

SACO VETERANS

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

VICE ADMIRAL MILTON E. "MARY" MILES

Rear Duke & Perpetual Skipper

Issue
No. 14

NOV
1996

WHAT THE HELL?



Wilma S. "Billy" Miles
SACO's FIRST LADY
1904 - 1996

SACO VETERANS

IT'S UP TO YOU...THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE..SEE INSIDE COVER PAGE

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1996 - 1997

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

THIS IS POSSIBLY YOUR LAST ISSUE

It is with deep regret that I have to report that which has been seemingly inevitable for some time and has now become reality. We all are aware that ventures in this day and age are not likely to succeed or survive sans financial aid and this publication is no exception.

Therefore, by ruling of the Trustees at our last convention in Longboat Key, FL in September this year, this, the 14th issue of SACO NEWS will be the last you will receive if you are a non-paying dues member of SACO. You will not be removed from the mailing list, i.e., such as announcements of upcoming conventions, but we must cut costs by sending future issues of SACO NEWS only to those who support it.

Membership Chairman Casamajor maintains computer records of the status of all SACO personnel for the past several years, so there's no problem ascertaining who will receive future issues. Since he is my source of address labels, he will simply purge non-dues payers and forward addresses of those left in good standing.

Truly, this circumstance bothers me in that I want no ill feelings; want no one to take this as a threat or personal vendetta. But facts are facts and this is the way it is. If you're not interested in the news of our organization, that's fine! But, on the other hand, if you wish to receive future issues, you don't have to pay retroactively, just start now and send your dues annually. Whatever your choice, it's been a pleasure to serve you and a labor of love on my part.

Richard Rutan, Editor

PS: I feel all members should know we endeavor to publish the SACO NEWS bi-annually (Spring and Fall) and the current cost of printing and mailing is about \$5,000 each time.

SACO DUES

ANNUAL DUES REGULAR AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: \$20.00

TREAS: Herman W. Weskamp
3034 Larkwood
West Covina, CA 91791

LADIES AUXILIARY: \$10.00

TREAS: Ellen Booth
7471 Thunderbird Rd
Liverpool, NY 13088

LATEST SACO DONORS

ALVERSON, LEE.....\$ 100
 ANONYMOUS..... 300
 ATHEY, WILLIAM T..... 100
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 BASH, JAMES..... 80
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 TORDOFF, JOHN..... 30
 ULANECK, JULIUS..... 100
 WHITE, WILLIAM..... 250
 WILDING, GLENNA..... 80

31 July 1996

Mr. Frank Buckless
 SACO
 4246 Darleigh Road
 Baltimore, MD 21236

Dear Sir:

The death of Billy Miles last month energized Susie and me to provide a memorial to "Billy" and "Mary" (Milton) Miles. As treasurer of SACO, please accept this check for \$2500.00 for the SACO account. We know no better way to honor them than through SACO.

We assume you are the appropriate person to whom we should direct this memorial gift. We will appreciate your acknowledgement and assistance in directing this to the appropriate fund.

Sincerely,

S I Morris

S. I. Morris

(Editor's note: "C-Going" (Charles) Miles advised me in a phone conversation following this gift that his father was Best Man at the wedding of "Si" and Susie. No doubt this monumental donation to SACO was truly a heartfelt contribution to memories of bygone days and the loss of loved ones. SACO is truly grateful beyond words for honoring the "family" of our founder, our beloved Skipper as well as his life companion, Billy, through this magnanimous tribute to two unforgettable people.)

**WOW!!! THAT ABOUT SAYS IT ALL!!
 WHAT A WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL OUT-
 POURING OF SUPPORTERS. THANKS TO
 EACH AND EVERY ONE IN YOUR AID TO
 KEEP US GOING!!! LUVYA!!!**

LONGBOAT KEY, FL CONVENTION

SEPT. 11-15

*Doc & Peg
Felmy
Host*



a wonderful reunion in celebration of our 42nd annual convention at The Holiday Inn Longboat Key.

As I told and wrote Doc and Peg, they sure picked a winner especially in regard to Hospitality Room service. The hotel personnel were in every sense "Johnny on the ball" at every request and the attitude of all employees was that of joining in and making our stay a most pleasurable one. Referring to the Hospitality Room which was super in itself, the bar was furnished with the best of the best. We've never had it so good in that respect and we had Doc and Peg to see to that. I've maintained for many years the best is none too good for SACO.

Being from the desert, I hoped for rain, a treat for us that we seldom get unless it is disastrous and we did get some. Our lodging was right on the beach of the Gulf of Mexico and many delighted in a dip in the very warm waters.

I think notes from those in attendance best explain the enjoyment shared by all:

DORIS and GEORGE BARRETT wrote:
"Again, we want you to know how much we enjoyed the reunion that was so magnificently planned by you. Seeing the Ringling Estate was most delightful and educational. Our thanks for your thoughtfulness."

From BILL BARTEE:

"...thank you both for all the work you did in putting together a bang-up reunion. I really enjoyed the whole time ...I know from experience that it takes one Hell of a lot of work. Thanks again"

ROBERT J. HOE:

Helen and I wish to thank you personally for the very pleasant time that we had at our SACO convention this year. As you may recall, this year's convention in Longboat Key, FL was the first convention that we had the opportunity of attending. All of the SACO members, wives and guests made us feel like old friends rather than strangers who had not met before. There were two SACO members, Jim Dess and Sal Ciaccio whom I had gone through training with in Ft. Pierce, FL over fifty years ago. It was great seeing them again and reliving those exciting days in Scouts & Raiders and Underwater Demolition training.

"Of course the highlight of the convention was the banquet, the award of medals, and the great music that we enjoyed. We especially enjoyed the singing of Sal Ciaccio's wife, Marie who provided her personal touch to those good old melodies!

"...Again, thanks for the hospi-



"DOC" FELMLY

tality of yourself and all of the SACO people and friends at Longboat Key."

JIM KELLY

"...I had one wonderful time down South. Of course, you two helped make this possible with what was an excellent reunion. I want you both to know I'm most appreciative of the efforts you expended in putting the Reunion Act together. I was particularly delighted to see two faces I hadn't seen since 1944 - those belonging to Paul Boroff and Mel Magnet. Of course, I was sorry to learn of the illnesses that precluded the attendance of so many...a situation that in all probability will become more dominant in the future...none of us are 'brand new' as you know.

"Again, my heartfelt thanks. Stay nice!"

And from CHARLES & LAURA SELLERS:

"...You all did a wonderful job putting on a first class event. Thank you so much for your hard work and all the time you put into this effort - a special thanks for my vegetable plate at the banquet - it was delicious."

What else can be said? This expresses the feelings of about

everyone at the reunion - fellowship was one of the greatest. We all are grateful for another fine chance to gather and reminisce.

The food at the banquet was excellent and the program was well organized. As usual, the touching and emotional time of the presentation of the SACO Medal to so many first timers was one of the highlights. So many expressed appreciation of the band and the surprising talent of Marie Ciaccio with her song styling.

Without a doubt, Peg and Doc...you did damn fine! Our congratulations and muchisimas gracias!!! ???!!!***



HAND-IN-HAND, PEG AND DOC SURVEY THE CAKE COMMEMORATING THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY DURING THE CONVENTION.



The following pages exhibit a pictorial review of another enjoyable annual reunion of SACOs in 1996.



Jimmy Dunn-Tracy Chou-Norman/Lyn Dike



Guy Purvis-Kenny McCoy



Melba Olander-Mary/Jerry Coats



Martha Casamajor-Ro Mullen



Doc Felmly-Capt. Peter Pan



Ringling Museum



Kevin Weng, Gen. Weng, Tracy Chou-Col. Chang



Francis/Caroline Reynnet



Peg/Mike Conway



Hazel Nelson
Cil Bonin



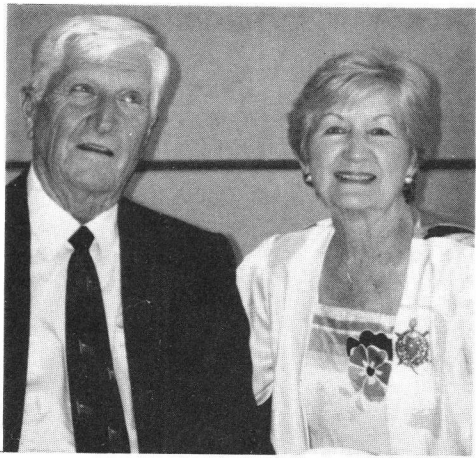
Dolores Fintak-Frank Buckless



Dtr-in-law & dtr of John Smoley



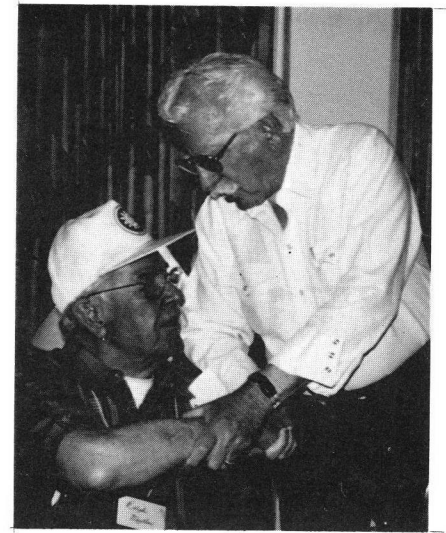
Ms. Wan-ju Weng-Mrs. Weng Yen-ching



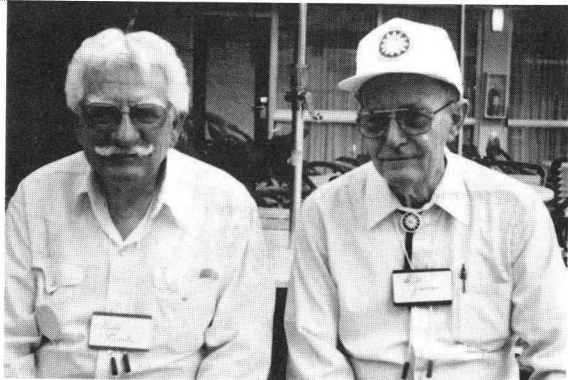
Larry/Georgia Karas



Jack/Bev Petersen



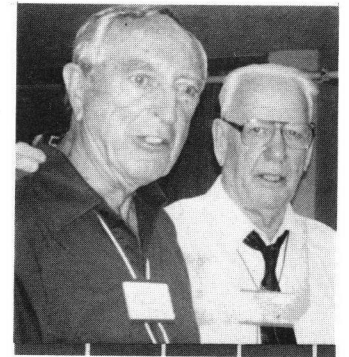
Buddies: Ralph and Bill



Bill Bartee-Will James



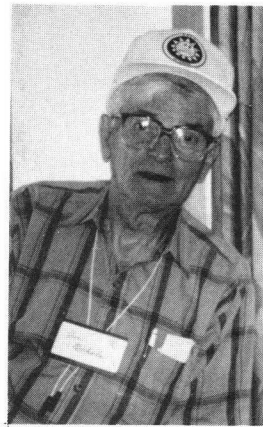
Richard, Erma Rutan



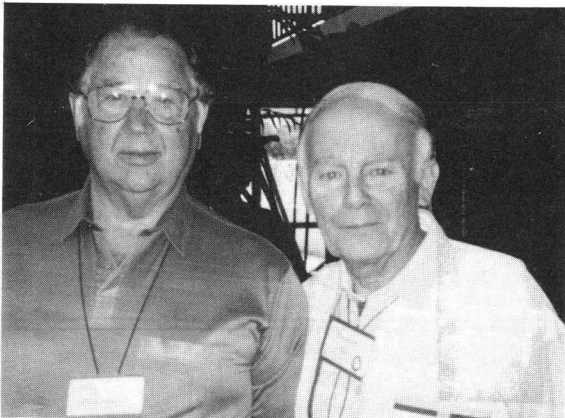
Jim Dess-Chas. Parkin



Edith Hubbard-Helen Hoe-Frances Petri Vic Nichols



Dolores/Len Fintak



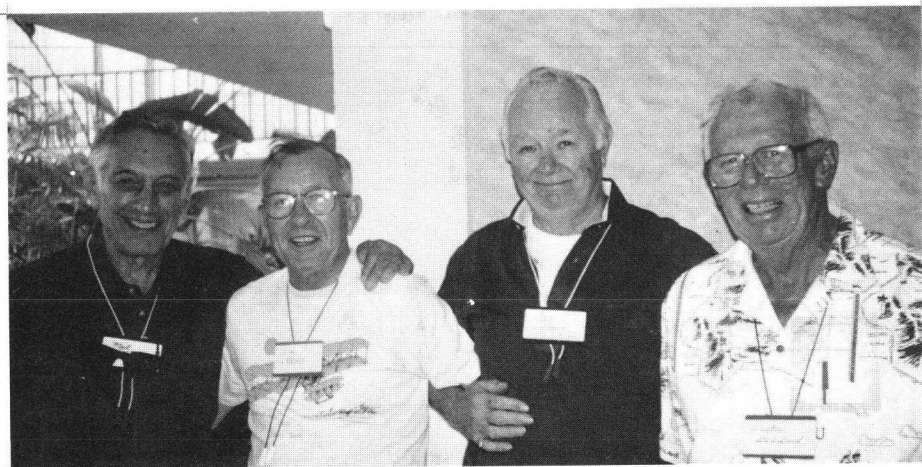
Guy Purvis-Clearance Gee



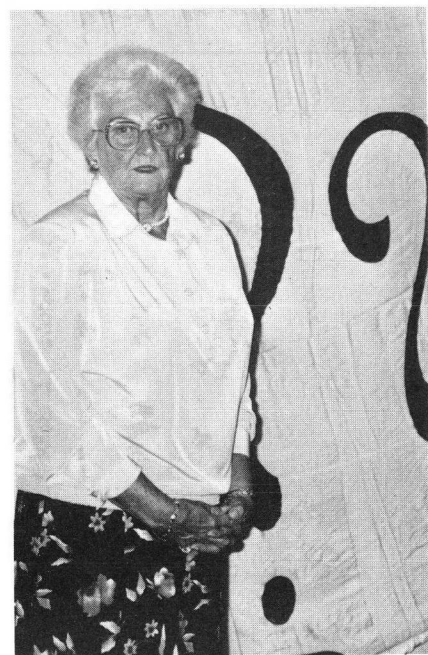
"Robby" Robinson



Bea/Mel Magnet



Mel Magnet-Jim Kelly-Art Olsen-Walt Stoddard



Peg Felmly



Wiley/"Char" Williamson



Charlie Sellers-Bill Hall
John Waters get a laugh.



Sal/Marie Ciaccio



Bill Miller-Doc Felmly



Hal Bonin



Ralph Mullen



Rosie Westphal, Mrs. Weng and Paul Casamajor head group leaving Ringling Museum



Mathilda/Richard Banner



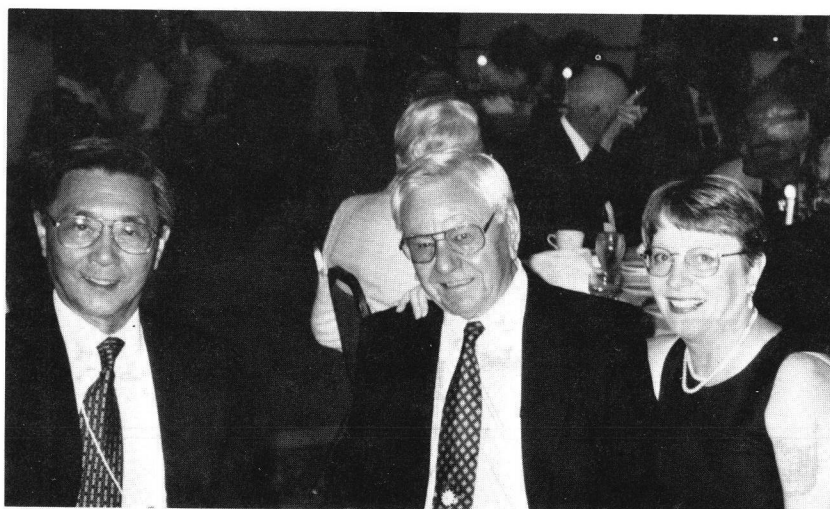
John/Rosie Westphal



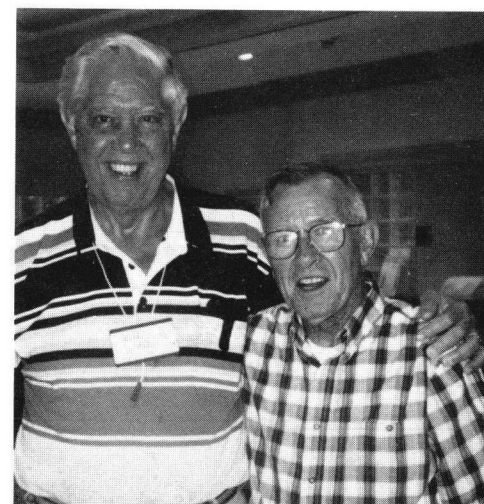
Bob/Lola Hill



Ann Miller-Jim/Marie Dess



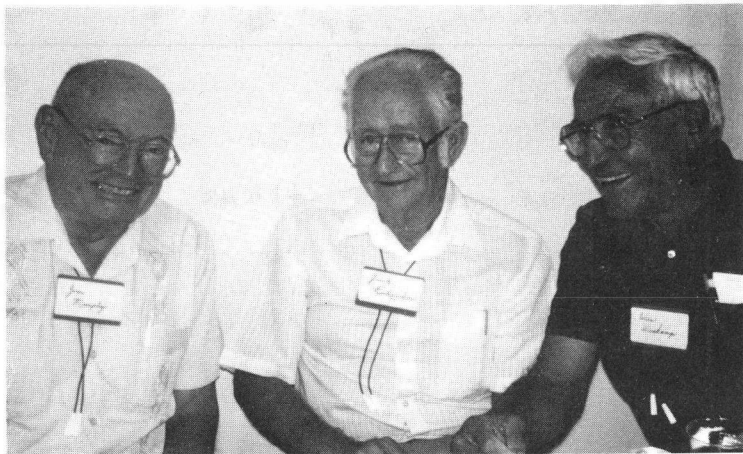
James Dunn-Bud/Ellen Booth



Dick Petri-Jim Kelly



Bill & Bobbie Hall



Jim Murphy-Jack Richardson-"Wes" Weskamp



Dick & Sue Parks



Mrs. Weng-Bill Bartee-Gen. Weng



Harriott Siegrist-Helen Hoe



John Pisarick-Tom Beetel



Bill Miller-Lee Alverson-Chas. Parkin



Col. Chang, Mrs. Weng, Martha and Paul Casamajor



Jack Miller - Norman Dike



Doc Felmlly-Al Springer, Bruce Lippincott, Vic Nichols, Art Olsen, Bill Massey



George/Doris Barrett



Art/Rita Olsen-Cil Bonin



Helen Hoe, Frances/Dick Petri
Clarence Gee



Ed/Annabeth Carter

DEAR READER:

APRIL 1996

I regret that we are forced to cut this issue almost in half when there were yet so many interesting subjects submitted by many members. However, since our Treasurer Frank Buckless advises me that our funds are at their lowest in several years, it was necessary to curtail the "Letters" section and eliminate "Nostalgia," "Potpourri," etc.

But this is the sad realization when 70% of our readers fail to pay annual dues. Please know that I'm willing to keep giving my time and work at something I truly love doing if you're willing to support it. **IT'S IN YOUR HANDS**, if you want to continue the publication, so why not, at this very moment, mail \$20 to our treasurer?

True, we have had generous donors, but they alone cannot carry the ball for the rest of us. **THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT???!***** Come on, Tigers, where's your **WHAT THE HELL** spirit???

THE HANDWRITING IS ON THE WALL:, if you can't come through, I can't...without the financial support, I see the demise of this communique and I, for one, am saddened at the thought this might come to pass.

Many of us, for one reason or another, are not able to see each other in person, but hopefully, this is a means to "keep in touch." Each and every one of us were part of a very special force during WWII..let's keep the memory of this unique organization alive with stories and pictures of the past and present.

WON'T YOU JOIN THE SMALL PERCENTAGE OF FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS and become dues-paying members? For what it's worth, I get nothing out of this except the distinct pleasure of serving a group I dearly love...and I might add, I, too, pay dues...can you help by sending yours now?

(SEE INSIDE, PLEASE)

R. L. Rutan, Ed.

POST PRESS ADDENDUM

Lloyd M. "Doc" Felmly suffered a shattered hip replacement (he previously had implants in both hips) as he stepped from the shower 19 March 1996. Peg advises he is doing well and will undergo therapy prior to returning home to recupe. She says they most likely will forego plans to spend summer in NY while Doc recovers. Also, Peg wants to assure everyone that all is under control as far as the forthcoming September convention.

DONOR OVERSIGHT

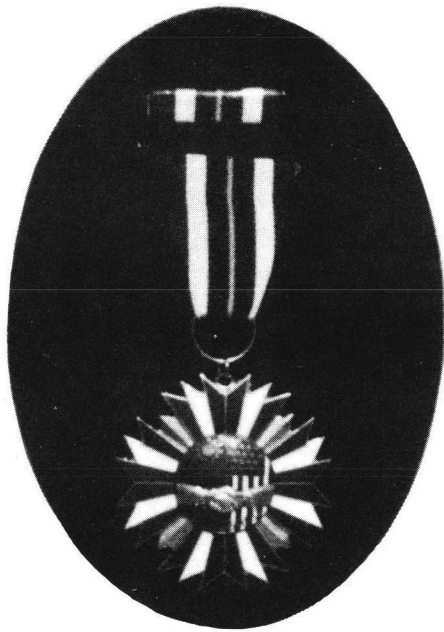
During cleanup after going to press, I find a memo overlooked; Tzu-li (Joseph) Ching, (Ret. General of MIB) now residing with Mrs. Ching in Vancouver, BC, sent \$60 in support of SACO NEWS. I regret this exclusion and extend our most sincere thanks to you, Gen. Ching, for your contribution.
Ed.

POST PRESS DONOR

After going to press, Treasurer Buckless advises SACO was honored with another \$100 contribution from Jack L. Miller of Neenah, WI. Ting hao! Jack and many, many thanks for your support.
Ed.

"BERNIE" NELSON DIES

Hazel Nelson called Wednesday, 3 April '96 to advise her husband, Bernard W. "Bernie" Nelson died suddenly, but peacefully in his sleep that morning. A floral arrangement from SACO was sent. Burial was to be Sat., Apr. 6. Many of you will recall it was Bernie and Hazel who honored us so often with Wisconsin Cheese in the Hospitality Rm.
Ed.



SACO MEDALS AWARDED

GEN. WENG YEN-CHING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MIB, ACTING IN BEHALF OF GEN. HU CHA-CHI, DIRECTOR OF MIB, PRESENTED THE SACO MEDAL TO THESE MEN 14 SEPTEMBER 1996 AT THE 42nd ANNUAL SACO BANQUET IN LONGBOAT KEY, FL.



BRUCE LIPPINCOTT



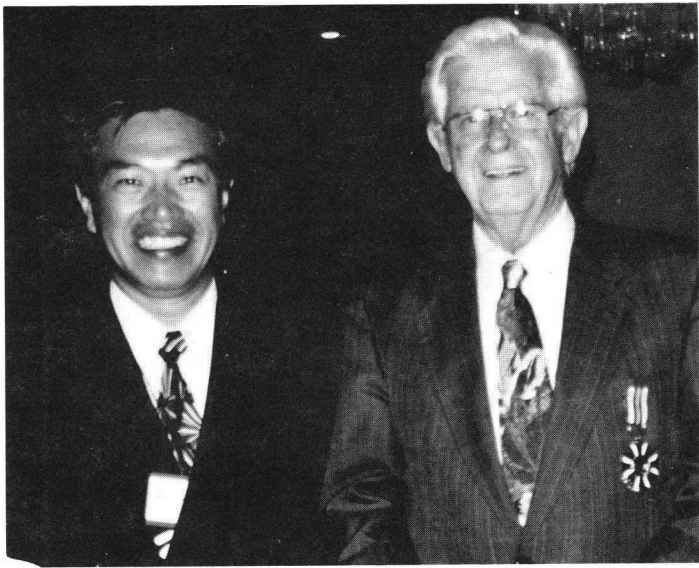
JACK RICHARDSON



MELVIN MAGNET



NEIL HUBBARD



BRONSON "TEX" HOWELL



MATTHEW GROMALA



LESLIE JOHNSTON



BENJAMIN E. GRIFFIN



ROBERT RICHARDSON



PAUL BOROFF



THOMAS J. BEETEL



ROBERT HOE

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND WELCOME BACK TO
SACO ...NOW STAY WITH US...



CLARENCE GEE

**FOLLOWING IS THE BANQUET INVOCATION
AS DELIVERED BY
DR. D. LEE ALVERSON**

Dear Lord,

My apologies for not keeping in more frequent contact. I suppose you are expecting an appeal of some personal problem; but Lord, I come to you tonight to ask your blessings on all those who have gathered here tonight under the flag of SACO. Father, I am proud that our group has chosen to glorify you and recognize you, as the Skipper of this small celestial ship called earth. You have known each of us since birth and followed us as a group since our bonding in China more than 50 years ago. As the Keeper of the records, you are well aware that our ranks continue to dwindle as you call home our comrades. We presume, Father, they are with you. For those of us remaining, we are not unaware that within a twinkling of a light in the eternity of time, we will be joining those

who preceeded us. In this regard, Lord, I note in Roman's 13:1: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." We are not about to contest this scripture, but find solace in the fact that you are a just and forgiving God. Father, when the time comes to judge my comrades, I hope you will recall Matthew's parable: "Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net that was cast into the sea and gathered of every kind. Which, when it was full, they drew to shore and sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

Father, under your direction, my job here on earth has been as a marine biologist -- as such, I have learned a lot about fish and I can testify to you that those who have gathered at our table are good fish and none should be cast away. I ask you, dear Lord, to

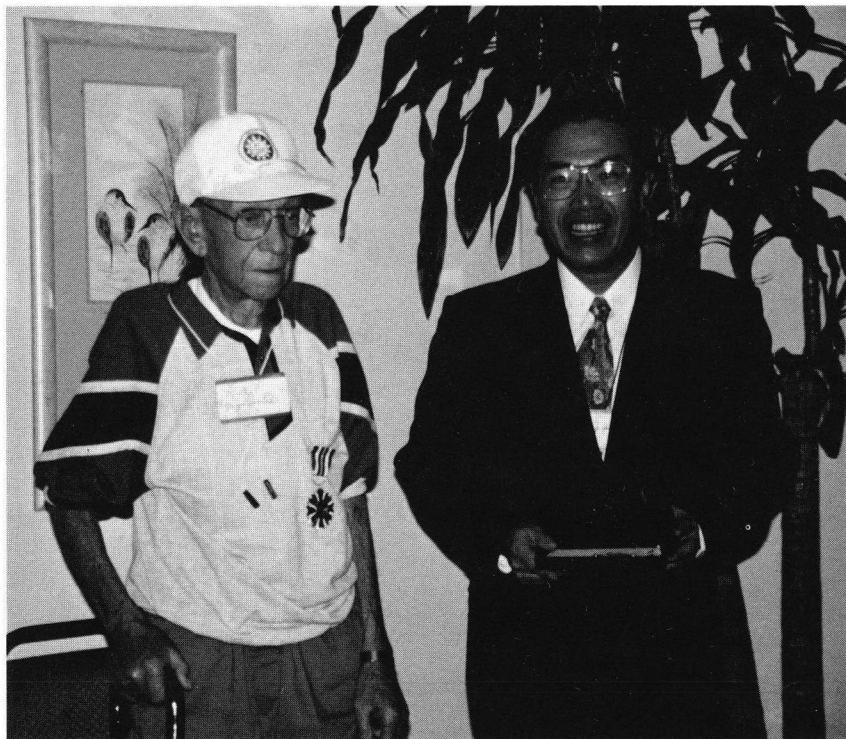
bless and touch all who have gathered here tonight. We ask that you bind old wounds and tighten the bonds of friendship within our ranks.

Lord, you will note that this evening at our tables are visitors from abroad; I know not of what they know of you, but linkages of friendship with our guests were seeded more than half a century ago. We ask that you also bless them and help them in their trials and tribulations. Their country and people currently stand ideologically divided and we ask that you help them find a path to unity and evolve a form of governance that embodies compassion, justice and love; principles that are so pervasive in your teachings.

Finally, Lord, bless the food we are about to eat and lighten our hearts for tonight's reunion.

Amen

Special Ceremony For Cyanovich Stirs Emotions



MILLER CYANOVICH was honored in a special recognition ceremony. Due to serious illness, it was felt Miller was not strong enough to stay for the banquet ceremonies. Consequently, Gen. Weng and his staff were kind enough to make a special formal presentation of the SACO Medal to Miller in the Hospitality Suite as many watched the very moving event. It was evident that it was a proud moment and a highlight of Miller's life as emotions peaked and his were not the only watery eyes. So happy you made the struggle to attend, Miller, and congratulations????!!!***



ATTENDEES

LONGBOAT KEY, FL

1996

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Gen. & Mrs. Weng Yen-ching
Col. Chang Chian-chun
Capt. Peter Pan
Miss Tracy Chou
Ms. Wan-ju Weng
Mr. Keven, Kang-tai Weng

D. Lee Alverson
Willie & Audrey Baker
Richard & Mathilda Banner
George & Doris Barrett
Bill Bartee
Thomas J. Beetel
Priscilla Bonin
Elwood & Ellen Booth
Paul & Iona Boroff
Frank & Evelyn Buckless
Edwin & Annabeth Carter
Paul & Martha Casamajor
Salvatore & Marie Ciaccio
Jerry & Mary Coats
and daughter and grandson
Michael & Peg Conway
Miller & Tillie Cyanovich
Jim & Marie Dess
Norman & Lyndall Dike
Jim Dunn
Al Ediss
Lloyd & Peg Felmly
Leonard & Dolores Fintak
Joseph & Peggy Fitzgerald
Irving & Lois Floress
Clarence & Norma Gee
B. Ernest Griffin
Matthew & Florence Gromala
Bill & Bobbie Hall
Bob & Lola Hill
Robert & Helen Hoe
Bronson "Tex" & Phyllis Howell
Neil & Edith Hubbard
Will James
Leslie Johnston and
daughter Gail & sister
Larry & Georgia Karas
Jim Kelly
Bruce Lippincott
Mel & Bea Magnet
William Massey
and brother-in-law
Jim & Mary McGrail
Jack & Ann Miller
Bill & Sissy Miller

Ralph & Rosemary Mullen
Jim Murphy
Hazel Nelson
Vic Nichols
Charles & Mearle O'Brien
Melba Olander
Arthur & Rita Olson
Charles & Marty Parkin
Jack & Beverly Petersen
Richard & Frances Petri
John Pisarick, Sr.
Fred & Isolda Prather
Guy Purvis & Kenny
Francis & Caroline Reynnet
Jack Richardson

Robert & Billie Richardson
Charles & Elizabeth Robinson
Richard & Erma Rutan
Charles & Laura Sellers
Jacob & Harriott Siegrist
John Smoley & 2 daughters
and daughter-in-law
V. Aldon Springer
Walter Stoddard
Dean & Billie Warner
John & Frances Waters
Wes & Kathryn Weskamp
John & Rosie Westphal
Wiley Williamson & "Char"



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Prior to the Longboat Key Convention, Frank Buckless felt he no longer wanted to carry on with duties as Treasurer of the organization; thus he submitted a letter of resignation to President Bill Miller effective at this last reunion. With the signed approval of all trustees, during the program at the banquet, Frank and Evelyn were called "front and center" where President Miller presented Frank with a Certificate of Recognition of his many years of dedication as Treasurer of SACO and granting both he and Evelyn lifetime memberships.

CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF

Billy Miles

It's time to say Good Bye -



Wilma Sinton Miles was born March 20, 1904 at 5PM in the Homeopathic Hospital, Wash., D.C. to Etie Sinton and Charles Hammond Jerman. She married Milton Edward Miles September 4, 1925 in the Union Church of Hong Kong. The two raised three sons: William Beall (born 1929) Murray Edward (1931) and Charles Hammond (1934) She died at 10:30AM July 1, 1996 at the

Arleigh Burke Pavilion in McLean, VA. She is survived by son Murray, his wife Enid, son Charles, four grandsons, three great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

At the age of three, Wilma learned to read, in part by watching advertisements in streetcars and buses. By age four, as a treat on Saturday mornings, she was allowed to walk about five blocks to the library from their home at 14th and Florida Ave; she had her own card. The family moved to 2717 13th St. and she skated for her books. Wilma attended Ross Junior High and

graduated from Central High School in 1921. She studied Dramatic Expression for two and one-half years and was on the swimming team.

The Jerman family vacations mostly were spent on Chesapeake Bay in a tar-paper-shack owned by several families that time-shared the property. In the Fall of Wilma's Junior year, two midshipmen were becalmed in a sailboat and landed on their small pier. Both chopped wood; one fixed the coal-oil stove and the other was Milton Miles. Milton invited her to the academy dances even though he did not dance; her program partners failed to appear and the two just sat and talked. In later years, he learned to waltz which they did to any tune from two-step to tango. During her senior high school year, Milton offered Wilma a gold engagement ring which she declined and he promptly threw over his shoulder into the Severn River.

Wilma went away to Cornell University; her extracurricular activities were sports, arts and literature. She won her oar in women's rowing and captained the pistol team. During her junior year, she enrolled in an acting class that performed a new play

every other week for a semester; the same time the players were practicing the next offering while starting to read a third. She always won the leading parts for which she auditioned and once played opposite an unknown, Franchot Tone. She worked her way up from cub reporter to editor of the campus newspaper. On occasion she relaxed in a boat in the middle of Beebe Lake with various eclectic male friends by reading avant-garde poetry. Her co-ed classmates prophesied about Wilma Jerman the following: "Which'll beat, tongue or feet?"

Milton gave her a second engagement ring when he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1922. Afraid that he would throw away that one also if she refused, she accepted "for a later time" and kept the ring in her sock drawer. In February 1925, she was graduated with B.S. in Home Economics from Cornell University. Wilma had written Milton that she was wearing his ring and he replied with a firm offer of marriage; the two had not seen each other for two and one-half years. That summer Wilma and her mother crossed the country by train and boarded the SS CLEVELAND, a Dollar Lines passenger ship. Her mother accompanied her as far as Hawaii "to protect the young lady's reputation" and gave her a "sultan's" ring mounted with many small diamonds which could be prized-out to pay passage home if necessary. This was Wilma's first trip outside of the United States. Wilma arrived in Hong Kong on Thursday and was married the next day, September 4, 1925. The Registrar of Marriages listed Milton as "Bachelor" and Wilma as "Spinster;" they were age 25 and 21 respectively. The honeymoon lasted all weekend; her husband left for a month-long tour of duty and returned to find her "in hospital" with a tropical disease and limited visitation. She lived in Hong Kong two years and later estimated the two were together one-quarter of the time.

Wilma became "Billy;" her husband had been called "Mary" while he was a midshipman. In later years, she informally achieved royalty

by being addressed as "Duchess" (wife of Rear Duke) and, later, "Queen of the Napipi" in Columbia.

In 1927 they returned to Annapolis for one year and then to Columbia University where both received Master's Degrees (her major was Nutrition Publicity and his, Electrical Engineering) in 1929. The study program was altered for the birth of William on her birthday, March 20, in Washington, D.C. A friend typed and illustrated Billy's thesis "in absentia." She followed her husband wherever possible - summer in Schenectady, NY, then to Bremerton, WA and on to Long Beach, CA where Murray was born July 11, 1931. They drove back to the D.C. area and moved into the "Kenwood House" at 111 Shadow Lane. Charles was born March 26, 1934; three months later, Billy and her three sons drove across the country to the billet in San Diego, CA.

During June of 1936, the Mileses sailed for Chefoo (now Yantai), China with a stop in San Francisco where they were lodged for two nights in the St. Francis Hotel. The beds were made-up with smooth, percale cotton sheets instead of muslin ones; this was a memorable "first" for Billy. For the next three years she followed the fleet between Chefoo and the Philippines. For years after, the China Duty was remembered at parties by singing "We'll all go up to China in the springtime;": at least a dozen verses celebrate the tradition.

During her five years in the Orient, Billy learned "some" Chinese and all of the dynasties. In Peking she toured the Forbidden City and witnessed the bombing of the Marco Polo Bridge on July 7, 1937. She escaped Peking by route of an unscheduled freight train south to the port area, crossed two rice paddies to three tramp ships, one of which took her to Chefoo in time (as promised) for Murray's birthday July 11. In October, the family was evacuated to Manila where Billy and the children celebrated Thanksgiving Day with the only fancy food available - canned baked beans and canned pineapple - in a basement apartment with no water or electricity. She toured the Dutch

East Indies and the family vacationed on Luzon in a headhunter's modern hut complete with water piped in bamboo canes. Pigs and chickens lived below and ate the debris which sifted through the bamboo floor.

In the spring of 1939, the Mileses left Chefoo by ship to Hong Kong and Hai Phong, by rail to Kunming, by truck over the not-quite-constructed Burma Road to the Khyber Pass and on to Kabul. They boarded a 1923 Fokker airplane for the leg over the Hindu Kush Mountains to Herat and continued overland through Bagdad, Damascus, Beirut to Greece and shipped out for the United States. In the middle of this trip, Billy planned an exotic vacation at the exciting new Park in the Smoky Mountains and the family went in 1941.

During WWII, Billy donated in excess of 4,000 hrs. to the Red Cross and taught low-cost nutrition to young military wives and "other poor people." In 1951, she was a weekly guest on the Ruth Crane TV show and demonstrated cost-saver menus. She testified before Congress against the Dairy Lobby to allow the sale of yellow-colored margarine. In her spare time, Billy performed in the Kenwood Club skits and, in one, sang "Buttons And Bows."

After the Korean War, she assumed the distaff duties of a Flag Officer. In the early 1950's while Mary was Director of Foreign Missions and PanAmerican Affairs, Billy planned, prepared and hosted official dinner parties in their Kenwood home. Once they had less than six hours notice before serving 42 diplomats an "average three-wine-glass meal" capped with Baked Alaska. On another occasion, Billy made an "average American Meal" of hamburgers, corn-on-the-cob and 25 deep-dish apple pies for 120 Brazilian Midshipmen. Later posts, the Fifteenth and then the Third Naval Districts (headquartered in Balboa, Canal Zone and New York City respectively) included quarters with stewards to handle the entertaining.

After Mary retired in 1958, Billy spent three years helping write the story of the Sino-American-Cooperative Organization (SACO). During WWII, approximately 3,000 U.S. Naval

Personnel under Mary's command supplied weather and shipping intelligence for the Pacific campaign from behind Japanese Lines as far north as Mongolia. The book, "A Different Kind of War" was finally published through Billy's persistent effort in 1967. She also wrote her autobiography, the story of a navy wife which remains a manuscript with rejection slips.

Billy estimated that she shared a little less than one-half of her married life of 36 years with Mary. That time was spent with maximum effort. During the Flag Officer period, she learned Spanish, traversed all the sea-level canal routes of the Southern Americas, rounded the Horn by sea and sailed the Amazon River (in three legs). When invited, Billy went on every trip regardless of the lack of amenities. She believed that if she refused one, she might never be asked to go on another. Among the highlights of her travels, Billy was proud of being "jailed" six times - Istanbul, Meshar (Iran), Kunming, Hong Kong, Tijuana and Iguassu Falls (Brazil). Mostly she was detained for her tourist inclinations.

After the death of Mary in 1961, Billy attended the University of Maryland to update her specialty, Nutrition. In later years she noted that much of what she had learned in the 20's was later disputed and then re-embraced in the 70's and 80's. She went to Hong Kong and formulated frozen Chinese meals for export to the United States and then worked as a camp advisor in Washington. Starting in 1967, she embarked on a mission to travel, preferring new localities rather than retracing old tracks. She visited all the continents and major land masses except Greenland and Iceland. Between her travels, she participated in the convention and activities of the "young men" of SACO. She considered a trip as a major success when she cultivated at least one new friend with whom she could correspond. And the best trip included a visit with at least one good friend, somewhere. Billy's favorite city was Florence, Italy.

She read copiously. Her constant traveling companion was "The Complete

Works of Shakespeare" until after the death of her husband. She then shifted to Reader's Digest to which Mary had secretly purchased a lifetime subscription in her name. Her bookshelf included Chinese history and art, pre-independence South American history and epicurean cookbooks. From the library she borrowed mystery stories and historical novels. She remained active in the Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy, the Sino-American Cultural Society, The China Tiffin Club and the Kenwood Garden Club.

When Billy was 48 years old, she and Mary remarked that they knew they were getting old because many of their friends were dying. The plus side of her age was that finally she felt she could entertain young naval officers without precipitating "talk." At age 68 she drove her Plymouth Fury to Panama "since only ladies in tennis shoes are going by bus." She became a great grandmother at age 83 and confided that the difficult part was realizing that her son was getting old and regretted that she would not have a chance to take her "dream trip" - a walking tour of New Zealand. When she was 90, she did visit New Zealand by ship.

Billy's last earth-side trip was with a small SACO delegation to Taiwan in October 1995 where she suffered a stroke. Her travels began and ended in the Orient.

(The foregoing is a copy of the life of Billy written by Charles "C-Going" Miles as it appeared in her funeral program at Arlington. Ed.)



Billy, Hollis & Erma Rutan
Cherry Hill, NJ 1976

Appreciation

The Woman Who Went Where Life Led Her

By Ken Ringle
Washington Post Staff Writer

THE FOLLOWING (IN PART) IS FROM
3 July 1996 WASHINGTON POST:

To the best of my knowledge, Wilma Sinton "Billy" Miles never joined the women's movement, but then the legendary, globe-trotting Washingtonian probably would have considered that a waste of time.

Like an astonishing number of women of her astonishing generation - Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Martha Gellhorn and Margaret Bourke-White, to name just a few - Billy Miles, who died Monday at the age of 92, was too busy blazing trails to complain about the lack of them.

To those who think life is about what job you have, she was "just" a Navy wife - a classification that she prized with the particular zest of those underfinanced fleet-followers from the years before World War II. But even that hardy sisterhood held her in awe.

Whether she was dodging Japanese bombs in Peking in 1939 or spiriting her family out of China over the still-unfinished Burma Road, or exploring the Amazon or rounding Cape Horn by sea, Miles perpetually lived the sort of adventures those born later would experience only on television.

As a widow in her late sixties, she drove her seven-year-old Plymouth down the Pan-American Highway to Panama, then flew to Hong Kong to consider setting up an egg roll factory. "It didn't work out," she said breezily at the time, "but the trip wasn't a waste. I met some perfectly fascinating people. And you know how I love the Orient."

At 90, fresh from a safari in Kenya, she visited Antarctica, clambering ashore from a rubber raft to observe penguins in the snow.

Conditioned to a lifetime of thrift by military pay and paternal experience (her father had gone bankrupt three times), she saved money for her adventures with bag lunches and home-sewn clothes. She once went to dinner at the Reagan White House on the Metro in an evening dress she'd made herself.

...During one high-school summer while she was vacationing with her family at a tar-paper shack on the Chesapeake, two midshipmen becalmed in a sailboat landed on their small pier. One of them subsequently asked her to Naval Academy dances and, the following summer, offered her a gold engagement ring. When she turned him down, he tossed it over his shoulder into the Severn River. His name was Milton Miles.

When Miles offered her a second ring in 1922, Billy, worried that he might throw that one away too, accepted it "for a later time" and kept it in her sock drawer. When she graduated from Cornell, she wrote him that she'd put the ring on. He replied with an offer of marriage. She accepted, though she hadn't seen him in three years and he was half a world away in China. They were married Sept. 4, 1925 in Hong Kong. The honeymoon lasted all weekend. Then Miles went to sea for a month.

Much of their prewar life was spent in the Philippines or China. When war came in 1939, Billy, Miles and their three children rode munition trucks south to Rangoon over the malarial Burma Road, then made their way to Kashmir, where they recovered for several weeks on a houseboat.

With war closing exit routes right and left, they finally escaped through the Khyber Pass into Afghanistan and thence through Persia to Baghdad, Damascus and Beirut, where they finally caught a ship for home.

Her husband spent most of the war years behind Japanese lines in China, organizing weather and shipping intelligence for the Pacific

Campaign. Billy Miles, at home in Washington with her children, found time to work 4,000 hours for the Red Cross, teach nutrition and, at least once, testify before Congress.

After the war, with her husband an admiral, she spent part of her time on the protocol demands of service wifing - once producing on six hours' notice a diplomatic dinner for 42, complete with three wines and baked Alaska. But she also rode a rubber raft up and down the remote rivers of Central America with her husband, sleeping in jungle hammocks, while exploring routes for a sea-level alternative to the Panama Canal.

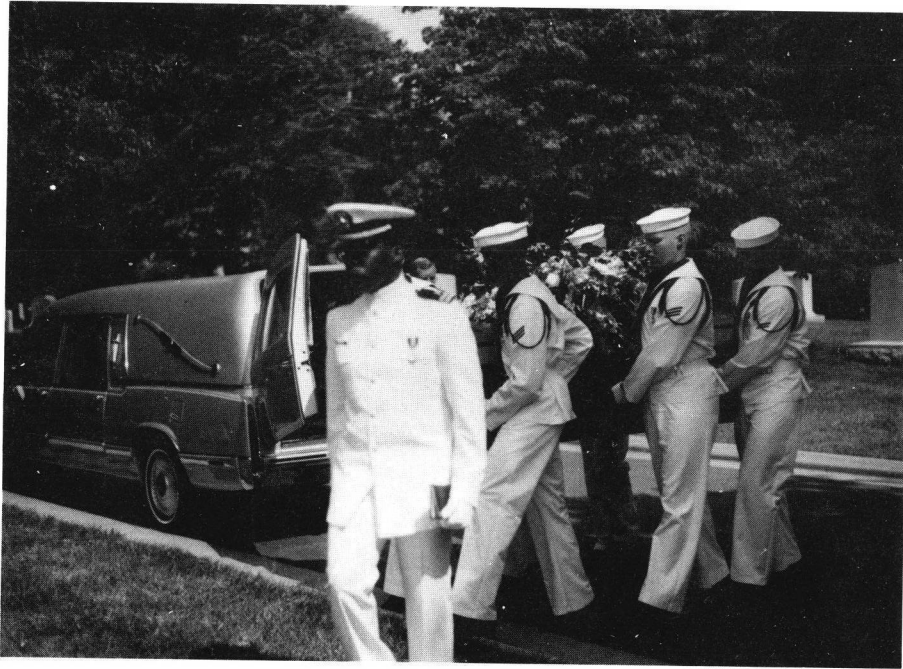
She spent three years helping him write and publish his autobiography "A Different Kind of War" (her own is still in manuscript), but after Milton died in 1961, she was soon off on other adventures. By her death, she claimed to have visited every continent and land mass on the Earth except Iceland.

It might be possible, perhaps, for someone who never met her to see Billy Miles's adventures as the frivolous amusements of an idle woman in an age that cheated her of the power and responsibility her talents deserved. But that would be an enormous misunderstanding of Billy Miles: of the seriousness with which she took her ventures into other cultures, of the hunger of her intellect and of the influence of her personality on everyone she met. She did all she did while raising three children, maintaining an enormous correspondence and an ever-growing network of friends and acquaintances high and low that literally spanned the globe.

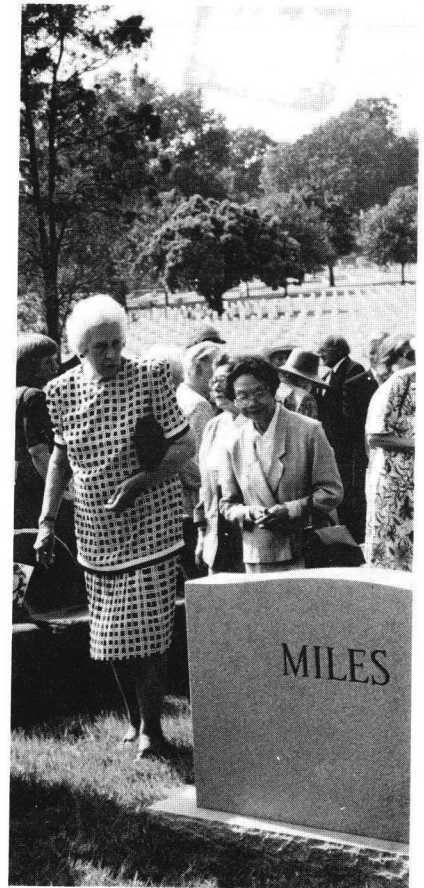
"I love Washington, I loved being married and I love the Navy," she once said somewhere around her 80th birthday. "But that's all just what you start with. The whole world is out there for all of us, that's what most people don't realize. And discovery is what life's about."

(Editor's note: Thanks to Bill

Sager and Bill Peacock for sending me the foregoing article from the Washington Post - what a great movie the lives of our skipper and his lady would make????!!!***)



BILLY MILES IS LAID TO REST WITH THE SKIPPER IN ARLINGTON 10 July 1996

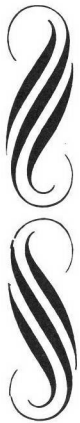


LILLIAN "SLIM" GILROY, NANCY TABOR AND LILYAN TAO.



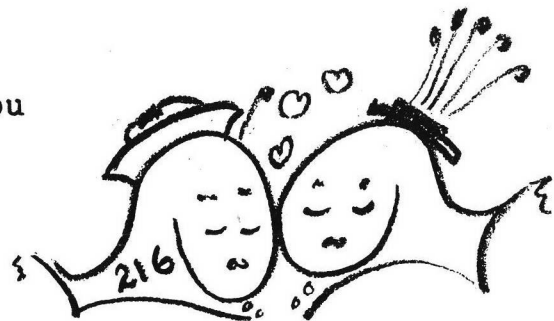
Billy in Seattle 1995

Photos courtesy Bill Peacock & Andy Fleming



TILL WE MEET AGAIN

Smile the while you kiss me sad adieu
When the clouds roll by I'll come to you
Then the skies will seem more blue,
Down in lover's lane, my dearie,
Wedding bells will ring so merrily
Ev'ry tear will be a memory,
So wait and pray each night for me
'Till we meet again.



PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF THOSE IN
ATTENDANCE AT BILLY'S SERVICES:

I hope that Andy Fleming got sufficient pictures for you to use in the SACO NEWS. Besides Andy, those present at the funeral - at least those that I recognized - include Jim Bash and his wife, Col. and Mrs. Jim Jordan (who never attended a SACO reunion in my memory), Ed Monsour and Slim Gilroy. There were one or two whom I seemed to know, but names don't come to me and they disappeared before I had a chance to speak to them.

The eulogies for Mrs. Miles were perfectly beautiful; very meaningful and very touching. There was a group of about ten enlisted men from the Arleigh Burke and a fairly good-sized group from the Arleigh Burke Pavilion where Mrs. Miles lived following her stroke last October.

Sincerely,
Bill (Sager)

I returned Wednesday from Billy's funeral. Among the SACO members I saw there were: Andy Fleming, Bill Sager, Lilyan Tao, Sylvia Erwin Nancy Tabor and myself. Frank Buckless was at the viewing Monday afternoon...One other SACO member was with Sager and Fleming, but I've forgotten his name. Two of Admiral Metzel's children were there and a number of Billy's grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The service was very impressive and I'm sure Billy would have approved.

In the parlor at the funeral home, the boys had arranged a montage of pictures of Billy's life about age 2 to the last trip to Taiwan. On one corner, they hung her straw hat with the Taiwanese buttons on it. In the middle was Bill Miller's name tag from last year's convention and I think a SACO pennant was on the second corner.

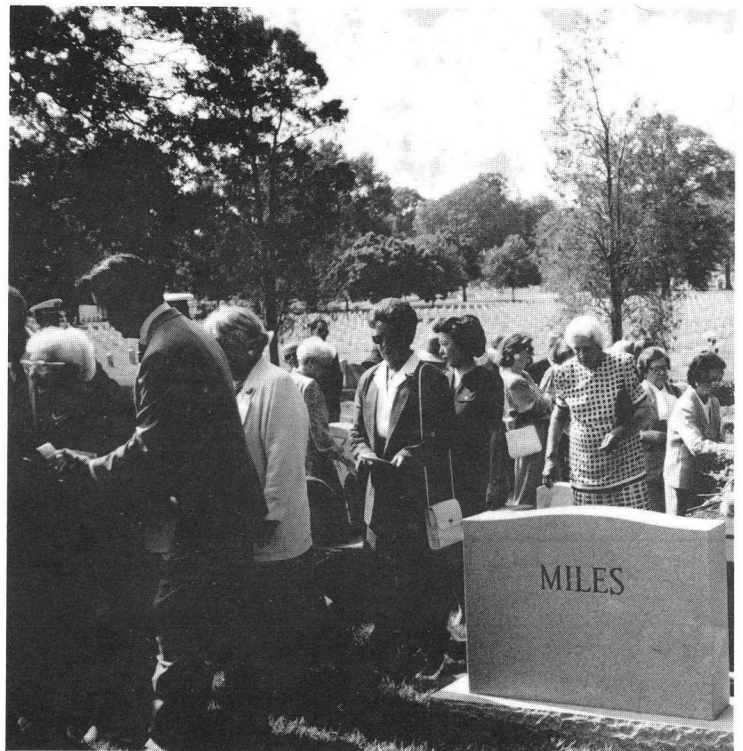
Thought you'd like a first-hand report. I know C-Going is sending you a brochure used at the service itself.

I have lost almost all my vision, so please excuse the writing.

Regards,
Slim (Gilroy)

...there were two people at the funeral home while Evelyn and I were there - Nelson Bowman and Bill Peacock. We see Elnora and Nelson Bowman once a month for dinner. Elnora has cancer and could not drive that far.

Frank (Buckless)



Extreme Left: Mrs. Arleigh Burke being assisted by two men.



Billy's Last Christmas Card

"C-Going" Miles advises this pictorial review of Billy's life was assembled at the time of her death and titled, "Mother's Last Christmas Card." It was part of the funeral program.



AGE 2



22



35



37



18



26



39



Serving with American Red Cross
WWII



50



41



56



44



78



89



the area, call me, it would be good to c u again.

*Thanks
Rick Reising*

PS:...I could use another four issues for my three kids, 22, 16, 13 and a grandson. (Several more sent...Ed.)

JOHN R. GRAYSON:

...Please add this* to our fund for continuation of SACO NEWS.

Although I have not been active in our organization, I find the "News" very interesting. As I read names, faces and events from China days "pop up" in my mind and memory; memories I did not know I still had. Best wishes to all.

John Grayson

*(\$100)

KENNETH R. "TUG" WILSON:

...The Ledo Convoy story in the Oct. '95 issue of the SACO NEWS sure brought back some memories.

I appreciate the "News" and all you fine fellows who make our SACO organization an on-going institution.

Tug Wilson

WADE BRIGHTBILL:

Attached you will find a check for \$100. This is a small contribution toward maintaining the publication of the SACO NEWS. If this publication ceases and disappears over the horizon, I firmly believe it could spell the end of our fine organization. It is a most important element and really keeps everyone associated with SACO informed about one another...

Sincerely,

Wade & Connie

RICHARD L. "RICK" REISING:

...I am Rick, Johnny Reising's oldest son; a mere 48 years now. I still live at the home place from where we grew up. I have three other brothers, Dave, John and Rusty. All are married, raising kids, etc. .. We miss Dad a lot. The last few years gave me a chance to get to know him as a friend - that's a lot different than a parent. We were good friends and I really miss him.

We had a lot of good times and I can imagine what a close friendship you guys have. Eloise (John's widow) promptly forwarded the Mar. '96 SACO NEWS with the eulogy you wrote. You have no idea how much that means to our family. Thank you for sharing a story that, as kids growing up, we only caught bits and pieces of the whole story. I know there are a lot more details, but the phrase "Bahksheesh sahib" takes on a new meaning after reading your article. What a great story!

Dad and I fished and spent as much time as we could on the Ohio River. I have had a river camp there for the last 26 years. We spent a lot of time on the pontoon boat which he compared to fishing in your living room (comfortable seats).

...Dick, I really appreciate the SACO NEWS. If you get through

GLENNA WILDING:

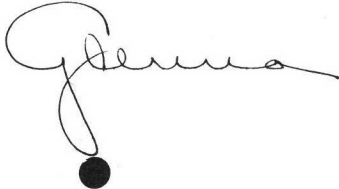
Thank you for including the tribute to Art in the March SACO NEWS, and for returning his picture. The extra copies were welcome. His brother and sisters were glad to get a copy, as were some of our CBI friends. It was an excellent issue.

I regret I won't be able to attend the reunion this year. I had planned to, but when I learned the dates, it fell on the only weekend that is carved in stone this year. It is the same weekend of the 50th anniversary of my high school graduating class, and I am host.

Meanwhile, I'm sending a check for \$100.00 to help support SACO NEWS. I think it is important to keep it going and you do a wonderful job with it.

I'm doing O.K. Some days are better than others, but I keep busy. As Art always said, "Do what you have to, then get on with your life." I'm trying to do just that.

Give my love to Erma.



BILL WHITE

It was quite surprising to learn after reading issue #13 that SACO NEWS was in financial trouble. I am not the only person, I don't imagine, that "Just take for granted" finances are not a weakness of the organization. With all the doctors, attorneys etc. in the group, this shouldn't happen.

We cannot, nay MUST NOT, allow this to ever happen. In fact, I had the feeling (and still do) THAT WE WERE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ERMA TO GET THE PAPER "OUT" WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY SOMEONE.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALERTING ALL OF US TO THE FACT THAT A PAPER COSTS MONEY.

Enclosed is a check that will "help" cover costs and if you need more money, say so.

Love and kisses-

Bill White

(Editor's note: Bill, several of our professional members have been wonderful contributors like you. Bill White contributed \$250. Bless you - you are a Gem!)

JAMES C. DUNN

The March 1996 issue of the SACO NEWS truly contains some best reportings I have come across for a long time. In particular, those wonderful stories and photos regarding Gen. Tai Li and Adm. Miles must be the result of endless searches and researches on your part. Time and efforts aside, you have indeed achieved a new milestone in the collecting, editing and presenting of important historical WWII data. I honestly doubt if anyone, including those in Taiwan, ROC, has been able to present as good an article on the occasion of Gen. Tai Li's 100th anniversary of birth as yours. Congratulations!

The notes below the photo of the silk-on-silk embroidery from the widow of the late Cdr. George W. Payne, in Page 13 of the same issue, may stand for a minor correction. The Chinese writings in the left lower corner of the art piece says, "Presented by Kuo Ping (seal), 1945 in Chungking." I seem to remember the name of Kuo Ping as a major general in the Chinese Army at the end of WWII, but I can no longer relate him to any specific SACO posts and/or activities.

By copying Frank Buckless, I am also enclosing a check in the amount of \$120 to our Treasurer for supporting the SACO NEWS. So, please keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



James C. Dunn

(My ego won't be on the wane for lack of nourishment...You sure know how to "feed" it. Thanks for your flattering letter, Jimmy. Ed.)

CDR. WILLIAM D. HOWARD USN(Ret)

I am in the process of studying for my certification in PC engineering and while browsing around the infamous www stumbled across something that might be of interest to those of our shipmates either with or having access to a computer on the INTERNET.

Tell them to tune into www.mainline.net/ artclark. Mostly about the bad guys on the mainland but there is a button to push on this page which gives lots of data on TAIWAN and particularly many of the places we visited.

Unfortunately, due to my wife's fragile condition it is not likely I'll be able to attend any SACO CONVENTIONS FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. Please give my personal regards to all the tigers.

Régards,

BH

BERNARD D. MCCARTHY:

(To Buckless) Thank you for the latest issue of the SACO NEWS. Richard Rutan is to be complimented for his most praiseworthy work in putting all the issues in print.

...As a point of possible interest, I would like to relate briefly that it is my good fortune to have become acquainted, several years ago, with one Chang Tao-lin. We have since developed a close friendship. As a youngster in Kunming during WWII, he was engaged as a young interpreter to our military. Some of our Kunming Group may perhaps recall him.

Later, he went from Mainland China to Taiwan. I have been told by others that he has been recognized as a noted Chinese artist there.

I first met Tao-lin at St. John's University in New York where he is a Fine Arts Professor. Previously, this was his same profession at Taiwan University.

He has had several outstanding art exhibitions publicly in the New York area.

*Best regards
Bernie McCarthy*

JULIUS ULANECK:

Received the latest copy of SACO NEWS "What the Hell" publication and, laugh if you will, that saying has more meaning to me now than what it had way back then. I have gotten full to the stage where I just don't give a damn what happens next.

...It is always sad to receive word on the passing of some of the men who at one time were young aggressive men over there. That was brought home to me again this past month...I passed out at the breakfast table and, of course, that made it necessary for me to spend five days in the local hospital. Many tests and much aggravation, they tell me they found nothing, which is good but in turn, disappointing.

The many pictures are a vivid reminder of what seems not so long ago. I remember one incident, our compound was two parts with a wall separating the officers and men. Our Supply Officer Lt. Howard C. Reiner (later retired as Rear Admiral), was on his back porch taking a lung full of cool mountain air when he spotted two eyes on the wall. He immediately went in, got his rifle, and took a bead on the eyes and killed a mountain lion waiting to pounce on one of us going to the "John."

I'm sure there are numerous stories that would reveal good, more exciting, but forgotten incidents. Too bad a book hasn't been written with them all compiled.

The recent edition is well done and deserves multi-compliments.

...

Julius

KITTY SHEAFFER:

Just received our SACO NEWS and are enjoying all the news, pictures and stories...

Ken's memory is very bad so I try to keep him abreast of all the happenings since we are not up to travelling anymore. Physically, Ken is pretty well, but not interested in any responsibilities. I'm back to playing golf and bowling on a limited basis. I've been taking short bus trips with my niece to stay active.

Miss the SACO conventions, so enjoy the News.



LORNE HORNING:

Here we are in Akron, O - no longer in Texas - and therein is a tale of woe.

...On Feb 2nd, back in the hospital again, they gave me electric shock to stabilize my heart, which helped a little, but still not right; so the doctors decided to operate and put a new valve in my heart and do two by-passes. Because of the oxygen problem, the operation took about 7½ hours - so 53 days later I was discharged from the hospital and flew up here for rest and rehabilitation...closer to our daughters...one close by and one is in Toledo and comes over every week.

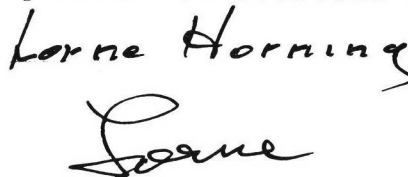
We live in an apartment complex that includes just about everything you would want. Our rent includes all housekeeping, laundry, daily choice of chef-prepared meals, all utilities and a "zillion" other services. In fact, it's the ideal place to recuperate and let the two of us get back on our feet; everything is taken care of for us and we have nothing to upset us.

I'm able to breath on my own now without oxygen and my heart has steadied down a little now that I've got a working valve in it.

Pearl is holding her own even though she still has a problem with the painful nerve in her face and a memory problem - but the doctors are optimistic and so are we.

Our address: 100 Brookmont Road
Apt. 115
Akron, OH 44333
Phone: 330/668-9053

Say "hello" to our many SACO friends and keep up the good work of keeping us all posted how everyone is.



EDDIE LIU: (Response to inquiry for info about Gen. Tai Li)

Thank you very much for your letter of 8 January 1996. I am sorry to tell you that I am not able to do anything for you as you as you have suggested in your letter.

In the first place, I have lost my memory and cannot remember anything in the long past; and in the second place, I cannot even hold a pen steady not saying of writing something with sense and coherence. The only thing I can tell you is that the fateful plane crash in 1946 was the 17th of March. (My wife told me this date).

Please understand my problem and pardon me for giving you such a negative answer. May I also avail myself of this opportunity to wish you every success in your work.



NOBEL SHADDUCK:

You did a marvelous job of making something out of the messed-up story I sent. I thought you would probably run the pictures and forget the text.

If we could ever meet, I could

tell you a lot of unprintable stuff that would be critical of some individuals and you or I would not want that...

Best to you - Nobel

JIM POWELL:

I was pleased to receive the October 1995 issue of the SACO NEWS recently and have read it cover-to-cover.

Of surprise to me was your open letter of apology in the NEWS as you had already apologized at the end of the convention banquet. I don't feel that I was slighted. As a matter of fact, I feel mostly responsible since my wife and I arrived at the banquet room just before the doors opened so that we didn't have a chance to make our presence known. That late arrival also caused me considerable disappointment as I had called Art Lillig on the telephone earlier in the day and expected to meet him that evening. We missed one another even though I toured the banquet room looking for him before the program started and later before the entertainment began.

Please be assured that I plan to attend future SACO conventions whenever possible. You have no idea of the profound admiration and respect which I have for SACO. I feel deeply that if it wasn't for SACO, I may not have had a chance to get a great education, raise a wonderful family and have a satisfying career as an aerospace engineer...

Sincerely,

Jim
Jim Powell

HILTON JAYNE:

For much too long, I have felt remiss in not sending you my congratulations on the outstanding job you have done and are doing as Editor of the SACO NEWS. Unfortunately, I have been able to attend only one

SACO convention during the past 41 years and thus your newsletter has been my only resource in keeping in touch with two of the most eventful years of my life.

Unless you are the Rutan* who traveled with me and a RM named Jenson in a 6x6 overloaded truck from Happy Valley to Kunming in the summer of 1944, I do not believe our paths crossed in China and for purposes of identification, my fortunate assignment in SACO was Officer-in-Charge of INTEL ONE and Liaison Officer between Commodore Miles and General MA Chia-chao, Commanding Officer of the LPA.

Sometime in late 1947, ONI called me to Washington to dictate in detail my experiences as related to the above assignment. An edited article based on my dictated report appeared in the March 1948 issue of the ONI REVIEW. About five or six years ago, this article was declassified and a copy sent to me.

INTEL ONE was a small unit consisting of three radiomen (Gene Huston, Wallace Morey and Spike Arrington), one Machinist Mate named Morey (could this be a typo and perhaps MoMM Morris??? Ed.) and a parttime Pharmacist Pease (no doubt Clifford?? Ed.) and myself. I do not know if you are interested in receiving the enclosed copy as well as the copy of the citation I received from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Perhaps the enclosure should go to the SACO archives.**

Once again, I regret that I will be unable to attend the 42nd Reunion on Longboat Key because of a previous commitment and the opportunity to receive my SACO Medal which perhaps might be awarded some day posthumously to my widow. I look forward to the next issue of the SACO NEWS.

Hilton
Hilton Jayne

*It wasn't me and I'm sure I was the only Rutan in China during WWII.

** Due to 8 pages of small type, the article "Naval Intelligence

With the Chinese Guerrillas" is too voluminous to reproduce in our publication. Therefore, by letter to Hilton, I recommend that he contact East Carolina University's Navy Memorial Foundation Collection (p.44 Issue No.11, October 1994).

LES JOHNSTON

Ref: SACO NEWS, Issue No. 11, dated October 1994, Pg. 41:

I well remember and enjoyed speaking with Lt. Ernest Winter after the photograph was taken and, when he was ready to be returned from Happy Valley to active duty with the U.S. Fleet, I appointed him as a courier for classified material to be delivered to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff either in Washington, D.C. or Pearl Harbor.

I designed the special courier documents for him to sign and supplied him with extra copies in the event that he had to transfer the sensitive data to another officer and secure their signature. Although apprehensive of the task, he agreed to perform the assignment.

As each rescued pilot was brought to Hdqtrs Camp, I repeated the same procedure. Of course I was not foolish enough to request permission from either my immediate superior, Lt. Stanley Wolford, or Vice Admiral Milton Miles as they would have had to deny my request to appoint couriers as being strictly against regulations. Neither was I so naive as to assume that they did not know what I was doing.

The repercussion of this operation was manifested when an Army Intelligence Office showed up at Hdqtrs. after flying from Africa on orders from Naval Intelligence to investigate who was responsible for entrusting TOP SECRET documents to unregistered couriers.

When I explained to the Captain that I was well aware of the regulations covering this situation, but that we had neither official

couriers nor aircraft and that many Americans and Chinese had risked their lives to gather the information that I was moving to the proper destination. I also explained that I personally accepted full responsibility for the operation. The final word, "Carry On."

Best regards,



Les Johnston

REF: Issue #11 October 1994 p.41

If no identification has yet been received, I should like to clarify the person standing behind Lt. Ernest Winter at his left shoulder as myself.

I should also like to submit to you a letter regarding Lt. Winter, who I remember well, and whom I personally appointed as a Navy Courier for TOP SECRET material. (Letter appears elsewhere in this issue)

...You are going a great job.

LESLIE D. JOHNSTON

BOB WEBER:

I just finished reading the SACO NEWS and once again you have done a superb job. The published letters, the Double 10 Report and the memoirs of Gen. Tai-li provided fascinating reading and sparked many treasured memories. The publication provides a valuable link for all SACO members.

I looked forward to the coming reunion planned for Sarasota, FL, particularly because we were unable to join the group in Seattle. I was surprised and disappointed by the very reduced activity schedule. It is my opinion that a full program of events provides that extra spice and allure necessary to encourage full attendance. I'm certain there are some who may disagree. Pondering the reduced schedule, I thought perhaps the full plate of events and expenses related to the Taiwan visit provided the impetus to produce the limited schedule, however, that shouldn't be the case because only a small percentage were permitted to make the trip.

I believe we may see reduced attendance without providing some added incentives in programming; I hope my concerns are unfounded. We will just have to wait and see. I recognize the basic purpose of a reunion is to provide a forum where we can renew old friendships, swap stories and develop new relationships, but, historically, you need more to keep the organization viable and healthy.

Lu and I send our best regards to you and Erma and thank you for your efforts in making everyone feel welcome and comfortable at the reunions.

Very truly yours,


Bob Weber

JIM BASH:

Your latest issue of SACO VETERANS is a real winner. For me, it's doubly so for the following reason:

I have just heard a presentation by Professor Emeritus Shao-chuan Leng, Univ. of Virginia's Dep't of Gov't and Foreign Affairs. His topic: Taiwan and China. I have asked for a transcript of his remarks ...Although he didn't mention SACO or Tai-li by name, he is aware of both. We will be together at his home on May 2.

I'm going to contact as many of the SACO Tigers who live in Virginia to attempt to build a cadre of supporters for an annual meeting of SACO to be held in Norfolk in 1998 or later. Norfolk is the location from whence many of us sailed forth to China and although the Navy Yard there is changed from those days, it might be an interesting place to be...lots of history close by: Yorktown, Williamsburg, the shipyard, etc. I'll keep you informed of the developments.

...I have to think twice when I read and reread your eulogy for and about John L. Reising; masterfully done and warmly recorded. I don't know about you, but it still amazes me that a couple of kids from Kokomo had the opportunity

to meet and work with such a wonderful organization and its people and in our sunset years, meet for the first time. How do these things happen? Ah! well!, WHAT THE HELL, who knows? It happens!

Enclosed is a bill* you might use anyway you see fit "to benefit the cause."



*\$100 forwarded to Treas. Buckless

JIM KELLY:

As usual, I read the most recent issue of SACO NEWS with mixed emotions - happy to peruse the "good stuff" and sad to learn of those who died or are ailing. However, the disturbing news was to be advised that the publication is facing a crisis. Would that I had the wherewithal to underwrite this activity. Failing such blessings, I shall remit a check to Frank, trusting it will help "swell the pot" so that the SACO NEWS will live on.

That you are willing to place your time and effort into getting the SACO NEWS to press is an admirable undertaking. You indicate you "truly love" doing all you do. I daresay, however, you must suffer much frustration and lose much perspiration in putting each issue together. We shouldn't allow you to have to be concerned with the budgetary aspects associated with your work. Let's hope our Treasurer receives "tons" of \$20 bills and checks.

I can't write without inquiring of your mother's health. Give Erma a large hug for me.

Be the good Lord cooperative, I shall make Florida in September. Before this week lapses on me, I shall send Doc Felmlly a check and a letter encouraging his quick recovery...a damn shame he shattered that hip replacement (That'll teach him to be taking showers, won't it?).

...I thank you for what you do for us SACOites. We're lucky you're such a good sport. Don't change - stay nice!
Much love,

John Kelly

EDWARD HAYES:

Recent surgery and the occasion of my 86th birthday recently signal the end of my reunion days. I just can't keep up! I wish you all a very happy time in Longboat Key this year.

Edward Hayes

LASHLEY MANN:

...My wife and I enjoy this publication very much. It is newsy and informative...

As you probably know, I am one of the original five radiomen that arrived in Chungking in 1942. This group consisted of C.P. Taylor, Ted Wildman, Buck Dormer, Ken Mann and Lash Mann. I have fond memories of this group and our duties while in China.

My best regards to the Officers and Staff of SACO.

Lashley H. Mann

JOHN KLOS:

Enclosed is the acknowledgement by Mrs. Simpson of the donation made by SACO as a memorial to our late shipmate, Roger Simpson. ...SACO donated \$50 to Lancaster Catholic High School in lieu of flowers as was requested in Simpson's obituary.

John

(acknowledgement)

SACO

Thank you for your generous gift to Catholic High in memory of Roger Simpson. My family and I appreciate your concern.

*Sincerely,
Betty Simpson*

CLYDE C. HAMMER:

(To Buckless): ...We do not know each other personally, but I was the one that drove over the hump into Kunming with Willie Baker Weskamp and Bob Cofer...on to Chungking and to Hankow in the rice paddies until the war ended. Do you know anyone who left Hankow on the USS Ute who rescued us on the Yangtze River when the Chinese communists took over? We lost two marines and several Chinese on board when they opened fire on us.????!!!***

Sincerely a saw forward

WAYNE L. GOODSON:

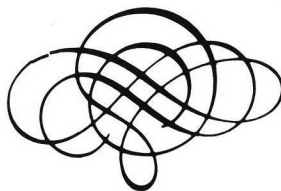
Just received the latest SACO NEWS (#13 Mar '96). The pictures on Pg 14 certainly did bring and flash-back many memories of time spent in Happy Valley. Some of the memories are:

- *Going into SACO at age 18.
- *Celebrating 19th BD in HV June 1945
- *On duty when the A-bomb was dropped and when the war ended.
- *Spending time with the Skipper when he would come down to the radio shack.
- *Walking those steps up from the airport after we landed at Chungking.

The one regret I have is that I didn't keep a list of names of those with whom I served.

Cont'd P. 41

SICK BAY



"SLIM" GILROY

Today, 17 October, I called "Slim" Gilroy as she had been losing her eyesight and I wanted an update. She was high-spirited because although she's been declared legally blind, no longer able to drive, she has received encouraging news. Ophthalmologists stated nothing could be done about her deteriorating sight, but an optometrist acquaintance says he feels sure he can help her. He will fit her with glasses that she hopefully will be able to read again. In the meantime she is taking OcuVite, presumably a special vitamin and she relates she can notice an improvement in a short time. I asked if she had groceries nearby where she could walk and she said yes and her two sisters plus people from the church and others were good to take her places. She said, "God's been good to me in that respect, maybe more than I deserve." I said, "Don't feel that way, thank God for friends!" I mentioned how we missed her in Longboat Key and she said she felt she had a choice between that and Billy's funeral and she chose Billy. We all wish you good luck, Slim. Ed.

FRANK TAO

Frank suffered an extensive stroke to his left side in June as I recall. I know it was just a short time before Billy Miles' death (which he was not told because of his condition). In talking to Lilyan shortly after Frank was stricken, she stated they were thankful that if he had to be paralyzed it was on the left as he is right-handed. She stated he was able to talk some, but there would be a long rehab



period before he would be home. In phone conversation with son-in-law, Kenneth, at this writing, he advised Frank had been home, but new complications put him back in the hospital and they were awaiting results of tests. As many of you know, Frank was with the Coordinating Council of North American affairs in Wash., D.C. and he and Lilyan have been faithful attendees at our reunions.

FRAN WATERS

Fran Waters, wife of John, had bypass surgery this past summer following an earlier heart attack. We're happy to report she was able to attend the Longboat Key, FL convention.



KINSELL COULSEN

"...Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the SACO reunion this year because I just recently had a total hip replacement; I do expect to be in Peoria next year, however."

Cont'd p.41

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT LEE

A Graphic Account of Events Reported

by

William M. Miller

INTRODUCTION

In early May 1996, I received a phone call from Paul Casamajor telling me that he and I were invited to attend the inauguration of President Lee Teng-hui. We began to make plans. Shortly thereafter, Paul called again with the disheartening news that because of an eye problem of Martha's, he chose to forego the trip.

The choice was now mine to select an alternate. Anticipating going down the line of our officers, I first call Vice President Charles Sellers. After considerable thought, he declined.

Upon reporting this matter by telephone to the Military Intelligence Bureau in Taipei, they made a specific request that the alternate be Dr. Lee Alverson, also in Seattle. I contacted Lee; his health was fine; he accepted the invitation...planning continued.

...The trustees all agreed upon my request for \$500 from the SACO Treasury for gifts. As it turned out, Lee and I spent somewhat more than that. The \$500 check from our Treasurer was greatly appreciated. I, also, made ten special gifts in my woodshop...

Before leaving, I remained in further touch with Paul and I had discussions with Frank Buckless, Richard Rutan and Carl Divelbiss.

Loaded down with boxes and baggage, Lee and I took an early morning flight to San Francisco and then boarded a United Airlines plane for the long trip to Taipei. It was May 17, 1996.

THE FIRST DAY

We arrived at Chiang Kai-shek International Airport at 7:40pm May 18. We were greeted by General Weng Yen-ching, First Deputy Director of the MIB, General Liu, Liaison Director, Peter Pan, Liaison Escort, Ms. Tracy Chou, Interpreter, several unknown security men and photographers. We were then escorted to a luxurious conference room where we spent more than an hour talking over the situations (and world events). We recognized our roll as SACO Representatives to be a great honor and responsibility.

We expressed our regrets that Paul was unable to attend. General Weng told of their concern for Mrs. Miles....We were then led to a private MIB van and rode the long route to the luxurious Sherwood Hotel in Taipei. Lee and I had neighboring rooms on a top floor. Peter Pan had one next to ours. We were given an itinerary for the four-day stay and we discussed logistics with Peter and Tracy until 10:00pm. Went to bed at 10:01. Went to sleep at 10:01.

THE SECOND DAY

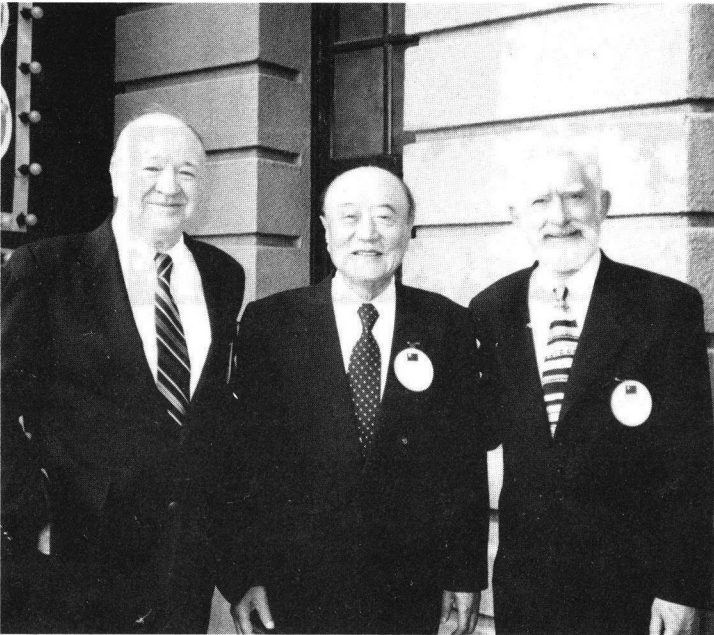
Sunday morning, May 19 was described as 'free time.' Peter, Tracy and her young son, Tim, met us at 10:00am. We were driven first to the Dsing-Tien Kong Temple where we mingled with the worshippers amidst huge tables of delectable foods and huge clouds of smoke from burning incense. We watched as they performed their curious rituals.

We noted, wherever we went, that the people, in general, were clean, healthy and happy.

For lunch, we visited the unique Sun Sui Shiang Restaurant with all of its different kinds of fish-fish-fish.

After lunch we were driven to the Chinese Movie Cultural Center. Most impressive was our viewing of a 360-degree movie film (standing in the center of a theatre-in-the-round) of a boat ride up the Yangtze River. Just like being there.

We were returned to the hotel in time to travel to the first formal event on the agenda. This was a reception by the Foreign Ministry. Remarkably, as we stood at the entrance, along the sidewalk, all by himself, came the now retired Admiral Soong - an old friend of SACO. We stopped him to re-introduce ourselves. He was friendly and kind enough to pose with us for a picture.



Lee Alverson-Adm. Soong-Bill Miller

We socially interacted with influential people from all over the world. Kings and Presidents. From my personal point of view, the most impressive person I met was Dr. Chien, the Foreign Minister. (Editor's note: Many of you will recall the past Double Ten Receptions held in the gardens of the Foreign Ministry.)

THE THIRD DAY

...Happens to have been perhaps the busiest day of my life. It began with a Special Program Provided For The Benefit Of The World - The Presidential Ceremony. Driving to the huge open stadium early in the morning - seeing thousands upon thousands of people scurrying for positions and vantage points - being escorted to special seats on the very stage from which the President spoke - all of these were most impressive; almost as a magical dream...Millions cheered. The nation stood proud.

We returned to the Sherwood Hotel for an Italian food luncheon. At 1:30 that afternoon, we left for the President's palace to meet (along with many others) President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan. You gradually approach these great gentlemen and their ladies in a long assembly line. I stood for a moment before President Lee and shook his hand. I said, simply, "Congratulations, Mr. President; you are a remarkable man." I then moved on to congratulate the former Premier Lien.

The evening of the third day was the grand time for a program provided for the benefit of SACO! It took place in a private suite at the Sherwood. In attendance along with Lee and myself were:

- Gen. Hu Cha-chi, Director MIB
- Gen. Weng Yen-ching, 1st Deputy
- Gen. Kung Hsiang-jen, 2nd Deputy
- Gen. Wang, 3rd Deputy
- Gen. Liu, Liaison Officer
- Gen. Jeng (Richard) Lee-kuo Director of Personnel
- Capt. Chang, Navy
- Ms. Tracy Chou, Interpreter

The meeting began with a formal speech by Gen. Hu. It followed with a less formal talk by me, with Lee filling in the blanks. There was continuous idle chatter during the dinner and (as usual) there were many toasts.

Next came presentation of gifts. Those that we gave...are summarized (copy follows this report).



Gen. Hu Cha-chi presents Miller with silver commemorative coin.



Tracy Chou, Gen. Liu, Lee Alverson Bill Miller during gift exchange.

THE FOURTH DAY

This day began with a brunch (featuring fish) at the Brother Hotel. It rained this day. We followed with a trip to the National Dramatic Arts Academy. We attended an opera. This was an adventure into Chinese Mythology....

PIX

Following the opera, Gen. Liu took us to another fine restaurant where we had an early afternoon dinner featuring raw lobster. It was delicious.

I had late dinner that night with Peter and Tracy. We went to an excellent Mongolian Restaurant.

THE FIFTH DAY

It was now time to come home, Wednesday, May 22. We were taken to the airport at 10:30am. We were met at the airport by Gen. Kung, Gen. Liu, Capt. Chang, Ass't Paul Pao and the usual contingent of security officers. There, we sat down to another huge six- or seven-course lunch.

We were finally escorted through the airport masses directly to the door of our plane where we gave final farewell.

I cannot say enough about the relentless efforts of both Peter Pan and Tracy Chou. They were with us from the start, from morning to night. They attended to our every need. And with all of that, they were charming and lots of fun. We have very fine friends in Taiwan.



Lee, Bill, Tracy and Tracy's son Tim - part of the opera cast?



Gen. Jeng (So. Dakota), Gen Wang,
Gen. Kung (Seattle) and Bill Miller



Lee and Bill on steps of Presidential
Building. (Yes, it is Bill not the
Wolfman!)



GIFT LIST

- Gen. Hu -Swedish cut-glass paper-weight, sockeye salmon, hardwood puzzle box.
- Mrs. Hu -Hors d'oeuvres picks and holders
- Gen. Weng -Sockeye salmon & puzzle box.
- Mrs. Weng -Picks and holder
- Gen. Kung -Sockeye salmon, long extension shoe horn
- Mrs. Kung -Picks & holders
- Gen. Wang -Sockeye salmon, puzzle box
- Mrs. Wang -Picks & holders
- Mrs. Chang-Picks & holder
- Gen. Liu -Sockeye salmon, puzzle box.
- Mrs. Liu -Picks & holders
- Gen. Jeng -Sockeye salmon, puzzle box
- Mrs. Jeng -Carved jewelry box (made in Poland)
- Gen. Yin -Puzzle box
- Gen. Fan -Puzzle box
- Peter Pan -Special box of salmon, puzzle box
- Tracy Chou-Special box of salmon, carved jewelry box, other jewelry
- Franny Wang-Carved jewelry box
- Paul Pao -Sockeye salmon
- Gen. Hu's Aide -Sockeye salmon
- Tracy's Son-Mariner Baseball cap
- Amy Liu -Necklace & earrings
- Jennifer Soong -Necklace & earrings

Cont'd p.41

Laura Lin -Necklace & earrings
Jessica Ya -Necklace & earrings
Capt. Chang-Sockeye salmon, puzzle
box

SACO MOVIES

THE VHS TAPES (2 CASSETTES AND ABOUT 5 HOURS WORTH) OF ADM. MILES' FILMS NARRATED BY HIM, VERY CASUALLY, AT THE 1956 SACO REUNION, ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT OUR COST -- \$30.00 POSTPAID TO PAID-UP SACO MEMBERS. \$50.00 TO ALL OTHERS.

SEND MONEY TO MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

PAUL CASAMAJOR
2605 SAKLAN INDIAN DR #6
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94595-3035

CORRECTION

Evidently, somewhere along the line we have erroneously reported the originals in SACO incorrectly. Although he couldn't recall the specific issue, Buck Dormer recently informed me that the original seven leaving Wash. for SACO were himself, D. W. Heagy, John Taylor, the Mann brothers (K.A. & Lashley), Terrance O'Neal and Ted Wildman. This is confirmed by the skipper in his book p.92. Now, we have the record straight!
????!!!***

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

The time span from the days of China to the present would indicate that some have or are about to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the time they fell in love and decided to share life. If you are in this category, why not let us know about it? Send us a picture and comments if you like. (No bitching, please!) Seriously, would appreciate letting us share in this milestone. Ed.

THANKS HAZEL NELSON

For the Wisconsin Cheese. You and Bernie were always so generous in this gift to our Hospitality Room.

Mail Call.....

I called Dick Rutan this morning to express my appreciation for the work he has done on the NEWS.

Enclosed is a check to help support his effort.

There is so much I could write about Happy Valley; it would take several pages. I do recall attending a 'farewell' for the Skipper when he was recalled to the States; and the meals I ate in that mess hall - especially all the eggs for breakfast after 12 hour-shift in the radio shack....



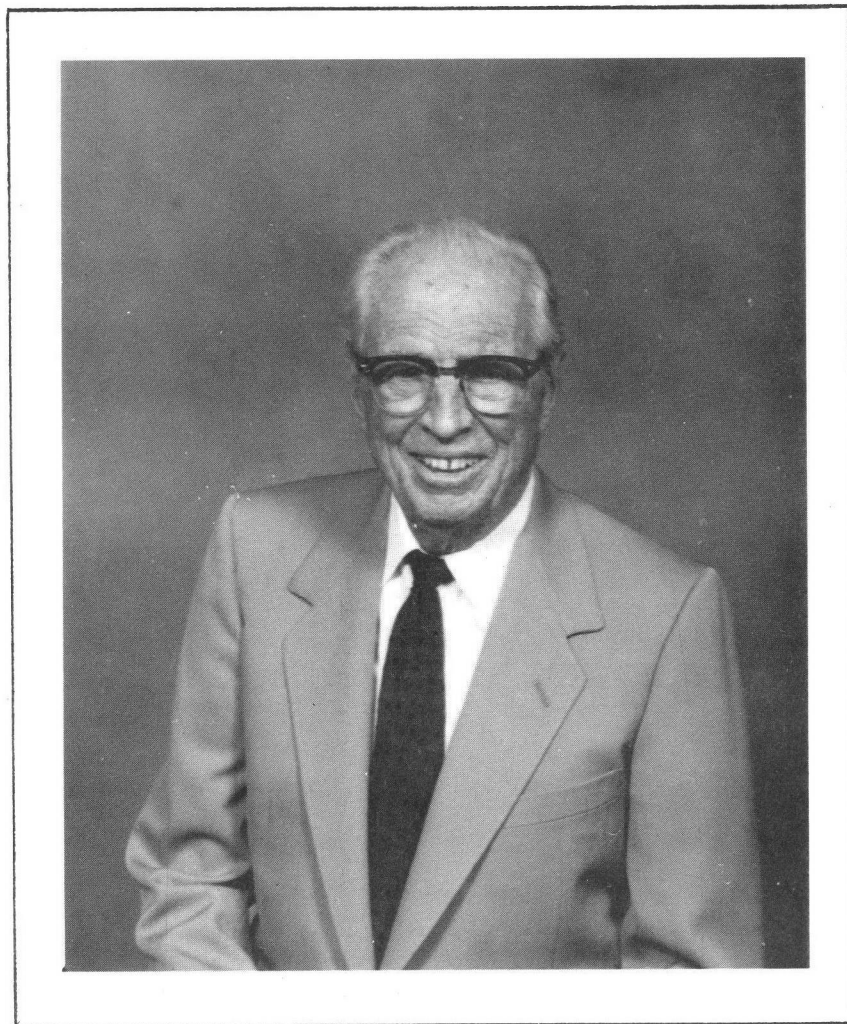
Sick Bay.....

"ELLIE" DORMER

This date, 19 October, I called "Buck" Dormer about Ellie. Buck was unable to attend Longboat Key because of Ellie's illness. She has Parkinson's Disease and tragically, suffered a stroke last Monday. Buck said she was in the hospital and to undergo surgery this day (19th) so she could be fed directly to her stomach as she was unable to swallow. He was on his way to the hospital when I called.



THANKS to Ellen Booth, Andy Fleming, Clarence Gee, Hazel Nelson, Bill Barte, Jack Miller & James Dunn for pix; Peg & Doc Felmlly for attendees list; Paul Casamajor for statistics and ID's. Paul & I burned phone lines almost daily: Ed.



CARL W. DIVELBISS
1909-1996

It is with a great deal of sadness that I report the sudden death of one of our most devoted and energetic SACO Tigers. Carl was visiting his family in Kansas in late July. During an outing with his nephew, Carl was stricken with a fatal aneurysm. Death was instantaneous and we are told with little or no suffering. Carl authored our present-day by-laws and was always eager to share his expertise in offering his solutions to the many controversial

issues of the organization. He spent many hours and days between conventions expounding his thoughts and directing us in the legal sense. He had prepared an extensive report to be presented at the Longboat Key Convention with plans to keep SACO solvent and secure financial aid for SACO NEWS.

Unfortunately, to his dismay, at times we were procrastinators in response to the researched correspondence he distributed, but it never discouraged him. As Paul Casamajor stated in his report of Carl's passing, "Carl has been a tower of strength in SACO." Perhaps some among us are expendable - Carl was not. As long as SACO survives, only his memory will help ease the void we share at this time. As for myself, I feel an inner peace in that I wrote Carl three weeks before he died to express my personal gratitude for all he had done and would do for SACO. This is one occasion that I'm so lucky my timing was on schedule and I'm so grateful.

Carl's request was that he not have a funeral, but his only child, Nancy, said that finding he had touched so many lives she didn't feel a memorial service was out of order. That service was held 10 August 1996 at his church, Orange-wood Presbyterian Church in Phoenix. Erma and I attended along with Bill Bartee who shared a great friendship with Carl. In addition to his daughter, his brother, his nephew and in-laws from both Carl's side and Helen's were there. Because of medical problems, his grandson wasn't able to attend, but understand a video was made for him.

The Rev. Paul Moser officiating, reflected on Carl's life in a lighter vein recalling that basically Carl was a man of quiet character who "counted our money." Evidently he was church treasurer. The minister stated Carl had been involved in starting several hospitals and always responded to challenge. "He left no doubt that he was an ardent Republican," (and a personal friend of Barry Goldwater). Rev. Moser stated, "Politics or religion, he knew what he believed, a man of great feeling, of great

compassion."

"In 1989, when his wife Helen died, Carl wrote in thank-you-letters, 'Realize that I have suffered an irreparable loss. Our life together was a joint effort, even hunting and fishing...say words of endearment today; don't put off thoughts that contribute to a pleasant and happy life.'

In conclusion, Rev. Moser noted, "Celebrate the results of a giant for the gentlest among us are giants." ???!!!!**

(Editor's note: Daughter Nancy told me a doctor friend of Carl's came by the house prior to the services and stated, "Your father had bone cancer affecting his pelvis, spine and ribs and in a short time would have experienced 6 months of hell!" He said he hoped knowing that would ease the pain of her loss. Let us all realize that in some instances, death can be kind as it was to Carl. Rest peacefully, dear friend of SACO - we miss you.)

RE: Remembrance for Carl Divelbiss

Dear Frank: (Buckless)

Please find enclosed a small donation in honor of our good friend and SACO SHIPMATE, Carl Divelbiss.

Although his family designated alternative organizations as beneficiaries in honor of Carl, it is my personal belief that he would have no objection to including SACO, especially when we consider the untold hours of effort he put into ensuring the organization survives.

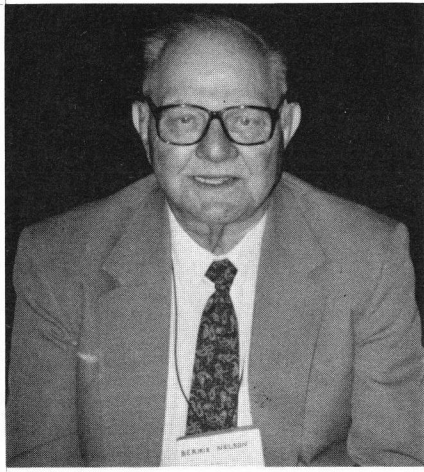
I hope I am doing the right thing because I am following my heart....

As ever,



Bill Bartee

(Bill sent a check for \$100 for the treasury. Ed.)



BERNARD W. NELSON

Died at his home unexpectedly but peacefully in Eau Claire, WI April 3, 1996. Bernie married Hazel J. Herges Aug. 14, 1949.

During WWII, he joined the U.S. Navy and served as a radioman first class. He spent two years on an armed guard ship making trips to Europe and two years in China. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Michigan State and master of science degree in teaching from the University of Wisconsin.

As teacher and coach, Bernie touched the lives of many students and took great pride in following their accomplishments. His entire teaching career was spent in Eau Claire at Eau Claire Senior High School and later at Memorial High where he was head of the business education department when he retired in 1982. He was an enthusiastic assistant football coach and skiing coach for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel; a daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Steven Brandvold and a brother and sister-in-law Edwin and Lori Nelson.

Bernie eagerly anticipated the arrival of his first grandchild, Ross Cameron Brandvold, from Korea who arrived shortly after his death.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE LOCAL NEWS "LEADER-TELEGRAM:"

By Ron Buckli

"Nelson quick with a smile, helping hand." (in part)

He was a big guy with a gruff voice. But that only shadowed what

was on the inside.

It was the heart - bigger than the Pacific Ocean he once sailed in defense of our country - that truly characterized the man.

And it particularly went out to the kids he worked with, whether it be in the classroom or on the field of play.

Bernie Nelson loved those kids.

"He was always eager to help kids and he would always make them laugh," said Tal Tischer, who worked side-by-side with Nelson as an Eau Claire Memorial assistant football coach for many years.

"I came out of the Marines a nail-spitting guy and here was this big, easy-going fellow. He was just fun to be around."

...One of his first contacts with athletics at Senior High School was as head coach of the baseball team.

"I remember him very well," said Harv Tomter, who was Nelson's ace pitcher on the 1952 Old Abe team. "He had a lot of patience and really cared about his players.

"He had a good knowledge of the game. He didn't yell and scream. He just encouraged you. I really enjoyed playing for him."

...His closest relationship was with Dick Tornowske, who served as head coach from the mid 1960s until he resigned in 1974. Nelson left with him, but remained as a teacher.

Tornowske, who now lives in Scottsdale, AZ, said he was shocked at the news of Nelson's death.

"I was back a couple months ago and talked to him," Tornowske said. "We were making plans to go fishing up at the cottage (in Webster) this summer."

..."His biggest asset was that he was a good people person," Tischer said. "He got out of the kids what he needed to."

Phil Birkel took over as coach in 1975 and got some help from Nelson.... "What I remember about Bernie is that he was always trying to help the disadvantaged kids. He was the father-type figure."

...He always had a fresh joke to tell or a prank to pull. "I remember we were playing at Rochester and we were just getting ripped

apart," said Tischer. "The score kept mounting and every time there was a touchdown, they fired a cannon on the sidelines. Finally, Bernie said. 'Pretty soon they're going to run out of ammunition.'"

..."The last time the bunch of us went to Canada together was two years ago," Birkel said. "He was a diabetic and had half his foot amputated, but he stayed right with us."

..."You knew that Bernie was always there," Tornowske said. "He was for your team no matter what. I guess they call that loyalty. I know he always stood behind me. He was a true friend."

A caring teacher, coach, father and friend. And always one heckuva lot of fun.

That was Bernie Nelson. ???!!!!**

A note from Hazel: The SACO flowers were beautiful and very much appreciated. We have many wonderful memories of our trips!! Bernie (myself, too) was looking forward to Sarasota and renewing many friendships. I hope to continue SACO reunions in the future and enjoy our friendships!



GEORGE HARABIN, Jr.
1925-1996



Frank Buckless called to advise George died in his sleep Monday, October 7. I called the residence and spoke to his son, Victor. He related how much his dad liked the organization and collected the issues of SACO NEWS. George was a claims adjuster for the State of New Jersey for 10 years before retiring in 1986. He received a bachelor of arts degree in education

from Millersville State Teachers College in Millersville, PA in 1951. He was a Navy veteran of WWII and member of the American Legion Post of Harveys Lake, PA. He was a member of the Sino-American Cooperative Organization.

He was a bingo worker and member of the Holy Name Society, where he served as president in 1961, both in St. Theresa's Church. Mr. Harabin was also a member of the Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club.

Born in Edwardsville, PA, he lived in Newark for seven years before moving to Kenilworth 39 years ago.

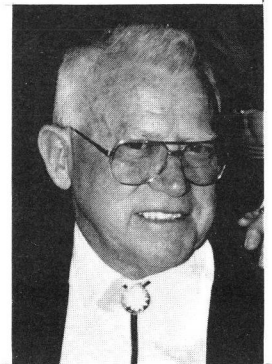
Surviving are his wife, Lorraine; a son, Victor of Raleigh, NC; a daughter, Mrs. Georgine Harabin-Buddenhagen of Montclair, NJ; two sisters, Mrs. Ann Stefancin and Mrs. Doris Gliddon; two brothers, Daniel and William, and four grandchildren.

(A thank you to Ben Tedesco for submitting this obituary. Ed.)



WILLIS M. "BILL" BLAIR

Bill's wife, Mildred, called the day Bill died, May 17, 1996 to let us know he had succumbed to lung cancer. In accordance with his wishes, he was to be cremated and his ashes strewn at the Golden Gate.



W. ROGER SIMPSON

Lancaster's (PA) oldest practicing full-time attorney died unexpectedly at his home at the age of 79.

From 1942 to 1945, Simpson served as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy, operating as an intelligence officer behind enemy lines on the Chinese

mainland. He was recalled to active service during the Korean War, serving from 1950 to 1952 in Wash., D.C.

A well-known practitioner along "Lawyers' Row," his career spanned six decades. He came to early prominence in 1950 as the assistant to the defense attorney in the trial of Edward Gibbs. Gibbs' trial was one of the most famous murder trials in Lancaster history, and it was recounted in the book, "A Murder In Paradise."

Simpson was active in Democratic Party affairs; ran for state general assembly and U.S. Congress. During the '60s, he founded Tri-County Legal Services, which provided legal assistance for the poor. He also served as Chairman of the Lancaster County Board of Public Assistance for which he was given a state Senate commendation.

Survivors are his wife, Elizabeth, two sons, William R., Jr. of Lancaster and Thomas G. of Milan, Italy; two daughters, Susan Simpson, wife of Malcolm Brown and Anne Simpson, wife of Curt Suplee as well as seven grandchildren and two sisters. (Obituary submitted by John Klos who wrote, "Roger and I were High School classmates, class of 1934.)



DR. LAWRENCE W. GANG

Died Friday, March 15, 1996 at his residence in Huntington, WV at the age of 87. He was a retired Physician in the practice of Internal Medicine. He served as a Commander in the Navy Medical Corp. He was a member of the B'Nai Sholom Congregation, a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, member of the WV State Medical Ass'n, Past President of the Cabell County Medical Society, First President of the Medical Staff of Cabell Huntington Hospital and 12-year member of the Board. He served as a member of the Planning Commission for the City of Huntington

and established an Endowment at the Huntington Museum of Art for a Lecture each year. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Shirley Ginsberg Gang in 1986. Surviving relatives include his wife, Jean Higgins-Gang, three sons and their wives, seven grandchildren and two brothers.



OTHER DEATHS REPORTED SINCE LAST ISSUE WITH NO OBITUARY INFORMATION

George S. Chaisson
BM2/c -Jorhat/Camp 7/Foochow/Shanghai

Rolland H. Gabel
Ens. -Kunming/Camp 10/ Chungking

Philip E. Gardner 1996
SK1/c -Chungking

Rolland H. Miller 1994
MoMM2/c -Calcutta/Kunming

Joseph A. Mosar 1996
PhoM2/c -Chungking/Kienyang/Shanghai

Thomas F. Quinlan 1996
Lt -Camp 8&2/Kunming/Changsha/Shanghai

M.M. Smith 1996
1st Sgt -Chungking/Camp 10

John H. Taylor
Lt -Changting/Shanghai

Arthur B. Wade, Jr. 1993
RM1/c -Calcutta/Chungking/Shanghai

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I find it regrettable that we have no info other than name and rank when some of our people pass on; unfortunately it happens. Since everyone's life on earth is a story, it's sad when we can't relate this to members of our organization of which the deceased was a member. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if the widow, or other surviving family member, forwarded an obituary to the editor that we may give equal recognition to our buddies, and this is not to overlook we wish the same for our SACO Ladies. Pictures, too, are great and if requested, will be returned. Thanks.



POTPOURRI



DEAN SPAULDING'S RECOLLECTIONS:

...I look forward to these "Newsletters" and wish I could participate more. Last one (convention) was in Hartford, Conn. which was not listed in your convention cities.*

...This issue (#13) was certainly filled with outstanding tributes. I salute our editor.

In Feb. '44, I, along with six Navy buddies and four Coast Guard members and their guard dogs boarded the HMS Ranee in Oakland, CA headed for (?). We followed the approximate route across the Pacific as described in this issue with stop-off in Perth, Australia and then on to Cochin, India. I so vividly recall the train ride up the coast to Calcutta with the beggars at each station. Especially one stop where a handsome teenage boy with no arms picked coins up with his feet, put them in his mouth and then dropped them in his shirt pocket. I was nineteen years old, but I have never forgotten how fortunate I am thanks to this experience. After the train ride, I have never found fault with our American railway system.

My short stay in Calcutta was filled with those ice cream-gorging visits to Firpo's, the driving on the Tollygunge Golf Club and erecting the quonset hut building in 100 plus degrees. I had heat stroke and dove off the shed head-first. We all suffered the "Indian Laundry Curse," the jock itch.

The unforgettable flight over the "Hump" to Chungking and those gawd-awful steps to the city on an empty stomach. After the hair-raising ride with a Chinese driver and our arrival at "Happy Valley" only to find more steps! And to top it off, a late supper (the galley was closed) of rice and fried eggs to be eaten with chopsticks. Welcome to SACO!

After a few weeks of working with the radio gang at HQ and

learning the ropes and seeing the sights on top of the mountain and the river sampan fleet below, it was time for advancement.

Very suddenly I was given orders with ET1 Dick Burr to board a truck loaded with communication gear and proceed to Kweiyang to set up a small radio station. Our driver unloaded us at a hotel. Our knowledge of the Chinese language was "hello" and "goodbye" so we were at a loss. Thank heavens there was a lovely British lady reporter staying at the hotel who took us under her wing for the next few days.

Our knight in shining armor arrived in about four days - Lt. N. L. Nee. He found us a house/compound and we set up our HQ. Without his guidance and expertise (wheeling and dealing) we would no doubt still be there. I admired him so.

We were soon joined by other lost souls and established a workable supply unit. We still gathered and relayed local intelligence and gossip and maintained a great relationship with the local police. Among our many guests and visitors were Adm. Miles, Gen. Tai Li, Time reporters Anna Lee Jacobi and Teddy White as well as my former 4H leader from my home town of Newport, Vt, Miss Flora Coutts who was in charge of USO hostesses in CBI. What a reunion for me!

We maintained our Kweiyang Supply Depot site until Nov. '45 when we reluctantly turned everything over to the Chinese Army and headed our convoy of military vehicles east to Shanghai. With many stop-overs along the way and experiencing the devastation of many towns and cities, we finally had to abandon our vehicles and finish our trip in Airforce planes.

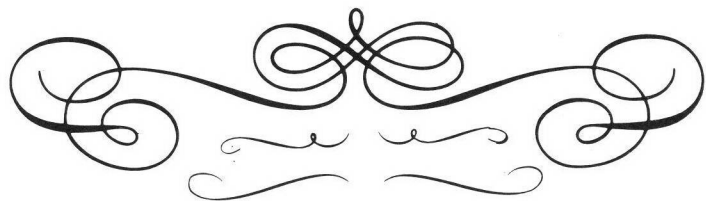
After three weeks in Shanghai, I bid farewell to China on New Year's Day in '46. We had one hulluva New Year's Eve party at a White

Russian cafe and I still have the shot glasses to prove it.

I had the opportunity to twice visit Taiwan; Kaohsiung and Taipei in 1969 while on R&R from Vietnam. I found the people as friendly and warm as I remembered them on the mainland.

Dean H. Spaulding

*In our Chronology of Convention Sites, are we missing one in Conn.?



Golden Wedding

On June 29, 1996 Jack and Beverly Petersen celebrated their Golden Anniversary. Sure brings back memories; John Waters and I attended their wedding (50 years ago, man!!!) We were guests at the Petersen home

and Jack's parents were wonderful hosts. There was stag night the eve of the wedding day and Mr. Petersen took us out on the town. It was a great night for all us guys... what I can remember of it! Then I made my futile attempt to dance with the bride at the reception and managed to step on and tear the bride's gown! I never could dance. Since we're still friends, guess I've been forgiven. Life does have its embarrassing moments!

Love you two, here's to many golden days in your future!
Ed.

NEWLY WEDS

Joseph Francis Fitzgerald

and

Margaret Anne Willis

are happy to announce

that we took the leap and exchanged marriage vows

on Sunday, August twenty-fifth

nineteen hundred and ninety-six

at two o'clock in the afternoon

in the Community Church of Melbourne Beach

Melbourne Beach, Florida

Following a memorable ceremony, many friends joined us in our wedding celebration and reception

in the Club Room of The Hamptons.

We wish you could have been here!

We will continue to reside at

The Hamptons

1247 Versailles Drive

Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951

(407) 722-4776

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Fitzgerald

NOSTALGIA

Establishing a weather station in Nanking one week after the war ended.



Photos this page

submitted by
Kinsell Coulson

BACK ROW L-R: J.J. Cerovski, AerM2c--Charles H. Guischar, AerM2c
Wallace W. Morey, RM1c--William T. Gaudry, RM1c
FRONT: Alfred H. Inners, AerM1c--Kinsell Coulson, Ltjg, J.F.Tidemann, RM1c



Weather forecasting crew at the Navy Weather Central, Happy Valley
July 1945

STANDING L-R: ???--???--Neil Estrada--Keith Jacobson--Charlie Peterson
Kinsell Coulson--???--Rufus Forrest--???--Robert List--???--???--Robert Kerr
FRONT: ???--???--???--???--John Masterson--William Simmons--???

CAMP FIVE

TOP ROW L-R

Warren Chung--Roger Karl--Robert Layson--Wayne Hatterman--???--Robert Chestaro--???--
Joe Hughes--George McKnight--???--Ed Humiston

THIRD ROW

Larry Karas--???--Vince Jakubielski (Marine)--Warlick Wilson (Marine)--???--???--Elmer
Faulkner--???--???--Ralph Gorelick--Bob Lyall--Jack Baker

SECOND ROW

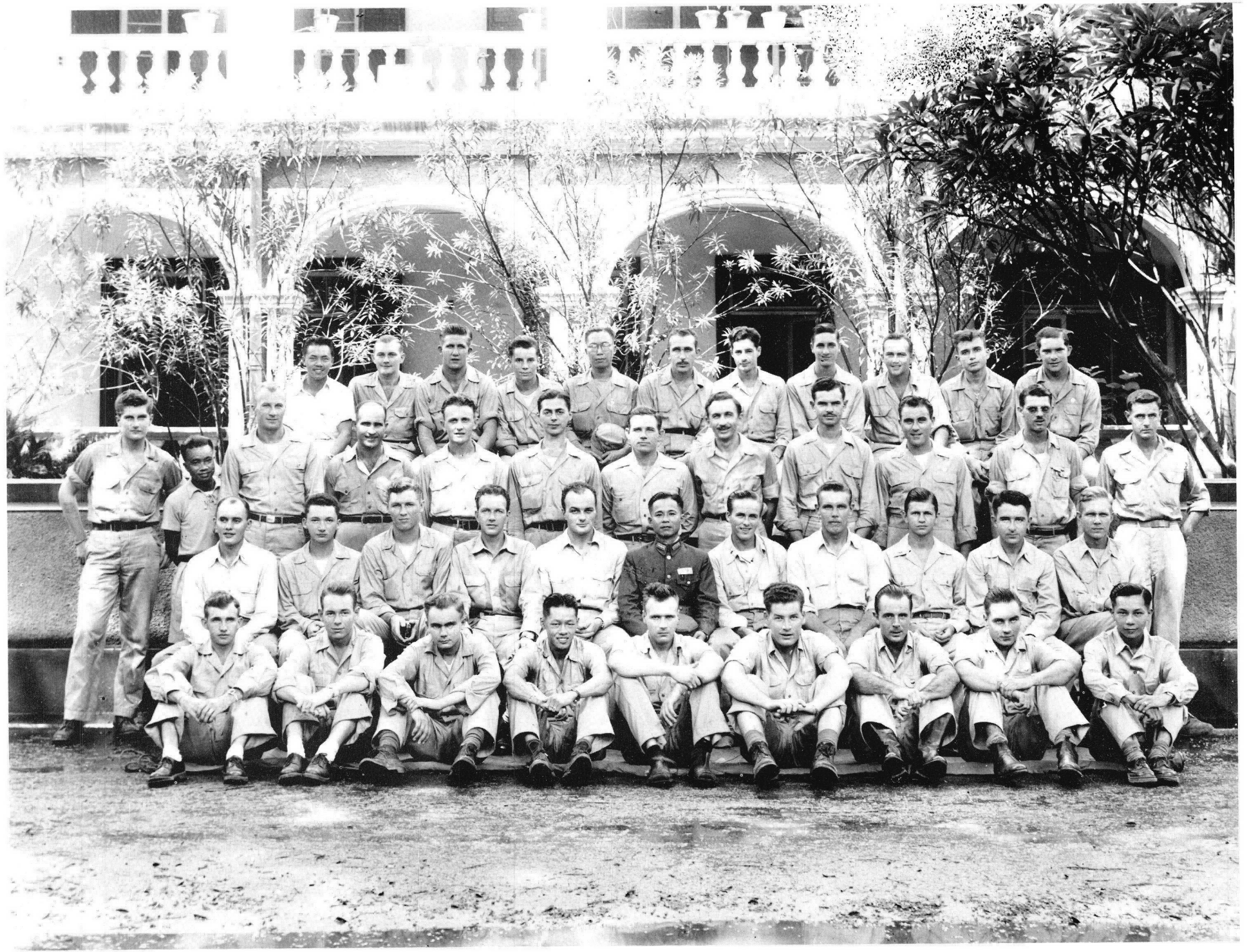
Wm. B. Stromberg--???--Vincent R. Kramer--???Lt. James C. Witt (Marines) our C.O.--???
--Ens. Paul Butler--Ens. Koski--Ens. Ward--Keith Jacobson--Charles Robinson

FRONT ROW

Norman Nichols--Neil Hubbard--Clarence Gee--???--???--J.A. Cook--H. A. Cuttel--Miller
Cyanovich--"Chow Gang Ming"(Now known as Ronald Shun Wah)

NOTE: BOTH KEITH JACOBSON AND CLARENCE GEE SENT ME THE LARGE PHOTO OF CAMP 5.
BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM, THEY WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY MANY OF THE MEN. AL-
THOUGH CLARENCE KNEW A LARGER AMOUNT, KEITH CAME THROUGH WITH A COUPLE
UNKNOWN TO CLARENCE.

JACOBSON WRITES THAT THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE PERSONNEL OF CAMP FIVE AFTER
ARRIVAL IN THE SHAMEEN SECTION OF CANTON, KWANTUNG PROVINCE, PROBABLY TA-
KEN IN SEPT. OR OCT. OF 1945.



Wish You Were In Peoria ???!!!***



WHY NOT??? COME SEE THE LAND OF LINCOLN AND ENJOY
MANY EVENTS PLANNED BY NORMAN AND LYN DIKE AT OUR

43rd NATIONAL CONVENTION OF SACO MAY 21-24

CHAIR: NORMAN W. DIKE
2816 W. FREMONT
PEORIA, IL 61605
(309) 637 5384

★ SACO NEWS ★

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Send your comments and
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for future issues to
the editor. Photos
and stories are welcome.

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