

CARIBOU ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



VOL. I

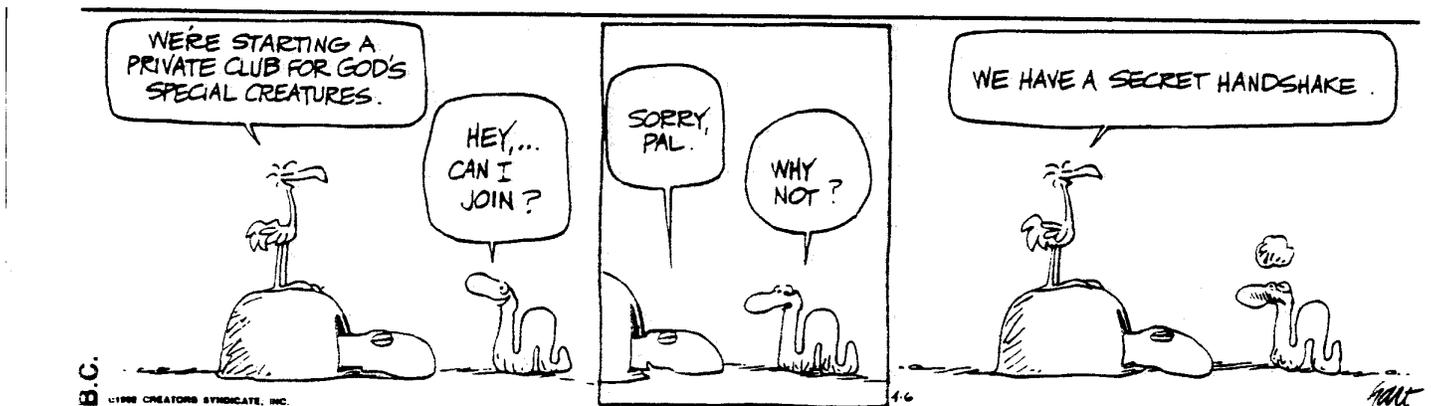
SUMMER 1993

NO. 3



IN FULL REVERSE

taken by L/Col Guy Pronier at Tra Bong. Only 290 ft. remaining!



IT'S A GO! THE GREAT CARIBOU REUNION #4

COLORADO SPRINGS 1993

When: Wednesday, 18 thru Saturday, 21 August, 1993

Where: Best Western - Palmer House 1-10 at Fillmore Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

Why: Why Not?

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Call 1-800-223-9127 with your credit card in hand. Commercial phone is 719-636-5210. 60 Days advance registration is required. Anybody that answers can take registration.

WARNING
MOTEL RESERVATIONS should be made
NO LATER THAN JUNE 18th.

Yes it was voted to have this reunion in September; however, we discovered our sister organization the Army Otter-Caribou Assn, was already set in Colorado Springs for the August date. After a bit of coordination with them as well as a few calls to our regulars we determined a high degree of interest in gathering with the Army guys for some inter-service comraderie, (tea and crumpets). Based on the post card pole 80 rooms are already projected and over 60 are interested in meeting the Army. Great!

Based on my December guess, Best Western is blocking 60 rooms for us, but the 80 is no problem. PLEASE REGISTER NOW.

Rooms are \$56 + tax per night, two double beds so bring some friends.

Preliminary estimation of motel fees was below \$50; however, moving up three weeks put us on the tail end of the tourist season, and a higher rate schedule. Several of us tried every form of groveling to get the reduced rate.

A former Army grunt (Ret.) there is the convention manager. A decent chap pledged to assist when he can. Call Mr. Joe Pagano if you need him.

Joe was almost in tears when I told him we already had 80 rooms projected and picking up a few every week. Hopefully 100 rooms will be taken so BOOK NOW and Old Joe can hire a plumber to mop up the water works.

CHARLIE SEVEN OFFSET:

We will have several \$50.00 drawings to offset a night's stay for some lucky people. We will "Caribou Tax" the Caribou Association so to speak. Nobody said this operation has to show a profit! Like Milo Mindbender sez, 'we share the profits'.

DOLLAR RENTAL CARS: 1-800-800-4000.

Mention Code CCARIBU and save a few bucks. Dollar did a good job for us in Dayton but we find the rates are about \$10.00 a day higher in the Springs. With only 20 or 25 flights expected. I don't expect any great need for excessive cars. We will have a transportation section to help keep people moving. We suggest you shop carefully as rental cars seem expensive in Colorado Springs.

DELTA - The Airline of Choice: 1-500-241-6760 and cite Delta File #XN0030

Delta has about 18 flights a day in Colorado Springs vs. 6 with the next

airline. Delta was the obvious choice. All airlines give a rather standard 5 % off of scheduled fare - it gets rather confusing to my pea brain. Can I suggest you establish your cheapest fare then spring this 'group plan' into action and give us some feedback if there is any savings.

GOLF AT COLORADO SPRINGS

Contact Man: Don Sidie. Saturday golf seems out due to the crowds. Don is considering a Thursday afternoon or Friday morning Tee Time if most of the 21 players can make it. If the golfers will individually contact Don some evening he will firm up a schedule and as lawyers say, "get back with you." (719) 397-1193.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR COLORADO SPRINGS

TUESDAY Early bird arrivals. **WEDNESDAY** Decorate, plan and scheme. **THURSDAY** Pikes Peak, possible golf in afternoon, AF Academy. **FRIDAY** Possibly golf, 0800 show at NORAD (40 Slots), Academy tours (2 or 3) Evening - Chuck Wagon dinner at flying W - (Army will be there) **SATURDAY** GREAT CARIBOU EVENING GATHERING.

Freetime(?) can be spent gathering with the guys and viewing the movies, slides, and photos in the meeting room. ALSO we have a standing invite to go over and visit with Army Otter-Caribou Association members at a near-by motel. They also are invited to visit us anytime. Chief Bixler 483/67 is working on a "Formal" gathering. Remember to bring photo displays and memorabilia.

RESOURCES

If anybody in the Colorado Springs area can come up with any of the following; please advise headquarters: 8mm and/or 16mm movie projector. Movie screens, slide projectors - various with empty clips. VHS - may need 2 or 3. If you can locate, borrow, or rent a microfiche reader - say Thursday thru Saturday night - please let me know. I would rather not truck one.

CAUTION

Colorado Springs resident speaks: Visitors are advised to bring a jacket or sweater for cool weather. Due to the dry climate LIP BALM is recommended along with SUN BLOCK. Then get this, a RAIN-COAT! Also take it easy due to the 6-7,000 foot altitude, Don't OVEREXERT and go LIGHT ON THE BOOZE! All for a good trip.

Some of the guys that indicate they are coming to Colorado Springs: Bob Baltzell, Max Allison, Cecil Boulter, Paul Bowen, Claude Branscomb, Leroy Crawford, Gordon Bredvic, Bob Croach, Bob A. Davis, Steve Elsasser, Vic Doyle, Marshall Bill Dickson, Dale Erickson, Jim Fairweather, Ralph Fitzgerald, Henry Glover, Jim Gross, Calvin Hartman, Charles Hayes, William Higgins, Bob Hodges, Harry Hunter, Donald Irwin, Charles Kleinsmith, Omer Leifer, David Lawton, Robert Lipscomb, Jim Lybrand, Bill Mason, Paul Mascot, James Myers, Bob Numayerm, Paul Pulse II. B.G. Keith Reiling, Dave Rogers, Chuch Sanford, Charles Schmitz, James Secrest, Tom Strange, James Strickland, Bill Hooks, Lee Waite, Jerry York, Jennifer Dauten (& Chris), Howard Lantz, John Walder, Bo Burr, Lawrence Corcoran, Ervin Jones, John Gannon, Paul Peoples, Robert Taylor, Charles Shipp, Jim Price, Ken Crenshaw, Wayne Isaac-

son, Joe Zahrida, James Wood, Ralph Towne, Horace Furlough, Francisco Archibeque, Hunter Hackney, Jim Furlong, Juan Rangel, Earl Larkins, Bill Villines, Don Foster, John Timko, Guy Perham, Bobby Pennington, Roger Lessin, Bill Combest, Bill Higgins, David Hopwood, Larry Lavern, Jerry Pankonen, Bob Lambert, Otto Terrell, "Jack" Jordan, John Dave Diekman, Dan Roy, Glenn O'Banion, Harley Jergensen, Warren Snake Pierce, Bob Hamrin, Jim Maurer, Steven King, Bob Hustler, Arlan Philson, John Teske, Tom Eller, Ed Madigan, Don Sidie, Jack Saux, Lyle Hair, Bob Nogle, Bob Dugan, Don Flood, Marvin Dunlap, Jack Jolley Jr., Oz Osborne.



"You can wear them in the house but don't you dare go outside!"

R-5 NEXT YEAR'S REUNION -1994

Have next year's reunion in your backyard. Step forward and host it! It has become obvious to me and droves of critics that I cannot manage another reunion from 500 to 1000 miles so...

Any person or group that desires may step forward and manage the next reunion at their location. I am shamelessly borrowing from our Army Otter/Caribou friends on this approach. (VFR or IFR?)

In a nutshell check your locale for accommodation, prices, availability for 100 plus rooms to the point of setting a tentative date. Can I suggest the further South you go the later in the year. We suffered enough heat stroke in V-nam. Give some thought to the locations of past reunions.

Be prepared to present your 'package' to the group at Colorado Springs. Video OK, a five minute limit will be appreciated. Please let me know if you are working on an area before you start so there is no duplication of efforts. Also I would appreciate passing the philosophy of the past reunions.

Lets come away from The Springs with the next reunion established so someone can get the newsletter out on time!

INCIDENT REPORTS

by Col Chas W. Hardie
1136 Woodedge Road
Dover, Delaware 19901-4366

DISCLAIMER: A couple of incidents that I recall from my days at Cam Ranh Bay I now pass on to you. You must remember that years and old age have a tendency to alter the facts as they actually occurred and in the first incident, I was not an eyewitness but heard about it later as the story was passed thru the squadron. It went something like....

FINI FLIGHT CAM RANH:

It seems that H__ F___, roomie and C-7 pilot extraordinaire, wanted to do something different on his "fini flight," upon return to Cam Ranh-by the Bay. It seems he acquired a parachute and some smoke bombs from the Special Forces guys (Army?) and on his final approach and landing was going to demonstrate how a C-7 could be operated like an F-4. So in advance he called the tower to advise them not to get excited if they saw some smoke coming from the back of his aircraft and received permission for a 360 overhead. Everything proceeded normally (?) until the break, at which time he has the Flight Engineer pop the smoke bombs. The tower then forgot what he had told them and thought there was more smoke than necessary and proceeded to call out the crash rescue folks. H__ continued his approach thinking everything was as briefed.

So now with the desired smoke coming from the backend, H__ continued his approach. Upon landing, the Flight Engineer deployed the parachute which was secured to a tie-down ring. The parachute blossomed and pulled the tie-down ring leaving the 'chute deployed across the active runway. Needless to say this caused greater consternation as F4 recoveries had to be delayed until the runway was cleared. (There was a war on you know.) A call, of course, went to the Command Post and 'the powers that be': Needless to say H__ got a much bigger reception than he anticipated and truly had his FINAL

FLIGHT! I later ran into H_ in Alaska, where I was assigned flying 124's. H_ somehow ended up behind a desk in finance.

GENERAL FLIGHT

This second story I tell on myself. When I was working in the Wing Stan-Eval, the word came up from downstairs that B Gen. Herrin, Commander 834th AD was coming to Cam Ranh to fly a C-7 mission and that he would be accompanied buy one of the Stan-Eval pilots. As if by magic, Maj. Mike Nassr, chief of Stan-Eval, had a doctor's appointment and the number two guy had something to do. I was "volunteered" to accompany the general on his tour. The mission was set up to go from Cam Ranh to Pleiku, Plei Mei, Duc Xuyen and back to Cam Ranh. The trip to Pleiku went OK and at the general's suggestion, he did a short field landing there for practice. After the ALCE visit for fuel and cargo we were off again. On the trip down to Plei Mei I opened the cockpit window on my side. The general shot another short field landing and everything went OK; however, I was asleep at the switch and allowed the general to keep the props in reverse a bit too long. Needless to say the dust of Plei Mei came billowing in my window and covered us all with a layer of the fine red stuff.

I looked over to see the general in his clean and starched fatigues (and shined shoes) covered from head to foot. What a mess! Being an old crewdog, things like that happen but NOT when you're carrying a general.

The rest of the mission went OK with a half-decent short field landing at Duc Xuyen. On the leg back to Cam Ranh I think the general got a bit puckered when he noticed the fuel level getting below 500 lbs. on each tank. We landed back at Cam Ranh with more that 200 a side and NO low-fuel warning lights. Fortunately I did not sit in on his debriefing to the command section and nothing was said or received about the mission. I noted I didn't get the 'opportunity' to escort any-more high ranking officers on C-7 tours of V—nam.

In difference to the Privacy Act and journalistic good taste, please note that Maj. Howie Park's name is in no way connected with the Finn Flight story. This is to protect his anominity.

Editor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWART AFB, SMYRNA TN REUNION

Anyone having served at Stewart AFB is welcome to attend. Contact L/C Bart McCarthy, 361 Monoca Drive, Nashville, TN 37076 or call, (615) 885-3687 to get his mailing list. Bart has 450 people coming this year - They are held in BNA every two years.

THE ARMY OTTER AND CARIBOU ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Army Otter Caribou Association, Inc., will be holding their 8th annual reunion 19-22 Aug 93, in COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. Former Army Otter and Caribou aviation personnel who are not already affiliated with this Association please contact Bill Hooks, at P.O. Box 6091. Columbus. GA 31907-0073, or call 1-800-626-8194 for information.

MEMOR A BELIA???

and THANKS B/G DUANE H. ERIKSON

PATCHES, PLAQUES AND OTHER CARIBOU STUFF. Early last spring I contacted the First Wing Cmdr. Col. Paul Mascot and inquired if there was a 483rd patch in existence? That was a negative but the Colonel replied that he could offer a picture of the 483rd Wing Plaque as a starter. The picture arrived a few weeks later. As I basked in this 'coup' (with thanks to Col. Mascot) a day later I received a call from Duane Erickson. B/G USAF (Ret.) and final 483rd Wing CMDR [circa 1972(?)]. Gen. Erickson was responding to the 1992 Charlie Newsflash and informed me he 'brought the plaque home' as the Caribou effort shut down. In his words, rather than the plaque collecting dust, he would either bring it to Dayton or mail it. The plaque arrived in plenty of time for everyone to enjoy and now we are waiting for Gen. Erickson to attend one (or more) of our reunions, so we can personally thank him for 'sharing his WAR BOOTY' with The Association. Until then, Sir, please be assured your gift is appreciated by all of us.

To date the 483rd Wing plaque is the cornerstone of a modest collection of CARIBOU MEMORABILIA* that includes photos, clippings, plaques, poems, patches, original orders, stories etc. All property of your Association.

If you are downsizing your personal accouterments and are looking for a temporary resting spot for CARIBOU STUFF, please consider loaning or donating to your Association so members can enjoy your "stuff" at the Reunions.

Lets' face it, all this stuff will go to the AF MUSEUM or the AF OFFICE OF HISTORY at Maxwell in 50 years or so when we no longer have a need for it. (Your comments'???)

*Items people have loaned are still considered "on loan."

A 483rd Memorial at the AF Museum?

Col. Wilbert Turk, 183rd CMDR 68 attended Dayton and has since sent me some into concerning memorial type markers at the AF Museum.. stone bench costs 15 hundred or so and the more elaborate stuff is very expensive. Anybody with input along these lines please send it or bring it to Colorado Springs.

COPY MACHINE LOCATED GRAND BENEFACTOR AND POTENTATE PROCLAIMED!

In response to my request for a barely workable copy machine L/C Jim Furlong (Res. Ret.) (also 536/66) offered and I accepted a Savin 840 wet copier. It was unused for a couple of years so fixing it began with a week of soaking the 3 inch thick block of ink to determine the innards. Actually, to date I have managed to copy one legible line of print so eventually it can be tuned to perform. So thanks to Great Benefactor and Potentate Furlong.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

The same Jim Furlong arrived at Dayton with stunning international airline 1st class companion. To make it perfectly clear - considering todays climate - it was a girl. (a fox). Jim and Cheryl were married in April so I sent them congratulations from this association along with the wishes for many little Caribous!

PERSONALS

L/C Buford E. Collins, former Commander at Vung Tau (known as "Slim") now lives in VA Beach, VA. (804) 340-0723. He relates he "sorta outgrew" the nickname! (Join the crowd, Buff!)

Col. Lee Waite 6084 Promonotory Lane, Riverside, CA 92506 is looking for a 1970-71 Caribou Major Jim 'Budha' XXXX (something???) Last name unknown. Please contact Lee at the above address if anyone has any input.

L/C Eugene H. Lehmann (Ret.) is recovering from a curse of Xmas's past. He had bypass surgery 23 Dec 92 and is doing well. Contact at 13 Lynch St., Benton, LA 71006. No obscene calls, please.

One of the few responses from South Florida was L/C Octavio 'Jack' Jordan. His mailbox blew away as the hurricane passed thru Homestead so he was a bit late in responding. We will excuse it this time since Jack also claimed his house was also blown away. Apparently it was attached to the mailbox! Jack now writes from Tampa.

PS: Jack created the trio of comic Caribou postcards that have been widely circulated and appreciated.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CARIBOU PILOT- THE VIDEO

The Kugler Movie is in. Everybody that paid for the movie should have it on hand now. If not advise this HQ's!

It goes without saying the Doc Kugler donated the Video to your association and we understand from experience transfer of 8 mm to VHS is expensive. Everybody knows what a struggle it is on a surgeon's income so on behalf of the entire Caribou Association THANKS, DOC KUGLER, FOR THE MAGNIFICENT SET OF MEMORIES. We hope to see you at Colorado Springs!

Anybody wanting a copy of THE VIDEO please advise.

DAYTON R-3 REUNION

A Brief Recap

Dayton can be summed in a few paragraphs.

The trip to the AF Museum was great and we are including as many pictures as possible in this newsletter. About 80 former Caribou people showed up along with some wives and girlfriends. We had about 125 for the Saturday evening dinner.

Chris and Jennifer Dauten, daughters of Maj. Fred Dauten were located and invited to the reunion. Fred was killed Apr. '70 during his first month of service in Vietnam but managed to snap about 100 photographs that the girls now had.

Many of us had great fun trying to decipher the content of these pictures - SF camps, aerial shots, etc.

The 458th guys, came out of their shells and kept these ladies entertained, sometimes amused, fed, and welcome to the group. (They will be back - not only the 458th guys, but we can expect "the girls" to be at Colorado Springs.

Possibly the most astounding event was when someone(?) walked up to either myself or Jerry York and presented us with a legal size sheet of paper with a poem written by Capt. Alan Hendrickson. I have been since told that Alan worked on this poem three weeks before he along with two other crewmembers were struck in flight by Army "friendly fire" artillery near the DMZ.

That was in August. '67. Capt. Hendrickson was in his eleventh month there. I know, because he was my elbow mate during ground school at Ft. Benning 1966.

He wrote a poem that I feel can only be fully appreciated by those of us that have been in Vietnam AND flown the Caribou. You will still feel the beast creak and groan after all these years. It somehow underscores the futility of our war.

WHILE AT DAYTON

In the couple years of our existence we have determined that 38 Caribou Crewmen lost their lives in Vietnam. To acknowledge these fellow airmen, MSgt Jerry York had rubbings made from The Wall and included each in a memorial book. In a modest ceremony during the reunion. The Book was laid open in the back of the Caribou at the Air Force Museum.

CARIBOU WIFE OF THE YEAR (CWOTY)

One of the few pleasures in this operation is inventing positions to award noteworthy service to the Association. L/C Bob Croach had two hours notice and was "herded" in the direction of Dayton. Wife Marilyn Croach arranged a Florida to Washington, D.C. itinerary to include a plane change in North Carolina to Dayton just in time for the Friday evening festivities.

Novel, creative and down-right sneaky, but this caught our attention to happily applaud Marilyn and create the position of Caribou Wife of the Year. A great job, Marilyn, and you have set the standard and the pace for future contenders for the CWOTY Award.

KUDOS AT DAYTON

Jerry York for personally locating and prodding numerous 537 guys into attending. Paul Lake for working at the AF Museum and having someone leave the troop door to the Caribou open so we could sneak a peek. Walt Wells for doing much of the groundwork in getting Dayton rolling.

Several guys made Maj. Fred Dautens daughters feel so welcome that the girls are planning to be with us at Colorado Springs. Col. Greenwood for driving all over Western Ohio to pickup the Caribou Rack located by Gen Greenleaf. A nice humorous touch by the General - it lent character to the event and was appreciated by all.

Other notes at Dayton: Col. Les Greenwood for 24,000 plus flying hours. Col. Guy Pronier for his second reunion (all the way from Calif. both times) and the prize winning high action photo of the Caribou IN FULL REVERSE on the cover.

6th CARIBOU INVITATIONAL WINNER CLIFF TYLER

It appears the L/C Cliff Tyler, former 4449 & 18 TATS IP, won the 6th Inv. golf game at Dayton. Cliff had the biggest handicap (38) when some guys were only allotted 8. Anyhow Cliff walked away with the presentation putter equipped with bells, whistles and turn signals. Great sport and fun for all.

DEAR CARIBOU ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

I must confess I was very nervous about attending your reunion in Dayton, Ohio. Despite Nick Evanish's encouragement, I was afraid of "crashing" the party - I wasn't sure what you would think of my being there.

I guess I needn't have worried! You welcomed me with open arms and hearts - never have I felt so much love. Although no one can ever take the place of my dad, it came close.

You shared many experiences and your knowledge of the Caribou and Vietnam, patiently answering a myriad of questions.

A special thank you to the members of the 458th who knew my dad and came forward with their personal stories: it's nice to know he hasn't been forgotten. And a special thank you to Jerry York for "finding" me, and to Nick for everything.

All of you have given me a gift no one else could give - the memories of Vietnam that my dad would have shared with me if he had come home. I cannot find words that adequately express the feelings in my heart...

Thank you for the gifts, thank you for sharing so much of yourselves, thank you for your love. This reunion, the memories, and the friendships made will be treasured by me always.

Jennifer L. Dauten, Daughter of Maj. Frederick W. Dauten, Jr.

As You can see Jennifer appreciated the visit with the guys who served with her rather. (All of us.) I again applaud the people that helped make the trip worthwhile to the Dauten girls.

Nick

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CARIBOU CHIPS AND OTHER ASSORTED TIDBITS

Notice:

Now that I have everybody's name and address updated in my database NOBODY IS ALLOWED TO CHANGE ADDRESS!!**

What's the matter with all you people anyway? Do you all have creditors after you or something?

If you are even CONTEMPLATING moving, you MUST submit your request to IN TRIPLICATE at least 2 years prior to the date you want to take this foolish action.

It will be DENIED, of course.

You may appeal to me, in triplicate, and I will get to your silly notions as soon as possible, say in, oh, about two years.

Should you be so arrogant as to try to move anyway, I will send my appeals consultants around to visit you. You'll recognize them right away. They are large hulking men (or, considering the latest equal opportunity legislation, Women) who have a poor command of the English language and wear ill-fitting suits. They will be happy (relatively speaking) to spend hours and hours "discussing" with you the merits of staying RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE for, oh, say, 2 years.

So stay put damnit!

Jan Gerstner
(414) 646-8965
1049 Milwaukee Street
De LaField, WI 53018-1626

Editor's Note: Jan really wants to keep the addresses current. So if your wife catches you and throws you out of the house forcing an address change remember the important thing as you go thru the door (open or closed) for the last time... CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS with us. -

Nick.

HOT STUFF

Please note the familiar TABASCO bottle in the margin. The McIlhenny Co. of Avery Island, LA 70613 provided us with a goodly amount of stocking stuffers for our last reunion. Everyone appreciated the contribution and harked back to the days of yore in V-nam. Remember, when you are out trying to pick up some "hot stuff," get the real thing that leaves a familiar taste in your mouth. Our thanks to the Company! TABASCO.



FROM INTERNATIONAL MEMBER

L/C Nicholas Caramalis

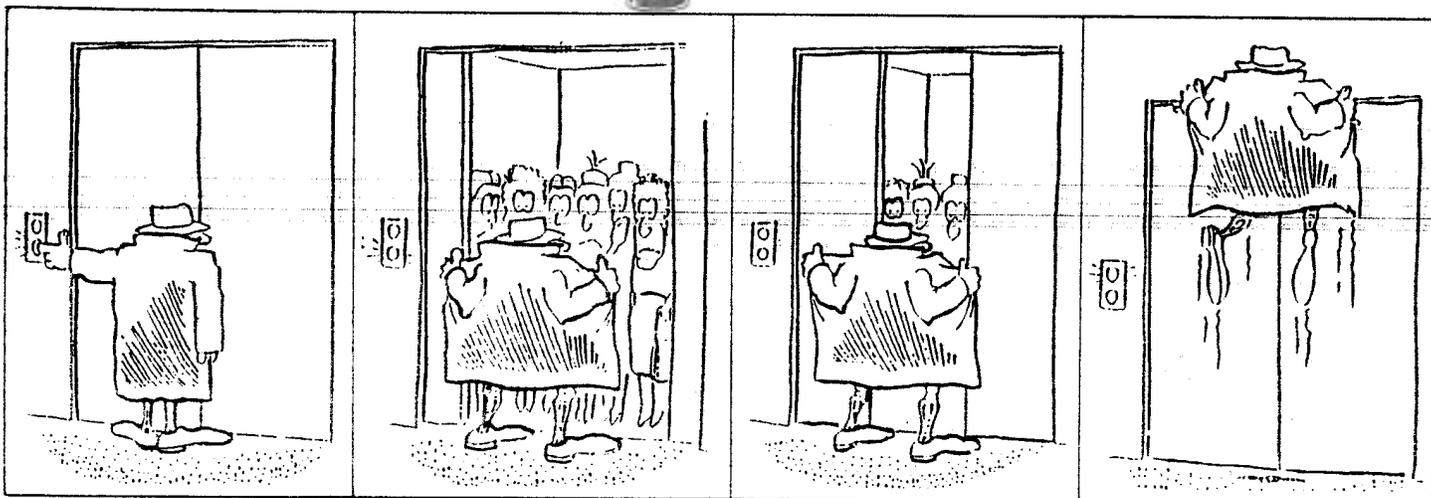
Greetings from Tallinn, Estonia. Last summer I got an opportunity to come out here and renovate the American Embassy in the newly freed ex Soviet Republic of Estonia. It was too good of an opportunity to pass up and we grabbed it. Regrettably things happened rather quickly, and I didn't even take your address with me. I'm glad that your latest Notice finally caught up with me here, and so I can again stay in touch.

Sorry we missed your reunion at Wright Pat. Hope I was a good blast for everyone. The way things are shaping up we will also miss the next one. I don't anticipate finishing before next winter, owing to the security restrictions the State Dept. is imposing on the project. We were to begin work in Dec. 92 and finish in July. We are now 4 months into the project and have yet to do a lick of work. Typical government bureaucratic fiasco. All we have done so far is to travel around Europe and US reporting governments largess, I am still a taxpayer and I once in a while I protest, but not too loudly.

Tallinn is the capitol city of Estonia, and is a beautiful old medieval town that has remained remarkably intact despite all the wars, conquests, and occupations it has endured. The people are quite a hardy bunch to have survived all this time through the worst of conditions. Food in the winter is scarce for them. They have a choice of beets, cabbage, potatoes, onions and lots of dark bread if you don't mind standing in line for a while. They are forever short on fuel and so heat and hot water from the central heating plant is a rare occurrence in the winter time. We have already endured the shortest day of the year and are looking forward to seeing the sun again. We are enjoying the area and look forward to visiting Moscow and St. Petersburg later in the year when things warm up again. We also plan on getting up to Helsinki on a regular basis since we are only 55 miles away across the gulf.

Anyway we are having a good time and working with a bunch of good people. Hope you and the family enjoyed a wonderful holiday, and will have a healthy and rewarding new year. Plan on seeing us at the 94 gathering. Best Wishes.

The Other Nick



HELP WANTED!

Will people who are interested in management, accounting, newsletter preparation, reunion organization, membership chairmanship or any contrived or created position with this association please identify your requested position and justify your selection in ten words or less. Seriously, we will have to spread the activities a bit thinner if my marriage is to survive another 30 years.

We really need an individual from every year group to take the Caribou by the horns and honcho each year group to help locating their guys. Any volunteers please contact HQs!! We will provide an info packet as best as possible for starters.

Will need dedicated volunteers to man the reception desk (Command Post) at the reunion, meet and greet etc., hand out name tags, COLLECT REUNION TAX, and help keep the ball rolling. (Sounds like Perot?)

CARIBOU TAX - LESS THAN 3 CENTS A DAY!

Members present at Warner Robins ('91) voted the \$10.00 per year tax to keep things going. Most everybody has kept up. Some have tossed in a ten spot - never to be heard from again. Next to keeping your address (zip + 4, (AC) + PH #) current and letting us know you are alive, keeping the exchequer stocked is most appreciated. The '92, '93, '94 on your address label tells the latest current dues paid year. Please report any error noted.

WOOD CHIPS AND DIP

Two tour flight engineer, Wayne Ervin, now retired, made numerous fine wood carvings in his spare time with the Army and 457 TAS/66. If you have one of Wayne's wood carvings, please read on.

Wayne has not had to cut off any appendages (yet) to establish his elevated level of fame as a wood carver. To show the point, he even has a large Caribou carving at the Air Force Academy which I hope everybody will seek out.

Wayne's request is that everyone with an Ervin wood carving please get in touch with him at 407 N. Martin St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909 or his studio phone (919) 338-5243. He basically wants to photograph his handiwork for his portfolio and in return he will autograph his work and return it to you.

As his fame grows the autographed stuff could make the trip to V-nam worthwhile for your grandkids.

Since Wayne makes a variety of carved "stuff" ranging from knicknacs to large church doors (all very interesting, mind you) I have asked him to bring as much as he can carry to Colorado Springs for everybody to see and enjoy... or buy if interested.



YOSSARIAN LIVES - A MYSTERY??

Please note the "YOSSARIAN LIVES" sticker. The source is unclear. It arrived early Feb-93 just tucked in an envelope. The postmark was hand stamped with an obvious effort to be unreadable. Is someone pulling my leg?

The immediate question is what does it mean? I checked my crack (cracked) staff of Caribou informants and could establish nothing. The YOSSARIAN card is a peel-back stick anywhere type so it appears someone took extra effort to advertise the many fine contributions made by the dedicated Caribou crewmembers. I can easily picture this decal on many loads of critical cargo delivered into the arms of the Special Forces guys (and perhaps an occasional VC) by justifiably proud flight crews. What Else??

As memory serves, the early 1960's novel CATCH 22 by Joseph Heller featured Captain Yossarian, a navigator, who claimed insanity to avoid flying in the war because it was dangerous. After retrieving a nude Capt. Yossarian from a tree near a formal parade formation (formal birthday suit), Capt. Yossarian's insanity claim was reviewed by the competent (?) medical staff of the moment. THEY DETERMINED THAT

1. Flying in a war zone was dangerous.
2. Capt. Yossarian recognized the danger of flying in combat and was justifiably afraid for his life.

THEREFORE:

- A. Yossarian could not claim insanity to avoid flying in combat.
- B. The medics then produced ARMY (AAF) Regulation citing release from combat duty to be denied in the above circumstance LAW CATCH 22 to wit:

YOU CANNOT CLAIM INSANITY AS AN EXCUSE FOR REFUSING TO DO SOMETHING THAT IS ESSENTIALLY INSANE.

At this point an extremely reluctant Yossarian stamped into his crewseat for another dreaded combat sortie. Can anybody forget the crew coordination, check-list procedures, taxi out, and break release then Capt. Yossarian's single digit signal to his Operation Officer? That is still funny 24 years later!

So back to our Yossarian? What is the message intended with the YO CARD? I suspect there is more to this story that I have been able to uncover. If anybody cares to fill us in on the activities of our Yossarian please feel free to do so. We will dedicate a YOSSARIAN LIVES COLUMN in future issues. Perhaps somebody can convince the apparently reclusive sender of the YO CARD to provide details.

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They sat in state, the heroes, in the vaulted halls of fame,
 In proud and scornful silence, for each had made his name.
 On fields of storied battles, on many a bloody sea,
 Though forged in fire or carved in mire, each dead is history.

There was fighting Davy Crockett and the martyr Nathan Hale,
 And the Rebel line that fell in Shenandoah's bloody vale.
 There was Grant who had brief glory, but died another way,
 And others known to time alone, but each had had his day.

On each haunted visage, there was a days forbidding gloom,
 And every gaze, a stranger, who had ambled in the room.
 In his right hand was a checklist, in his left a SOP.
 His clothes were torn, his face was worn, and lined with misery.

The first to rise was Ceasar, by virtue of his age,
 And the ominous finger that he pointed was trembling with his
 rage.
 What right have you, brash youngster, what claim to fame have
 you?
 And the man replied, though not with pride, I flew the Caribou.

It was in a far off Asian land, a land that God forgot,
 Where the sand filled winds are piercing and the sun is scorching
 hot.
 We were young and brave and hopeful, fresh from the United
 States,
 Though somehow we knew and the feeling grew, we were
 going to meet our fate.

For there's a maniac madness in the supercharger whine,
 And you can hear the joints expanding in the main hydraulic
 line,
 The dull brown paint is peeling off, it lends an added Luster,
 And the pilot head is filled with lead, to help the load adjuster.
 The nosegear rocks and trembles, for it's held with baling wire,
 And the wings are filled with thermite to make a hotter fire.
 The landing gear struts are twisted and the wheels are not quite
 round,
 This sorry state, arranged by fate, is to carry you off the ground.

The cargo doors are rusted and close with a mournful shriek,
 And the plexiglass is covered with oil from some forgotten leak.
 The runway strips are narrow, rice paddies on either side,
 And the crash trucks say in a mournful way, you're on your
 final ride.

You taxi to the runway mid groans from the tortured gear,
 And feel the check pilot's practiced teeth gnawing at your rear.
 The rotting rice on the cargo floor induces a nauseous coma.
 Mingling smell, like a stench from hell, with the ___ man's
 foul aroma.

So it's off into the overcast yonder, though number one is
 missing,
 And the leaking hydraulic fluid sets up a gentle hissing.
 The compass dial is spinning in a way that broods no stopping,
 And row by row the breakers blow with intermittent popping.

The airplane has been inspected and the maintenance records
 signed,
 It's been classed "airworthy" by some low and twisted mind.
 There is no hope, no sunny day, to dry those tears of sorrow,
 For those who land, and still can stand, must fly the thing
 tomorrow.

The stranger stood in silence, a tear shown in his eye,
 And from his honored audience, there rose a ghastly sigh.
 Ceasar rose to meet him with pity on his face,
 And bowing low, he turned to show, the stranger to his place.

Alan E. Hendrickson

EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER



Sq/Arr Year _____ AC Home Phone _____

Rank _____ 1St MI _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Comments: 457/66 Maj. Nick Evanish AF (Ret.)
 210 48th Street
 Gulfport, MS 39507-4317
 (601) 863-8688

Please enclose copies of any lists of C-7 names, Sq. Orders, names and addresses of any Caribou people yhou can locate.

Caribou Association
 210 48th Street
 Gulfport, MS 39507-4317

GENERIC CARIBOU CONTACT AND INFOR CARD

- MEMBER NEW MEMBER
- Address/info update
- Plan to attend Colorado Springs (for new contacts and changes) Yes No. No. of people _____?
- Volunteer (list positions)
- Ideas for next reunion.
- Names and addresses of Caribou people enclosed.
- Other _____

For planning - Send no money
 I am interested in ___ each 483 Wing patchens
 and/or ___ each ___ TAS patches
 (About \$5 each) _____
 I am interested in a Sq. Patch

FINANCIAL

Caribou Tax (\$10.00) ___ 1933 ___ 1994 enclosed.
 Other _____
 8 x 10 Color Photos \$6.00:
 Red Tail Over Cam Ranh _____
 In Full Reverse _____
 VHS by Kulger _____
 Check to Caribou Assn. \$ _____

536/70 Col. Robert F Neap USAF (Ret.)

We just attended the retirement dinner here at Keesler AFB for Col. Bob Neal. His association with the C-7 as a 2/Lt. started in 1970) at ABI and the usual year tour and 900 hours of incidental combat flying time in V-nam.

Of later note, he commanded the 63 AW Norton AFB during Desert Storm. This included 23 % of the Air Lift, 48 each C-141's and direct command of 5000 people.

As one speaker said "Good luck for the rest of your life!" Nick and Myrna join in with Best Wishes from the Caribous. Col. and Mrs. (Dana) Neal will reside in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.



Moving?

Send us your new address!

DISCLAIMER

This C-7 Caribou newsletter is fall out from the Caribou Association, a loose knit orgnization of former Caribou personnel. Information presented is without the approval of the U.S. Air Force or the Dept. of Defense. input that approaches defamation of character is intentional. However, before considering legal action, be advised the Caribou Association and staff operates at the brink of penury. The majority of information provided is essentially flotsam and propwash.