

October 2000

# SACO VETERANS OF THE RICE PADDY NAVY

Sino  
American  
Cooperative  
Organization

Issue No. 21

WHAT THE HELL?

Perpetual Skipper  
VAdm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles

SACO REUNION



Fredericksburg Inn & Suites  
Texas Hill Country  
Site of SACO Reunion 2001

# SACO HISTORY

**SACO (pronounced "SOCKO")** was established during WWII by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Officially known as U.S. Naval Group, China, it was placed under the joint command of General Tai Li (Head of BIS - Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, i.e., Intelligence) as Director of SACO and VAdm. Milton Edward "Mary" Miles as Deputy Director. The Chinese and American members of SACO joined in combined effort to perform intelligence and guerrilla operations. SACO TIGERS, as they were, and *are*, popularly known, served hundreds of miles behind enemy lines, establishing vital weather stations, coast watching to report on enemy shipping, intercepting Japanese code, rescuing downed allied airmen and being involved in numerous other military, medical and humanitarian endeavors. The American personnel numbering in excess of 2,500, were volunteers from all branches of service, but for the most part, Navy and Marine men. Three books: *THE RICE PADDY NAVY*. by Roy Olin Stratton, *A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR*, by VAdm. Milton E. Miles and *THE ARMY~NAVY GAME* by Roy Stratton. One movie: *DESTINATION GOBI* was based on SACO's activities..

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

**SACO'S LIFELINE IS YOUR REGULAR PAYMENT OF DUES  
WON'T YOU REMIT ANNUALLY AND STAY ON OUR MAILING  
LIST????!!\*\*\*) SEND DUES TO TREASURERS LISTED BELOW.**

**SACO DUES ARE PAYABLE 1 JANUARY EACH YEAR FOR REGULAR,  
ASSOCIATE AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS AND PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGULARS AND ASSOCIATES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$20.00</p> <p>Treasurer Herman W. Weskamp 3034 Larkwood West Covina, CA 9179-2928</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LADIES AUXILIARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$15.00</p> <p>Laura Sellers 1291 Eastern Parkway Louisville, KY 40204-2440</p>
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# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



It was heartwarming to see so many family members and friends joining our annual festivities in Williamsburg, VA June 6 thru 10, 2000 and their enjoyment and enthusiasm in sharing our get-together was evidenced in their relaxation, laughter, happy-hours (day-long in our group) and just being "down home" as if they'd always been a part.. I'm confident they were not sorry they came - our group is to be commended for making new faces welcome and part of our SACO family. Few military organizations enjoy the close camaraderie that is ours and it will be ever thus 'til we are no more.

Among those we welcomed: Jodi Petersen, dtr of Jack and Bev Petersen, Bob Hill, Jr., son of Bob and Lola Hill, John Milliren, son of Howard and Pearl Milliren Don Dike, son of Norm and Lyn Dike, Charles Tether, Jr. son of Charles and Ivaloe Tether, Vin Ciaccio, son of Sal Ciaccio, Dairus Reynnet, son of Francis and Caroline Reynnet, Helen Eckman, sister of Bill Miller, Penny & Robert Coats, dtr and grandson of Jerry and Mary Coats, Richard and Sue Parks, nephew and niece of Erma Rutan and their grandson, Joshua Cripe, and Erma's great-great nephew, Dennis & Marsha Miller, son and dtr-in-law of Mona Miller, Stephen Fiduck (former 14th Airforce "Hump" pilot not with SACO but interested in our organization), two guests listed as Dorna and Lotte Summey. Dorna was registered with the Duleys but I don't recall the relationship.. The latter, Lotte I believe was a friend of Charles Parkin and Marty.

We were further honored by the attendance of the very personable Admiral Jeffrey Metzel, USN (Reb and his wife Jean. Admiral Metzel is the son of the late Admiral Jeffrey Metzel who was a captain at the time he served as liaison in Washington DC to Miles. As Slim

Gilroy proudly recalls, "He was my boss . . . a great man." "C-Going" Miles stated it even more graphically as regarded Slim's affection for her boss, "In Slim's eyes, (then Captain Metzels, could walk on water; he was a wonderful, wonderful man ." (I'd say bosses don't come much better than that. Ed.)

Anyway, theirs was quite a feat, having both father and son attain admiralship. I deeply enjoyed a couple short chats with Admiral Metzels who shared some historical memories with us such as letters of Gen. Tai Li and Adm. Miles.

I would like to acknowledge these SACO first timers at a reunion :

Ed & Virginia Flanagan  
Dale & Mildred Duley  
Charles & Dolores Green  
(Did I miss someone?)

Among many who were missed due to various personal reasons:

Frank & Lilyan Tao, Vern & Gloria Dalrymple (Kahlua going to waste without you the last two reunions), always faithful Paul & Martha Casamajor, "Doc" Peg Felmlly, **Julius** & Helen Ulaneck, Stephen & Linda Chu, James and Jean Dunn, Frank & Evelyn Buckless, Murray & Enid Miles, Harold Bonin, Jack & June Shearer, Dick & Marty Terpstra, Priscilla Bonin, George & Doris Barrett and many other regulars.

*Personal thanks:* To Jim Bash, I extend our personal appreciation, who in typical SACO hospitality style during a cocktail bar lunch break, took Jack Petersen, Erma and me on a personal tour of Williamsburg in his auto. He was familiar with the old historic city and we are deeply grateful that he showed us various points of interest including William & Mary College. He'd wanted to also take us to Jamestown, but time wouldn't allow and we returned to the Fort Magruder Hotel and enjoyed conversation over lunch. Jim, you're another true exemplary SACO????!!!!\*\*\*

Business Item: *A controversial subject - that of donors and their contributions - has been resolved with a decree put forth by our Board of Trustees. I believe these gentlemen arrived at this decision partly because they feel that those who can't afford to meet the generosity of some are reluctant to give or, if they do, are a little embarrassed to be listed in our publication with those more generous. I've always maintained no gift is too small and every dollar deeply appreciated as it comes from the heart & what they can afford. In the last issue of SACO NEWS, I tried a less direct approach - which many organizations do find successful - by grouping donors in various monetary groups rather than posting actual dollar amounts.*

This, too, failed to appease the trustees. *THEREFORE*, by their ruling, names *only* will be listed with no accounting of the amount contributed, i.e. *not for public record*. I clearly stated my strong feelings on this issue in the last publication (May 2000 Issue #20).

In my view, these are "family" donors, not contributing to a charitable organization outside the scope of SACO, but supporting our own group. Prior to publication of SACO

NEWS, I'm not aware that donors existed. Due to the *publication evidently spearheading* their movement to support it, I think they take pride in being recognized by their "brothers and sisters" for their financial ability to maintain solvency in regard to funding the *SACO NEWS and we must express our gratitude with proper recognition.* We should all understand without their help, *we must suspend the publication in its present form as dues alone will not provide funds for the expense.* I will continue to stand firm in my judgment and wait for time to prove otherwise. Under the conditions set forth, I predict a *second retirement* for yours truly for lack of funds. In the interim, I vowed to abide by the decision of the board. SOBEIT??!!!!\*\*\*

IN THE MEANTIME. . . here's to Fredericksburg, TX in May 2001 and hoping most of the OLD TIGERS can join Bob & Dolores Sinks at the "waterhole" there and still "bend an elbow" to the days that brought and kept us together more than half a lifetime. I'll drink to that - maybe tonight ???!!!!\*\*\*

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## Two New Books Need Vet Stories

Two new book projects dealing with World War II are in the works and seeking input from World War II veterans and their families.

*World War II Letters* by Walter Cronkite, will be a collection of letters from soldiers to their friends and families back home. The book is aimed at capturing the war as seen through the eyes of its participants around the world. The book will have letters from soldiers from every country involved in the Second World War.

*Love Stories: Romances of World War II* by Larry King (of CNN's "Larry King Live"), will tell the story of World War II romances, loves lost and found, and of obstacles overcome.

Cronkite's book website is [www.adlerbooks.com/wwiileters.html](http://www.adlerbooks.com/wwiileters.html).

King's book website is [www.adlerbooks.com/loverstories.html](http://www.adlerbooks.com/loverstories.html).

Anyone wishing to submit letters, stories, etc. should contact:

Adler & Robin Books, Inc.

3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW • Washington, D.C. 20008

Phone: 202-986-9275 • Fax: 202-986-9485

E-mail: [tquinn@adlerbooks.com](mailto:tquinn@adlerbooks.com)

Information submitted by Jack Miller

# Mail Call

To Casamajor

Bob and I were very much looking forward to attending the SACO reunion at Williamsburg, VA next week. Unfortunately, Bob has been very ill and has had surgery for colon cancer and will not be able to travel at this time. He is making small progressive steps each day, but having lost 25 pounds, has some distance to go before he can exert that much effort.

It is a disappointment for both of us as we were looking forward to meeting some SACO folks and taking the two tours.

Please keep us on the list for next year. We plan to make this next muster.

Sincerely, C. R. (Bob) Groux

\*\*\*\*\*

To Weskamp

...Several years ago, Col. Roy Jonkers, USAF (Ret) asked me to write an essay of my experience in China (July '42 - July '44) which was published in the American Intelligence Journal. The article was quite well received. It can be reprinted with permission from the AMJ which I give.\*

My SACO experience was my second year in China as a RM1/c. My first was at the American Embassy as a radio operator having previously served in the fleet.

My SACO service was all at the White House in Happy Valley as an intercept operator copying the Japanese Kana Code. It was an interesting and very useful assignment. The "camps" were just beginning their operations when I returned to CONUS in July '44.

I went on to complete 30 years of active Naval service with the Naval Security Group and another 13 years teaching cryptology at the National Security Agency.

If any of this would be of interest to you or SACO Editor Richard Rutan, I would be happy to oblige

Yours in loyalty, protection and service.

John M. Quesenberry Lt. USN (Ret)

\* I would be happy to review your article. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

To Jack Miller

Sorry to be so late responding to your letter of June 30. I travel a lot and when I'm gone, the mail stacks up and I don't have any elves to help.

I met Admiral (then Captain) Miles in early 1942 when he was passing through Kunming. Afterwards, I had no contact with SACO except for the intelligence they provided, which was invaluable for us. You guys did an outstanding job in recovery of our downed airmen.

I met Bob Sinks in Fredericksburg, Texas and he was the one who saved Ed Rector when he was shot down over Amoy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the guys in SACO for the great job they did for us.

Sincerely, Gen. David Lee "Tex" Hill  
Burma-China 1941-1944

Sqd Ldr 2nd Sqd AVG  
CO 75th Ftr Sqd 23rd Ftr Grp CATF  
CO 23rd Ftr Grp 68CW 14th AF

. . . Issue No.20 - May 2000 arrived the other day - it was great - I was saddened that my friend Mike Lattimer passed away. He recruited me out of the Amphib Roger II Group in May 1945 at Camp Knox in Calcutta for Lt. Cdr Bob Schoetler's PACT SHOT to go to Foochow on the Min River and make a Hydrographic Reconnaissance of the lower Min River from Pagoda Anchorage to Sharp's Peak Island. I believe our PACT SHOT Group had about 50 people; it was a follow-up of Lt. Bucklow's trip to East China to study the feasibility of an amphib landing along the China Coast. Interestingly, the "Big Bomb": change all of that and is the reason why most of us returned home to pursue other endeavors.

Phyllis and I are not certain about the Williamsburg Reunion; our health is good, but as most 75-year-olds, there are problems from time to time. We will try, we live just about 1 hour away - 50 miles.

Thank you again for the SACO NEWS.

With best wishes, Jim Jones

\*\*\*\*\*

Just received Issue #20 of the SACO NEWS. Much of it reads like the obit page of the Boston Globe!. Sad to hear of so many 'departed' and others with debilitating illnesses including dear Erma. I suppose Williamsburg is out for her?

I also was on the sick list a year ago with several nagging physical problems, so Appleton had to be scratched. This time it is my wife, June's turn as she faces a hip replacement next month. Glad to hear, however, that Camp 4 will be represented by Sizemores, Conways and Mary McGrail. . . .

Sincerely, Jack Shearer

\*\*\*\*\*

I was shocked and no little dismayed to learn I was delinquent in the payment of dues!

Thanks for notifying me - a check for 2 years dues with a modest additional "penalty" is on the way.

I guess I was one of the "fairly" early members of SACO (1943) and I was a member of a fairly small group of short duration (The French Group - or the Meynier Group). So I am not as well acquainted with the surviving members of SACO as I'd like to be. But membership and memories mean a lot to me.

Thank you and best wishes, Bob Larson

\*\*\*\*\*

I am sorry to hear about the death of Charlie Franklin.

Bill Ledlie, myself and Charlie were sent out to the mountains of Kiangsi Province. With our Chinese soldiers, we did very good work. Charlie came down with smallpox. Dr. Balkus (when we could finally get Charlie to Lian Teng) had ordered a casket for him. Somehow, he came back. I am glad to know he lived so much longer - SACO also.

PS: Prior to the war, Charlie had been a dice dealer in Kentucky. So, of course, the Navy made him a Pharmacist Mate. *Why Not???!?!\*\*\**

E. Lee Comer, Mayor, Independence, MO

Surprised to see the big list of those in "Sick Bay."

I went to South Bend last week for my 60th high school reunion. I was tapped to be the speaker for "Remember When." On the way, we stopped to see "young" Bob Schumacher. He was trim, agile and conversant as ever...

I had my 2nd cataract operation a few weeks ago, doing fine on all accounts. Wife says she hasn't the energy to walk to far...

Disappointed that you did not have a better shot of the bar at Appleton to put in SACO News. I will poll the photographers for a possible better shot; I want one. . .

Jack Miller

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for your letter (sent those who were dues delinquent. Ed.) I was in Europe for a year (Fall '98 to Fall '99) and I suspect that is where the glitch came re: my dues '99 and 2000. I was teaching US forces in Germany and Hungary for the Univ. of Maryland.

I am also including \$25 to help in the matter of publication support and will continue to help in that regard as I can. You have a fine organization. . . Hope I can connect with you fellows sometime.

Sincerely yours, Frank H. Kilmer, Associate

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm terribly sorry I haven't answered your "bread and butter" letter of 10 December, but I have had my hands full. Mary's Alzheimer has worsened somewhat and she has become so very dependent upon me for everything. I'm not quite up to the task, but have been trying. She doesn't want me out of her sight - afraid she's gonna "lose" me.

The wife of a very good friend of mine developed cancer and died just 2 months after they first discovered it. Both families were real close and John (hubby) was my tax man, accountant, etc. He fell apart with the demise of his wife and would listen to no one but me (I'll never know why!) Thus, I have had him to baby-sit, but he is now starting to get back into the swing of things. (Note: Who is that guy that started all of this stuff about "The Golden Years? He needs a psychiatrist!")

I see that you, too, have your hands full with "everybody's gal." I know what you're going through and it's no fun, especially when you

two were so close and did everything together. But aren't you glad you can do it and you are physically able to "stand by your gal?" (You bet I am and I thank the Man upstairs for each day I can help. Ed.)

Tell Erma I still love her even is she does have to keep one leg elevated and is "on the pill."

Love both of you guys, Bill (White)

\*\*\*\*\*

To Bill Bartee

Received the SACO NEWS, your letter, my "Lifetime Membership" in the organization and the membership card. I'm not usually one to grope for words, but I honestly don't know how to thank you, Harold, Richard and the entire SACO Gang. I suppose the best response off the top of the ole gourd would be, "What an honor!"

Harold (Bonin), as you well know, is one of the closest friends I have ever had. He has been a true friend to me and SACO for some 55 yrs. (since 1944). Can you even imagine it's been that long? I'll never forget our indoctrination in Wash., D.C. into this new venture. No one seemed to know what was about to transpire from one day to the next. When we arrived in San Pedro, CA, we still were not totally convinced. The train ride from Bombay to Calcutta, India seemed to support some of the rumors concerning China. What a fantastic job SACO did in China under VAdm Milton E. "Mary" Miles, the greatest skipper of all time. His legacy continues to live through the memory and loyalty of all SACO members. The SACO NEWS is a great example of the love this skipper had for his crew and vice versa. Richard Rutan does a great job keeping all informed of the latest developments and stories of past episodes we may never have known. (You're so kind - thanks Al! Ed.)

Please forgive the belated thanks; we have had



a summer of sickness and are now praying the worst is behind.

God bless you all, Al Parsons

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you so much for sending me (at Hal Bonin's request) the October 1999 SACO NEWS. I read it with interest. You had a great reunion. Enjoyed reading it all. Learned your "masthead page" that Hal was your Historian.

Hal and I served in NICHOLSON early in the war before he entered SACO. At ship reunions, he has told me about SACO. He recently loaned me two books (1) Adm. Miles' and (2) Mrs. Miles'. I read "*A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR*" and my wife started reading *BILLY, NAVY WIFE*. Then she said, "Send it back to Hal and order me a book of my own" (which I did, both) She said Mrs. Miles' youth and early years of her Navy life had so many parallels with her own that she just had to have a copy!

And I learned from Adm. Miles' book what an extensive and diversified operation your SACO group was. It gave me great appreciation for what you guys all did (and got practically no public credit).

My regards and "God Bless" to your SACO Veterans.

Sincerely, Bob Schilling (Capt. USN (Ret.))

\*\*\*\*\*

Received the latest (Oct '99) edition of the SACO NEWS and find it just great. Besides, I can use a little boosting of my morale - another surgery tomorrow morn. I'm hoping it is the last. I lost count. I have come back almost all the way and I'm walking around with the help of a cane. I am determined to get to Hawaii in January, so I will recover. I'm hoping the return trip will not end up like the last - 4-5 months and 4-5 major operations. \*

. . . your publication of the SACO NEWS is outstanding; you must be complimented for the results.

I aim to get to Williamsburg and then we shall go north to White Plains, NY for a couple weeks to see our youngest. She has a home on the Hudson River, really a beauty. The area is historical and romantic. They even renamed North Tarrytown to "*SLEEPY HOLLOW*."

Keep up the good work - must get the inspiration from Erma. . . .

Sincerely, Helen & Julius (Ulaneck)

\* This time it was Helen who fell ill in Hawaii and was hospitalized there with pneumonia. I regret this oversight in the *SICK BAY* section of last issue. Have had several phone conversations with Ulanecks in past months and as I understand, things are going as well as can be expected and hopefully, they can attend Fredericksburg, TX in May 2001. Ed

\*\*\*\*\*

The October 1999 SACO NEWS was another great publication. Thank you for your fine services!

At Christmas time, I was in Washington, D.C and had an enjoyable telephone chat with Bill Sager.

I'm enclosing my check as a contribution to the SACO Foundation.

At a present meeting of the Memphis Rotary Club honoring WWII veterans, I was one of six members asked to talk about their experiences. I chose to tell them about SACO, *THE RICE PADDY NAVY*.

I wish I could have been at the convention to congratulate Erma on her 90th birthday. Please give her my belated good wishes!

Happy new millennium to both of you!

Shep (Tate)

\*\*\*\*\*

To Jack Miller

. . . We both wanted to thank you for the warm welcome extended to us by you, your wife and all the SACO members. It was a very warm welcome - we enjoyed the convention (Appleton) and all the SACO members very much. We hope to attend next year (Williamsburg).\*

Sincerely Enid and Murray (Miles)

\*Unfortunately, last minute illness struck Enid and they had to cancel. Good news relayed to us - symptoms tested negative and hopefully all is well. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

I don't know if you are aware of the following statistic: WWII vets are dying at the rate of 32,000 per month. With that in mind and the fact SACO voted a life membership for yours truly, I need to help what little I can (enclosed a donation - Ed.) You had earlier related that you could always use a little help. Thanks again for a job well done. Like many SACO members, I too manage to keep the highways hot visiting doctors and hospitals. Thank the Lord for the longevity thus far - 79 tomorrow the 21st of January (2000).

Hope you and yours are well - keep me posted.

Thanks again and God bless you all.

Your SACO friend, Al Parsons

PS: Not too bad - no longer able to write with right hand. I can still use it, but a little too shaky to write. For a left hand, the penmanship might warrant a 4th grade C - just maybe.

Al, by some of today's standards, you would qualify for an A+ in college graduate status. Such ambidexterity I've never known. I could never compete with your determination to accomplish such a feat. Wish all could see the

results of your left-hand penmanship. Absolutely remarkable!???!!!\*\*\* Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

To Ellen Booth:

Enclosed find my dues for the Ladies' Auxiliary, also a little extra for your expenses.

We had never been to a SACO reunion until Syracuse, so it was a new experience for us. We had hoped to get to Williamsburg next spring. But, unfortunately, Jim died of a massive coronary in October. It was a shock as he had not been sick at all. I want to be in touch with the SACO Veterans - so will continue to pay my dues to the auxiliary. The magazine that Richard puts out is wonderful - so full of news of everyone.

Sincerely, Martha Leighton

\*\*\*\*\*

I just reread your recent issue of the SACO News. (Oct. '99). You certainly do a wonderful job of putting the news together.

. . . He (Jim) spent most of the war in Calcutta. He was on his way to China when they needed a supply officer in Calcutta, so he never made it over the "hump."

He was very proud of the Rice Paddy Navy and of the medal he received at Syracuse.

I am enclosing a notice of his death from our local newspaper (printed in May 2000 SACO NEWS Issue #20). He spent 21 years in the Navy and we retired to Needham (MA) where we have lived for 38 years.

I have many wonderful memories of our 53 years together.

I am enclosing a small check to help you with the expenses of the SACO NEWS. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely, Martha Leighton

\*\*\*\*\*

I close out the 1900's with some sense of completion.

My mother's memoirs, all 620 pages, were published last June and are still available from me (\$30 to help defray cost of publishing). Remarks about the book have been particularly enthusiastic and very, very complimentary. Quite a few have been sent as presents.

During the summer, I visited Germany with Liz. We spent three weeks in Berlin, one in Munich and several days each in Kasssel and Liz's ancestral home of Lauterbach where we stayed in a wonderful 16th century half-timbered house. There was an energetic hike in the Alps at Walchensee - my first ever in that great mountain chain. We continued to Amsterdam to visit good friends I have not seen in 30 years. In a perfect world, such delay would not happen. We easily and happily toured with a German rail pass; some trains traveled as fast as 155 miles per hour. My impression of Berlin? Exciting, vibrant, friendly, and not much traffic (compared to D.C.)

. . . And we canoed two weeks in Quetico Park, Ontario, along the route of the voyageurs. Friends joined us for party of the outing. We camped two days near the center of the area on a small, unspoiled island in McDougal Lake and the only "person" we saw was a moose. The air, water, sunsets and blueberries were divine.

*Happy New Year 2000*

*May your happiness exceed your expectations.*

Charles "C-Going) Miles

PO Box 17863

Boulder, CO 80308-0863

\*\*\*\*\*

Sorry to have missed the Appleton Convention, but Father Time finally caught up to me, inflicting a variety of age-related ailments. However, thanks to Mother Nature, healing power and the right prescription from

medicos, feel much improved at this writing, so much so that I'm anticipating Williamsburg in 2000 (Didn't happen. Ed.)

Meantime, have kept in touch with several Camp 4 fellows via mail - namely, Mike Conway, Bob Sizemore and O.J. Olson. Mike and Bob are also planning on Williamsburg.

Ran into Sal Ciaccio in a nearby supermarket and was saddened to hear he lost his lovely wife, Marie, suddenly, forcing him to cancel out of Appleton.

Am waiting for the next issue of the SACO NEWS with convention highlights. Hope it was well attended and an artistic success with lots to see and do.

May the dawn of the New Year 2000 usher in many more SACO reunions.

Sincerely, Jack & June Shearer

\*\*\*\*\*

I enjoyed the Oct. SACO NEWS, but am embarrassed to say that only Norman Dike, Carl Altevoigt and Hank Scurlock remain in my memory. Our "intercept shack" was off-limits to all but Adm. Miles. So, we "operators" received little attention and no visitors at the White House in Happy Valley. However, I knew Adm. Miles quite well and still have my chop presented by Gen Tai Li at his Christmas Party in 1943.

A few years ago, Col. Roy Jonkers, NSAF (Ret) asked me to write of my experience in Chungking, China 1942-44 for publication in the American Intelligence Journal. It was quite well received and reprinted in the NVCA newspaper Cryptolog. If you would like a copy, I could furnish you one. If reprinted, it cannot be altered, modified or shortened in any way; and credit must be given to the American Intelligence Journal for its reprint...

My fondest regard to all,

Your shipmate, John M. Quesenberry Lt USN (Ret)

(Cont'd next page)

Cont'd:

John:

In the past issues, we have printed many stories from various publications without restrictions other than to give credit to the source. It has been my prerogative to decide most interesting portions and edit in the interest of space in our publication. Restrictions, I take it, are not of your choosing, but that of the publisher of your original story ("cannot be altered, modified or shortened in any way and credit must be given to the American Intelligence Journal") I have no problem with the credit, but the remaining stipulations I cannot agree to without review of your article. If you care to send your story, I will be happy to let you know if the terms are acceptable. At this point, it's almost as if "the stage was set, we played our parts, yet we are not at liberty to discuss the performance without the director's approval." But, as I say, I will be most happy to see if we can accept these inflexible directives. Please send a copy of your personal experiences in SACO. We are always searching and begging for personal stories of our SACO brothers and they should and need to be told now. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

To Bill Bartee Christmas 1999:

Please say hello to all SACO friends. I do wish everyone and their families are happy and prosperous. With my warmest regards,



**Admiral Liu Ho-chien**  
89, PEI-AN ROAD  
TAIPEI, TAIWAN 10494  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

\*\*\*\*\*

Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 for a continuing membership in my husband's name. I know he would like to be continued on the roster, he was so fond of all the members of SACO. Altho I did not know Jim in the years he was in the service or just after, he spoke fondly of the many friendships he formed at that time. As his wife, I was also fortunate to make friends with many of these men and their wives, and they have been a great comfort to me at this time. We looked forward to the many conventions we attended, and to the many visits we had from them while they were vacationing here in Fort Lauderdale.

I do not know who to send this check to, and I hope you will be able to pass it on for me. Little did I realize on our wedding day, with Admiral and Mrs. Miles, Commander and Mrs. Goodwin, Commander and Mrs. Stratton, Mike Conway, Ken Rhicard, Bob and Betty Perry in attendance, that these people would play such an impressionable part in Jim's and my life. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of "old" friends at the meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. Thank you again for your kindnesses.

Mary McGrail  
4811 NW 58th Street  
Tamarac, FL 33319  
e-mail mamcgrl@aol

\*\*\*\*\*

First, it is a pleasure to receive the SACO NEWS and your other mailings. THEY ARE REALLY SOMETHING TERRIFIC.

I read about the possibility that someone had a copy of the original SACO orders. I shall tell what I remember. It was in the fall, 1944. I was in the Aerology office at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. Orders came for an Aerographer's mate to "Volunteer for dangerous, hazardous, perilous duty with a strong body and a good mind."

I was sent for a complete physical. When that came out okay, I was sent to a Navy psychiatrist. His first words were, "Are you crazy picking up orders like this?"

I guess we all went through the same thing., and we all wound up in SACO.

I am enclosing some copies of letters, newspaper articles, U.S. News & World Report articles, etc., that may be of interest.\*

. . .Incidentally, a few of us went to Haimen, a couple hundred miles south of Shanghai, on the coast, where we set up a weather station and coast-watcher station. If any of the guys that were there are around, it would be nice to hear from them.

My best regards to SACO and whoever is around.

Sincerely, Beryl Breitstein

44 Eisenhower Drive

Sharon, MA 02067

Tel 781-784 4749 FAX 781-793 9643

\*I try to make it my code to follow guidelines of "family" orientation for this publication rather than becoming politically involved in printing some columnist's views of our current situations as to foreign policies and relations with our allies and those who are not.

I, personally, appreciate one's thoughtfulness in enlightening me of any interesting views of our foreign relations, but I will endeavor to maintain my opposition to printing in this regard unless it directly affects SACO. An example might be an excerpt from SACO books, etc. wherein most know of friction between branches of service regarding our venture in China. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations on another excellent issue of SACO NEWS. I enclose a check for the general welfare of your effort, payable, as you have requested, to SACO, so that you may forward it to the Treasurer.

I had inquired of you about the episodes of the long ago comic strip "Terry and the

Pirates" which made mention of the Navy activities in Burma and Indo-China during our time there. I got on the INTERNET and found a site, books@kenpiercebooks.com which I thought might contain the episodes I remembered. They are Volumes 19, for the year 1944, and 20, for 1944-45, and I enclose copies. Perhaps you can have more accurate recollection than I have, to give meaning to the somewhat fictionalized comic strip reports, or you may be able to refer them to someone, like Ray Danielson, who might actually have been involved. I do remember Nicol Smith bringing the Indo-Chinese wife of a US Naval Commander (Meynier) through Calcutta, and Danielson, because he spoke French, being assigned to the project, and then I lost track of him and them. See what you can find to flesh this out if you have the time.

I do remember some of the "Terry" episodes at the time of the glider landings under Col. Philip Cochran ("Flip Corkin") at Broadway and on Chowringhee in North Central Burma, containing references to the Navy, and I had supposed these references were to the Navy members of OSS Detachment 101 at Nazira, which had originally been under the command of Admiral Miles when he had the responsibility of all OSS operations in Asia. I will see if I can find reference to this episode in the next volume (21) of "Terry."

Milton Caniff, the creator of Terry, whose greetings to SACO in cartoon form, appeared in a recent edition of SACO NEWS, must have had some relationship with someone in the organization for him to have had the basic information to create the strips. **DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT THIS CONNECTION WAS ?**

Sincerely, Brad (Conrad A. Bradshaw)

Editor's note: I'm the last person you'd want to consult. Maybe I spent too much time in the rice paddies, but not being a comic buff during the war, hardly realized there was a Milton

Caniff until after the war. I trust someone of you can shed some light - it is interesting to note that Caniff had knowledge of Naval activities and hopefully, someone can direct us to some of his work that depicted the Navy in China.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks again for the May 2000 issue of SACO NEWS. It was another fine publication. I am enclosing my check to SACO to help with your publication costs.

**Incidentally, do you know where I can find a tape of the movie *DESTINATION GOBI*?**

Sincerely yours, Shep (S. Sheperd Tate)  
(*Can anyone help?*) Think many of us would be interested in owning one if available.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is a belated 'Thank you' and an inadequate expression of appreciation for the great job that you and Jack did with the hospitality room at the Williamsburg Reunion. As always, the hospitality room is the place where all the activities of the reunion takes place. On behalf of Elizabeth and myself - Thanks, guys!"

It was nice to see Erma looking well and sounding peppy. We look forward to seeing her at Fredericksburg, TX next May. Please give her our love and good wishes.

In today's Washington Post there was an obituary of Frank Tao whom you may recall. In former times, he and Lilyan used to attend the SACO reunions. Frank was an associate member. For about three or four years, he has been confined to a nursing home because of a stroke. When we had the dedication of the SACO plaque at the Navy Memorial in May 1998, Frank was insistent that he be there, even though he was confined to a wheelchair. So, his daughter and son-in-law fixed a station

wagon up and wheeled Frank into it and he showed up in plenty of time at the dedication. I believe you ran photos of Frank at the dedication in the SACO NEWS. You may want to use the enclosed obit for the SACO NEWS.\*

Elizabeth joins me in sending you and Erma our sincere good wishes.

Regards, Bill (Sager)

\*Thanks, Bill, for the obit. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

. . . My former husband was Maxwell David Harris . . . commissioned ensign from Columbia University on a V12 program. First duty was at the Amphibious base in Ft. Pierce, Florida, where we spent our honeymoon in conjunction with the Scouts and Raiders training. He was sent overseas and with 'bogus' addresses I received from the Navy Department. I was really convinced they had done away with my new husband; letters returned unknown, no such address, etc. and no mail from him and each new address in reply to my requests had the same effect. It was only luck that I saw an article in the Chicago Tribune entitled "Romantic but Dangerous" sometime in September/October 1945, that I learned of a group named SACO, where they listed the men who were from the Chicago area and there was Max. He returned to us in November 1945 and would not ever discuss any of his duties on that tour.

. . . Unfortunately, after 22 years + of marriage, we were divorced and we both eventually remarried. Max and I had two sons together, John and Kevin, his only children. . . It was only in April of this year that I learned he had passed away from lymphoma.

. . . in the interest of Max's descendants, two sons, six grandchildren and three great

grandchildren to date, I'd love whatever information and/or sources of memorabilia which could be handed down to them . . . you guessed it, I'm into genealogy.

Any information or advice you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Jacqueline San Pedro  
P.O. Box 4294  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 336-2987

**ANY OF YOU THAT KNEW MAXWELL  
DAVID HARRIS??**

\* \*\*\*\*\*

From the son of George W. Banes  
Dec. 22, 1999

This is to inform you that one of your members, CWO George W. Banes, USN Retired, has passed away. My father and I were very close and it has been incredibly difficult for me to let go of his past. His stories of the South Pacific, and specifically China, were the fodder of my childhood.

As a young weatherman, George was stationed in Lake City, NJ. Our family album contains rare photos he took of the Hindenberg as it ignited and crashed to the earth. We also have a photo of Dad in front of one of the weather stations he built in China. Standing next to him is his Chinese interpreter known to us only as Jimmy, and on the other side is Chiang Kai-shek who visited the station as a lieutenant in the Chinese army.

Dad proudly told the story of how, when he shipped out, all the new model side arms were gone to high ranking officers and all that was left was the old model 1911 Colts. Dad said, "Does it shoot?" and upon assurance from the supply man that it worked fine, he was happy. That gun was made by Colt in 1918 and was still in the original wrapping when Dad got it.

Somehow, the story goes, at the end of his tour, he was allowed to keep it. It saved his life twice while in China; not from soldiers, but from bandits. Today, it is part of my collection,

I don't know why I am telling you all this. It just seems too hard to say he is gone and you can stop sending the SACO NEWS now. George died on August 30, 1998. Yes, it has taken me over a year to come to terms with this. Partly because the .45 was stolen from my home 2 weeks before he died. My door kicked in, house thrashed; they got the .45 and two other pistols. Fortunately, criminals are very stupid and they keep getting caught. After being gone for more than a year, the police returned the .45 to me a few weeks ago. I wept

Thank you for letting me ramble. It is time to move on with my life, but with fond memories of Dad and his glorious past.

Sincerely, Ed Banes - God Bless all vets.

\*\*\*\*\*

To Harold Bonin November 1999

I am truly sorry that I have kept the books (SACO) so long. I'm a slow reader and the books are so fascinating that I read them carefully. Then Mary Anne started reading Mrs. Miles' book. She was fascinated with it and so has had me order her a copy of her own. So, finally, I now return the two books you so graciously let me read.

What an account of SACO! I had no idea, when previously reading "Sampan Sailor," that the organization was so far-reaching and accomplished so much. I now have a greater appreciation of what you and all the others did out there. But it was saddening to read of the trials and tribulations Admiral Miles suffered under the damned army the latter part of the war. I am so glad you loaned the books to me.

The book and I met on pages 534-535 (*Different Kind of War*):

My ship operated with occupation-support task forces in the Yellow Sea starting on 2 September 1948. On 20 September, I was ordered to take my ship into Tsingtao and report to Admiral Settle on the LOUISVILLE. I took my ship alongside the pier and took charge of Japanese naval and commercial vessels there.

A couple items of interest while in Tsingtao:

(1) Admiral Settle had the "bridal suite" at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. If you pushed a certain button, a waiter would appear with a case of Haig & Haig pinch-bottle scotch. I am not sure what other buttons there were or what you might have got if you pushed them! I was given a fine room at the hotel for my own use and spent one night there after a great banquet the Chinese of Tsingtao gave us.

(2) I understand the U.S. Army was keeping the Japanese soldiers under arms to keep the Chinese Communists out of the area. While I was there, they sent an armed train to Weih sien to bring back the internees. I had a number of the internees, including some women, out to my ship for ice cream, cake and coffee.

Then we left Tsingtao on 29 September and joined cruiser Task Force 71, proceeding to Taku Bar to support the occupation landings at Tientsin. We remained there until 6 October when we left for Chefoo.

I enclose two pictures taken by my ship's photographer in Tsingtao in September of 1945 for your information and your China files.

I thought the best anecdote in the whole book was recounted in the middle of page 558!\*

Again, our thanks . .

Sincerely,

Bob (Capt. Robert A. Schelling, USN (Ret))

\*Capt. Schelling's reference which is also one of my favorite passages follows:

## A Classic Deflation of Ego

(Miles' *A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR*)

"With the Fleet in , we began to learn that in many people's eyes we of SACO had been on duty in China and had 'missed the war.' I remember being inconspicuously present in the lobby of the Cathay Hotel when an officer - a commander - from the Fleet came in and asked for a room. The hotel manager, aided by a young SACO man behind the desk, indicated that there were no rooms except for officially assigned persons.

"The commander was incensed."

"'I'm going back aboard,' he said, 'and put on my medals and then come and ask you landlubber sailors about the proper attention to be paid officers of the Fleet.'

"From his serious look, I thought he might do just that, so I sent for Phil Buckley, our billeting officer, and had him dress in all his medals. He was a big man and he did us proud.

"When the aggrieved commander returned, Phil stuck his chest over the desk, exhibiting a couple of Navy Crosses, Silver Stars and other trimmings.

"'Commander,' he said smoothly, 'I'm told that you want a room ashore. Admiral Miles here - he pointed to my corner - 'says that nothing is too good for the men of the Fighting Fleet, and he has offered you his personal suite.'"



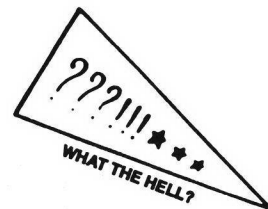




# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TRUSTEES MEETING  
FORT MAGRUDER HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER  
WILLIAMSBURG, VA  
JUNE 7, 2000**

The trustees meeting was convened at 1930 hours and chaired by President Jack Miller.

Those present were:

Bill Miller -	Trustee
Jack Peterson -	Trustee
Charles Sellers -	Trustee
Bud Booth -	Trustee
Jack Miller -	President
Herman Weskamp -	Treasurer
Bill Sager -	Legal Counsel
Bill Bartee -	Secretary

Absent: Dr. Lloyd Felmlly Trustee

**MINUTES**

Minutes for the 1999 meeting were read, motion made to accept as read by Miller, seconded by Peterson. . Motion carried.

**TREASURES REPORT**

Weskamp gave the treasurers report and provided copies of statement. Summary:

Balance Jan 1, 1999	\$21,172.86
Balance Dec 31, 1999	\$22,360.53

Motion made to accept as read by Miller, seconded by Sellers. Motion carried.

NECROLOGY - Thirteen names were read, see attachment 1.

MEMBERSHIP - Four names submitted, see attachment 2.

MEDALS -Eight present at the reunion, one to be sent, see attachment 3.

Further discussion of provisions for receiving medals was discussed as a result of Casamajor request to MIB for their position on sending medals to those individuals unable to attend the reunion.

Trustee Bill Miller requested that an update of the complete list of former recipients be provided by Casamajor if not lost in computer crash.

Recipients shall be supporters of SACO Inc.

Applications from sick, lame and lazy will be approved on a case by case basis.

NIMITZ MUSEUM

Summary provided by the secretary. Plaque is ready for installation ceremony in Fredericksburg, Texas.

TAIWAN EARTHQUAKE

Update provided by secretary, since no response was received from Taiwan it was decided to ask Gen Weng if he could find out about it. Secretary will check bank to see if check was cashed. (Note: Later conversation with Seau Liu, the Generals interpreter disclosed that they got the money.) The trustees discussed the problem of whether amounts of contributions should be published. Motion made to list names but not the amount by Sellers, seconded by Peterson. Motion carried.

2201 REUNION – Bob Sinks provided a comprehensive update on Fredericksburg reunion. All questions were answered satisfactorily, dates May 9<sup>th</sup>. Thru May 13<sup>th</sup>. 2001 Room rate \$65.

2002 REUNION Joe Fitzgerald will provide update at membership meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PROFESSIONAL REUNION COORDINATOR – Bill Sager reviewed his proposal for hiring a professional convention coordinator. Trustees directed that the program be researched further with no commitment.

COPYRIGHT OF “THE RICE PADDY NAVY”

Bill Sager disclosed that after intensive research it has been determined that the copyright had expired on subject book.

Question to trustee’s was “Do you want to own book and copyright at an approximate cost of:

250 copies @ \$11 each plus 10% S/H ?”

500 copies @ \$9 each plus 10% S/H ?”

With new introduction by SACO Inc. book would become our property.

Problem: Need a drop point for shipping and collection.

The trustees established a special committee under the provision of Article VI of the by-laws.

The committee consists of:

Charlie Sellers

Jack Peterson

Bill Miller

Bill Sager

Lee Alverson

*“This committee is authorized to make financial commitments not to exceed \$5,000 on behalf of SACO Inc. for the purpose of republishing “The Rice Paddy Navy” by Roy Stratton.”*

There being no further official business, the president adjourned the meeting at 2300 hours June 7<sup>th</sup>.2000

Respectfully submitted,

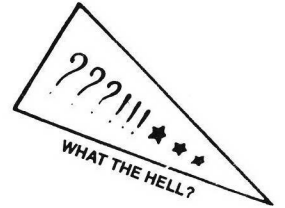
  
Bill Bartee  
Secretary



# SACO

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U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

### Summary of Minutes

The following is a brief summary of the SACO Membership meeting held on June 10, 2000 at Williamsburg, VA.

The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours. After the invocation and pledge of Allegiance. A list of those shipmates who have departed since our meeting in Appleton, WI. was read. Thirteen names were called and a moment of silence was observed in their honor. A new attendee Adm. Jeffrey C. Metzel, Jr. U.S.N. (Ret) son of Capt. Jeff Metzel, U.S.N. was invited to address the group. He read a letter from Gen. TAI Li pointing out feats his father Capt. Metzel had accomplished for SACO without proper recognition.

### Minutes & Treasury Report.

Minutes of the Appleton, WI. meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer related the financial status as:  
Balance as of January 1, 1999 \$21,172.86  
Balance as of December 1, 1999 \$22,360.53

### Membership and Medals

Five new associate members were accepted by the membership.

Names of seven individuals who were present to receive their China Medal were read.

### 2001 Reunion

Bob Sinks gave a comprehensive overview of the 2001 reunion to be held in Fredericksburg, TX. May 9, thru 13, 2001. Rooms at Fredericksburg Inn & Suites will be approximately \$65 per night. Arrangements for an airport shuttle are being investigated.

### 2002 Reunion

Joe Fitzgerald provided an overview of the 2002 reunion to be held in Coco Beach, FL. Room rates are estimated at approximately \$90 per day, early October would probably be the time.

### Disaster Fund

The results if the Taiwan Earthquake Disaster Fund were reviewed. A total of \$3,285 was donated to that cause.

### SACO Documentary

Carolyn Inman-Arnold reviewed the status of the documentary and pointed out that copies of the final product would be made available to SACO members.

**Election of Officers** – The following individuals were elected to the offices designated:

President - Charlie O'Brien  
Vice President - Dave Clark  
Secretary - Bill Bartee  
Ass't Secretary - Jim Kelly  
Treasurer - Herman Weskamp  
Ass't Treasurer - Willie Baker

### Trustees:

Bob Hoe Three years  
Jack Miller Three years  
Jack Peterson One year.

### By Laws

The by-laws were amended to read reunion instead of convention.

### Combat Action Ribbon (C.A.R.)

Status of the C.A.R. was reviewed with members being urged to contact their Congressmen to get it moving.

The meeting was adjourned at 1145 hours.

Bill Bartee  
Secretary.

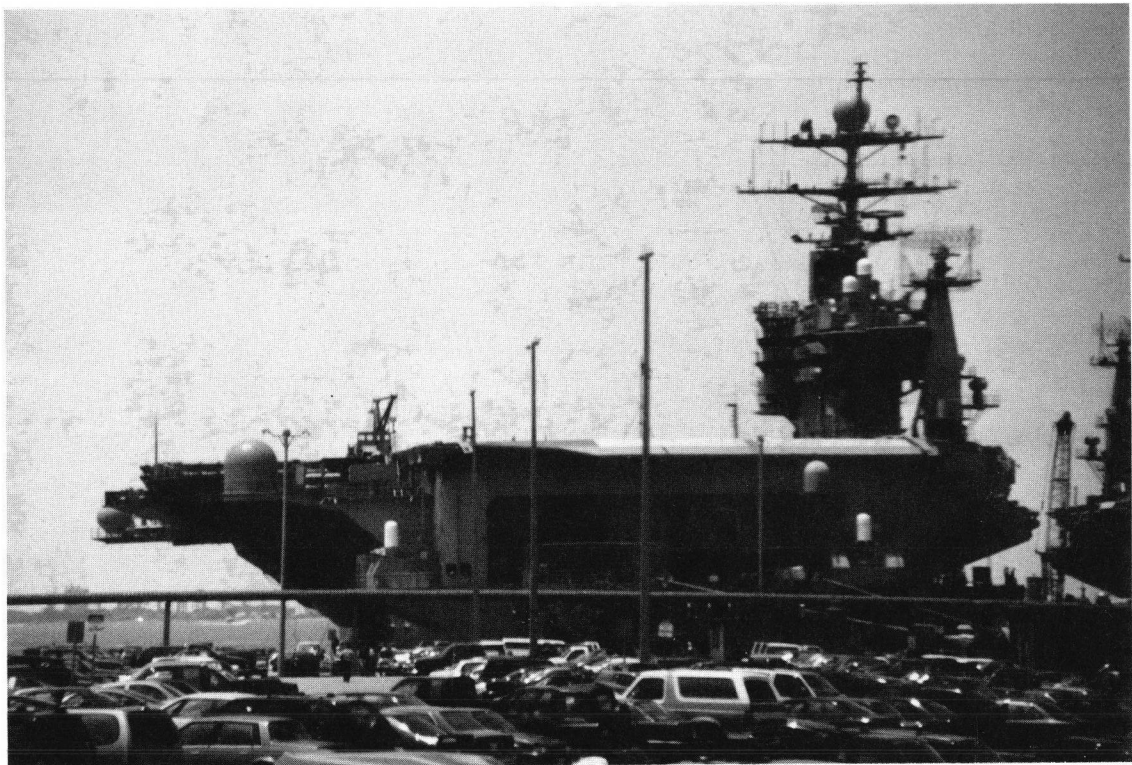
# Wonderful Williamsburg Was Worthy Winner



*As Reunion Site 6-11 June 2000*

The 46th annual reunion began with a couple days of relaxation and visitation (Tuesday and Wednesday) which, in all consideration, was good scheduling in allowing people to greet and have light conversation, enjoy dinner together, join the gang in HR, etc. Tours are wonderful, but consume a lot of “scuttlebutt time” so, two days to “warm-up” prior to busy schedules was apropos.

On Thursday, 8 June, the group was off for Norfolk to tour the Norfolk Naval Base, reportedly the largest naval installation in the world. It is home port to over 100 ships, 26 aircraft squadrons and hdqtrs of the Atlantic Fleet. The base covers in excess of 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. The group was taken past the piers, through the Naval Air Station and past the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on “*Admiral’s Row*” which now house the flag officers.

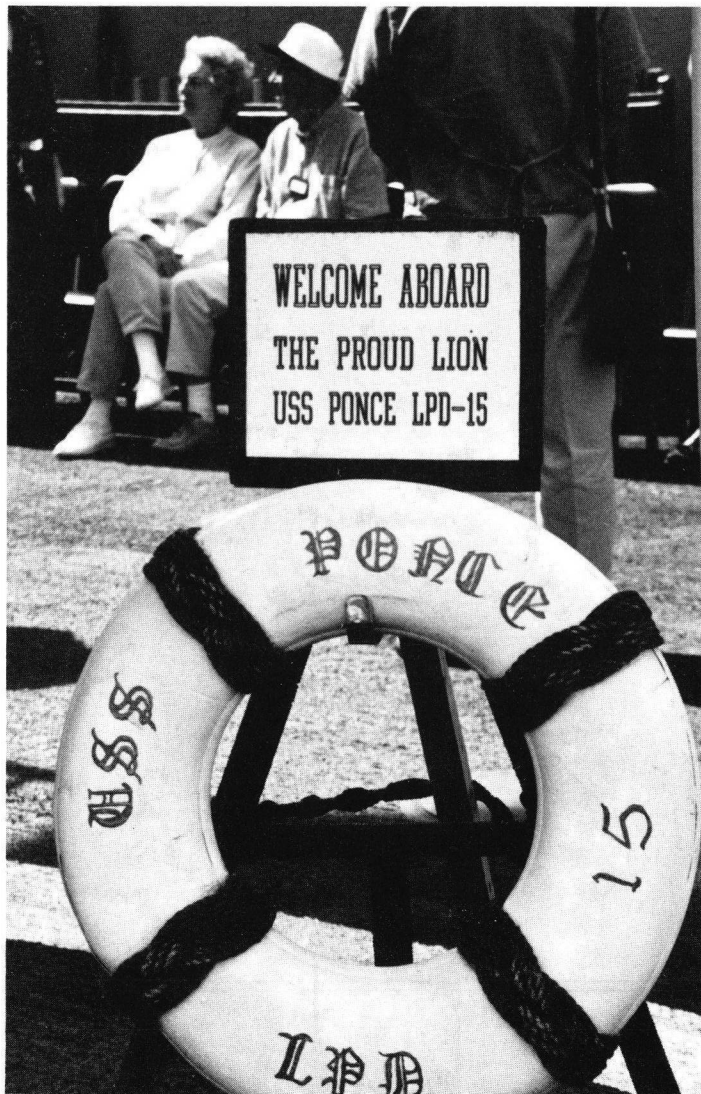


The SACOs went aboard one of the ships - *USS Ponce* - understand Gen. Weng was properly recognized for his rank by piping him aboard.

Later, they enjoyed a luncheon held at the Officers' Club on the base.

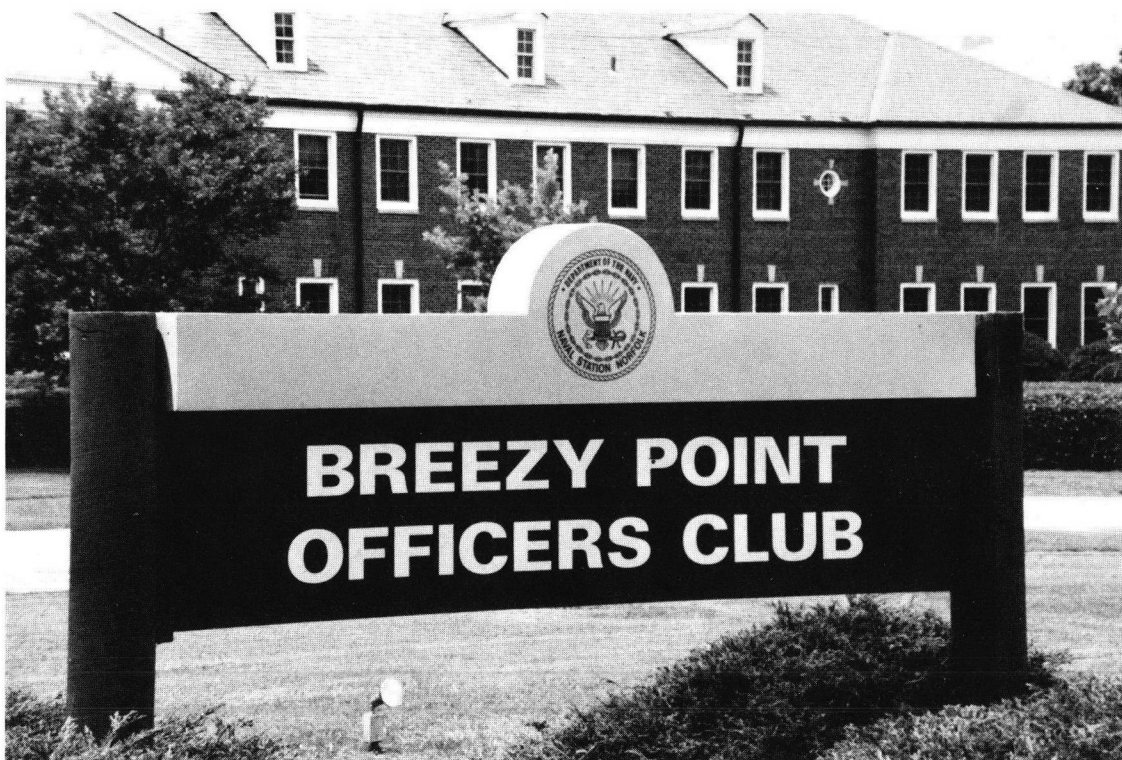
Then they were off to ride through Norfolk's beautiful historic district and restored areas. They viewed lovely homes along the Hague, the Chrysler Museum, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the restored waterfront area and many points of interest.

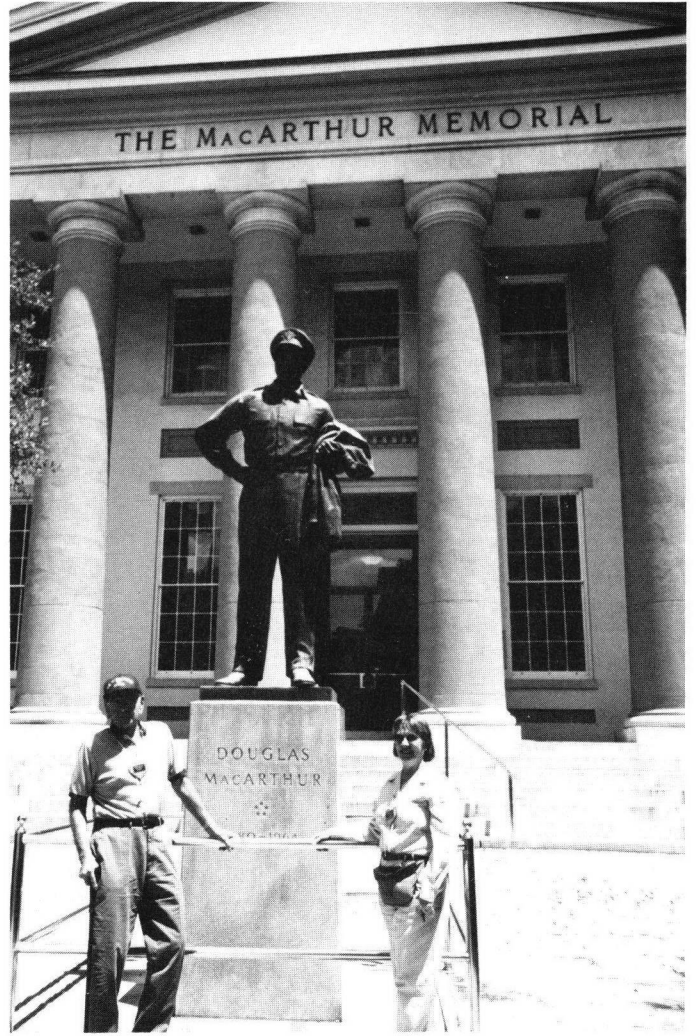
There was a visit to the Douglas MacArthur Memorial for a review of history. MacArthur is buried in the rotunda of the memorial.



*Imagine these "aging" Tigers would like to have their "sea-legs" back in order as they descended the ship's ladder.*

It was a busy day and I think a little "nip" was in order as some of us awaited their arrival at the HR.







On Friday, 9 June, buses again loaded in front of the hotel bound for Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown. The day was spent on Virginia's peninsula located on the banks of the beautiful James River. Costumed interpreters were guides to the past as the group visited the recreated village of Jamestown Settlement which included replicas of the three ships that arrived at Jamestown in 1607 as well as replicas of the Powhatan Indian Village and the James Fort.

Then at Yorktown Victory Center, there were exhibits relating to the Battle of Yorktown, the last major decisive battle of the American Revolution. Voices recounted major events from the American Revolution. There was a recreated 18th century farm-site and the Continental Army Encampment; a drive through the village of Yorktown and past Revolutionary War Battlefields. Lunch was again at an Officers' Club on the Coast Guard Base in Yorktown overlooking the York River.

Tours concluded, festivities moved on the next day (Saturday) with the annual business meeting, afternoon hours in the HR and the banquet. Gen. Weng was guest speaker and

presented SACO with a \$3,000 cash gift from the Military Intelligence Bureau in Taipei. After the customary exchange of gifts, most reassembled in the HR to bid farewell for another year.



Charlie and Mearle O'Brien overcame many difficulties in the preceding months to give us all another very entertaining reunion to add to our memories of another gathering of our special "family." Many, many thanks, to both - you know, it gets more strenuous as time goes on - but let's hope we cope with the strain and have many more annual roll calls. Let us always want and need each other. Ed.



*Honored Guests  
From Taiwan, ROC*

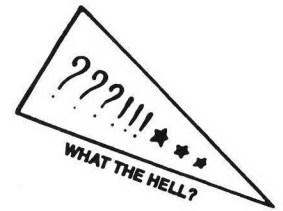
*Gen. & Mrs. Weng  
Yen-ching, daughter,  
Wen Ju, son, Kevin  
Maj. Lee Feng-wen  
Maj. Shawn Liu*



# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

June 21, 2000

General Weng, Yen-ching  
Deputy Director M.I.B.  
P.O. Box 3692  
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

RE: SACO Reunion, Williamsburg, VA.

Dear General Weng,

On behalf of the Trustee's and Officers of SACO I would like to express our most sincere thanks to you, your family Mrs. Weng, Wan Ju and Kang as well as Majors LEE and LIU for attending our 2000 reunion. It was really a case of old friends meeting again and was certainly enjoyed by all.

A special "**Thank You**" must be offered for the extra special 2000 tie-clasps and pins presented to us at the delicious dinner you hosted. They will certainly be treasured for years to come by all of us.

Please remember that although you are retiring from an active military life, you will always be remembered by your many SACO friends and will always be greeted with open arms at our reunions.

May you experience nothing but success and happiness in your endeavors and please stay in touch.

I'm enclosing some pictures taken at the reunion that you may enjoy.

Sincerely,

Bill Bartee  
SACO secretary

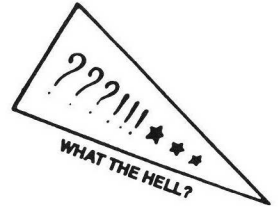
ENCL:



# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

June 21, 2000

Vice Admiral HSU, Chu-sheng, R.O.C. Navy  
Director M.I.B.  
P.O. Box 3692  
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

RE: 2000 SACO Reunion

Dear Admiral HSU,

On behalf of the Trustee's, Officers and Members of SACO, I would like to take the opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude and thanks for the generous contribution M.I.B bestowed upon SACO.

We were most pleased that your deputy director, General Weng, Yen-ching and his entourage were able to be here and represent you. Please rest assured that you were honorably and exceptionally represented.

While we recognize the heavy workload and schedule under which you operate, it is our most earnest desire that you try to attend or next reunion scheduled for May 2001 in Fredericksburg, Texas. Formal invitations will be forth coming from Mr. Bob Sinks, our reunion chairman, however this advance notice may allow you to arrange a schedule that would allow you personally to attend.

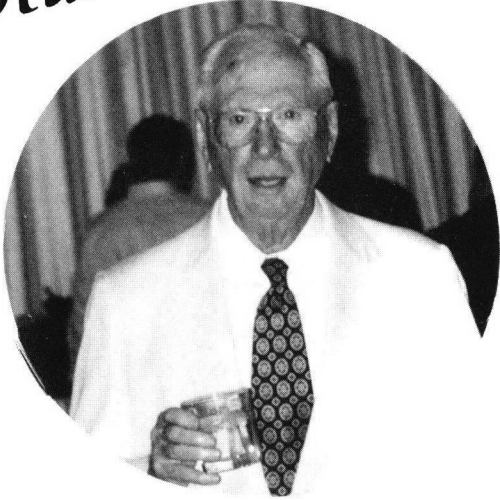
Thanks again for the dedication and generosity that you of the M.I.B. have shown SACO.

Sincerely,

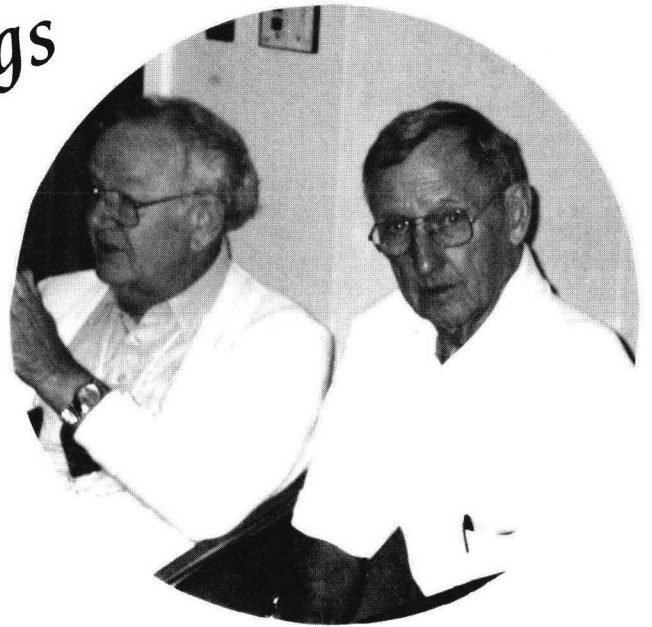
Bill Bartee  
SACO Secretary

ENCL:

# Williamsburg Shutterbugs Capture SACO Tigers.



*Dave  
Clarke*



*John Westphal & John Waters*



*Jim Bash joined by his son at banquet.*



*Alma Cochran*



*Hazel Nelson*



*Louise & James Reid*



*Slim Gilroy*



*Mrs. & Gen. Weng*



*Adm. Jeff Metzger & Bob Hoe*



*Peg Fitzgerald*

*Joya Goodson*



*Virginia & Ed Flanagan*



*Dolores & Chuck GREENE*



*Bob Sinks*



*Carolyn Arnold & Bill Bartee*



*Ivaloe & Charles Tether & son, Charles*



*Jerry & Mary Coats*



*Richard & Frances Petri*



*Dale Duley*



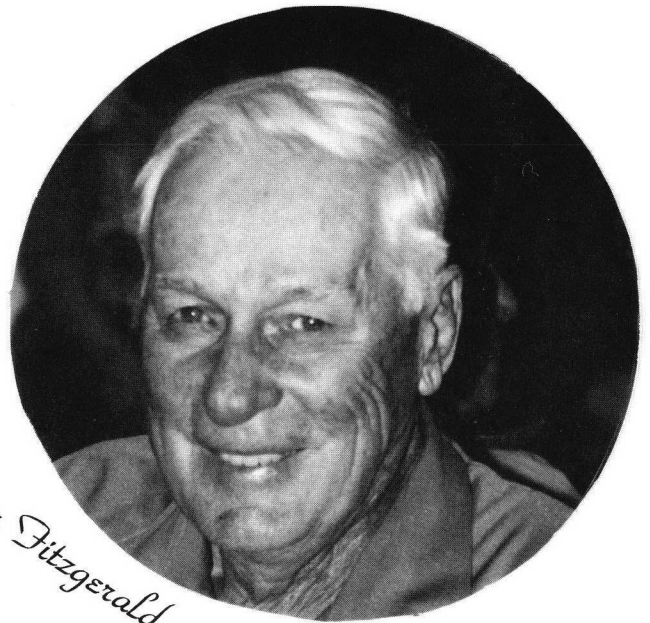
*Bill & Elizabeth Sager*



*Bob Hill, Jr*



*Larry Karas*



*Joe Fitzgerald*



*Adm. Jeff Metzger*



*Ellen  
Booth  
&  
Shawn  
Liu*



*Jennie McDonough*

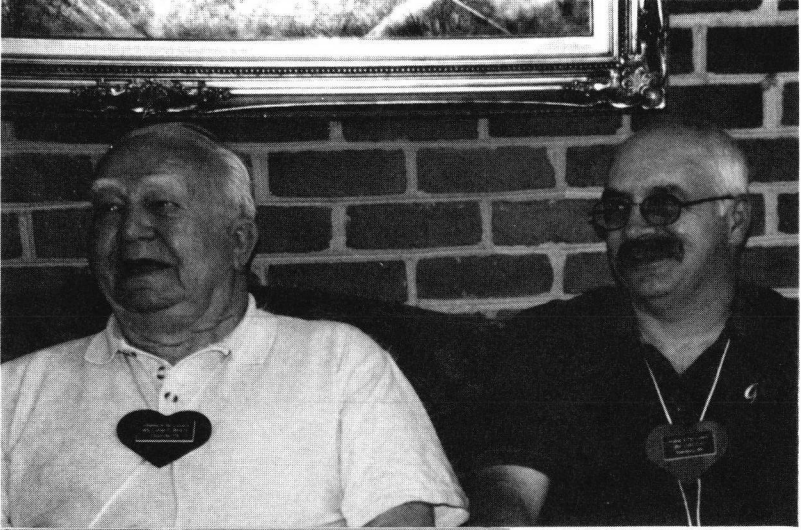


*Allen  
& Mary Tanner*





*Wan Ju Weng  
 Kevin Weng  
 Bill Miller  
 Mrs. Weng  
 Maj. Lee  
 Gen. Weng  
 Maj. Liu*



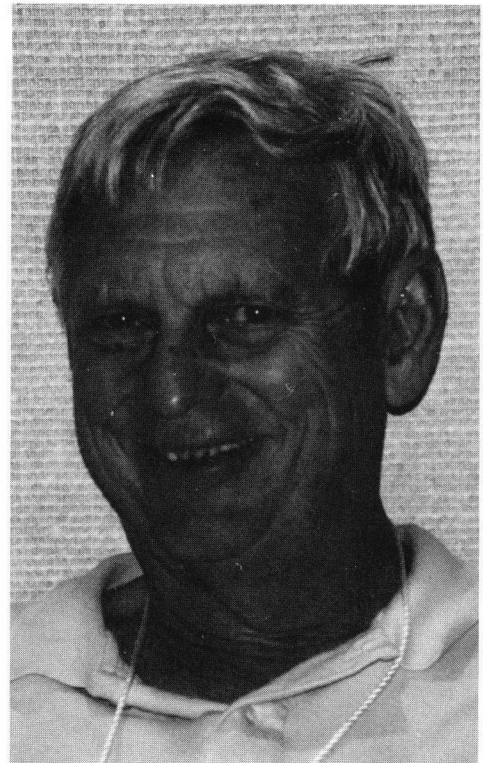
*Bill White  
 &  
 Jim Ciaccio  
 (Sal's son)*



*Maj. Shawn Liu  
 Mrs. Weng  
 Gen. Weng Yen-ching  
 Kevin Weng  
 Maj. Lee Fang-wen*



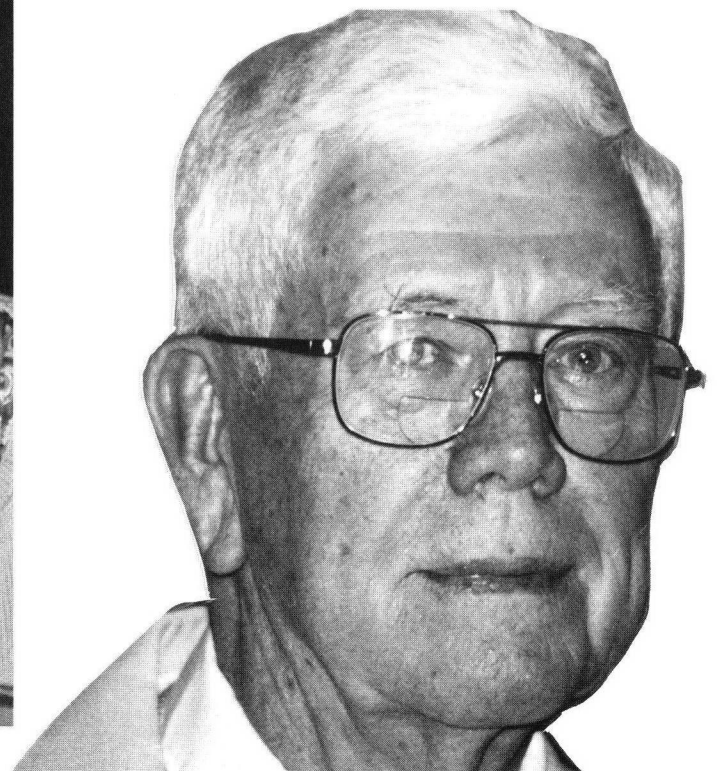
*Bob Hill & Charlie O'Brien*



*C-Going Miles*



*Tony & Evelyn Wogan*



*"Mike" Conway*



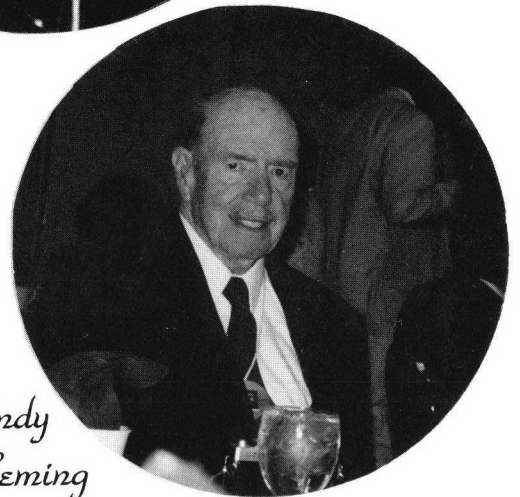
*Steve  
Fiduk  
(Hump  
Pilot)*



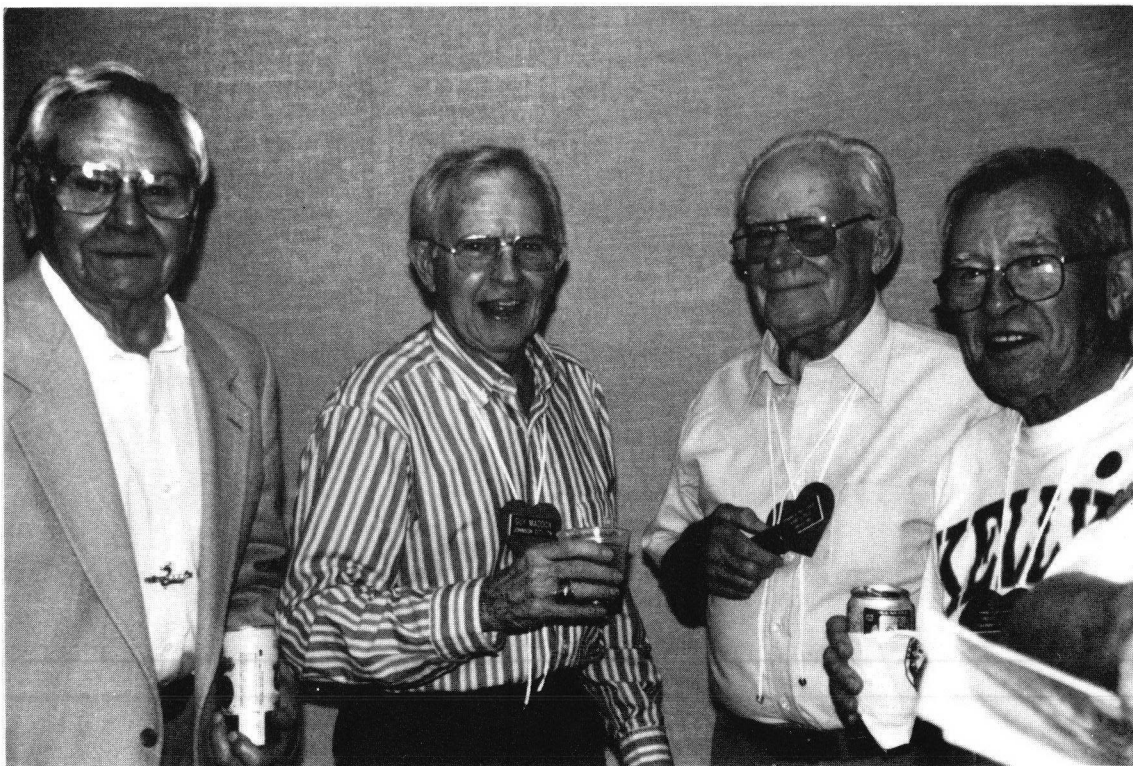
*Carolyn  
Inman  
Arnold*



*Nelson  
Bowman*



*Andy  
Fleming*



*Bud Booth, Guy Maddox, Jim Reid, Jim Kelly*



*Richard Rutan & Jack Petersen*



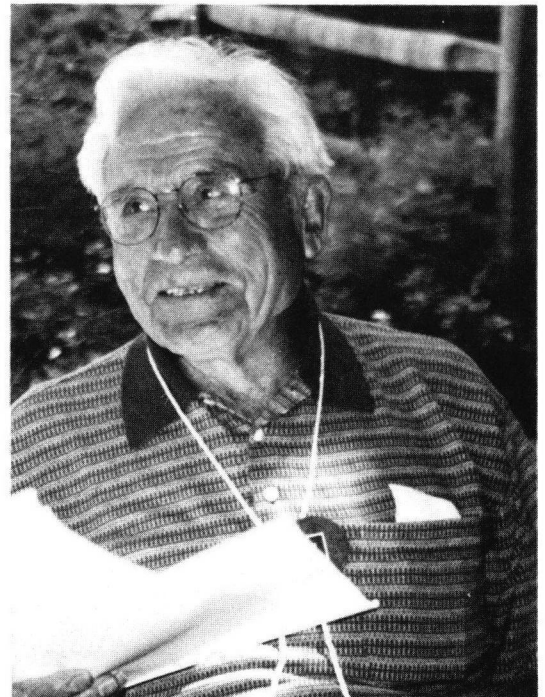
*Kayte  
Petersen*



*Betty  
Clark*



*Art Bohus - Jim Dodson*



*"Wes" Weskamp*



*Charles  
& Ivaloe Tether*



*Edith & Neil Hubbard*



*Wayne Goodson*



*Kathryn & "Wes" Weskamp*



*Sal Ciaccio*



*Guy & Rosemary Tressler*



*Al Harrison  
(Slim's friend)*



*Charles Miles*



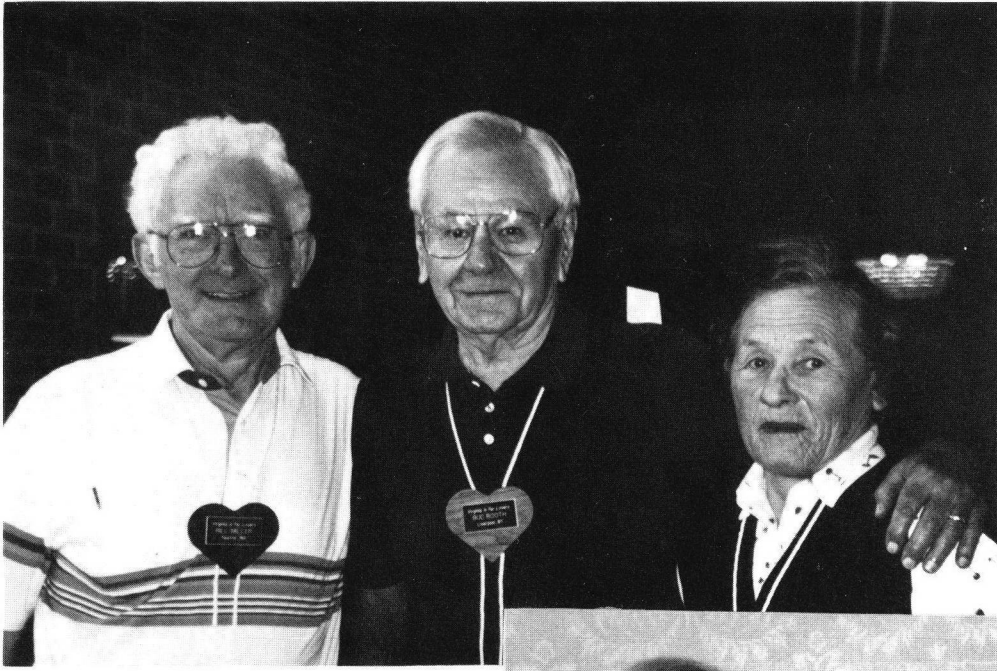
*Mrs. Weng - son, Kevin*



*Mrs. Weng - dtr, Wan Ju*



*Lillie Brown &  
Mathilda Banner*



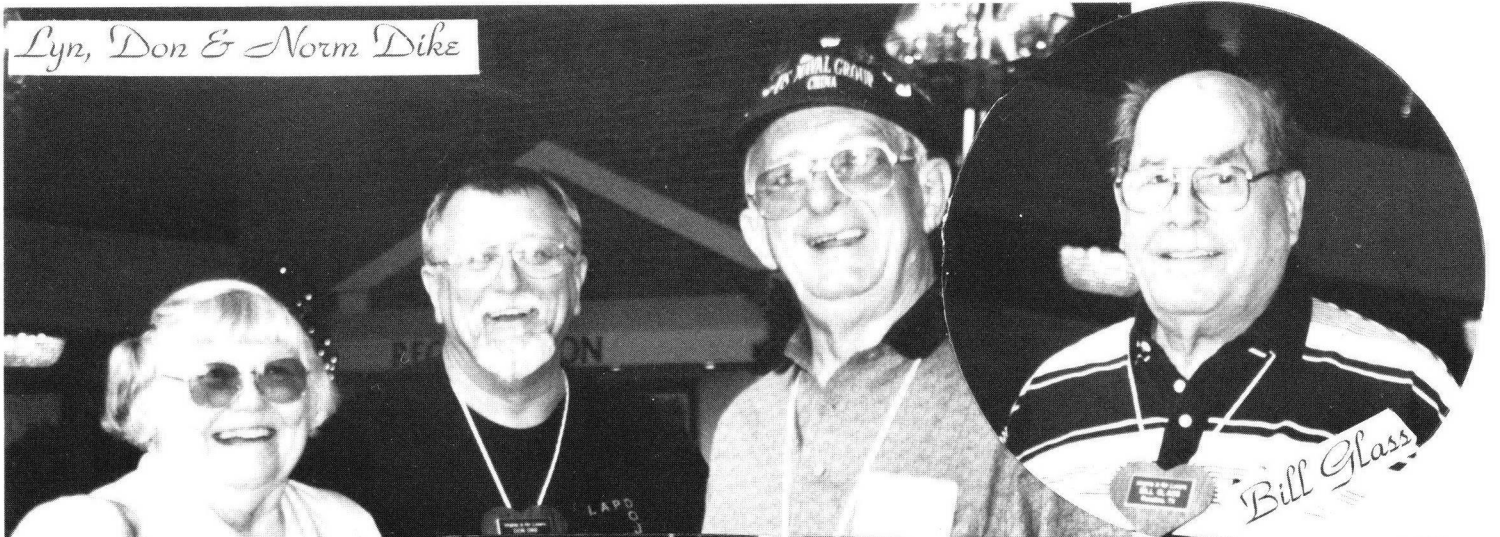
*Bill Miller  
Bud Booth  
Sissy Miller*

*Mary &  
Bill White*



*Dean &  
Billi Warner*

Lyn, Don & Norm Dike



Donna, Mildred & Dale Duley



Dick & Sue Parks

Maj. Lee-Wan Ju - Mrs. Mary-Karen



Lee & Ruby Alverson

Georgia Karas





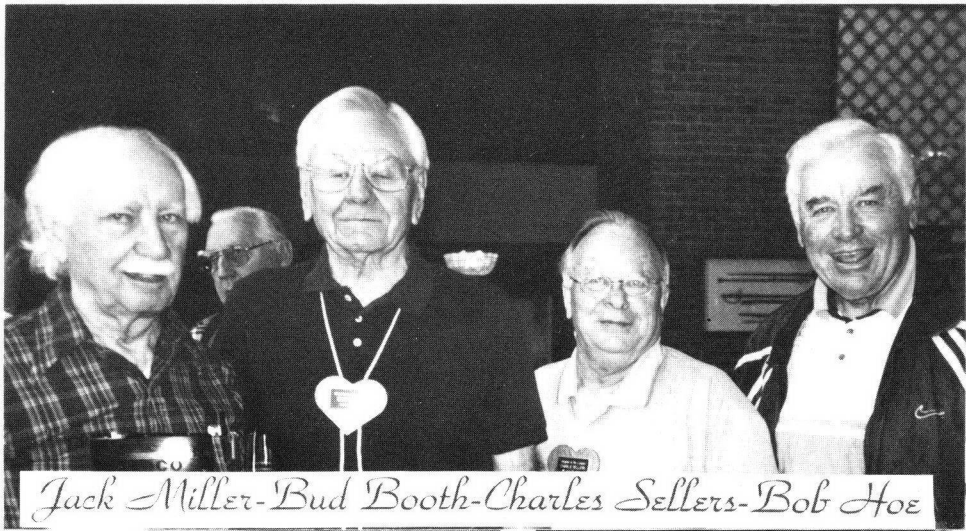
*Jodi Petersen  
Erma Rutan  
Beverly Petersen*



*Bob Hill  
Billi &  
Dean Warner*



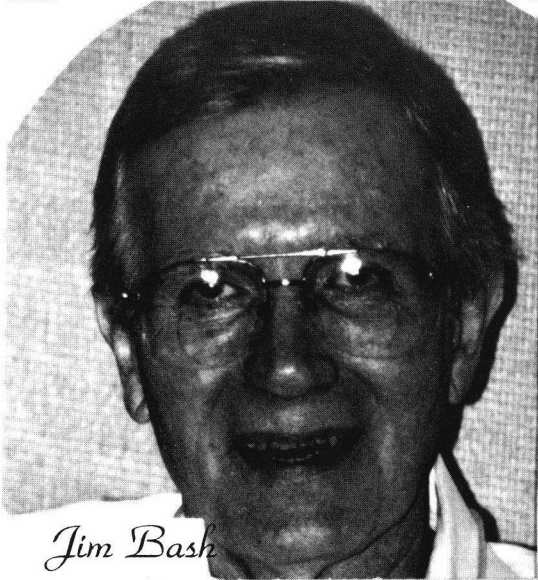
*Bob &  
Helen Hoe*



*Jack Miller-Bud Booth-Charles Sellers-Bob Hoe*



*Frances Petri*



*Jim Bash*



*Lillie Brown*



*Mary Coats-Penny Coats*



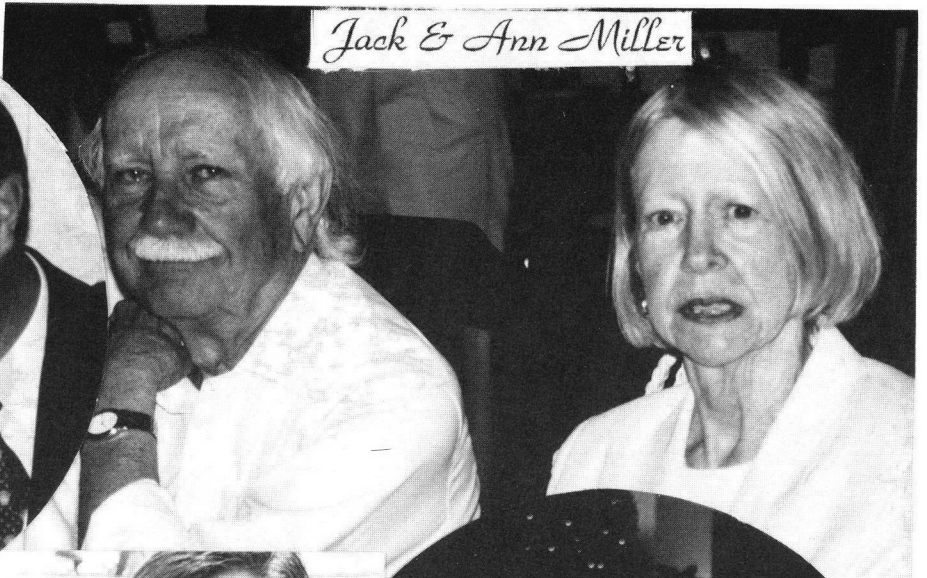
*John & Rosie Westphal*



*Norma & Clarence Gee*



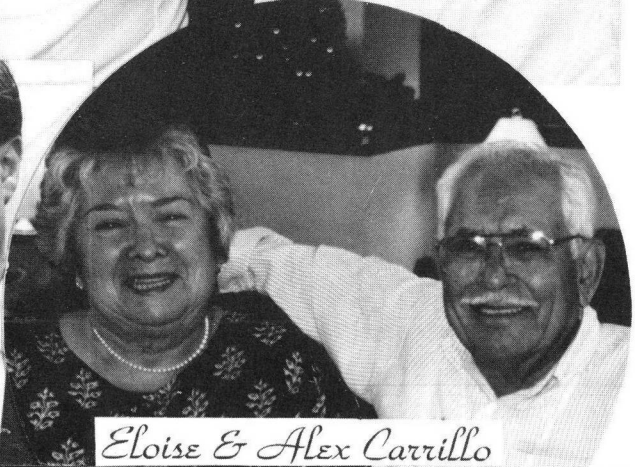
*Gen & Mrs. Weng*



*Jack & Ann Miller*



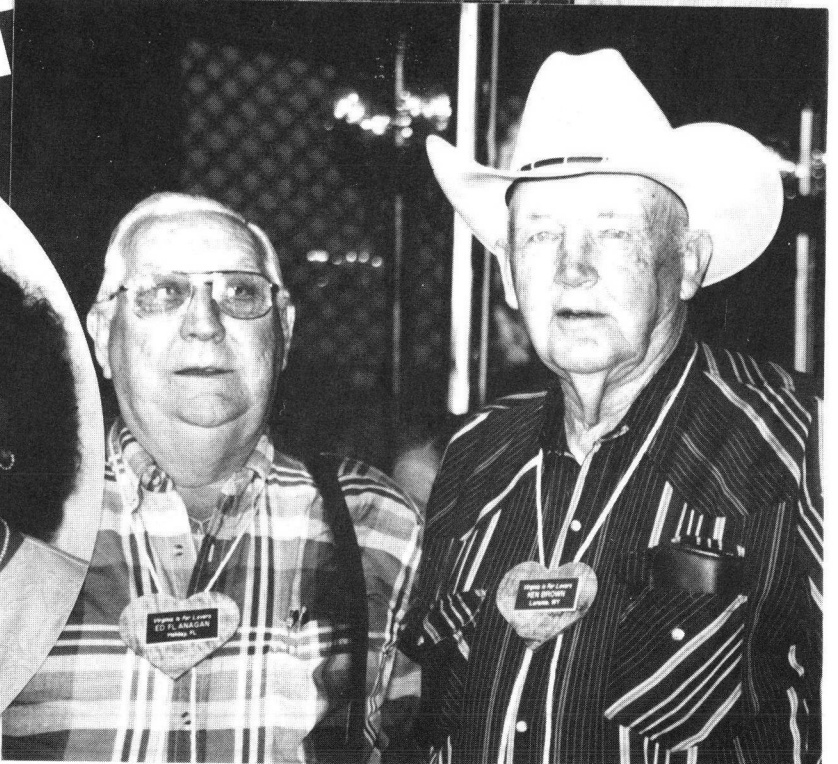
*Francis, Caroline & Dairus  
Reynnet*



*Eloise & Alex Carrillo*



*Dennis & Marsha Miller*



*Ed Flanagan & Kenny Brown*



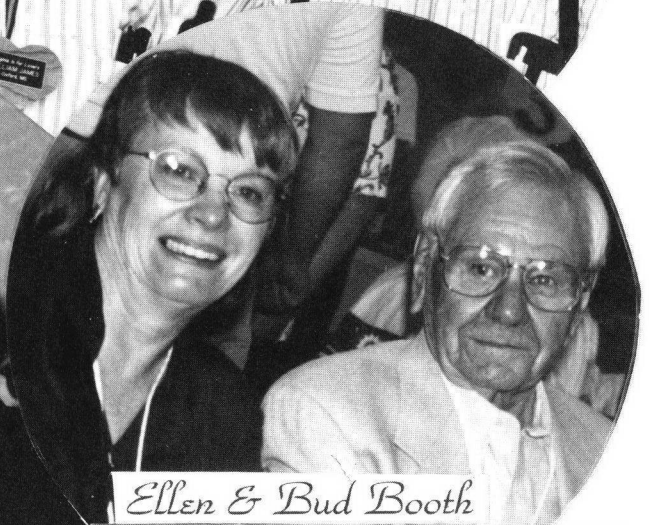
*Gen. & Mrs. Weng & son, Kevin*



*Bill James - Bob Clark*



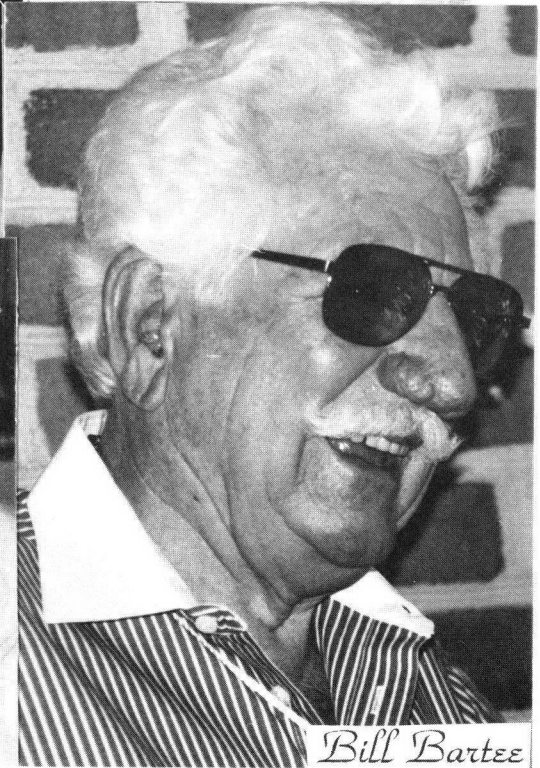
*Adm. & Jean Metzger*



*Ellen & Bud Booth*



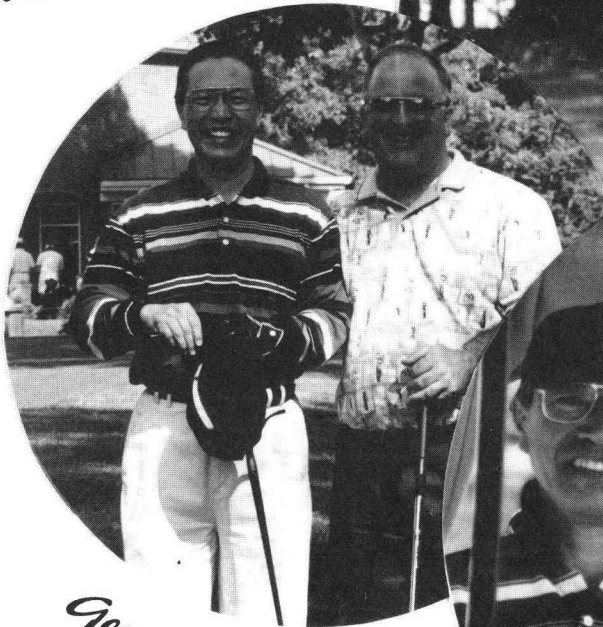
*Marty & Charles Parkin*



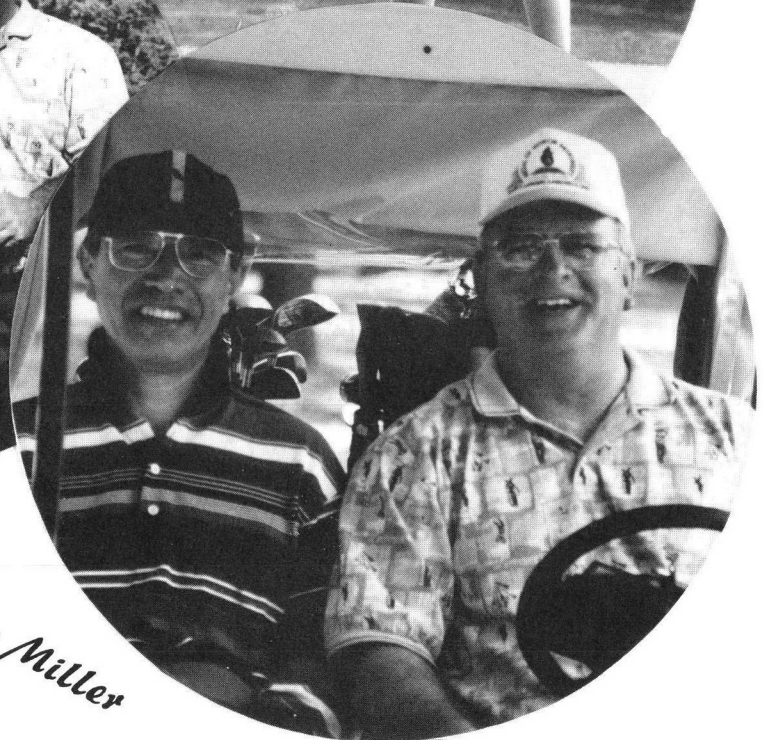
*Bill Bartee*

# Fairway Friends

*Charles Tether*



*Gen. Weng & Dennis Miller*



*Charles Sellers - Bill Hall  
Gen. Weng - Charles Tether  
Dennis Miller - Jack Petersen  
John Waters*

*(Where's Ellen Booth? - behind  
the camera)*



*Joya & Wayne Goodson*



*Ann Miller*



*Let's get it straight - reverse what was wrongly identified  
in former issue - Helen Hoe on the left and Norma Gee on the right.*



*Cuzzins!!!  
Richard Rutan, Sue & Dick Parks*



*Bud Booth*



*Bob & Betty Clark*



*Kathryn & "Wes" Weskamp*



*Len Fintak*



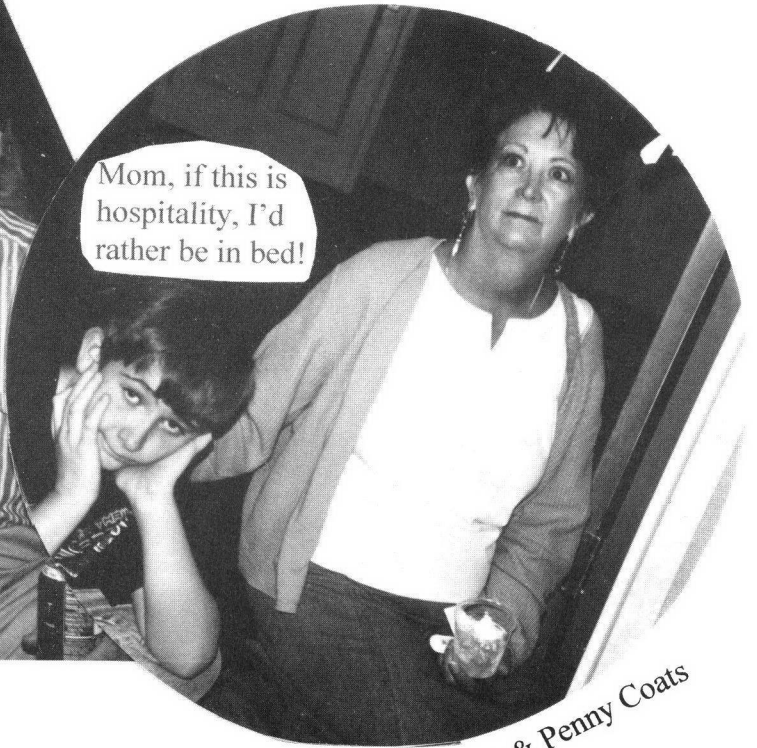
*Mike and Bob Ferguson*





We came this close to being captured!

Bill Miller & Guy Maddox



Mom, if this is hospitality, I'd rather be in bed!

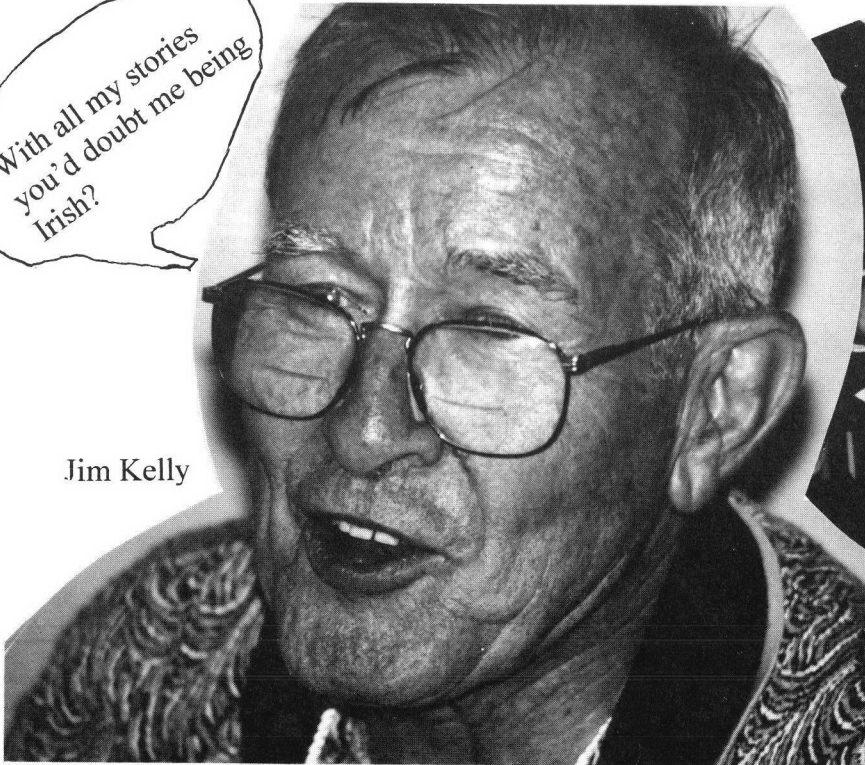
Robert & Penny Coats

# FOTO FUNNIES

Are you sure this is a won ton?

Robert & Penny Coats

With all my stories you'd doubt me being Irish?



Jim Kelly



Bill Bartee



**John Waters & Charlie Sellers**

**We figured What The Hell!  
A temporary job would help  
pay registration????!!\*\*\***



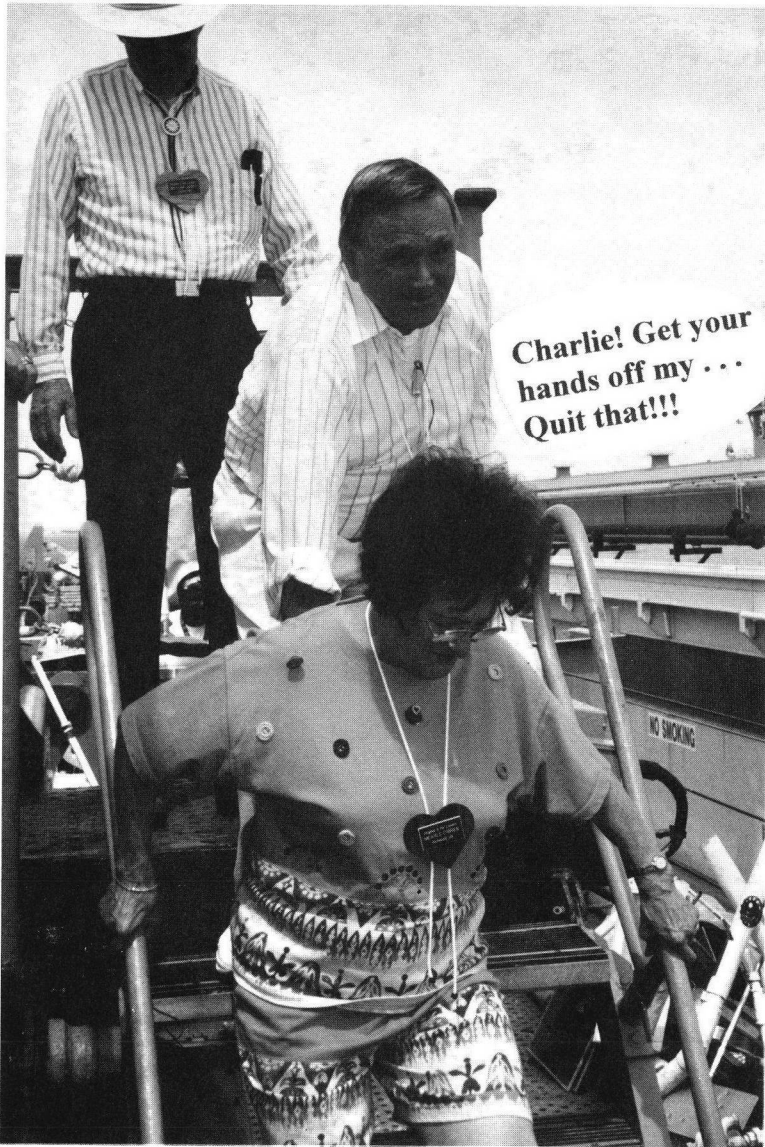
**Joya Goodson & Bill Hall**

**I swear to you, I'm  
having a great time!**

**My Gawd, Bob!  
You mean we have  
to go through all of  
this next year in Texas!**



**Dolores and  
Bob Sinks**



**Charlie and Mearle O'Brien**

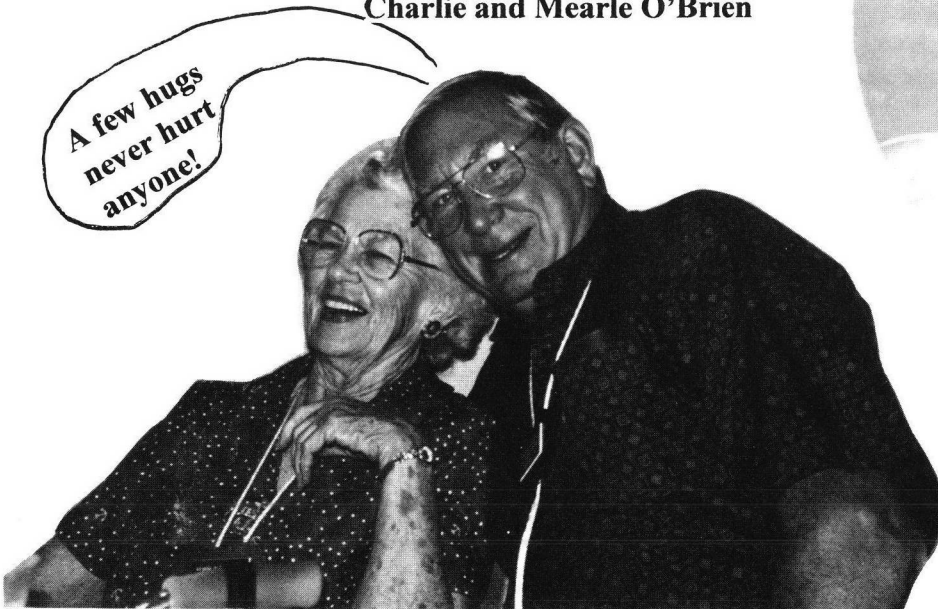


**Who'd you think! . . .Tom Turkey!!!**



**Richard Rutan**

**Should you wonder what ever happened to "Baby Dickie."**



**Kayte Petersen & Dick Parks**

**Gen. Weng Yen-ching  
Ceremoniously awards**

# SACO MEDALS

**Williamsburg, VA  
10 June 2000**

*It was indeed a pleasure to again welcome Gen. Weng to our reunion acting in behalf of MIB Director VAdm. Hsu Chu-Sheng, ROC Navy. Gen. Weng did these honors in Long Boat Key, FL in Sept. 1996. Gen. Weng looks forward to soon being retired and we wish him and Mrs. Weng many years of good health and happiness.*

**William A.  
Morrison**





***Ed Flanagan***



***James Reid***



***Thomas F. Welchel***



***R. Dale Duley***



**Charles W. Greene**



**Dr. William J. Powers**

## Welcome Aboard

In Paul Casamajor's quest for current information to replenish what his computer had 'thrown over-board' and prepare to publish a new directory, the responses reveal pleasant surprises!!! "In the first three weeks," Paul states, "we received 383 responses from 733 letters. We are pleased that we have received dues support from the following SACOs for the *First Time Ever!* (at least since 1986)" "Welcome Aboard!!!"

David A. Baker	MoMM3/c	Camp 8 Shanghai
Logan S. Chappell	Lt	Karagapur, India
Dale E. Gourley	BM2/c	Camp 7/Shanghai
Gerald Higgins	RM1/c	Calcutta/Camp 6
Alfred H. Inners	AerM1/c	Kunming/Chungking
Edward J. Lynch	Y1/c	Calcutta
Willard S. Lynch	Y1/c	Kunming
Malcolm MacGruer	1stLtMC	Camps2,5/Nanning
Richard Reeves	Lt	Kunming/14thAF
Roland D. Stover	CPhM	Calcutta/Chungking
Richard A. Tully	PIStMC	Calcutta/Hankow
Lawrence Watson	SC1/c	Chungking/14thAF
Horace L. Wilson	St/SgtMC	Chungking/Camp 10
Harry Zaacharko	S1/c	Calcutta

The remaining respondents - although paid dues some time in the past - left ship and either caught the wrong sampan, missed the ferry or shuttle - whatever, but we're glad to have you back on board????!!!\*\*\*

Casamajor states, "Including the 14 'first time' dues payers, the first three weeks of responses brought a total of \$2,090 of dues and donations from 61 of our SACOs to support our program."

These were among the first 385 responses (as stated) and we hope more is coming.

**WELCOME AND PLEASE. . .WON'T YOU STAY ON BOARD????!!!\*\*\***



## Williamsburg Roster

Bannier, Richard & Mathilda  
 Dike, Norman, Lyn and son, Don  
 Ciaccio, Sal & son, Vin  
 Morrison, Bill  
 O'Brien, Charles & Mearle  
 Booth, Elwood "Bud" & Ellen  
 Flanagan, Ed & Virginia  
 Tether, Charles & Ivaloe & son, Charles  
 Reynnet, Francis & Caroline & son, Dairus  
 Baker, Willie & Audrey  
 Petersen, Jack & Beverly & dtr, Jodi  
 Miller, Bill & Sissy  
 Echman, Helen (Bill Miller's sister)  
 Brown, Ken & Lillie  
 Miller, Jack & Ann  
 Hoe, Bob & Helen  
 Maddox, Guy & Patty  
 Clark, Bob and Betty  
 Coats, Jerry & Mary, dtr Penny & grdson, Robert  
 Miles, Charles  
 Duley, Dale & Mildred  
 Fintak, Leonard & Dolores  
 Rutan, Richard & Erma  
 Carrillo, Alex & Eloise  
 James, William  
 Hall, Bill & Bobbie  
 Ferguson, Robert & Mary & son, Michael  
 Clarke, Dave  
 Greene, Charles & Dolores  
 Howell, Bronson "Tex" & Phyllis  
 Reid, James & Louise  
 Tressler, Guy & Rosemary  
 Miller, Mona  
 Cochran, Alma  
 Miller, Dennis & Marsha  
 Westphal, John & Rosie  
 Fiduk, Stephen (Hump pilot)  
 Gilroy, Slim  
 Harrison, Al (friend of Slim)  
 Parks, Richard & Sue & grdson Joshua Cripe  
 Erwin, Sylvia

Welchel, Thomas  
 Tanner, Allen & Mary  
 Petri, Dick & Frances  
 Gats, Irene  
 Metzler, Jeff & Jean  
 Petersen, Kayte  
 Lampdicolico, Eleanor (Not even a close guess???)  
 Gee, Clarence & Norma  
 Sellers, Charles & Laura  
 Waters, John & Fran  
 Warner, Dean & Billi  
 Sinks, Bob & Dolores  
 Barteel, Bill  
 Hill, Bob & son, Bob, Jr.  
 White, Bill & Mary  
 Bowman, Nelson  
 Weskamp, Wes and Kathryn  
 Milliren, Howard & Pearl & son, John  
 Peterson, Josepha  
 Fleming, Andrew  
 Hubbard, Neal & Edith  
 Nelson, Hazel  
 Wogan, Anthony & Evelyn  
 Wunderlich, Keupie & Howard  
 Conway, Mike & Margaret  
 Alverson, Lee & Ruby  
 McGrail, Mary  
 Dodson, Jim  
 McDonough, Jennie  
 Fitzgerald, Joseph & Peg  
 Kelly, Jim  
 Bokus, Arthur  
 Parkin, Charlie & Marty  
 Summey, Lotte  
 Goodson, Wayne & Joya  
 Power, Wm J.  
 Bash, James  
 Karas, Larry & Georgia

*Note: cut me some slack - some of your "legal" signatures are known to you alone & if I don't know you - well, it ain't easy???!\*\*\* Was I even close?*

# FREDERICKSBURG, TX

7th Annual SACO Reunion Tuesday 8 to Sunday 13 May 2001

(Don't forget Mother's Day)

Finding yourself in Fredericksburg is truly like finding yourself in a part of the Old World. Fredericksburg, with its German flair, historic buildings, attractions, outdoor activities, shopping and fine food, offers something for the entire family.

Fredericksburg has always prized its deep roots that stem from its founding in 1846 by a group of German settlers led by John O. Meusebach.

Among Fredericksburg area attractions are three state parks, one municipal park, one wildlife management area and a national park. They are the Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, LBJ State and National Parks, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park and The Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area.

The National Museum of the Pacific War is dedicated to everyone who served in the Pacific in World War II under Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Admiral Nimitz, the last of the five-star admirals, was a native son of Fredericksburg. His grandparents were among the first settlers in the community and were the builders and proprietors of the Steamboat Hotel (c. 1852), the original building on the site. The complex now consists of the restored hotel, which houses on the first floor the history of Fredericksburg and the story of Admiral Nimitz's life; the George Bush Gallery; the Garden of Peace; The History Walk; the Memorial Wall; the Plaza of the Presidents; and the Admiral Nimitz Foundation Bookstore, filled with hundred of books and gifts relating to WWII.

Enchanted Rock is a 1.643 acre park that is home to the second largest granite dome in North America.

The LBJ State and National Parks offer a historical look at the late President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson. At the LBJ Ranchlands, located 16 miles east of Fredericksburg near Stonewall, a guided bus tour shows visitors the Texas White House, Old Junction School, LBJ's Birthplace and the Johnson Family cemetery.

Fredericksburg's architecture has also been preserved in a beautiful historic district. One of the outstanding features in the historical district are the quaint Sunday Houses, which are very small homes built in town by the German pioneers. At the time, most of the families lived in the rural areas surrounding Fredericksburg where they farmed and ranched. On weekends, however, they came to town for supplies, visit neighbors and attend church and stayed in their "in town" homes giving them the name, "Sunday House."

**FOR OUR GOLFERS** - Construction is completed on a new 6,800 square-foot golf course clubhouse on the grounds of the 18-hole Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Golf Course in Fredericksburg. Weekday green fees (non-members) \$17 & \$24 weekends. Cart fees \$9

Fredericksburg lays claim to over 40 restaurants and biergartens.

**AUF WIEDERSEHEN Until Fredericksburg in May 2001????!!\*\*\***



# TAI LI'S POST WAR LETTER

Editor's note: Due to poor quality of copy sheet, I will endeavor to copy same as near to original as possible - remaining pages are copies of originals.

Serial 555713

9 14 135

Op-13-1L/mj

2 Oct. 1945

From: Chief of Naval Operations

To: Chief of Naval Personnel

Subj: Ltr from Sin-ju Pu Hsiao, Colonel, Acting  
Military Attache and Friendship Project Officer,  
Chinese Embassy, to SecNav commanding Rear  
Admiral M. E. Miles, Captain I. F. Beyerly,  
Rear Admiral W. R. Purnell, Captain J.  
Metzel, and Captain H. T. Orville.

Encl: (A) Copy of Colonel Sin-ju Pu Hsiao's ltr to  
SecNav dated 12 Sept. 1945

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded for inclusion in the records of the officers concerned.

W. S. FARBER  
Sub Chief of Naval Operations

cc: CominCH

Op-05

Rear Admiral Miles, Naval Observer, Navy 169, FPO New York

Rear Admiral Purnell, (Rm illegible)

Captain Beyerly, Room 2732

Captain Metzel, Room 3806

Captain Orville, Room 1814

(COPY)

CHINESE EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON

September 12, 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am instructed to translate and transmit a communication addressed to you by General Tai Li, Personal Aide to the Generalissimo and Director of Sino-American Cooperative Organization, from Nanking, China, dated September 10, 1945.

"To the Honorable Secretary Forrestal: The unconditional surrender of our common enemy has taken place. Final victory for the United Nations has been achieved. The world now rejoices at the restoration of peace to this earth. May I have the honor of addressing you at this particular time to express the deep respect and high esteem which I long have held for you.

The early defeat of the enemy, however, was made possible mainly by the superior leadership and fighting strength of the United States Navy, whose successful exploits in the Pacific have inspired me with profound admiration. Please allow me to take this opportunity to convey to you my hearty congratulations.

With the full cooperation of the United States Navy, Friendship Project has attained remarkable achievements during the past three years. Between its American and Chinese members, there has developed, in the course of their work, a real sense of comradeship unprecedented by past experience. To the victory over the enemy, the contributions of Friendship Project cannot be estimated by mere words or figures. The tireless efforts and indefatigable spirit of Rear Admiral Miles, Captain Beyerly and all other officers and men in carrying through their innumerable tasks in China, together with the unflagging endeavors and steadfast exertions of Rear Admiral Purnell, Captain Metzger, Captain Orville and others in overcoming difficulties and providing for help and assistance from Washington, have incurred our boundless appreciation. But if it had not been for your unerring judgment in entrusting this important undertaking to the most competent and able, these officers would not have had the occasion to serve so successfully the common interest of the United States and China.

In this project of Sino-American Cooperative Organization during the war, the long-standing friendship between our two countries has been further strengthened. For the solution of the problems of peace that now awaits our coordinated efforts, it is hoped that the friendship and mutual cooperation that have brought us to victory will be even more consolidated to the benefit of Sino-American solidarity and world-wide security.

As Director of Sino-American Cooperative Organization, I have had the rare pleasure of working closely and constantly together with Admiral Miles and his officers and men. I cannot help but emphasize once more the truly outstanding records of Admiral Miles and Captain Metzler. It has been a great source of gratitude to me to note the Navy's fitting recognition of Admiral Miles' superb performance of duty by awarding him successive advancements in rank from Captain to Commodore and more recently to Rear Admiral. I am informed that Captain Metzler has, since August 1943, labored tirelessly and without regard for personal recognition for the success of Friendship Project more than any other officer in Washington. The results of his unremitting efforts are reflected in the great achievements of the Project and it is my sincere hope that Captain Metzler will be similarly rewarded.

For the invaluable services of the officers mentioned above, I can find only inadequate expressions of praise. Besides having submitted this information to Generalissimo Chiang to express his appreciation through Dr. T. V. Soong, I hereby instruct Colonel Sin-ju Pu Hsiao to represent me personally in paying my most cordial compliments to you and in wishing you good health. Signed Lt. General Tai Li."

May I personally take this opportunity to congratulate you for the victory of the Allied Nations and to report to you the great pleasure which has been afforded me in serving the United States Navy since December 1941.

May I also express my great admiration for Admiral Purnell and Captain Metzler. During all these years I have been closely associated with Captain Metzler, working on the various phases of the Friendship Project. Frequently, our conferences have lasted long into the night. He has always given unstintingly of his time, energy and technical knowledge to the allied cause. Personally, I have learned very much through this association.

Knowing how busy you are, I am transmitting this communication by courier letter instead of reporting in person which is, of course, my earnest desire. If you have any reply to be transmitted, I shall be only too

happy to comply with your wishes.

Very respectfully yours,

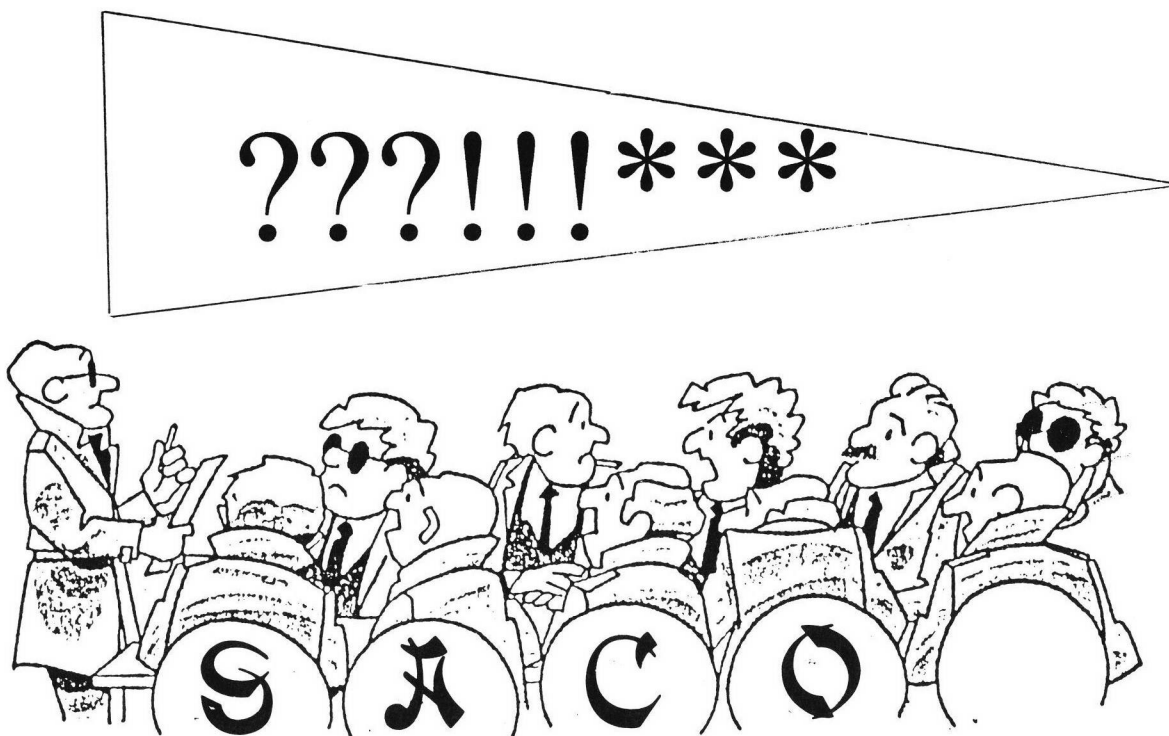
/s/ Sin-ju Pu Hsiao

Sin-ju Pu Hsiao, Colonel  
Acting Military Attache and  
Friendship Project Officer.

The Honorable James V. Forrestal  
Secretary of the Navy  
Navy Department  
Washington, D; C.

*Editor's note: My personal thanks to Admiral Jeffrey Metzel  
(son of Admiral Metzel, Miles' Washington attache) for this  
historic letter from his father's files.*

SPH:as



“Of course one of us is a spy, you idiot...we’re all spies!”

(Submitted by Frank Baillie, Assoc.)

# *What The Hell's The Ladies' Auxiliary All About?*

*by Sissy Miller*



Sissy's title was "What the Heck"  
but I figured "What The Hell?"  
(our second name isn't it? Ed.)

*The SACO Ladies' Auxiliary is an organization of the wives and/or widows of men who served as members of SACO during World War II and also wives of associate members of SACO.*

*The main focus of this group is to get acquainted, make newcomers feel welcome, attempt to generate interest among members of SACO to attend reunions and to keep in touch with one another. In other words, a support group for SACO.*

*An annual meeting is held in conjunction with the annual SACO reunion. Generally speaking, there is not a lot of business to discuss except for the election of officers and introductions of the newcomers. Probably the most important business is the annual contribution made to the Hua Hsing Childrens' Home in Taipei which was established by Madame Chiang Kai-shek. This project has been very close to our hearts, especially since a group of ladies was invited to visit the school during the Taiwan trip in 1995. This was a touching and heartwarming experience as well as gratifying to see these healthy, happy children so well cared for. The conclusion of our group was that our money was well used.*

*Our contributions have ranged from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 with some help from the men of SACO. Since our group is becoming smaller, our income also has lessened. Any extra contributions to this fund would be very welcome.*

*Why not come and join us in Fredericksburg, Texas for the 2001 SACO Reunion?*

(Thank you, Sissy, for an article about our **special SACO Ladies** that has been long overdue. We are proud of your charitable deeds which have strengthened the bond in Sino-American relations, particularly those relations shared by bringing together people of two extremely different cultures, which we were able to overcome, and fight together against our common enemy and win the battle. And the ultimate victory is that the friendship with our Chinese counterpart prevails stronger even today and we are grateful to all you ladies for joining us in the support of this unparalleled and everlasting devotion ???!!\*\*\* Ed.)

# War-Weary Skipper Begs For Rest

Vadm Miles wrote the following date and time 08 0900 (presumably Sept. 1945)

Send this top secret  
Encode it yourself

To Cominch -  
For Metzels eyes only:

Am at Nanking waiting for surrender ceremony x Request Bupers issue orders for me to report to Washington about 1st October for conference with Cominch.

First x I am tired and have (repeat) *have to rest* for one or two months x Second x A conference is really needed about present situation and possible future Chinese Navy plans x I repeat, I need rest and in accordance with the famous poem, *Laws of the Navy*, I quote:

*Pray for leave for the good of the service  
As long and as oft as may be* x unquote

By first October Seventh Fleet will be in Shanghai and believe Shanghai situation smooth x

Please hit the ball on this x

Miles

(Captain Beyerly encode in person)

*Editor's note: Again, I am deeply grateful to Admiral Jeffrey Metzels for another historic moment in our skipper's career.*



Skipper Miles shows the strain of war while speaking at Camp 9 in May 1945



# Howard Milliren's Trip Down Memory Lane

(As he wrote and submitted without editing)

As you know Roy Stratton's DoChina Group while attached to USNAVAL GROUP CHINA was actually an organization set up by NAVEXOS and appended to SACO because there was no other Naval Activity in China. Naval Group China was not under Wedemeyer's command - a fact which did not please him, and the Army was far from being co-operative or helpful generally when we needed them. On a person to person basis with some of the Army personnel we did have some helpful assistance...occasionally.

Roy Stratton was a Chief Pay Clerk when he recruited me into the Navy in 1941 as a Storekeeper Second Class at Great Lakes, Ill. I worked for Mr. Stratton for a little over a year at which time he was transferred to Londonderry, Ireland to set up a Supply Base. He was promoted to Lt. jg I believe at the time he was sent to Ireland. I stayed on at the Disbursing Office 9ND at Great Lakes, Ill. after Roy left.

Sometime in 1944 Roy was promoted to LCDR and sent to China to make a classified "Survey" of the need for and means to set up a Disbursing Office for Naval Group, China. The planning was "Grandiose" as was almost everything that Roy had anything to do with and he also made the whole thing very "hush hush". He was apparently given considerable latitude in how he would implement a DOCHINA operation, and what their "Charter" would be.

Roy presented his findings and his plan and NAVEXOS gave it the go-ahead. Roy was also permitted to pick his own crew (within limits.) He could get anybody he wanted for his group PROVIDED THEY HAD BEEN IN THEIR PRESENT ASSIGNMENT AT LEAST A YEAR. He had recruited me in 1941 and we had always gotten along very well. He trusted me and liked my work so he selected me to be on his team.

I remember in 1945 getting a call at home one night from Roy telling me to pack my bags that I was receiving Immediate Orders to Washington, D.C. FFT to an undisclosed location. These orders would require me to be detached and on my way in 2 days after receipt of the orders. I was appalled and unprepared...but I was in the Navy (a Lt. (jg) ) at the time and I had to get ready to go without the slightest indication of my destination. No clue as to what to pack etc... To make a long story short the orders were delayed in my receiving them for another two days so I had about 4 days to wind up my affairs and get to Washington.

I had never been to Washington and it was to be a new experience for me. Roy had put together a group to become the officer cadre for DOCHINA plus one Intelligence Officer, LCDR ED. MARTIN. Ed, Roy and I and Chief Cavasso were to travel together (on a priority 2) to our destination. We were ready to go when Roosevelt died. Nobody went anywheres until the funeral was over. So we ended up staying in Washington for about 10 days.

The Navy Department WW1 buildings were on Constitution Ave. in D.C. A bunch of rather dilapidated buildings but right on Constitution Ave. Constitution Ave was where the Funeral Cortage for Roosevelt passed and the War Department and Munitions Buildings were like Grand Stand Seats to the Parade.

When we finally did depart for our destination we flew out of Anacostia to Newfoundland, then to the Azores, over England and into Paris. Ed Martin was a devoted Catholic and "just had to visit the Cathedral in Paris." We were travelling on a Priority 2 and this didn't allow you time to sleep let alone visit Notre Dame Cathedral! But, leave it to Roy! He worked some sort of a deal with the despatcher and got us a day's layover in Paris.

After Paris we flew to Dijon, Leon (for gas) and on to Naples. Naples was sort of shot up, but the people were so friendly. Again Roy worked his magic and got us a day's layover in Naples. Then off to Athens, Greece. What a sorry place that was. We didn't mind not being able to lay over a whole day there. Then on to Cairo, Egypt. Here was a US Army base and we saw our first clean sheets since leaving the Broadmoor Hotel in D.C.

Now it was my turn to ask a favor. I wanted to visit the Sphinx and the pyramids. So I asked Roy to work his Magic for me so I could see these antique places. He did it again and we were all set to tour the Pyramids etc. the next day. In the meantime I took a shower and went to bed in a cot with clean sheets! 20 minutes later I awoke and my sheets were all bloody and my back and body was bleeding all over...BEDBUGS!!! What a disappointment...the first clean sheets in days and bedbugs!

I climbed out of bed and headed for the showers. Then I dressed and woke Roy and Ed and told them that there was no way I was spending the night or the next day in Cairo...to H---with the Pyramids! Roy woke the rest - who didn't have bedbugs for some reason - and we flagged a ride on the first flight out of Cairo to Abadam and Karachi. I liked Karachi and the Hotel, but we were not destined to spend much time there - just overnight -.

Next Stop was New Delhi. We were flying in a C47 with bucket seats and very little insulation etc. It was 125 degrees at the Airport in New Delhi and the Customs and Immigration left us sitting on the landing strip for over 30 minutes while they "sprayed" the outside and inside of our plane. The Airport Officials were a surly and not too friendly group and after leaving us sitting in the plane at 125 degrees for what seemed like forever, they let us out of the plane to stretch our legs. I had a K Ration Chocolate Bar in my pocket and it completely melted while we sat on the airstrip. If you will recall you couldn't cut one of those K ration chocolate bars with an axe, yet it practically became a chocolate drink in my pocket.

Even IF I could have arranged it - and I would have liked to see the Taj Mahal in New Delhi, the weather was so unbearably hot and the officials at the airport so unfriendly, I didn't really mind, too much, not being able to visit the Taj Mahal. So on to Calcutta. In 1945 India was, to me at least, unbelievable!!! There were so many absolutely unbelievable things happening daily as a matter of course! Also the weather was hot and the smells while hard to describe, were certainly always present.

Because we were Navy and more or less personas non grata with the Army and the Army Airforce (who owned all the transportation land and air out of Calcutta) we had several days in trying to get transportation "Over the Hump" into Burma and China. This gave us a few days to "explore" Calcutta. The first thing that I decided was that RIPLEY had certainly come to the right place to do his "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" cartoons. There were things happening every day which were very unlike anything we had ever witnessed. Inconceivable is a good description.

Calcutta is on the Hoogley River and the Burning Ghats (Crematory) was on the banks of the Hoogley in a specially paved area etc. Even though we were "confined" to the tented area where we were billeted, there wasn't any check on your activities so we decided to look around the city. To this day I am still



impressed and I keep in my memory like it was yesterday the striking differences in the living condition and everything that existed in India. The magnificent JAIN Temple is located next to unbelievable squalor and this was, in large part, the way so much of Calcutta was in those days.

The Burning Ghats were an experience of a lifetime. Our curiosity led us to these Ghats on the banks of the Hoogley River where we witnessed several cremations. I could describe the ceremonies, but it would take too much space. Sufficit to say there were bodies on shelves awaiting "their turn" to be cremated. The ceremonies would depend in large part on the finances of the family. Some were quite elaborate with Teak Wood being used for the funeral pyre and others just any wood that would at least partially burn up the remains. At the end of the ceremony all the unburned lumber and the remains of the body were gathered up and thrown into the Hoogley River. Oh yes, I forgot to mention that people were doing their laundry, bathing and other "unmentionables" on the bank of the Hoogley by the Burning Ghats where the unburned remains were dumped.

One recollection that I will never forget...while we were watching the "burnings", we were also looking around at what seemed to be an "inventory" of bodies waiting their turn to be cremated. They were stacked on ledges/shelves waiting their turn to be cremated. One body, a young woman, was laying on one of the shelves - apparantly awaiting "her turn" to be cremated. Flies were crawling over her face and in her mouth and body. She sure looked like a "candidate" for the flames...but during one of the cremations she got up and walked away! BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

I can see how Ripley could gather enough "stuff" for his Believe It Or Not articles and his Odditorium.

Because the Army and Army Airforce had no interest in trying to get us over the hump and into China we had to resort to CNAC (commercial). Whereas the Army fliers climbed to 15000 ft. or higher and flew over the Himalayas, CNAC flew THROUGH the mountains. They flew through the passes at low levels dodging the mountains. They landed in Burma for gas and to continue on to China. The Burmese were surly, suspicious and uncooperative. They seemed to resent and hate everybody who wasn't Burmese. I was glad to get out of there and fly into China....WHAT A CHANGE!!! Chinese people smiled at you and kids waved. You felt welcome and they shouted "Ding How". and held up their fist with the thumb extended. All the time I was in India I never saw anybody smile. I guess they have nothing to be happy about and certainly thier life style and climate was not conducive to smiling.

In China we landed at Kunming. The Flying Tigers were using the makeshift Airport in Kunming. Kunming was nothing much but miles of Rice Fields and the Burma Road. There were a few other roads, but none were paved - even in town. Kunming was at about 6500 ft. of altitude and had a delightful year around climate. But that is about all it did have to offer.

Pearl and I went back to Kunming last year and WHAT A CHANGE!!! It is now a beautiful, modern city of 2 1/2 million inhabitants. The people are well dressed, the town is magnificent and the 19 different Races inhabiting Kunming were very attractive people. The girls were indeed very beautiful . And everyone was so friendly. Pearl and I plus my niece and nephew went to Kunming together. Our guide, a nice young lady, took us to a restaurant one night where we were given a menu with items on it I had never before seen. So we tried several. Besides these main dishes we were served rice and soup etc. The Total Bill for the 4 of us was US\$6.50 and the waitress refused a tip! Unbelievable!

I used to say if I ***had to pick another place to live outside the USA*** (God Forbid) , I would pick Shanghai, but after seeing the metamorphoses of Kunming I would certainly have to think real hard which to select.

Well, this has been sort of a trip down memory lane. I know we can't relive the past (even if we wanted to), but it is sort of fun to speculate on what might or could have been if.....

???!!!\*\*\*

(The following poem was sent to me by a friend, Roy Benson - who also sent the Alzheimer's poem on p.86 - stating the story is true. I do not know the poet Ward)

### A HUNTER'S POEM

A hunter shot at a flock of geese  
That flew into his reach;  
Two were stopped in their flight  
And fell on the sandy beach.

The male bird lay at the water's edge  
And just before he died,  
He faintly called to his wounded mate  
And she dragged herself to his side.

She bent her head and crooned to him  
In a way distressed and wild;  
Caressing her one and only mate  
As a mother would a child.

Then covering him with her broken wing  
And gasping with failing breath -  
She laid her head against his breast -  
A feeble honk . . . then death.

This story is true though crudely told;  
I was the man in this case.  
I stood knee-deep in the snow and cold  
And the hot tears burned my face.

I buried the birds in the sand where they lay,  
Wrapped in my hunting coat,  
And I threw my gun and belt in the bay  
When I crossed in the open boat.

Hunters will call me a right poor sport  
And scoff at the thing I did,  
But, that day, something broke in my heart  
And shoot again? God forbid!

by Lemuel T. Ward

**Editor's note: Circumstances due to the monumental and time consuming task that has been Paul Casamajor's, the obituaries are incomplete and will be available for the next issue.**

**Also, the donor list is not compiled and will be printed next issue.**

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### AN OPEN LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Mrs. Pomahac:

I can't begin to express my gratitude for the photographs that were your late husband, Earl's. You had sent them to Charlie O'Brien in Williamsburg. When I came across them, I asked Charlie if I could have them for all of us to share through SACO NEWS. They are of such historical value and I am so grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in allowing us to "inherit" this treasure. The history of our people in SACO is forever preserved in photos of what once was. (Five of these photos appear in the Nostalgic Section of this issue.)

As time goes on, we'll all (especially those of Camp #9) enjoy the memories brought to life by your valuable gift of pictures of the past.

From all of us, our sincerest thanks for your wonderful contribution to our group.

We would welcome you to join us at a reunion should you ever desire to do so. Several widows do.

With fondest regards, we wish you well and please know that you will be remembered for renewing precious memories.

Richard L. Rutan, Editor





*Frank  
and  
Lilyan*



**Frank Tao  
Taiwanese Official**

Frank Tao, 84, who spent the last 42 years doing press and other work and at what is now the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, the unofficial Taiwanese embassy in Washington, died of cardiac arrest July 8 at the National Lutheran Home in Rockville.

Mr. Tao was a native of Shanghai, where he graduated in 1939 from St. John's University. He was a reporter in China and did work

for the information ministry before moving to New York in 1945 to work for the then-Nationalist-government's Chinese News Service as an editor, among other duties.

In 1958, nine years after China fell to Communist rule, Mr. Tao came to the Washington area as a press attaché at the Nationalist Chinese embassy. He was an embassy spokesman when, in 1979, the United States recognized mainland China and severed formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan. He retired from the embassy in

1979 and also had a residence in Bethesda. He was a member of the National Press Club.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Lilyan Tao of Bethesda; a son, Freeman, of Rockville; a daughter, Margaret Consie of Newark, Del.; a sister; and four grandchildren.

(The foregoing obituary from the Washington Post, date 7-11-00 was submitted by Bill Sager and also was sent to Bill Bartee by Murray & Enid Miles. Bartee forwarded same to me along with note from Murray. Ed.)

Bill (Bartee)

Enid and I went to the memorial service for Frank Tao and we talked to Lilyan.

There was an impressive group from the Taipei economic and Cultural Representative Office. Mr. C.J. Chen, the Representative, delivered a detailed history of Frank's work and the author John Lewis gave a moving testimonial.

Frank Tao was an excellent friend of SACO.

Murray

### FRANK TAO

- Born in Shanghai, China July 9, 1916
- Education
- Attended Yenching University (Peiping, China 1935-1937
- Graduated with honors from St. John's University, Shanghai, China 1939 with a B.A. in Journalism
- Married Lilyan Leung, A Chinese Red Cross volunteer, in 1943.

- Career
- *China Press*, Acting Circulation Manager 1938 - 1939
- *China Weekly Review Special* Correspondent, 1940 - 1941
- Ministry of Information (Chungking, China) - International Dept. 1939 - 1945
- *The China Handbook*, Member - Board Of Directors 1937 - 1945
- *China After Seven Years of War* - one of the authors, 1946
- Chinese News Service (New York, NY), Press, Visual, and subsequently information Department Chief and Editor, 1945 - 1958
- Embassy of the Republic of China/CCNAA/TECRO (Washington, D.C.) Press Attache. Press Counselor, Advisor, Senior Advisor 1958 - time of death
- Professional Affiliations
- Member, National Press Club (Washington, D.C.)
- Member, Board of Directors Sino-American Culture Society Washington, D.C.)

Editor's Note: As most of you know, Frank and Lilyan were regulars annually at our reunions. Lilyan said Frank loved SACO and wanted so bad to again attend another during his illness. She stated he enjoyed our publication while he was confined to a care facility. We will miss Frank and hope some day, Lilyan, you can again be with us. SACO sends you our love.

# GENERAL TAI LI

## HIS DEATH REVEALS ANIMOSITY, JEALOUSY, AND POWER STILL PREVALENT IN WAR'S AFTERMATH

Washington Denies Miles to attend Gen. Tai's funeral.  
Generalissimo Chiang tells Miles Tai Li will not be buried until  
Miles returns.

(From the Skipper's *A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR*) *he writes:*

"It was on the twentieth of March 1946 that I was given the tragic news, and Admiral Nimitz, who had become Chief of Naval Operations, called me to say that a letter was being prepared by the Secretary of the Navy for me to carry to the funeral. The plane of the Chief of Naval Operations would be ready for me in the morning.

"I asked about the Legion of Merit which I knew had been awarded.

"It's here," the admiral told me. "We'll have it ready also, for you to present to Tai Li's son."

"At home we had arranged a dinner party for that evening in order to celebrate my wife's birthday, and in the midst of it, I was called to the phone. It was Admiral Edwards who was calling, and he told me in a depressed and toneless voice that the trip was off - that I should come to his office in the morning to be told the details.

"When I reached him the next day, I learned that on the previous afternoon, while a letter of condolence was being prepared for the generalissimo, General Marshall recently back from China, walked into Secretary Forrestal's office and said that he understood that they were sending me out to attend Tai Li's funeral. They admitted, of course, that that was the case, whereupon General Marshall said that if I went, he would ask President Truman to cancel his own orders. If any aid or comfort whatever, he said, were to be given to Tai Li or his successor, it would prejudice the delicate negotiations he was promoting between the Communists and the Nationalists because Tai Li was known to be the foremost Chinese anti-Communist.

"Admiral Edwards was troubled of course, and Secretary Forrestal seemed personally concerned because I was not to go. Because of this, I mentioned the fact that Commander Charles Johnston was flying out. He, I suggested, could take my letters to Tai Li's family and to the generalissimo. If the Secretary wished him to do so, I added, he could also take the medal. Under the circumstances, this seemed a reasonable suggestion, and the Secretary gave me verbal authority to send the medal.

"I attended to the matter at once and, in preparing a message to the generalissimo, I explained that circumstances beyond my control prevented my attending General Tai Li's funeral.

"Back through the Chinese ambassador, and with little loss of time, came the generalissimo's reply. He understood my problem, he said, and added that although they would hold funeral ceremonies in the various places in China, the actual burial would be postponed until my arrival.

"IN Shanghai, Admiral Cooke, who carried the medal, and Captain Beyerly started for the Nanking funeral service. They were met at the airport by representatives of General Marshall's staff, who said that Admiral Cooke could not attend the funeral service, nor could he present the medal.

"The admiral was naturally irate. It had been as a result of his personal request for aid that General Tai Li had died, but the admiral's hands were tied. No single representative of the United States was to be permitted to attend the final rites of the Chinese general!

"General Marshall seemed to believe that as between the Chinese Nationalists who had been our allies during the war, and the Chinese Communists who had not, we had to preserve a 'neutral attitude.' It would appear that neither then nor later was he ever able to see that because of this attitude, he not only gave comfort to the Communists but also, whether intentionally or not, played an important part in the ultimate defeat of the Nationalists.

"General Tai's men, it is important to say, remained loyal.

"Although General Tai Li is dead,' a letter from Mr. Pan told me, 'his spirit is with us forever. I have not the slightest doubt that the friendship between Miles and Tai will continue to shine forever. Once again I am back in the political circle though I had planned to shake myself from these entanglements and become a free soul in the

mountains, retired as a monk. Physically, I am of this world, but spiritually, I am elsewhere.'

"It was Eddie Liu who translated that letter for me and when he had finished, he sat looking at nothing for a moment.

"Mr. Pan,' he said presently, 'worked the hardest, remained to be the obscurest and gained the least.'

"On the first of September 1946, my wartime promotion having been 'temporary,' I was 'remoted to captain,' as I heard my office messenger explain. And with the beginning of 1947, Admiral King backed my selection for a coveted seagoing job in command of a cruiser. It is true that I was perturbed that this particular cruiser - the USS *Columbus* - was to spend a year along the China coast where my Chinese friends might not look upon my demotion as a mark of confidence unless, of course - like Navy folk - they realized how important the command could be to my career. But having reached China again, 'remoted' or not, my friends proved cordial. Before my ship had negotiated the turns in the Yangtze and come in sight of Shanghai, launches were delivering enough high-ranking Chinese military men to change her displacement. And this, I was glad to note, was a greeting to a friend - not to an ex-admiral.

"In a few days, General Chen Kai-ming came in from Nanking with a message from the generalissimo. It concerned a date for Tai Li's burial now that I was back in China. Considering the previous difficulties, I naturally informed Admiral Cooke.

"The admiral was still resentful at having been denied the right, the year before, of extending his sympathy and expressing his feeling at the loss of a friend and associate. He would refer my request to go to the burial

he said, back to the Navy Department since, after a year, the Chinese Communists were quite visibly playing us for what they could get out of us. Furthermore, no delicate negotiations were now in the balance.

"The answer was, 'No.'

"But when this abrupt and unexplained reply reached me, I got a private message, also. It was from Admiral Cooke, and it said that if I were to ask to leave to visit Nanking - unofficially and in civilian clothes - he would grant it.

"So, I asked for leave, not only for my self, but also for Pete Moll, my chief yeoman who had been with Tai Li and me on our last trip of the war. We wanted to go, my request said, in order to attend the burial of a dear friend, and to call upon another.

"At the station in Shanghai, railroad guards formed a guard of honor to pass us through the crowd. Eight cars of the ten-car train were filled with men who were to attend Tai Li's burial. I was given generous space in a private compartment which, during much of the journey, was packed with friends. In Nanking the following morning, a company of troops rendered honors to me - a company made up of men from the last class trained at Camp Seven. During the war, their specialty had been the sabotage of Japanese-held railroad lines. Now they had become specialists in anti-sabotage because the Communists were attacking all along the line.

"But now, my good friend, Captain Bill Kenney, our naval attache in Nanking, found me and told me he had a problem. He had The Legion of Merit medal, he said that had been awarded to General Tai. But, he pointed out a bit explosively, he also had orders not to present it officially. What, he asked should he do with it?

"That's your business," I told him, for the truth is that I didn't know how to answer his question. But then I went on. 'If the Navy prefers to be guided by Communists via Secretary of State Marshall, you are stuck with the medal. For I shall certainly recommend to Tai Li's son that he either receive the medal officially or that he refuse to receive it at all.'

"The citation that accompanied the medal, incidentally, referred to Tai Li's 'notable spirit of loyalty and unswerving cooperation and devotion to the needs of the U. S. Navy.' But did the Navy back up these words? No. It backed down. It not only neglected to express its gratitude to Tai Li as it should have done, but it also put my friend, Bill Kenney, in a most degrading position.

"On the day of Tai Li's burial, a typical procession went through the city of Nanking bearing floats with a flower-wreathed picture of General Tai Li and tablets in his praise. Ancient Chinese horns - the great, deep toned ones that are so long they have to be carried by two men - made the traditional discordant sounds.

"Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and I were the two chief mourners and I went first, representing the Chinese and Americans of SACO. I was followed by several hundred of Tai Li's officers, and a major general, serving as master of ceremonies, gave the directions: 'Funeral music,' - 'Off hats.' - 'Bow three times: once, second, third.' - 'On hats.' - 'Three minutes meditation.' - 'Stop meditation.' - 'Present incense.' - 'Present flowers.' - 'Present coins.' - 'Present wine.'

"The presentations were made by four young ladies who brought the articles to me, whereupon I raised them to eye level and then handed them to another girl who

Cont'd p.81

# SICK BAY

prescriptions did little help. Last winter my condition got worse, and I finally went to see an ENT specialist. . . he came to the conclusion that I have a cancerous tumor...At that point, my ENT doctor immediately referred me to one of the best Medical Oncologists in the area for treatment. He prescribed 3 Chemotherapy treatments and had the first one administered April 3. It did cause a great deal of discomfort and nausea, making me physically very weak for the first 10 days."

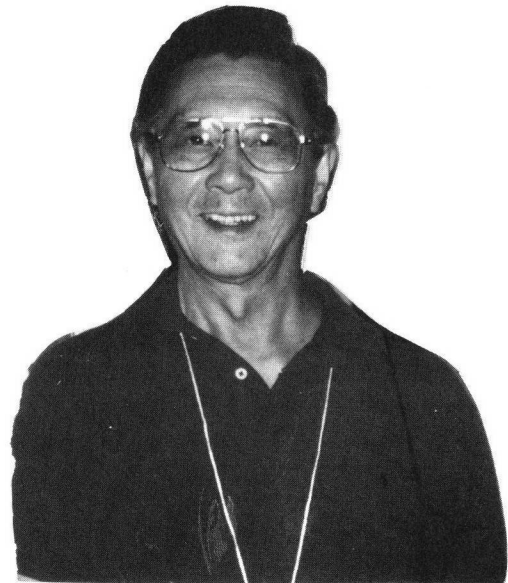


Rita & Art

Rita Olsen is recovering from quadruple by-pass surgery last July 11. Evelyn Wogan has been kind enough to let me know that it has been slow, but Rita is making progress daily.

+++

James Dunn was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor called T-Cell lymphoma behind his nose. He writes, "I have had a bad stuffy nose for years. Several doctors told me it's caused by some kind of allergies, but their



Jimmy has called me recently and he's doing pretty well but has lost weight as nothing tastes good to him. Believe he told me he's been on radiation following chemotherapy. He sounded encouraged, but is slow in getting his strength back. Ed.

+++

Julius & Helen Ulaneck have both had a rough time. As you know, Julius suffered severe illness in Hawaii a couple years past and has innumerable surgeries after returning to Chicago following his heart attack in the islands and this last January, it was Helen's turn to contract pneumonia while in Hawaii.





**From *SHIFT COLORS* - Newsletter for Navy Retirees**  
(Submitted by Bill Bartee)

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July - September 2000

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## Retroactive Combat Action Ribbon eligibility for Naval veterans announced

*By Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Public Affairs)*

Navy and Marine Corps veterans who served in combat in or after World War II are now eligible to receive the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR). Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig has recently authorized this award for those who served in combat, but never received their CAR.

“At a time when we are focusing on the contributions of these great Americans, this seems especially fitting,” said Danzig.

In order to be eligible for the CAR, veterans must have participated in ground or surface combat after Dec. 6, 1941, but before March 1, 1961, and cannot already have been recognized for the same participation.

Under Public Law 106-65, Danzig can award the CAR to veterans retroactively. The time period required for submission is being waived in all cases.

Danzig has designated two blocks of time for eligibility of the CAR: World War II: Dec. 7, 1941 - April 14, 1946; Korea: June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1954.

Navy Veterans who served during these periods may write directly to the Navy Awards Branch for settlement at:

**Chief of Naval Operations (N09B33)  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000**

The following information must be provided: Standard Form 180 or cover letter with the following information: full name, social security number, service number (if applicable), period of eligibility, unit assigned at the time, and mailing address and a copy of Naval Personnel Form 553 or Defense Department (DD) Form 214; DD-215 (if applicable).

Additional substantiating documentation is optional: copies of combat awards; copies of evaluations; muster sheets or orders showing assignment to the unit for the period requested.

A special section will handle these requests, but no other awards may be requested in conjunction with the CAR. Only CAR requests dated after March 15, 2000, and in accordance with the prescribed guidance will be forwarded to the board for decision. Any prior requests must be resubmitted.

If a veteran cannot provide the required documentation, a request for personal record information must be submitted to the St. Louis Records Center before submitting the request to the Navy Awards Board.

If a veteran desires to address a different period of time, a request to review the period may be sent, with substantiating documentation, to the Navy Board of Decorations and Medals at the above address.

- Reprinted from Navy News Service

## ■ SERVICE

### VFW Offers Korean War Medal for Members

As the world prepares to observe the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, GIs who helped fight it are finally eligible for a long-awaited form of tangible recognition from Korea. The Republic of Korea War Service Medal, created by South Korea in 1951, was recently authorized by the Pentagon as an official award for U.S. Korean War vets.

And now VFW members who qualify for the medal can obtain it through the organization. It will be distributed only to eligible VFW members who served in Korea during the war, 1950-1953.

Supply, however, is limited. VFW initially ordered 2,000 medals in April, and officials believe they will be distributed quickly. Although the organization paid \$17,000—or \$8.50 for each medal—eligible VFW members may obtain them for only \$5.

“VFW’s leaders decided this was an appropriate method of honoring the organization’s Korean War vets during the war’s 50th anniversary,” said VFW Commander-in-Chief John Smart. “Those veterans sacrificed so the people of South Korea could live free from the tyranny of communism. Their service may have been forgotten by some, but it never will be forgotten by VFW.”

The medal’s \$5 fee will cover eligibility verification, processing and postage.

VFW will distribute only one medal to each member who qualifies. To order a medal, members must send their name, address and copies of their DD-214s or discharge papers (military orders showing eligibility also will be accepted) to:

KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL  
VFW National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111.

### Medal Approved 48 Years Late

The government of South Korea created the medal nearly 50 years ago in appreciation for foreign soldiers who helped fight its war against North Korea and China. All nations but one authorized their Korean War veterans to wear it. For reasons never fully explained, U.S. veterans were prohibited.

That all changed on Aug. 20, 1999, when the Pentagon finally approved the medal as an offi-



KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

cial award to be worn on military uniforms.

According to VFW’s Director of National Security and Foreign Affairs Bruce Harder, South Korea (officially the Republic of Korea) sets the eligibility requirements because it is a ROK award, not a U.S. award.

He says that to be eligible for this foreign medal, veterans must have:

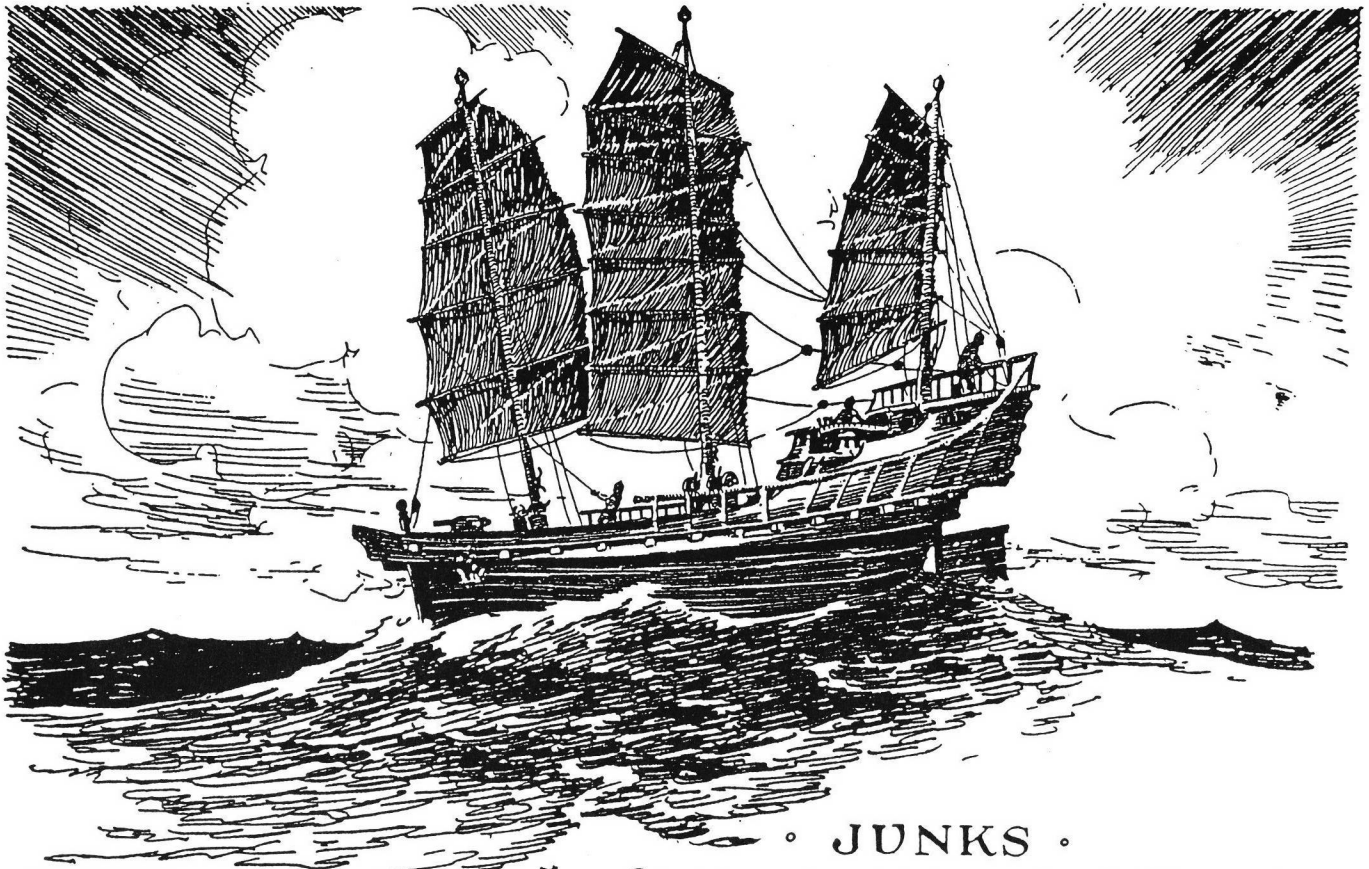
- served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953;
- been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days; and
- performed their duty within the territorial limits of, in the waters immediately adjacent to or in aerial flight over Korea while supporting or participating in combat.

According to the Pentagon, the Republic of Korea plans to produce 300,000 Korea War Service Medals over the next two years. Distribution has yet to be determined.

## VFW Veterans HELPLINE

Call if you have questions, concerns or issues about VA care you are receiving.

**(800) VFW-1899**



• JUNKS •

These Oriental vessels got their name from English seamen's mispronunciation of the Chinese word "Cheung." On close inspection, the hulls of these little ships will be found to still adhere in almost every detail to the great Magellan's craft, from which they were copied. Even the sail plan is obviously a crude attempt to imitate the sails of the famous Portuguese exploration ships.

*(Submitted by Frank Baillie, Assoc. Member)*

Secretary/Treas.  
 Denver Keplinger  
 79 Caesar Circle  
 Amherst, OH 44001



**THANKS FOR THE PIX**

**To all of you who sent snapshots of activities in Williamsburg, my sincere thanks. Among those that I recall:**

- Arnold, Carolyn**
- Bartee, Bill**
- Clark, Betty**
- Booth, Ellen**
- Dike, Norm**
- Miller, Jack**
- Tether, Charles**

# Carolyn Inman Arnold of Inman Films, Inc. Pursues TV Documentary of SACO



Joel Klandrud      Carolyn      Dave Klandrud  
Asst Cameraman    Inman      Director &  
& Photographer    Arnold      Cameraman

16 September 2000

I'm happy to report that the making of the documentary is still on course, albeit slowly now that the NFL season has kicked into high gear. (My 'real' job is that of a freelance broadcasting engineer). Now that I've had a taste of the amount of work it takes to put together such a project, I realize that my early anticipations of having the documentary completed by September were too ambitious. We will see the year 2001 before the final cut is complete, so please put on your 'patience' cap and bear with me!

In talking with professional documentary filmmakers, I've learned that the average amount of time, in order to make a documentary, is 50 hours per week for three

months. This assumes that they have two or three months. This assumes that they have two or three assistants and no secondary job.

In short, we are doing fine! Forty-six hours of tape and over 2000 photographs were obtained from the reunion - all of which has to be input into the computer for editing.

Technically speaking, everything that came back from Williamsburg was a great success. Lighting, audio and video were better than I had anticipated. In addition, we have been acquiring footage from the U.S. National Archives documenting many SACO activities taking place on Mainland China.

Much thanks to all those who have contributed articles, photos and interviews. The dream of telling the SACO story could not take place if it were not for its members. The enthusiasm has been contagious! In addition, I'd like to thank the Miles family for sharing the Admiral's photo albums containing precious documentation of SACO's contributions behind enemy lines. And a hearty 'Thank You' to General Weng Yen-ching for his superb interview - a modern day demonstration of the cooperative effort that served as the underlying foundation for the 'Friendship Project.'

The members of SACO continue to amaze me and with a group like this, I now realize that dreams CAN come true and that nothing is impossible.

Thank you for all your encouragement and support!

Carolyn

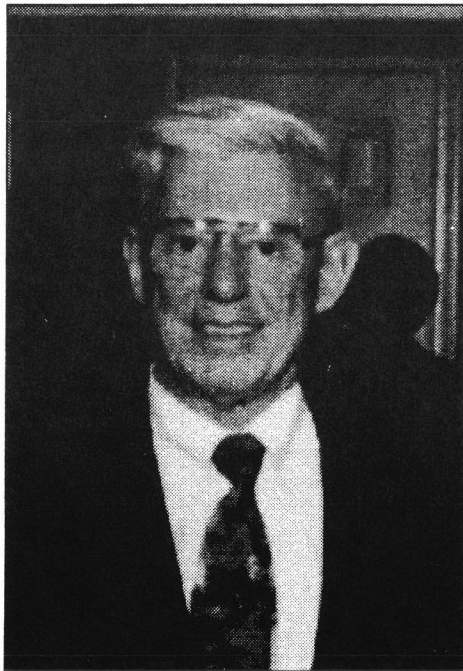
PS: Labeled photographs are still welcome. (There's no such thing as having too much material to draw from.) If you have anything that you think would apply, feel free to send them my way. Items will be copied and the originals returned to you. I especially need more photographs of the Gobi desert, the coast and of Kunming.

Carolyn Inman Arnold  
1250 S. Euclid Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91106-4218 (626) 441-2009

## DEFENDERS OF THE LAND

# *Aleck Primos*

Northsider serves country  
during war in SACO  
opposing, frustrating  
Japan's control



Aleck Primos

**By VICE ADMIRAL  
MALCOLM W. CAGLE  
Special To the Sun**

PRIMOS IS A prominent name in Jackson, Mississippi. "SACO" is not prominent in Jackson, or anywhere else in the United States. Even China—or Japan—or Taiwan.

SACO stands for "Sino-American Cooperative Organization."

In early 1942, soon after the surprise December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Navy of Japan, a new and secret organization was created under the umbrella of a new alphabet soup USSFFE: "United States Strategic Forces in the Far East."

As the depression years waned in the early 1930s after Franklin Delano Roosevelt became president, massive world changes erupted world wide. Adolph Hitler had created a new Nazi Germany, a juggernaut which soon swallowed Poland, Austria and Hungary, overreached Greece and the northern shores of Africa and threatened France and Great Britain. Joseph Stalin's Communist Russia had swallowed vast areas of Southern Europe. Japan was advancing rapidly to control China and South East Asia, as well as parts of the Dutch Empire, and planning to attack Pearl Harbor and seize the Philippines.

It was indeed a world of turmoil.

What follows is certainly a cloak-and-dagger story, even cops and robbers, for the United States would secretly increase her support and involvement in China to assist and aid SACO, an organization whose activities extended from the borders of the Gobi Desert, to French Indo-China, and from the Himalayan Mountains in western China to China's Pacific seaboard.

And SACO's involvement was both frontally against Japan's war in the Far East and inside Japan's occupation forces inside China.

SACO is the story of some 3,000 American "advisors" who were to oppose and frustrate Japan's growing control of mainland China. Under cover of darkness and secrecy, SACO would destroy highways, railroads, bridges, tunnels and supply facilities to disrupt and harass the advancing Japanese.

Most of these Americans in uniform in SACO were members of the United States Marine Corps, Navy, Army Air Corps, and U.S. Coast Guard, who could not even hold a simple conversation using any of the dialects of the Chinese.

Of the 3,000 Americans who served in SACO, nearly all would safely return to their homes. (Only five men in uniform assigned to SACO would lose their lives in

the 12-24 months of service as "guerrilla advisors.)

This is the account of Aleck Angelo Primos who spent nearly 16 months as a part of this all-but-forgotten, guerrilla, fighting and training effort.

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**WHEN WORLD WAR II** began, Aleck Primos was in his first year at Tulane University in New Orleans. His family was widely known and respected in Jackson. His father ("A.A.") had emigrated from Greece in 1914 and later married an American lady with a French family named Vergis.

Aleck wanted to get into the war as soon as possible. He was in his first year of NROTC. (At that time, there were only four universities in the south who had Navy ROTCs: Texas, Oklahoma, Rice and Tulane. Tulane's ROTC had begun in 1939).

Aleck had attended Central High School in Jackson. The principal at Central High School had sent his file to Tulane saying "He's tops!"

That was good enough for the Naval ROTC at Tulane. They didn't notice that Aleck had not taken physics—which was a Navy "must."

"I'd never have made it into Tulane if they'd noticed," he now says.

Soon after World War II began, Aleck and his future wife Billie Claude Pierce, who was then at Millsaps, fell in love and began making plans for a spring wedding in the spring of 1942.

The war intervened and Aleck was commissioned with the junior class along with the seniors at Tulane and advised he would soon be called into active service.

Aleck had wanted to be in the surface Navy — maybe a destroyer, a cruiser or battleship..

So he and Billie Claude prepared to be married at Ghent Memorial Methodist Church in Norfolk.

"I brought the entire wedding party to Norfolk, and after we were married and had a few days in that area, I was expecting orders to some nearby Norfolk ship. So I was surprised to be told to get to Washington to see Chief NavPers. Why did he want to see me?"

When his BuPers interview was over, he soon had orders to the Pacific to something called SACO.

He left Billie Claude, not to see her again for 18 months. Instead, after a 30 day slow boat trip to China, he debarked at Bombay, India, then to Calcutta, then over the "Hump" into China.

He now began in-area training which he recalls as "disciplined" and "challenging."

As an officer on special and secret duty, he was soon living in primitive conditions, walking, climbing and hiding in mountains and digging defenses.

But he would have "per diem" pay of \$12.50.

From June 1, 1944 to July 1, 1945, SACO guerrillas, sometimes led by U.S. Marine and Navy officers, killed 23,540 Japanese soldiers, captured 291 more, destroyed 209 bridges, 84 locomotives and 141 ships, sampans and river craft. In addition, SACO rescued 30 Allied pilots and 56 airmen from the dense jungles.

**WHEN THE PACIFIC** War ended with the impressive surrender orchestrated by General Douglas MacArthur on board the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Aleck assumed he could soon go home.

Wrong.

He had one chance to leave China 20 days after the war ended as a passenger on a naval transport from the pier of Wangpu in Shanghai.

As he boarded his go-home ship, a freighter which was repatriating 5,000 Japanese internees from China to Japan, preceded Aleck's ship down the Yangtze and hit a sea mine.

The skipper of Aleck's ship acted promptly to bring his ship close aboard the damaged Japanese ship. Lines were secured and a cross-over ladder was rigged between them. Some of the Japanese jumped over the intervening five to seven feet between the two ships.

Most made it, but more than 30 did not—including one Japanese mother with a babe in arms. An American sailor climbed down a rope ladder low enough to take the baby's arm. The child was saved, but the mother fell between the two ships and was drowned.

It was this sad episode that extended Aleck's time in China by six months.

Instead of a departure for home, he was now made the "Officer-in-Charge of the Fourth U.S. Marine Enlisted Men's Club" in Shanghai serving U.S. sailors and Marines.

"Believe it or not," he says, "at that time, I didn't have any club or restaurant or chef experience."

When he finally got home in February, Billie Claude was waiting for him.

\*\*\*\*\*

# China-Burma-India Appreciation Day

"When you go home, tell them for us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today."

The following from *The Daily Herald* which serves the Northern, Northwest and Western suburbs of Chicago - dateline Sunday Nov. 7 1999 & submitted by associate member Gregory B. Skinner of Itasca, IL.

## China-Burma-India day

The U.S. Congress has established Nov. 12 as "CBI Appreciation Day" to recognize the activities of our armed forces in China-Burma-India (CBI) during World War II against Japan.

I was one of the 40,000-plus members of the U.S. forces in that war area, having served with the U.S. Army, Special Services Section, India and China.

History tells us about the American Volunteer Flying Tigers who flew for China and destroyed substantial number of the enemy's planes.

History tells us it was the U.S. Air Transport Command whose crews flew tons of supplies over the so-called mountain ridge Hump to aid our Chinese allies. Flying in that part of the world gave the crews the worst flying weather anywhere. Hundreds of aircraft and their crews were lost in remote jungles.

History tells us about our Army engineers who built the Ledo Road, a military highway to connect with the old Burma Road that the Japanese advance had closed, a roadway that all the experts said could not be built. They also built a gasoline pipeline that ran more than 700 miles from the Indian seaport Calcutta all the way to China. Our Signal Corps men strung communication wire along this track-age.

History tells us about the Merrill Marauders, who fought along with the British 14th Army in the jungles and swamps of Burma.

History also tells us the enemy suffered the greatest land battle defeat at Imphal on the border of India and Burma. A memorial in the allied soldier's cemetery tells the message of the dead soldiers:

"When you go home  
Tell them for us and say  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today."

## Tribute to brave soldiers

The U.S. Congress, on Nov. 12, 1988, designated that date and every year thereafter National China-Burma-India Veteran's Appreciation Day, thus honoring 150,000-plus veterans of World War II.

They include the Flying Tigers, Merrill's Marauders, air commandos, combat engineers, Chinese Combat Command, Mars Task Force and the horrendous Battle of Myitkina in the jungles of Burma. There was malaria, typhoid, cholera, smallpox, jungle rot and deadly snakes for which there was no antidote, and an even deadlier enemy that did not abide by the rules of the Geneva Convention. There was the Rape of Nanking; the killing in China of 300,000 civilians, including young girls and old women. Despite documentation provided from photos taken by the enemy, Japan has never apologized for this murderous atrocity.

The C.B.I. Theater also included the Air Transport Command flying supplies, bombs and fuel over the Himalayas, the world's foulest flying weather, head and tail winds of 200 mph, updrafts, downdrafts and crosswinds with documented 500-plus missing flights and 100-plus unknowns, including the five crewmen with their C-87 preserved in ice found in Tibet in 1995. Many good buddies are still in the Himalayans, including my good school friend Sgt. Bob Sherman, who was lost in January 1945. Search and rescue, of which I was a part of, accounted for about five successes out of ten searches in the jungles of Assam and Burma.

B-24, B-26, B-29 bomb groups, including fighter squadrons, accounted for a heavy toll on the

enemy. There were the U.S. Navy, submarines, demolition underwater teams, LSTs raiding the coast of Burma, special services, ordinance, MPs, QM and HQ units, medical corps with their field hospitals, nurses and MD's who gave their lives saving others, including mine. There were Burma and Ledo Road Engineers, pipeliners, infantry units, trucking companies, OSS and SACO, ferrying groups, anti-aircraft units and railroad companies.

The Marines in North China not only fought the Japanese, but also the so-called People's Liberation Army of Mao Tse Tung.

The greatest land battle of the entire Asiatic/Pacific Theater was fought at Imphal/Kohima, India resulting in the worst defeat of the enemy. Out of 85,000 Japanese, 50,000 were killed, wounded or missing.

Today a monument at Imphal/Kohima reads:

"WHEN YOU GO HOME, TELL THEM FOR US AND SAY, FOR YOUR TOMORROW WE GAVE OUR TODAY."

Leon Toussaint  
China Burma India V.A. W.W.II  
Chicago Chapter  
Service Officer since 1988  
Commander 1985-87  
Naperville



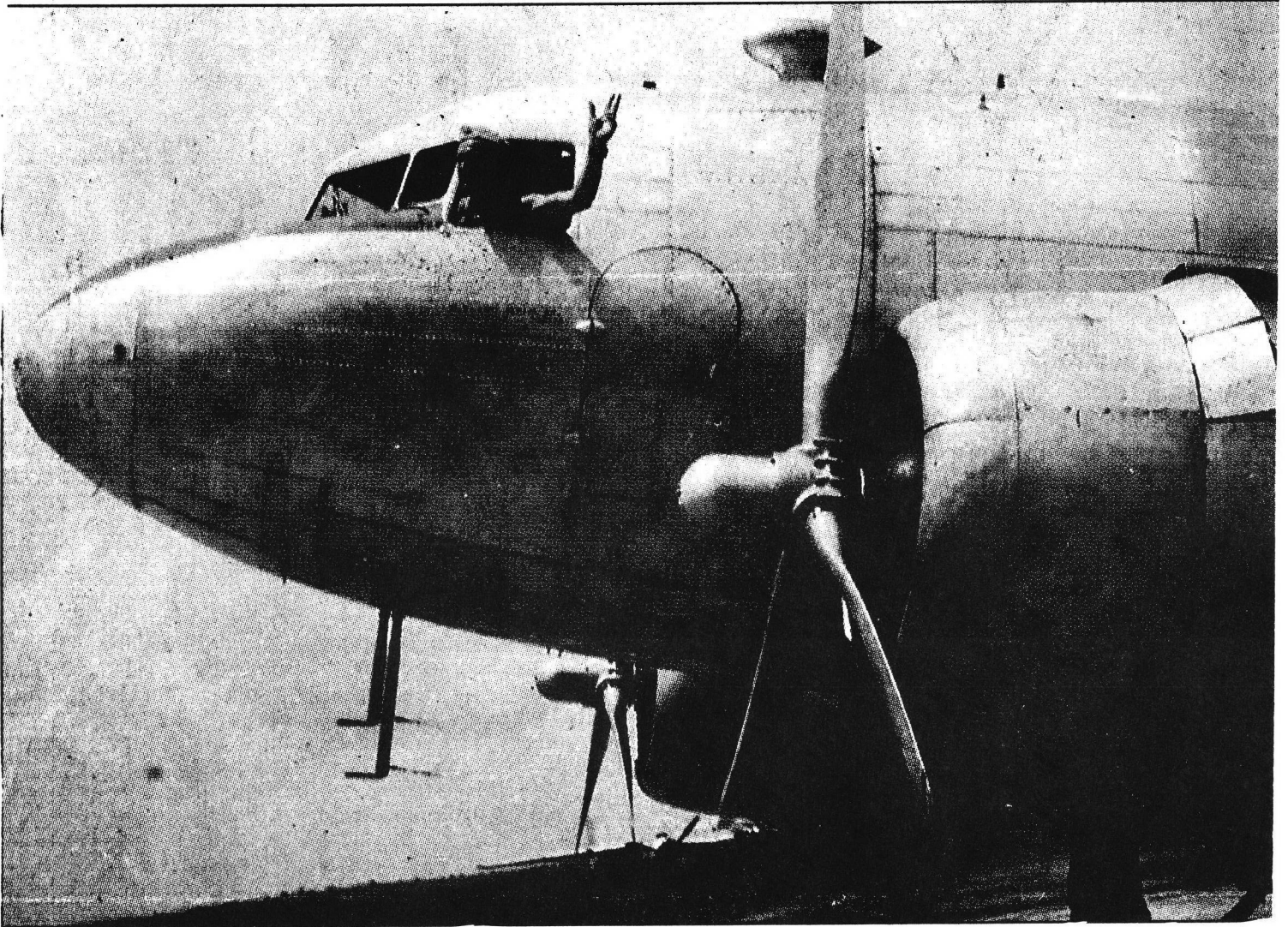


Photo courtesy of Sam Burton

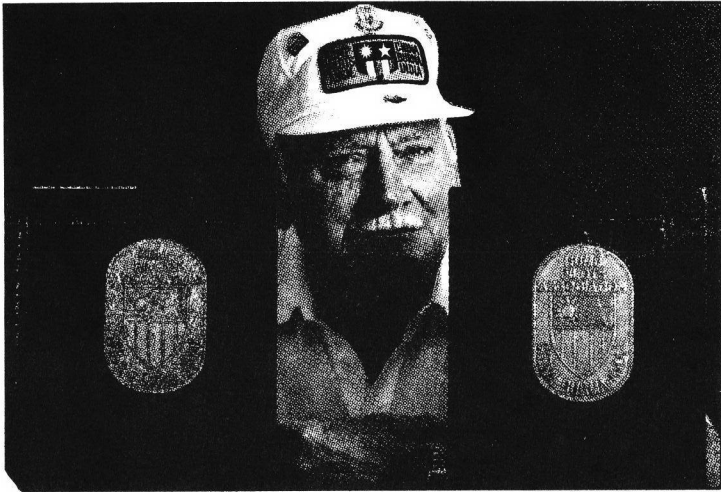
World War II “hump pilot” Sam Burton rides a C-47 during his tour of duty in the 1940s. Burton, who’s treasurer of the 3,000 member

National Pilots Association, says being a hump pilot makes him ‘feel like I had something to do personally with helping to win World War II.’

# ‘Flying the Hump’

**WWII pilots who flew over the Himalayas without radio aids or route maps will gather to see a transport plane in their honor.**





RICHARD GRAULICH/Staff Photographer

**Sam Burton displays the pilot logos on information books at his home in Lake Worth.**

**By Ron Hayes**  
*Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Sam Burton always did know how to get from here to there.

When 9 inches of snow fell on Mount Juliet, Tenn., in January 1942, he rode the family's mule 2 ½ miles to the bus stop that would take him off to war.

The mule found its own way back to the farm, and Burton found his way "over the hump."

On Saturday, Burton, 81, of suburban Lake Worth, and about 100 other former "hump pilots" from around the country will gather at McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Wash., to see a new Air Force C-17 transport plane roll out of a hangar.

Adorning its side will be a painting of a twin-engine plane soaring over snowcapped peaks, surrounded by the legend *China-Burma-India - Flying The Hump.*

Everyone's heard of going "over the hump," but where, and what, was the hump?

Between April 1942 and November 1945, U.S. Army Air Force cargo planes flew 650,000 tons of guns, gas, medicine and men between the Assam Valley in Northeast India

and China's Yunnan Province, which was isolated from the rest of the world and threatened by the invading Japanese.

In between lay the southern range of the Himalayas - "the hump" - and getting from here to there was not easy.

Pilots flew the six-hour round-trip without radio aids, route maps or weather information, and rain and clouds were common.

Of 509 aircraft lost during the operation, 81 were never found., Of those that went down, 1,314 servicemen died and another 1,171 walked out of the dense jungle. About 345 are still missing today.

It wasn't Guadalcanal, or Europe," says Burton, who's treasurer of the 3,000-member National Hump Pilots Association. "But it makes me feel like I had something to do personally with helping to win World War II"

*(My personal thanks to "Duke" Zucks for submitting this article recalling the time when most of us were familiar with the world's most dangerous air route. Ed.)*

#### **TAILI BURIAL . . .**

placed them on the alter. Then, after a pause, the master of ceremonies spoke again, finishing with 'Bow to the son.' - "Go look at the coffin if you wish.'

"I walked in the garden while we awaited the arrival of the generalissimo, and my gift to the tomb were two Mei Hau trees - the Mei of my Chinese name that General Tai had picked for me. These 'winter plum trees,' I felt, would continue to bloom even when times were bleak.

"Following the arrival of the generalissimo, he had an official eulogy read, after which he conducted a ceremony similar to the one in which I had taken part. Then the leafy front of the coffin room was broken and the principal mourners accompanied the coffin along the winding road to his subterranean concrete vault.

"That night and the next day, heavy rain fell - an auspicious sign, I was told for General Tai. I thought of that some years later when I learned that the Communists had torn up the burial vault. I knew by then that the coffin had already been removed to Formosa." ???!!!\*\*

# CHINA MARINE

## SKUTTLEBUTT

Vol 8, No 4 – September 1999

Robert A. Hodgson, Editor

## The “Rice Paddy Navy”

### SACO, the Sino American Cooperative Organization

by William H. Sager

The distinguished Harvard historian, Rear Admiral Samuel Elliot Morrison author of the definitive U.S. Navy Operations in World War II wrote that the most bizarre operations of the U. S. Navy in WWII were those of U. S. Naval Group, China, popularly known as the “Rice Paddy Navy” but perhaps better known (after the conclusion of hostilities in 1945) as the Sino American Cooperative Organization or, for short, SACO (pronounced SOCKO).

SACO was formally established in 1943 by an agreement between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Officially, in the U. S. it was secretly known as U. S. Naval Group, China. SACO, a super secret organization, was placed under the joint command of Commodore (later Vice Admiral) Milton E. “Mary” Miles and Chinese General Tai Li, Director of Chinese Intelligence (and including the Chinese Secret Service) with General Tai Li as Director and Miles as Deputy Director.

The SACO America personnel never exceeded 2,500 at any onetime and consisted wholly of volunteers from all branches of the U. S. military services. For the most part, the volunteers were from the Navy. There is no accurate record on the number of Marines who served in SACO but a reliable estimate is that not more than 200 to 250 Marines served from 1943 to 1945. The SACO tour of duty in China was 18 months



Robert H. Barrow, 1stLt USMC at age 23 in China. Barrow spent six months with SACO and in later years advanced to the highest rank of his branch of military service – Commandant of the USMC.

after which you were returned to the States for leave and reassignment.

General Tai Li headed the approximate 60,000 – 70,000 American equipped Chinese guerilla and saboteurs. All of the equipment was flown over the “hump” by the U. S. Army Air Force. Every bullet, carbine, hand grenade, bazooka and pound of C-2 composition was flown to China from the Navy’s supply depot in Calcutta, India. All Marine, Navy or Coast Guard personnel who served in SACO arrived in China via flying the “hump.” It was not until about June 1945 that the Ledo Road was opened

Marines became adept at Chinese disguises and often wearing Chinese uniforms crossed Japanese lines escorted by SACO Chinese.

from India through the tip of Burma into China and convoys began using that land route.

The SACO Americans had four major missions in China:

1. The establishment of weather stations and weather coverage to aid the fleet operating in the Pacific. Since the weather in that part of the world moves from the land masses of Siberia and China eastward to the Japanese islands and thence over the Pacific, it was essential that the U. S. fleet operating in the Pacific have reliable weather information, to replace the weather information no longer available because of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines and other allied territories in the Pacific, plus that weather info formerly collected by ships, both passenger and freight, traversing the Pacific.

In every area SACO operated, whether in free China or Japanese occupied China, Chinese SACO weathermen (trained by U. S. Navy) established temporary or portable weather stations and relayed by radio in weather code, the info to SACO headquarters (located about 15 miles from Chungking at a place called Happy Valley, where the weather info was collected, collated, tabulated and radioed to the Pacific Fleet Headquarters at Pearl Harbor. In all, over 300 weather stations were established in China manned by U. S. Navy trained young Chinese weathermen.

2. Radio Intelligence, known as RI was a significant segment of SACO’s work in China. This group of U. S. Navy communi-

cators intercepted Japanese radio communications and broke Japanese codes, mainly the Japanese air force codes. The tremendous success of General Claire Chennault's 14th Air Force in China was due in large measure to SACO Americans intercepting and breaking Japanese radio communications involving Japanese air force operations in China. The main units of SACO RI people were located in Kunming adjacent to 14th AF headquarters. The RI unit also included several groups of technical air intelligence people whose job was to seek out downed Japanese planes and inspect them for intelligence information.

3. Coast Watchers. SACO Americans, adept at Chinese disguises and guided by SACO Chinese, established coast watcher stations along the Japanese occupied China Coast. The sighting of Japanese shipping was radioed to SACO headquarters at Happy Valley where the info was relayed to the Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor. Coast watcher also communicated directly with the 14th AF planes, directing them to Japanese shipping and warships. The 14th AF bombing tended to drive Japanese shipping further away from the coast to the ocean waters where the subs operated. Because of the shallow waters close to the Chinese coast, U. S. subs could not operate there.

At least two of the American SACO coast watchers were captured by Japanese patrols and became POWs despite the protection of Chinese guerillas.

SACO coast watchers were also instrumental in rescuing downed American flyers, mostly 14th AF flyers but later in 1945 the coast watchers rescued Navy flyers that bombed the China coast from Basit; in the Philippines.

**...most of the 250 or so Marines who served in SACO were combat experienced veterans of the First Marine Division in the South Pacific.**

4. Guerilla Operations. The SACO agreement called for the U. S. Navy to arm and train in excess of 50,000 Chinese guerilla known as the Loyal Patriotic Army (LPA). Although a few Marines were coast watch-



ers, most Marines were involved in the 14 established guerilla training camps located from the Gobi Desert to the Japanese occupied coast. Marines with full combat participation operated with small guerilla units as American advisors, living with the Chinese troops in the field, eating the same chow as the Chinese guerilla, and walking miles and miles through enemy occupied territory. Marines became adept at Chinese disguises and often wearing Chinese uniforms crossed Japanese lines escorted by SACO Chinese.

The guerilla training camps, many located in areas where the SACO people might effectively attack the Japanese, were prime targets for the enemy and were, of necessity, moved frequently. In such instances of Japanese attack and harassment, tons of SACO supplies had to be moved by hand or by ox carts. Sabotage units from the training camps often accompanied by SACO Marines, carried out raids against Japanese garrisons and Japanese held installations. In one action, a Marine led group of guerilla planted 40 pounds of C-2 and a detonating pressure device 400 yards from the Japanese garrison at Anwha Station, southwest of Shanghai.

It is reliably reported that Marine and Navy led guerillas

killed 23,500 Japanese, wounded 9,100, captured 290, destroyed 209 bridges, 84 locomotives and 141 ships and large rivercraft in addition to depots and warehouses too numerous to count. This was for the period of operations from June 1, 1944 to July 1, 1945. Admiral Miles once stated, so far as the Navy was concerned, the guerilla warfare operation was a side show in SACO, "but the work was interesting and the record impressive." Marines who volunteered for SACO – and every Marine who served in SACO was a volunteer – can endorse the Admiral's statement that the assignment was indeed interesting but would not agree that the guerilla operations were a "side show."

Incidentally, most of the 250 or so Marines who served in SACO were combat experienced veterans of the First Marine Division in the South Pacific. For those Marines, SACO was their second tour of overseas duty in W.W. II

William H. Sager  
CO, Naval Unit Ten, SACO



Bill Sager and Mr. Liu, Interpreter, 10 Jan., 1945

*(This article submitted to SACO NEWS by Assoc. Frank Baillie)*

# PROFILE OF AN OLD CHINA HAND



SHANE TANG BV2FA, #19

Born in Shanghai March 12, 1923, young Shane was suddenly exposed to the agonies of war, when Japan invaded China in 1937. A Junior Scout at age 15 he was attending Junior Middle school in Shanghai.

The school auditorium and some classrooms were quickly converted into makeshift hospital wards for wounded Chinese soldiers. While Senior Scouts carried wounded soldiers from the front lines, Junior Scouts worked in the wards, tending the wounded. These were miserable times that made indelible impressions in Shane Tang's mind.



A few years later, when opportunity presented itself, Shane cautiously slipped out of the Japanese occupied city and made his way to Kanchou, Kiangsi. There he worked a short time as an English Instructor for 6th graders of Youth Corps under Chiang Ching-kuo, son of Chiang Kai-shek. At this point, Shane made a major change of direction in life when he applied for special police training at the Military Academy in Hsifeng, Kweichow. There, two young female cadets caught Shane's attention.... Ho Jo-mei and Fan Meng-ping. A year later Shane, Ho and Fan graduated and received assignments: Fan to wartime capital Chungking, Shane airlifted over the hump to join the Chinese Expeditionary Forces in India and Ho to operate behind Japanese lines with Chinese Guerrilla Forces attached to SACO.

One particular day, while stationed at Ramgarh, Bilhar, India, Shane was handling CW messages to and from Chungking. He was having a difficult time with the Chungking operator on a particular message when he suddenly learned that this operator was classmate "Fan." Shane wrote, Fan responded and a long distance, war time romance was in bloom. Shane and Fan corresponded throughout his 17 month CBI tour of duty.

During 1943, Shane was operating a secret station in Calcutta when the British became very suspicious. Receiving a "tip" that a raid was being planned, Shane quickly shut the station down and returned to Ramgarh. There, he was promoted to Captain to manage an intelligence radio station at Ledo on the Burma - India border. Four months later he was transferred to Chungking where he was able to meet up again with Fan. About this time, Shane underwent training to become a translator for SACO at "Happy Valley" on the outskirts of Chungking.

Shortly after Japan surrendered, a Far East edition of Life Magazine ran a cover story about a young Chinese Guerrilla who had rescued and led to safety some American flyers who had bailed out of a crippled American aircraft that was returning from a bombing mission. The cover of Life showed a frail young Chinese girl lying in a hospital bed, being visited by Admiral "Mary" Miles, USN, General Tai of the Chinese CIA and Chang Hsi-ming, who was the girl's commander in the Guerrilla Forces while operating along the Japanese occupied East Coast. The young girl had been captured by the Japanese and had been severely tortured, but never revealed the whereabouts of the Americans. Her name was Ho Jo-mei, Shane and Fan's classmate! Ho received the second highest U.S. decoration for her bravery. The story spread quickly and she became a national heroine overnight.

Shane and Fan were married in 1947, Shane was working as a Radio Operator for CNRRA Waterways Transport under United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Shanghai. This position was "planted" by the "MIB" (Military Intelligence Bureau) in Nanking, where Fan worked as a base station operator.

Shane became interested in Amateur Radio when he received a temporary assignment in Shanghai where his ship underwent repair. The company station,

CWTO, manned by "Bob" (U.S.), "Steve" (White Russian) and "Ben" (Portuguese) became CWTO1 evenings when the BC-610 transmitter was tuned up to 14 Mhz for Ham operation. This exposure to Amateur Radio commenced a hobby that has lasted over 45 years.

In 1948 the Red Army was pushing southward from North China. Shane, Fan and their son Ed, who was one year old, evacuated with MIB via Shanghai to Taiwan. The family endured a tough life throughout 1949. During 1950 and 1951, Shane was the only CW operator permitted to work directly into the OSS station in Yokosuka Japan. Fan and two other women operators worked MIB stations hidden in the mainland. The OSS circuit used 5 letter group, coded messages which were sent via "bug" key and received on typewriter. Speed was around 200 characters per minute and none of the other MIB operators could attain this speed. When American inspectors reviewed the station operation, they congratulated Shane for his ability. He was granted a cash award equal to three months of his Army Major pay. He was also allowed to "moonlight", in newspaper copying of AP/UP/Reuters newspress releases on typewriter, sent in excess of 200 letters per minute. Using the MIB station TCM transmitter, he operated under the unlicensed Amateur call letters CW1TO (a twist of the old CWTO1 in Shanghai).

From 1953 through 1961, Shane was daytime translator for NACC (U.S. Naval Auxillary Commo Center, a front for CIA, Taipei). He was also, chief of the radio section of United Daily News in Taipei.

During Vietnam years, he worked for Air America as radio operator in Laos, then Chief Commo at Udorn Airbase, Thailand until July 1974, when the company disbanded.

Shane retired from the Civil Aeronautical Administration of Taiwan in 1986 and has dedicated much of his retired life to promoting Amateur Radio in Taiwan. He instructed CW at two training classes for nearly 100 students, some of which are now licensed as: BV2FB, BV2LB, BV2AL, BV2AP, BV2TC, BV2VA, BV2WA, BV4VB. As result of his efforts, Shane has often been referred to as "Mr. Amateur Radio of Taiwan." On October 21, 1990, during the first ever, International Boy Scout Jamboree of Taiwan, Shane hosted a group of Scouts in his shack where they made contacts with many foreign counterparts.

Shane's wartime and postwar work has kept him in close association with many of the top officials in MIB of Taiwan. March 17th of every year, the anniversary of the death of General Tai Li, Shane and other retiree's go to the MIB Headquarters to pay homage to Tai and tour the room where photos of many famous Chinese Heroes are displayed. Due to the hasty departure from the mainland China by Chiang Kai-shek, many archives were unfortunately left behind, including photos and the story of Ho. Taking note of this, Shane launched a worldwide search for a copy of the Life Magazine feature story and photo. Nothing was located however. Apparently the story only appeared in a Far East publication of Life. Quite by coincidence, while searching for photos for our Old China Hands newsletters in Malcolm Rosholt's publication, "Days of Ching Pao", this editor stumbled onto the exact photo and story that Shane was searching for. A copy was sent to Shane, who presented it to Major General Wang Yih-Chyang, Chief Director for MIB. Now, after nearly 50 years and thanks to Shane's efforts, a photo of Ho, will be displayed alongside photos of other Chinese heroes and heroines in the halls of MIB.

Shane's son, Ed Tang lives in Sudbery, Mass, and works for Digital. Fan has recently moved to Sudbery to be near Ed. Shane continues to live in Taipei at this time. With Amateur Radio now firmly established in Taiwan, he has turned many of the day to day, "hands on" functions over to other personnel. He now writes for CQ magazine of Taiwan, which is edited by "Bear", BV2WC. Shane's "Random Harvest" column features many interesting articles on Amateur Radio activities as well as "mini-stories" about Radio Amateurs located throughout the world. Occasionally, an Old China Hand member is featured. He continues as translator for The World Anti-Comunist League and is the English Advisor for the Asia Cement Corporation.

Shane is very active on the Amateur bands and beside "freelancing", can be heard checking into any of the following nets: The Maritime, The Australian, New Zealand, Africa, The Pacific Inner Island, The Southeast Asia, The Taiwan, U.S., The IOTA, The Far East, and of course, The Old China Hands, P.A.T. Net.

Old China Hands salutes Shane Tang!

(Submitted by Jack L. Miller)

## Henry Scurlock Recalls Episode Of The Mules

Another excerpt from Vol. 10 of Confusion Beyond imagination . . .these about SACO people and their exploits:

I read in Vol. 10 about being short of mules in the CBI Theatre during one of the operations. They were short because a mule boat headed for Calcutta from the USA was torpedoed and sunk in the Indian Ocean. They didn't mention a name or date, however, I, along with Jake Cowan, Don Hammond, William C. Kelly, Howard Swolgaard, Bill Miller and a few others were enroute to the good old USA from Calcutta on a returning mule-carrying boat, the John J. Crittendon. This was late January 1945 or early February when, lo and behold, 12 hours ahead of us a mule boat was torpedoed and sunk; had it not been for that, we would have passed each other.

We put into Fremantle, Australia for 10 days and when we left for Wilmington, California, we had as passengers the survivors of that mule ship.

(Hank, not wanting to make an ass of myself (pardon the pun) but were the survivors you spoke of mules or humans or both? Ed.)

## From One Who Has Alzheimer's

(From a friend whose wife is a victim & doesn't realize she, too, was a friend.)

I was deeply touched knowing how this scourge affects several of our own in SACO. I know a tear will fall (mine did), but I fervently hope this poem will bring you better understanding and reassure you of the love that was there for both to share before. Ed.

### My Dear...I Love You

From one who has Alzheimer's, and yes it is hard,  
Just for a moment, let me share from my heart.  
Please forgive me for the things that I'll say.  
If I were well, I would not be this way.  
Although I can't tell you, I'm so glad you are here.  
But I know you are hurting, cause I see your tears.  
I wish I could tell you what you mean to me.  
Could we please go back to what used to be?  
But no, we are here, and I'm a stranger it seems.  
Though I might wish otherwise,  
it's more than a dream.  
Please, just remember, when I curse or yell,  
It's not really me that you see, just my shell.  
In spite of the difficult days we'll go through,  
This one thing is true...my Dear...I love you.

(Heartfelt thanks to Jerry Ham for his 1997 poems)



# NOSTALGIA



*Among many problems that present themselves from time to time are situations such as this. I have pondered the circumstance and identity of this adventurous crew for the past several issues. Since I have no clue as to who even sent it to me, I'm desperate for someone to come forward and give me the story. Careless?? Yes, and with senior moments ever on the increase I have no assurance of improvement. It's such an interesting picture - hope someone is a SACO. Ed.*



World War II  
Chungking, China 1945



Sgt. Tony Martin vocalizing - Leonard Pennario at piano at SACO Unit 9 auditorium. Photo dated 10 September 1945. (Anyone recall the show?)

TO YOU

To you, I give all of my heart and my love to you;

To you, I'll bring sunbeams from heaven above, to you;

To me, you're an angel and you mean the world to me;

I'll be forever yours.

Your smile made the clouds and the shadows on high take wing;

Your kiss was a real inspiration to greater things

My dreams, I'm so thankful and grateful to say, came true, I owe it all to you..

Editor's note:

Memories!! Aren't they great! I must have been sixteen - perhaps 1939 when my family and I saw Tony on stage at the Lyric theatre in Indianapolis. (Remember when you went to a movie and saw name entertainers on stage between showings of feature films?)

Tony was my mother's idol. *Deep Purple* was breaking records as the hit song in those

days. The lyrics shown here are (to the best of my recollections) to the song Tony dedicated on stage to his wife then, the late Alice Faye.

Tony and his wife of many years, Cyd Charisse, are residents of our desert valley and Erma and I have had the pleasure of seeing two of his performances here. He is the scheduled featured star of the *Fabulous Palm Springs Follies* this coming season.



Charles Sellers & Richard Rutan Opening of Stilwell Road, Kunming, China 1945



*SACO Christmas Party 1944 Commodore Miles Captain Beyerly and General Tai Li*



*ComNavGroup China  
Office at #6 Church Lane  
Calcutta, India 9 May 1945*



*Ambassador Patrick J. Hurley's  
Party ComNav Group China  
9 June 1945*

*Photo made for Commander Naval Unit #9 - Lt. Joseph A. Reardon, USNR  
wrapping Christmas gifts (for orphanage) 24 December 1944*



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Christmas  
-7-

*Comdr. J. Dempsey, USCGR - Lt. C. I. Carroll, USNR - Comdr G. B. Berger, USNR  
Comdr. J. C. Wendland, USCG - LtComdr H. J. Kelly, USCGR - unidentified USCG officer*



*on Tour of Camp Knox, Calcutta, India 28 April 1945  
(Unless looks are deceiving, this has to be Jack Dempsey. Boxing Champ extreme left???)*

# SACO

Disbanded - But it prevailed until war's end to the dismay of high ranking military of other branches of service and no one can deny (in truth) the accomplishments that were attained by the men of Tai Li and Miles . . .

(Excerpt from Miles' *DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR*)

"For the Sino-American Cooperative Organization's last military review, Captain Beyerly and General Tai Li went to Suchow, some fifty miles west of Shanghai, where ninety-seven thousand SACO troops - the entire force except for those at Camp Three and Four in the north - were drawn up on the field. It was a dismal, rainy day and already there were other signs that China's victory was hollow. These men were healthy, active, loyal, and well-trained. Heaven knows they did not work for money, nor were they listless coolies picked up and impressed to fill a quota. They were dedicated men, willing to devote themselves to the protection of their country and, as such, they now - by U.S. order and with *no thanks whatever* from us for the work they had done - had to disband.

"The Americans of SACO, too, were penalized. No members of Navy Group China worked specifically for decorations, but, being human, they would have appreciated recognition on a par with others for work well done - for special risks assumed - for outstanding heroism in action. But as a group, despite their great accomplishments, they had the *poorest showing in ribbons and decorations of any American combat outfit in the war*. It is true, of course, that they have the inner satisfaction of having done their job and - for what it is worth to them - they also have my own deeply felt 'Very well done!'"

???!!!\* \* \*

*The happiest of holidays to all my SACO friends and, to each, may you be blessed with the greatest of gifts - good health (we need it if we're going to keep the "old tiger" around.) See you in May 2001 - Texas Hill Country. Ed.*



## It's Fredericksburg in the Texas Hill Country 2001

**Hosts Bob & Dolores Sinks are working full speed ahead in anticipation of entertaining us at the 47th Annual Reunion and anxiously anxiously await showing us their historic hometown - Fredericksburg, TX 8 - 13 May 2001. They have booked us at the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites (above) @ \$65 and rates available for earlybirds and those lingering after all the auf Wiedersehens are exchanged.**

Bob will be corresponding to all about the 1st of the year with details.

Suggest you wait for his first mailing, but if you need info now write:

Robert M. Sinks, Sr.  
P.O. Box 1609  
Fredericksburg, TX 7864  
(830) 997-7183 or Fax  
(830) 997-8787

Remember to pay your dues - you must to be eligible to register at the reunion.

### SACO NEWS

Richard L. Rutan, Editor  
45-480 Desert Fox Drive  
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214  
(760) 360-3800

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Ken & Lillie Brown  
163 Harmony Lane  
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