



CHINA POST # 1 POOP SHEET



March 2005 • Year of the Rooster

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LAS VEGAS CONVENTION RESULTS

The Frontier Hotel turned out to be gracious hosts, the Hospitality Suite held most of us, the pool side buffet was outstanding and the only glitch was moving the seated banquet room since our original room had an earlier activity scheduled and they could not convert it back for us in time. Several significant things came up at the business meeting that need to come to the attention of the membership.

Credit Cards. The Post can now accept credit cards for dues and for "emblem sales **at meetings**" or for dues by phone or e-mail or by fax. We will need to get some specific information to process the transaction and due to the fee for each transaction, dues must include a minimum \$5 'donation' to the **Dragon Fund**. There is no additional charge on emblem sales which will be processed at the convention / reunion.

Rental Car Discount. Many of our members already have some form of discounts on car rentals so this might only be a back up, but it doesn't cost the Post anything and it might save you a buck or two. **AVIS** has a China Post Account number that you can use to get the 'lowest corporate rate'. Remember to ask for your other discounts from other memberships such as AAA, AARP or coupons that might save you even more. Our **Avis Worldwide Discount # is Q165753**. You can get them on their listed 800 # or at 'avis.com' **E-mail** accounts for Post members are available through our web site. When you apply, please be sure to put your name on the application so that we can cross-reference with our file. In future we might try to send the Poop sheet to some of the members by using e-mail if they are willing. This would cut down on some of our considerable mailing costs if it works. If it were sent to you by e-mail, it would be in the form of a PDF file, which would take an Adobe Acrobat Reader

program to decode and print. This program is available as a free download.

Our Department Affiliation. The Department of New York has been our "home" since 1976 but they have raised their Department dues by \$5 per capita, which was to begin on 1 January 2005.

Dick Schubnell and I discovered this change at the Department caucus while we were at the National Convention. We started making an approach to several other Departments while we were there, and had several possibilities with the best being Nevada and Europe (AKA Department of France although they are really in Germany and eight other countries with only two small Posts actually in France). While we in Las Vegas we met with a group from the Dept. of Nevada Executive Committee and we had worked out most of the details. At their Dept. convention in December they decided not to go through with the transfer which resulted in the delay of this Poop Sheet until we could issue a full report on our transfer to the membership. The Department of France (Europe if the word sticks in your craw although it shouldn't) passed the motion for the transfer and we are undergoing the transition. New York has voted to allow us to remain at our old per capita through the end of this *fiscal year* which ends 30 June 2005 and for the 2006 *fiscal year* which starts 1 July 2006 we will move our Department Affiliation to France / Europe so that we **will not** have to have a dues increase. We do most of the Adjutant's job of the Department at this end so the move will appear 'seamless' to the membership. The motion will be made to allow all of this to happen at the May 2005 National Executive Committee meeting, and we all appear to be remaining on friendly terms through the transition.

Special thanks to **Bill Anton**, **Mike Kandt** and **Tom Krohn** and the Las Vegas Memorial Division members who did so much to make this meeting a success. There were many others such as **Hal Fischer** who stopped in and signed books that we

had in emblem sales, **James Wengenroth** who brought us the flag from the Baghdad Memorial Division, and **Charles 'Chuck' Whitney** who brought a framed and signed Flying Tiger print for the Post. BTW, his "True Thai" restaurant in Minneapolis has been open for 2 years and China Post members are welcome. **VC Jeff Wendling**, now stateside from the PI and **H plus Paul Merrick** represented the Ravens, **Tom Tinnish**, now also stateside but one of the founders of our Central Europe Division were in attendance as well as **MacAlan Thompson** who came in from Thailand. **Wes** and **Sandra Tribble**, **Garren** and **Pam Brown** and **Jim** and **Sandy Maupin** were most appreciated for helping to pack up the banners and other gear with **Al Rockoff** and **Sue Wood** pitching in. 'H' also ran the emblem sales and deserves a vote of thanks for working in the heat. **Bill & Val DeVoe** pitched in with computer help and **Ursula Henry** oversaw the refreshment center with an assist from 'Ole' **Olson**. Ole turned over his mantle as the "Great Rooster" to John **Wisniewski** and **Bill Anton** took over as the Post's designated bull shipper. **Hans Stockenberger**, **Joe & Adele Hoofnagle** and **Tim Brown** came in from Saudi and brought their 'Clans' to add to the Aux and SAL members in attendance. **Dick Brenneman** made it for the first time in several years and **Don Carver** who also attended National with us and we were glad to see he is making the 'circuit'. **Dr. Bernie Doyle** was back from his annual trips to SEA and **Dr's Gene & Anne Kirkley** were back with us. Our web-master **Jim Lint** brought new wife **Anna** to her first CP meeting outside of Korea. We know that they will join in with the Northern Virginia Division now that they are in the DC area. **Roger Vogeler** has come back; I remember when he sent in a Honeymoon picture with **Ali Mah** in a gondola and I asked how they enjoyed Venice. Turns out that it was the Venetian Hotel but they sure do make it look real in Las Vegas. It was good to see **Dave Kouba** who was a mainstay of early Post growth in SEA along with **JC**. **James Luke**, who keeps our books, **Jim Lint**, web-master, and **James Wengenroth** were made life members at the meeting. **Henri Verbrugghen** and Post member, son **Alex** who is recently back from SW Asia, were back and **Emmet Sullivan** helped pick the bull shipper. The Post's 40 & 8 meeting was run by **Tim Brown** with our Voiture and Grand Correspondent **Roger Gowen** keeping us in line and properly fined. And special thanks to **Jenny Williams** for running our Auxiliary.

2005 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE PAGODA HOTEL IN HONOLULU AUGUST 26 – 28 2005.

AL National will be in Honolulu August 19 – 25 2005.

At the business meeting we held a **Post Everlasting Ceremony** for **Post Deputy Commander, Vice Admiral Marcus M Wood**. A memorial was also held for those who have 'gone before'.

DRAGON FUND DONORS

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PEOPLE

Texas Tech University's Vietnam Center Archives has announced in it's latest bulletin that it has added the **Conan G Meyer** Collection. He was US Army Advisor in Quang Ngai Province 1965 – 1966. This just in, Gay is now known as '**Crash**' as of 31 Aug when he totaled his car. When they pulled him out they laid him on a fire ant bed—I'm not making this up. After 19 days in hospital and an additional 2 + weeks of recovery he is at home with a new car and doing well.

Hal Link returned from a 12-day tourist trip to China and got to visit the Stilwell Museum and the Flying Tiger Exhibition and to see that the Old American Club building was still there. He reportedly took approximately 500 pictures so be prepared for a tour through the scrapbooks when you see him.

Our FAA FIS in Singapore **Gerald Damewood** did a one-up on all of the other Shanghai visitors. Not only did he get into the old Post building, but also, he got a tour and managed to get his camera inside for some shots of the inside. As soon as I can figure out how to get these to Jim Lint we will try to post them on the web

National Headquarters has sent "50 Year" Certificates of Continuous membership for **William**

C Heller and **Russell J Morgan**. We will try to get them to a meeting for presentation.

Emmy Helseth sent in a museum fund donation in honor of **Carrie Hansel and Marc Wood**.

Abe Goldfarb sent in a donation to honor our past "Minute Man" award recipient **Frank Shaw**.

Jim Anderson sent in a museum fund donation in honor of **Robert (Buster) Purser** who passed away in April 2000. Bob was USN WW II and the Air Force on the Berlin Airlift. He went on to work on the SR-71 at Area 51. He later went to Vietnam with PA & E, Iran with Bell, Saudi with Lummis and MKSAC and finally to Alaska for the Exxon Valdez cleanup. Also in honor of **Gary Kangieser**, who passed away May 7, 2004. Gary was the GM of Flying Tiger Line in Vietnam in the '70s who heroically evacuated his employees during the fall of Saigon. He is mentioned several times in the book "Flying Tigers Over Cambodia".

Trivia: "Wanted: young skinny wiry fellows, not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred." It seems like an ad that a lot of our members answered at one time-what was the job? Answer at the end of this Poop Sheet column.

Thanks to **Jim Boyd** who sent a multi-systems TV and a multi-system VCR to the Post. Now there is a method of viewing and recording some of those PALS and other system tapes that you got overseas and can't play anymore. Jim is presently in Iraq with Fluor.

Peter Jutras has opened a small business in Hood River, OR, **Cascade Ballistics**. He is manufacturing close tolerance, high performance custom bullets that are aimed to interest competition shooters and those who have antique arms with hard to find ammo. If you are in need for your sniper, elephant or collector arms contact the Post and we will forward his information.

At the "Cooties" National Convention (Scratch) our Post's own **Sid Jenkins** is looking to move up the ladder as the Supreme Jr Vice Commander. He has the support of China Post and I hope that the Post's VFW members who are members of the VFW Honor Degree will offer their support.

During this years Ranger Convention, held with the SF Convention in Las Vegas, **Bill Anton** was presented with the National Leadership Award.

As you read this **Gilbert Mustian** will have deployed to Kosevo.

W.E.B. Griffin's latest book "By Order of the President" will be available through the Sam's Book Club after 12 January. You may also have seen the ads for the latest in his "Honor Bound" series on late night cable TV ads.

Trivia answer: Pony Express riders.

COVERT AVIATORS TO BE HONORED

At the epic South East Asian battle at Dien Bien Phu, a group of 37 pilots flew covert missions for the US Govt to re-supply and support the French. Two China Post members **Wallace Buford** and the legendary **James B. "Earthquake Magoon" McGovern** were killed when their C-119 was shot down, effectively bringing the operation to an end. Previously, these pilots from **CAT** along with the members of it's follow on organization **Air America** were honored with a Unit Citation Award from the CIA in 2001. There are now seven surviving pilots from these operations including active CP 1 member **Capt. Monson W Shaver** who will be awarded the "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur" or "Officer" of the Legion of Honor, France's highest award for service. Congratulations on an honor most deserved and long overdue.

JUBAL MEMORIAL DIVISION

The Division and the active military detachment held their December election meeting and also thanked those who had made the Christmas Party a success. The new Division officers are:

Commander-**Ernie Spetter**

1st Vice Co- **Hans Stockenberger**

VC / Membership-**Jerry Hurych**

VC / Social-**Julia Sterling**

VC / Treasurer-**Tony Smith**

Adjutant-**Troy Egan**

There was a moment of silence for Roy Hallums, currently held captive in Iraq.

MILESTONES

Carrie Hansel, beloved wife of Post SR VC, Judge Jack Hansel succumbed in August after a long battle with cancer. Carrie was a past President of our Post Auxiliary and a true warrior's wife. Jack and Carrie were together for 62 years and she will be greatly missed by all of the Post members who knew her over the years at Post meetings and during Carrie and Jack's long career around the globe.

Phanh Kandt, wife of Post Sr VC Mike Kandt passed in November and a Buddhist ceremony was held. A celebration of life was held at their home with several Post members in attendance to express the heartfelt condolences of the Post.

Robert W Moore, Bob to friends, but also known to Air Commandos as WGA (Worlds Greatest Aviator) lost a sudden battle that he thought that he could win when we spoke a week before his death. Bob was a founder of the **Andros** Division, and had recently been the head of our **Guatamala** Division.

Frank Shaw, Post Vice Commander and recipient of the 'Minute Man' award as our Legionnaire of the Year succumbed to his battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma on 4 Feb. Frank was the Raven line chief in Laos from November 1968 – Nov 1969. In the atrium of the church was a mounted display of Frank's memorabilia, which included his Minuteman Statue, his CP 1 hat and his Vice Commander baseball cap. There was also a Raven patch and a half-page newspaper article about his service in Laos, which were displayed on an easel. The Post and the Ravens offer our condolences to his wife Nancy who joined Frank in hosting our St. Louis reunion. More detailed article is posted on both the Post's and Raven's web pages.

One of our Central Europe Division Founders who also was a leader in our VFW and 40 & 8 activities within the Post, **Ronnie A Wright** died in hospital in Germany and was buried in the Spangdahlen cemetery. Ronnie was active in forming our "Pup tent # 5" in the Military order of the Cooties, the VFW Honors Order. The Pup tent (chapter) was originally named "Sud de France" and has been renamed the "Ronnie's Ruffriders, Pup Tent # 5" to honor his memory.

Jack E O'Neal was a "Tactical Fighter Pilot" (read that as mostly propellers) and a Life Member of the

Air Commando Association, who spent six years in Europe and Asia. He was an AT-28 pilot at NKP during the 1966-67 deployment of the 606 Air Commando Sqdn and retired from the 1st Air Commando Wing in 1969.

Although **Joseph Lucchino** only joined CP 1 in 2001 he was an active member, tank commander in the US Army, who later was with AT & T in communications. He joined Post Everlasting in July 2004.

The man who created most of those interesting strips on Laotian mountaintops and hillsides that were so thrilling to get in and out of has passed. We had received a report on his Christmas party in Bangkok and were looking forward to a repeat of the successful "Return to SEA 2002" reunion in 2006. **Jeff Johnson**, who was a mainstay of Air America operations and a long time member of the VFW as well as the Post, was honored with a Buddhist ceremony at a Wat in Thailand, will be missed. Information and pictures available on both our and Air America's web sites.

Henry D Murphy was a 30 year Post member, USN veteran of WW II and Korea who held the China Medallion in addition to a dozen other campaign awards and other decorations that reflected his service from the South Atlantic through the Pacific to China.

Bruce E Saunders was a WW II US Army Signal Corps Veteran who retired from the Army Reserves in 1962 after serving in civilian GS status for many years in Asia. He was a 28 continuous year Post member since rejoining in 1977 and he had interesting assignments with Det 101 in Burma for 2.5 years, Det 202 in Kunming China, and later was in Shanghai with ESD-44 for 3 years, 2 in mufti. He was a member in the original Post Home in Shanghai and later served in a similar position as that in China, in Taiwan for 3 years as a communications security specialist. He had been retired in Winter Park, FL.

Muriel "Kenny" Connor, beloved wife of Post VC, and N VA Division founder Ed Connor died in Feb. Inurnment March 7 at Columbarium at Arlington.

AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Dick Geron, Hap Lutz and the rest of the ACA crew, put on another fine event even though there were some worries about damage from hurricanes to the facilities. Dick resumed his duties as Vice President and "Hospitality Chairman" which he has performed so admirably for the ACA, CP, and the other related organizations that have their reunions in the Fort Walton, Hurlburt area.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Heinie Aderholt is on the cover of the 'After Action Report' that members should be receiving soon. We shared a table with **John Lear** and a photo session with G. Gordon, Heinie and the Deputy Metro Police Chief. After long years of using the Plaza Hotel for the annual meeting, a change is set for the 2005 and beyond years. **SOAR XXIX** will be at **The Orleans Hotel and Casino, 26 September – 30 September.**

RAYENS

The usual, but in a nicer place. Since the Kon Tiki Motel became too run down for even Ravens to stay there, they are warming to the fact of clean sheets, mattresses without lumps and sags, refrigerators and a free breakfast buffet. At the same time the hourly passage of the freight trains and being on the Randolph flight path noises give it an almost sterile feeling. **Ed Gunter** was elected as the new Raven President and **Greg Wilson** is the new Vice President. The Ravens are in the process of funding a scholarship for Hmong and Lao soldiers dependents that fought along with the Ravens in Laos. **Chad Swedberg** and **Lew Hatch** along with several other members of their committee are working on the details. Updates and progress can be found on the Raven Web Site, which is linked to ours.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **Saigon Mission Association**, US Embassy/DAO will hold it's 30th annual reunion on 29 – 30 April 2005 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 1240 S Walnut, Anaheim CA. Military, Civilian and Contractors are welcome. For details see their web site www.saigonmsn.com or contact John Guffey at john.guffey@netzero.net

An "all hands" from all bases and occupations from Thailand Reunion will be held October 19 – 25th 2005 in Bangkok. Note that this is being handled through a local travel agent. Contact at James L Traywick by web www.thailand-korat.com or e-mail him at traywick@loxinfo.co.th

The **September 2006, Air America / China Post / SKY Reunion** will probably NOT take place due to the untimely passing of Jeff Johnson.

Raven Reunion 2005 is scheduled for 21- 23 Oct in San Antonio and Randolph AFB. Since this conflicts with the "all hands" Bangkok Reunion I would expect most of the Ravens will be in San Antonio.

CASI Reunion in Las Vegas is also scheduled for Las Vegas, October 23 – 24.

The Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society 2005 Reunion will be held in New Orleans May 12 – 15 at the Wyndam Hotel. Expect a tour of the D-Day museum as part of the activities.

VFW, 40 & 8, CP 1 Europe Division meetings are scheduled in Paris from 6 – 8 May 2005. The VFW annual meeting is on the 6th at the 'Maison des Anciens Combattants. This will be followed by a VFW lunch and then a Grande de France dinner and an evening show at the Moulin Rouge. The CP 1 and Grande meetings will be held on the 7th at the Royal British Legion hall followed by lunch. On the 8th the Post, Grande and the VFW will participate at various 60th Anniversary of D-Day ceremonies.

The Northern Virginia Memorial Division will hold its 2005 Luncheon Meeting on **1 May**. The guest speaker will be **Jim Roper**, Author of "*Quoth the Raven*" who will talk about his experiences that led to the book. Any questions if you are new to the area, contact the NVMD through **Mike Evers**.

American Legion National Convention will be at Honolulu August 19 – 25. There are hotels set for each delegation and Post members who want to attend can make arrangements through the Post. Their rates will be generally higher than ours due to the Legions booking for the event. The FODPAL breakfast, which we do attend, will be in the headquarters hotel on Monday August 22.

POST CONVENTION AND MEETING IN HONOLULU August 26 – 28 2005. We have a block of rooms at the **Pagoda Hotel** and detailed

information will be in the May 2005 Poop Sheet. This is a hotel property that the Hawaiians use when they come to Honolulu and it has amenities that some members might remember from our last Hawaii Convention such as the Tea House dining rooms in the giant fish pool and Koi ponds with scheduled feeding times. Their web site has a lot of information on the hotel at pagodahotel.com. The Legion usually has air fare discounts on several carriers for the period around the convention. My experience is that these are only a small discount off of a full price fare and that you are better served booking online. I am working on some options for our hospitality room and it looks like the meal prices are higher in Hawaii than we are used to in places like Las Vegas and Ft Walton. Things should work out in about our same price range with some work on details. Any of our members in Honolulu who can volunteer to do a little leg work for the Post will be greatly appreciated. In the meantime it is not too early to begin searching for airfares around the targeted dates.

DUES AND THIS ADDRESS LABEL

The address label on this Poop Sheet should have a date or a letter after your name. If it not an "L" or an 05 then your dues are not current. There is the one or two that might pass in the mail, but if it says 04, your dues are expired; and if it says 03 or earlier, you did not get a dues notice because you are more than 2 years in arrears and National drops you entirely when you are that far behind. Nuf said ? Consider this your dues notice.

POST BUILDING

We are still accumulating the money to break ground. While the building fund continues to grow at a fairly steady pace, we are still short of the amount to get started.