enough!

'Twas so good to chat with you recently – I don't recall the day or night, but I do remember I didn't shut up. And I remember, too, I had little profound to state. I hardly ever veer from my phone routine – lots of mishmash! And I'm not bragging, Richard. Incidentally, I guess you realize your taking on the chairmanship of the next SACO Reunion is a self-inflicted would. I wasn't about to warn ou – you deserve a bit of punishment, too. As the other "chairs" with the exception of Jack Miller who seems ready and willing to "DO IT AGAIN.'

. . .I've invited the widow McHugh to join me on our Palm Springs get-together. She's quite excited about going. . . .Anyway, if all goes well, I'll enjoy Elva's company and anticipate having a "large" time as generally I do. . . . By the way, I congratulate you on the numbers who plan to come. I knew you were good, but I hardly expected you to lure such a goodly number. Such charisma you have, Richard.

. . . I don't let you know what a wonderful product you put out, Richard. I'm jealous!!!!

Hey, it's time to close the valves on this blurb. You stay nice and try to relax as "your day" approaches.

Much love, Jim Kelly

????!!***

To the editor 27 April 2005

Please accept my sincere thanks for sending me the SACO I requested. I know my husband, Joseph H. Powley, would be pleased with the honor bestowed upon him in being mentioned in this magazine.

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to receive a copy for our daughter, Linda. She sends her thanks as well.

Since I probably won't know anyone else noted in this publication, I won't request further issues.

Nevertheless, please accept my enclosed check as a small contribution to your organization and to your kind thoughtfulness to us.

Most sincerely, Ruth Powley

???!!!***

To Bill Bartee, R.P. Larson, Richard Rutan
9 May 2005

The Stanley Spirakus saga on pages 26-28 of the current (#30) issue of SACO NEWS adds new mystery to the Larsen/Larson story. misspelled (You may remember my letter of December 19, 2004 where it was noted that a Lt. Larsen showed up in a couple of places in Stratton's book – S-TRPN – and Larson's name was Larsen) in Miles' ADKOW made it into the SACO pay records. ???!!!*** Lt. Larsen evidently played a substantial role in getting Spirakus and his shipmates to China, but, for some reason, never made it into the SACO pay records. ???!!!***

STOP THE PRESSES!!! It has just dawned on me that it is possible that Spirakus has misspelled Larson's name. Larson went on the SACO payroll on June 21, 1943. Spirakus' record shows two dates June 11, 1943 and July 7, 1943. Spirakus' buddies Al Clevenger's date is July 2, 1943 and L. P. Conrad's date is July 7, 1943. So, they were all about the same time.

Maybe Larson can confirm this possibility.

At least Larson doesn't have the problem that Dr. Greif has (see page 22 of SACO NEWS #30).

I had a spinster aunt who lived in Brooklyn, NY all her life. She was a librarian and you know how they like to collect and organize information. Anyhow, she kept a record of the misspellings of Casamajor that she received in the mail (most advertising stuff). The number was 283!!

Paul Casamajor

???!!!***

To Paul Casamajor 13 May 2005

You do have a variety of "problems." Thank you for your letter & your interest.

As you know, I knew of no "Larsen" while I was with SACO, nor do I remember Spirakus. What I do remember is that although being a staff officer, I was the only officer with previous service & therefore, I was put in charge of the group traveling to China by way of San Francisco, New Zealand, Australia and India. A small group of enlisted men missed the ship on departure from one of those ports, but had enough previous experience to catch the pilot boat. I do not remember their names.

In my own experience, I thought I had to report it to the skipper on arriving – he just shrugged it off.

You and your efforts on behalf of all of us are high among the reasons for my strong continued interest in SACO and I thank you.

Bob Larson

???!!!***

To the editor 24 May 2005

I am writing this letter with deep regrets. Gertrude and I had made plans to attend the SACO Reunion at Palm Springs; but in April, Gertrude was found to have cancer of the liver. The type she has is terminal and untreatable. Since April, she has lost 57 pounds and is very weak and is practically bedridden. I know the reunion will be a success.

Lacey Abbey

???!!!***

To the editor 30 June 2005

Just a few lines to inform you that I will not be attending the reunion. With you at the helm, I know it will be an excellent reunion. Please give my regards to all the SACO Tigers. I realize that our numbers are dwindling as we get older.

The last time I was in California was June 2, 1946 when I was on my way home from Shanghai to be discharged on June 7, 1946.

Speaking of June – it is quite a memorable month for Joyce and me. We celebrated our 55th Wedding Anniversary on June 3; I turned

another year on June 10 (79); Joyce's birthday was June 26. We have both been blessed with good health and are looking forward to many more years. Hope all is well with you and not "shaking & rolling" with those quakes.

I miss my good friend Joe Fitzgerald. As you know, we served almost two years together - radio school at Miami Univ., Ohio; Cheltenham, MD and many months in SACO. We had the good fortune of having them (Joe & Peg) as our guests in September before he passed away.

One of the things that I regret is that I didn't keep a list of names with whom we served. There are a couple of names that have never appeared on our roster - Richard Crawford, Wash, D.C; G. E. Kaffenberger, Phila., PA.* We went over together! We were flown over from Patuxent River, MD to Newfoundland, to the Azores, Pt. Lautey, North Africa, Casablanca, Cairo, Iraq, Iran, Karachi, Pakistan, Agra and Calcutta, India then over the Hump to Kunming and on to Chungking and "Happy Valley." Quite an experience for an 18-year-old "Hillbilly." It will always be etched in my mind.

Wayne Goodson

** Wayne, I'm not sure as to what roster you are referring to but if it is the Directory that Membership Chairman Paul Casamajor updates every few years, bear in mind that it doesn't reflect every man in SACO. Immediately after the war, a publication OFFICERS & ENLISTED PERSONNEL WHO HAVE SERVED WITH U.S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA was issued. Your two buddies are listed therein. There are probably several hundred in that publication that we have no record.*

????!***

To the editor 15 July 2005

I appreciated your call of sometime ago concerning the forthcoming SACO Reunion.

My schedule is hard to predict; I wish I could speak affirmatively re: the Follies, but believe the cost may be a bit more than we can handle.

I will do my darnedest to get down there for the meetings, at the least, and join with SACO members as I can.

The cover on the *SACO NEWS* magazine with a view of the Palms in Palm Canyon brought back sweet memories of my Boy Scouting days (First Methodist Church, Pasadena) when we camped in Palm Canyon during Christmas vacation - A cold time but a great time!!

...Frank H. Kilmer

PS: Coincidences do happen - I learned sometime ago that Paul Casamajor and I attended the same Junior High School in Pasadena - he was, I think, a couple of years ahead of me. It was in the 1930s.

????!***

To the editor 17 October 2005

Read the notice of reunion in September issue of *Military Officer* magazine. I am reporting in to advise that I am still around, but not able to make it to Palm Springs for this special event. Made it to Chungking over the Hump in January, 1945 after Scout and Raider training in Ft. Pierce, FL.

Was one of party of six who made a survey of the Yangtze River, and later became a member of Unit 12, which was ordered to Tung Ting Lake area to train Chinese commandos. Nothing was written about either of these two events in Roy Stratton's book "SACO - THE RICE PADDY NAVY."

My warmest regards to all attendees.
Edward J. Socha, Commander USN (Ret)

????!***

To the editor Christmas 2005

It was my pleasure to make a commemorative quilted wall-hanging for

the reunion. Perhaps I'll be able to think of something appropriate for the next one. "Days of Wine & Roses" was great. Thanks for all your hard work.

Lee & Mary Hirt

????!***

To the editor 21 June 2005

Glad to hear you're keeping busy as usual. We enjoy the *SACO NEWS* a lot; one way we can keep up with everyone.

We keep quite busy here in the community. Ken's thumb is healed, but he is still having problems with his eyes.

Sorry we won't be able to join you again, but am sure it will be a great one as usual. Miss seeing everyone – Keep up the good work!

Tell everyone "Hi" for us.

Love, Lillie & Ken (Brown)

????!***

To the editor November 2005

We were quite a bunch of guys & (not quiet) – still on the go! Darn that English language. We used to think the Chinese language was abstract! How about our own!

Thanks for working for our behalf all these years. We (Paulette my daughter) & I had a a very exceptional experience.

Thanks again.

Fred Webster

PS: Paulette appreciated your card.

????!***

To the editor 7 June 2005

Richard P. Smith has moved to Rockledge Retirement Community – 37 Coles Meadow Rd. Apt 207 , Northampton, MA 01060.

12

I, Barbara Smith, am legally blind & Richard has Alzheimer's. We are unable to travel. Richard enjoys his *SACO* magazine, so please forward it to the new address.

Please excuse the poor writing as I see very little. Thank you for taking care of this.

Mrs. Barbara Smith

????!***

**LOOKING FOR A BLUE NAVY DECK
JACKET WITH U. S. NAVY IN WHITE
LETTERS ON BACK**

Robert Viau, (his photos loaned us in the Nostalgia section of this issue) is an avid collector of most anything relating to *SACO* and would like to locate the above item. If you have any leads please contact Robert at:

2725 Verdugo Rd

Glendale, CA 91208

(818) 242 5443. His name is pronounced "View")

**LOST LARGE STORAGE CHEST IN
CALCUTTA**

Bob Clark , after all these years, wants to reach out to see if anyone might have a clue what might have happened to his chest and its cherished contents which he arranged to have sent home by ship from Calcutta but it never arrived home.

I told him I felt odds were slim to nothing that anyone could give him a lead, but it doesn't hurt to try. My personal feelings are that it never left Calcutta or was pillaged aboard ship. Ed.

????!***

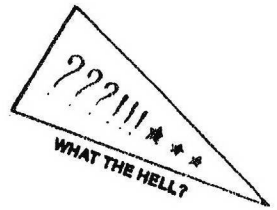


SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS

45-480 Desert Fox Drive
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214
28 November 2005



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles
Perpetual Skipper

MG Kuo, Rong-charng - Deputy Director
Military Intelligence Bureau
Ministry of National Defense
PO Box 3693 Shihlin, Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China

Dear Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Kuo:

I truly regret this delay in writing you, but I was sick for three weeks following our big reunion (actually began the day before our banquet) and unable to drive my car for a week due to dizziness. I understand my cousins, Jack and Diane, called on you prior to your departure to bid you farewell and I'm pleased they were so thoughtful. They were thrilled and amazed at the friendliness and acceptance to be with SACOs. As part of a gift I gave them for their assistance to me, early on, I made them associate SACO members with two years dues payment for each. They were exuberantly surprised. Hopefully, they will be able to join us at future gatherings.

We all had such a good time as guests at your dinner at The Great Wall. My favorite was Ken's five-flavor shrimp and I must go back for more some day! Your selection of gifts was truly special.

How do we express our heartfelt gratitude for the enormous cash gift from the MIB for our SACO treasury? On behalf of all of us, as my mother would have said, "Many Ding Haos" and I offer a magnanimous "Si si ni???!!!*** I'm sure we're going to realize a gradual decline in contributions from our members as we lose them with the passing of time.

It's always such a pleasure to have a delegation of the MIB every year and you are special! You're extremely affable and so much fun to be with. You're gifted with the natural ability to put everyone at ease and bring enjoyment and laughter to old friends.

Laura has always been a joy and loved by all of us. So many asked earlier if she would be coming. It was our first meeting with Sophie and she too, was very outgoing and won the warmth and affection of all - quite an accomplished interpreter as is Laura.

It was truly one of life's pleasures to serve you and SACO veterans, families and friends and I would do it again tomorrow! I miss the preparation and the climax of the planning.

With fondest regards,

Richard L. Rutan

PS: Received beautiful letter from LtGen Peng last Wednesday acknowledging the gifts you delivered to him. I will write him soon.



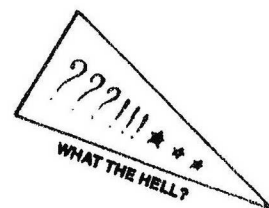
Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles
Perpetual Skipper

SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS

45-480 Desert Fox Drive
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214
28 November 2005



Lt.Gen. Peng, Sheng-chu, Director
Military Intelligence Bureau
Ministry of National Defense
PO Box 3693
Shihlin, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

Dear LtGen Peng:

This is to acknowledge your letter which I received the day before our Thanksgiving holiday which was Thursday, November 24. Please accept my lateness in corresponding with you, but I had a 3-weeks spell of illness which began the day before our SACO reunion banquet and progressively worsened. I'm well on the road to recovery.

I am pleased as well as proud to report that many think our Palm Springs reunion was one of the greatest. I tried to make it so and Palm Springs has lots to offer when it comes to beauty, thrills and excitement. The Palm Springs Follies and the tram ride to 8,500 feet for dinner were the highlights of the reunion. They also enjoyed a tour of our Coachella Valley and a visit to the Indian Canyons, the habitat of the Indians during the hot summer months before the white man came.

Your delegation from the MIB was one of the greatest ever! MG Kuo, his wife, Laura and Sophie were all a delight. In preparation of the reunion, I was questioned many times if Laura would be with us again. It was a first for Sophie and I'm sure that she soon felt at home as we surely welcomed her. No one is a stranger in our group. MG Kuo gained popularity in Philadelphia a couple of years ago and it was with great pleasure we welcomed him back in Palm Springs. He has such an engaging personality and truly, "the life of the party" contributing to the charisma that prevailed those too few days including hosting a Chinese dinner, truly delightful!

I am happy that that you were pleased with our gifts. I personally selected them from a jeweler I know in Palm Springs who specializes in Indian jewelry. I wanted something that was indigenous to our part of the West and I thought this to be a priority.

And what an extremely generous contribution your Bureau made to our SACO treasury! We are truly overwhelmed by your cash gift. Thank you so very much!

In closing, I must take note of your very kind acknowledgement of my efforts through the years with *SACO NEWS*. Coming from you, the leader of the MIB, is about the nicest tribute I've ever received from your government and I thank you most sincerely.

I agree with you, until the end of time, may our friendship continue to grow.

Respectfully yours,

Richard L. Rutan
2005 Chair & *SACO NEWS* editor



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
SHIHLIN, TAIPEI, TAIWAN
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

December 15, 2005

Mr. Richard L. Rutan
2005 Chair & SACO NEWS Editor
45-480 Desert Fox Drive
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Rutan:

First of all, please accept my sincere apology for not writing to you right after I got home. Work piled up during my absence, and many of the cases even required to meet the dead lines. Again, sorry for my late correspondence to you.

My wife and I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you our deepest gratitude for your cordial hospitality and the most appreciated gifts you gave us. My family enjoyed very much the delicious date, and my wife especially praised that the ear-ring had gone well with most of her suits and dresses.

The 2005 SACO Reunion, one of the greatest according to all the participants I met in Palm Springs, came to its perfect conclusion thanks to your yearlong dedication and preparation. The tram ride was amazing and exciting; the Palm Springs Follies was fascinating and refreshing; the Coachella Valley tour was informative and relaxing. Moreover, the banquet was solemn, warm and touching. Being in the Reunion with our SACO friends from around the States, we had wonderful time and learned quite a lot from everyone we talked to. I particularly felt honored to be offered the great chance to reward the SACO medal to our hero at the elegant banquet hall. This Reunion is no doubt an unforgettable experience in my lifetime

Mr. Rutan, you are a man of integrity. The more I know about you, the more I admire you. I respect very much your long-term devotion to the editing work of SACO NEWS. You certainly set an excellent example for us to learn from. I sincerely hope that, under our continuing efforts, the unshakable friendship between our two sides will last forever.

I wish you all the best.

Sincerely yours,

Kuo Rong-charng

中華民國軍事情報局 郭榮長
副局長 陸軍少將

Kuo, Rong-charng
Maj. General, ROC Army
Deputy Director, MIB, MND

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P.S. Enclosed please find pictures taken during the Reunion.



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
SHIHLIN, TAIPEI, TAIWAN
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

November 15, 2005

Mr. Richard Rutan
SACO Chairman
45480 Desert Fox Dr.
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Rutan:

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your warm hospitality and cordial assistance extended to the MIB delegation led by MG Kuo, Deputy Director of this Bureau, during their stay in Palm Springs. My wife and I were pleasantly surprised by the most beautiful and useful gifts you thoughtfully chose for us. Again, thank you very much for your consideration.

I was told by MG Kuo upon his arrival that the 2005 SACO Reunion came to its perfect conclusion thanks to your yearlong dedication and considerable assistance offered by Mr. & Mrs. Parks. The two-day activities were unique and amazing. The arrangement of the banquet hall was tasteful; the banquet itself was solemn, warm and touching. Congratulations on the success of the 2005 SACO Reunion!

Please accept my respectful admiration for your earnest devotion to the heavy duty as SACO News Editor for many years. We will always be grateful for your hearty and consistent support to the ROC. I sincerely hope that, under our continuing efforts, the unshakable friendship between our two sides will last forever.

I wish you all the best.

Sincerely yours,

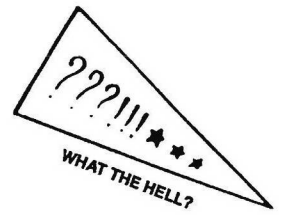
中華民國軍事情報局 彭勝竹
局長空軍中將
Peng, Sheng-Chu
Lt./G ROC Air Force
Director, MIB, MND



SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles
Perpetual Skipper

November 14, 2005

Lt. Gen. PENG, Sheng-chu RCAF
Director M.I.B MOD
P.O. Box, 3693
Taipei, Taiwan. ROC

RE: 2005 SACO Reunion.

Dear General Peng,

Once again, as M.I.B Director, you have exceeded our wildest expectations in the form of your choice of M.I.B representatives sent to share our annual reunion. As you are well aware, MG. KUO, Rong-charng and his lovely wife as well as Lt. Col Laura Lin have attended previous reunions, consequently there was no "get acquainted" time needed even with the new interpreter Capt. Sophie Wang. She fit in with our group immediately.

Speaking for the entire membership we thank you profusely for sending such an admirable group to represent you and you can rest assured that their actions should make you very proud indeed.

We would also like to thank you for your most generous contribution to the SACO treasury. As you know our organization is membership driven and with the advent of advanced age creeping upon us, our source of revenue is declining at a precarious rate. Your infusion into our treasury therefore cannot be overemphasized as a life saving event. Since the average age of our membership is somewhere around 85 years you can understand our concern for the life or the American side of SACO.

We also would like to thank you for the gifts presented to each member at our final banquet on November 5, 2005 I'm sure the "Fannie Packs" will be used and appreciated as time passes.

Again I want you to know that your decision in selecting representatives, your most generous contribution to our treasury, and the personal gifts could not have been better nor more appropriate. We continue to hope that next year you can find time to honor us with your presence.

Respectfully,

Bill Bartee,
SACO Secretary (Retired)

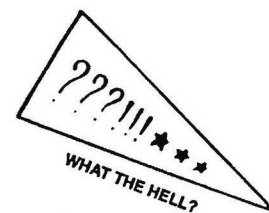
CC: M.G. Kou, Rong-Charng



SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles
Perpetual Skipper

November 14, 2005

M.G. KUO, Rong-charng
P.O. Box 3693
Taipei, Taiwan, ROC.

RE: 2005 SACO Reunion

Dear General KUO,

On behalf of the SACO Officers, Trustees and General Membership I would like to convey our most sincere gratitude and thanks to you, and your contingent of MIB representatives for your presence at our most recent SACO reunion.

I must also express our utmost thanks for the dinner and gifts bestowed upon the Officers and Trustees. The taste and originality of the purses and Chiang-Kai-Shek/GenTai Li coins were impeccable and will be appreciated for years to come.

I have taken the liberty to express our thanks to Gen. Peng and inform him of his excellent choice of you, your wife and aides. I personally feel that there could not have been a better choice. Of course for our entire membership it was a personal gift to see our old friends again.

Thank you for coming and maybe you should consider both you and the Director coming next year to Appleton, WI. We will keep you informed as to dates and particulars.

Respectfully,

Bill Bartee,
SACO Secretary

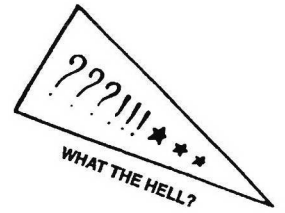
CC: Director MIB Lt. Gen. PENG, Sheng-chu



SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles
Perpetual Skipper

November 14, 2005

Captain Sophie Wang
P.O. Box 3693
Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

RE: 2005 SACO Reunion.

Dear Sophie,

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to you for attending our latest reunion. Your proficient manner in your interpreting duties was nothing short of excellent.

I would also like to thank you for the teapot clasps. There is one problem however, and that is the fact that my wife collects teapots as a hobby, I can already see them in her display case.

We all enjoyed your company and your smiling face, so make plans to return and see us next year.

Thanks again,

Sincerely,

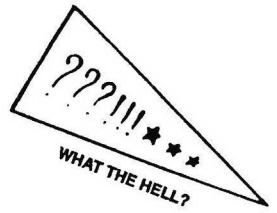
Bill Bartee,
SACO Secretary.



SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles
Perpetual Skipper

November 14, 2005

Lt. Col. Laura Lin
P.O. Box 3693
Taipei, Taiwan. ROC.

RE: 2005 SACO Reunion

Dear Laura,

On behalf of the SACO Officers, Trustees and General Membership I would like to convey our deepest gratitude and deep appreciation for the hard work exerted by you during our latest reunion. You were certainly the glue that held everything together.

Personally I want to say how great it was to see you again and to thank you for the lovely and useful accessory kit. In the Navy we called it a "Dock Kit" because you always took it with you when you hit the dock for liberty.

I think it is now necessary for you to make another trip to see us so you can be selected for Colonel. That would be really great.

Laura it was really great to see you and I look forward to seeing you again **soon**. If I can do anything for you on this end of the line, please let me know.

With deepest regards for my favorite Colonel.

I remain,

Bill Bartee,
SACO Secretary

2005 Palm Springs Banquet Invocation Delivered by D. Lee Alverson

Lord, as you are well aware, a little over a month ago, I turned 81 and I am on my way to my 82nd birthday. At about this point in one's life, we begin taking serious the fact that we are not immortal, at least not in this short continuance on our earthly domain. I am also smart enough to realize that my remaining time on this planet is likely to be a small fragment of that which has already lapsed. We are often told we cannot live in the past, but it is such an enormous part of my history that I frequently find myself slipping back in time, sifting through my life experiences.

Once in a while, I have a mental image of my standing before the ultimate judge who is sitting before a computer. He says, "Lee, let's print out a record of all your good deeds" and the printer spits out, one page at a time, my life's pluses. It prints several pages, which are handed to me and I think this looks pretty good. Then he says, "Let's have a look at your demerits" and the printer starts again. I watch as the printer runs off page after page, smothering the small number of pages containing the pluses. It goes on like the "Energizer Bunny." I expect that at any moment, a trap door will open and I will be whisked away to a warmer climate. But that doesn't happen and much to my surprise, the gate swings open and I enter God's domain – perhaps wishful thinking – but a light goes on in my head and I remember a verse in Psalms stating:

Lord, if you should mark my iniquities
Who would stand guiltless there?
But Lord, within you forgiveness dwells
And Love beyond compare.

Lord, we know there is a message there for all of us and during these rather chaotic times, I am reminded of a poem that is perhaps appropriate for all of our cohorts:

Lord, we are so thankful for the blessings that you give,
For your word that teaches us the way we ought to live.
Lord, we endure the bad times; they make us appreciate the good,
For your wisdom that makes us do the things we know we should.
And when the storms of live thunder, in with gusts that tear apart,
We will not fear, for your Spirit abides within our hearts.
That is why we can face today and all the tomorrows too;
It truly makes a difference when we trust in You.

Father, we thank you for the opportunity for this small band of warriors who served together in China during WWII, to join and rekindle friendships that have endured over six decades. I ask that You bless this meeting and all who have come to Palm Springs to celebrate this SACO Reunion. Lord, we also pray for all the men and women who are in service of our country that face tribulation of another war. May your spirit comfort them and calm their fears. We also pray for those inundated by the recent hurricanes and floods and shook by a devastating earthquake. We ask that You improve their lives in the future. Further, we pray that You will help us manifest a rebuilding plan for those impacted, based on wisdom and compassion rather than emotions and finger-pointing.

Lord, we also pray for our guests from the ROC and the peoples of the two Chinas whose lives have been impacted by the political and ideological differences of their governments. We ask, Father, that You provide wisdom and compassion to their leaders, in order that these differences may narrow and their people live in harmony.

Finally, Lord, we ask that You bless the food and drinks that will be set before us and that it will be tasteful to our palates and nutritional to our bodies.

In Jesus' name, AMEN.

Candid Comments From Attendees of 51st Annual SACO Reunion in Palm Springs Nov. 2-5, 2005

Bob Hoe – “Congratulations on an outstanding job! I thoroughly enjoyed our SACO Reunion and I certainly appreciate the work that you put into it! The Tuxedo was definitely a master touch!”

Bud & Ellen Booth – “What a truly wonderful reunion you gave us in Palm Springs. It was great seeing Gen. & Mrs. Kuo and Laura again and being able to meet a new MIB member, Sophie.”

Dave Clarke – “Your reunion was outstanding and memorable. Thanks for fixing it so I could share the room with Dick Terpstra – a great guy.”

Bill & Sissy Miller – “Everyone we hear from says what a great time they had in Palm Springs. Thanks for all of your work – you did a great job!”

Tex & Phyllis Howell – “I want to thank you for the tremendous amount of effort you put into hosting the Reunion. It was ‘far above and beyond the call of duty.’ We are all grateful to you.”

Bill & Elizabeth Sager – “What can we say? To say that the 61st Annual Reunion of SACO was extraordinary and the best, sounds so feeble. You have upheld the highest traditions of SACO and for a task extremely well done, all of us thank you. We were especially pleased that you dedicated your hard work in memory of Erma. She was there with us every moment, and for this, we thank you also.”

Sylvia Erwin – “You did a great job, am sure there were times when you would like to tear your hair out (not really, I have none to spare...rlr) but everyone had a great time.

Marty Tetlow & Barb Rowe – (Dtrs of John & Fran Waters) – “Dear Richard, Diane & Jack – Barb and I want to thank you all for such a fun SACO Reunion. The activities that you planned, as well as the lovely banquet were perfect. There was so much to do in the area. We had a great hike with Dad up the mountain behind our hotel. Your wonderful attention to detail and concern for others enjoyment was so appreciated by us all.”

Mel Goguey – “On my desk, clearly visible, sits the two flags, which I filched from a centerpiece at what I call the grand finale of my life. Richard, my life has now come full cycle. . . the real reason for this letter is to thank you for the most fantastic time of my life. These last three days will stay with me for the rest of my life; up until this reunion, there have been many nights wondering about SACO*, but now it has all come together; I could die tomorrow a happy man.” (* *Just recently found SACO. Ed*).

Bob & Lola Hill – “Wanted to write and tell you how much we enjoyed the Reunion. You put a lot of work and effort into it to make it so great...The desert is beautiful and I can understand why you love living there. Perfect weather!!! We thoroughly enjoyed every day and every minute and a special thanks to your relatives who were there to help you.”

Jim Kelly – “What a wonderful Reunion. You certainly are to be commended for all you did in chairing this year’s get-together. Palm Springs certainly proved itself to be the ultimate site for SACO’s annual celebration. You must know that all in attendance were enraptured by the “Valley.” Moreover, you accomplished a more-than-successful Reunion despite the disappointment of the many understandable no-shows. Richard, ‘thank you’ is an expression often used with little intensity. May I assure you I can’t be more sincere as I extend my thank you to you.”

Ben & Betty Ritter – “Betty and I want to thank you for a wonderful time at the Reunion. You did a beautiful job of putting everything and handling all the important things that had to be done. Seeing Bill Bartee, the

Millers, Hills, Bakers and many others beside yourself brought back memories of the past reunions we have attended.”

Connie & Wade Brightbill – “Wade and I want to express our grateful thanks for hosting this year’s SACO Reunion – ‘Days of Wine and Roses.’ Your personal touch made every event special. It was nice seeing our old friends and meeting many new associates, which makes these reunions a unique time in our lives. Also extend our thanks to your committee for their hard work and energy to promote SACO.”

Hazel Nelson – “Again, many thanks for the SACO Reunion. Be proud; it was a huge success!”

Lilma Huntley & Nelson Bowman “Thanks for all your hard work planning such nice events.”

Kayte Petersen & Granddaughter Renee – “. . .thank you for a great Reunion! . . .Renee enjoyed the whole reunion and activities much more that she thought before leaving home. And it was nice and fun to have her with me; also a big help for the Old Grandma. The Follies were wonderful, especially the Golden Oldies music!”

Charles & Laura Sellers - “Our reunion was a success and a good time was had by all. We want to thank you for all your planning and hard work. It was a fun time and we now believe that Californians really do have more fun. You have a beautiful home. You have a real talent for decorating and we enjoyed the tour.”

John & Frances Waters – “Thanks for hosting a great and entertaining reunion; and relay our thanks and appreciation to Diane and Jack. You’re fortunate to have such caring and helpful relatives. (As Fran and me to have Barb & Marty). . . I hope that after a week of rest and quiet, both you and Pete fully recovered. I’m sure the preparation for the reunion was very tiring for you – maybe even exhausting. The cable car ride up the mountain and Follies were exceptionally enjoyable. . . Once again, thanks for a grand week even though Fran missed much of the fun and entertainment*; she’s still happy to have made the trip.”

**(Fran was ill most of the time. Although I didn’t know of her illness, once home, she found she suffered from gall stones and had surgery. Ed.)*

Michael Horne – “. . .thank you for such a nice time in Palm Springs Nov. 2-4 with my father, John Horne. The events were well organized and lots of fun. I especially enjoyed the tour and, of course, The Follies. Since I was very young, I have had a fascination with WWII. As I grew older, I found out my father and my uncle were in that conflict. In college, I studied American History. Eventually, I became a history teacher and taught junior high students about this war. This past week was an opportunity to actually be around people who were Second World War veterans. Listening to their stories was fascinating. I read Tin Brokaw’s *The Greatest Generation*, and this past week I was able to experience these people in person. Men and women who dropped what they were doing to serve their country without fanfare or asking for anything. I found these people to be really friendly gentlemen who made me feel at home at this reunion.

“Once again, thank you for a terrific time with terrific people. I hope to see you again some day.”

Conrad & Molly Bradshaw – “Congratulations on an excellent SACO Reunion. Palm Springs was a delight to Molly and me. It was a town small enough to get around in, had sufficient points of interest to keep us busy and the reminiscing was as good as ever. I got to see one of my old clients who lives in Palm Springs, Molly and I visited the excellent Art Museum and we got down to the Salton Sea so that Molly might do some birding.

“The arrangements were first class at the Palm Mountain Resort, and the rates were great. We had a good time at the Palm Springs Follies. Sixteen years and 99% attendance with a scale of \$50 to \$100 (I noted that our seats were \$38 (*actually \$42 but \$70 to the public...Ed*), make us want to be investors in this old timey, patriotic extravaganza. Molly was still picking confetti out of her luggage after we got to Tucson. The banquet at the Fantasy Ballroom was well presented, the mementos were good and the reminiscing was top rate. You are to be appreciated on a first rate job, and Molly and I thank you for your efforts in our behalf.”

Bill & Skeeter Bartee - "On behalf of the Officers, Trustees and entire Membership, I take this opportunity to express our most sincere and profound gratitude to you and your assistants for producing what is undoubtedly the greatest reunion yet.

"While I acknowledge that you told me you were going to do just that (*actually, I think I said I was going to try Ed.*), I reserved judgment because of the success of many previous reunions. This reluctance was ill founded because you really took everything and everyone into your meticulous planning. There were no long walks, yet we saw everything, the Follies were probably the highlight; however the tram ride was there nose-to-nose with it. The food was delicious and you were always available to help or answer questions. How could we ask for more? For those SACO Tigers who could not or did not attend, they missed a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"Again, we thank you and I'm sure if you want to do it again, you will be taken up on your offer." (*When it was all over and the void that was overwhelming consumed me, I stated, "I'd do it again tomorrow" and that offer still stands - just ask me. Ed.*).

Guy & Rosemary Tressler & Dtr Sandy Russell - "Rosemary and I want to thank you personally for the well-planned reunion. I feel this was one of the best reunions we have attended. How happy I was to receive and win the last prize. (*At conclusion of the banquet 15 door prizes were awarded. . Ed*) Many at the reunion wanted me to open it. I said, 'No,' that the bag felt so light when it was handed to me that I thought there may not be a prize in it. However, when I got home and opened it, I was surprised and happy to have won it. It was a wall-hanging that was made especially for the occasion by Mary Ellen Hirt, "Bud" (Henry) Scurlock's daughter saying, ' May you have fond memories for years to come. Thank you for all you have done to make this world a better place.'

"Now I felt bad because I should have opened it and shown it to all the members. It is such a beautiful wall-hanging, which I will always treasure.

"Take care and may God bless a beautiful person that you are."

Admiral Jeff & Jean Metzler - "We enjoyed the reunion in Palm Springs. Thank you for seeing we all had a great time. The bus tour was wonderful, the Follies a blast and the trip up San Jacinto was thrilling. We hope this finds you well. We enjoyed the banquet and the hotel."

Beverly & Jack Petersen - ". . . to let you know how much I enjoyed the reunion stay in Palm Springs. So good to see you and the gang from SACO. Thought the Follies were great. Sorry I could not go on any other trips as it's hard to go some places carrying oxygen along. California is beautiful - enjoyed every minute. Thank you again for the wonderful reunion and all your work. Tell Diane & Jack they did a good job, too. Jack, my Jack, enjoyed every minute, too.

Judy & Pete Barbieri - "Thank you for such a wonderful reunion. We had such a good time and our three children really enjoyed meeting people from their grandfather's life. We actually found two fellows that were with him in Florida, India and then they flew into China and Dad drove the Burma Road.

"Everything about the reunion was beautiful - the wine - the roses - the music - the food and the pre-Saturday events. We especially enjoyed the Follies and the tram ride and dinner. We know it was a lot of work and we appreciate all that you did."

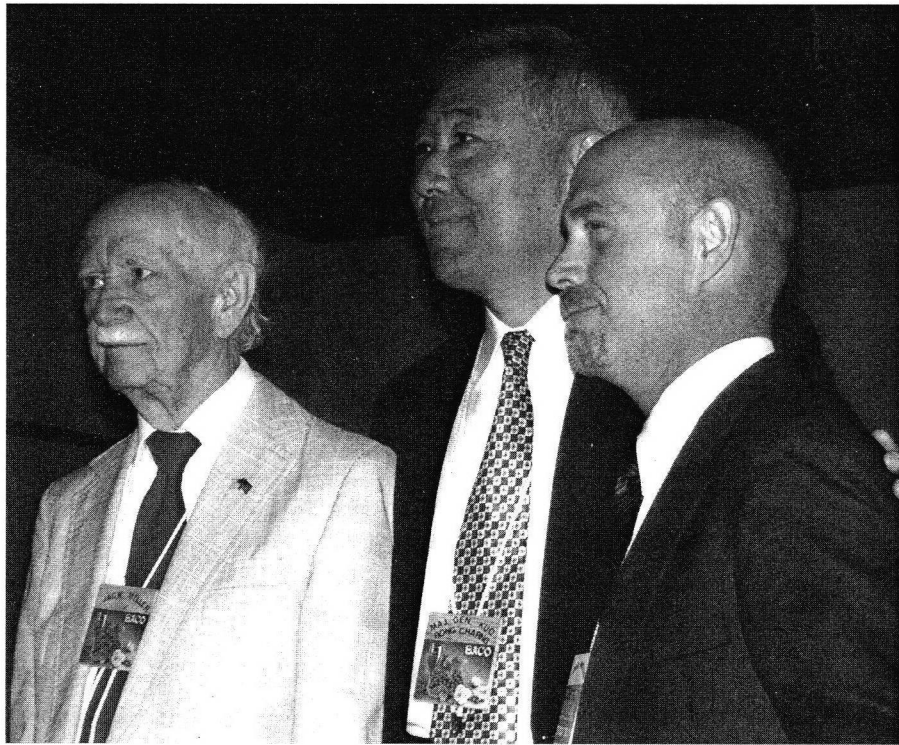
Dean & Billi Warner - "We enjoyed the great reunion you hosted. Everything moved along smoothly and everyone had a great time - especially enjoyed your tribute to Erma."

Francis & Caroline Reynnet - "We had a great time at the reunion. You and your crew really accomplished a well-planned and elegant event. Congratulations on all your hard work."

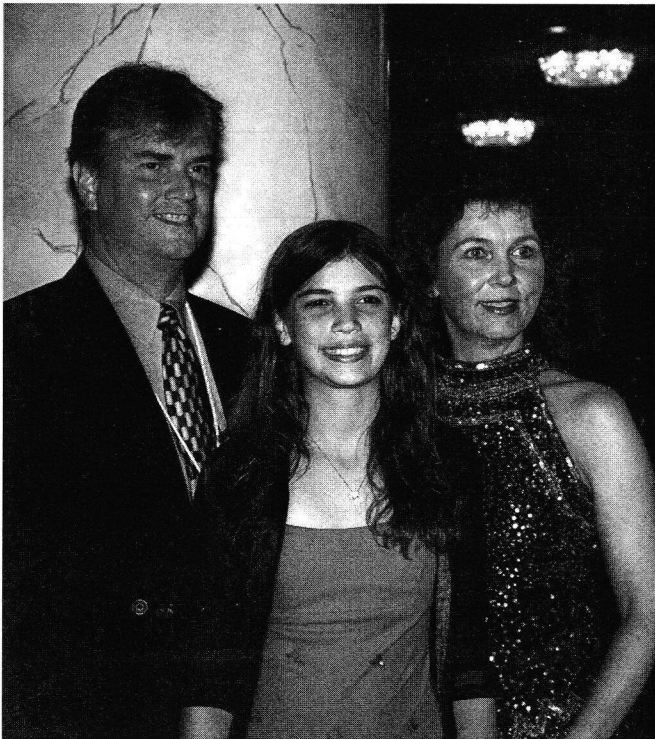
???!***

I don't know how to express the feelings I have experienced from your comments at the reunion, from phone calls and the foregoing kudos. You have all touched me deeply and confirm that whatever energy and desire that I have to express a labor of love has grown from being a member of a special volunteer group of the United States Navy that is dear to my heart. I love all SACO Tigers along with your families and associates. It is a privilege and honor to serve in SACO many years later. rlr

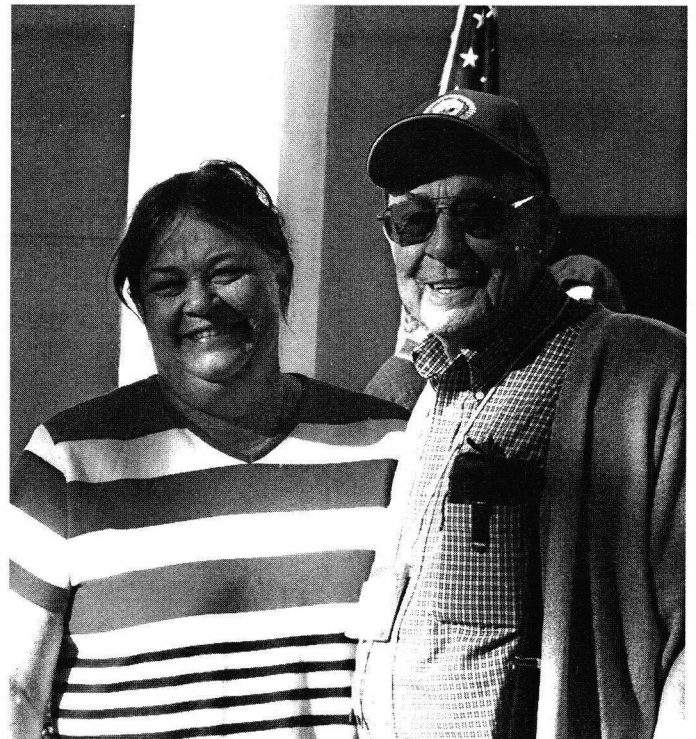
*Palm
Springs
SACO
Reunion
Nov. 2005*



Jack Miller, MG Kuo, son Dan Miller



*John Pizarick, Jr. dtr Samantha &
wife Kelly*



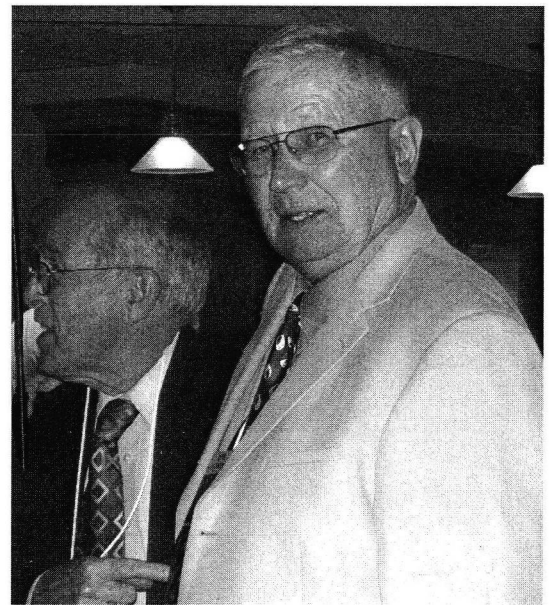
Tess McCarthy and dad Bob Clark



1. Billi and Dean Warner 2. Conrad Bradshaw 3. Adm. Jeffrey Metzel 4. Hazel Nelson 5. Sue Terpstra
6. Ben Ritter 7. Yung-wu Kuo 8. Dee Arnold



Priscilla Nichols - MG Kuo



Jim Kelly razzing Dick Terpstra



Carolyn Inman-Arnold



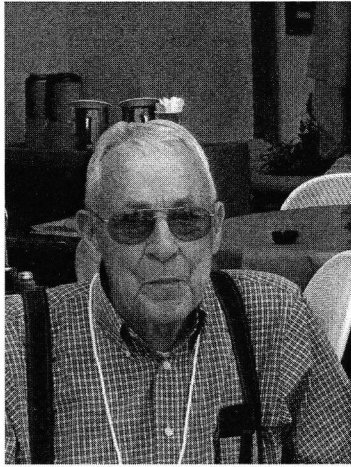
Guy Tressler



Beverly Petersen



Lt. Col. Laura Lin listens to my cousin, Jack Parks, expound.



Bob Clark



Betty Clark



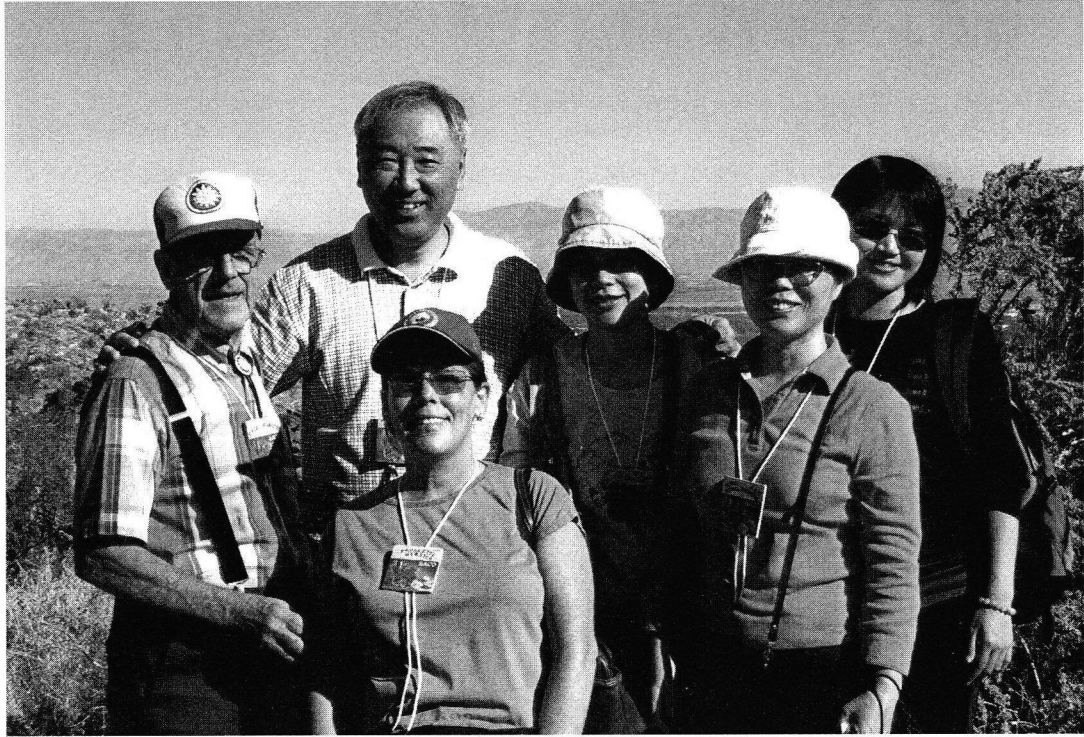
Ruby and Lee Alverson



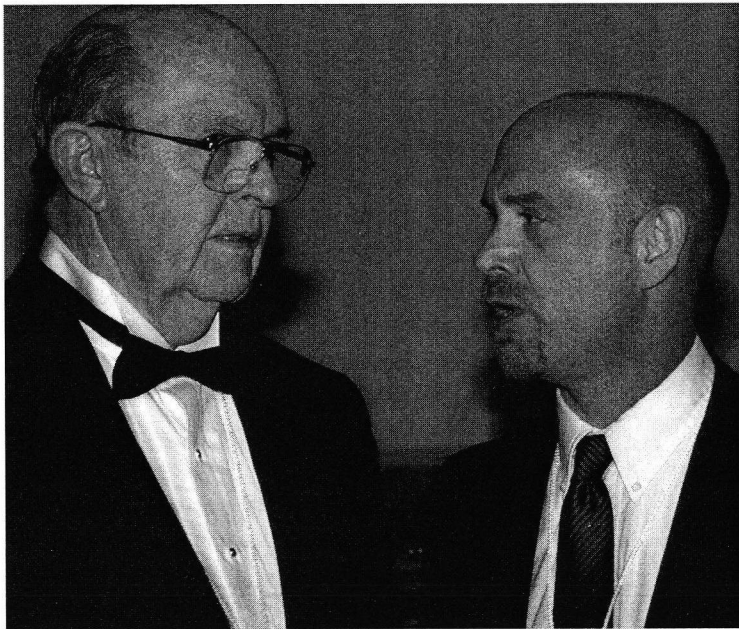
Yung-wu Kuo Carolyn Inman-Arnold and MG Kuo, Rong-charng



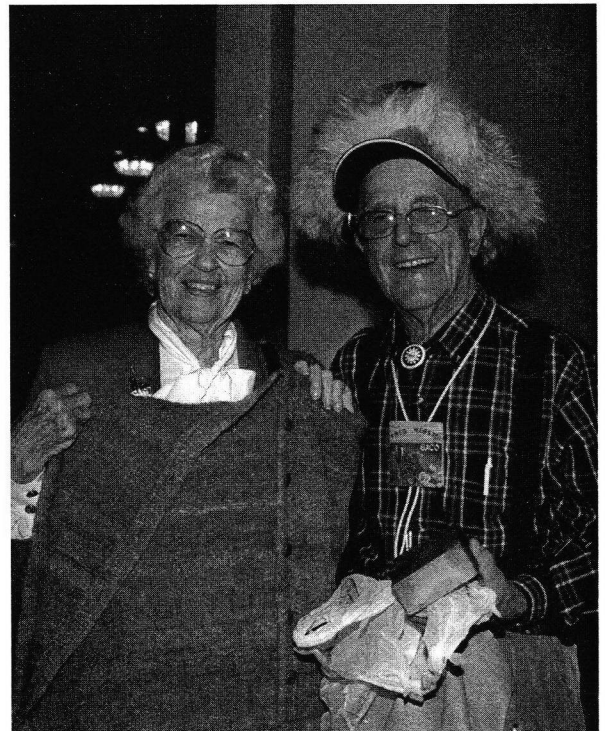
1. Jeanne Powell (wife of Jim Powell , downed flier rescued by SACO) 2. Lillian "Slim" Gilroy
3 & 4. Bob and Lola Hill 5. Roger Herberg 6. Vern Herberg 7. Jim Kelly 8. Penny Coats
9. Phyllis Howell 10 Bob Hoe 11. Sophie Wang



*Fred & dtr Paulette Webster, MG Kuo,
Lt. Col Laura Lin Mrs. Kuo & Sophie Wang*



Richard Rutan and Dan Miller



Katey Petersen and Fred Webster



*"Skeeter"
Bartee*



*Rosemary
Tressler*



*Sue
Clance*



*Jean
Metzel*



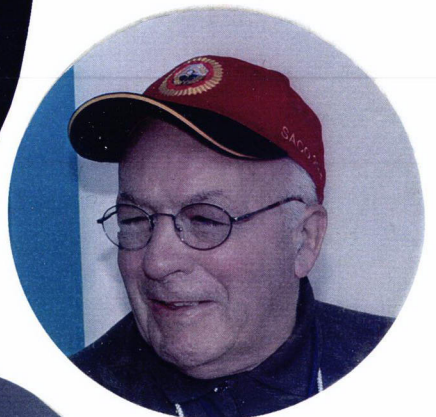
*Jack
Parks
Flamenco Star?*



*Fran
Waters*



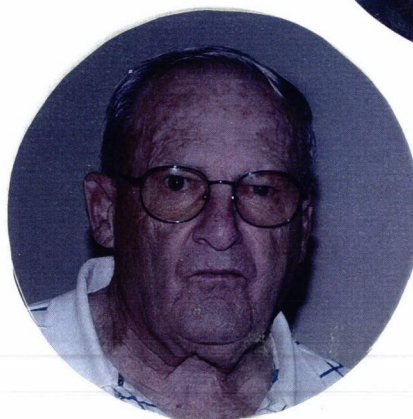
*Bronson
"Tex"
Howell*



*Sal
Ciaccio*



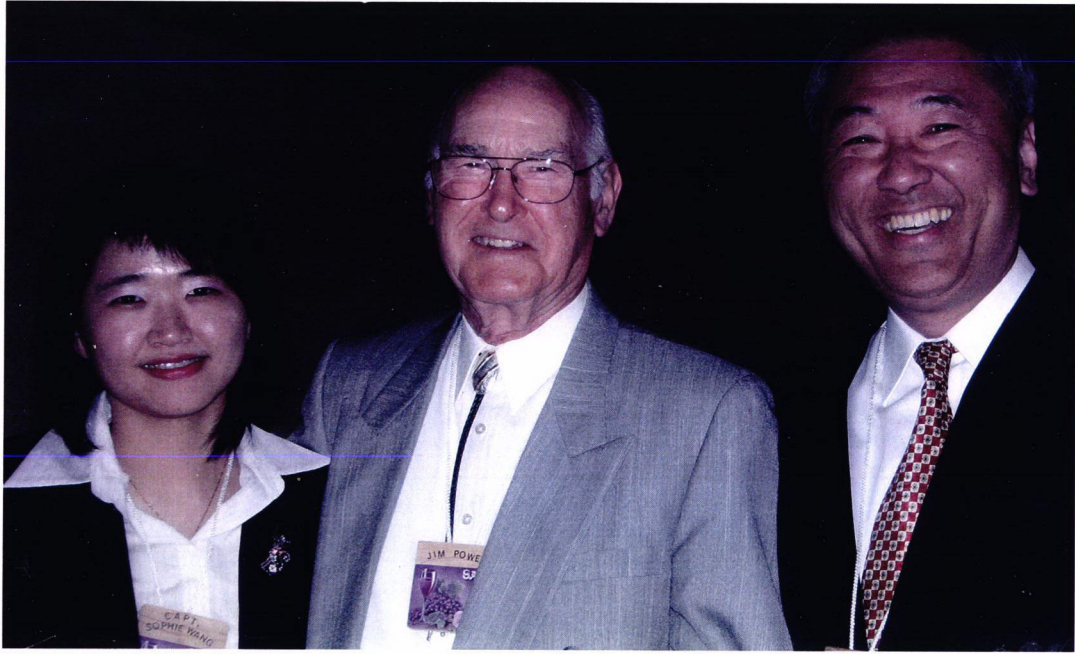
*Mary
Hirt*



*Jack
Petersen*



1. Richard Rutan 2. Bob Thomas 3. Elizabeth Sager 4. Audrey Baker 5. Lt. Col. Laura Lin 6. Henry "Bud" Scurlock 7. Vern Dalrymple 8. Mathilda Banner 9. MG Kuo 10. Yung-wu Kuo 11. John Horne 12. Kelley Pizarick 13. Samantha Pizarick 14. Jodi Petersen 15. Sylvia Erwin 16. Willie Baker 17. Bill Bartee 18. Arthur Barduhn (Lead Musician of Barduhn Trio). 19 Lt. Col. Laura Lin.



Capt. Sophie Wang, Jim Powell (a downed flier rescued by SACO) & MG Kuo



Mel and Helen Goguey



Sissy Miller



1. Pat Sanders 2. Jerry Coats 3. Marty Tetlow 4. Nelson Bowman 5. Bill Sager 6. Elizabeth Sager
7. Charles "C-going" Miles 8. Francis Reynnet 9. Jim Ciaccio 10. Guy Purvis



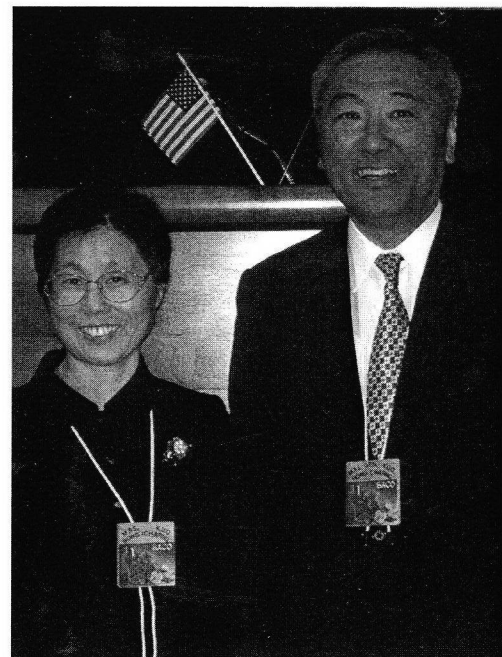
My cousin, Diane Reed



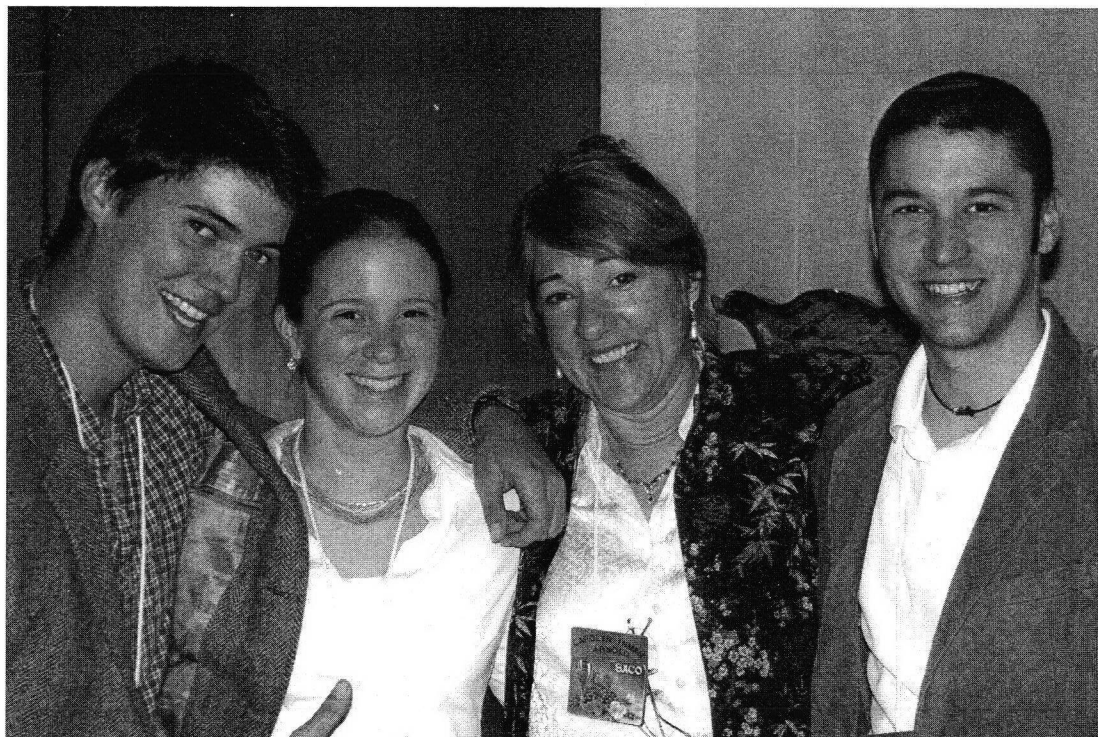
Ellen Booth



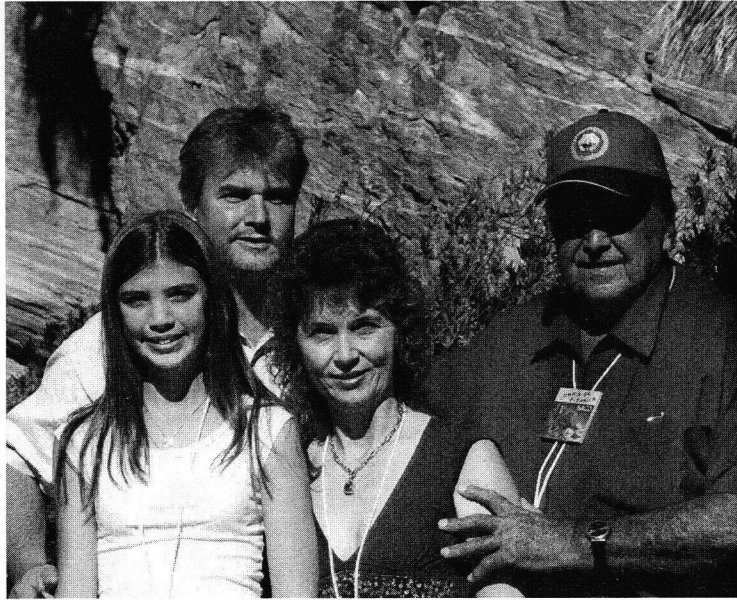
*Skeeter Bartee
& Yung-wu Kuo*



MG & Mrs. Kuo



Carolyn Inman Arnold and her photography crew



The Pizarick Family: Samantha, John, Jr. Kelly & John, Sr



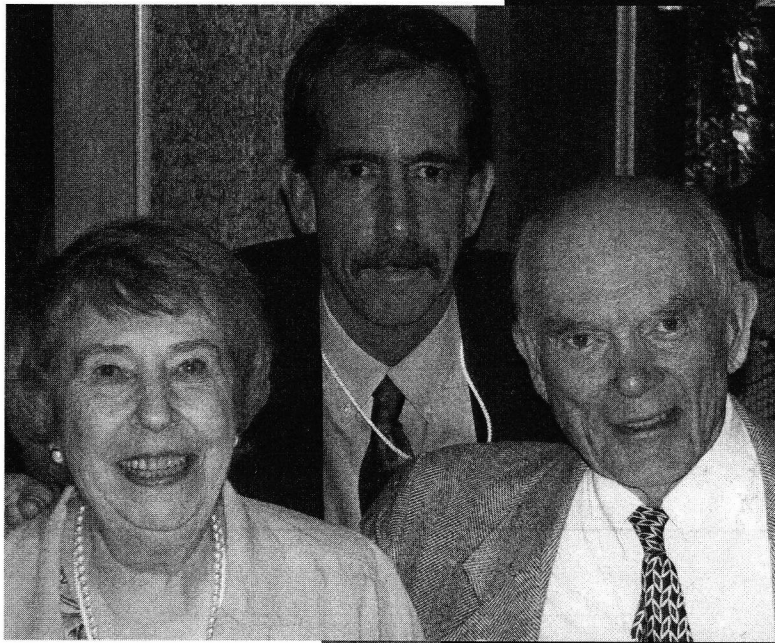
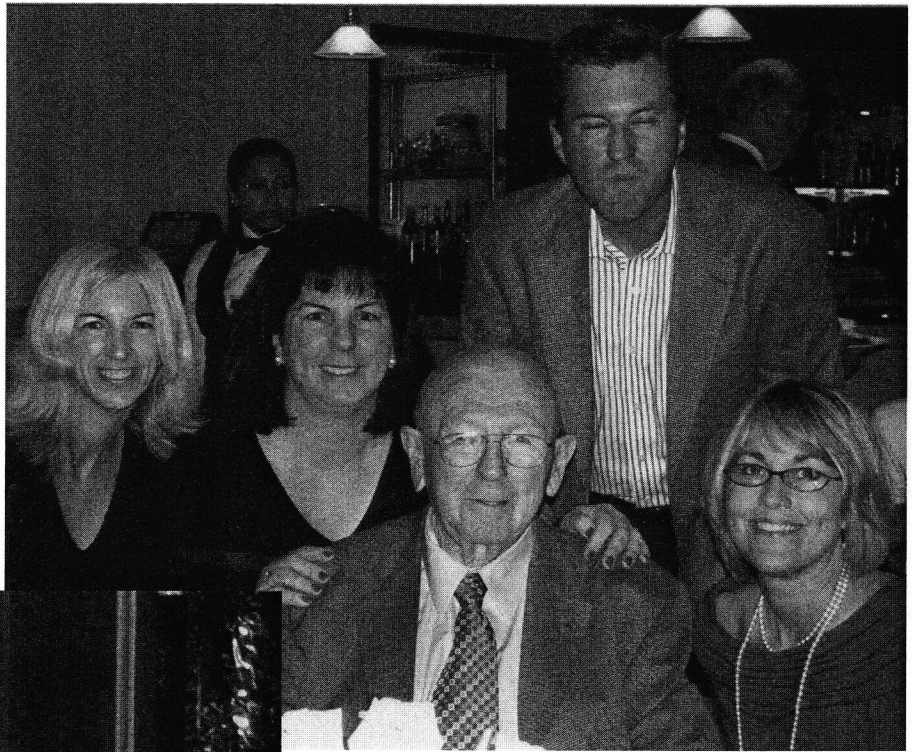
The Barbieri Family: Judy, Pete, Jr. Angela, Mia, & Pete, Sr.



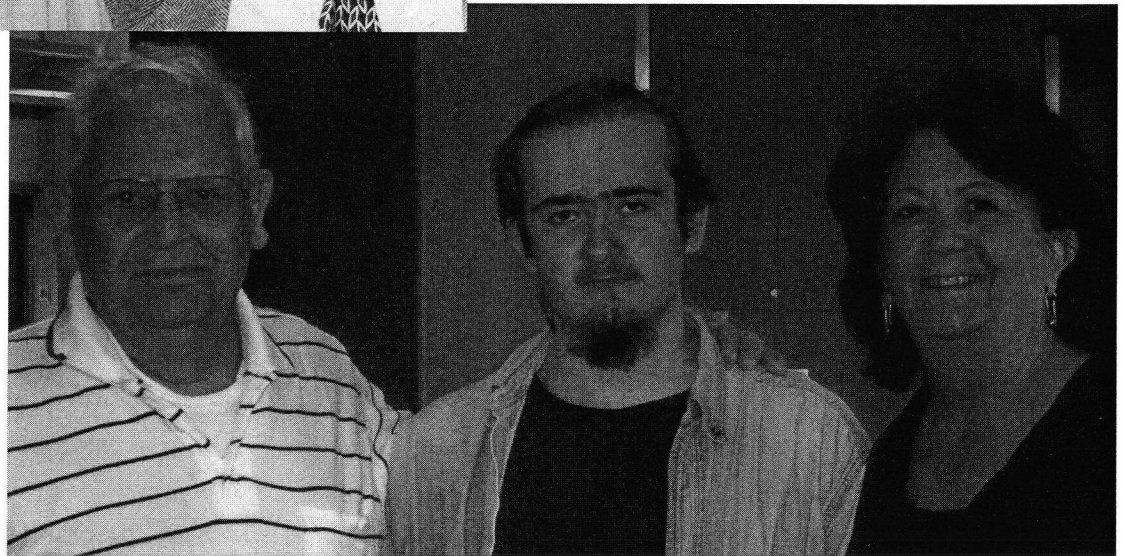
Francis and Caroline Reynnet, Ellen Demsky and Kenneth Reynnet

The Jim Whitlock Family →

*Betty Lou, Jim, Jr.
And Jim Grace, Sr*



Jerry, Robert and Penny Coats

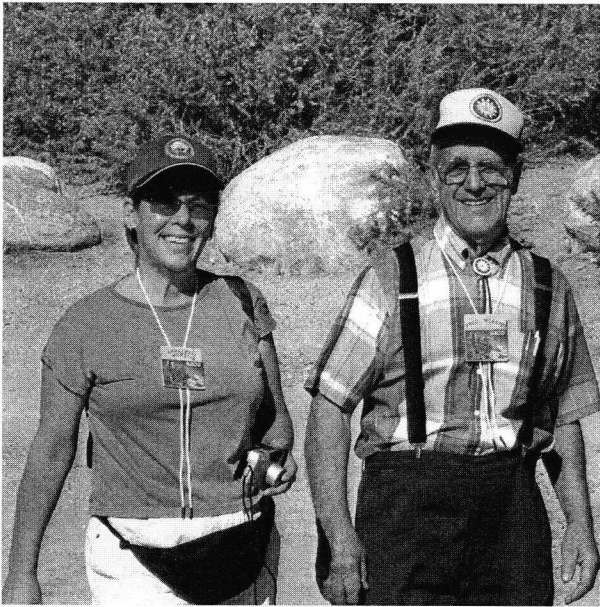




The Hill Family Ron, Lori, Bob & Lola and Jim Kelly



Katey Petersen and granddaughter Renee Petersen



Paulette and father Fred Webster



Peggy Tao-Consie & mother Lilyan Tao



*Five of the original 24 RI guys who went to school together:
Charles Sellers, John Waters, Bill Miller, Jack Petersen & Richard Rutan*

SACO's Trustees Meeting Nov 3, 2005 at top of tram (8,500 ft) on Mt. San Jacinto - completed at Palm Mountain Resort.

**Future Reunion sites: 2006 Jack Miller
Appleton, WI**

**2007 Bob Hill
Des Moines, IA**

Bill Sager appointed to open office of SACO Historian.

Annual membership dues raised to \$25.

=====

**SACO's General Meeting Nov. 5
Palm Mountain Resort**

Treasury Disbursements:

Operations:	\$501.38
Nimitz foundation	500.00
SACO NEWS	4,865.72

Total disbursements \$5,867.72

Bill Bartee & Bill Miller declined further service as officers.

Guy Purvis thanked the secretary (Bill Bartee) for his years of dedicated performance.

Richard Rutan given standing ovation for his conduct of the 2005 Reunion.

Bill Miller given thanks from the membership for all of his work.

=====

2005-2006 Officers and Trustees

President & Editor	Richard L. Rutan
V. President	Jack L. Miller
Secretary	Robert J. Hoe

**Asst. Secretary Jim Kelly
Treasurer Willie Baker
Asst. Treasurer Salvatore Ciaccio**

**Trustee Richard I. Terpstra
Trustee Robert Hill
Trustee Jerry Coats
Trustee Robert Clark
Trustee Richard Bannier**

**Membership Chairman Paul Casamajor
Legal Counsel & Historian Bill Sager
Audio-Visual Coordinator Carolyn-Inman Arnold**

A Bit of Humor borrowed from Adjutant Gerry Bright's monthly publication of the local AMERICAN LEGION

A little female humor:

A teacher asked her class, "What do you want out of life?"

A little girl in the back row raised her hand and said, "All I want out of life is four little animals."

The teacher asked, "Really, and what four little animals would that be, sugar?"

The little girl said, "A mink on my back, a jaguar in the garage, a tiger in the bed and a jackass to pay for all of it."

The teacher fainted.

Responses from kids to a test about the old and new testaments at an elementary school as they wrote and spelled the answers.

1. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears..
2. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
3. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic genitals.
4. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

More on p.58

SACO NEWS GOES TO PRISON

Dick Terpstra writes to the editor:

About six months ago, a friend of mine got up in church and asked for prayers for his son Reggie as the parole board in Georgia was meeting and he was hoping for parole. His father is a very nice person and I think a lot of him. They turned down his request so he asked me to write his son who has done 15 years for murdering some guy by him and an accomplice while hitchhiking from Florida. Story from his father is enclosed.

His father asked me to write Reggie, which I did. He wrote me back and several different letters were exchanged.

One thing he wanted was some books to read and I sent him some of your SACO publications. He also has a dorm mate or friend by the name of Craig Edge who has read the things I sent Reggie. Thought you would enjoy reading Craig's letter to me and also one of Reggie's. Richard, by now you are the big Kahuna in prison.

(First I would like you to read the father's outline of this interesting story followed by the letters of the two men Dick mentions....Ed)

1. In 1989, two weeks before Christmas on a Friday afternoon, Reg's trial was held in Valdosta, GA. The Judge was going to postpone the trial until Monday, but the Prosecutor said that because everyone was there, he wanted to begin.
2. Reg was never placed at the scene of the crime with any forensic evidence.
3. The only way Reg was involved was by the testimony of the previously convicted Dewey Boles, who plea bargained by naming Reg as an accomplice. Reg was hitchhiking with him from a carnival they worked together in Florida. Dewey picked Reg up after the crime with the victim's car. Reg stupidly went with him.
4. The trial lasted approximately four hours. The jury, who did not want to be sequestered for the weekend, came back with a guilty verdict in forty-five minutes.
5. The judge was upset, but followed the leanest letter of the law with the sentence. He stressed to Reg's attorney to appeal immediately.
6. Reg was a northerner and also his attorney. His attorney had never tried a criminal case before.
7. My daughter, Lori, and I went to Georgia and met with an attorney I hired, Charles Thomas, Esq. He said he would pursue keeping Reg's case in front of the Parole Board. Nothing ever came of this in spite of the money received.
8. Reg was to come up for Parole in seven years. He was set off 8 years.
9. Lori and I met with a Parole Board Representative, Mr. Daniels. He told us that Reg's case was an average of fifteen years served.
10. Reg has a perfect record. He achieved a 2-year business degree. He has 2 years toward an Environmental Science Degree from Mercer College. Reg made the Dean's list several times with a 3.6 GPA
11. Reg has a variety of mechanical skills and was used at Macon Prison manufacturing and maintaining equipment.

12. Reg is needed here at home with me and has employment when he gets out as well as finishing his degree at Ferris State.
13. Our community and church are in support of Reggie's release to us.

Following are the letters to Dick from prison inmates:

Mr. Tersptra,

My name is Craig Edge and I'm in the dorm with Reggie. He shared the photos and the What The Hell Program with me. I just wanted to tell you that I enjoy them very much. My dad was a WWII veteran; he served with the 7th Armored Division in North Africa. And my uncle Jake was at D-day with the Big Red 1. So as I grew up, I was always interested in History, especially WWII. These men were my kin, but also my heroes and I've lost them both since I've been locked up, but they were part of the Greatest Generation this country has known, as you are. And I just want to thank you for your sacrifice and service. Because of men like y'all, I'm able to enjoy freedom and live in this wonderful country. From my heart, I thank you and all the vets of SACO.

May God bless you & your family,
Craig Edge

Hi,

How are things up there? Thank you so much for the things that you sent to me. I got all of it, but had to go a couple of rounds of verbal sparring over the patch. I really enjoy the SACO NEWS; they are interesting and there are some humorous things in them, also. I really liked the letter to Bill Clinton and his "vague" reply. Ha ha! That is a nice looking salmon the young man is holding. I dream of the day that I can have one on the end of a line. Hopefully, it will be soon? The parole people here pretty much rubber-stamp everything with no reason why they do what they do. If I can ever get them to take a thorough look at my file and case transcript, I feel that they will let me go home. The lawyer that I had did nothing but lie to us and take the money.

He would not even answer my dad's calls. I guess since my dad is so far away and I, not being (*able*) to communicate from in here, we were an easy mark. I do hope he has trouble sleeping at night and looking in the mirror in the morning! And lawyers wonder why they have such a bad reputation.

Craig Edge said to say hello and thanks.

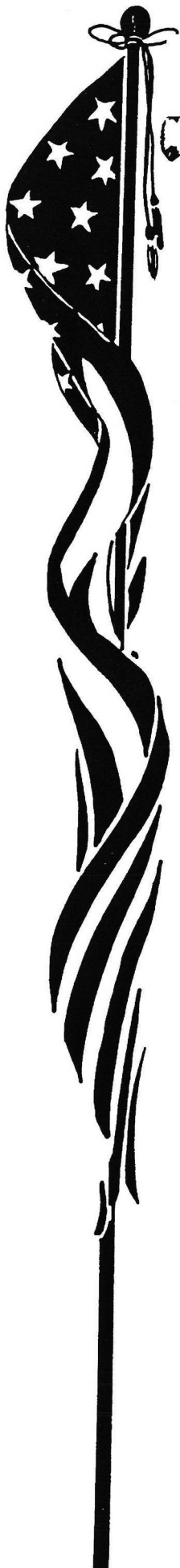
Well, I'll let you go for now. Take care and God Bless. I really enjoy hearing from you and pray that one day we can wet a line together.

Sincerely,
Reg

(I get so involved with heart-rendering stories and this is one of them – tears flowed as I wrote – not knowing what are the true facts in this case, one still has to realize that as great as this country is, it's so unfortunate that injustices are dealt to the innocent. . . whatever the circumstances, I wish these two men well and many thanks to you Dick, for apprising us of the "travels" of SACO NEWS. . . .Ed.).

?????!!***

Kudos: To Ellen Booth, Carolyn Inman-Arnold, Henry "Bud" Scurlock & all who sent photos. Your contributions are indeed appreciated. And a special note of thanks to Bill Miller for the beautiful nametags for our "party" in Palm Springs which he made under rather strained circumstances due to his eyes. Thanks, too, Bill for doing this job for several years past. Ed.



Day is done ... gone the sun ...
 From the lakes, from the hills, from the skies,
 All is well ... safely rest,
 God is nigh. **TAPS**

Ann (Alexander) Miller

Ann died March 24, 2005 in Neenah, Wisconsin. She was born April 29, 1925 in Springfield, Missouri, the fifth of seven children to Frances & Enid (Taylor) Alexander. Three sisters and two brothers preceded her in death. She is survived by her sister Ethel Hammond of Des Moines, Washington.

Ann was a member of Boulevard Baptist Church in Springfield and graduated from Springfield High School in 1943. That fall she met a sailor, Jack L. Miller, at a dance in Seattle, while visiting her sister in Washington. A few days later, he was assigned duty in China and she returned to Springfield to work for the Bell Telephone Company as an operator. June 2, 1945 the couple was married and lived in Seattle, Washington until his service discharge. They then moved to South Bend, Indiana, where they raised three children, Judith, Marilyn, and Daniel. Ann was a homemaker who specialized in apple pies and brownies. She taught Sunday School, was a Girl Pioneer leader and hosted women's Bible studies in her home.

In 1992, the couple moved to Neenah, Wisconsin. Her most favorite people in the world were her husband, her children and their families. She will be remembered by her children for reading bedtime stories and teaching them about Jesus.

Editor's note: Jack wrote me the following April 16, 2005 just a short time after losing Ann, stating this was, "quite a condensed version but didn't want to take up any more space." I have lots of space for LOVE STORIES and this is one that Jack shares with us:

Jack writes, "Here's something that might be interesting and has a spark of nostalgia."



Ann Miller
 4-29-1925 3-24-2005

It seems as if it were yesterday. I was just a kid – 21 in fact, a student in a secret area of an island in Puget Sound learning how to copy the Japanese Morse Code. In the 'off-hours,' it was standard to catch the ferry for Seattle.. My first stop was the Garden of Allah, but there was no action. Next, I headed for the Trianon Ballroom. It was early, and in the lobby I described to a fellow how I played drums for Stan Kenton. He said, "Wait a minute; I will be right back."

I immediately knew he wanted someone to meet me. Since I knew I would be caught in a 1st class lie, I hurriedly left.

Walking down 3rd Ave. I saw a sign, "Crescent Ballroom." It was a typical commercial 2nd floor remake of a place for young people. As I arrived at the top of the stairs, I saw "No Jitterbugging." Since this did not fit my style, I backed down to the street. There was nothing there, so back to the Crescent I

Cont'd p. 58



Marty Heisey/NEW ERA

World War II veteran John Klos displays a cap with souvenir pins received during his service in China.

60 years ago, he was part of unique effort to liberate China

(A short time after John gave this interview, he died in the summer of 2005.....Ed.)

By DAVID O'CONNOR
New Era Staff Writer

The 60th anniversary of the end of World War II is just a few months away, and John Klos can remember the day of triumph, of international teamwork, like it was yesterday.

The 88-year-old resident of St. Anne's Retirement Community near Columbia worked behind enemy lines in World War II, helping to free occupied China from Japan.

He spent months operating a weather station in a cave, working as a little-known part of the effort to help liberate China from the Japanese.

Later, he got to celebrate with the very Chinese he served with and played a part in liberating.

"It was quite an experience. I'll never have another one like it," he says. "We just did the best we could."

"It was quite an experience. I'll never have another one like it. We just did the best we could."

John Klos

Klos, a 1934 Lancaster Catholic High School graduate — and his class valedictorian — spent a total of nearly 20 years in the U.S. Navy.

Toward the end of World War II, Klos served with the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, or SACO, operating a weather station in Lanchow, China, in the huge country's hinterlands.

Klos was one of 2,500 Americans who fought in China during World War II with Naval Group China, according to SACO's Web site.

"Many people do not realize that China was an important ally" for the U.S. in the war, the Web site notes. Klos

ran a station near the Gobi desert that fed reports to the main U.S. weather station thousands of miles away.

American SACO soldiers totally immersed themselves in Chinese culture: They lived in Chinese huts, spoke Chinese, ate Chinese food and began to think "the Chinese way." Together, the American and Chinese military forces effectively battled the Japanese in China from 1943 to 1945.

This was the first and only time in U.S. history that an American military unit had been completely integrated into a foreign military force and placed under the com-

mand of a foreign leader.

"SACO was an amazing and unique military unit — and it was also one of the most effective combat forces in World War II," the Web page states.

SACO was jointly led by the American U.S. Navy Commander (later Vice Admiral) Milton E. Miles and China's General Tai Li, who was, at the time, in charge of China's version of the CIA.

It was all top-secret, recalls Klos, who bears a strong likeness to former college basketball coaching legend John Wooden.

He later worked in two jobs that can have some pressure — for the U.S. Postal Service and at a Lancaster tax-preparer's office.

He had to quit the post office because of plantar's warts.

But neither job had the hazards of working behind enemy lines, as Klos did in Lanchow, supervising one American and three Chinese at the weather station.

Klos reached a rank of chief petty officer. "This was what made this assignment so unusual," he said. "I was not even an officer! And the Chinese were the bosses."

Klos, who signed up for the Navy after World War II started, had a sense he was in for an unusual assignment when he got some out-of-the-ordinary questions from a Navy officer.

Do you know which lice in the ground are poisonous, and which ones are edible?

Could you eat worms if you had to?

"I told them, 'I suppose I could if I was hungry enough,'" Klos recalled, laughing.

Then came another question: Could you set up a weather station in a cave?

Klos, who has never been married and has no children, has battled some health problems in recent years. He served with the U.S. Naval Group, China, from 1944 to 1947. He had joined the Navy in 1941, and stayed in until 1960.

Klos' long-time physician said his patient is a great example of the sacrifice made by those of his generation who went off to war.

"John has been a class act — obviously, a guy who has sacrificed himself totally for his country and for younger people

who have come after him," Dr. Anthony Mastropietro says.

"He served and did it without a thought. If we hadn't had the sacrifice of these men when they were kids, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to do the things we have done – or we'd be speaking another language," Mastropietro adds.

???!***

Albert Deane Moon

To Richard Rutan – June 3, 2005

I received the information about the reunion in Nov. 2005. You sure did an excellent job; you seemed to have covered everything.

My dear sweet husband died on May 15, 2004. His name was Albert Deane Moon (we called him Deane). He was very proud to have been a part of SACO.

I will remember all of you folks on Nov. 2-6.

My very best to you,
Pauline Moon

???!***

Ernest J. Chyz

of Clinton Township, died Friday, Oct. 28, 2005 at his home. He was born July 3, 1923 in Grand View, Manitoba, Canada.

Mr. Chyz's family emigrated to the United States in 1925, settling in Detroit, where he grew up. He was a carpenter for Local 337 for more than 35 years and served in the U.S. Navy Scouts and Raiders, now known as the Navy SEALs. He graduated in 1941 from Pershing High School and married Bena Carline, on Oct. 14, 1950 in Santa Maria Church in Detroit. He and his wife raised three sons in Warren. He enjoyed boxing, playing golf, bocce ball and baseball.

"He loved his work and used his skills throughout his life," relatives said. "He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and was a source of endless energy, always helping family and friends."

He is survived by his wife, Bena, three sons, Gerold (Wendy), Duane (Andrea) and David (Lynne); grandchildren, Adam, Matthew, Eric, Jessica, Justin,

Rosemary and Maria; siblings. Ed Cheyz and Margaret Reilly. He was predeceased by an infant son, Donald.

?!!!***

Norma Lee Gee



My wife passed away last Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, 2004 at age 76). I was kind of "shook up" and may have forgotten to notify you. We're getting short on SACO people here in the Kansas City area. My wife loved our SACO bulletin. Thanks for a super job!

Thank you and God bless! I think my wife is up there with Erma.

Clarence D. Gee

Norma is survived by daughter Sheryl.

???!***

Leonard P. Fintak



Celebrating Golden Wedding Anniversary July 19, 1997

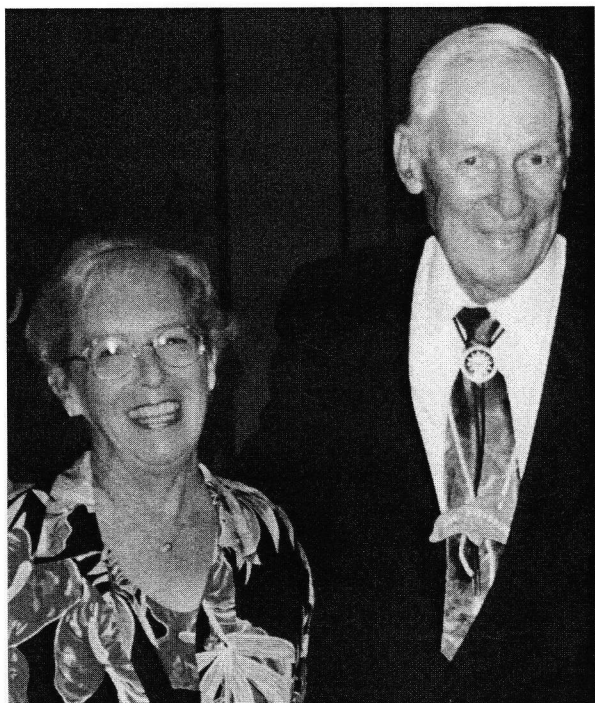
Age 85 of Waukesha, WI, passed away Friday April 8, 2005. Beloved husband of Dolores (nee Daughtry). Dear father of Barbara (Wayne) Headrick, Linda (Rev. Daniel) Harstad, and Don (Karen) Fintak. Grandfather of Matthew (Heather), Peter, Jessica (Brian) Myrholm, Erica (Mark) Hunt, Joel (Keri) and Kristin. Great-grandfather of Aidan. Dear sister of Irene Czerwinski, further survived by nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Leonard was a World War II Navy Veteran serving as Chief Motor Machinist Mate in a top-secret organization in China known as SACO (Sino-American Cooperative Organization). He was a member of the Daniel J. Martin American Legion Post #8 in Waukesha and the Harnischfeger Retirees.

Leonard and Dolores were regulars at the annual national reunions of SACO Veterans until his health failed.

???!!!***

Margaret (Peg) Fitzgerald



Born Margaret Ann Houle October 23, 1933 in Springfield, Mass, to Alfred and Vivian Houle, the oldest of four children. After battling pancreatic cancer for two years, she passed away Friday, August 12, 2005.

Margaret (Peggy) graduated from Mt. St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford, Conn, and Katherine Gibbs of New York City. She also attended the University of Connecticut.

She worked for the Federal Government as a Management Analyst and retired after 27 years.

She lived in Connecticut, New York, California, New Mexico, England, Alaska, Maryland, and Virginia. She moved to Melbourne Beach, Florida in 1994 with her beloved Joseph.

Margaret was actively involved playing golf, Red Hat's Society, and singing with Sweet Adeline's both in Virginia and Orlando. She was on the Condo Board of Directors where she lived in Melbourne Beach and also the New Neighbors Club at Pine Creek Crossing in Melbourne where she and Joe had purchased their dream home just a few years ago.

She had a special gift for helping her family, friends, co-workers and neighbors in whatever project they were involved in. She always found the best in a person; expounding on it, making one feel they were very important to society.

Margaret married David T. Willis near Riverside, Calif. In 1954. They had six children. They divorced in 1971. After a long friendship, she married Joseph Fitzgerald in Melbourne Beach, Fla. August 1944. He preceded her in death in October 2004.

She is survived by her children, Jay David Willis of Portland, OR, Doyle Willis of Oregon City, OR, and Derek Willis of Canby, OR; a daughter, Karin, died in infancy. A son, Darrell, was killed in 1979 and her youngest son, Dean, died in January 2005. Four granddaughters; six grandsons; and three great-grandchildren also survive her. Siblings include Joan Malone of New York, Betty Dalecky of Alexandria, VA and John Houle of Harrisonburg, VA.

There was no Memorial Service. Memorials can be made to Hospice of Health Care, 1900 Dairy Road, West Melbourne, FL 32904.

Editor's note: Joe & Peg hosted the October 2002 SACO Reunion in Cocoa Beach, FL., Joe became seriously ill and was unable to help much in the planning of events, but Peg persevered on her own and accomplished one of our greatest reunions. Jack Petersen and I hosted the Hospitality Room and Peg insisted on being the runner for supplies as needed. She seemed indefatigable and never complained. Joe attended events at the hotel as much as strength would allow. They were an unforgettable, great and lovely couple we will not forget.

???!!!***

Cont'd next page . . .

Richard Louis Petri



Note: The following obituary was sent me by Clarence Gee who saw it in a local Kansas newspaper. Ed

Richard (Dick), 83, Leawood, Kansas, passed away October 31, 2005 at home.

Mr. Petri was born October 27, 1922 to Faye and Louis Petri in Kansas City, MO. He attended Westport High School and the University of Kansas City. He entered the Navy in 1943 and served his country faithfully for 20 years, as Supply Officer, 10 years active duty and 10 years in the Reserves. He spent one year in Kunming, China as Supply Officer for the Sino American Cooperative Organization (SACO) and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Dick worked as Senior Financial Advisor for Waddell & Reed for 42 years before retiring in 1996. While with Waddell & Reed, he was one of their top representatives and received many awards. One year, he was the leading cash producer in the country. He was a member of the American Legion, Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge, Fine Arts Alumni Organization and Village Presbyterian Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Mary Johnson, and one niece, Marsha Nelson.

He is survived by his loving wife of 22 years, Frances Petri of the home; daughter, Mary West and husband Chris of Mayview, MO, daughter, Anne Graf of Gladstone, MO; stepdaughter, Nancy Harmon of

Overland Park, KS; stepson Dan Harmon, wife Judy and his daughter, Sara of Buffalo, KS.

He will be remembered for his wry humor & loyal friendship.

Your editor received the following note from Frances dated Jan. '06:

Thank you for your sympathy and the holiday greetings. It means more coming from you because I know you've recently been there. Sorry I was so emotional at the time of Dick's passing when I phoned you in Palm Springs. Having his service during the time of the reunion made it even sadder. We always enjoyed SACO Meetings and were looking forward to this one - Palm Springs is a special place. I'm sorry to have missed it. Also, thanks for the holiday greetings from Taiwan.

I'm slowly getting my life back together, But it's a slow process. A wonderful 2006 to you and perhaps I will see you at the next SACO Meeting. I assume that I will get information on it.

Best wishes, Frances

???!!!**

Robert H. Schumacher



Rutan and Schumacher - Kunming - 1944

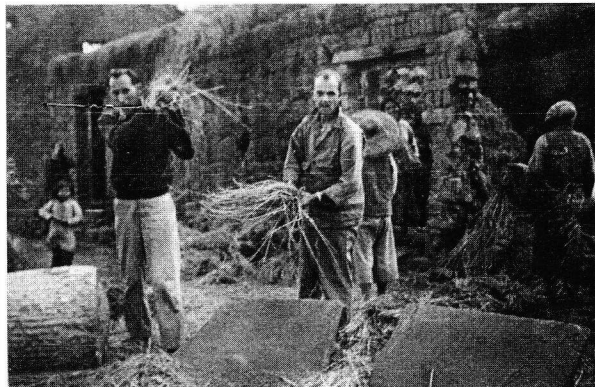
Robert H. Schumacher, age 85, passed away on Friday, March 10, 2006. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry P. and Frances M. Schumacher; sisters Irene (Edward) Hoffman, Marian (Peter) Murphy; brother, Ronald Schumacher. He is survived by sisters: Evelyn (Fred) Bill, Virgene (Donald) Schultz, Pat (Michael) Pryor, Dolores (Richard) Kruzan; brother Henry J. Schumacher; many nieces and nephews.

Bob attended St. Joseph and Catholic Central schools in Hammond where he led his classes in academics. He entered the Navy in WWII, attaining the rank of RM1/c. After advance training at the University of Wisconsin, he along with 22 others in his group, attended a top-secret school on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound near Seattle, WA. This group was offered to volunteer for "dangerous and hazardous duty" being told only that the journey would take them about the farthest distance from their homes.

All 23 signed up and were sent to the Pentagon for interviews and indoctrination to learn China was their destination. Originally known as "Navy Group China," it became SACO (Sino-American Cooperative Organization) – a highly secret operation with little known of its history even today. Bob and other members of his RI (Radio Intelligence) complement intercepted Japanese code. The information they gathered was sent to the Pacific Fleet and Washington. He received a then secret unit citation and Bronze Star.

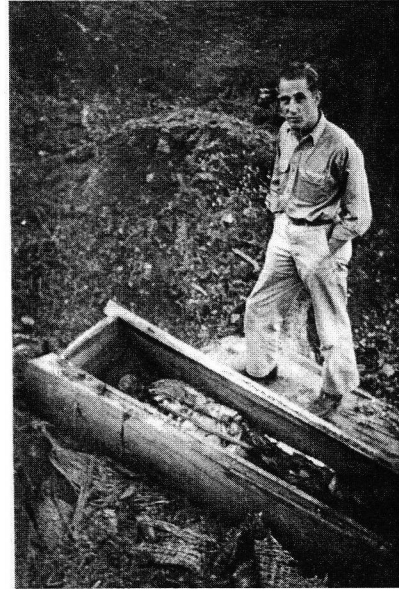
He was a retired 40-year employee of Stanray. Well known on the Hammond tennis courts, he was a medallist in many singles and doubles events. For his wry wit and as a benefactor of St. Joseph Church and Bishop Noll Institute, he will be missed. Services were private.

(Bob's brother-in-law, Dick Kruzan included some pictures from Bob's album.



Gravatt and Rutan lend a hand in threshing rice.

Dick Kruzan states the following picture showing Jack Miller standing by a wooden coffin containing a body is typical of Bob's humor.



Rutan making friends with policeman – Big East Gate to Kunming in background.

Editor's note: Four of our group of 23 were from Indiana and we roomed together in Kunming, China; Johnny Reising, Jack Miller, Dick Rutan and Bob Schumacher (known to all as "Schu"). He was probably the most well-groomed of all our men. Always looked as if he had just stepped out of a shower and his blond hair combed. In addition, he was always the gentleman and highly respected. I know I can speak for all of us that we have lost a very dear buddy.

Jean Hsu Dunn



December 26, 1930 – August 1, 2005

Jean and daughter, Nancy at celebration of life of Helen Hoe in La Jolla, CA August 2003.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband, James (“Jimmy”) Dunn and is survived by son, Terence “Terry;” daughter, Nancy and husband Jeffrey Michael and grandson, Evan.

The following eulogy was written and delivered by Terry at the celebration of Jean’s life In Sky Rose Chapel, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA Dec. 9, 2005.

Mom’s medical crisis last July and her sudden passing on August 1, was a terrible shock to all of us and I, like everyone close to her, still can’t believe that she’s no longer with us in the flesh. Every time I return to her house in Del Mar – which has been every single weekend – to tend to her orchids – I expect her to give me a kiss, a hug and ask me about my work; why I’m not married yet and why I didn’t cut my hair shorter.

Mom was a never-ceasing mom and her children and charges all got use to her constant care-giving, - even well into our adulthood.

Today, we’re here to honor Mother’s memory and to give a final thanks for the impact she made on all our lives. I’ll begin by relating certain episodes in her life, which once written down in full, reads like the novel Doctor Zhivago – an epic existence spanning WWII, revolution, the Korean War, starting over again in Hong Kong in the mid 1950’s, emigrating to America and finally living 45 years of the “American Dream.” Her story is one of high

vision, tenacity, relentless self-discipline, creativity and resourcefulness, lust for life in the healthiest form, loving kindness, charity and Providence.

So I’m going to give you a brief biography of Jean Dunn from her boy’s point of view, constructed “on the fly” from my recollection of many conversations over the years with Mom and Dad, and many of you who are here today, about our family history.

Jean Dunn was born Dec. 26, 1930 to Hsu Fang, whose maiden name was Tong, and Hsu Kaiwen in Zhenjiang, China, which is about one hour by train from the city of Nanjing. Today, Zhenjiang is a major city, but in the 1930’s, it was a very small town known for one important business: Mom’s family business. For generations, Mom’s family owned and operated farmlands and factories that produced the most famous organic, gourmet vinegars and soy sauces in all of China. I guess you could say that her family was the C&H or Wesson of China. And Mother was born when the family business was hitting its highest peak, new farmlands had been acquired and production and sales skyrocketed. One of the images that sticks in our minds is that of her grandmother holding Mom as an infant, while playing Mah Jong day after day during these best of times in the Hsu family. We think this osmosis is the real reason for Mom’s high mastery in the game of Mah Jong.

I remember Mom talked about life in her hometown, growing up as a young girl. Her friends called her the Chinese Ingrid Bergman. The prosperity of her family’s business gave all an idyllic life that was punctuated by natural disasters like the Yangtze River flooding its banks. And water sloshing into the house. In the late 1930’s Mom experienced first hand the horrors of war as she witnessed the bombing of Nanking by the Japanese and took refuge with family and neighbors in Buddhist temples in the area, the most famous being the one at Jinshan.

Before and during the war, Mom was able to watch western movies in the town theatre. After she saw Elizabeth Taylor in the film, “National Velvet,” she told all her friends that someday, she would live in America. Small-town minds in rural China scoffed at her and dismissed her dreams. But those dreams came true in due time.

After WWII, in 1949, Mom and Dad were introduced by one of Dad’s best friends from the Army, Steven Chu, our Uncle Steve and Nancy’s godfather. From what I recall of Mom’s account of this time, she and Dad really – I mean *really* hit it off! For after a lengthy courtship of 19 days, Dad proposed. But Mom told Dad that she had to go back to ask her mother for permission to marry.

Now at this time, Mao’s Communists were already occupying Shanghai and Dad told Mom that she

may not be able to get out. But Mom insisted that she had to get permission from her mother and see her one last time. Mom was only 19 years old and her mother at first said, "No, you're too young – plus you've just met this man." Then Mom gave her a most eloquent letter written by Dad requesting her daughter's hand in marriage. Dad's letter explained who he was, his family background, his wartime service with American allies, and his work as the translator for General George Marshall's peace mediations between the Communists and the Nationalists. Of course, Dad professed his chivalrous love for Mom in that letter. It turned out that Dad could really turn a phrase. For Mom's mother's reaction was, "Wow, if he can write a letter like this, he's good enough and deserving of you."

It was truly love at first sight and a powerful match, for when I asked Mom the main reason that Dad wanted to marry her, she said that it was because he knew instantly that Mom had pragmatism, courage, daring, and in so many words, was "low maintenance."

After giving her approval, Mom's mother hand-made a traditional red silk bridal blanket for Mom and Dad, which was part of the tradition of Jia Tshwang(part of the dowry), which the bride brings to the wedding. In Chinese this wedding blanket is called a Lung Feng Bei, or Dragon Phoenix Blanket. Now this is the customary bridal blanket and it's not supposed to be used until the first evening after the wedding.

Mom then set off by train back towards Hong Kong to meet up with Dad. In leaving Shanghai, Mom agreed to take Lily and 4-year-old , the wife of Tony Wong, another wartime buddy of Dad's. During this trip to Hong Kong in 1949, Mom demonstrated her signature style of pragmatic care and generosity. On the train, it was very cold and Mom broke out the bridal blanket that her mother had made for her wedding dowry and put it over the child. Now the Chinese are serious about their customs, and the bridal blanket is not to be used for any other purpose before the wedding. But Mom, left that tradition given the needs of a chilly 4-year-old.

Mom had instructions from Dad to cross at a certain location at the border dividing the Chinese frontier and the Hong Kong New Territories. There was a bridge crossing guarded by British troops. A young British lieutenant saw Jean and waved her over. He asked if she wanted to cross over to the Hong Kong side. Mom naturally nodded yes. The lieutenant said she could cross over on the condition that she would go out on a date with him. Mom shrewdly said, "Yes, okay." But gave the officer a

false address. When Mom came across and met Dad in Hong Kong and told him and my Uncle Steve how she came across, Dad was alarmed and said, "Oh, no! Hong Kong is a small place. If they ever run into you, there may be problems." So Dad and Steve went to the border and found the British officers, identified himself as a allied officer and explained that Jean was engaged to marry him and offered instead to take him and his friend, another British officer out to dinner and entertainment in Hong Kong. That went off quite well and the two British soldiers came to Mom and Dad's wedding. But that's how Mom came out of China.



Mom and Dad lived in Hong Kong until he was called back into military service in 1950 during the Korean War. This began Mom's era as a military wife. First they lived in Chikisaki, Japan where they shared tiny, simple quarters with Uncle Steve and Auntie Linda. Although declassified now, very few people know about the operation that Dad was involved in, for it was never written about in the history books about the Korean War. Dad led clandestine operations with Nationalist Third Force out of Okinawa and Saipan, and toward the end of the war, their flights regularly stopped on the island of Iwo Jima, sight of the fierce WWII battle.

Because there were virtually no women on the



Richard Rutan – H. W. “Wes” Weskamp – Bob Hoe enjoy great Chinese meal at reception following memorial service for Jean Dunn and burial of urns for both Jimmy and Jean.

island, the poor U.S. Marines there had an ongoing beauty contest wherein they would rate who was the most beautiful girl that they saw pass by on transport planes. Well, Mom won the contest and was crowned “Miss Iwo Jima” on that one visit.

After the Korean War, Mom & Dad moved to Hong Kong and started a new life. Life was good. I remember that there were always parties and dancing. The “cha cha” was the craze. Dad was president of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce one year and they entertained visiting American celebrities like Fred Astaire. There were many outings. I remember growing up in an apartment in Kowloon, and being taken out regularly to Dad’s parents’ farm in the New Territories, Pinshan, where there were lots of chickens and I had a giant Shepherd to play with. There were many drives through the countryside and picnics.

Mom grew up in a life of wealth and privilege. But Nancy and I never got a hint of that because Mom was too busy making a life for us from the moment we set foot in America. For Mom and Dad came to the States with me in tow in 1960 with very, very little. And she never put pressure on either of her children to rebuild the equivalent of the family dynasty here in the States. She gave Nancy, myself and then later, my cousin, Diane, the best mothering and support anyone could give and was confident that we would all excel and successfully make our way in the world.

Another mark of Mom’s nurturing spirit and wisdom is the fact that in addition to her many friends and peers of her generation, Mom created a community of close friends twenty years younger that her wherever she had laid down the family

roots. First in Los Angeles, then North Hollywood, Northridge, Westwood and finally in Del Mar for the past 12 years.

It wasn’t just Mom’s superb cooking (for no one ever turned down her meal invitations); It wasn’t just Mom’s green thumb and her ability to make any plant flourish; It wasn’t Mom’s self-studied expertise and success in stock investments, It wasn’t Mom’s high prowess in the game of Mah Jong...that drew people to her. It was the inspiring, self-sacrificing way she shared her life-enhancing secrets with everyone. . .

While Mom had the leisure to play Mah-Jong from an early age, she didn’t learn to cook until she came to America in 1960 and had to cook. Back in the old country, and even Hong Kong, there were maids to do everything – one to cook, one to clean the house, one to tend to her and one to take care of yours truly.

Mom was so strong-willed that you could always say that nothing could stop her from living her life. Although she had been ailing and slowly deteriorating ever since her fall and head injury last spring – having more & more trouble walking – to the extent she had to move her bedroom downstairs. She never complained much, but kept on going. The Saturday before her health crisis, she drove herself to Barona Casino, where she spent several hours with her best therapists – the video poker machines.

Additional deaths cont’d p. 62

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This is the first photograph of Lieutenant General Tai Li ever published. He is shown, at extreme right, with Rear Admiral M. E. Miles, left, and General Fu Tso-yi, governor of Suiyan Province, during visit to a SACO unit.

CHINA'S MYSTERY MAN

BY LT. COMDR. CHARLES G. DOBBINS, USNR

The head of China's secret police has been called a second Himmler and an outstanding Chinese democrat. Few Americans know Lieutenant General Tai Li; here, one who does, tells how he helped us during the war.

The chief of China's secret police for years has been a mystery man of Asia—never photographed, never interviewed, a man of fearful power and shadowy

reputation. Cursed and hated by many, shot at repeatedly, he has climbed steadily upward among the strong men of the East.

From the early days of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's rise to supremacy, Lieutenant General Tai Li has been his able lieutenant and trusted protector. Today, facing the crucial test in his long-time ambition to unify China, Chiang depends heavily on the old friend from his home province of Chekiang.

Tai Li (pronounced Die Lee), now about fifty, was

graduated in the sixth class at Whampoa National Military Academy, Canton, of which Chiang was founder and commandant. Upon graduation, he pledged his allegiance to Chiang, then earned the everlasting respect and faith of his leader in two vital assignments.

One was when Chiang, having assumed command of National Armies at Canton in 1926, marched north in his first effort to bring all the provinces under a single strong Central government. On that march, Tai Li was advance agent extraordinary, sent ahead to study sentiment, evaluate military and political developments, advise on the safest and most strategic routes of approach. His masterly intelligence was an important factor in Chiang's succession of victories.

Tai Li's second notable achievement is famous – the magnificent defense of Shanghai in 1937. It was Tai Li, commanding the Loyal Patriotic Army, who astonished the world by standing off Japan's modernized units for three dogged months. Any military leader of any nation might be proud of his feat.

Yet the international reputation of General Tai Li derives largely from his work as head of the Bureau of Investigation and Statistics (BIS), China's secret police. He organized BIS in 1932 and has directed it ever since.

Until recently, Tai Li has stayed carefully hidden from the public. He still will talk to no one without express authority from the Generalissimo. Among Chinese his name is rarely mentioned, and only in hushed tones. Foreigners, showing him an awed though grudging respect, often develop Tai Li phobia; in Chungking during the war, many believed that every cook and houseboy was a Tai Li agent.

China's chief of secret police has been called everything – executioner, torturer of political prisoners, and a ruthless, trigger-happy tyrant. If all these things were true, Tai Li would have every reason for wearing his cloak of mystery. He could wear it, however, because with deadly enemies, it is safer not to be recognized on street corners. Already he has cheated death so many times that the idea of invulnerability is

fast attaching itself to his personal legend.

Accused as Exponent of Chinese Fascism

Critics of Tai Li say that as head of the so-called "thought police" he has been responsible for the death or imprisonment of scores of liberal college professors and other progressive leaders, and that he personifies the Fascist element in China. I am not qualified to judge the accuracy of these charges. I write only of the Tai Li who was known intimately during the war to a little band of Americans and to one man in particular. That man is Rear Admiral M. E. (Mary) Miles, USN, and the others are the 1,800 Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard men who served with him in China. Tai Li was our friend, protector and – as Director of "SACO" – technically our leader during three years of war.

The Navy sent Miles early in 1942 on an urgent mission labeled "Friendship Project," to get weather intelligence in China. Japan then held what might have been a decisive advantage over the U.S. Fleet in the simple fact that the weather for the Western Pacific makes up in Siberia, moves down over China, eastward across the Japanese home islands and across the Pacific. With a network of reporting stations from Manchuria down through occupied China and almost to Australia, the Japs had advance knowledge on Pacific weather conditions while the U.S. Fleet was forced to advance blindly from the east. The Navy had to get in behind the Japs and set up a weather-net as good as or better than theirs. China was the only solution.

Miles, a commander then, was picked for the job because he knew China, and because, on his record, he was established as an officer who loved to kick "the book" out the window and get things done the best and quickest way.

This was his second war. On the day the U.S. entered World War I, Miles was seventeen and a volunteer. That was when his mates nicknamed him

"Mary" for the currently popular movie star, Mary Miles Minter, but he's never minded the feminine moniker. Appointed to Annapolis in 1918, commissioned in 1922, he spent eight years in China, made it his business to walk over most of China's coast, photograph ports in his memory, study the whole Asiatic picture.

When Miles landed at Chungking on May 4, 1942, he was not sure how to proceed. Back in Washington, he and his boss, Vice-Admiral Willis A. (Ching) Lee, USN, had talked the problem over with Colonel Sin-ju Pu Hsiao, acting Chinese military attaché. He knew Colonel Hsiao had asked Chungking for approval of the mission and had received it. He knew little more.

At the airport, a Chinese civilian came out of the crowd and asked simply, "Do you know Colonel Hsiao?"

"Yes, I know Colonel Hsiao."

"Good."

With that, Miles' baggage was magically whisked past the inspector of customs, and he began to climb the interminable steps up into the city. At street level waited trim Eddie Liu and big-eyed Peter Pan – Tai Li's first-string interpreters, Miles learned later. They took him in a car through the crowded, bombed-out city to a place on Hsien Shien Tung Street. It was a big establishment with a high wall around it. A sentry stood at the gate and servants were all over the place.

Eddie Liu said, "This is to be your house."

"Whose house has it been?" asked Miles.

"General Tai Li has provided it for your convenience. He hopes you will find it comfortable."

Miles knew little of China's Tai Li, though in Washington he had heard both good and bad said about him – mostly bad: From one source – "Tai Li is a straight-talking Chinese who has plenty of power out there and can help you . . ." From another – "Tai Li is the most cruel thug in China. He's worse than Germany's Himmler. Stay clear of him."

A Portrait of the General

Next Day, Tai Li called. He was a short, heavily built man, rather swarthy for a Chinese. There were things about his face – its length, and the big, projecting jaw – that didn't look Chinese at all. He wore a plain blue, Sun Yat-sen type of semi-military uniform without insignia. His manner was courteous but forceful and during the conversation Miles knew that the intent black eyes were sizing him up. The visit was only for getting acquainted, but Tai Li invited him to dinner.

That night, when they had proceeded through many dishes of the excellent Chinese meal, Miles realized he had been spared an embarrassment usually experienced when he was entertained – the necessity of refusing any form of fowl, to which he is allergic.

"I notice you serve no feathered foods, General," Miles remarked.

"I am informed that you don't eat feathered food."

"That's right," Miles grinned. News of his allergy had preceded him.

They discussed prospects for weather intelligence, but talked mostly of the war situation in Asia. Miles found Tai Li more Western than Eastern in his direct manner and positive way of speaking. As a host, he showed grace and consideration, but none of the lush hospitality offered by many political notables in the Orient. It pleased Miles to note that Tai Li lacked also the subtle arrogance being displayed by some Asiatics during that time when white men were being chased out of the Far East. Tai Li's attitude seemed to be, "Well, maybe the Japanese have chased them out – We've been taking a licking, too."

During the next few days, Tai Li revealed the effectiveness of his intelligence service – reports came in from practically every city in occupied China, from Indo-China, Burma, Bali, Borneo, Formosa, several places in the Philippines. Tai Li wanted to play on Miles' club, too. He needed radio equipment. His guerrillas and agents lacked arms, ammunition, training in

modern techniques. He desired a source of general intelligence to supplement his Asiatic information. There were fine possibilities for exchange of skills, services and supplies.

Already the two men were beginning to feel mutual confidence, but Miles had to know more. "With your permission, General, I want to visit the coast. Before bringing in men and materiel, the Navy desires more definite information on the possibilities for joint operations."

"Good," said Tai Li. "I will go with you."

On the road with Tai Li 24 hours a day, Miles first realized the man's terrific energy and stamina. He walked as much as 30 miles a day, conferred with his leaders far into morning hours, demonstrated his power among Chinese behind the lines as well as in Free China. Miles no longer could doubt Tai Li's ability to move men and equipment into occupied areas and protect them there.

The Japs were busily slicing off more territory every day. Once, separated from Tai Li, Miles was caught behind a fast-moving enemy column and escaped only because his alert 15-man guard knew the way through a hidden pass in the mountains.

Jap agents were puzzled by the new man traveling with Tai Li. He was reported to be a Russian aviation adviser. Whoever the man was, he and Tai Li made a worthwhile target . . . Jap planes bombed their overnight stop time after time. Near Amoy, fourteen light bombers celebrated July 4, 1942 by plastering the town of Hai Chang just as they entered at four in the afternoon. Tai Li escaped untouched with his charmed life; Miles caught five fragments in his legs.

Guerrillas His Chief Interest

The two men talked of every possibility – weather stations, mining operations, coast watching, guerrillas. Tai Li's prime interest seemed to be arms and training for guerrillas. This puzzled Miles at the time. Two months passed before he discovered that Tai Li was

also commander-in-chief of all organized guerrillas.

By August, they were in Chungking again. Back in Washington, an old Navy partner of Miles, Captain J. C. Metzler, USN, became project officer for "Friendship," and with Colonel Hsiao began turning the messages from Miles and Tai Li into a program. More Americans and a limited supply of arms were flown over "the Hump."

Not far from his own residence, Tai Li provided a "Friendship Headquarters" – twelve miles west of the city near the Chialing River in "Happy Valley." Happy Valley is Tai Li's own tight little kingdom, where at every entrance and cross path, sentries armed to the teeth stand 24 hours a day. It really is not a valley at all, but a ragged succession of stony hills and deep little vales close under a towering mountain. Yet the flowers, the neat cultivated green hillsides and the friendly Chinese people make it a pleasant place.

Families of BIS men killed in the war are given employment here in small industries for making paper, shoes, cloth and uniforms. Several hundred work in Tai Li's offices, in the gleaming new hospital and the two schools. One is a crowded elementary school, the other a special school-home for the orphans of Tai Li's agents.

Tai Li's wife died a few years ago. His personal life in the valley was a closed book to all Americans save Miles, but he entertained with no lack of poise, or of beautiful, smartly-gowned Chinese women. Every American who came to the valley was told the story of how Mary Miles "ruined things" for the boys. This account had it that when Miles began arranging to care for the personnel he planned to bring in, Tai Li offered a suggestion.

"Of course," he is supposed to have said, "we must make your men happy."

"Sure," said Miles, "they'll be happy . . . What do you mean?"

"I mean that each American should be provided with a suitable female companion in order that he may enjoy his service in China."

That is where Miles was supposed to put his foot down—hard. The facts are different. Miles did put his foot down, but not against Tai Li. It was a Chinese doctor and a member of Miles' own staff who were making the arrangements for "happiness." When Miles and Tai Li heard about it, they were equally emphatic in opposition . . . The Chinese doctor was most upset of all, claiming that failure to provide was contrary to nature. "General Tai Li," he sputtered, "is being a fuddy-duddy about this!"

By the end of 1942, Miles had arranged for the fleet to get limited weather reports from Chinese sources and had trained a promising group of Tai Li's guerrillas for special sabotage work. But progress toward the goal of important cooperative effort was being severely hampered by administrative problems involving other American agencies in China. Tai Li suggested to Miles that, as a means of clarifying matters, they have a written agreement setting forth exactly what responsibilities the U.S. Navy and the Chinese government would assume.

Miles accepted the suggestion. After months of struggle, an agreement, establishing the "Sino-American Cooperative Organization," was signed April 15, 1943, with Tai Li as Director and Miles as Deputy Director.

Under SACO, things moved. More Americans aerologists, communicators, combat experts—flew in over the Hump bringing weather and radio gear, arms and explosives. Tai Li threw the full power of BIS and his guerrillas behind the American program.

Under his protection, American convoys roamed China setting up fourteen main units for weather



A SACO crew leaves Changchow for a base near Kunming

observations, radio communications, coast watching, guerrilla training and Combat operations. Even in the smallest villages, Yanks always found the omnipresent Tai Li men ready to help. By Tai Li's authority Americans were able to go anywhere, be fed and housed as the locality could afford, receive every available aid in carrying out their mission, while representatives

of some U.S. agencies found tough going.

Moving Supplies—The Hard Way

When Miles and Tai Li agreed upon a new location for a SACO unit, a convoy of decrepit trucks, doctored by two Chinese mechanics per machine, would set out from Chungking or Kun-

ming with supplies and the initial Sino American complement. If it were a coastal destination, then the party must cross Jap lines on foot and walk for days or weeks, followed by a coolie train of 100 or more bearing supplies. Going north the trip could be made only in dead winter so that trucks could cross the Yellow River on the ice.

The concentration of units was behind Japanese lines along the coast where shipping could be observed and there was greater opportunity for guerrilla operations. Such a unit was Number Six, at Hwaiian, in South Fukien Province not far from Jap-occupied Amoy.

Ancient, semi-abandoned Buddhist temples were everywhere, selected by the Chinese for use as American headquarters, and such a temple was provided at Hwaiian. Chinese personnel established themselves in adjacent quarters, which were generally less desirable.

Technical men at Unit Six went to work at once setting up communications with Chungking and equipment for weather observations. Combat instructors began preparation of a drill field and firing range for their 300 Chinese guerrilla trainees soon to arrive. What with all the tasks of setting up for living – piping water via bamboo, striving to shut out the hard-working malarial mosquitoes, and building a fly-proof latrine – the place was a hive of industry for weeks. Eventually, though, life became quiet around camp, and the business was carried on mostly in offshoot activities.

Some of these were rare. There was the time Ensign John N. (Tarzan) Matmiller, USNR, of Kellogg, Idaho, spent weeks training four Chinese swimmers to go with him on a special job. On May 4, 1945, Matmiller assistants embarked in a junk for a point adjacent to enemy-held Amoy harbor. That night, with explosives strapped high and dry on their backs, they waded through mud and swam to a freighter tied up at Amoy docks. Working rapidly, they set time charges and swam hard for safety. Just as they were being hauled aboard their junk,

four violent explosions shook the harbor area. The freighter sank at the dock. Chinese agents from within Amoy reported Japanese running madly about, many of them sure they were being attacked from the sea.

Unit Six was the base for a chain of coast-watcher stations, manned jointly by Chinese and Americans, for some hundreds of miles up and down the coast. Their reports, flashed to Unit Six and on to Chungking, then to the fleet and waiting submarines, were responsible for sinking many thousands of tons of Jap ships.

This coast watching was a tough business. Alfred Warner Parsons, RM2/c USNR, served on a regular two-man watch maintained at Sungseu Point due west of Amoy Island.

On December 21, 1944, he and Chinese Captain Liu boarded a sampan for the usual 150-yard trip over to Whale Island where they could have a better view of Jap shipping at Amoy. As the two men walked across Whale Island, 50 Japs, hidden in the tall grass, sprang up and overpowered them. They were taken to Amoy, where Tai Li agents sought by every possible stratagem to achieve their escape. But Parsons was reported taken to Japan, and Lin killed. Parsons has since been liberated.

Americans learned that Tai Li controlled police everywhere, in Jap-held China as well as Free China.

Whenever the Japs advanced into a city they had to have Chinese police and always, Tai Li men were at hand to take the jobs. Even in the big occupied cities – Hankow, Shanghai, Nanking – the long arm of Tai Li somehow held on to police power.

Incredibly, his domination extended even to Japan's puppets. Long before war was over, it was made known to Miles that at the proper time, puppet troops could be expected to throw whatever strength they had against Japan. Americans in the field with guerrilla sabotage units discovered that in attacks on bridges, rail line and warehouses, they could always discount effective defense by puppets. Tipped off by Tai Li's men, the

puppets always "arranged" to be elsewhere.

Many phases of this complex, paradoxical power of Tai Li were beyond the understanding of Miles and his Americans. They could only be grateful it worked for their cause.

On the Communist question, Miles' policy was simple. He said to his men, "We have been directed to cooperate with the Central government of China in order to meet essential needs of the Fleet. Gen. Tai Li has been authorized by the Generalissimo to work with us, and with his help, we are accomplishing our mission. As for the Communists, you are ordered not to oppose them, help them, contact them, or deal with them in any way. They are not our pidgin. They are China's problem.

Charges and Counter Charges

Though SACO's program advanced, there were many complications and at least one serious crisis. Tai Li was charged with accepting American arms ostensibly for carrying on the fight against Japan, but in reality for use in China's postwar internal battles. Because he feared discovery of this deceit, it was charged, he would not permit Americans with guerrilla columns at the front. Miles faced Tai Li with the charges, countercharged that Friendship was not meeting its promises in arms and equipment.

For a moment Miles saw his mission at a disastrous end. But on both sides there was earnest desire to go ahead. The basic question was permission for Americans to go with guerrilla columns into combat. It was finally agreed that Americans should go with the columns so as to continue guerrilla training begun in the camps, advise Chinese commanders on tactical use of weapons, and make official reports on combat achievements.

And when men like Captain Theodore R. Cathey, USMC, Captain Milton A. Hull, USMC, and Lieutenant Joe Champe, USNR went into the field

and fought with the Chinese columns, there no longer could be any doubt that Tai Li's men were using American guns and ammunition for fighting Japs.

Champe led the Yangtze River Raiders, a Chinese-American unit that operated in the Tungting Lake area astride the Yangtze River shipping route and Japan's most important north-south rail lines. "Little Joe," a business-machine engineer before the war fought from a pocket deep behind the enemy lines, depending for supplies on a two-week coolie walk and occasional air drops. He and his Americans, reddened by sun and yellowed by atabrine, achieved perfect deception in their knee-length coolie garments and big straw hats. Alternating between attacks on trains and Yangtze River steamers, Champe's raiders repeatedly severed Jap supply lines in central China.

Captain Hull, a powerful, broad-shouldered Floridian who could never quite look the part in his coolie costume, fought with guerrilla units in Northern Chekiang Province just below Shanghai, blowing up trains and ripping out rails under the guns of protecting Jap pillboxes.

Captain Cathey, from his long service as instructor of trainees and as adviser with columns in the field, became a sort of unofficial "dean" among American guerrilla men and wrote a Textbook for Chinese Guerrillas. A quiet-spoken South Carolinian (men from the South seemed especially effective in liaison with the Chinese), Cathey developed a philosophy of cooperation which he once expressed this way:

"From many experiences, I have learned to take things easy. One trivial matter is an example: The general would never buy oil until dark. One day, I knew we were out of oil and I said, 'Look, the sun is shining now, but in another six hours it is sure to be dark and we have no oil for our lamps. How about sending for oil now while there is plenty of time?' But the general said, 'Oh, No, it would never do to buy the oil so early. The men would use it up before night and we would have to buy

more. We shall buy oil when it is needed.'"

Added Cathey, "You can't drive Chinese, you can't push him. It takes some Americans a long while to learn that. But you can be his friend, get out ahead of him and lead him!"

A Grim Toll of Destruction

In the last 13 months of war, Tai Li's guerrillas aided and advised by Miles' Americans, destroyed 209 bridges, 84 locomotives, 141 ships and river craft, and 97 warehouses. They killed 23,540 Japs. Tai Li protected Americans so carefully that not one was lost in combat, though three coast watchers were captured.

But all this was beyond the objectives of Miles' original mission. SACO weather stations by 1944-45 were functioning smoothly. As the Fleet advanced westward, Fleet Weather Central at Chungking became the key weather source for final operations of the U.S. Fleet against Japan.

It was from China weather reports that Task Force 58, moving in for the first full-scale 1,500 plane attack on Japan's homeland in the late fall of 1944, was able to predict the cloud cover that permitted unobserved launching of planes only 60 miles from the target. China data were equally indispensable in the attacks on Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

China coast watchers gave Halsey detailed locations of Jap ships when he made the "clean sweep" of the South China Sea and its ports in January 1945, and gave intelligence that led the U.S. Submarine Barb to her "PT boat adventure" - an incredible harbor slaughter of Jap ships by the surfaced submarine.

Under protection of a special guerrilla detachment assigned by Tai Li, two major Navy reconnaissance groups studied the China coast for possible amphibious landings. At times only two hours ahead of Jap searching parties, they photographed, sounded, charted all the way from Shanghai to Hong Kong.

Two Years of Sharing Danger

During their two years of teamwork, Tai Li and Miles, often in coolie disguise, flew, rode and walked the length and breadth of China time after time on visits to their 14 units and their fighting columns. Experience taught them that each trip through Jap lines might mean sudden death. They were a famous pair now, and since the 1942 bombing, repeated attempts had been made on their lives. Once Miles fought off a lone assailant, but suffered deep wounds in his arm and leg. Another time, bullets riddled their car in a South China city. For protection, Tai Li took along a strong guard - and his own trusted cook. Through it all, the two men came to understand and trust each other.

Miles liked the way Tai Li came straight to the point. "You didn't have to go and drink tea two days with him to find out what he meant. If you wanted to put a matter to him, you would say, 'Look, General, howabout this?' And right back he would say, 'Okay, I agree to it. Now let's have some tea.' He did it backwards from the way most Chinese do.

Questions of major importance he referred to the Generalissimo for decision. I found that sometimes, too, when he did not want to do some minor thing and was afraid my feelings might be hurt, he would say, 'I must refer it to higher authority,' and that would mean a long delay. But after we really got to know each other, he would just say, 'Look, you know the Chinese as well as I do. I can't do that for you.'"

Frequently, Tai Li invited members of the Chinese-American staff for conference at his home in Happy Valley. On such occasions Tai Li made a distinctly formal entrance, going around the room to each guest for a short handshake. There would be a preliminary period in the sun parlor where scalding hot tea and crisp peanuts were served while Tai Li, with Eddie Liu beside him, spoke in conventional generalities. But the meals were no commonplace affair - chicken

fish, liver, pork, bean curd, all in the finest Chinese style.

At such conferences, Tai Li gave Americans most of the talking opportunities. He would ask, "What do you need from the Chinese in order to do your work better?" Often this brought complaints about delay in improvement of facilities, or in making administrative changes. Tai Li accepted criticisms, but reminded Americans that he knew Chinese weakness as well as anybody. "Chiefly, we lack education and knowledge of teamwork. Once the Generalissimo said to me, 'If you put one Chinese up against one foreigner, the Chinese will not do so well. And if you put ten Chinese against ten foreigners, the Chinese will fall far behind. Why? Because our people do not understand how to work together.'"

SACO Americans for a long time were not sure whether General Tai Li knew what foreigners said about him. One night he let them know.

It was April 3, 1945, the day Chiang Kai-shek reviewed crack troops of Unit Nine, near Chungking. The show went off beautifully, and Chiang praised all the Chinese and Americans responsible. Tai Li was visibly proud and pleased.

He had planned a dinner and Chinese opera in "The Valley" that evening as celebration. It was a splendid affair - the very choicest of Chinese dishes washed down by 200 catties of rare rice wine that Tai Li had brought all they way from his home in Chekiang. The food and wine were duly honored by Americans and Chinese alike. The local band had recently undertaken to learn "Yankee Doodle" and "Dixie" and in appreciation of their efforts, the big auditorium rang with clapping, shouts, and rebel yells. The opera never really got going.

Near midnight, Tai Li went to the microphone with Eddie Liu. First he said the Generalissimo had expressed his pleasure that afternoon, therefore everybody had reason to celebrate. He was glad to see joy all around him. But, he continued, now while his American friends were there together, all in one big family, he would speak to them on a

matter. It was this: He stood for democracy and he would not have American friends deceived into believing bad things said about him and his organization. He was not a Himmler, he was not a Gayda, he was just "the Generalissimo's Tai Li and nothing more."

The End

In an almost 60-year old Colliers magazine, sent to me by Dick Terspstra, I discovered this story by the late Lt. Comdr. Charles, G. Dobbins, USNR. Paul Casamajor pointed out that part of this story was copy in Comdr Roy O. Stratton's "RICE PADDY NAVY." It's been too many years since I read that book, but I checked and found this to be true. Stratton's excerpts from this author's writing were used periodically in the continuity of writing TRPN. However, I found the story and pictures, as lived and presented by the author of CHINA'S MYSTERY MAN extremely interesting and worth a reprint in its entirety. Ed.

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Ann Miller....Cont'd from p. 43

went. I bought a drink, became a "wall-flower" and told myself, "I am going to pick out the prettiest girl with the best set of legs and I am going to dance with her."

I was a bit timid to make the contact, but I did it, and we danced and danced. Finally, I said that I should be getting her back to her boyfriend. She said, "I am in no hurry," so we sat on one of the sofas that ringed the dance floor. Finally, the 'Lights Out' was sounded and I took her back to the group she came with. A civilian guy brought her coat and I took it to give to her. He said, "Are you going to take her home?" Although I had no plans to do so, I said, "Yes, I am."

We walked along 1st Avenue where I tried to scare her and then caught a

cab for her sister's house. After kissing her goodnight, (*I think I did*), I walked to the sidewalk as she hailed me, "Hey, am I ever going to see you again?" I said, "Do you want to?" It turned out that I had her bracelet in my pocket.

We met again on Sunday and went to a show. Then we ate and went to another show. I agreed to see her again Monday night. Monday came and I had orders to leave on the train at 6 PM that night. She asked if she could come and see me off. I said, "Yes." Before the train left, we agreed to get engaged. I bought a ring and mailed it to her.

Two years later, we were married in Springfield, MO., her hometown. Then we took a train back to the same island (Bainbridge) near Seattle, where I had duty until discharge. Then we settled in South Bend, Indiana, which was my hometown.

June 2, 2005, we would have been married 60 years I MISS HER.

???!***

Cont'd from p. 40 elementary school kids answers to biblical questions:

In the first book of the bible, Guinessis. God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles-

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

(Thanks Jack Petersen)

NOSTALGIA

These photos are from Robert Viau, who has, if I might say, been an ardent SACO fan for many years, researching and collecting mementos, pictures & any items relating to SAC O activities. He lives in Glendale, CA. Although we have corresponded and talked by phone, I have never met Robert. He recently sent me many pictures (particularly of Gobi) – even with identification for the most part. *rlr Ed.*



Unit 4 Mess Hall, Shenpa, Inner Mongolia 1944.

L-R: "Doc" Bob Goodwin, Cdr MC, Henry Hillard, Capt. USMC, Vic Bisceglia, Major USMC, Eddie Liu, Interpreter & Charles Hall, Capt. USMC

Center – Adm. M. E. Miles
Left – Capt. Vic Bisceglia, USMC
Right – General Tai Li

Outside Shenpa, Inner Mongolia
21 Feb 1945.





Numerous times the supply truck had to tow another truck on way to Shenpa.



Nude Hardenbrook swimming his horse at Gobi Desert water hole. "Others in background."



Nude Ken Rhicard on Pacer Horse at Gobi Desert water hole which dried up by end of summer.



Bisceglia – S. Fu – Doc Goodwin – Hardenbrook Dressed up enroute to dinner as guests of Gen. Fu Tso I in Shenpa. Full regalia on horseback.
May 1944



Unit 4 riding Mongolian ponies

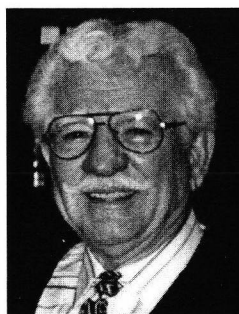


RESEARCH

(1944)

Front L-R: Bob Sizemore, Doc Goodwin, Ted Wildman, Johnny Nieh, Peter Pan
 Back: Fred Hardenbrook, Charles Hall, E. C. Collings, Kenneth Rhicard and Bob James
 Thank you Robert Viau for a bit of SACO History.

Bartee Resigns



Bill Bartee has resigned as SACO Secretary. At the request of his doctor, he has also retired from his long-time position in Real Estate Sales. Bill has long been recognized for his enviable career in the performance of his duties - promptness and eloquent correspondence as he represented SACO during various activities of our organization.

resented SACO during various activities of our organization.

Bill, a **VERY WELL DONE**, and many thanks and sincere appreciation from all of us. Here's wishing you improved health and many enjoyable years for you and Skeeter.

Congratulations and best wishes to your successor, Bob Hoe. *Ed.*

DEATHS REPORTED SINCE ISSUE #30 AUG. 2005

Dr. David A. Baker 2006
 MoMM2/c-Camp 8/Shanghai

Ernest J. Chyz 2005
 BM2/c-Calcutta/Camp3/
 Shunan/Shanghai

Leonard P. Fintak 2005
 CmoMM-Calcutta/Chungking

B. Ernest Griffin 2005
 CSK-Chungking/Luchow/
 Camp 10/Hsifeng

Charles T. Hildreth 2004
 RM1/c-

Robert Elton Hill 1977
 S2/c-Kunming

Judge Robert E. L. Key 2005
 CSKD-Calcutta/Chungking/
 Kunming/Shanghai

John Norman Klos 2005
 CAerm-Chungking/Lanchow/
 Ninghsia

Charles L. Kush 1979
 CSF-Camp 2/Chenyuan/
 Changsha/Shanghai

Melvin H. McQuiston 1995
 GM1/c-Camp 8/Shunan/
 Shanghai

Albert Deane Moon 2004
 RT2/c-Calcutta/Changting
 Shunan/Shanghai

Richard Louis Petri 2005
 Lt(jg)-Kunming

Howard Samuels 2005
 Sgt (14th AF)-Camp 1

Robert H. Schumacher 2006
 RM2/c-Chungking/Kweilin/
 Kunming/FRUCHI

William Stolley, Jr.
 MoMM1/c-Calcutta

Thomas V. Wilt 2002
 CRM-Chungking



'05 SACO Reunion visits Andreas Indian Canyon Thurs. Nov. 3



Ben and Betty Ritter

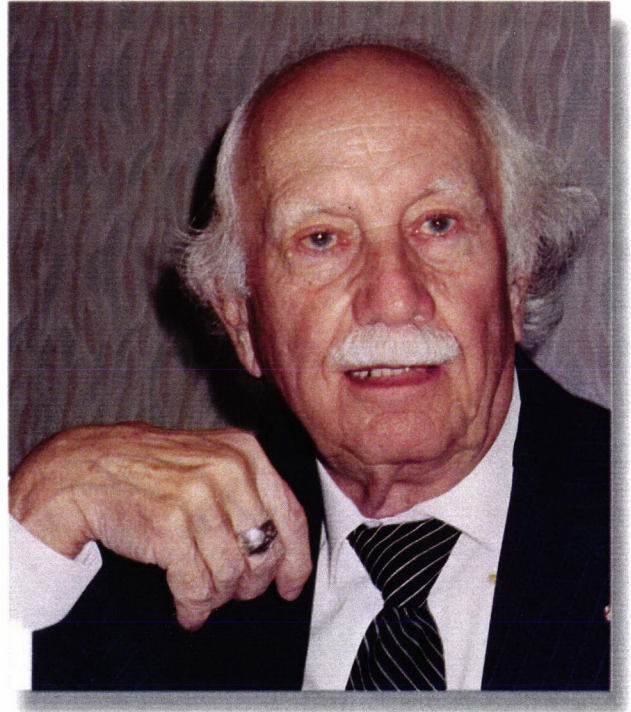


*Betty Clark and Bill Miller
dance alone at the banquet.*

52nd
NATIONAL
SACO
REUNION

Returns to Appleton, WI

September 20, 21, 22, 23, 2006



Your Host is Jack Miller, along with Assistant Co-Hosts, daughter Judy and husband Dick Maurice. Jack has booked the Radisson Hotel (formerly Paper Valley where we stayed before in 1999). This is all the info I have available at this time. Jack will be sending a letter to everyone on our mailing list of SACOs outlining his schedule of events.

*SACO NEWS - HOW MUCH LONGER ???!!!****

This is a concerted effort to reach out to every SACO Veteran, Associate and those who have an interest in becoming a SACO Associate. We have agreed to send this issue to all known SACO survivors on our mailing list. We know many have not been dues payers in the past and therefore, not being sent our publication simply because we must have support to survive.

Undoubtedly, this will be our last attempt to reach out to all SACOs regardless of whether or not they pay dues. One has to but look at the swiftly diminishing number of our SACO Tigers who are leaving our ranks and realize how fortunate those of us surviving are to hang in there one day at a time. If unable to attend reunions, we yearn to keep in touch. Our treasury has been solvent for many years, but it will surely dwindle and soon. It has been said that we Veterans of SACO have one of the finest publications of all AMERICAN MILITARY COMMUNIQUEs and it's only because of financial support of our SACO people. If you enjoy this issue, won't you consider joining us by paying dues of \$25 a year? Our current issues cost \$8 to \$9 each. Help us stay afloat! Ed.
