



'T'ARO LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION
VOLUME XVI NUMBER 6

ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 1963

**Here
comes the
parade!**



"SEE, WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THEY ONLY LOOK AT SHOES!"

"NO SECONDS, MURPHY!"

WE
INVITE
YOU TO
THE 24TH
INFANTRY DIVISIC
REUNION



..what happens if we get wounded?

The time: 3:00 p.m., June 28th -
The Place: Parade Ground, Ft. Devens, Mass.-
The Event: The retirement ceremony of
MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM J. VERBECK (21st INF and
DIV. HQ).

Yes, it was hotter than Hades, but all present on the sidelines had come, each to do honor to Bill on the occasion of his retirement and to show recognition of his distinguished service, now ending. Let's face it: the 5000 troops parade - resting out on the field, were there because they were told to be. Bill Verbeck, above all others, knew this.

Be that as it may, the air was a festive one, and Fort Devens was bulging with people - generals, privates, in-betweens, and civilians, each 100% in agreement that there goes a "real guy". There were no tears shed - Bill wouldn't have it - but there was a feeling of loss on everyone's tongue.



gun salute. Artillerymen please note:
and in sequence.

mpish delight, that in
d farewell" speech,
we've ever had the
ake, he didn't

fail to speak of his first army love-US.

The "Pass in Review" didn't win all of our deserved attention. Too busy were we congratulating ourselves on our privilege of having this fine association with the day's honoree. Said Vic Backer: "Terrific! Wonderfully sentimental speech". Said Spike O'Donnell: "Great Speech! Great fellow! I'd like to get more on his genealogy. That guy has got some Irish in him somewhere". Said Pat Ciangi: "And when he throws out that 24th stuff, he means it". Agreed Bill Muldoon and every one else of the favored Taro Leafers who relished with pride the fact that thoughtful Bill had reserved such seats for his boys.

Then came the 18th Army Band's "Musical Salute" with "Old Soldiers Never Die", Auld Lang Syne, and other tear jerkers, and the formal ceremony was over - but not the party.

To the Officers Club went the crowd with Bill, being the discreet gentlemen that he is, managing to have a warm right hand for everyone (the left hand was reserved with normal Officers Club purposes). But through it all, Bill managed to find the time, again and again and again, to be with

the tiny coterie of Taro Leafers who somehow managed to stick together on a patio close by one of the bars (par for the course). By actual count, there were 7 bars operating. A Bill Verbeck party calls for no less.

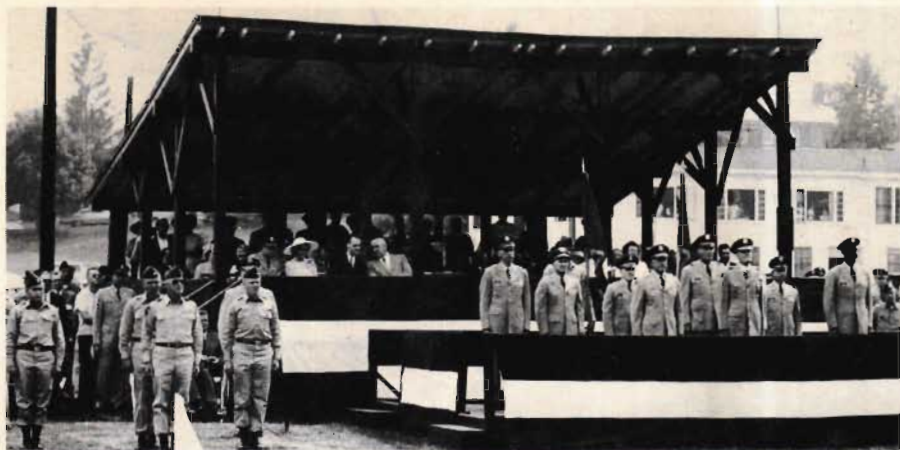
One by one, the guests paid their personal respects - said their private farewells - until there was but a handful of us left including a WAC Major wearing an Americal Division patch which gave rise to ribald comments such as "It is a new army", "How come we didn't have a Battalion of em?" and so on.

The party was about over. Bill and Peggy decided that this really was the end. Followed sweet partings and they were off - to a new life in Arlington.

And C.G. and Spike and Pat and Vic and all the Bills and Ed and Frankie and Lafe and Walt and your Editor had one for the road and closed up the club. 24th men have closed many a club, but never one with more regret than this one.



We have a new member in Kentucky's Governor BERT T. COOMBS who recently issued an executive order forbidding race discrimination in all business establishments licensed by the state, such as taverns, restaurants, nursing homes and real estate offices.



Smack in the middle of that June-July heat wave the parade field was filled with formed troops, the bleachers (well named) were filled to overflowing with the heavy lookers on, and a tiny grandstand (that means a bleacher, with an umbrella) supported the favored few - and who were they? - lovely Peggy Verbeck, naturally - other Verbeck family people, naturally - enough uniformed gentlemen wearing stars to put you in mind of the "Milky Way" - AND Taro Leafers, including C.G. HANLIN, JAMES O'DONNELL and PATRICK CIANGI, in from Chicago for the event. VICTOR BACKER happy for the excuse to beat the N.Y.C. heat, EDMUND HENRY, WILLIAM MULDOON, FRANK FULTON, LAFAYETTE COCHRAN, WILFRED O'COIN, REV. CHRISTOPHER BERLO, WILLIAM KEYES, ERNEST VIENNEAU, WILLIAM SANDERSON, and your Editor. What's our point? Why all this hoopla about who sat it out in the shade? Because Bill planned it that way, thus making it worth reporting. It was his retirement ceremony and these under-the-roof VIPs were his favorite people among the thousands of "mad dogs and Englishmen" who stayed out in the midday sun.



Followed by "3 Ruffles and Flourishes" - all on key -, and "The General's March" especially poignant this time.

This issue is beint sent to all for whom we have an address - paid up member or no. If you have not as yet renewed for the current year will you please do so by sending a check along to Sec'y. Ed Henry today? He's at 21 Park St., Attleboro, Mass. We do hope that this reminder - if it applies - will be taken in stride. Elsewhere, we cry on your shoulder by way of an explanation as to what is involved in getting this little poop sheet into your hands. It ain't done with peanuts.

We like this one. It was a day for Taro Leafs. ↙



The old, familiar "Inspection of Troops" - you and we have stood too many of these to describe it. Let's capsule it on the significant note that it went off with LIEUT. GEN. GARRISON H. DAVIDSON (DIV. HQ) and Bill pulling the "detail" jointly. What made it particularly thrilling was that these two exciting specimens of the Army man each wore the Taro Leaf on his right shoulder. Their visors gleamed, their medals glowed, but their Taro Leafs glistened in that hot sun.

YOU'LL WANT TO MAKE THIS ONE!

YOU'LL BE WELCOME

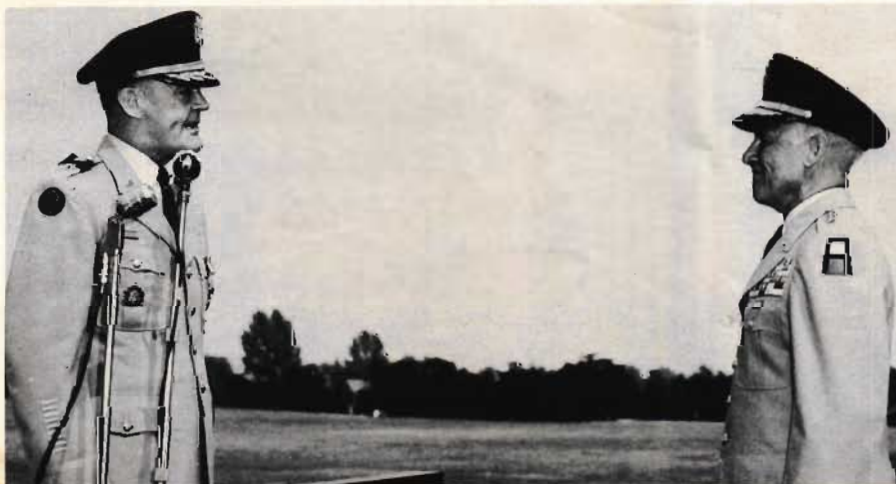
IN LOUISVILLE

IN AUGUST!





Gen. Davidson, CG, First U.S. Army, flying in from Governor's Island, N.Y.C., to pay a personal tribute to classmate Bill, in a few beautifully-phrased sentences, following the "Inspection", "Colors Forward" and "National Anthem", recalled his close association with Bill during their respective Army careers. To top it, Gen. Davidson pinned upon Bill's chest a Distinguished Service Medal. (Not to belittle the presentation, but Bill already had one - along with two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, an Army Commendation Medal, two Purple Hearts, an American Defense Service Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 6 service stars, an American Campaign Medal, a WWII Victory Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, a Korean Service Medal with 3 service stars, a Philippine Liberation Ribbon, a United Nations Service Medal, a Combat Infantryman Badge, a Distinguished Unit Emblem, a Presidential Unit Citation Badge of the Republic of Korea, the General Staff Identification Badge DA, the Department of Defense Identification Badge, one little white-on-black rectangle that simply reads "VERBECK", nine "Hershey Bars",..... had enuf?



Came the reading of the "Retirement Order" by the Devens A.G. (who else but an AG can read one?); then followed Bill talking right back in responding to Gen. Davidson's warm and friendly remarks.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE:

TRANSLATION:

DOC LIGMAN hopes to see you in Louisville.

read this!

NOTICE-

To all of the 2694 non-paying members who have received one or more of our issues this year and who have not responded to any of our suggestions that it costs \$ to do what we do,

Be advised that:

Our publisher is HELEN WAITE.

And if you don't receive any more issues and you wonder about your free-loading status, go to HELEN WAITE.

Do this:

If you were one of the fortunates who attended last year's Reunion, you recall that it was undoubtedly one of the finest we have ever had. This year's Reunion promises also to be an outstanding one.

As a former Taro Leafer, you carry with you memories of your service; memories of your friends; memories of the traditions which you helped to create; memories of hardships shared; memories of victory.

By your service in the 24th, you participated in the most dynamic undertaking the world has ever seen. To you, personally, and to the world, it was literally a matter of life and death.

Your memories of these dynamic days will come alive at the Reunion. Here is your chance to relive your gallant experiences and rekindle the flames of friendship born in the struggle.

We look forward to seeing you in Louisville.

Bring your Mamasan
to the Reunion

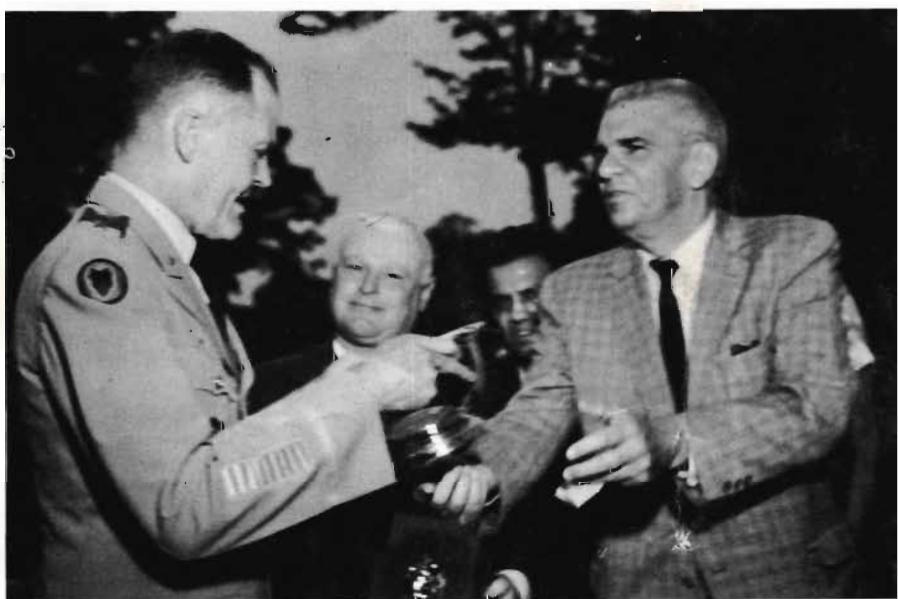


Mildred Purcell is touring 13 countries of Europe this summer. Learning of her departure time from Idlewild, your association observed the happy event with a bon voyage wire "from all of us". Mildred told us that Jim gave her a travel book the Christmas before

he died thinking some day she might be able to use it. Well, here it is. We wish for you a wonderful trip, Mildred. She assures us that the old Division is much in her mind and heart.



Then the "Pass in Review" - how many have you made? - that's where the QM "beancounters" try to march like infantrymen and the doughboys, resenting the intrusion, try to look like Academy boys on a Saturday afternoon full dress, and the medics, bless them, do their best but still come out looking as though they were carrying stretchers, on and on, ad infinitum.



Not to be outdone by JFK and the DSM which he sent up via GEN. DAVIDSON, ED HENRY represented us in presenting a silver cup to Bill. Vic and Pat look on approvingly. Pat had played it safe; he had hand carried another one all the way from Chicago. So what did we do? We gave them both to Bill.

SURPRISE!

Whoops. Another June issue error. The Brown Hotel will provide free transportation from the airport only and not from the railroad station for incoming registered guests. For the error our apologies to our readers, and to our gracious Louisville host, Don Eckard, who has worked so long and hard in our behalf to make the convention a success. Don and we haven't seen eye-to-eye on all points through the year, but we have patched up our differences and we move into Louisville with all hands joined.

Many will travel long distances in a few days to make the Louisville "clambake" - from as far east as Maine and Florida, from as far west as Hawaii. They'll all be heading to this central spot to recapture Taro Leaf comradeships for a few hours.

STEPHEN SCALIONE (DIV ART HQ '42-'45) is Pres. of Erie T.V. Corp. in Liverpool, N.Y. He has a sign in his office reading: "We require a 50% deposit from customers we don't know, 100% from some we do know".

Thank you for turning me over.

You can't afford to miss
the 24th Reunion

MR. & MRS. TARO LEAFER...

SOMETHING?

MISSING



"Get your rain-coat and come on out. We're going to the 24th Convention."



TARO LEAFERS one and all - reading, left to right - seated - FRANKIE FULTON, BILL VERBECK, ED HENRY and BILL MULDOON - standing - LAFE COCHRAN, BILL O'COIN, VIC BACKER, FR. BERLO, PAT CIANGI, BILL KEYES, your Editor, ERNIE VIENNEAU, C.G. HANLIN (\$25.00 to the one who finds out just what "C.G." stands for), SPIKE O'DONNELL, BILL SANDERSON and WALT BENNETT - at the Ft. Devens "Twenty Fourth Division Day", June 28th.



MAJ. GEN. BENJAMIN F. TAYLOR, just in front a stint as Div. CG will be our Convention speaker. We can't think of anything more fortunate than to have with us one so recently returned from "home plate". He may be able to answer the question as to why every Division member isn't a member of our Association. We intend to ask him.

General Taylor, born in '12 in Washington, Pa., went to Ohio Stat U., then Washington and Jefferson College. Next on to West Point, graduating in '37. Also, he has

C&GS College, Army & Navy Staff College and Army War College under his belt.

In the CBI theater during WWII, he returned to the Pentagon as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff War Plans Committee, as Liaison Officer between State and Army Depts., and in G-3.

On to Europe in '48, first as a regimental exec., a battalion commander and a regimental C.O., all with the 1st Inf. Div., then G-3, Hqs. European Command.

Then back to a tour in the office of the Sec/Defense, then to Ft. Lewis to command the 130th and 38th Inf. Regts.

Bingo, off to Korea as C/S, I Corps, back again to the Pentagon as Deputy Sec'y. of the G/S and also as White House Liaison Officer. Made Exec. to the Sec'y. of the Army in '57, then back to Germany, first as ADC of 3rd Inf. Div., next as C/S, VII Corps, and lastly as Div. Commander of you-know-what, assuming that command on Apr. 5, 1962.

We all look forward to meeting you in Louisville, General Taylor.

We are about to pay \$73 million in Philippine war damage claims. Watch that tidy sum get funnelled into the hands of a favored few....News for tax-paupers. 101 of the 112 nations have been, are or will be recipients of aid from the U.S. since the end of WWII. That's why you may be one of 101 of every 112 Americans who can't put any money in the bank....then there's the one about the imaginary telephone conversation between JFK and the Rev. Martin Luther King..."Yes, Martin, I know, I know...sure Martin...you're absolutely right...but...but Martin, it's always been called the White House!"

This issue has been set up exactly 5 times. Each time we were about to put it to bed, in would come more news, necessitating a new composition.

No new news, however, has come with the sadness that this card, edged in black, has brought to us:

IT IS ANNOUNCED WITH DEEP SORROW
THE DEATH OF
THE RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR ROMAN J. NUWER, P. A.
BRIGADIER GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, RETIRED
ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10TH OF JULY
SOLEMN FUNERAL MASS
ON MONDAY, THE 15TH OF JULY
AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
SAINT MARY OF SORROWS CHURCH
GENESEE AND RICH STREETS
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

The Buffalo Evening News issue of Wed., July 10th, reported it thus:



MSGR. ROMAN J. NUWER
Served God and Country

Msgr. Nuwer Dies In Hospital After Heart Attack

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Roman J. Nuwer, PA, one of the best known priests in the Buffalo Diocese, died this morning in Lafayette General Hospital. He suffered a heart attack.

Msgr. Nuwer had been pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows Church since 1952. He celebrated Mass in his church Tuesday morning.

Early in the afternoon he complained of pain and shortly after 5 o'clock was taken to the hospital, said the Rev. Donald S. Trapp, assistant pastor.

Msgr. Nuwer was a chaplain in World Wars I and II and was associated with military organizations almost from the time of his ordination Dec. 8, 1916 in St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Pastor Since 1950

He was appointed pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows Church in March 1950 and took up his duties there in September 1952, after his retirement from military service.

Msgr. Nuwer was a chaplain with the American expeditionary forces on the Western Front. Although some of his associates were wounded, Father Nuwer came nearer losing his life when he returned to Erie County than he ever did in France.

It was while he was pastor of St. Vincent's Church in Springbrook soon after his return from Germany. A parishioner informed him that three men had been overcome by gas while cleaning out a well.

With his characteristic determination, the priest grabbed his gas mask and went to their rescue.

Saved By a Rope

He was asphyxiated and rescued only because one of the bystanders insisted that Father Nuwer tie a rope around his waist before he was lowered into the ground.

Msgr. Nuwer was brought up in Alden and was graduated in June 1913 from Canisius College, where he was a star athlete. In September of that year he went to Innsbruck, Austria, to continue his studies for the priesthood at the famed Jesuit Seminary.

While at the seminary, Msgr. Nuwer and several other priests set out on a ten-day hike through the Brenner Pass.

Seized as Spy Suspect

Their route would have taken them into the Tyrol and around to Switzerland. They had gone only a few days when they were taken into custody as suspected British spies.

They were imprisoned in a Brenner Pass hamlet but were soon released after authorities checked the Jesuit Seminary. Msgr. Nuwer said it was a harrowing experience because at that time it was the policy "to shoot suspected spies first and question them afterwards."

The Christmas after his ordination, Msgr. Nuwer was appointed assistant pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in the Black Rock section.

EAST

The Mass. Eye & Ear Infirmary, Boston, was the scene of a bedside conference on Thursday afternoon, 27 June. In bed was Fred Wehle, Jr. (3rd Eng. Bn.) recovering from eye surgery (detached retina).

Exhibiting true bedside manner were C.G. Hanlin, Spike O'Donnell, Pat Ciangi, Bill Sanderson and Ed Henry. Sanderson and Henry live in Attleboro, Mass., only 30 miles away. But, we hear you ask, how come C.G., Pat and Spike? Answer: These Taro Leafers were visiting in Attleboro for the long week-end, having flown from the Midwest for Gen. Bill Verbeck's retirement.

The alert as to Fred's eye trouble came to Ed Henry from Ross Pursifull (34th) and the visit was arranged with the help of charming Mrs. Fred, east with the kids to sit out the hospitalization.

The visit did Fred a lot of good. The effect on the hospital administration will be left unsaid. Fred flew home to Birmingham on 8 Jul. pretty well recovered. He will have limited duty for awhile longer and then back to work at E.F. Hauserman Co.-Detroit - steel partitions for offices.

We're with you Fred.

VIC BACKER tells us of "Sky Above & Mud Below", a new "terrific" book on New Guinea. We haven't caught it yet Vic: we will.

COL. CARL W. SCHAAD is now a student at the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Hotel accommodations at Louisville's Brown Hotel are excellent. Our Convention Committee boys have worked the management down to the point where they're threatening 77-B. So come to Louisville, please; and if you can't make the full period, come for a part anyway.....

WALTER J. BENNETT (24th QM) joined us during the retirement festivities for BILL VERBECK. He's at West View Rd., Hazardville, Conn.....A.W. RUSSELL of Russell Floor Service, RD #1, Caledonia, Mich., spotted our announcement in the VFW magazine. How about joining, A.W.?

ERRATUM - for which apologies. Our last issue reported convention rooms at \$9.00 for a double. Our Convention Committee advises that the hotel rooms (single or double) are \$6.00 as the edited reservation cards which were mailed out indicated. Our regret for the error.

New members to whom we are grateful for their support: W. HARRY ENGLAND, 540 E. Middle Turnpike, Manchester, Conn.; ROBERT M. LASHLEY (26th AAA 3-51 to 2-50), 510 Ohio Ave., Fairmont, W.Va.

The members of our Convention Committee have been working like beavers to ready Louisville for our onswep and they certainly are deserving of our kudos. Knowing Charman J.B. JONES as well as we do, it is just what we expected. When it comes to attention to duty, no one gives more effort to a job than J.B. He never has to back away from the pay table. And J.B. has been ably supported by some real Kentucky workers. We're putting our gratitude in writing - and in advance.

We reproduce herewith one of the last letters Rt. Rev. Msgr. ROMAN J. NUWER ever wrote. It was written on July 8th to Ed Henry. Two days later he was gone. Because it so well bespeaks the man, his zest for life, and his love for the 24th, we thought you'd like to see it just as he wrote it:

"...hut...fo' hut...fo'... by the left flank...harch!... by the right flank...harch!... hut...fo'..."

8 July 1963

Dear Ed :

All of a sudden it is Convention time all over the USA.
Innsbruckers - Detroit - last week in July.
24th Inf Div - middle of August - Louisville.
Kolpingers - Cincinnati - Labor Day weekend
North American Holy Name Convention - Buffalo - 21 to 25 August.

And - to top it all - Nuwer and two bachelor pals - laymen - plan a swan song trip to Europe - September - October. Not enough time for planned fun.

Unfortunately - my old sciatic hip and leg have kept me off my feet - very much. Beginning tomorrow - the M.Ds will shoot cortozone into the hip and leg - to give me relief - instead of the daily cortozone pills. Just an experiment. Sorry to miss you and the gang in Louisville.

Its been a great year for Buffalo Diocese - new Bishop and new Pope. Recently - the diocesan paper called to know whether I ever met the new pope - during my 7 years in Austria - after the war.

In addition to have dealings with the then Monsignor Montini - I also was priveleged to have 9 personal - private - audiences - with Pius XII - at his desk - discussing delicate matters of church and state - in my capacity as Chief of Ecclesiastic Affairs - Military Government.

Our bishop - the Most Rev James A. McNulty - formerly Paterson - N.J. - is the champ. Our former bishop - Burke - died suddenly at the Council in Rome last October. Sunday - 23 June - graduation exercises - Little Seminary - in our church. The new bishop presided and I baccalaureated. Stayed with us for 2 hours later - just to chew the rag etc. Grand guy !!!

The enclosed article may interest you and the family and the gang. Blessings on you all !!!

Romanna - 1



don't leave us behind

**WHEN
YOU
MOVE!**

BOB ENDER, 607 S. Hill, L.A., Calif. writes "I'm a bum. Here's ten bucks. Impossible for me to get to the reunion: my Eastern trips are June and January. I'll be there in spirit. My very best to all the gang. I, for one, certainly appreciate all the long hours and money expense you fellows have put into the Assn. The very least the rest of us can do is kick in now and then. All the best. Gratefully, Bob"

BERT KOENIG, 7931 Green Lane, Wipuote, Pa. writes: "Don't know what I owe. Here's 20. Sorry, I can't make Louisville. Do hope it's a thriller. Regards to all "... BILL VOSS (11th FA '42-'45) is VP of Boardwalk Nat. Bk., Atlantic City, N.J.... LEROY SALSER (34th INF '44-'45) is a postal supervisor in Portland, Ore.

IRWIN DUANE (CN 19th INF '43-'45) is a route salesman for Crystal Creamery, Sacto, Calif. Wife - Naomi - Daughter - Melissa Lou. Lovely names, Irwin, for nice people.

ROGER HELLER, still single, is an instructor at College of San Mateo, and lives at 5567 Thomas, Oakland, Calif. Roge was S.W.C. & G Co., 19th INF., '43-'45.

COL. W.J. KLEPINGER, Ret. (DIV HQ '41-'44) is Asst. Prof., Engrn. Graphics, Auburn U., Auburn, Ala.

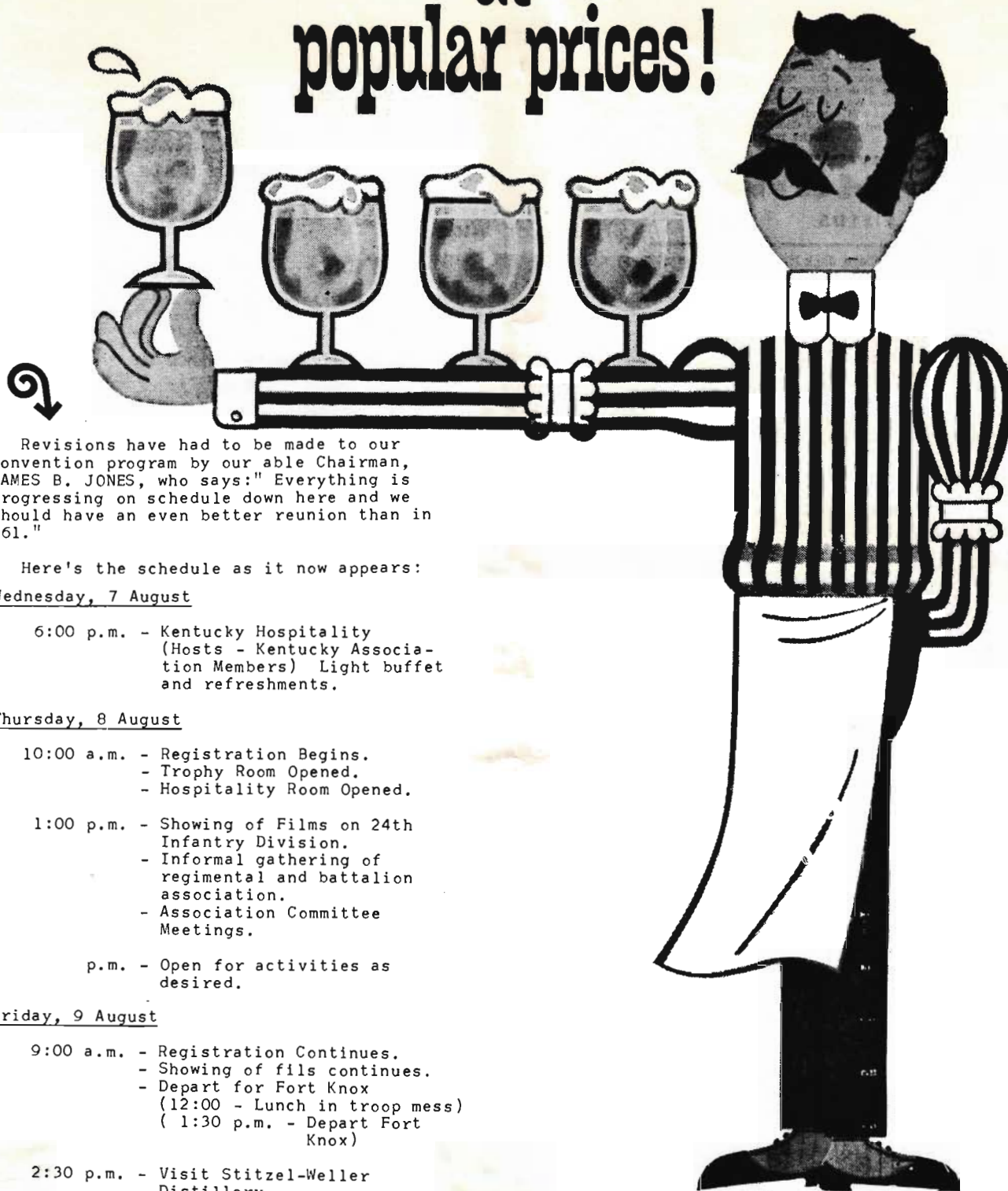
CARL and Dottie SANDGREN (21st INF '44-'45) and children Eric and Susan, are billeted at 1243 Badger, Janesville, Wis., Carl earning the daily bread as a building estimator.

ALVIN and Myrtle GAUPP (52nd FA '41-'44) are the parents of Brenda & Gary, and are bivouaced at 239 Coolidge, Absecon, N.J. He's a supervising line foreman for N.J. Bell Tel. Co. Al tells us that the average man spends 8760 hours of his life on the telephone - the equivalent of one full year. The average woman? Even N.J. Bell's experts hesitate to guess.

C.V. and Lucille RUSSELL (Med 34th INF '41-'45) are proud parents of Sally and David. He's a Tech. Sales Rep. in Jackson, Miss. for Reliance Varnish Co. with hqs. in Louisville.

VARIAN HOOVER (C-34th INF '43-'45) is still running the grocery store in Hustontown, Pa. Wife - Jessie: daughter - Janet. Varian says "Variety gives spice to life, but monotony provides the groceries".

at popular prices!



Revisions have had to be made to our Convention program by our able Chairman, JAMES B. JONES, who says: "Everything is progressing on schedule down here and we should have an even better reunion than in '61."

Here's the schedule as it now appears:

Wednesday, 7 August

- 6:00 p.m. - Kentucky Hospitality
(Hosts - Kentucky Association Members) Light buffet and refreshments.

Thursday, 8 August

- 10:00 a.m. - Registration Begins.
- Trophy Room Opened.
- Hospitality Room Opened.

- 1:00 p.m. - Showing of Films on 24th Infantry Division.
- Informal gathering of regimental and battalion association.
- Association Committee Meetings.

- p.m. - Open for activities as desired.

Friday, 9 August

- 9:00 a.m. - Registration Continues.
- Showing of films continues.
- Depart for Fort Knox
(12:00 - Lunch in troop mess)
(1:30 p.m. - Depart Fort Knox)

- 2:30 p.m. - Visit Stitzel-Weller Distillery.
- Hospitality Room Opened.

- 7:30 p.m. - Depart Brown Hotel and Board "Belle of Louisville".

- 8:00 p.m. - "Belle of Louisville" sails.
- Buffet Dinner and Dancing.

- 12:00 p.m. - "Belle of Louisville" docks and return to Hotel.

Saturday, 10 August

- 9:00 a.m. - Registration Continues.
- Showing of films continues.
- Hospitality Room Opened.

- 10:00 a.m. - Meeting of Association Board of Directors (Officials)

- 1:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting of Members (Business Session)

- 2:00 p.m. - Cocktail Hours (Wives)

- p.m. - Cocktail Hour

- 7:00 p.m. - Banquet

Sunday, 11 August

- 10:00 a.m. - Coffee and Farewells

New Pontiff Helped Msgr. Nuwer Bring Remains of St. Josaphat into Vatican

IT WAS A NIGHT in Rome in the spring of 1948. Outside the locked gates of the Vatican stood a truck in which was hidden the body of a saint which had been smuggled out of Austria's Russian sector.

A U.S. Army chaplain, conducting the whole operation and knowing that the truck must gain entrance at once, was frantically making contacts to get someone who could achieve this.

HE SUCCEEDED and the one who said the magic word is now Pope Paul VI, then Rt. Rev. Msgr. Giovanni Montini, a Vatican Substitute Secretary of State.

And the chaplain who got to him is Rt. Rev. Roman Nuwer, P.A., then Col. Nuwer, chief of Ecclesiastical Affairs, Branch of Internal Affairs Division, American Element, Austria. He is now pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Buffalo.

Not only did Msgr. Montini give the word that got the truck and its burden inside but he arranged on very short notice to get an audience with Pope Pius XII for Col. Nuwer and the nine members of the crew of the plane that had transported the saint's body.

THE STORY IS told now not only because this same Msgr. Montini just became Pope Paul VI but also because the saint in question is St. Josaphat whose efforts toward Christian reunion in the early 17th century ended in his martyrdom. He is called a martyr to Church unity.

"After the collapse of Italian military resistance in the spring of 1945 I was in Caserta, as a member of the Military Government Group with Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army which would assume control of Austria, eventually," Msgr. Nuwer related.

"I was appointed chief of the Ecclesiastical Affairs Branch. Our headquarters moved from Caserta to Florence to Verona and, finally, over the Brenner Pass to Salzburg, Austria.

"WE COULD HAVE been in Vienna in a few days but the State Department in Washington had made an agreement with the Russians to allow them to enter Vienna first.

"Naturally this was very disappointing to the Austrians who feared the occupation by the Russians. We marked time for almost four months in the Salzburg area before the Russians would allow us to enter Vienna.

"Upon our arrival we learned that the Russians had set up a civil government in Austria. Naturally all positions were held by communists. Furthermore we learned that the Russians had divided Vienna into four sectors, the industrial and business sections to be occupied by the Russians and the residential sections by Americans, British and French.

"We objected but to no avail. Finally we acquiesced. It was similar to the division of Germany into East and West. The Russians decided these things. We agreed—or else."

THREE YEARS passed during which Col. Nuwer fulfilled his role as chief of the Ecclesiastical Branch of the Military Government.

"I was in a position," he said, "to help the Church and the laity in delicate matters such as the restoration of property confiscated by the nazis, observance of the Austrian Concordat with the Vatican made in 1934 regarding religious freedom and the teaching of religion in the elementary schools, and in other things.

"Occasionally matters were so delicate that our headquarters sent me to the Vatican for an equitable and reasonable solution to a complex problem.

"It was my privilege to discuss these matters personally, along with Pope Pius XII at his desk nine times."

THEN MSGR. NUWER recalled that it was in the autumn of 1948 that the nuncio to Austria, Archbishop Delaplane, whose residence was in the Russian sector asked to see him.

The nuncio was worried because the Russians were searching for the body of St. Josaphat which, unbeknown to them was in St. Roch's Church in their sector and the nuncio wanted the body transferred by Col. Nuwer to the American Sector where it would be out of reach of the Russian searching parties.

ST. JOSAPHAT was murdered in 1623 by his enemies who were opposed to the reunion of the Churches of the East and West. He was the spearhead of attempted reunion. Subsequently winners of wars in that area would take the body of St. Josaphat among the spoils of victory and declare themselves the Protector of St. Josaphat. Over a period of three centuries the body of the saint was carried through many countries. After World War II it was brought to Vienna.

St. Josaphat is the patron of all Slavs and therefore also the Russians.

Now they were searching for him to exploit possession of his remains in political propaganda. They would be the new "protectors" of the Patron of the Slavs.

MSGR. NUWER explained that St. Roch's Church had been severely damaged during the war.

"The thick glass sarcophagus—about 8 feet long, 4 feet wide and 3 feet high—containing the remains of the saint was hidden in the rubble in the sacristy of the church. In it lay St. Josaphat in his episcopal robes, including mitre, crozier and ring.

"I presented the problem of transferring this big glass casket to the Chancellor of Austria, Leopold Figl, in strict confidence."

THE RESULT WAS that he loaned Col. Nuwer an Austrian coal truck and eight Austrians, also sworn to secrecy, to act as coal heavers.

"I was to accompany them, dressed in overalls like the rest," Msgr. Nuwer said, "tell-

ing them that since the Austrians had no coal it was necessary to go to an American coal dump to get half a load of coal and some planks at midnight.

"Arriving at St. Roch's," he continued, "we proceeded to unload the coal. Immediately we were surrounded by Russian officers and soldiers but they found unloading of coal uninteresting so they left us.

"We rushed into the church, dug the casket out of the rubble, laid it in the truck, placed planks around it, shovelled the coal back on the truck, drove to the American sector by another route and hid the casket in the catacombs under the cathedral.

"We considered our adventure with St. Josaphat completed."

BUT THIS WAS NOT so because a few weeks later some Russian officers made a visit to the Cathedral and seemed to want to see every corner.

"They got down into the catacombs and actually leaned against the vault where we had concealed the saint," Msgr. Nuwer said.

The nuncio got nervous, decided the saint must be moved again, contacted the Vatican by secret code and Pope Pius XII requested that the body of St. Josaphat be brought to Rome.

"How this was to be done was my problem," said Msgr. Nuwer.

HE TOOK THE General of the U.S. Forces in Austria into his confidence, requested and got the use of his plane. He alerted the nuncio and the Cardinal. He notified the Vatican of the time of their arrival in Rome.

He wired Msgr. Landi, chief of Catholic Relief Services in Italy, to have a closed truck at the airstrip and to wait.

Then an American truck went to the cathedral in the dark at 6 a.m. and picked up the casket which was wrapped in canvas and burlap.

ALL WENT WELL, so far. But the plans to get to Rome in five hours by flying through the Brenner Pass were blocked by a severe storm which, though they changed their course, still followed them. They had to make a landing for refueling and then in the air again encountered another storm, a "sirocco" from Africa, making a direct flight to Rome from that point impossible.

"We headed for Spain over the Atlantic, back to Africa, headed north at the heel of Italy and landed in Rome six hours later, nobody to greet us and clear us through the Customs and Immigration Offices," Msgr. Nuwer recalled. "Two limousines filled with Vatican officials had waited for four hours. They had heard about the storms and were very worried.

"But Msgr. Landi's truck was there."

THEN HE RECOUNTED the way he directed the pilot to taxi the plane down to the extreme end of the runway and stay there.

"Usually they taxied to the

operation tower and then were cleared by the customs and immigration officials. We could not do that."

Msgr. Nuwer explained that they must prevent at all cost the world knowing that St. Josaphat was now in Rome.

He described how he got on the wing of the plane and signaled the truck driver who hurried to the plane and how the crew transferred the casket to the truck, and how the truck got under way and kept going in spite of several obstacles.

THEY ARRIVED AT Msgr. Landi's office at 8 o'clock at night to find the place dark.

"I contacted Msgr. Landi's secretary and begged her to come to the office immediately, that I would explain later. In 15 minutes she was there I told her I had to get into the Vatican that night. Whom could we call to have the gates opened?"

HE TRIED SEVERAL offices and homes with no success and finally in desperation told the secretary to call the Pope himself.

"She almost fainted," he said. "I told her to get hold of somebody in the Papal household and I would do the talking.

"Soon I heard the voice of Msgr. Montini and in answer to his questions I requested that he have the gates of St. Peter's and the Vatican open and would be there in half an hour.

"THE DRIVER and I arrived and found everything ablaze with lights. The gates were open. The Swiss Guards saluted as we passed. Finally we arrived in the Court of Damasus. I knew my way now, ran inside, took the elevator up a few floors, went down the corridor, found Msgr. Montini's office, knocked and walked in.

"He rushed toward me with outstretched arms. In answer to his question about the body of the saint I assured him that all was well, the saint was there and everybody safe.

"We hurried down to the truck. Msgr. Montini had alerted about eight men to be there. We took the casket into a room, removed the canvas and burlap and Msgr. Montini fell on his knees, draped his arms over the casket and prayed while tears dropped on the casket. He arose slowly and asked what he could do for us."

MSGR. NUWER recalls that all he asked of Msgr. Montini then was to "take this saint off our hands, who has caused many people many headaches and worries."

But then he got the idea of asking for an audience with the Pope for his crew, a request that was speedily granted.

Msgr. Nuwer described this audience, a most important event in the lives of all, though only one of the crew was Catholic.

The Pope talked to each personally and thanked each for bringing St. Josaphat to Rome.

"They didn't know what he was talking about because they thought they had delivered engineering equipment," he said.

"At the conclusion of the audience we dropped to our knees and the Holy Father brought down the blessings of Heaven upon us. Then we went back to our hotel and picked up our baggage and took off for Vienna, thanking God that Msgr. Montini was our host and little dreaming that one day he would be Pope."

IN CONCLUSION, and almost as an afterthought, Msgr. Nuwer noted that a comparatively short time later he received a pleasant surprise when he was raised to the rank of Prothonotary Apostolic.

Here is a list of our LIFE MEMBERS as we go to press:

Aubrey S. Newman
William V. Davidson
Victor Backer
C. G. Hanlin
Edmund F. Henry
Joseph I. Peyton
Ross W. Pursifull
Robert Nolan
Gerald R. Stevenson
Paul W. Hartley
Bertram A. Koenig
J.N. Froome
W.T. Llewellyn
Adolph Miller
Urban L. Throm
Robert L. Silverness
Sue De A. McNeeley
Almon W. Manlove
Joseph Mashett
Edward M. Plowman
Kenwood Ross
Alex R. Thomas
Robert E. Treadway
Thomas H. Compere
Stanley Zarkowski
Roscoe Claxon
Samuel Y. Gilner
William J. Verbeck
Benjamin F. Wallace
Francis H. Heller
Mike Mochak
Richard T. Ligman
Robert J. Duff
William Sanderson
John E. Ward
Patrick J. Ciangi
Frederick A. Irving
James M. O'Donnell
Basil C. Donovan
Fred Wehle, Jr.
Emil M. Larson
Don C. Williams
John Horvath
Chester A. Andrezak
Michael J. Rafter
James N. Purcell
Allan R. Miller
Arthur J. Hornbeck
Maj. Gen. and Mrs.
William F. Dean



"... and now I'd like to sing for you a very sacred tribal song that I picked up at great personal sacrifice in the jungles of New Guinea."

What's ^{the} Difference ?

The paradoxical Sukarno, Indonesia's President, waltzed into Hollandia the other day. The first thing he did upon takeover was to change the name of the place to Kotabaru: it's now West Irian, no longer Dutch New Guinea.

Voicing assurances that Indonesia has no more territorial ambitions, Sukarno, in almost the same breath, promised to fight colonialism "the the last drop of blood," adding "If we give support to other peoples struggling for independence it does not mean that we want to annex them. We are in sympathy with all peoples of the world struggling for independence".

He arrived four days after the territory was transferred formally to Indonesian administration by a temporary United Nations authority, saying that taking over West Irian from the Dutch was the first of a three-point Indonesian program to form a strong and united republic.

The native population of West Irian is supposed to vote eventually on whether it wants to become part of Indonesia or gain independence, but already the campaign has started. Banners displayed along Sukarno's entry route proclaimed such slogans as "no need for plebiscite", "eliminate plebiscite" and "plebiscite against people's wishes". We'll watch him with interest and see if he keeps his word with the Fuzzy-Wuzzies.

Here and There

Did you catch the book, "March to Calumny" by Albert D. Biderman?

Americans indulged in some profound breast beating when they heard that G.I. prisoners in Korea had been brainwashed into collaborating on a massive scale with the enemy. Once again Jeremiahs were able to wail that Americans had gone soft from too much good living. But all this emotion was uselessly expended, according to Albert Biderman, a sociologist with long experience in military affairs. Impressively marshaling facts and figures, Biderman argues that U.S. prisoners in Korea behaved as well as prisoners generally have any time, anywhere.

Grossly exaggerated estimates of collaboration, writes Biderman, were released by certain military officials eager to prove that the Army needed more discipline. They reported that one out of every three prisoners had collaborated, and this figure was quickly seized upon by the press. Actually, writes Biderman, most of the so-called collaboration was either inconsequential or token cooperation of the sort no prisoner can avoid; for instance, prisoners were forced to write home only on stationery printed with doves of peace, or to insert Communist propaganda in their letters. The more serious collaboration was often committed by the very prisoners who most stoutly resisted the Communists. They exposed themselves to more punishment than they could take and finally broke down.

According to Biderman, only twelve of the 4,000 - odd prisoners succumbed to brainwashing - a small percentage by any standards. The overwhelming number of prisoners not only resisted indoctrination but became ardent anti-Communists. When called upon to confess their "reactionary" sins, prisoners usually responded with a humor that escaped their captors. One G.I. confessed: "I promise never again to call Wong that no-good dirty s--- of-a-b----". Another: "I am sincerely sorry my hostile attitude had to be pointed out to me". Humor, writes Biderman, is a man's best weapon in prison, and too rigid standards cannot be applied to a situation where individual initiative and resourceful leadership count most.

Admittedly, the Communists got some propaganda mileage from the prisoners who "confessed" to germ warfare. But ironically, the Communists scored their biggest propaganda success with the folks back home who were so quickly led to believe the worst of their G.I.s.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about this book is that it should ever have had to be written. It is a defense, sober and meticulous, of the behavior of American prisoners of war captured in Korea. It is normal for a shocked nation to discover that its captured fighting men were not all paragons of valor, selflessness, and democratic zeal. In recent years, however, many writers and military men have gone much further and created a picture of wholesale collaboration, spinelessness and spontaneous physical and moral collapse of Americans in the hands of the enemy. The inference, as Biderman puts it, is "that this unprecedented misbehavior revealed alarming new weaknesses in our national character."

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"24TH" REUNION

For

John P Shay
455 Bernie Ct
Wheeling Ill

TAPS

We have just received the horrifying news that DICK COLLOPY, 24th RECN '43-'46 died in a fire in King of Prussia, Pa. Shorty, a sales engineer, suffocated in his room in the George Washington Motor Lodge when the \$500,000.00 unit went up in smoke. A frequent guest there on his sales trips, firemen found him several hours after the break out. Born December 27, 1918, the son of Patrick H. and Bernice Braun Collopy, Shorty graduated from Hamilton Catholic High School in 1937. Shortly after graduation, he took employment with Champion Papers, Inc. and was assistant purchasing agent when he became associated with Paper Supply Co. in December 1962. In May of '41 he enlisted in the Army at Thomas. He received his basic training at Benning, and later was transferred to Bliss, where he attended O.C.S. He served with us from March 5, 1943 until June of 1945. He returned home from overseas on June 23, 1945, and on Dec. 3, 1945, was honorably discharged at Atterbury with the rank of captain.

We knew Shorty well, liked him, respected him, admired him. He had guts as any Recon man must have. Always a "lead" man, he never shirked his duty, never balked in turning the next corner, peeking under the next frond of coconut. He was a man's man as his Silver Star and Purple Heart would attest. He earned them.

Oh well, it's better to have loved a short girl than not a tall ----- Some women take a man to the cleaners as soon as they spot him-----What ever happened to the 500 exile Commandos who tried to free Cuba? Were they wiped out by Fidel or wiped off the front pages by the news-managers?

YOUR REUNION IS GOING TO BE TERRIFIC!

We have just read a copy of the "lease" between the Assoc. and the Louisville and Jefferson County Board of Recreation in connection with the rental of the S.S. Belle of Louisville for the evening of Aug. 9th. By the size of the document it looks as though we're buying the ship. Anybody got any water in his backyard - we may have a boat available come Sunday, Aug. 11th. In any event the boat trip promises to be a thriller.

MEASURING

The printing bill on our six issues of this year has gone to \$1649.16. This averages out to \$274.86 per issue for the year.

Divide \$274.86 per issue among 270 dues paying members and you have each issue costing just about \$1.00 per member.

Cost this out on a 6 issue basis and you find that we paid \$6.00 out in each member's behalf - in return for \$5.00 paid in by way of dues. Obviously, this is a h--- of a way to run a railroad.

Fortunately, the last 3 issues were paid for personally by a staunch and rabid few.

By the way, in the 6 issues for the year, we've gone to 84 pages, more by 4 than any year in our 16 publishing years. In '51 - '52, we ran 80 pages.

One reason why so many husbands stop bringing home the bacon is that their wives have forgotten how to cook it.