

Torii Tribune

Volume 2, Issue 4

March 2003

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



Special Points of Interest

- *Natchez will be THE place to be Sept. 25-28. Read all about the fabulous plans for the 2003 reunion on pages one and two.*
- *Catch up on the latest news from the association in the President's Column on pages two and three.*
- *A long list for TAPS on pages four and five. Paul Watson has been working hard getting the names together.*
- *Does anyone remember the basketball team from 1950-51? An old newsletter clipping on page five will refresh your memory.*

2003 REUNION IN NATCHEZ, MS

Natchez. She adorns the banks of the Mighty Mississippi with gracious homes, warm, friendly people and unlimited activities. In Natchez, you can experience the rustic atmosphere of Natchez Under-the-Hill. Try your luck at riverboat gambling. Reveal the mysteries of eras long past by touring the Historic Houses, the Grand Village of the Natchez, Historic Jefferson College or the Natchez Association for the Preservation of African American Culture museum. Eat some of the finest Southern cuisine, second to none, not even New Orleans. And spend the night

surrounded by historic beauty.

Natchez is a Mecca of history. Born beside the Mississippi River almost 300 years ago much of her history, the nation's history, is preserved in her buildings. Over 500 of her houses, churches and other buildings date back to before the Civil War. Most of the other downtown area was built in the late 1800s—early 1900s. Natchez has more antebellum houses than any other city in the United States, some of them open for touring and hundreds that are private residences that are a delight to see as you

pass by, but are not open to the public.

Combine all of the rich historical heritage with her superb recreational, dining, and lodging facilities and you have a truly unique experience; you have Natchez.

The semi tropical climate provides a recreational paradise. Golf and tennis aren't seasonal, enjoy them year-round. Hiking and biking trails are some of the best in the country. Fishing? The Mississippi record for large mouth bass was caught at Natchez State Park. Hunting? Trophy whitetail deer

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are waiting at Giles Island. Spring arrives in March with a profusion of azaleas, dogwood, and wisteria. In many years they continue their display into May when the magnolia and gardenias are blooming. Then come the crepe myrtles. They're real show-offs. Lining the streets of Natchez with their pink, rose, lavender or white clusters of flowers the summer-long they will continue to bloom until Fall. Closing out the year in dramatic fashion are the camellias; some blooms lingering to introduce the first azaleas. Overlooking the whole situation is a substantial population of live oak trees. Romantic live oaks, with their unique personality full of character. Their huge limbs twist and bend but still remain strong. Many of these sprawling giants have witnessed over two hundred years of life in Natchez.

Natchez is perched 200 feet above the Mississippi River on the highest promontory north of the Gulf of Mexico. It is the oldest civilized settlement on the river—older by two years than New Orleans. Inhabited for centuries by prehistoric Indians and later by the Natchez Indians, Natchez was settled first by the French in 1716, later by the British in 1763, the Spanish in 1779, and finally by the Americans in 1798. In 1798, Natchez became the first capital of the Mississippi Territory, and in 1817, became the first capital of the new state of Mississippi. The city boomed in the first half of the 19th century with the exportation of tons of cotton by steamboat—cotton grown on plantations in Mississippi and across the river in the rich Louisiana lowlands. Enormous fortunes were made from the area's natural resources: the land and the river. Cotton was king, money was plentiful and men spent it—particularly on dazzling mansions filled with the finest furnishings money could buy.

Today with its tourism, industry and enormous wealth of natural resources, Natchez residents are proud to have their city included in Hugh Bayless's book, "The 100 Best Towns in America."

REUNION PLANS

We have a fabulous agenda for the reunion planned! Mark your calendar for **September 25-28, 2003**, for the reunion of the Signal Service & ASA Okinawa Personnel. The first thing that makes this a special event is the host hotel for the reunion. You will be staying at the **Natchez Eola Hotel**, built in 1927, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Natchez Eola Hotel is graced with elegant interiors, arched doorways, crystal chandeliers, marble trim, stately columns, Mississippi River view balconies, and a New Orleans courtyard with an original fire-and-water fountain. Grand and stately, the Eola Hotel is furnished throughout with fine antiques, original oil paintings, statuary fountains and lush florals. Step out of the Eola's courtyard into the heart of historic downtown Natchez, where you will be within walking distance of many of the attractions. A stay here is well worth a trip to Natchez.

For those of you who can come in early, we have an optional event in the planning. On Wednesday evening, you will be the honored guests for a cocktail party at D'Evereaux, a beautiful Greek Revival mansion c. 1840, owned by one of your fellow members. Also for early arrivals, an optional golf outing is being planned for Thursday afternoon. The first official event for the reunion will be the Thursday evening reception. Later in the evening you will go to the Natchez Little Theater for a special performance just for your group. On Friday you will get a tour of Natchez and be able to see all the beautiful antebellum houses that make Natchez such a special place, as well as other sites around the town. A Plantation Ball to be held at Stanton Hall is being planned for Friday night. Stanton Hall, a palatial antebellum mansion, is one of the most visited National Historic Landmarks in America today. This white stucco mansion with its enormous white Corinthian columns, sits on tree shaded property encompassing

an entire city block in the heart of Natchez. It will be a unforgettable evening! On Saturday the ladies will be off on a shopping/antiquing adventure while the men hold their business meeting. Natchez is full of antique shops, especially the city's renowned Antiques Row, and if you're into antiques or just enjoy window-shopping, this will be a real treat for you ladies. Horse-drawn carriages will be available outside the hotel for your convenience to take you on any other excursions you may want to pursue during your reunion. The Saturday evening banquet as well as the farewell breakfast and memorial service on Sunday morning will be held at the Eola Hotel, where you will be staying. If you only can make one reunion, this is the one to attend. You will have a unforgettable experience, filled with Southern charm and hospitality, among some of the greatest people in the country—your fellow members!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Larry Eckard, President ASA Okinawa Association

Nope, this is not a special edition. As you know the original schedule for the newsletter was to be semi-annually. Because of the heavy volume of input from you and the number of items that seem to be important, I canvassed the officers and committee, and especially the treasurer to see if we could afford it, on the possibility of publishing three newsletters per year instead of two. That was unanimously agreed to, so that is the reason for this issue. From now on the Tribune will be published in March, July and November.

Reunion time is rolling nearer. You can read more about some of the plans elsewhere in this issue. It is going to be a great reunion, so make you plans now to attend. We recommend that if you fly, fly into Baton Rouge, LA instead of Jack-

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son, MS.

We've had a good response to the question of whether there is enough interest in considering a return trip to Okinawa. We have about 25 inquiries, and if we can get a minimum of 50 people, we can pull it off. More information on that subject will be published when some of the details are worked out.

We're still looking for volunteers to serve as "year coordinators." At the expense of being repetitive, it was decided at the last business meeting to change from a "geographic coordinator" system to a year group. The transition will be made on an attrition basis, that is to say when the old geographic coordinator reaches the end of his normal term, he won't be replaced. By that time we hope to have the "by-the-year" system in place. Please consider serving the association in this way. For more information on the available year groups, please contact Secy/Treas Tom Sturgeon who will add your name to the list of volunteers.

This year's business meeting will see another "out with the old, in with the new" Association President. Normally the pattern has been for the VP to succeed the President and elect a new VP. Assuming this trend continues, Billy Don "Tex" Davenport will become President. We would appreciate your nominations for a new VP. If you would like to be considered, get in touch with Tom who will add your name to the ballot. Nominations will of course be accepted from the floor.

Immediate Past President, Bill Overholt is heading up a project to place an ASA Okinawa plaque in the National Cryptologic Museum at Ft Meade. It's going to take about \$5,000.00 to accomplish this. We had hoped to be the first ASA unit to have a plaque commemorating our service place there, but one organization has beaten us to the punch. This is the first time we have ever asked for financial support, but we are asking everyone to make a contribution to the cause. Send your

contribution to Tom Sturgeon. Please ear-mark this contribution for the ASA Okinawa plaque fund, so Tom can properly account for it. This contribution is of course in addition to Association dues. Please be generous. Perhaps, we can set 2005 as our goal year, and return to the Ft Meade area for that year's reunion and have the dedication ceremony at that time. Think big, let's do it!

We all should say a big thank you to Paul Watson who has located so many members of the association. He is continuing to find people who served up through the end of 1959. Due to the time, work load, etc, Paul has asked that someone else, preferably one of the young ladies or gentlemen who served at Torii Station between 1960 and the station's closing to pick up the ball for this time frame. As you know, at last year's business meeting we decided to open and actively seek membership from anyone who ever served in ASA (or it's successor). Therefore we need someone to duplicate Paul's efforts in this time frame. Paul has agreed to serve as this person's mentor, so please, help us. Without this effort, the membership roles will not grow. So, please, anyone with some computer skills and a desire to help the association, contact me so we can get the new searches underway.

Don't forget about the raffle. Be sure to bring an item representative of your hometown or state. We try to keep the item in the \$25.00 price range. Be creative, but please participate. All proceeds will go directly into the association treasury to pay for the newsletter, and other projects that the association may approve. Last year we had the unfortunate "luck" of having a couple of items "removed." Oddly, both items contained bottles of high quality wine. (some of my personal items for use in the hospitality room were also missing) We did find out who removed them, one of the hotel staff. He was fired and the hotel reimbursed the association for the items. That money has been applied to the newsletter cost.

Our business meeting is going to be on Saturday morning while the ladies go on a shopping trip (that most of us do not give a tinker's toot about). One of the things we are considering, and granted, it maybe a big mistake. How about if we declare a "stag hour" Saturday afternoon and go back in time to the club. Since we are all older and more responsible we should be able to survive and move on to the raffle. I'll try to make a sign that reads "Tsu shin Tai". Those who were at Sobe Camp will remember that as the name of the club. Now, if anyone remembers the correct spelling, please let me know, so I can have the sign done right. What are your feelings on this. Let me know!

Anyone who has a business item to be brought up at the meeting, please do so. If you are not able to attend, then provide me with the details of your suggestion/proposal, etc and I will see that it gets on the agenda.

Strictly personal, I had occasion to be in Dallas, TX over the weekend and Tex Davenport and I were able to get together for a couple of hours. Shucks, how times have changed. We had lunch and drank coffee. It was good to get together, even though it was just a short time.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I would like for everyone to come to the next reunion in Natchez, Mississippi. I know that a lot of you think that you won't know anyone, but rest assured you will. I know that the first one I went to there was only 6 I knew, but before I left I knew a bunch. I can tell you one thing—you will enjoy yourself and make new friends.

I know that this will be better than the last one for they get better each and every year. Larry and Brenda (Larry's wife) and crew have done an outstanding job with the reunions.

Please mark it on your calendars for Sept. 25-28, 2003. I can promise you a great time.

Billy Don (Tex) Davenport



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.

Rev. Robert Porter
22880 Pinecrest Ln
Porter, TX 77365
revbp68@juno.com

Alan French (1952-54)
3609 Camino Real
Sarasota, FL 34239
941-363-0555

Howard Hartman (1957-60)
PO Box 72
Carrizo, NM 88301
505-648-2878

Robert Atkins (1955-57)
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rka602@aol.com

Frank Lenahan
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Fulton, TX 78358
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Charles Henry (1957-59)
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352-746-6516

Charles Horton
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cehorton@fiam.net

**NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES
FOR 03/03
\$829.80**



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.

Matthew Kairys
Died September 18, 1992

John Mayersak
Died December 20, 1989

Ronald O'Hehir
Died December 1975

Francis Robichaud
Died May 23, 2001

Chester Rushford
Died August 24, 2001

Richard Schoonover
Died June 1978

Ronald Seguin
Died May 18, 1999

Whitehill Wood
Died September 1, 1996

Dee Wilt
Died April 13, 1994

Robert Wilke
Died June 21, 1995

Donald Stephens
Died February 1979

Richard Mayer
Died January 1990

Joseph Klemt
Died December 15, 1989

Raymond Krebs
Died June 14, 1999

Clarence Cooley
Died February 21, 2001

John DuGuay
Died November 21, 1994

William Feddock
Died January 6, 1996

James Kemp
Died May 2001

Mike Harrell
Died September 1987

Arlie Bearden
Died September 15, 1989

Melville Cortner
Died October 15, 1992

Travis Brown
Died January 22, 1999

Joseph Perkins
Died September 20, 1999

Richard Hynes
Died March 5, 1992

Douglas Moberg
Died August 15, 1992

John Straubinger
Died July 12, 1989

Mertis St Aoro
Died May 3, 2001

Joseph Missey
Died March 11, 2002

James Dempsey
Died December 13, 1998

Wendell Clawson
Died January 22, 1991

Doug Elam
Died January 28, 2003

Donald Mountain
Died December 26, 1992

Robert Koslow
Died June 25, 1993

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William Devine
Died September 24, 2002

Edward Marshall
December 24, 2002

Ronald Waller
Died September 13, 2002

Homer Childers
Died December 26, 1998

Allen Hollstegge
Died October 8, 2002

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



MAIL CALL

Dear Comrads:

As you may already know, a proposal was made at the 2002 Baltimore reunion by Bill Overholt to establish a separate fund for a memorial at the NSA Museum to perpetuate the ASA Okinawa Association. A goal was set of \$10,000 to be raised through contributions from the membership. A suggested donation amount is \$2.00 a month over a period of time with the possibility of lowering the goal to \$5000 at a later date, depending on the degree of response. To date, we have had 5 responses in the total amount of \$167 as a start. We are asking for the support of all our fellow Okinawa Veterans in this endeavor. Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted and we feel that this memorial to our work at Torri Station, Okinawa will be well worth the cost. Please send checks made out to the ASA Okinawa Memorial account to:

Tom Sturgeon
12 Cherry Lane
Olmsted Twp, OH 44138-2916

Thank you.
Tom Sturgeon

The following is a page from a newsletter dated 15th March 1951 —Tokyo. It was sent to us by Mike Nuin (1950-52).

1st ASAPAC Basketball Tournament

111th SIGNAL SERVICE DETACHMENT—OKINAWA

NAME	HEIGHT	HOME TOWN	JERSEY	POSITION-
Don F. Tanner	5'11"	Newark, OH	11	C
Philip R. Winters	5'11"	Georgetown, OH	7	G
Jack D. Hildebrand	6'1"	Los Angeles, CA	16	F
Mike M. Nuin	6'	New York, NY	13	F
Russel A. Wright	5'10"	Carrolleton, OH	8	F
Donald J. Moore	5'11"	San Francisco, CA	12	G
Joseph P. Stinson	5'9"	Philadelphia, PA	5	F
Robert J. Zima	5'5"	Wayne, MI	3	G
Carrol P. Land	6'2"	Cleveland, MS	15	C

26 WINS

1 LOSS

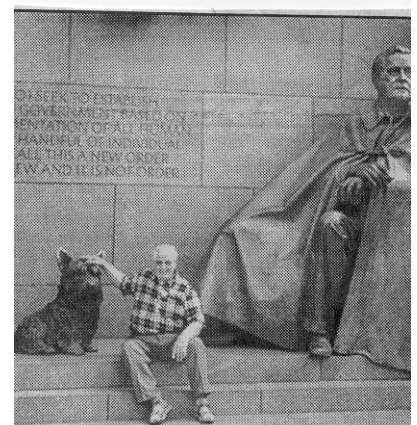
The speed and strength of their —typhoons—have been symbolic of this team from the "Rock". The 111th Signal Service Company's Basketball team has seen defeat but once this year. The red and white of the Pace Setters have flashed victoriously 26 times. Lt. C. Land, from his position as center, was the high point getter with a total of 238. Pfc Mike Nuin was next in line with 236. Coached by SFC Robert W. Wright, the team has totaled 1423 points during their regular season play.

Mr. Nuin writes: "The 111th Signal Service Company Pace Setters won the Okinawa Island Championship. They came out second in this tournament, losing to Headquarters Company on an off night and ending up with a three win, one loss record. The 111th also had outstanding baseball, football and track teams during the 1950 and '51 seasons.

Mike Nuin
8440 Miller Dr
Miami, FL 33155

ATTENDS D.C. REUNION

Ranzie and Barb Hoeksta of Ocheyedan spent October 3-6 in Baltimore, MD, where they attended the annual reunion of the Army Security Agency. Ranzie served with the military communications surveillance group on Okinawa from 1954-55. In addition to its annual meeting, the group toured the National Cryptological Museum, a 7,000-acre farm, the City of Baltimore and the harbor area. They also toured Washington, D.C., including many of the memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Ranzie is pictured at the memorial to President Franklin D. Roosevelt with the president's dog, Fala.



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TREASURER'S REPORT ASA OKINAWA ASSOCIATION As of February 18, 2003

Beginning Balance: **\$3608.25**

Receipts: Dues Received: **\$71.00**

Sub total: **\$3679.25**

Disbursements:
December 2002 Newsletter
\$929.11

Balance as of 02/19/03
\$2750.14

ASA OKINAWA MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance **\$100.00**

Donations Received **\$67.00**

Balance as of 02/19/03 **\$167.00**

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas A Strugeon,
Sec/Treas.

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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

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Torii Tribune 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.

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.

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