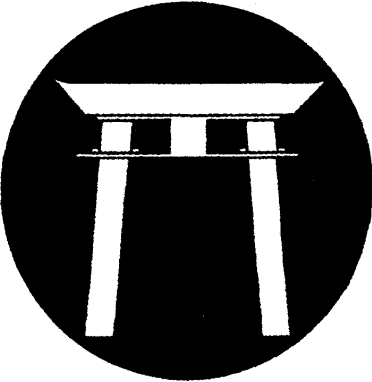


Torii Tribune

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2002

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



Special Points of Interest

- *Everyone agreed it was a great reunion For all the news from Baltimore, read the recap and a list of attendees on pages one and two.*
- *Business discussed and passed at the business meeting is found on pages three and four.*
- *Wonder what Natchez has to offer next year? Read Larry Eckard's article about the city on pages four and five.*
- *MAIL CALL on pages six thru eight has letters praising the reunion. See what you missed and be sure to join the fun next year!*

FABULOUS REUNION IN BALTIMORE

For a complete wrap-up of the business meeting, see the Official Minutes.

By all accounts, this was an excellent reunion. In truth, we did expect a few more people because of the great number of folks who live in the PA/MD area. There are a raft of people living in the Baltimore/Ft Meade area that inexplicably did not show their faces. That's too bad. Not only did you miss a lot of fun, you missed the comradeship found only at a reunion like this.

One hundred and fifty people attended the fifth ASA Okinawa reunion

at the Holiday Inn BWI Hotel in Baltimore, MD on October 3-6, 2002. The reunion officially began with the welcome reception, featuring a cash bar and hors' d'oeuvres. Welcoming remarks by Association President, Larry Eckard was followed by introductions of first time attendees. Dinner was free to enjoy on one's own with old friends and new attendees.

After a breakfast buffet Friday morning, many of the group set out on tour. Visits were made to the National Cryptologic Museum on Ft. Meade, a big

hit with these guys, and to the USDA Agricultural Research Center, a fascinating place where much was learned about the research involved in the USDA standards. These both were very interesting tours, enjoyed by both the men and women.

Friday evening's dinner was semi-Oriental. The food was good for hotel chefs, but possibly not up to true Japanese standards.

Everyone had been asked to wear their favorite oriental apparel—kimono, cone hat, flip-flops, smok-

(Continued on page 2)

ing jacket or whatever you had (and some did). After dinner a fashion show was held and the audience chose Mr. & Mrs. Dallas May as the winner. The diners were also entertained by one of our own, Noto and Friends, a Willie Nelson look-a-like. He and his group sang and picked a few songs (hillbilly-style) for the group and told some hilarious tales. It was a most entertaining evening!

Saturday's tour was to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, which is now the home of the USS Constellation, as well as Camden Yards and other attractions. Everyone had a chance to choose where to have lunch from among the many restaurants in the area. After returning to the hotel, the annual business meeting was held and Colorado springs, CO, was chosen as the 2004 reunion site. The "Hometown Raffle" was held just after the business meeting. Most people brought an item representative of his/her hometown that was raffled off at a "bid 'n buy" session. There were a lot of really good items brought.

There was even a couple of San Miguel six-packs as prizes. Everyone enjoyed seeing what everyone else had chosen to bring, and they raised \$585 for the Association Treasury. A great and fun way to raise money! After a few hours to relax and get dressed up for the evening's festivities, the cocktail hour and photo session began at 6:30 pm. It was an honor to welcome the 704th MI Brigade from Ft. Meade to provide the Honor Guard and to post and retire the National Colors

After Sunday morning's private breakfast buffet, a memorial service was held in remembrance of all those who had passed away, or whose deaths were just learned of, since the last reunion. As the reunion concluded, everyone was well aware that this had been a very special time and were looking forward to being together again in 2003 in Natchez, MS. Ya'll come down!

2002 REUNION ATTENDEES

Joe & Peggy Alexander
 Robert & Marilyn Alles
 Charles & Marilyn Alston
 Donald & Nobuko Anderson
 Robert & Jan Ashford
 Earl & Martha Butler
 Daniel & Margaret Carr
 Ron & Carla Chew
 Stanley & Joan Chodnicki
 Albert Cooper
 Richard & Marianne Crosby
 Billy Davenport
 Tracy & Carol Davis
 William & Julie Desrocher
 Wayne & Sandra Ditter
 Edward & Patricia Domanski
 Larry & Brenda Eckard
 Robert & Ruth Eckhardt
 Lonnie Frampton
 Gelon & Myrna Galbreath
 Bruce & Darlene Garland
 Clifford & Hattie Gilmore
 Paul Griffin
 James & Mona Haid
 Donald Harper
 James & Alice Hart
 Paul Henderson
 Michael & Lillian Higgins
 Ranzie & Barbara Hoekstra
 Charles & Dolores Hoover
 Marvin & Edna Huff
 Richard & Elizabeth Huff
 Leonard & Mary Hunter
 Robert & Arlene Huxtable
 Jay & June Ibach
 Arthur Jordan
 Charles & June Kendzierski
 Charles Kennedy & Fran Fitz
 Lloyd & Jo Ree King
 Walter & Beverly Kusmierczyk
 Wendell & Elizabeth Lee
 Charles & Sophia Lewis
 Mark L'Hommedieu & Jane Murphy
 Mike Maki
 William & Maxine Martin
 Dallas & Linda May
 David Merritt
 David & Kathleen Miller
 Morton & Ilene Miller
 Theodore Mish & Rea Murray
 John & Jean Neumeister
 James & Sharon Norrbom
 Al Nosenzo

Sam & Nancy Noto
 Mike Nuin
 William & Elaine Overholt
 William & Patricia Phillips
 Jay & Sue Polk
 Donald Praisner
 Henry Prieber
 Granville & Judy Rainey
 William & JoAnn Roscher
 Duane & Lou Anne Sands
 Ervin & Betty Scheff
 Darrell & Alice Schmuker
 Tom & Judy Sevits
 Byrd Shepherd
 Boyd & Kathleen Smith
 George Smith
 James & Mary Ellen Stanger
 Ralph Steele
 Gerald & Betty Sturbaum
 Thomas & Marian Sturgeon
 Dean & Marlene Tweet
 William & Nancy Vernau
 Nicholas & Loraine Williams
 George & Shirley Williamson
 John & Anita Wilson

Total Members: 78
Guests: 62
GRAND TOTAL: 140

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 10/09/02

Beginning Balance: **\$2308.00**

Receipts;

Sales of ASA and Torii pins: \$183.00
 Raffle Ticket Sale \$585.00
 Dues Collected: \$677.00

Sub total: **\$3753.00**

Disbursements;

Five dinners for Honor Guard: **-\$144.75**

Balance as of 10/09/02 **+\$3608.25**

Respectfully submitted,
 Thomas A Strugeon,

NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES FOR 12/02 \$929.11

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Larry Eckard, President
1225 34th Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601
828-256-6008
cw3retech@aol.com

Billy "Tex" Davenport, Vice President
PO Box 241
Tiogh, TX 76271
214-641-1459
texokinawa@aol.com

Tom Sturgeon, Secy/Treas
12 Cherry Lane
Olmstead TWP, OH 44138-2918
440-427-9985
duosturgeons@aol.com

Paul Watson, Membership Chairman
17 Baker Rd
Salisbury, MA 01952
978-465-7473

Bill Overholt, Immediate Past President
69 Hillside Rd
Turnersville, NJ 08012
856-218-0124
asasobie@aol.com

Lloyd King Area Dir Southeast
3536 King Rd
Liberty, MS 39645
601-657-8795

Charles Abney, Area Dir, Mid Atlantic
8008 Main St
Miamitown, OH 45041
bidfirst@juno.com

Kenneth Bracken, Area Dir, NE
130 Bradford St
Sayne, PA 18840
520-399-2658
kennet@stny.rr.com

Tony Logan, Area Dir Mid-West North
1300 W Sahuarita Rd #78
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
520-399-2658

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Larry Eckard, President ASA Association

TRIP BACK TO OKINAWA SUGGESTED

One of the suggestions brought forth, though not made into a motion to follow up on, was a possible trip back to Okinawa. The purpose of this column is simply to see if there is enough interest to begin some preliminary work regarding best dates, prices, length of stay, etc. Please understand from the onset, such a trip would not be a replacement for our annual reunion, and should not be considered in that light.

If you are the least bit interested in obtaining information about a return trip to Okinawa, please let Larry Eckard know. Give him a call, fax or e-mail (all numbers are found elsewhere in this newsletter).

If there is sufficient interest, we'll get some information together and submit it for your consideration.

If there is not sufficient interest, the idea will be dropped, so it is very important, if you are interested contact Larry and let him know.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As you will see in the business meeting minutes, the decision was made to make a transition from the current "Area Director" board of directors to "Year Group" board of directors. No one currently serving will be "pushed out". Each person now serving will serve out his full term and the year-group system phased in as old directors leave the board. Obviously there will be some overlap until the Geographic Directors have been phased out. And that is fine. The more participation we have the better. The outgoing directors are invited to submit their names under one of the

year-groups. Between now and the next business meeting when the year group concept will be implemented, we are looking for volunteers to serve. If you served in any of the year groups listed and are interested in serving on the board of directors, please submit your name to the Association Secretary who will enter your name into nomination at the next business meeting. Following are the year groups. We would like one director of the following year groups.

1945-1950
1951-1953
1954-1958
1959-1963
1964-196-
1970-1974
1974 and beyond

Please consider the opportunity and volunteer. Your basic responsibilities would be to serve on the board of directors providing input and help make recommendations to the voting assembly; and to contact persons who served at the same time you did encouraging them to become a part of the organization and to attend our reunions.

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE 5TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASA OKINAWA ASSOCIATION IN BALTIMORE, MD,

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Eckard.

OLD BUSINESS:

Larry presented the President's Report. Sec/Treas Tom Sturgeon gave the minutes of the previous reunion and the current Treasurer's Report and both were approved as read. There were no other reports or old business.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

NEW BUSINESS:

Tex Davenport read the motion to change the wording in the by-laws to read "annual meetings" instead of "bi-annually." Also to change wording to grant membership to anyone who served in ASA Okinawa, it's predecessors or successors instead of limiting service only to certain years. So moved by Lonnie Frampton. Motion passed.

There was discussion to eliminate the word "predecessors" and the desire to make all who served in ASA Okinawa welcome. No motion.

Discussion to eliminate the present system of geographic area directors and substitute a system of year groups, I.E. 1945-53, 1954-58, 1059-63, 1964-69, 1970-74 and 1974 and beyond. Present area officers would finish their terms and there will be a slow transition to the new system. Lonnie Frampton added that there should be a complete membership list for each chairman to include years of service in Okinawa. We will take nominations for new chairmen at the 2003 meeting. Motion by Larry Eckard to accept proposal. Motion passed.

There was discussion initiated by Larry Eckard regarding having reunions within the reunion. Not recommended per se, but informal get-togethers are encouraged. No motion.

Tom Sturgeon and Larry Eckard raised the subject of increasing our present dues, due to higher postal and printing costs. After much discussion, it was moved and seconded to raise dues from \$5.00 per year to \$10.00 per year. Motion carried.

Discussion on whether to continue sending a newsletter to all members. Motion to continue doing so and to evaluate again at the 2003 meeting. Motion passed.

Bill Overholt presented a recommendation to perpetuate the ASA Okinawa Association at the NSA Museum. A goal was set of \$10,000 to be raised through con-

tributions from the membership. A suggested donation was \$2.00 per month over a period of time with the possibility of lowering the goal to \$5,000 later. The Sec/Treas will maintain a detailed name and contribution list with the monies deposited in a separate account. There will be a request/contribution form in the newsletter with donations of any amount acceptable. So moved and passed.

Discussion to limit raffle winners to 2 prizes maximum in all drawings. So moved and passed. No other business from floor.

Nominations for the 2004 reunion were: Colorado Springs, CO; Dearborn, MI; Buffalo, NY; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Orlando, FL; and New York City. Colorado Springs, Co was selected.

A newsletter announcement will be made to determine if there is any interest in a group trip to Okinawa.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Thomas A. Sturgeon, Sec

The Torri Tribune is Published By
Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
 PO Drawer 11399
 Hickory, NC 28603
 828-256-6008 (voice)
 828-256-6559 (fax)
 Dinamlr@aol.com e-mail (Dina's e-mail)
 Cw3reteck@aol.com e-Mail (Larry's e-mail)
 mlrsnewsletters@aol.com (newsletter e-mail)
"Our Reunion Work So You Don't Have To"

NSA MUSEUM CONTRIBUTION

Enclosed is my contribution for the ASA Okinawa Association at the NSA Museum.

Name: _____

Amount of contribution _____

Mail to: Thomas Sturgeon
 12 Cherry Lane
 Olmstead TWP, OH
 44138-2918

2003 REUNION ASA OKINAWA REUNION

Larry Eckard, President
 ASA Association

The 2003 ASA OKINAWA reunion is now set, and what a great time it is going to be. This promises to be one of, if not the best, reunion yet. We won't be able to provide you with all of the details at this time, but we certainly can whet your appetite.

First, you already know the location, Natchez, MS. The reunion dates will be September 25-28, 2003. Those were the best dates available. An annual city wide event "Natchez Fall Pilgrimage" will take up most of the hotel rooms during all of October (and incidentally, raise the room rates substantially.) So, September 25-28 it is. Host property will be the Eola Hotel located in downtown Natchez. This is a grand old hotel built in the days of cotton plantations and ante-bellum homes. It remains a landmark and a symbol of elegance. You will love this place!

Col Dave and Nancy Wisyanski, and Col Jack & Peggy Benson (both couples live in Natchez) showed Brenda and Larry Eckard a great time in Natchez, but more importantly showed them what Natchez is all about. By their own admission, Larry & Brenda were surprised at the wonderful opportunities, activities, and attractions that Natchez offers. You will be sooooo pleased at what awaits us. There is far too much to see and do in just three days, and we'll address that later. There are of course the plantations and ante-bellum homes, the historic hotel that we'll be staying in, golf courses, carriage rides, river-side casinos, quality restaurants and local cuisine like "The Pig Out Inn BBQ" or "Fat Mamma's Tamales" featuring their famous "Knock Her Naked Margaritas." Then there is antique row where you can buy eve-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

rything from souvenirs to furniture and also the small elegant shops designed especially for the "discriminate" buyer. And lest we forget, entertainment of all types.

Natchez is such a great place with so many attractions, we are going to add an optional extra day to give those who want it, the opportunity to spend an extra day. It will also allow the early-birds to participate in activities on Thursday during the day. We'll tell you more about the plans for Wednesday and Thursday in a later issue of the Tribune or in the registration material. But it looks like we may be able to swing a cocktail party in an ante-bellum home Wednesday night and perhaps some golf on Thursday at one of the exclusive clubs in Natchez.

We hope to have a Friday night Plantation Ball at one of the plantations, so ladies start looking for your long dresses and bonnets. Gents, get out your Country Squire outfits.

Possibly you have guessed that Natchez is a little more difficult to fly into than, say Baltimore. We're working on a solution to that as well. Baton Rouge, LA is the nearest airport, and we are negotiating with a transportation company to provide shuttle service from there to Natchez. We'll let you know more on that later. If you drive, it's a snap.

Make your plans now and be prepared to have one of the best times ever. Having read a bit about Natchez, don't forget why we meet—to renew old acquaintances, to make new friends, to share memories and to create memories to talk about for years to come.

**ASA OKINAWA
REUNION
SEPT. 25-28, 2003
NATCHEZ, MS
EOLA HOTEL**



WELCOME MAT

The following members have been located. Welcome to the Association. Space limitations prevent us from printing the addresses, but if you see a name you recognize and would like to have his address, just give us a call, note or e-mail and we will be glad to send it to you.

Erroll Pierce
Johnny Hancock
David Holder
Robert Koslow, LT
Richard Van Schaick
William Salmon SPC Hdq (1957-58)
James Ishee
Paul Leimback
Jack Morgan
Henry Sanders
Charles Cornelison
Wallace Hawkins, Jr SP2 (1954-5)
Sam Accordino
Benford Byrd
Crawford Cox
Richard Frakes
Devern Gustavson
Henry Hankinson
Samuel Moore
Robert Peck
Russell Poole, Jr. SP3 (1957-59)
Ralph Steele PFC (1957-60)
Ronald Stradling
Gerald Bernosky SP4/SP5 (1957-59)
Ralph Cordrey
Duane Sands SP5 MOS:32D20 in
Comm. Ct (1967-69)
Greg Brox (1966-68)
Richard Mears SP5 (1968-69)
Dean Tweet
Gerald Brown
William Drake
Franklin Abbott
Edward Bower
Earl Butler
Dan Cambern
Ronald Candage
James Carls
Gordon Cochran
Robert Deardorff
James Fleck

Robert Freet
Bruce Haagenson
Marliss Hawkinson
Gerald Hubbard
Charles Hurlbut
Robert Huxtable CPL 111th Co 1950-52
William Kamps
Robert Leonard
Gene McCabe
Edward Phelan
Francis Pugliese
Joseph Syron
Robert Zima
Edward Birbeck
Eugene Henkemeyer
Victor Hirsch
Marvin Huff E-5 (1954-56)
Thomas Heil
Edwin Schoenberger E-4 (1955-58)
John Bryden MAJ USPC (1964-67)
Gary Duenow SP5 E-5 (1962-63)
Harold Atwater
Lester Collins
Robert Davies
John Neumeister E-5 (1965-69)
Lt. David Morgan
Edward Brocato



TAPS

The Tribune learned of the following deaths since the last newsletter was published. The deaths are not necessarily recent, but they were just learned of. The entire membership extends our deepest sympathy to the widows, families and friends of the deceased.

*Wendell Clawson
Died January 22, 1991*

*Calvin Bandt (1954-56)
Died September 15, 2002*

*Donald Stephens (1951-52)
Died February 1979*

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Richard Mayer (1957-59)
Died January 1990

Joseph Klemt (1950-52)
Died December 15, 1989

Raymond Krebs (1954-56)
Died June 14, 1999

Clarence Cooley (1954-56)
Died February 21, 2001

John DuGuay (1950-53)
November 21, 1994

William Feddock (1950-52)
Died January 6, 1996

James Kemp (1959-61)
Died May 2001

Mike Harrell (1950-52)
Died September 1987

Arlie Leroy Bearden (1955-57)
Died September 15, 1989

Melville Cortner (1954-56)
Died October 15, 1992

Travis Brown (1950-53)
Died January 22, 1999

Joseph Perkins (1957-59)
Died September 20, 1999

John Cook (1956-58)
Died February 25, 1999

Richard Jackson (1953-55)
Died May 29, 2002

Robert Gebo (1956-58)
Died March 15, 1996

Richard Hynes (1950-52)
Died March 5, 1992

Douglas Moberg (1950-52)
Died August 15, 1992

John Straubinger (1950-52)
Died July 12, 1989

Mertis Milton St.Aoro (1950-52)
Died May 3, 2001

Edward Capozza (1955-57)
Died June 30, 2002

Joseph Missey (1955-57)
Died March 11, 2002

Rosslund Andersen (1957-59)
Died March 5, 2002

James Dempsey (1954-56)
December 13, 1998

Charles Roberts (1954-56)
September 19, 2002

Francis Robichaud (1952-53)
May 23, 2001

Philip Jones (1950-52)
May 16, 2002

Matthew Kairys
Died September 18, 1992

Carl Langston, Jr. (1958-60)
Died August 6, 2002

John Mayersak
Died December 20, 1989

Ronald O'Hehir
Died December 1975

Francis Quinlan
Died January 28, 2002

Charles Roberts
Died September 18, 2002

Chester Rushford
Died August 24, 2001

Richard Schoonover
Died June 1978

Ronald Seguin
Died May 18, 1999

Dean Shideler (1959-63 & 1961-67)
Died June 13, 2002

Roy Spence, Jr. (1974-77)
Died November 21, 2001

Robert Wilke
Died June 21, 1995

Dee Wilt
Died April 13, 1994

Whitehill Wood
Died September 9, 1996

Anyone learning of the death of someone who served with ASA Okinawa, please advise the Tribune so their passing can be acknowledged.



MAIL CALL

Hi Dina,

I recently attended the reunion on October 3-6th in Baltimore with my father Charles Jarvis Lewis, Jr. May I say that this was one of the most breathtaking experiences of my life! I have been talking about my trip to everyone that I come in contact with since I've been back.

This was my Dad's first reunion and it was his third attempt to attend. The first was years ago, when the event was to be held in Fort Devens. He signed up, but not too many others did, and the reunion was cancelled. The second time, Mom and Dad signed up for Myrtle Beach, but he had a heart attack 3 days before the trip, and couldn't make the trip... then this time in Baltimore... he finally made it!

I don't think I could ever express my gratitude to my father for allowing me to take my mother's (Miyoko Lewis) place as he was going to attend solo. What a golden opportunity for a father and his little girl (who's now not so little at 39!!) to spend some one-on-one Father/Daughter time. I was without words when my father purchased a Torii pin for me that I will treasure forever. You see...my Dad met my mother in Okinawa while in the ASA and he married her! I was able to watch a video of Okinawa that was brought to this reunion. I had tears in my eyes and hope that

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

someday I'll get to visit with my Mom and Dad.

I'm sorry that I can't remember everyone's name, and I wish I could have. It started with those we met on our trip from the airport to the hotel (from FL and midwest, I think), to those we sat with in the hospitality suite, at dinner, the banquet, breakfast, and on the tour bus! I met some kind, wonderful, friendly and very humorous men and women.

Thank you to those at the Military Locator and Reunion Service and the Association Officers (Thanks, Larry!!) for putting together a terrific program. I truly hope that in my lifetime I can enjoy even 1/2 of what this group has with their memories and their bond for each other. I was raised as an "army brat" and I never clearly understood all the things that went with a military life. Not only to the men, but also to their wives that kept secrets while raising their children and not knowing when their husbands would be back or what they were doing.

After 9-11, many things changed in this country and patriotism is definitely more known in our country. Being at this reunion has only made me realize that our military has always been strong and loyal to our country. What an honor to share this time with all of you.

I admire, respect and have many more heroes after my trip to Baltimore. The biggest hero I have though... is my Dad. I always knew he was the best Dad in the world, but never knew how important he was to others and the nature of his duties while in the service. I'm sure I bugged him with all the questions I asked, but hey... I had his full attention! The team for the Signal Service and ASA Okinawa Personnel has a place in my heart that will never be forgotten.

Thank you all for sharing this time with me, Dad. I love you!!

Sophia Lewis

Hello Larry,

We're still thrilled about bringing home that beautiful Afghan. We have quite a few in our homes and I'm thinking we should bring it along next year as a traveling trophy like they do with our camping group for card playing! We'll see how much we get attached to it. Barb used to make them, but she's into all kinds of fancy sewing fads.

We had a great time touring D.C. Rode the commuter train down there for two days from Baltimore. That sniper business put a damper on things and everyone was a little glum. Might send our newspaper clipping. Larry sure looked neat in his uniform and has done great doing these reunion things. I had a great experience in the military, but we were too attached to our families to make a career of it. It's great to give Barb these trips. She was good enough to wait while I did my military thing. It was the thing to do in those days.

I run the truck a lot but it isn't so bad with these cell phones. Talk more gone than when I'm home. Just got back from Portland, OR and caught a high school classmate's funeral in Wise. First one of our group to go. He was large and heavy. Did good to make 70.

I don't keep up on the computer. Play the piano instead. Have to keep up or it could fade.

We had a good visit with my sickly brother in Minneapolis on the way home. He has to fight that diabetes day and night.

Got a satellite radio the other day in the truck. They're great. Should get a lap top and T.V., but it hasn't been a priority yet.

With my new company, you mostly run and sleep or loaf at home. Great change. Lucky I can quit wearing sandals. Winter coming and getting heated up. Lost my big toe nails. No picnic.

Keep up the good work.

Ranzie and Barbara Hoekstra

Hi Karen,

I am from group of 57-59 on Oki-

nawa. While at the reunion (which we really enjoyed) we were asked to tell of any memories/experiences that might be interesting. I confronted the group with a "sad tale" of my lost Japanese wife. I told them that she left me, and that I couldn't find her. I asked if they would help and here is her description. The only thing I have left of her are these panties. The entire group loved it. So thanks to the sympathetic group.

Sam Noto
12748 Erin Ave
Baton Rouge, LA 70814
Nansamn@aol.com

This picture was taken at the reunion, as it unfolded.



Sam Noto's only reminder of lost wife.

ML&RS,

Another great reunion! I'm from the 57-59 group that attended this year. Our numbers are growing each reunion. A few of us came in early and had a tour of Baltimore with Mort and Ilene Miller as our tour guides. On Thursday morning we took a tour of Ft. McHenry. We got there early and had the place to ourselves. After watching the short movie of the history of the fort and the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner," we headed to the fort. When we got there we were awarded the honor of helping to raise the large flag that flies over the fort. So honored were: Mort Miller,

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Sam Noto, Jim Norrbom, Gerry Sturbaum and myself.

It was great to see old friends and meet new ones this year. Among the first time attendees from our group were Sam and Nancy Noto, Dean and Marlene Treet and Tracy and Carol Davis. We are looking forward to Natchez next year and hope more from our group will be able to make it.

Tom Sevits

ML&RS,

Being from, and still living in the Baltimore area, I felt like I was a semi-host to the reunion this year. To everyone who attended, thanks for coming to my party. Especially my guys from Trick Two.

I was at Sobe from '57 to '59 and during that time formed a lot of friendships. We all lost touch over the 43 years, but due to the electronic age we've regained our friendships through the e-mail process. This is mainly due to the reunion committee and guys like Paul Watson who has more downloaded software in his computer for finding lost souls than anyone else I know. Because of this, guys who I haven't spoken or written to since Okinawa were coming out of the woodwork. For the past few months I've been in touch with many ex-trick twoers, plus some that I've played football and baseball with while on the island.

Through the e-mails I learned of the ones who were going to attend the reunion, and the anticipation of seeing them again began to increase as the reunion date grew near. Last year in Reno, I renewed my relationship with Tom Sevits, whom I played ball with for the Pacesetters and flag football. Tom and I go back to Deven days.... a long time ago. Also in Reno I met for the first time and became fast friends with Jim Norrbom. I knew these 2 would be coming to Baltimore this year and we spent a lot of enjoyable time together along with Al Cooper and Dallas May, ex-2ers who were also in Reno.

The first member of T2 that I encountered in the hallway of the Holi-

day Inn was Sam Noto. Man, what a shock and pleasant surprise all at the same time. That Cajun food does wonders for one's figure. The next evening I heard a snide remark from some other old guy, and that turned out to be Dean Tweet. The years have been good to him, no gut. After those two initial encounters, the rest started rolling in. Al Cooper and Dallas May showed up as expected. Later that evening at the informal reception, I literally jumped out of my chair when I saw Hank Prieber, who's also from Baltimore but living in VA. We were very close buddies back then, but haven't seen one another since sometime in the 60s. Then on Friday, Richard Crosby comes rolling in, and again, all the handshaking and back-slapping re-occurs.

In between all the excitement of celebrating of Trick Two's getting together again, 2 other guys appeared whom I haven't seen since '59; Tracy Davis and Gerry Sturbaum. We all played football for the Rycommandos in '58 and then for the flag team in '59 along with Tom Sevits.

I made reservations at Sabitinos, a famous Italian restaurant in the Little Italy section of town, for all of us on Wednesday evening, which turned out to be a rollicking time. It never ceases to amaze me how well the wives get along after only meeting for the first time that day. Needless to say, a good time was had by all 18 diners.

For the ones that came in a day or so early, I scooted them to the Inner Harbor and the National Aquarium. Then we took a Water Taxi to Fells Points and had lunch, and then proceeded with a walking tour of the historic area. Since we did the Inner Harbor thing on Wednesday, I decided on Saturday to tour Ft. McHenry where the national anthem was written. It was a great tour, and we even took part in lowering the over-night flag and helped raise the enormous flag that is seen during the day hours.

The final evening was a blast. Flashes going off all over the place. Laughter, hugging, hand-shaking, a few kisses for the ladies, and a few

solemn good-byes for the guys who were going to leave early the next day. Thanks to Jim Norrbom's digital camera, I now have a CD he sent with almost 200 pictures, and that's not counting the 200 or so he decided to cut off. Thanks, Jim! By the way, Jim was able to capture a re-created pose of Tom Sevits and me from a photo that was taken in '57 at Devens. A "then and now" picture with a 45 year separation. It turned out "marvelous."

The next day, Sunday, was the good-bye day. Needless to say, the time went too fast. Not enough time to spend with each one on an individual basis, but time enough to feast on the moments we did have together. As in the past few months, we continue to keep in touch by e-mail and relive the reunion, as we already have done these past couple of weeks. I hope next year in Natchez that a few other guys from Trick Two, who we are in communication with, will attend. Guys like Ed McBride, Gerald Bernosky, Gerald (Charlie) Brown, Chuck Hurlbut and Bill Thayer. It's Sam Noto's desire to have as many T2ers as possible at the reunion, and I'll be damned if he isn't slowly succeeding.

Thanks to the reunion committee and to everyone else involved in bringing these past memories to the future. It was a fantastic time had by all. It's funny, but these guys looked the same as they did 40-some years ago, but OLDER.

See you next year in Natchez.

Mort Miller
inmort@comcast.net

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE STAFF AT
MILITARY LOCATOR &
REUNION SERVICE, INC**