

taro leaf

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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SCINTILLATING SOUTHLAND SPONSORS SUPEREXCELLENT SESSION;

SOCIETY STATE SALUBRIOUSLY SHIP SHAPE;

SEIGNORIAL STEVENSON SUCCEEDS SOVEREIGN SAM;

SAPIENT SANDERSON SECONDARY SUPREME SAHIB;

SAME SANGUINARY SEC'Y./SIMOLEON SAVER/SCRIBE, SINE SURCEASE;

SHICAGO SWIFTLY SELECTED SIXTY SEVEN SANCTUM SANCTORUM, SANS
SCHISM;

SENESCENT SOCIETY SEQUACIOUSLY SANCTIONS SCRIBING SELF-SALUTATION.

We're skipping the masthead for this issue in order to give you a down-to-earth translation of the page 1 convention capsule which we asked you to swallow.

Myrtle Beach news will be appearing in several succeeding issues. For now, it summarizes thusly:

South Carolina opened up its heart to us and the 75 families, sufficiently able to outwit the striking airlines mechanics, thoroughly enjoyed the idyllic interlude. The consensus was that '66 was the best yet.

The "state of the society" seems sound and secure in every department. We are growing - presently 1547 members strong - are better off financially than we have ever been - and suffer only from the saddening truism that we who wore the Taro Leaf are getting older.

Vice President GERALD STEVENSON, a Div.Hq. man of WWII, was elected Association President for the new year. Gerry's at 168 E. Center St., Wheeling, Ill., in case you don't have it.

Old faithful WILLIAM SANDERSON stepped into the #2 spot as Vice President, which, in our scheme of things, implies "President-in-Training". Bill's out of 57 Peck St., Attleboro, Mass.

The Secretary/Treasurer/Editor remains unchanged. See whatcha get for not growling?

Chicago will see us in August of next year. Detroit made a good pitch for the hosting job, but site selection was not the batting of a sticky wicket, as in years past.

And out of all of the funmaking, and through the clouds of nostalgia, there appeared one concerted purpose. Recognizing that age is taking its toll, we resolved to announce the publishing of a complete Division history. We say "announce" advisedly. The history is in nearly finished manuscript form. It must be announced for solicitation purposes. If the interest is there, and the requisite pre-publication sales are next forthcoming, the printing can go to fruition. More on this anon.

For now, you've had part 1 of The Myrtle Beach story.



Myrtle Beach, Bachrack Division: MIKE MOCHAK, our own John Barrymore, albeit not as sensitive when it comes to catching the right or the left profile. Mike came in from 1143 Walnut, Springdale, Pa.

TAPS

Deceased: Four WWII men - WALTER T. CARVEY of Baker Battery, HOLLISTER CHASE of Hqs. Battery, FRED J. OTTO, also of Baker Battery, and JOHN HOFFMAN of Service Battery, all of the 13th Field.....NORMAN P. NICHOLS, (D 34th '42-'45), of RR4, Crawfordsville, Ind., died on Nov. 14, 1964 at the age of 42 from lymphatic leukemia leaving his wife of 18 years, 2 daughters, 17 and 15, and a son 3.

General Officer Changes: Maj.Gen. WILLIAM A. ENEMARK from C/S, CENTAG/SHAPE to USA Elm, OSD...Maj.Gen. BENJAMIN F. TAYLOR from Dir. of the Army Budget, D/A to C/S CENTAG, NATO. Gen. CHARLES H. BONESTEEL has replaced Gen. DWIGHT E. BEACH in the top spot in Korea. Dwight has gone to Honolulu to be C in C of US Army, Pacific.

Condolences to: BOB and Anne DUFF on the passing on of Bob's mother.

Maples Passes Colors to Wetherill on Oct. First: Maj.Gen. RODERICK WETHERILL took command of the Division on Saturday (October 1st), the 25th anniversary date of the division, in a ceremony at Flak Kaserne.

Wetherill becomes the 34th commanding general to lead the Victorymen since the division was formed from the famous "Square" four-regiment Hawaiian Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on October 1st, 1941.

Passing the colors to his successor, on receiving them from division Sergeant Major James L. Taylor, was the interim commanding general, Brigadier General HERRON N. MAPLES, who will return to his duties as assistant 24th Division commander for Augsburg.

Gen. Wetherill came to the division from Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was Chief of Staff of XVIII Airborne Corps.

Maj.Gen. E.L. ROWNY had stepped down as Div. C.G. on September 3rd after 15 months in command and was replaced by Gen. Maples.

(Ed. Note: From time to time, the occasion arises which seems to call upon us to get up out of our editorial chair and let a man have a crack at the typewriter and paste pot. For what will be, clearly, a most obvious reason, we yield once anew, this time an entire page to guest feature writer, EDMUND F. HENRY. K.R.)

ASSOCIATION INSTITUTES WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK AWARD

BY EDMUND F. HENRY

The highlight of our gala nineteenth convention at Myrtle Beach, S.C. was the announcement of the institution of the Association's William Jordan Verbeck Award.

This reporter finds himself in the unique position of having witnessed the conception of the idea for such an honor within a certain recent Executive Committee session. Too, he shared in the agonizing debate which ensued, as guidelines were written with respect to the standards upon which presentation would be based. Lastly, he shared in the decision-making surrounding the selection of the first honoree.

The late Major General William Jordan Verbeck, onetime regimental commander of the 21st Infantry and onetime Division Chief of Staff, demonstrated in myriad ways - and consistently, from his Division days of '44 and '45 to the day of his death on November 4, 1965 - an unparalleled love for and devotion to Division. It was an obsession with him, a magnificent one.

It is this enthusiasm, this spirit, which the Executive Committee has sought to memorialize. Hard in the conviction that any honor bearing the name of this beloved comrade-in-arms will carry its own ready acknowledgement of that for which it stands, the Committee was firm that it should be known merely as the "William Jordan Verbeck Award". The name "Verbeck" is synonymous with "Excellence" in many areas and for many things, but to Taro Leafers particularly, the name represents special excellence in all matters germane to the 24th Infantry Division and its appurtenant parts.

The groundwork laid and the spadework done, your reporter was called to the speaker's rostrum at the Saturday night banquet for words which sent something like this:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:

"Tonight, I have the honor to make - in your behalf - the presentation of a new award to a member of this Association. This award shall hereafter be known as the William Jordan Verbeck Award.

"For many years past, we have made recognition awards at our annual meetings, in the form of certificates or scrolls, to members who, during the year last passed, have rendered especial service to the Association. You will witness, later on this evening, just such a presentation. Eagerly sought after, they are treasured by those members who receive them.

"Since last we met, Major General William Jordan Verbeck was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. He was loved and admired by everyone who knew him, and especially worshipped by those Gimlets who were and are proud to say 'I served with Colonel Bill Verbeck'. He was truly an ideal soldier, gallant in action, with a rare gift for leadership, yet with a common touch that endeared him to us all. He died, mourned as few men are mourned, because like Bayard, that model of brightly virtue, he could be truly called 'Without fear; and without fault'.

"General Verbeck loved the 24th Infantry Division; and was devoted to this Association, which he served as President during the last year of his life.

"An award bearing his name would be an inspiration to each of us and a source of constant pride to the member who receives it. Your Executive Committee has accepted the offer of one of our number to donate to the Association a symbol of that award and has resolved that the award shall be made to that member who, by his service to the Association, best exemplifies the ideals of General Verbeck. The award is intended to set a high standard. It will not compete with the awards of the scrolls or certificates to which I earlier referred. The William Jordan Verbeck Award will be given only sparingly on the vote of the Executive Committee - perhaps no more often than once every few years - and all because of the unusual quality of performance required to earn it.

"The Executive Committee has voted to make the first William Jordan Verbeck Award tonight, - although the presentation of the symbol of the award must await its fabrication. The symbol of the award shall pass from one honoree to the next, a miniature thereof being made for the permanent possession of each recipient.

"The Executive Committee has unanimously, and without hesitation, chosen KENWOOD ROSS to have the honor of being the first winner of the William Jordan Verbeck Award. No member of the Association is more deserving. In the past, Ken Ross has served us as President; and over a period of many years, he has combined the arduous duties of Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor, over sixty issues of the Taro Leaf having flowed from his pen. His contributions - and he is a busy patent lawyer - have been incredible. I have personal knowledge of all of this, and I have never ceased to marvel at his devotion to our cause. I am also aware that he admired General Verbeck above all men. His Memorial Issue, following Bill's death, was truly the labor of love, and it touched all of our hearts. No one that I know meets the high standards demanded by this award more than the man who first receives it tonight. Ken has long been one of my oldest and dearest friends. I am, myself, honored by being chosen to make the first William Jordan Verbeck Award to KENWOOD ROSS."

Ky. to N.H.: Word in from Col. RALPH C. BING telling us that he has moved from Louisville to Eaton Grange, RFD 2, Warner, N.H. Ralph tells us of the death of his wife two years ago and advises that he has since remarried. Good to hear from you, Ralph. Ralph was Div.Hq. and 34th from '46 to '48.

Long Letter Writer: JOHN BORZILLERI, now at Bayonne, N.J., is one of our best correspondents. Johnnie left Div. at Sasebo in '52, out for awhile, then reenlisted to Germany for 4 years. Then stateside, and next back to Korea; next, Monmouth from '58 to '60, then back to Germany until '64. Stateside, more schooling, then duty with the First Army Vet. Unit at Naval Supply Center, in Bayonne. Johnnie is a Staff. We're proud of this boy.

Now In: MARTIN J. CAHILL (Sv. 13th F 2/44-12/45) has joined. He and Kay have two, Mark 14 and Kimberly Ann 8, and expect a third shortly. They're at 1611 S. Massachusetts in Mason City, Iowa. Marty is a truck owner on a run between Iowa and New York City. Sez Marty: "Am glad to be a member and will be in Chicago in Aug."



Myrtle Beach Lovely: Mrs. HUBERT (Virginia) LOWRY, of Smithshire, Ill., let us catch this one. Wish we had included Barbara and Patty, Ginny. Bert was assuring everyone of a room, if they ever get to Smithshire - "just bought the hotel".

At Fourth Army Hqs: Maj.Gen. CHESTER A. DAHLEN is now at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., and he tells us about the Tech.Sgt. he knows who cautions: "If you're driving today, please drive carefully - I'm walking. And if you're walking, be even more careful - my wife is driving".

Myrtle Beach Shot in the Sun: From l. to r. - ANGELO STRADA, 5012 S. Lavergne, Chicago, Ill., CHET ANDREZAK, 3235 N. Natchez, Chicago, Ill., and BOB SCHLATTER, Framington, Conn.



Myrtle Beach VIP: Eager, enthusiastic, charming, successful convention chairman PAUL "Junior" HARRIS to whom we owe a deep vote of thanks for a clambake well managed. Nor should we omit lovely Lessie or the boys, Al and Wesley, from our grateful acknowledgements. They all pitched in as a team.

Retiring as Strike Command boss is Gen. PAUL D. ADAMS. The soldier who earned his reputation as a tough, but fair, commander during more than 38 service years has reached the statutory age limit and steps down as STRICOM's commander since it was created in '61. Well done, General Adams, well done.

Troubles: Much sickness in the family of JOSEPH E. BASS. Besides good wife, Ruby, there are 4: J.E., Jerry, Don, and Ronnie. Keep that chin up, Joe. He's 21st (4-40 to 7-44), living at Rt. 3, Snow Hill, N.C.



Myrtle Beach Funsters: C.G. HANLIN, and Phyllis and RICHARD WATSON of RR 1, Box 363, Daleville, Ind. Rita Gallant says that C.G. dances better, now that he has a wooden leg, than he did before his accident.

Stage Whisper: Warm greetings at hand from the FULTON's (FRANK and Margaret) out of 50 Hancock, N. Dartmouth, Mass. Frankie is King Co., 21st ('40-'44). Margaret cheerily reports that "All's well". Wonderful determination in that unfortunate family. Frank is of the opinion that no matter how you slice the Vietnam mess, the #1 enemy of the free world, 21 yrs. after WWII, is communism. Its current strength is due in large part to the fact that we lacked the shrewdness, when Adolf attacked Joe in '41, to sit back and let the twin SOB's claw each other to bits.