

Torii Typhoon

Volume 4, Issue 1

July 2004

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



Special Points of Interest

- *Some information about the upcoming reunion is in the cover story. Hope you will be there to join in the fun.*
- *See who the winner of the Okinawa Quiz is and find out the answers on page three.*
- *Twenty-one new members were found since the last newsletter. See if you recognize a name. Welcome Mat is on page four.*
- *In Mail Call, beginning on page five, you will find some good web sites to explore. Also some follow-up information on two articles in the last issue.*

OUR VIEW

BY LARRY ECKARD, REUNION MANAGER

I hope that all of you have made your plans to be at the Colorado Springs reunion this fall. We say this each year, but every year we seem to have a better reunion and consequently a better time. 2004 promises to be no different. Colorado Springs has much to offer, including spectacular scenery.

Over 100 responses to the reunion survey were returned and the entire reunion agenda, including the format, was developed from these responses. So many people wanted to do so many things, it was impossible to fit them into just

two days of tours. That is why the trip to Cripple Creek and the AF Academy/Garden of the Gods tour was scheduled Wednesday night and Thursday respectively. The two most popular trips, the Royal Gorge and Pikes Peak were scheduled on Friday and Saturday. The only event that received a substantial number of "votes" was the Flying W Ranch. That was not scheduled because they could not guarantee us enough seats without paying for them 90 days in advance. That was neither practical nor affordable.

Instead, the Colorado hoe-down was created. With the help of the Radisson staff, we'll have our own private affair and in fact it is less expensive than the combined price of the Flying W and the transportation there and back. All of the above are great attractions and be sure to visit as many as you can.

Cost is always a concern to us just as much as it is to you. (We pay the same prices that you pay.) Even though sometimes it seems like the prices keep creeping up, remember the cost is directly related to the

(Continued on page 2)

location. Some places are more expensive than others, and that is just a cold hard fact of life. For example, this year's reunion in Colorado Springs is less expensive than the Baltimore reunion two years ago. In Baltimore, the cost for a couple, Option A was \$684.82 compared to \$650.00 in Colorado Springs. Both reunions are formatted exactly alike so it is a fair comparison. The cost for a single and the cost for the other options were proportionally higher in Baltimore. On the other hand, last year's reunion in Natchez included the tours in the basic option price. But if you take out the tour prices making the format for both years identical, the Natchez reunion is \$10.00 per person less expensive (\$631.00 vs. \$650.00) than this year. This amount hold true for all of the options. Somewhere, sometime, someone will try to make a price comparison between this reunion and another one he has attended somewhere. Or he will compare the reunion price with something he did (or something someone he knows did) in another city. You can't do that and make a valid comparison, don't even try. As a measure to control costs, the options are extremely flexible, if you don't want to do an activity, don't do it.

Colorado Springs is a higher altitude than many of us are used to. The city and surrounding area probably won't be a problem for anyone, but as we mentioned in the reservation material, if you have a history of heart or breathing problems, talk to your doctor before going up Pikes Peak. Those going down Royal Gorge be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. There is a fair amount of walking involved, so take this into account.

Don't forget to bring your hometown gift for the raffle (actually, it is not a raffle, it is a ticket drawing.) Each single or couple is asked to bring something representing their hometown or state, valued at no more than \$25.00. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the reunion and tickets will be drawn at the desig-

nated time and the winners will take home a nice gift.

As you will note on the itinerary, there is a mandatory roll call for all members to meet in the cocktail lounge on Friday evening. Absentees will be noted and appropriately recorded for future black-mail possibilities.

We were informed by Ft Carson that they could provide an Honor Guard at our banquet, so we certainly hope that does not change.

If you have any business that you would like to bring up from the floor, it will help the Association President better prepare for the business meeting if you will let him know in advance so he can have it on the meeting agenda.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you.

COLORADO SPRINGS FACTS

- At an elevation of 6,035 feet, Colorado Springs has two-thirds the oxygen found at sea level, and Pikes Peak (14,110 feet) has only one-half.
- Making a trip from the eastern plains of Colorado to the top of Pikes Peak is like traveling from Mexico to Alaska, a journey through five of the six life zones in North America.
- In 1893, Katharine Lee Bates, a visiting professor at Colorado College, wrote the words to "America the Beautiful" after an inspiring wagon trip to the top of Pikes Peak.

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN TO RESUME NEXT ISSUE

Reunion coordinator, Tex Davenport, was unable to submit his "Coordinator's Column" for this issue due to an extended hospitalization prior to publication. He will continue with his column in the next issue. We wish him the best and hope to hear from him soon.

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"Our Reunion Work So You Don't Have To"

WINNER OF THE "TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OKINAWA" QUIZ

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Okinawa Quiz is **William Thayer**, who got all 15 questions correct! Congratulations, William. You are the winner of the T-shirt.

The answers to the questions are below.

1. In what year did the first immigrants from Okinawa arrive in Honolulu Harbor? **1900**
2. What two cultures have colored the traditions of Okinawa? **JAPAN & CHINA**
3. What year did Okinawa revert to Japan after World War II? **1972**
4. What Martial Art form originated in Okinawa? **KARATE**
5. What beverage, considered premier among Japanese, is made from Thai rice, fermented and distilled, originating over 500 years ago, is made in Okinawa? **AWAMORI**
6. Okinawa cuisine differs from Japanese cuisine in its emphasis on what meat? **PORK**
7. The islands that make up Okinawa were formerly not part of Japan, but were an independent nation call the **RYUKYU** Kingdom.
8. What do many consider to be the bloodiest battle of World War II? **BATTLE OF OKINAWA**
9. What is the capital of Okinawa? **NAHA**
10. How many islands make up the Ryukyu Islands? **SEVERAL ANSWERS ACCEPTED—160,161, 169**
11. What is the Okinawan word for "Hi" or "Hello"? **HAISAI**
12. What famous journalist was killed in Okinawa in April of 1945? **ERNIE PYLE**
13. What is the name of the three-stringed Okinawan instrument, somewhat similar to a banjo, whose body is often bound with snakeskin? **SANSHIN**
14. What is the name of the Okinawan traditional drumming dance? **EISA**
15. What is the name of the most famous Okinawan snack, an Okinawan donut? **ANDAGI**

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Torii Typhoon is the official publication of the US Army Security Agency Association Okinawa. It is published tri-annually in March, July and November. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. Contributions should be sent to the treasurer. All members are encouraged to support the voice of ASA Okinawa. A financial statement appears annually in the November issue.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another member will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

ML&RS, Inc is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

TREASURER'S REPORT ASA OKINAWA ASSOCIATION—MAY 27, 2004

Beginning balance as of March 05, 2004	\$2159.20
Receipts: Dues received	\$125.00
Sub Total:	\$2284.20
Disbursements: March, 2004 Newsletter	\$833.35
Adjustment Payment to Memorial Account	\$50.00
Balance as of May 27, 2004	\$1400.85

ASA OKINAWA MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

Beginning balance as of March 05, 2004	\$1735.00
Donations Received	\$265.00
Balance as of May 27, 2004	2000.00

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas A. Sturgeon, Treasurer



WELCOME MAT

The following members have been located since the last newsletter. Welcome to the Association. We hope to see you at the next reunion and hear from you about your memories of your time spent in Okinawa.

Kathy Brearl-Brown (1973-75)
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23259 Schoolcraft St
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Thomas Schmitz
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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.

William Dennis
Died February 5, 2004

Arthur Nack (1958-59) SP4 Hyena
Died May 7, 2003

John Weis
Died January 9, 2003

Robert Newton
Died August 2003

Emil Vollmer
Died October 30, 2001

Harold Ireland
Died June 16, 2003

Robert Freet
Died November 29, 1999

Roger Flint
Died July 4, 1992

Wilbur Emrick
Died April 19, 2004

Alfred Lawrence
Died March 6, 2004

Angelo Migneco
Died June 28, 2003

Elbert Rathburn
Died January 9, 2004

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Albert Rykiel
Died October 8, 2002

Norman Stellges
Date of death not known

Billy Withrow
Died September 27, 1999

Stanley Craine
Died February 23, 2004

John Purring
Died April 6, 1999

John Fee
Died October 7, 2000

John Goode
Died April 16, 1998

Michael Higgins (1951-54) S/Stg
Died April 24, 2004

Alton Evans
Died January 27, 2002

Howard Quarles
Died June 15, 1988

Walter Hogan
Died March 31, 1971

Samuel Sehon, Jr.
Died May 7, 2003

Gordon Benson
Died September 20, 1975

Joseph Caslow, Jr.
Died November 25, 2002

August Cravens
Died December 17, 2003

Dale Doty
Died June 18, 2003

James Erickson
Died June 30, 1985

Robert Evelyn
Died February 8, 1999

Grayson Galatas
Died December 19, 2003

Charles Gardiner
Died March 23 1994

Kenneth Gary
Died January 1, 2002

Guy George, Jr.
Died October 16, 2003

Herbert Glover
Died July 3, 1998

John Holloway
Died December 1, 1999

Neal Johnson
Died February 12, 1979

Emil Manzella
Died October 20, 1989

Harold McNeal
Died July 21, 2003

Clifford Perkins
Died March 2, 2003

Terry Poehlitz
Died July 29, 2002

Donald Prasse
Died September 3, 1982

Jack Pulsipher
Died March 10, 1993

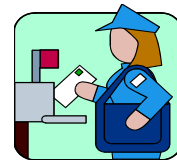
Paul Stalion
Died January 2, 2004

Robert Sykes
Died March 23, 1999

Elmer Weise
Died April 9, 1989

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

**NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES
FOR
JULY 2004
\$833.35**



MAIL CALL

FYI,

There is an excellent web site for Torii Station Okinawa, also known as 8603DU and 3rd ASA Field Station. John Ambrose is the webmaster and he has done an outstanding job of putting it together. It contains many pictures, information and letters from our guys that were there. For those who are not aware of this site, you can find it under:

<http://pages.prodigy.net/johna/sobe.htm>

An alternate site is:
<http://sobe.sytes.net>

The main site has a linkage to get to the alternate in the photo gallery section.

If you have any problem accessing these try typing in the "search box": **Torii Station Okinawa**...then click on the menu item that says: **"dedicated to those who served."** I hope that you find these as enjoyable as I have and I'm looking forward to our next reunion in Colorado Springs. See you there!

Very best regards from your treasurer,
Tom Sturgeon

Tex Davenport,

By way of introduction, I served at the USASA Field Station in 1956-58 and have many wonderful memories of those years. My interests in archaeology and photography and a burning desire to explore and learn as much as I could of the Okinawa people set the stage for my adventure there.

While most of my friends stayed on base playing "Crazy 8s," a couple of my friends, Bill Ritter and

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Charles Hilton, were off exploring the island. As a result I have hundreds of photographs of the people in the many walks of life my camera captured them. Over the years, this part of my life was stored in a barn in boxes and out of mind as my many other interests branched to other things.

Now after 48 years, my daughters, in their cleaning of the barn, came across my cache of photos and negatives and pushed me to do something with them. So, in June, a selected group will be on exhibit at our winery here in Virginia. We also have a web site that will showcase these. I invite you to visit.

www.grayhavenwinery.com should get you there. We will be posting not only the Okinawa experience, but also many images of the development of the family's vineyard, winery and our Arabian horses venture. Come join us.

Chuck Peple
 Grayhaven Winery
 4675 East Gray Fox Circle
 Gum Spring, VA
 804-556-3971

Dear ML&RS,

First, I would like to write a Thank you for using the pix of the Torii on Page 5 of the March issue '04 of the Torii Tribune and the by-line—you make me think it's 50 years ago.

Also under the "Test y/k of Okinawa", question #12—famous journalist killed in/on Okinawa April '45? It's a technical point, but I believe E. Pyle was not killed in the Island of Okinawa, but on a tiny island off the Island of Okinawa. Enclosed see a copy of post card. He was killed on IE Shima. If I am wrong, please disregard.

Thank you,
 Frank Nocerito

Editor's note: The following is the information printed on the flyer from the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site, Dana, Indiana, which Mr Nocerito

sent:

"Ernie Pyle's beautifully restored turn-of-the-century birthplace home and two Quonset huts, displaying authentic World War II scenes, are dedicated to preserving the memory of America's most beloved war correspondent and the GIs he admired and wrote about.

Ernie Pyle was born August 3, 1900, and grew up on a farm near Dana. He studied journalism at Indiana University and soon began his career with the Scripps Howard newspaper chain. He started work as an editor and wrote an aviation column. For seven years, Ernie and his wife, Jerry, traveled around the United States writing a column, the "Hoosier Vagabond," finding interesting stories about ordinary people. This was Ernie's talent.

Ernie Pyle's reporting experience naturally led him to cover World War II through the eyes of the common GIs. He hated war, admired the GIs and wrote with compassion as he followed the war through the Blitz, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and the Pacific. His column was like a letter written home. Millions mourned when Ernie was killed by Japanese machine-gun fire **near Okinawa** on April 18, 1945."

Dear Dina,

Concerning the story about the "new" club, aside, the contractor was D. F. Fischer and Sons, LTD. They, as I recall, arranged the financing with a bank in Hawaii. Don Fischer, although not a Torii-ite, was a good friend of many there. Now in his 80s, lives at 9707 Evening Primrose, No. B2, Laurel, MD 20707. I seem to recall he built the swimming pool also.

Sincerely,
 Neal Coffin, Sobe Camp, 1957-59 and Okinawa commercial resident until 1972.
 Box 464
 Cyril, OK 73029-0464

WHAT MAKEE BUILDING SHAKEE?

Shortly after arriving in Tokyo four of us were sitting at a dining room table at the old Tokyo Arsenal waiting to be served dinner. Suddenly our table began "walking" around so to speak. The Japanese waitress approached to wait on us and one of the guys at the table asked her, "What makee building shakee?" She laughed and in perfect English said, "We're having a slight earth tremor, sir." For the longest time after that when a truck rumbled by or something heavy dropped, we'd ask the guy who said it, "What makee building shakee?" Later that night as I was sitting on my top bunk writing to a girl state-side about the incident, the bunk I was on began walking across the room just like the dining room table had. There were 26 earth tremors that night. From that day on I became a seismograph, feeling even the slightest earth movement.

Submitted by Dale Beasley

**2004 REUNION
 3RD ASA OKINAWA
 SEPT 30—OCT 3
 COLORADO SPRINGS
 RADISSON HOTEL**

NSA MUSEUM CONTRIBUTION

Enclosed is my contribution for the ASA Okinawa Association at the NSA Museum. **Mail to:**
 Thomas Sturgeon
 12 Cherry Lane
 Olmstead, OH 44138-2918.

Name: _____

Amount of contribution _____