This issue was scheduled for February and I had 3 pages of text and 6 pages of photographs set up and somehow I managed to lose them. I spent the next 2 or 3 weeks reorganizing my files, my desk, my closet(s), and my dental office in the hope that I would find them. No luck. I had to start over. Most of the photos had been loaned to me by 596ers and fortunately I had made copies and returned the originals. Nevertheless those photos are lost to this issue. I hope those of you who sent me photos and don’t see them in this issue will lend them to me again for use in the next issue.

Bill Lewis (Secr-Treas) tells me the registrations for the San Antonio Reunion are coming in great numbers in spite of the fact that he neglected to include the amount of the registration fee in the December issue of "The Thunderbolt". The amount is $50.00 per person. A registration form is included in this Newsletter and you should also have received one in "The Thunderbolt". You must also make your reservation at the El Tropicano Hotel and the rate is $49.00 per day, single or double.

I am told that "F" Company of the 517 PIR is making a determined effort to dethrone us as the reunion attendance champions that we have been for the past two reunions. Don't let it happen. We are the nonpareil role models for unit pride and esprit and we will not easily relinquish that image.

We are going to enjoy being with several 596ers who will be making their first reunion. Don't miss the fun of seeing them try to identify us, if they don't see the same tag first.

I regret to report that three of our 596ers who had planned to be at their first ever reunion have gone to that great final DZ. They are Glenn Spangler, Max Gross and Ray W. McNell. We also lost Jim Nolan who had planned to be at his second reunion.
For the pleasure of your company
Where life's Happening...

We've got your number in Texas.

Texas-style bash...
Enliven your life.

Welcome

Drop Everything

In the great tradition
12TH REUNION
EL TROPICANO HOTEL
San Antonio, Texas
26-28 June, 1985

This is it.

Tex-Mex Adventure

It's a Mexican Festival!
It's fun for everyone. Mucha raza,
mucha danza, mucha cerveza and, ah yes,
mucha Bella Grande Margaritas.

Come for the fun, stay for the

Delightful event.

IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU

Hook up!

When you're hot you're hot
And when you're not you're not
At the 12th Tropicano Reunion

Our Sparkling event.

It's the Best Little Party in The Heart and Soul of Texas
Everywhere you expect and then some!

You don't want to miss it!

Break loose and
Live the Texas-sized life

Meet your friends
Camaraderie

A trip
You'll never forget!

Get a Texas Accent

Everywhere you expect and then some!
26 June 05-0900-1700 Registration-Main floor of hotel.
1930-2030 Mariachi Mass at San Fernando Cathedral.
27 June 05-0900-1700 Registration-Main floor of hotel.
0800-0900 Post-President's Breakfast at Laguna Restaurant in hotel.
1030-1140 Ladies' seated Brunch in Coronado Ballroom, Fashion show, door prizes, music, live entertainment. No extra charge.
1930-2055 Dinner on boat on San Antonio River, Tex-Mex food and Margaritas. Reservations necessary. Cost $20.00 per person. First 100 persons only. Leave from hotel.
28 June 05-0900-1000 Board of Directors meeting in Pres. Pugh's suite.
1000-1200 Business Meeting for ALL 517 PCT TROOPERS in River Room.
1400-1600 Photo sessions for units according to posted schedule in River Room.
1940-2130 Banquet in Coronado Ballroom. Seating by units and by 24 hour advance request by guests of eight.
2200-2400 Dancing in Coronado Ballroom to music of 1940's. Cash bar.

WEAR YOUR REGISTRATION BADGE AT ALL FUNCTIONS. IT IS YOUR ADMISSION TICKET. HANG ON TO YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKET. WE HAVE SOME VERY DESIRABLE AND VALUABLE DOOR PRIZES TO AWARD LUCKY TICKET HOLDERS AT THE WEDNESDAY EVENING HAPPY HOUR. ENJOY YOURSELF, YOUR FRIENDS, AND TEXAS. HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME, ADIOS Y VAYA CON DIOS. AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!!! Two different destruction tours of Mexico are being offered. One is for 5 days and the other 7 days. San Antonio is a delightful and very interesting city. Our hotel is on the famed River Walk.
SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio has been described as one of America's best-kept secrets, and once attendees arrive here, they'll agree. From the handcrafts of bounding Franciscan fathers and friendly Indians to the San Antonians of today, each generation, each nationality and each era of progress has added its own influences to what is modern-day San Antonio. San Antonio has a touch of France—finest and acceptance of a slower, more enjoyable life-style, which is quite rare in the hurry-up atmosphere of most big cities.

Area total: 579

Population: 1.3 Million

Alweg!

San Antonio Airport is located 8 miles, 10 minutes, from downtown and is served by American, Continental, Delta, Eastern, Mexicana, Pan Am, Southwest, Texas International, TWA and USAir and United. San Antonio has 140 miles of depart- ing flights daily: Lim. $3; tax, 86. Rail service, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; 50¢; exact change.

NOTE

Remember the great time Alice Goodman arranged in San Mateo? Winston Shull has arranged for the $96 ladies to get together for lunch on Friday, 28 June, in San Antonio. She has picked a gem of a spot! It is LOS PATIOS, a charming cluster of sophisticated boutiques, small shops, galleries, restaurants, and a garden nursery along the river in a wooded area out from the city. There is informal modeling during lunch.

Elegant sandwiches, choice of soup or salad, coffee or tea costs about $7.50 including tax and tip. No credit cards. Reservation required and dress is casual. Winston is taking your reservations and arranging for drivers. She will need seven cars to handle the transport of our group. Do you want to go? Can you provide a car? Write or call Winston as soon as possible at...
If you think the only boom in Texas is oil, you haven't seen San Antonio. Located in the heart of the Lone Star State, San Antonio is an energetic city of nearly one million people that retains its romantic and historical aura year after year.

Twenty feet below street level in downtown San Antonio is another world, the Paseo del Río, or River Walk. World famous for its originality and colorful nightlife, the River Walk peacefully winds its way through the center of downtown.

Hop an open-air, wooden trolley or a graceful horsedrawn carriage from the past and see the city on street level. Stop in at the Alamo where 180 brave men fought and died in the name of Texas Independence.

Step into El Mercado, the bustling Mexican marketplace, and suddenly you're south of the border.

Shop and browse at La Villita or the Little Village along the banks of the River where local artists not only sell their wares but demonstrate their crafts to interested spectators.

Spend a quiet afternoon at one of the many museums, whether it's the San Antonio Museum of Art where different national art exhibits open every six weeks, or the Institute of Texan Cultures where 27 ethnic cultures of Texas are exhibited. See works of the old masters Rembrandt, Motets, and others at the McNay Art Museum.

Step back in time when you tour the stately Victorian mansions, restored to their original condition, in the King William District.

Continue south, after touring the King William area homes, and venture into Old Spain—the four, historic missions established by Franciscan Friars and now a part of the National Park System.

Ride horseback in the near-downtown Brackenridge Park or jog along the Riverwalk.

Enjoy sunny San Antonio's subtropical weather at fiestas and festivals commemorating everything from Mexico's Independence from Spain, to Texas' Independence from Mexico.

Come to San Antonio and be a part of a romantic and exciting city, full of history and embracing some of the most charming and original sites in the world.

La Villita, one of San Antonio's original settlements, is a restored village which has recently reopened after extensive work on the historic buildings and plazas. La Villita is an arts and crafts community with twenty-six shops, three restaurants and an exhibit of San Antonio's past. The atmosphere is that of a bygone era where visitors may shop, dine, or enjoy one of the many events that take place in La Villita.

After two years of renovation, San Antonio's 1913 vintage streetcar, "Cód 300", is on the tracks again. The street car makes two 30 minute trips weekdays, except Monday (more trips on weekends) from the San Antonio Museum of Art to Pearl Brewery, back to the Museum of Art and then on to the Hays Street overpass and return to the museum. The motorman and conductor give a guided tour for passengers.
YES! (WE) WILL BE ATTENDING THE REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO.

Enclose a check (money order) for $____ made payable to the S17 PRCT Reunion to cover the cost of our participation.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ ZIP: _______

Send your registration fee to our Secretary/Treasurer at the following address:

The registration fee is $50.00 per person.

Make your hotel reservations now

ROOM RESERVATION
Send to EL TROPICANA HOTEL
110 Lexington Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78205
telephone (512) 222-9461
Room rate: $49.00 single or double.
When you make your reservation notify the hotel of your S17 affiliation.

Golfers' Enclave

I PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE S17 PRCT GOLF TOURNAMENT
Date: 25 June, PECAN VALLEY GOLF CLUB 1:00 P.M. TEE OFF

Name: ________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ ZIP: _______

Mail to: Bill Lewis $23.00 per person for green fee and 1/2 cart.
First Day
Saturday
June 29, 1985

Depart San Antonio on Mexicana Airlines flight 729 at 4:45pm to arrive Mexico City at 5:30pm.

You will be met and transferred to your hotel HOTEL GALERIAS PLAZA, or similar.

Evening will be free.

Second Day
Sunday
June 30

This morning you will depart your hotel around 9:00am and proceed to the Palace of Fine Arts for a performance by the superb Mexicana Folklore Ballet. The tour continues onto Tlatelolco. Embark in flower bedecked boats for a ride through the canals of the "Floating Gardens".

Return to Mexico City midafternoon. Remainder of the day is free.

Third Day
Monday
July 1

Depart hotel this morning at 9:00am for a tour of Mexico City including the National Palace, Zocalo, Metropolitan Cathedral, Chapultec Castle. Then continue onto the famous archeological zone of San Juan Teotihuacan. Lunch is included today and the return to the hotel will be about 6:00pm.

Fourth Day
Tuesday
July 2

Depart this morning for a full day tour to Oaxacava and Taxco.
You will cross the Sierra Madre mountains down into the lush, tropical vegetation of Oaxacava where you will visit the Cathedral and Cortes Palace. Continue onto Taxco where the 18th Century atmosphere is preserved with the narrow cobblestone streets. Lunch is included and you will have time for shopping before the late afternoon return to Mexico City.

Evening is free.

Fifth Day
Wednesday
July 3

Your flight will depart Mexico City at 9:45am on Mexicana Airlines flight 728 to arrive in San Antonio at 12:30pm. You will have Customs and Immigration clearance on arrival.

You must have a passport, voter registration card, or birth certificate that has a raised seal. In order to enter Mexico and return to the USA.

Tour Cost: land only per person 2 people to a room $300.00
3 people to a room $260.00
1 person to a room $385.00

Airfare round trip from San Antonio $895.00 per person

Tour Includes: Round trip transfer to and from airport; tips for baggage handling at airport and in and out hotel; 2 lunches including tips and tax and hotel room tax.

Barbara's Travel Place, Inc.
210 West 6th St., Suite 300
Fort Worth, TX 76102
817-335-8200
MEXICO CITY AND COLONIAL MEXICO

FIRST DAY
SATURDAY
June 29, 1985
Depart San Antonio on Mexicana Airlines flight 729 at 4:45pm.
To arrive Mexico City at 5:30pm. You will be met and transferred
to your HOTEL GALERIAS PLAZA or similar.
Evening will be free.

SECOND DAY
SUNDAY
June 30
This morning you will depart your hotel around 9:00am and proceed
to the Palace of Fine arts for a performance by the Mexicana Folklore
Ballet. Then onto Xochimilco. Embark in flower bedecked boats for
a ride through the canals of the 'Floating Gardens.' Return to
Mexico City in Midafternoon. Remainder of day is free.

THIRD DAY
MONDAY
July 1
Depart hotel this morning at 9:00am for a tour Mexico City including
the National Palace, Chapultpec Castle and onto the archeological
zone of San Juan Teotihuacan. Lunch is included today with return
to the hotel about 6:00pm.

FOURTH DAY
TUESDAY
July 2
Depart Mexico City this morning as you begin your tour of 'Colonial
Mexico' first stop will be Queretaro popularly known as the Opal City.
Short sightseeing tour of the City and continue onto San Miguel de
Allende for sightseeing and overnight at POSADA de SAN FRANCISCO OR
similar.

FIFTH DAY
WEDNESDAY
July 3
This morning you will stop in Dolores Hidalgo as you travel to
Cuernavaca, one of Mexico's most intriguing cities. Time for
sightseeing then onto Morelia for a short tour and continue onto
Patzcuaro for the night at POSADA DON WASCO or similar.

SIXTH DAY
THURSDAY
July 4
Sightseeing this morning in Patzcuaro with a lunch ride to the
Isle of Janitzio then back to Patzcuaro and onto Lake Chapala and
Guadalajara. Overnight at the Sheraton or similar.

SEVENTH DAY
FRIDAY
July 5
Morning departure on Mexicana Airlines flight 724 at 12:05pm arriving
San Antonio at 3:35pm. You will have Immigration and Customs on
arrival San Antonio.

TOUR COST: Land only per person 2 people to a room $ 465.00
3 people to a room 433.00
1 person to a room 588.00
Airfare round trip from San Antonio $189.00 Per person

TOUR INCLUDES: Round trip transfer to and from airport; tips for
baggage handling at airport and in and out hotel; Tips for 1 luncheon
and hotel room tax.

YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT, VOTER REGISTRATION CARD, OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE THAT HAS A
RAISED SEAL. IN ORDER TO ENTER MEXICO AND RETURN TO THE USA.

barbara's travel place, inc.
210 West 6th St., Suite 300
817-335-8200
Fort Worth, Tx. 76102
RESERVATIONS/DEPOSIT:
A deposit of $100.00 per person is required at time of booking. The balance of the
tour cost is due May 20, 1985. The tour cost is based on prices in effect March 1, 1985
and are subject to change. Should these cost change, it may be necessary to request
an additional amount on the tour.

MEXICAN TOURIST CARD:
It is necessary for entry into Mexico. U.S. and Canadian Citizens need to have proof
of their citizenship and the tourist card will be issued by our office. For all
others it will be necessary for special arrangements to be made. We suggest at time
of booking if you are not an American or Canadian citizen, you advise us so we can assist
you in have the proper documents for entrance into Mexico and re-entry into the U.S.

on receipt of your tour deposit we will forward the forms for the tourist cards that
you will need to return to us as soon as possible.

WEATHER AND CLOTHING:
While Mexico City is almost a mile and half above sea level at an altitude of 7,350 ft.,
the days will be warm in the 70's and low 80's. June is the start of the rainy season
(June -Sept.) so bring your raincoat and umbrella ...most of the time it is just the
warm rain and comes and goes so should not hamper your fun. Be sure to include a
jacket for evening as Mexico City will turn cool after dark and be similar to San
Francisco. Bring comfortable shoes for walking.

TOUR APPLICATION

Name(s) ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Telephone (home) (business) ____________

Single __________ Twin __________ Triple __________ Deposit Enclosed ______

Tour must be paid by check. The air portion of the tour maybe paid by credit card.

YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT, VOTER REGISTRATION CARD, OR ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATE THAT HAS A
RAISED SEAL, IN ORDER TO ENTER MEXICO AND RETURN TO THE USA.
Mary and Joe D. Miller in Nice, France, last August.

These envelopes were postmarked on 15 August 1964, at Le Muy, France, and commemorate the 40th Anniversary of our combat jump there. If you would like to have one of these covers, please write the Editor and enclose $5.00. Only 50 of these covers exist and will continue to increase in value to those philatelists who have an interest in collecting militaria.

One nice thing about TV is that it takes your mind off worrying. On the other hand, one nice thing about worrying is that it takes your mind off TV.

SUPER SAVER AIRFARE

If you are planning to fly to our reunion on June 1 on a commercial airline, you will be interested in obtaining the lowest possible airfare. Most airlines now offer "Ultimate Super Saver" airfares that can be as much as 70 percent less than normal coach fares. This great bargain does have some restrictions and caveats that include:

1. A 30-day advance purchase. I suggest that you buy tickets as far in advance as possible because the airlines limit the number of these bargain seats on each flight. Also, if you later call to purchase one of these seats, the airlines may not be able to sell them.

2. Stay over a Saturday night. If you stay over an extra day after your reunion ends on Friday night in San Antonio, the hotel room will cost $48. Depending upon where you are located, the savings on the air fare may more than offset the hotel cost.

3. A maximum stay of 21 days.

4. A cancellation or change penalty of 25 percent of the price after the ticket is issued.

5. The fares will not be in effect over some holidays.

6. The fares will go up on May 23.

7. Fares are subject to change without notice.

REDUCED COACH FARE—$75

If you cannot get a Super Saver air fare with some airline, arrangements have been made with American Airlines to help our reunion attendees secure the least expensive and most direct route to our meeting. American is offering a Meeting Saver Fare of $75 off its full day coach fare for tickets purchased 14 days prior to departure, or any special published fare, whichever is lower. This special fare is valid for travel within the USA on American Airlines segments only and is available only through Meeting Services Desk.

For complete details, call American Airlines toll free (or have your travel agent call) Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. your local time: (800)435-1790. Tell the American meeting specialist that you are attending the 51st Parachute Combat Team Association Reunion and your flight number is 8-5323. This special fare will be available for travel from 22 June through 5 July.
The Memorial erected last September in Loghierme, Belgium to honor the 5 men of the 517 PIR who were KIA while liberating this village.

One of our tour busses inching its way back and forth as many as eight times in order to get around some of the hairpin curves on the way from Soespel to L'Escurene last August. (Photo by Hank Simpson)

Another Texas First

The first Texas Historical Commission marker for an outhouse was recently bestowed on a Victorian structure in Henderson.

The Arnold Outhouse, built in 1908, has three holes of varying sizes to accommodate young and old alike. It includes a covered shelter to provide privacy, ventilation, and light for reading, an awning over the door, fancy trim, and a paneled interior.

The "Fanciest Little Outhouse in Texas" belonged to John H. Arnold, a prominent man in the early days of Rusk County.

Members of the Rusk County Historical Commission became aware of the need for a marker on such a structure after local schoolchildren touring a restored 19th Century cabin wondered where the bathroom was. When told that people had then used outhouses, they asked, "What's an outhouse?"

The State of Texas purchased the Alamo church from the Roman Catholic Church in 1883. The city and state later acquired adjoining property and restored the Alamo complex that now stands in the center of downtown San Antonio.

San Antonio...

a city to love

The cliché is that Texans envy Dallas, admire Houston, but love San Antonio. It's not hard to understand why visitors and meeting groups feel the same way about the city, still the state's number one tourist destination.

Remember The Alamo

Mi amigos, remember the Alamo and say Sí, San Antonio, por favor. Muchos gracias All the Way.

When... Where... How

The Alamo, at the corner of Alamo Plaza and Houston Street in San Antonio, is open every day except December 24 and 25, from 9 to 5:30 Monday through Saturday, and 10 to 5:30 Sunday. Admission is free. Large groups will be guided through the complex with advance notice. Write Box 2599, San Antonio, 78299; call 512/225-1291. The adjacent Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library is open 9 to 5 Monday through Saturday; call 512/225-1371.
Dairymple, Zavattero, Flannery, Fisher, Lucas(?), & Kusan

Dairymple, Salons(?), & Phillips

556 Formation prior to training jump
Camp Mackall, NC

Charles Pugh receiving medal for 517 PACT from Adjutant Mayor of Cannes, France.

Col. John Lissner, Rabie and Col. Bill Boyle at Vin d’Honneur in Nice, France—August 1964
Our present CEO, Don Saunders, and wife Marian are the traveliest people I know. They are on the go almost constantly with Airstream groups. Don has retired from teaching and has time to gad about the country. They have visited with Hal and Polly Eddy in Indiana at a Airstream Rally. They have also visited with Bill Lewis and others in Florida.

Dr. Bernie Lyon writes that he isn't physically able to come to us to have a drink on him at our Hospitality Suite in San Antonio. He and Kathy have 6 children and 1 grandchildren and he has retired from practicing dentistry.

Irene O'Neal is the sister of Ernie Coffelt, who is still buried at the US Military cemetery in Draguignan, France. The French-American Souvenir Society offered her a two week all expense paid trip for two to southern France to participate in the annual Memorial Day Service there. Unfortunately she was unable to make the trip.

George and Winston Shull now have 5 grandchildren and are expecting a sixth in February, 1985. Winston is recovering from recent surgery but nothing slows her down for long. She teaches needle point classes, and George's "thing" is quail hunting. George, in a recent letter, was remembering a training jump at Camp Mackall when his plane load was dropped in error from about 150 feet. He said he thought that was when the word "quickly" was first used.

When we were bivouacked outside Frascati, Italy, all I saw was a railroad cut almost in the middle of our area. One night most of the 1st, Platoon was warming and making coffee around an open fire. There was probably some strong drink in the crowd.

For some reason B.E. Spencer was wandering around and fell into the railroad cut. It does have been at least 12 feet deep and muddy. Nobody heard him or even knew he was in the railroad cut and probably nobody cared. He had to walk about 1 mile to the end of the cut to get out. When he got back to the fire he was muddy, wet and about half sober and mad with me and Dick Shaw. We didn't push him or even know he had fallen in the cut.

All the way.

James M. Moses

Sign of Success

Success is something you solid and mail to the Internal Revenue Service.

-Gwen C. Mere

In addition to scores of cards and letters from you nonpareil masters of midnight requisitioning, scavenging, and long-term borrowing, there have been numerous telephone calls and visits by Hank and Marian Simpson, Charles "Doc" Beem and his son, George and Millie Correa, Dennis Shipley, Earl and Edith Dillard, Tex and Betty Love, Al Spillman, Ed Dearing and Frank and June Huffman.

I want to relay the thanks of the entire Combat Team to those many of you who sent documents, photographs, records and narratives for inclusion in our forthcoming book. That material was very important to the preparation and accurate presentation of the activities of the 506 PCC. Special recognition is due Al Goodman, Ernie Kosan and Earl Dillard for the importance of their written reports and for their excellent memory.

Joe Bendor had surgery for diverticulitis in January but is recovered, back at work, and looking forward to playing in the golf tournament in San Antonio in June.

Ed Phillips is planning on being in San Antonio. He reports that Kaye had surgery to remove a blood clot from her brain and is now in a nursing home.

Harold and Jeanne Roberts went to the Normandy All-Airborne Conclave last year and enjoyed it very much. They are still buying rental properties in Seattle and real estate in general.

They epitomize a positive mental attitude and enthusiasm.

There's a new theory as to why women live as long as they do. They want to see if men ever shape up.

Uber's show you care.
After my discharge I returned home to marry
my wife, Virginia and we have been married 38
years. We have five children—four boys and one
doughter. With all five finished high school and all
two years I decided to try to gain the extra
schooling they
one into the work world.
We have four grandchildren.

When I got away from the army I did odd jobs to keep
busi busy. I decided what I wanted to do.
I opened the first self-service grocery store
in my home town. After about 21 years, I sold
the grocery store and went to work in a new trailer
axle plant 10 miles away. I worked my way up
through the ranks from machine operator to
department foreman, plant general foreman, plant
superintendent and spent my last two years, be-
fore I retired, in the personnel office as as-
sistant to the personnel manager and my job was
write contracts and settle grievances between
the company and the union. Our plant employed
about 1500 people. After 31 years of service, as
the age of 55, I retired.

During the 31 years at the plant, we also
owned other businesses. My wife's father owned
a hardware store in our hometown and, after his
death, we kept the business for the next seven
years before we sold it.

We also started a business for two of our
children and we sold it to one of our sons this
past month.

All my work at the plant and with our
other businesses, I still had time to serve
four years on our school board as Vice President
and Board President; twelve years on the County
Hospital Board as Vice President and Board
President eight years of the twelve years on the
Board.

I am retired from all of this now and we
spend our winters in Florida. We own our home
and land at
We also still
have our home here in Ohio and spend 6 months
in Florida and 6 months here in Ohio.

I enjoy keeping our home in 'tip-top'
shape both in Florida and Ohio. We raise
a lot of flowers, have a big garden, and a
large yard to keep up with.

We like fishing, playing Golf, and going to
ballgames in Ohio and seeing the Cincinnati
Reds when they come to Fort Myers to play Kansas
City.

I am going to try to make it to the next

Ralph France

Adolescence
Adolescence is that period when a
boy refuses to believe that some day
he'll be as dumb as his father.
—Henry H. Lebow

On 24 Nov 1984, I will be 62 years of
age. I know this to be true because I
thought that I was nearing the age for Soc-
ial Security and presented myself along with
birth certificate, any records, passport, driver's license, etc. to the nearest
Social Security office. In time I was ad-
youngest to the prawl to meet the man of
bureaucrat who started the interview by ask-
ing me point blank as to why her records
ought to be kept at least 64.

My reply to this was "Determined to this and in spite
of the fact that Earl may, to quote someone else.
Earl Dillenberge perhaps, but I think he must
be nearing 100. To support this and then we
had presented, thereby establishing my true
age as 62.

No offense to Earl intended, however I will not cast my vote for him as
being the best preserved of the old crowd.

In this competition I prepared to
cast my vote for Glenn Gainer of "Wander-
lust" fame. I looked Glenn up last July and
had occasion to visit Glenn to see if he
really did exist. You see, I had invited
him to accompany me to the Bahamas for a
six week cruise in late May. As Almoe was
planning to go to Europe to visit our
children I had asked him to accompany me to
Miami out on Key Biscayne at a place known as "No
Name" harbor. It would appear that the pros-
pect of going to some strange land, to an
indeterminate period was too much for Glenn.
Anyway, upon returning, Almoe and I met a few people, and we
found the "Wanderlust" and a fellow resembling
Santa Claus but claiming to be Glenn Gainer.

Glenn doesn't get around to

Wayne Horelick

Bob Wilson sent a check, some photos
and a few words about his wartime experiences.
He was wounded in Belgium and sent to a hos-

tival in England. On VE Day he was sent thru
a Replacement Depot to the 17th A/B Division
somewhere in Germany. All of his records
had been lost. The Division moved to Vittel, France and there he ran across 596th Sgt.
Walker. Later, he met Lt. Hild who verified his
contentions about discharge points and
managed to get sent to the US for discharge.
Last summer he talked with Francis Royaks's
sister.

Unhappy Day
That day is here again,
The one we all abhor
April 13th . . . that rainy day
We've all been saving for

—Olga McCoy
After service I married Dotothy. We had five children and 4 grandchildren. We left Red Wing, Minn. in 1955, when I joined a box company in Denver. I am currently production manager at a Champion plant in Denver. I guess I'm one year or four years away from retirement. I can call it quits next year, but enjoy it all.

I had a bout with cancer in 1978, and so far have lucked out. Then in Dec. of 1981 I had a heart attack and had a bypass. Enclosed is a check to cover some of your Newsletter expenses.

Merrill Sewley

July 1 and enjoy your President's letters in the "Static Line". I remember very clearly that the challenge was "Liberty" and the password was "Lafayette" on the night of 15 Aug. 1944. The blanket password was "Billy the Kid".

We look forward to SA in June.

Hal Eddy

I'm writing this note to belatedly send a big heartfelt THANK YOU for all the work, planning and the thousands of other details you did to make our trip to France such a memorable occasion.

Both Marie and I can't put into words how much we enjoyed our trip. How much we learned about the French, and how their hospitality affected us. It was truly a trip of a lifetime and for me, down memory lane. We just added a granddaughter to the Reichwald clan...#6 grandchild.

Enclosed you will find a check for a small contribution to assist in your publication expense.

Herb Reichwald

P.S. Hope to see you in SA in June.

Elaef Srekaclu has been ill and we hope he is now feeling much better.


Monk Johnson wrote that 1984 was not a good year for him due to his health problems. He did take the time to write a long narrative about his wartime service and experiences with our Combat Team book.

Maxine Cronin writes that Max passed away on 21 December 1983 after a long illness. Our belated sympathy to Maxine and all of Max's loved ones.

We don't have enough reams of paper to thank you and the other members of your "planning and organizing" team for our most eventful and meaningful trip to Nice and Southern France. Both of us were in awe of the respect shown us by the townspeople in the smaller towns that we "re-visited". The group that went on the tour could not have been more congenial. There was the fun, the reunion, and the memories - (George had not seen Bill Cooper or Joe Miller in 40 years).

Charlie, we are most appreciative of the time and planning (and probably money) you put into this trip. Four more words: It was worth it! (and Ann, lovely one for letting him neglect you to do it!) We are most grateful for memories, for friends, and for the fact that we can CELEBRATE!!

George and Winston Shull

When we were in France last year, there was one thing that I thought was quite a coincidence about Chateau Ste, Roseline. You probably were not there since the third plane to land so far away, but just before sundown on Aug. 15, 1944, I was standing on the road in front of the Chateau watching a glider drop in the vineyards and being torn to hell. Exactly 40 years later I was standing with a wife of 41 years at the same place looking out at the same vineyards. This time of course, we were drinking the Baron's wine, not watching gliders. If anyone had told me that I would be back exactly 40 years later, I would have called them nuts. Old country boys just don't get that lucky.

We certainly enjoyed all of our tour. The only difficulty we had was with the agency in Paris that was supposed to get our hotel reservation in Paris. They cancelled the reservation we had confirmed and paid for (for no apparent reason) and failed to make other arrangements. We spent a whole day waiting for the man to get with it because we had to move from where we were. So, finally I had to use a little east Texas psychology on him, to wit, threatening to come over there and perpetrate dire consequences to his person. That got immediate results. Otherwise the whole trip was just great. Full of too many highlights to name. The Southern France experience we enjoyed most of all. There are so many things to talk about. I am afraid I bore people so I had better quit. Edith says that when I finally get started writing a letter it's not a note but a major production. We are looking forward so much to seeing you soon.

Earl and Edith Gillard
James and Carrie Rogers have a new baby daughter, Amber, now about 81 months old. They have moved from Colorado to Indiana and he plans to be at the reunion.

Bob and Garnet Darlington spend their winters in Green Valley, AZ and keep busy entertaining family and friends. Bob assists residents with their income tax questions and forms and is very active with his all-male chorus, the Lonesome Cowboys. They sing western songs for various groups and are quite talented. He sent me a cassette tape recently and also a newspaper article about the group's editor Garnet bubbles with enthusiasm and good cheer.

Jim Holm died on 12 October 1984 with kidney problems. Bob Darlington writes:

"Jim was a key person in company administration. We ran the personnel business so well that I hardly had to do anything but sign the papers he sent up. For that alone he deserved a medal. Such a solid guy with more common sense than most. What could be more fitting tribute to Jim than to say that he was one of the very best!"

His daughter Connie Howie writes:

"Dad had such wonderful stories to tell about the reunion in San Mateo. He was so looking forward to getting together with all of you again in San Antonio. That whole unit sure meant a lot to him."

Theo Barnes had cancer surgery and is doing well at the present and she and the First Sergeant plan to be in San Antonio.

Always nice to hear from you. Enjoy 596 Newsletter. Andrea and Al Schromberg and Avis and I still correspond. We visited several years ago.

Avis still working as cashier. I still work for Wabco, Pub, Per, Dist, as manager, have been at it for 38 years. We plan on retiring in Sept. 1985 or sooner. Hope to live in Ariz. during winter months.

We have four children and five grandchildren.

If we retire before Sept. 85 I will plan on attending reunion.

Bob and Avis Anderson

Concluding thought: The act of negotiation is something you learned at an early age. You'd be amazed how many teen-agers get their first car by asking for a motorcycle.

I certainly appreciate your letter and information on the 596 Parachute Engineer Company. I am happy that you took the time to look me up and send me information on many of our old outf. I started as one of the original cadre officers in old C Co. at Camp McClell in May 1943. I stayed with the unit until Dec. 1943 when transferred to B Co. and then stayed with the 139 Airborne Engineers through the Battle of the Bulge and Rhine Crossing. I ended up as Company Commander of B Co. before transferred to 101 Airborne.

Andy O'Connor of Washington D.C. and I were married in July of 1943 - while most of you were in Parachute School. Ray Hild was the best man and Mrs. Z_attack. Ray McLellan and Eddie Phillips attended the wedding. Four daughters and several grandchildren later, we are about ready to retire from The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Akron, I started with Goodyear right after the war as a Development Engineer and now as Corporate Director of Quality Assurance. We plan to retire by April 1st of this year and hope to be in our condominium in Florida by July 1st. Our new address will be;

Richard & Anne Wellas

Again, thanks for your letter and information and please put me on your mailing list so I can make some contributions, both monetary and newsy. Say "Hi" to all the gang!

Best regards,
R.L. Wellas

Rose and Pete Zubrzycki plan to be in San Antonio in June.

This past July Pete retired from Gen. Motors after 34 years service. He was in the hospital for something else and had a heart attack and a stroke. He says he is recovering albeit somewhat more slowly than he would prefer.

Verlin Glenn (540) hopes to make the San Antonio reunion. It will be his first. Verlin and Eva lost a son (age 32) in a motorcycle accident this summer. We send our sympathy and condolences. You can write them at:

I'm retired, but Lou still works as a nurse. She hopes to retire in three years; then maybe we can move to Texas. We have a travel trailer and do a lot of camping and fishing the year round.

Hopefully we'll be able to make the reunion next June.

Gene and Lou Wilson
"I was a corporal in southern France and got a Purple Heart and Bronze Star while there. Four of our privates and I got a Bronze Star in Belgium for our work in a big minefield there. After the war ended I went to Berlin in the 307th Para Engr., 8th, of 82nd Abn., Div. for three months before I was sent home and discharged. I worked on a farm for 4 years and then for a building contractor for the next 20 years. Then I became a mason and worked at that for the next several years until my eyesight got too bad. I started receiving Social Security at age 62 and got a small VA pension. I haven't been able to see well enough to drive since 1981. Hazel and I don't have any children. I was 65 years old last March. I feel good except for my eyes and I still haven't forgotten how to drink a little beer and some boozes. I wish we could come to San Antonio but it won't be possible. I send my best regards to all my old 996 buddies."

Airborne always,
Harold Johnson

You may suspect you are getting old:

If you can remember when taking Saturdays off meant you didn't have a job.
If you can describe Dolly Parton without using your hands.
If you are against anything you're too old to enjoy.
If you feel like you're at that dangerous age and nobody is offering you any danger.
When you whistle at a girl and people think you're calling your dog.
If you can remember when your car's radiator cap was outside the hood.
If you do not know who collects antiques, says she is satisfied with you.
When your narrow waist and broad end start changing places.
If a health club sells you a life membership for $9.95.
If anything you have to stand in line for a half hour, is hardly worth buying, going to, or doing.

Herb and Marie Reichwald have had to revise their plans to attend the Reunion because of a prior commitment on the same dates. Herb is also planning to spend some of his summer vacation time restoring a 1926 Ford. For some reason there is a deadline of 17 August on this project. We will all miss their smiling faces and enthusiasm for whatever they are doing.

A speaker at an weekend's Texas junior college teachers' meeting in Dallas gave a brief rundown on computers, past, present and future. The World War II type, he said, covered thousands of cubic feet and could do only fairly simple functions.

A decade ago, he said, a computer smaller than the podium from which he spoke could perform sixty more functions.

And a decade from now, he said, a computer of a man's thumb size will have more capabilities that today's.

There's hope for the next century, muttered a fellow in the audience. Perhaps they'll disappear as we know them.

DESSERT MIXUP

A group of ministers and a saleswoman's organization were in the same hotel. The catering department had to work at top speed serving dinners to both.

The saleswoman was having spiked watermelon for dessert. But the chef discovered this was being served to the ministers by mistake.

"Quick!" he commanded a waiter.
"If they haven't eaten the watermelon, bring it back and we'll give it to the saleswomen," he demanded the excited chef. "What did they say? How did they like it?"
"Don't know how they liked it," replied the waiter, "but they're putting the seeds in their pockets."

THE UNETHICAL PART OF BUSINESS ETHICS

"What is meant by business ethics?" asked the 12-year-old son of a store owner.

"That's easy," said the father. "Suppose a man came in, bought something and paid for it with what I thought was a $50 bill. After he left, I discovered the bill was actually a $100 bill. Now here in this case the business ethics come in. Do I tell my partner or not?"
I found this clipping in my files. I don’t remember the source or the author; but I think it expresses the breadth and depth of feeling that 596 troopers held for one another.

Rather, it was the tone of his voice, a tone that can be used only between men who are equals in each other’s eyes, who admire and respect each other. It was the voice of men who have been around a lot of blocks together, who have seen the good times and bad and, consequently, know the worst as well as the best about each other. Usually, it was the voice of love, the sort of love that asks nothing and gives everything, that will go to the wall until you or for you. In my experience, it is the voice hardest to find in the world, and when it is found at all, it is the voice of blood speaking to blood."

596 NOMINATING COMMITTEE
James M. Moses
Bob Verdi
Hal Eddy

Don Saunders and Earl Dillard will be in charge of arrangements for the 596 Hospitality Suite in San Antonio.

The 517 PRCT Association has no dues structure; however, it does have expenses. You are cordially invited to send in a contribution in any amount any time you feel the urge. Your support is welcomed and is vital to the health and welfare of our Association.

You should be receiving "The Thunderbolt" every three months. If you are not receiving it, please let Editor Bill Lewis know your address. His address is 6600 Josie Lane, Hudson, FL 33567.

517ers present at this year’s Static Line Awards were Houston Roberson and wife, James Bryant, David Grange and daughter, Donald and Vera Bolner, Robert and Emma Olsen, Bill and Naomi Baker, and Charles Pugh.

"I need a couple of guys who don’t owe me no money for a little routine patrol."

"STICKS AND STRIPES"

West Point Appointment Too Late

BELGIUM, Feb. 3, 1944 — In a regional command post, service soldiers of the Fifth Paraachute Combat Team read a telegram:

"Ch. Blank holds a letter appointing him to the U.S.M.A. in 1945. It was one of those things hundreds of soldiers dream about— an appointment of a front-line officer to the United States Military Academy. The telegram continued: "If physically qualified, I will be returned to the United States to undergo training."

The chance of a lifetime! No more traveling through freezing snow under mortar fire, no more shivering at night in lonely foxholes—and no more "D" rations. The soldier was a parachute corp. man who had fought through Italy, France and Belgium; a runner took the telegram to a rearward company with instructions to bring back the corporal immediately with full equipment—ready to start at once for home and West Point. But no happy corporal came back. The runner returned with this brief message from company headquarters:

"Ch. Blank was killed in action at Tines, Poland."

The telegram had come five days too late.
Mason retired last June, and now he and his wife plan to take it easy and do a little gardening.
There were about 70 troopers, wives and children at the 517 PRCT mini-reunion in Orlando last February. It was a fun week-end and the 596ers present were Joe and Mary Miller, Naomi and Roy Herren, and yours truly. It was the first time Joe and I had seen Roy in 40 years. Col. Graves was also there and looking fit.

The first chapter of THE BOOK has been sent to the printer. Most of the writing is completed and most of the photographic work has been done; however, there will be editing and proof reading to be done on the galleries, decisions about composition, the cover, turn around time from printer to editor and back to printer. So, I am preparing you for the possibility that it may be physically impossible to complete it by the time of our reunion as we had so hoped. We shall see.

In connection with THE BOOK, Alan Powell spent 4 days at the St. Louis Records Center and returned with about 3,750 documents and records of the 517, 460, and 596. A veritable treasure trove, to be sure. Not only for improving the accuracy and completeness of the historical record in THE BOOK, but also as a most valuable resource for our members who may at some time need to establish a claim for a service-connected disability, or a claim for a decoration, or for a pension or who knows what. These reports will be a part of our Association's permanent historical file. I would be remiss indeed, if I did not express our collective thanks to him for his selfless generosity in refusing compensation for his travel expenses and four days of hotel and other expenses associated with this invaluable work for all of us.

SAN ANTONIO BOUND


PROBABILITIES AND POSSIBILITIES

Manny & La Verne Ventozza, Al & Andree Schormberg, Harold & Jean Roberts, Russ & Mary Pearson, David & Olga Pierce, Bernie & Thelma Barnes, Mike & Violet Kovach, Roy & Naomi Herren, Judge Harrell, Bill & Beverly Cochran

DID YOU KNOW? That TEXAS is the only state in the union whose name has a specific behavioral meaning. The Name TEXAS is the anglicized word TEJAS which means FRIENDLY. It is taken from the Tejas Indians whom the Spanish met while exploring Texas. Traditionally, Texans are known through out the world for their TEXAS HOSPITALITY, perhaps that is why so many visitors to our state come back time after time.
last Sunday I wrote about Anton Carter Sr. paying Broadway's Billy Rose $1,000 a day back in 1926 to produce the original "Casa Manana here.

When I got to the office Monday morning, Big Circus Face Hamilton was already wait-
ing.

Big Circus Face is the legendary fringe member of Fort Worth's show business scene. That means he subscribes to Variety, knows the city's gamblers by their first names, and has bribed movie ushers to tip him off on the titles of sneak previews.

He also works at talking like a Damon Runy-on character, and likes to call famous show people by their first names.

"Did you ever know Billy?" he asked me.

"Before my time," I said.

"Billy always liked to tell the story about the sideman in the band and the blue bottle," Big Circus Face said. "I cannot vouch for the au-
thenticity of this particular tale, but it is al-
ways getting very large reactions, indeed, when Billy Rose is telling it around the Fort Worth of yesteryear."

"Pray, tell the story," I said, falling into the contagious Runyon-ese.

"It seems that this sideman, a man of no little ability and a fine hip, lived the life of a carefree bachelor for maybe 10 years before taking unto himself a baby doll bride," Big Circus Face began. "Before he got married he would spend the nights blowing with various pickup groups, and blowing grass between sets. Then he would play poker and drink booze each night until dawn with his buddies."

"I got the picture," I said.

"Then, suddenly, he's got this baby doll bride, who's barely out of high school, I mean, when they get married he doesn't know whether to take her on a honeymoon or send her to summer camp."

"A problem, I'll admit."

"I'll say! He takes her on the honeymoon, up in the Arkansas Ozarks. At one of those quaint little curio shops she sees this crazy bottle for sale that's supposed to be a faithfulness bond between newlyweds. You know, like the bot-
tle is filled with nothing but clear water, but the crone who is selling it says that the water will remain pure in color as long as each mate is faithful. If either mate ever strays from the path, the liquid will turn blue.

"The musician knows this is from nowhere, but baby doll is spaced out on the idea. So he buys it for her and she puts it up on their mantel where it stays for months as a constant reminder of their faithfulness."

"I sensed a clouding of the waters coming," I said.

"You are prophetic, indeed," Big Circus Face Hamilton continued. "One week the ba-
by doll bride decides she will leave town to visit her mother, so the ex-bachelor jumps at the opportunity to have the boys over for a night of poker during her absence. The guys ask him about the bottle, and when he tells them the legend behind it, they really start carrying him high. I believe the term is 'hoorahing' him about it.

"Once, when the host goes out in the kitchen for another beer, one of the jokers empties a fountain pen into the bottle, coloring it a deep blue. The husband laughs at the gag with all the rest. But since the game doesn't break up until 5 a.m., he falls into bed without remembering to fix the bottle."

"And then," I inserted, feeding him the straight lines, "the wife unexpectedly comes back home while the guy is still in bed."

"You are right, but you don't know all, yet," Big Circus Face announced. "He gets panicky when he wakes up and bears his wife fussing around in the kitchen. He knows she believes this story about the bottle. He knows she's already seen the bottle because it's sitting there right by the front door. He hurries into the kitchen, hoping he can explain the prank to her successfully."

"But he doesn't get a chance to explain, because she's all over him, kissing him like he was the last husband in the world, and an-
nouncing that his favorite breakfast is coming right up."

"Like in a gas, he walks back into the living room to be sure he didn't dream what had happened at the poker party."

"That's when he sees that his wife has quick-
ly emptied out the ink and filled the bottle back up with water."
“Paicas” Bob Verdi cooking Italian sausages at the Goodman’s mini-reunion in Bakersfield, CA in summer 1982.

Marian Simpson at Pugh’s Pub with a bottle of wine from Chateau St. Roeline (First CP of 517 PRCP in France, near LesArcs and LeMay).

Naomi and Roy Herren at Mid-Winter mini-reunion in Orlando, FL last February.
Sospel immediately after capture in 1944. Note destroyed buildings, much due to shelling by 860 PPAB.

Pillbox-So, France 1944

Pt. St. Roch-Sospel 1944
JOE O. MILLER gets my vote for the SHAKER AND HOVER AWARD. During the months since our
oijorn in southern France to join the French
people in commemorating the liberation of that
area, Joe has been conducting a one man crus-
dade, while attending the Memorial Ceremony
at the U.S. Military Cemetery in Oruguligan,
France on 15 August of last year. Joe noticed
that the headstone grave markers of the 42 men
of our Combat Team who still rest there, indi-
cated that they were in either the 13th Airborne
Division or the 101st Airborne Division. He
also noted that two troopers from the 453rd
PTT were shown to be from the 517th PRTC.
Anyone would be hard to have served in either
division; however, in the interest of his-
torical accuracy and avoiding present and future
confusions, Joe felt an effort should be made
to get these errors corrected. He discussed
the problem and his concerns with officers of
our Association and obtained our moral support
and encouragement to pursue this with the
military establishment in the Pentagon. Joe
picked up the ball and has run it in for a
touchdown! I must add that he has accomplished
this at considerable personal expense, much
time, mountainous correspondence with Senator
Representatives, the Secretary of the Army,
and numerous Pentagon nabobs. Joe took the
bureaucracy on single-handedly and in a matter
of months his tact, diplomacy, and chutzpah
combined with his managing bulldog tenacity
moved the establishment to capitulate.
I am happy to report that the American
Battle Monuments Commission has agreed to
make the appropriate correction at all
headstone errors at the Rhone Valley, U.S.
Military Cemetery. You know you join us in
saluting Joe and according him a BRAVO!
along with our sincere gratitude.

At the Awards this year particular attention
was directed toward honoring 47 troopers who
had earned three Combat Infantryman's Badges.
This is a rare achievement. I am pleased to
report that three of these extraordinary re-
cipients were 517ers; LT. Gen. David Granger Jr.,
Col. Donald Bolner, and Col. James Bryant.
We doff our hats in pride to all of those who
were infantrymen in three wars.
The hot ride with margaritas and dinner
on the San Antonio River at our Reunion has
proved to be very popular, as we expected it to
be. Unfortunately, at the time arrangements
were made for this two years ago, there were
only about 70 members of the Association and
only 20 persons with. The first 100 persons to send
in reservations were accommodated and each
of our guests had other checks had to be returned.
But don't be too disappointed because the River
Walk offers many and varied pleasures and
delights and it is right outside your hotel
room.

As reported in a previous column, last
September in Belgium, seven of our 517 troopers
participated in ceremonies in several Belgian
towns as Stelie and Monuments were dedicated
so the 517 PRCT and to several units of the
517th Airborne Division. A great Belgian patriot
and Resistance Fighter, Leo Carlier played an
important role in arranging these events.
In addition, he opened up his home and his
restaurant to many troopers who were there
for the ceremonies. He also opened his purse
and his heart. In the months prior to the
ceremonies he had hosted other troopers,
some of whom were from the 517 PRTC.

Leo Carlier came to the Stetico Line
Airborne Awards in Atlanta in April as the
guest of Don Lassen. Don also has been a
recipient of Leo's hospitality. After a few
days in Atlanta, a Florida trooper, whose
identity is unknown to me, picked him up in
his private plane and took him to Orlando and
Disney World and Epcot Center. Then he flew
Leo to Fayetteville, NC where he was met by
517er Col. Clarence McCullough, who hosted him
for a few days and showed him through Fort
Bragg, which Leo had espically wanted to see.
Then 517er Col. Bruce Chestnut drove up to
Fayetteville to pick up Leo and take him to his
home in Marrull's Inlet, SC for a few days.
Bruce had been wine and dined by Leo when
September in St. Jacques, Belgium. Leo was
shown Cherleston and environs and then driven
to Chester, VA where he was taken over by
517ers Charles (Doc) Keen and Dr. Phil Sten-
slaw. They took him to Williamsburg and
to Washington, DC. This is happening as I write
this column. Leo may decide to go on up to
Ontario, NY to visit with 517er Nolen Powell
if time will permit. Powell, Keen, and
diEnslaw, were all three guests of Leo in
Belgium last September. They were all de-
lighted to have the opportunity to reciprocate
Leo's many kindnesses to them and to many
other American Veterans of the Ardennes campaign.
I had the pleasure of meeting and visiting
with Leo in Atlanta and he presented me with
a beautifully decorated porcelain plate for
the 517 PRTC. It will be on exhibit in our 517
Hospitality Suite at the June reunion in San
Antonio.

Speaking of the Reunion--the registrations
continue to come in great numbers. The program
is complete; extracurricular tours and activities
have been arranged. San Antonio has stocked
additional booze and warned the citizens about
our impending visit. There was a time when
those warnings would have been well advised,
but I have noticed that the Young Lions of
yesteryear have turned into the plucksies of
today. Tempus fugit!
The Airborne Walk Committee had its first meeting last February at Ft. Benning and Cecil Embry was our representative. They discussed cost and design and conducted some studies between that meeting and the latest one that took place in Atlanta at the Airborne Awards. I was the representative for our Combat Team at this meeting. There was a mock-up of the design that seemed to meet the approval of most of the representatives of about 19 airborne units. In my opinion, it will be a beautiful, dignified, and fitting tribute to Paratroopers and will serve admirably to preserve the identity and history of Airborne units. There are approximately 25 military units that are expected to wish to place a marker. The cost per marker will be $2500 and is all inclusive. Maintenance of the Airborne Walk will be taken care of by the Department of the Army. Three units paid their $2500 at this meeting. All other unit reps approved the concept but must obtain approval of their members for the expenditure of funds. This will be on the agenda at our membership business meeting in San Antonio.

The Static Line Award annual cookout was delightful as always and as smoothly handled by Don Lassen, his wife Fran, and Daughter Chr, as one could wish. There are always many pioneers of Airborne that one can meet, converse with, and admire. There are always the current leaders of all elements of present day airborne military units and briefings about past actions and current plans. There are impressive demonstrations of their skills by present day troopers. There is fun and games and banter and camaraderie and nnk friendships. If you haven’t been to one of these festivals, I commend it to you and urge you to get your reservation in early because only 450 can be accommodated.

AMENDMENTS TO MURPHY’S LAW

Jones’ Matte: friends come and friends go, but weeds accumulate.

Newton’s Little Known Seventh Law: A bird in the hand is safer than one overhead.

First Law of Socio-Genetics: Celibacy is not hereditary.

Simon’s Observation: Everything put together falls apart sooner or later—except at Christmas, when it is impossible to put anything together.

Lewis’s Law: No matter how long or how hard you shop for an item, after you’ve bought it, it will be on sale somewhere cheaper.

Pugh’s Postulate: Toothaches tend to start on Saturday night.
US Military Cemetery at Draguignan, France
About 40 of our men still rest there (6 from 596)
Ernest Goffelt, Herbert McLamb, Patrick Michaels,
and Henry Wickins. Finnerty & Ropyak rest in Italy.
Jones in Belgium.

Generals Dick Scitiz and
David Orange in Nice

Monument in Draguignan, France, honoring the 517 PRCT

Plaque that we placed in
the Memorial Amphitheatre
at Arlington National
Cemetery in September, 1984.

Baron Louis de Rasque de Laval of
Chateau Ste. Boseline (first CP of
517 PRCT in France) who had a
lovely wine reception for 200 of
us at the Chateau last August.
A friend of mine named Bill, while clearing brush at his ranch, found a sick goat. He treated it for several days but wasn't able to save it. The goat had exhibited all the symptoms of rabies and when Bill was handling it his hands had been scratched up from working with the brush. So he began taking rabies vaccine shots.

Last week, Bill, who serves as board chairman of a large corporation, announced at a meeting of the board that tests finally had determined the goat wasn't rabid and he was able to discontinue the vaccine shots.

Then he took a folded sheet of paper from his pocket and tore it up. "That", he said, "is a list of the people I was planning to BYE."

A local high school teacher received this note from a student's mother:

"Please excuse (her son) for being mean, ornery and absent Monday. He was absent because he had a sore throat and fever; the rest is because he takes after his father."

While we were in Italy, one of our regimental physicians examined an Italian civilian who was ill and seeking help. He diagnosed the illness but wasn't sure he had the facilities to treat it so he sent a message by Jeep back to the nearest field hospital commander. The message was "Have a case of Beriberi. What shall I do?"

A prankster at the hospital sent back this message, "Give it to the paratroopers. They'll drink anything."

Bill and Tom went out together in a boat to do some fishing. After a little while Bill took out his dentures and placed them on a seat between them. As a joke when Bill was looking the other way, Tom took out his own dentures and exchanged them for Bill's so he could see the expression on Bill's face when he put them in his mouth. In a few minutes Bill reached over, picked up the dentures, threw them in the lake and said, "These damn teeth never did fit." After a moment or two of stunned silence, Tom reached in his pocket for the other dentures, threw them in the lake and said, "You know, mine never have fit either."
Above and to right:

Bronze diorama of the southern France 1944 invasion. US Military Cemetery at Draguignan, France.

We continue to receive letters of appreciation from our friends in France. In some cases it is for the Honorary Combat Team Membership conferred on several persons. In others, it is for the part we took in their liberation 50 years ago and for the fact that we returned to visit with them and to remember with them. We renewed some old friendships and made a lot of new friends for ourselves, our Combat Team, and our country.

There will definitely be a contingent of our friends from France joining us in June in San Antonio. We look forward to this opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality and many kindnesses shown us last August.

Mayor Jean Pèregrin of Roquebrune-Cap Martin and Aimé Léocard, founder of Franco-American Souvenir Society and great friend to the 517 PCT.

Col. Tom Cross and Col. Rupert Graves
February, 1995, mini-reunion in Orlando, FL

Clark Archer

Anne Frederick-Hicks receiving posthumous award of Honorary Membership in 517 PCT to her father, Gen. Robt. T. Frederick
Nice, France, August 1984
To right and below:
Panoramic display at Airborne Section of Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA

Check Your Readings

First Voice: Our radar has you on a collision course with us. You should alter course 10 degrees south.
Second Voice: We have you on our radar. Suggest you alter course 10 degrees north.
First Voice: We have Adm. Goodman aboard. Strongly suggest you bear 10 degrees south. This is a battle ship.
Second Voice: This is Seaman Farnsworth. Still suggest you bear 10 degrees north. This is a lighthouse.
—Don Newman
Above: Regimental colors with Battle Streamers and the 460 and 596 Guidons.

Left:

596PCEC Guidon with 5 Battle Streamers
And I said to myself, the Twen-
tieth has shrunk to a skeleton, a
ghost, a memory, a forgotten name which
we other old men alone keep in our
hearts. And then I thought: It is
right. It is as the colonel would have
had it; for this also is part of the
soldier's faith: Having known great
things, to be content with silence...
There is a song which seemed to me fit
for a soldier's last word, another song
of the sword, but a song of the sword
in its scabbard, a song of oblivion
and peace. A soldier has been buried
on the battle-field.

And when the wind in the treetops
moaned
The soldier asked from the deep dark
grove:
"Did the banner flatter then?"
Not so, my hero, the wind replied
The fight is done, but the banner won,
Thy comrades of old have borne it
hence,
Have borne it in triumph hence,
Then the soldier spoke from the deep
dark grove:
"I am content."
Then he heareth the lovers, laughing,
pass,
And the soldier asks once more:
"Are these not the voices of them that
love,
That love—and remember me?"
Not so, my hero, the lovers say,
We are those that remember not;
For the spring has come and the earth
has smiled;
And the deed must be forgot.
Then the soldier spake from the deep
dark grove:
"I am content."
Triple CIB Award to Gen. David Grange presented by Sec'y of Army John Marsh

Gen. Dave Grange with lovely daughter at S/L Awards

Triple CIB Award to Col. Donald Bolner (517)

Designer Bob Baldwin holding mock-up of Airborne Walk at S/L Awards. The tent-like structure is a model of the centerpiece of the Airborne Walk area. It is a reproduction of the first drawing ever of a parachute by Leonardo da Vinci.

Triple CIB Award to Col. James Bryant (517)

Elma & Robert Olsen (517) at S/L Awards
Leo Carlier & O.B. Hill (508PIR) at Static Line Awards

Leo Carlier, Gen. Trobaugh (CG B2nd A/B Div.) & O.B. Hill at S/L Awards

The Airborne Clown and another dummy at Static Line Awards

Bill & Naomi Baker (517) at S/L Awards

Helen & Houston Roberson (517) at S/L Awards
Houston is cousin of our Paul Roberson
A TEXAS-STYLE FESTIVAL
OF FOOD & FUN
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

We are expecting between 500 and 600 of our troop's men and their families and other family members. This promises to be our best attended reunion ever. Try to be a part of this three emotional and memorable days with some of your closest, finest and most loved friends.

In the November, 1984, issue of "Esquire" magazine, William Boyles, Jr., wrote a most thought provoking article about men and war. From that piece I have excerpted, with minor revision, the following three paragraphs that explain with impressive clarity why we continue to have such wars.

"The enduring notion of war, after everything else has faded, is comradeship. A comrade in war is a man you can trust with anything, because you trust him with your life. It is unlike marriage. It is a bond that cannot be broken by a word, by boredom or divorce, or by anything other than death. "It was as if comradeship were some sort of collective life-force, the power to face death and life's function. It is more than mere friendship. It is a kinship and bonding that needs no reasons, that transcends race and personality and education—all those things that would make a difference in peacetime."

"Participants in war sports, especially the more violent ones such as football and hockey, often say the thing they miss the most upon retirement is the comradeship. War is the most violent 'game' at all where the stakes are not only winning or losing but life and death. These circumstances generate a uniquely intense, and profound brotherly love that endures because it was burned into the soul by the fires of adversity, petul, pain and fear."

CONTRIBUTORS
The following men have made a financial contribution to the 596 Newsletter fund since the last issue. All of us are grateful for their generosity that makes this publication possible:
Harold Roberts
Merrill Senuk
Robert Wilson
Dennis Shipley
Geo. Snijl
Hank Simpson
Rabbi Shlomo (also a bottle of Scotch whisky for the Editor)
Dr. James Lyon
Mack Johnson
Hurb Larson

Little known airborne facts:
In addition to being called upon to breach the largest enemy minefield encountered by U.S. troops in WW II in Belgium while under fire, at night and in extremely adverse weather conditions, the 596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company removed and deactivated more than 2300 mines and booby traps of all types in southern France in a period of 9 weeks.
Cost: 8 men killed and 7 men wounded. In one 7 day period, 16-22 September, 1944, the Third Platoon removed and deactivated more than 1244 such devices.

"What other money is throwing around and this isn't worth the school and remedial reading in college?"

SIMPLE PROBLEMS
Most people's financial problems are simple. They're short of money.

BOOK REVIEW
Joe Klein has written an extraordinary book, "Bysteaks", about five young combat infantry men who fought together for a few months in Vietnam. In this book he writes tersely and realistically about how men respond to combat in any war—the whisper of emotions, the fear that hits you in the gut, the exhilaration of invulnerability, the eerie calm, the chaos, and the fear again, grabbing your breath, stealing your voice, driving you into the ground, sometimes immobilizing you. He writes about the confusion and isolation of combat; how leadership is spontaneous and indifferent of rank; how the men respond to the needs of their friends with whatever courage happens to well up in them and often to their own surprise. He writes of the emptiness and loneliness felt after combat has thinned the ranks of close friends.
Martin J. Costello—Brooklyn, NY
John D. Quinn—Brooklyn, NY
Joe Diaz—St Paul, MN—-(Has unlisted phone) Will someone in Minnesota call their local operator and give her Diaz’s name and tell her that he has an unlisted number and there is a medical emergency.
Claude K. Miller—Tooe, NY
Richard W. Shaw—Bronx, NY—(Ask her to relay this message to Joe and ask him to call you COLLECT and give her your name and number)
Edgar L. Warch—Bronx, NY
Elmer Szakacs—Turin, NY—(Has unlisted phone) Will someone nearby use the tried and true medical emergency ploy with Arthur?
Edward T. Harrigan—Bronx, NY
Kaara A. Johnson—Staten Island, NY
Arthur M. Kemp—Camden, NJ—-(Has unlisted phone) Will someone nearby use the tried and true medical emergency ploy with Arthur?
Marion J. Kroll—Chicago, IL
Patrick A. Kelly—Brooklyn, NY
Gustav Larsson—Quincy, MA
Joseph C.H. Laliberte—New York, NY
George E. Minnegas—Brackenridge, PA
John J. Moon—Buffalo or Hamburg, NY
Laverne B. Moore—Auburn, NY
Donald P. O’Neill—Buffalo, NY
John J. Ricard, Yonkers, NY
Charles F. Roberts—Bryn Mawr, PA
William A. Ross—Syracuse, NY
Ray Cleverger—Kansas City, MO—-(Has unlisted phone number) Will someone please try the medical emergency approach with Ray?
William F. Thompson—Syracuse, NY
Charles E. Swanson, Edmore, ND
William H. Morgan—Collingston, LA