



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 46 No. 4

Summer Issue 1991

## THE 45TH ANNUAL REUNION



HUDSON RIVER CRUISE

**THE THUNDERBOLT**  
**Official Publication**  
**83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.**

The THUNDERBOLT is written by and for past members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102.

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\*Lt. Gen. Claude Ferebaugh  
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**A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL**

\*James C. Hanrahan ..... 1947  
Jack M. Straus ..... 1948  
\*Shelly Hughes ..... 1949  
\*Julius Ansel ..... 1950  
\*Walter H. Edwards Jr. .... 1951  
Leo Schneider ..... 1952  
Finley Heyl ..... 1953  
Lawrence J. Redmond ..... 1954-55  
\*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York ..... 1956  
\*Harry W. Lockwood ..... 1957  
\*Raymond J. Voracek ..... 1958  
Charles Abdinoor ..... 1959  
\*Joseph F. Minotti ..... 1960  
\*Frank J. McGrogan ..... 1961

John W. Jobinette ..... 1962  
\*Manuel C. Martin ..... 1963  
\*Julius Boyles ..... 1964  
Samuel Klippa ..... 1965  
\*William M. Doty ..... 1966  
Albert A. Belvedere ..... 1967  
Vito C. Palazzolo ..... 1968  
Pat DiGiammerino ..... 1969  
Casey Szubski ..... 1970  
\*Charles Altomari ..... 1971  
\*Harold H. Dopp ..... 1972  
Louis J. Volpi ..... 1973  
Bernard O. Riddle ..... 1974  
Robert G. Taylor ..... 1975

Mike Skovran ..... 1976  
Manlius Goodridge ..... 1977  
Joseph A. Macaluso ..... 1978  
\*William J. Chavanne ..... 1979  
Samuel Klippa ..... 1980  
Michael Caprio ..... 1981  
Ralph Gunderson ..... 1982  
Arthur Doggett ..... 1983  
Bernie Cove ..... 1984  
Carroll Brown ..... 1985  
John Hobbs ..... 1986  
George Pletcher ..... 1987  
Charles Schmidt ..... 1988  
Edward Reuss ..... 1989  
\* Denotes Deceased





May 30, 1991

Dear Buddies,

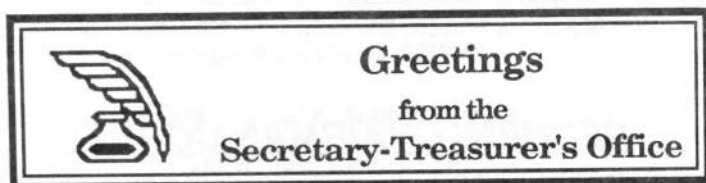
We are already in May -- a special day is set aside for our departed ones -- which we honor and never forget their sacrifice for our country.

Some of the news that I would like to pass on to you.. Pat and Ginny Digiammerino, Rita and myself attended the executive board meeting in Omaha, Nebraska and it looks like they are planning a great reunion for you in 1992. It was a great pleasure to meet the boys of the Central Plains Chapter -- Thanks to all for the great reception that we received upon our arrival. Speaking about reunions -- only a few months are ahead for the Pines in New York. Please don't wait too long for reservations, dues and ads.. Contact all your buddies and their wives, make it a great one for all!!! We have two wonderful day trips on the schedule and many more activities. We, the Boston Chapter, will have our meeting in June at Chet Morleys home in New Hampshire .

Please everyone stay well --- and see you at the pines in September.

God Bless.

Charles J. Lussier



Here we are at the last issue of the Thunderbolt before our reunion. We will start pulling names off the computer if you have not paid your dues for 1991, you are delinquent and we cannot carry you any longer unless you write and let us know why you cannot pay your dues.

Your Executive Board met in Omaha, Nebraska the first week end of May. We were all there except for Jim Prentice who was home with a bad case of Bronchitis. We sure did miss you Jim. We met for meetings all day on Friday and again on Saturday morning. We did take time out on Friday to go see a small portion of S.A.C. The Central Plains is planning and working hard to give you a good reunion. Pearl and I drove out. Took Bonnie and Earl Hoover with us for company. We stopped in Independence, Missouri. Was so hot that day. It was interesting to see Harry Truman's home and his library.

Ate in a German Restaurant across the street from the Tourist Center. They were very surprised to see our Yellow Jackets and our hats with all our pins on them. On our way home it was as cold as it had been hot on the way out and we did not do much touring. Rained all the way on Sunday. But we had a good time.

I will give a small report on our son-in-law. Bruce received word on Saturday, May 25, that he was to report to the hospital for a kidney transplant. Pearl and I flew out that night and were there on Sunday for the operation. Pearl stayed with Leslie and I went to the hospital with Cathy. I am very happy and I know that a good many of you out there will be glad to hear that he came through the operation fine and he is now ready to have the Shunt removed. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and cards. They were much appreciated.

Pearl is still in her air cast but getting along fine. She can walk very well. Just has to be careful and not to do much.

It is now time to think about the reunion at the Pines. Can you believe that we are almost at that time when we will be packing up and going to New York. I know from Pat that a great many of you have already put your reservations in. For those of you who have never been there it is quite some place and for those of you who will be returning for another time. We are glad and look forward to seeing all of you. Larry Redmond has been working hard on the Ad Book.

He says this is the last but I think with a little encouragement he will be back at it again next year. We hope so. He does a good job.

We have twenty three names on the death list this time. Not all of them were active members of the 83rd and we are sorry that they never knew about our organization. We receive new names of men who have just found out about us and now want to join.

We also send out the Thunderbolts to the addresses we have on the computers and you would be surprised at the ones we get back that the men have moved and left no address. Please send us your correct address. It is hard to keep that list up to date. We try and that is all we can do. Again if you have not paid and just look at your membership card, and if it says 1990 you are delinquent. Get your dues in to us. Thanks to all of you reporters. You do a wonderful job. I never have to call you and say it is time.

This is it. Have a Happy Summer. Look forward to seeing you at THE PINES. The Boston Chapter is looking forward to our coming.

Bob Derickson



## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Dear Bob:

Here are the names of the men who have deceased that I have received and also a poem that was given to me several years ago by a dear departed friend of mine and yours, Casey.

God Bless him and may his soul and all the rest of our departed friends rest in Peace.

### **A NEW STRENGTH**

There are times in every life when we feel hurt or alone--  
-But I believe that these times when we feel lost and all around us seems to be falling apart are really bridges of growth.

We struggle and try to recapture the security of what was, but almost in spite of ourselves....

We emerge on the other side with a new understanding, a new awareness, a new strength.

It is almost as though we must go through the pain and the struggle in order to grow and reach new heights.

### **FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF OUR DECEASED BUD- DIES THAT HAVE BEEN SENT EITHER TO THE OFFICE OR TO MATT. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.**

Olney E. Armantrout 3rd, Bn. HQ 329th	Earl Hoover
Ralph Bailey No outfit given	Art Koerner
Aldo Cerchie "B" 331st	Al Belvedere
Donald Clark Hq. 308th	Daughter Janet Kelly
Joseph R. DeMarchi "A" 308th	Matt Pintar
Lawrence DePrima "C" 331st	Arthur Riech
John J. Devenney 308th	Larry Redmond
Jerry A. Duncan "G" 330th	Wife, Geneva
Joseph C. Fournier 331 st. Inf.	Pat D. DiGiammerino
Carl E. Fratz "E" 329th	Bill Ledger
James Gintner "E" 330th	Marked on P.O. card
Albert Hamscher "C" 308 Eng.	George Settle
John Heard "C" 308th	Wife, Geneva
Leo Jackson "D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Orville J. Johnson	Matt
Arthur P. Jones Div. Hq	Bill Murray
Alexander J. Knopka	Daughter
Thomas E.	
Longshore, Dr. "H" 330th	O.L. Cook
Joseph F. McMillan "A" 308th Eng.	
William Mihaly none given	Art Koerner
Joseph Ponzio "L" 330th	Jim Prentice
Anthony Provenzano "B" 330th	Son
Henry Rogers "A" Co. 308th Eng.	George Settle
Leo Schneider A.T. 331st	Wife, Charlotte
Frank Sidlauscus "L" 331st	Son, Dick
Capt. John Slider "C" Co. 308th Eng.	George Settle
John B. Trusa none given	J. Gruss
Sabastian Vasquez "K" 331st	Jim Prentice,
	Normand Malo
Joseph Whiting "HQ" 330th	Larry Redmond
Wayne Yost "F" 329th	Lloyd Lutkemeier
Junior Lowder "K" 331st	O.L. Cook

These are all men who at one time were a great part of the famous 83rd. As such their names are listed here in the Thunderbolt. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

## **Board Chairman**

Dear Buddies, Ladies Too:

My! This year has certainly moved along at a very rapid pace. It hardly seems possible that another reunion will soon be upon us. It is my sincere hope that we can all be in New York at "The Pines" in September. If you are not there, we will miss you, because that is why we have reunions; to see you once again and enjoy the wonderful fellowship with our Buddies and friends. Be there!!

The Executive Board convened its May meeting in Omaha on May 3, 1991. Jim Prentice could not be with us because of illness, and we missed his jovial mood and important input at our meetings. Jim, I hope you are well and hope to see you at the Pines. The Executive Board meetings went well with the Holiday Inn staff. Your hosts, the Central Plains Chapter, has been hard at work on details, and everything promises a very good reunion in 1992. Only a few minor details need to be worked out. Our thanks go out to the Central Plains Chapter.

I will be leaving the Executive Board in September and I thank you all for the privilege of serving you in this very prestigious position. It has been a labor of love.

Your Executive Board has worked untirelessly over the past few years to administer its duties and to improve the administrative and financial status of your association is as good if not better than at any point in the history of your Association. I commend the Board Members, Secretary and Treasurer, and you, the members, for your cooperation in this effort. May God Bless You All.

Sincerely your Buddy and Servant

Wm Meadors Minick, Executive Board Chairman

## **REUNION CHAIRMAN CORNER**

It won't be long before September will be here and our 45th reunion will be in full swing. I hope you have made your reservations. I would like to thank everyone for their co-operation in putting this reunion together.

Don't forget your ad program, as this is what makes the reunion work. The Boston Chapter has been hard at work on this program and still is. Larry Redmond has been a tremendous help to us; there are not enough ways to say "Thanks, Larry".

This reunion will be long remembered for food, fun, and many surprises. These will also be Square dancing at pool side as well as indoors, so get ready to swing your partner.

For those who would like the Pines Hotel phone numbers, we have listed them below.

Outside NY 1-800-431-3124 In NY 1-800-36 PINES

Thank you,

Reunion Chairman, Pat DiGiammerino  
323rd F.A.





# 45th ANNUAL REUNION OF 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION September 22-27, 1991

(type or print your AD clearly in this space.)

PLEASE CIRCLE the size AD you prefer

FULL PAGE @  
\$60.00

HALF PAGE @  
\$35.00

QUARTER PAGE @  
\$18.00

BOOSTER ADS are \$5.00. Make check payable to: 83rd Inf. Div. Assoc. and send to:

PAT D. DiGIAMMERINO  
83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSOC.  
36 EAST BORDER ROAD  
MALDEN, MA 02148

OR

LAWRENCE J. REDMOND  
EVERGREEN CLUB APTS. APT. F1  
3041 WEST CHESTER PIKE  
BROOMALL, PA 19008

SEND YOUR ADS EARLY, as they play a very important role in our program.

## RESERVATION FORM

**83rd Inf. Div. Association**  
**September 22-27, 1991**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. in Party \_\_\_\_\_ No. Rooms Requested \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Stay desired (please circle)

Sunday - Friday

Monday - Friday

**\*\*INQUIRE ABOUT WEEKLY PACKAGES FOR A GREAT PINESAVER VACATION WITH YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE 83rd INFANTRY!!**

Accommodations: 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

## Deposit Information

\$50.00 refundable deposit per room \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I want the Deluxe West Point Trip  
at \$49.00 P.P.

☐ Yes, I want the Vanderbilt/Roosevelt Mansion Tour  
at \$32.50 P.P.

Day Trip Option Pre Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Roommates or other Guests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check-in Time 3:00 PM on SUNDAY,  
ANYTIME MONDAY.

ALL DEPOSITS PAYABLE TO: **THE PINES**

**ALL DEPOSITS MUST BE PAID BY AUGUST 1, 1991**

# DRAFT ITINERARY for 83rd INFANTRY'S REUNION at THE PINES HOTEL Sept. 22 - 27, 1991

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

3:00 PM Check in begins.  
4:00 PM Check hotel activities for all entertainment & activities throughout the Pines' facility.  
4:00 PM Hospitality Room opens - Ascot Hall  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:45 PM Evening entertainment  
8:30 PM Music & dancing begins - to our two great bands.  
9:30 PM Showtime

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 AM Good morning! Breakfast is served (Main Dining Rm.)  
9:30 AM All facilities & activities are ready for the 83rd Infantry. Registration going on throughout the day.  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM All facilities reopen. Hospitality Room reopens.  
5:00 PM Welcome cocktail party  
7:00 PM Dinner is served  
8:15 PM Lou Goldstein & his famous adult Simon Sez Comedy Hour.  
8:30 PM Music & Dancing  
9:30 PM Showtime

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - DAY TRIP DAY

7:00 AM Good Morning! Breakfast is served for those going on the West Point Day Trip.  
7:45 AM Breakfast is served for those going on the Vanderbilt/Roosevelt mansions day trip.  
8:00 AM Departure for West Point Day Trip  
8:00 AM Breakfast is served for guests staying in the Hotel.  
9:00 AM Departure for Vanderbilt/Roosevelt mansions Day Trip  
9:30 AM All Facilities reopen  
Full day of planned activities & events.  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM Hospitality Room reopens  
5:30 PM Day trippers arrive back at the Pines  
5:30 PM Happy Hour - Lobby Bar  
7:00 PM Dinner is served  
**AFTER DINNER ACTIVITY**  
8:30 PM Music & Dancing  
9:30 PM Showtime

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:00 AM Breakfast is served.  
10:00 AM Business Meeting - Niteclub  
10:00 AM Full day of activities & lectures  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM All hotel facilities reopen  
Hospitality room reopens  
2:30 PM Ladies day trip to Apollo Mall  
5:00 PM Happy Hour  
7:00 PM Dinner  
8:30 PM Music & dancing  
9:30 PM Showtime

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00 AM Breakfast is served  
10:00 AM Business Meeting - Niteclub

10:00 AM Full day of activities & lectures  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM Memorial service - Pines Hotel front lawn. U.S. Military Academy support.  
4:00 PM Catholic Mass  
5:00 PM Happy Hour  
6:00 PM Gala Cocktail Party  
7:30 PM Banquet  
10:00 PM Showtime

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

7:30 AM Breakfast is served.  
Full Morning of activities  
12 NOON Lunch  
Departure after lunch.

## TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

### Door to Door Limousine Service from N.Y. area or N.Y. Airports:

Howard Mt. Line: In N.Y.S. call toll-free (800) 545-5605  
Outside of N.Y.S., call (914) 482-5574.

### BY CAR:

#### From New York City/Long Island Area:

1. New York West Side Highway to George Washington Bridge to New Jersey. Take Route 4 for eight miles, turn right into Route 17 (N.Y.) and at Mahwah, enter New York State Thruway... Leave Thruway at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to South Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg, turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.
2. Cross Tappan Zee Bridge, enter New York State Thruway and leave at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to So. Fallsburg and proceed as above.

**From Philadelphia, New Jersey & Southern States:** New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 11. Garden State Parkway to New York State Thruway West. Leave Thruway at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 West to Exit 107 to So. Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg, turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

**From Boston & Eastern States:** Take Massachusetts Turnpike to Route 86 (Sturbridge Exit) into Route 84. Take Exit 4W (Middletown, N.Y.) and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to So. Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg, turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

**From Montreal & Northeastern, N.Y.:** Go to U.S. Route 9 to New York State Thruway. Leave Thruway at Exit No. 19 and proceed to Route 209 to Ellenville. Take Route 52 to Woodbourne and then bear left to Route 42 to So. Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg turn right at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

**From Toronto & Western, N.Y.:** New York State Thruway. Exit at Syracuse #36. Pick up Route #81 South in Syracuse (toll free super highway) to Route #17 East at Binghamton. Take Route #17 to Exit 105B #42 North. Merge left (North on 42) to South Fallsburg, at movie theater turn left, 1 mile to the Pines.

### FLYING TO THE

### 83rd INFANTRY REUNION AT THE PINES

83rd members can take advantage of special discount airline packages direct to THE PINES THROUGH Stewart International Airport, located at Newburgh, NY, 30 minutes from the Pines.

For discounted airline and transfer information, contact Ann at Kent Travel, Toll-Free 1-800-537-8218.



# 83rd CONVENTION PACKAGE

## RATES & ACCOMMODATIONS

### PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

280  
280  
560

	6 Days/5 Nites - Sun.-Fri.		
	DOUBLE	SINGLE	TRIPLE
SUPER DELUXE ...	\$329.00	N/A	\$324.00
DELUXE .....	\$309.00	N/A	\$304.00
New STANDARD ...	\$279.00	\$359.00	N/A

	5 Days/4 Nites - Mon.-Fri.		
	DOUBLE	SINGLE	TRIPLE
SUPER DELUXE ...	\$279.00	N/A	\$274.00
DELUXE .....	\$259.00	N/A	\$254.00
New STANDARD ...	\$229.00	\$289.00	N/A

The Above Rates Include Three Meals a Day and Package Outlined on Middle Panel. The Package also includes Annual Banquet Dinner on Thurs., September 26, 1991.

Rates include Gratuities for dining room and maid service. Bellmen & Bartenders are not included.

NYS & Local Sales Tax will be added to your bill.

A refundable deposit of \$50.00 per room required to guarantee room. All rooms assigned on a 1st come 1st served basis.

Make Check Payable to: **THE PINES HOTEL**

Send \$25.00 Per Person Deposit to:  
**ATT: 83rd Infantry**  
**THE PINES HOTEL**  
**SO. FALLSBURG, NY 12779**

### ENJOY THESE SPECIAL FEATURES AND ATTRACTIONS ...

**Free Golf on THE PINES Golf Course • Free Outdoor Tennis • Volleyball • Bocci • Bingo for Bucks • Shuffleboard • Mini Golf • Track Night & 83rd will be honored with a Presentation Race • Banquet Night Thurs., Sept. 26 • Cocktail Party and Smorgasbord • Top Star Entertainment Each Evening • Indoor Pool & Health Club • Dance Lessons • Slimnastics and Yoga • Ping Pong • Games and Surprises and a whole lot more! ALL MEALS INCLUDED!!**

### 83rd THUNDERBOLT PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Three Full Gourmet Meals Served Daily
- Nightly Top Star Entertainment, Two Big Bands For Your Listening & Dancing Pleasure
- Free Golf on THE PINES Robert Trent Jones Golf Course plus 36 holes at nominal greens fees
- Compete Banquet with Smorgasbord and Open Bar Cocktail Party
- Indoor Pool, Health Clubs, Tennis Facilities
- Special Track Night with 83rd Presentation Race

- Memorial Service at THE PINES Hotel on Thursday, Sept. 26 with West Point Color Guard
- Special Activity Program for Ladies
- Special Hospitality Room for 83rd Members
- Banquet Night at THE PINES on Thursday, September 26, 1991

### OPTIONAL DAY TRIPS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1991

#### PACKAGE ONE - DELUXE WEST POINT TRIP

A Special Hudson Valley Boat Cruise with a stop at West Point. The package includes round trip Deluxe motor coach transportation, one-way boat ride along the banks of the Hudson River, Lunch at the historic hotel Thayer and a special shopping tour of the Woodbury Commons Discount Outlet Shopping Center.

PRICE: \$49.00 Per Person

#### PACKAGE TWO - VANBERBILT/ROOSEVELT MANSION TOUR

This package includes Deluxe round trip motor coach transportation to the Vanderbilt/Roosevelt Mansions in Hyde Park, Picnic Box Lunch provided by THE PINES kitchens, stop and shop at the Woodbury Commons Discount Outlet Shopping Center.

PRICE: \$32.50 Per Person

#### Optional Bus Trip Reservation/ Payment Information

**Please note**, in order to accommodate the entire group, Day Trip Packages are to be pre-paid. Full refund will be honored when the Pines can resell your seat. In the event the Pines can not resell your seat, refund will be given less cost of motor coach seat for your particular trip.

This policy is enforced to insure that each trip will run smoothly and accommodate the entire organization. Please send in with the reservation.

8/11/90

### JOIN FOR GOLF AT THE PINES Entrance is \$2.00

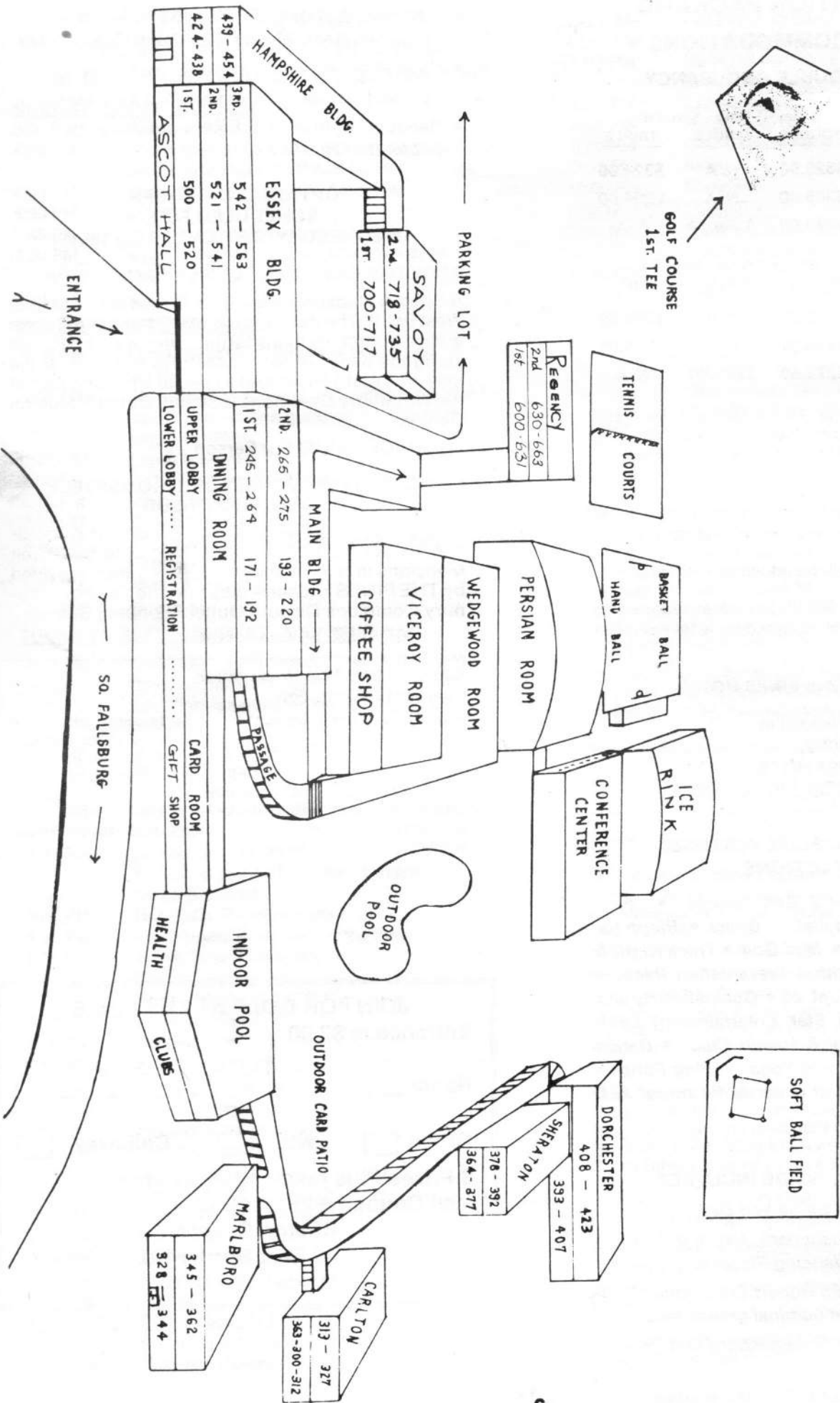
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gross ☐ Net ☐ Callaway ☐

**3 Prizes Plus many other Awards**  
**Mail Coupon with \$2.00 to:**  
**Boston Chapter**  
**36 East Border Rd.**  
**Malden Ma. 02148**

# the Pines

Tennis Courts





## Historian's Corner

Dear Buddies,

This report will bring you back to the forties - seems it was only yesterday - where have the years gone?

We have Larry Redmond to thank for these war time post cards and scenes of Camp Breckinridge. Thanks Larry!

The incidents mentioned in the enclosed poem, could refer to any of us infantrymen. I trained at Camp Shelby, Miss., along with the snakes and cotton mouths.

Does the name of this Chaplain, who wrote the poem, mean anything to the men of the 330th?

I can find no record of him in my archives.

'We Were The Best'

Historian -- 83rd M.P.

### THE BOUNCING EIGHTY-THIRD IN TENNESSEE

'Twas in the summer of 'forty-three  
They roamed the hills of Tennessee  
On the first maneuvers of the EIGHTY-THIRD,  
That "bouncing" outfit that keeps their word.  
The Blues and the Reds there played at war,  
But knew what they were preparing for.  
They played the game and made it real,  
And never griped (?) when they missed a meal.  
Of course some threatened to "go over the hill,"  
But at the end of the problem they were "in there" still.  
Those dough-boys sweat and ate the dust  
Kicked up by tanks, which they always cussed.

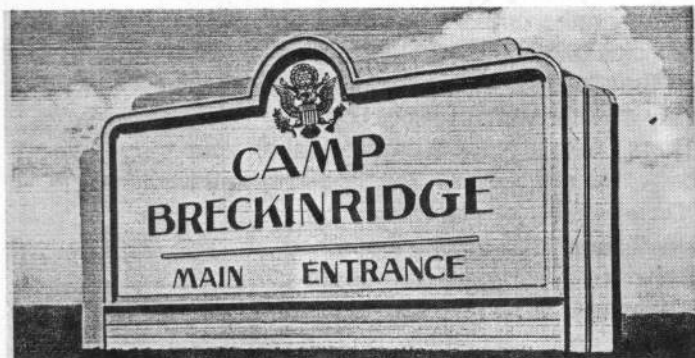


Some got too hot, and some "passed out,  
But then the "Doc" would bring them about.  
And the Chaplains' words of cheer and smiles  
Seemed to lighten the load and shorten the miles.  
Some days they rode, but most time walked.  
Twenty miles or more, but never squawked.  
Muscles grew hard and faces turned brown  
As they "picked 'em up and laid 'em down."  
Fifty minutes with a full field pack.  
Then, "Take a break a break! Flat on your  
back." "Alright, GET GOIN'," the sergeant would yell,  
"On your feet, let's hit the trail."  
Hardly time for a smoke it seemed  
Before that hard-boiled sergeant screamed.  
"Chow time at last," the private sighed,  
"Another mile and I think I'd have died."  
Then, settling down in relaxation,  
He opened his lunch with expectation.  
"Au Nertz, the same old cheese and dog,"  
He grinned, as he leaned against a log.  
"When I was back in the old home town,  
Cheese-on-rye had a pleasant sound;  
But when this is over and I get a break,  
I'm gonna eat nothin' but chicken and steak."  
Though that dog and cheese was not so hot,  
Yet, when you're famished they hit the spot.  
And you quench your thirst and think it's fine,  
Though the water tastes like iodine.  
So on they went, day after day,  
Running and "bouncing" into the fray.  
Flanking, enveloping, capturing a Blue,  
Defending, withdrawing, seeing it through.  
At the end of the week came time for play,  
If you were lucky and got away.  
Some washed their clothes, wrote Mom a letter,  
And looked to see if their chiggers were better;  
Cleaned up equipment, wet from the rains,  
And always some played "certain games (?)."  
Someone would start a crazy rumor,  
But that's a part of army humour:  
"We're going there," "We're going here."  
"Maneuvers cut short, no water, I hear."  
So week after week they battled it through,  
Getting set for a job they had to do.  
In years to come, when the war is won,  
And they spin some yarn to a wide-eyed son,  
They'll say, as they wink like a wise old bird,  
"I, too, was a member of the EIGHTY-THIRD."

Chaplain H. H. Webster  
West Point, Georgia  
330th Infantry



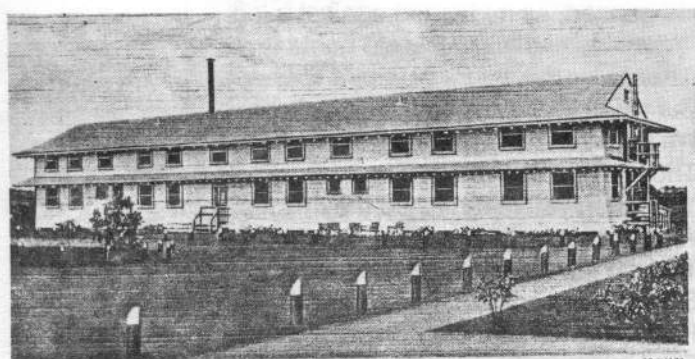
## Historian's Corner



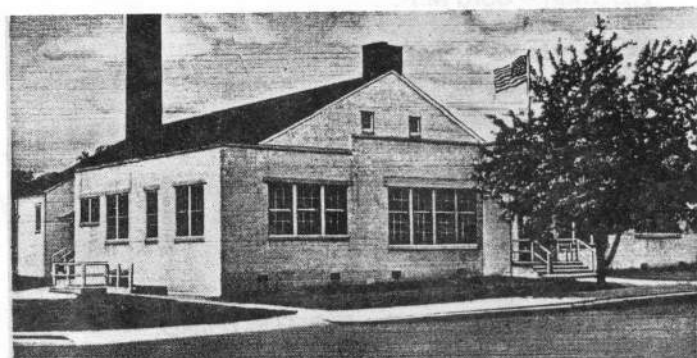
Sign at Main Gate, Camp Breckinridge, Morganfield, Ky.



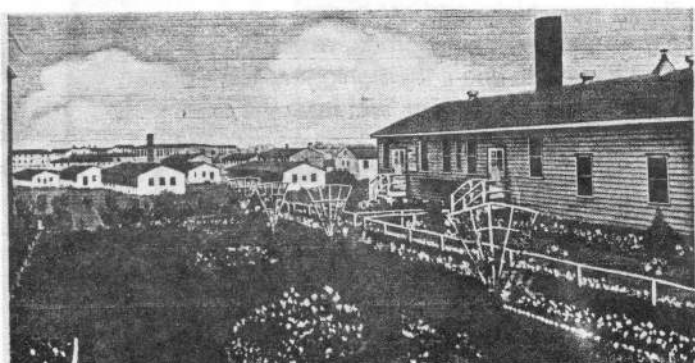
Old Glory, Camp Breckinridge, Morganfield, Ky.



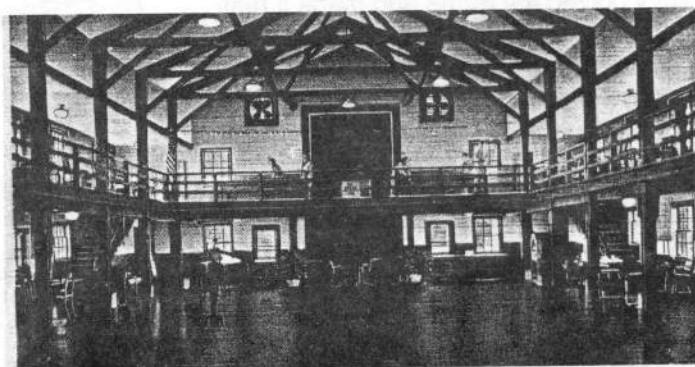
One of the Fine Guest Houses, Camp Breckinridge, Morganfield, Kentucky.



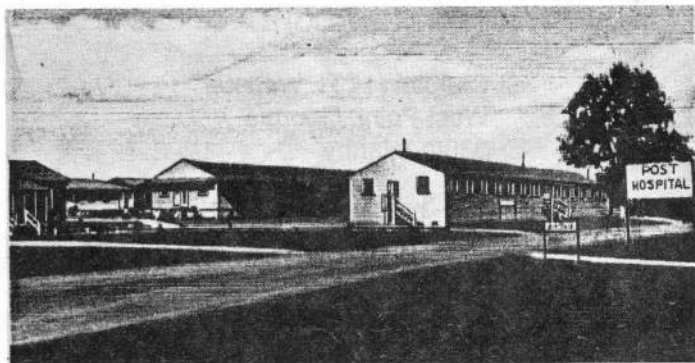
USO Club, Morganfield, Kentucky, 1 1/2 Miles from Camp Breckinridge.



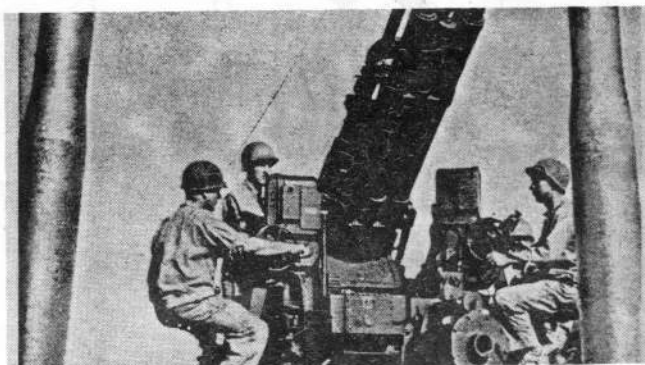
Garden Scene, Camp Breckinridge, Morganfield, Ky.



Interior of one of the fine Service Clubs, Camp Breckinridge, Morganfield, Kentucky.



Post Hospital, Camp Breckinridge, Morganfield, Kentucky



90MM Anti-Aircraft Gun and Crew Framed by Two of its Shells..



## Historian's Corner



81 MM French Mortar



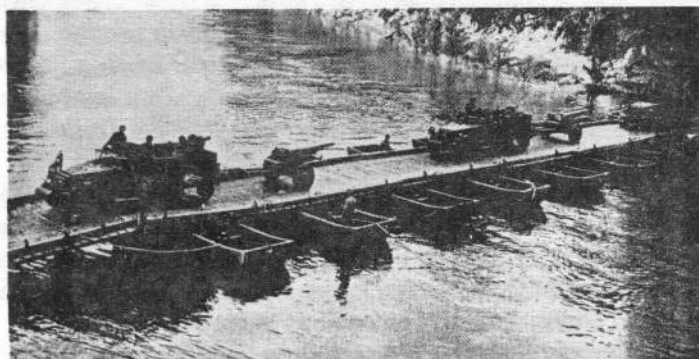
Typical Slit Trench.



Bantam Cars, U.S. Armored Division.



Heavily Armored Scout Cars and 3 Jeeps Crossing Shallow Stream.



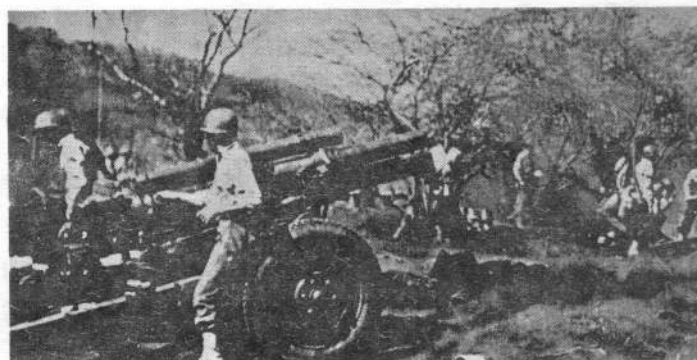
Half-Tracks Trailing Anti-Tank Guns Crossing Heavy Pontoon Bridge.



Inflated Rubber Raft Transporting Two 37MM. Guns Across River.



Battery of 75MM. Field Howitzers



U.S. Army in Action with 105 MM. Howitzers.

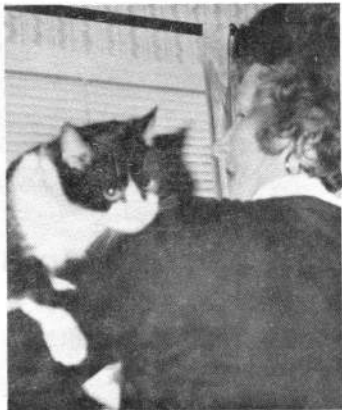
# CHAPTERS

## Kentucky Chapter

Well, its just about that time again to get this article written & mailed by the June 5th deadline. It really is difficult to write because we have not had a Kentucky Chapter meeting since my last article in the Thunderbolt.

Members do not send in any news. I find out most things from the grapevine & not the horse's mouth.

I have to finish this before May 28th or have Vi finish it as I am having surgery on my right hand the 28th. Just learned that after 39 years of police work I have what the doctors call trigger finger. It sure has slowed down my wood carving. In the meantime, Vi has been going to a Podiatrist. Hopefully, it won't be long before she can again out walk Kathryn Massie & me, like she did in Pittsburgh.



Just heard that Manny Goodridge's wife, Avalon, returned home from the Hospital. She had more tests, Hope she is feeling much better now.

While I am on the subject of illness, Vi & I just returned home after visiting Arthur Doggett in the Hospital. Art studied real hard & passed most of his tests. He will come home soon but then goes back in for surgery June 17th to remove a growth on his sinus.

Henry Whelan has been in & out of the Hospital in Louisville. He had a growth removed from his thyroid.

Kathleen Schmidt has not feeling up to par but her doctor gave her new medication & she is now feeling much better. She is ready to go back to Forest View Gardens. Charlie & Kathleen are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary June 10th.

Vi called Kathleen Schmidt & she told her that Al Henry is in the Hospital. He had a massive heart attack. Our prayers are with him & his family.

I better end this article on more cheerful notes. Vi & I were out to Illinois & Iowa for a week's vacation. We saw Pat Buckley Moss at Woodlons Gallery in Davenport, Iowa for an In Store Promotion. We went on a dinner cruise with Pat, her husband Malcolm, staff & collec-

tors. It was a very nice evening but we were in a bad storm. It was a nite to remember. We saw friends in Bettendorf, Iowa & Port Bryon, Ill. and Vi's family in Lowden, Clarenie & Salon, Iowa. They had a cousin reunion for her. We were on the move constantly & enjoyed every minute of it. We went to a unique restaurant named Sneaky Petes in Le Claire. If you come dressed up at nite, they cut off the men's ties & then hang them on beams. Never saw so many half ties. The menu is glued on a pint liquor bottle. The salad is in an old fashioned bath tub. Its really a different restaurant, food is not bad either.

Vi & I met Lucky, Arthur & Mildred Doggett's cat. I wrote about Lucky previously. Lucky is now a beautiful & very lovable cat. Thought you might enjoy seeing several pictures of Lucky. Mildred is on one of the pictures.

Thats it folks.

Wilson E. Day  
1st Bn. Hq. Co. 331st.

## West Virginia Chapter

Hello Fellow & Gals.

Best I let you know that we're still around and trying to make it through this heat wave.

The N.W.S. says the month of May was the hottest on record.

Nothing much has happened in the Chapter for awhile, except making it out to a couple of dinners, its too hot for that at this time.

The Rivers Edge in St. Albans a few weeks ago, was a good turn out. The food was delicious as always.

April it was "Dwight's" at Hurricane W.V. New Owners there. My wife and I have been back a second time. Members present for the Chapter Dinner were John and Freda Hobbs, Fred and Cloda Statts, Rex and Lillian Carson, Paul and Mary Pauley, Chauncey & Tress Hunt. Don and Esta Pettry, John and Evelyn Shepherd.

John Hobbs is doing fine on his mouth operation, Don Pettry's having trouble with his eye sight. And ole Dad here is right among them, with the heart problem, and now my M.D. is on my case about sugar, I'm working hard on that one.

Surprised to see my picture in The "Thunderbolt" Le-roky didn't tell the good part, while we were standing there talking, a jet plane came in at tree top level at 600 mph. About scared me to death.

Our next meeting will be in New Middletown, Ohio 22-23 of June, hosted by Charles Marsh at his resident.

Until next time, Evelyn and I send our best wishes, to all you good people across the country. God Bless!

John Shepherd  
"L" & HQ. - 331st





## Philadelphia Chapter

Every recent year, as the Philadelphia Chapter marches Color Guard in the Narberth Memorial Day parade, they say that this will be the last. After thirty-one years, however, the end just may be in sight as this year the American Legion Post in Narberth, who sponsors the parade, recruited their own color guard and firing squad made up of younger veterans who had never seen or fired the 03's that were available in the Legion Post. Al Belvedere was able to show them how to load and work the bolt action as well as give them a brief drill in the manual-of-arms. Both guards marched together and eight guns were fired at two locations during the ceremonies. After the parade, the 83rd members and their wives were invited to lunch and refreshments at their Legion Post, and they invited any 83rd men who wished to march in future years to join with their guard. This will make for a smooth transition as time passes and fewer 83rd men are able to march the distance required any longer. The younger men will carry the tradition on very well.



**Joe & Olive Ponzio**

After the parade and lunch, the 83rd group returned to Lou Volpi's restaurant and were joined by other Philadelphia Chapter members who did not march in the parade.

George Pletcher conducted a memorial service for deceased Philadelphia Chapter members and we fired three rounds in their honor. The only hitch in the day's proceedings was that we could not recruit a bugler who could play "To The Colors" and "Taps". These calls seem to have gone out of style.

At our Philadelphia Chapter memorial service, George Pletcher specifically honored Joe Ponzio who died in April and was a Philadelphia Chapter member who had been inducted into the service from South Philadelphia shortly after the start of the Second War. Later, after the funeral services, Al and Anna Belvedere spoke with us about Joe and at that time they both went back into the past to remember their good friend. The memories were warm and sincere, and I would like to share some of

them with you.

Joe and Al Belvedere grew up together and were always close friends. They played sports in their neighborhood during the week, and then attended the jitterbug dances on the weekends. They were happy and care-free times for them, as well as for us. There was a close group in their area that started friendships early, and these friendships continued when they were young men and found themselves all inducted into the service on the same day. Before going overseas, a number of them became members of the 83rd Infantry Division, and Joe was one of them. He joined the Philadelphia Chapter in 1955 and was one of the first members to serve in the Firing Squad and the Color Guard. In the past he also served as Chapter President and Chapter Secretary.

Over the years these friends have kept in close touch with each other, and sometimes when they get together at Chapter meetings, the neighborhood stories and the war stories have now become intertwined so that the laughter and humor have no start or finish -- just warming and sometimes embellished memories that do not seem to fade with time.

Al Belvedere recalls too those years when Joe was a member of the Comics Division of the New Year's Mums' Parade. As he was outgoing, this became a natural for him and a tradition to be continued, which he did well.

As to his family, there were strong ties among all of them. Both Joe and Olive always worked hard in getting family and friends to attend our Philadelphia Chapter functions, and their group could always be counted on to provide a fun evening.

One noteworthy observation: It is not often that one sees a seventy year old man so mourned, openly and sincerely, by the young male members of his immediate and extended family. Their grief was an unspoken tribute to a man who lived among his own with a humor and caring that touched and enriched those around him -- and particularly those young and impressionable lives.

At the services for Joe, the members of our Honor Guard in uniform included Harry Stevenson, George Pletcher, Al Belvedere, Harry Kirby, Lou Volpi and John Daum.

Joe was a fine soldier. He will be remembered.

John G. Daum  
Co. "D", 330th

**If anyone should have known Adrian Mills of Covington, TN. He was in the 331st. Killed in action on July 12, 1944., Write Co. Harold W. Mills Jr., 10916 Blue Roan Rd., Oakton, VA., 22124**

## New Jersey Chapter

Reunion Time is just around the corner. The excitement is building among the Chapter members as we prepare to journey to the Pines Hotel. Most of our Chapter have registered and are anxious to join the Thunderbolt Family for another great reunion. We know that the Boston Chapter and the Pines Hotel will do their utmost to ensure our having a very enjoyable reunion.

Some of our Chapter members were invited to Tom and Candy Dowd's picnic on May 27th. The reports I received were that the picnic was another good one. Fran and I couldn't make the picnic. Our son Ken who lives in Bowling Green, Ohio flew in for the weekend to visit my mother who is hospitalized with congenital heart failure. Ken brought his son Alex along and as we don't get to see them but once or twice a year, we wanted to spend as much time with them as possible. This was the first time my mother was in a hospital as a patient in her 96 years.

Our springtime dinner party will be held June 8th at the Landmark in Woodbridge. We expect a good turnout and hope all will have a enjoyable evening. Fred and Addie along with Fran and I are hosts for this affair.

I received a long letter from Frank Reichmann (1st Bn. Hdqs. 331) telling me about his many health problems. We miss seeing Frank and hope all will be corrected soon.

Charlie Sihlanick was hospitalized for awhile and is now recuperating at home. I'm sure Charlie would appreciate hearing from some of his Artillery Buddies.

Frank Sabine (Co. D, 331st) wrote to tell us he couldn't be with us at the dinner. He recently had a pacemaker put in.

Joe Kuzma (Co. G, 331st) calls me once in awhile. He complains about Capt. Mac never mentioning him in his article. Mac, you built the Esprit de corps into your men, Joe still has it!

Fred and Addie Rein's daughter Pat was shopping in the Philadelphia area when she came across a car bearing a 83rd sticker. Pat waited until the owner returned, it was Harold Ladley from Orelan, Pa. another of Mac's Men.

Manny Epstein called me to invite Fran and I to his Florida Estate. Manny who lives in Brooklyn, travels to Florida to join their chapter meetings, then calls to tell me about the great time I missed. I believe Manny has an ulterior motive. At the estate, Manny has a upstairs-maid and a downstairs-maid and at his age, I don't have to tell you, he needs help!!

Wishing you all, Good Health, Happiness and Peace!!

Stan Bielen

1st Bn. Hdqs. 331st

## Warren Chapter

On April 14th, 1991, a 50th Wedding Anniversary party was held at the Grotto Ali Babba Hall for Millie and Dick Kelly. Two of their five children, Janet and Nancy hosted the event and the entire chapter and their wives were there, plus four of our widows. Marge Voracek, Dimps Minotti, Vera Venuti and Mary Nuzzi. There must have been 150 people who attended and enjoyed themselves very much. Millie and Dick are the First Golden Agers in the Warren Chapter and we all wish them the best, for the future. Dick served with the 908 F.A.

### SICK CALL

Joe Phillipone went back to the hospital for his heart problems. He is home now and is feeling much better, except his vision. He will go to the Cleveland Clinic soon, for a second opinion. I talked to Joe yesterday and he sends his best to all his friends.

John Shamrock continues to improve after his heart by-pass operation, but says it's a slow process.

### MEETINGS

Babe and Theresa Gautschi hosted our April meeting. Plenty of good food and refreshments and our usual card game completed the nice day.

In May we started our outdoor Golf/Picnics and as usual we had a great day at our favorite pavillion.

Our Golf league is in full swing now and handicaps are starting to fall. We only played four holes last Tuesday (5/28/91) when the rains hit us. We were like wet rats when we got back to our cars. Well, that's all for now from Warren, so good luck and good health to one and all from all of us in Warren.

Lee Titus

Co. G, 331st



## **Pittsburgh Chapter**

On Saturday, May 18 the chapter held their Spring Dance at the Days Inn in New Stanton, Pa. We were set up for fifty persons and there were not too many empty places. Among the guests were the wives of deceased members: Mrs. Charles Altomari, Mrs. Adam Hassick and a few others whose names slip me by. A hospitality room was set up in Jules Desgain's motel room before and after the affair. At the April meeting it was reported that Curly Ruprecht was in the Aspinwall VA Hospital. On April 9 Greer Thompson had prostrate surgery at St. Clair Hospital. As usual a basket of fruit was given to him by the chapter. Joe Demarchie, former member of the chapter died in Venice, Florida, where he had been residing for some time. His body was returned to his native California, Pa. for burial on May 6. Less than twenty-four hours later his wife, Betty passed away but she was buried in Florida. Al Seuss' wife Anna Mae had surgery on her left knee on Thursday, May 30 at Shadyside Hospital and now recovering at home. Their nephew 1st Lt. Andrew Wyanosick, serving with the 3rd Armored Division was home on furlough from Saudi Arabia before being sent to Germany. John Caruso's daughter Mary Kay Bossong became a nurse at St. Clair Hospital in June. Sal and Theresa Scicolone, Ed and Lee Reuss attended Local #12 Bakery Union Retirees Club gathering in Wildwood, New Jersey in May. This was for four nights and five days. A trip to Atlantic City was on the agenda. Our secretary Jim McCulla was scheduled for Hospitalization on June 4th for three individual anglo-plastics. At the June meeting twenty-eight were in attendance. At this meeting Donald Boyer of Sharpsburg, Pa. was approved for an associate member in the chapter. He was recommended by Gene Costanzo. Speaking of Gene -- he gave a report of the recent Executive Board meeting in Omaha, Nebraska -- the site of the 1992 reunion. If everything he says is true we are in for a great time next year. Refreshments for the June meeting were taken care of by Charles Caven. Granddaughter Crystal Lynn Caven was born on May 26. The following article was printed in an early April edition of the Pittsburgh Press.

## **Veteran Honored**

Silver Star recipient **John Marek Jr.**, veteran of World War II and lifelong resident of Sewickley, has been added to the Allegheny County residents honored in the Hall of Valor at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland.

On July 10, 1944, according to the hall's board of managers, Technical Sergeant Marek of the 83rd Infantry Division "was instrumental in reducing the effectiveness of a strong enemy tank force" in the vicinity of Saindeny, France.

The advance tank fired several rounds, fatally injuring one and wounding another. "John crawled under the en-

emy fire and succeeded in moving the wounded man to safety," the board said.

The Hall of Valor is a part of the military history museum at the Soldiers and Sailor Hall which is open to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 1 to 4 pm. on weekends.

Fran Beerhalter  
H 329th

## **Florida Chapter**

Our last meeting of the Florida Chapter until the snow flies in November was held in New Port Richey, Fla. hosted by Mike and Nina Petitti with 50 people present and guests. Thank you for two wonderful days of togetherness.

On Friday afternoon we were hosted by Walter and Elizabeth Marshall at their home at a cocktail party. It was a beautiful afternoon and everyone enjoyed the delicacies, drinks and sunshine. We were just one big happy family. Thank you Walt and Elizabeth.

At our Saturday night dinner, beautiful handmade gifts were donated as door prizes by our hostess and Ruth Brown. Our winners were Alma Herhuth, Genie Smith, Lois Drugash-Beryle Buchman, Anna Halligan, Mary Senger, Hen Paiva and Frank Ruscitto. Thank you, they are nice remembrances.

A gentleman drove by our Motel and noticed the 83rd Insignia so he stopped and came in. He was in the 83rd and didn't know of the Florida Chapter. He was very impressed and we now have another new member Jack R. Berry of Sarasota 331 Med. and I received a phone call from Stephen Bartha of Sebring of I Co. 329th is now on our list. Glad to have you with us. Just had some sad news that Leo Schneider AT-331 has passed away. Our heartfelt sympathy go to Charlotte and her family. We'll miss him. Get well wishes to all who couldn't attend. Hope to see all of you who couldn't make his meeting in November on the 8th and 9th in West Palm Beach for our Veterans Day gathering and Service, at Best Western Palm Beach Lakes. For any further information you can contact me.

Bill Herhuth  
324th F.A. Hdq. Btry.  
1-813-294-7175

## **ATTENTION!!!**

**If your membership card says Aug.  
1990 - you are delinquent in your  
membership dues.  
Please send \$10.00 immediately!**



## **Boston Chapter**

If you have not made your arrangements at the Pines Hotel for the upcoming September 83rd Reunion, you better send for reservations soon. The Boston Chapter hopes that this will be a great time and are working hard to make the 1991 reunion their best. Lou Sandini and a few others from Boston have been in Florida improving their golf game.

On April 20 a meeting was held at Larry and Fran Arrigos home in Norwood, Ma. The first business on the agenda was pictures of Larry's 15 year old dog Snipper who made the front page of the papers. He had a few days of adventure and was found in icy waters. The Boston Chapter decided to elect him as their Mascot.

The meeting started at 3:00 p.m. with very good attendance. Pat DiGiammerino has done a good job getting more new members from all over the country. President Charles Lussier honored him with a hard pat on the back as he is on a "budget kick".

Richard Armstrong and Bob Hunnewell of the 329th Infantry made many good suggestions for the coming reunion. Lou Sandini gave us a lot of legal advice on our personal lives. He answered many questions for us on problems that come up at our age. Thanks again Lou.

Tony Piantedosi has plans to take on the members of the Boston Chapter for the Championship in Golf this summer.

Ray Bjork called for a recess as Fran said it was chow time. The diets were on a day off. The food was great.

After eating many more things were discussed on the reunion. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to give the people that had to travel a distance a chance to get home early.

The May meeting was held at the home of Frank and Rose Young, in Marblehead, Ma. President Charles Lussier opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. Present at the meeting were Bob Hunnewell, Richard Armstrong, Charles Lussier, Chet Morley, Charles Petit, Pat DiGiammerino, Tony Piantedosi, Walter Koss, Frank Scott, Larry Arrigo, Al Remy, Mike Amicone, Jim Prentice, Ray Bjork, Lou Sandini, Mike Caprio, Charlie Miller and myself along with wives and friends. Frank Young had to go to the hospital the day before the meeting but is home now and Rose tells me he is doing fine. Rose you did an excellent job at the meeting and we are looking forward to seeing you at Chet and Laurette Morleys in New Hampshire in June.

This meeting was all about the coming reunion and the ad book. Mike Caprio read the Treasurers Report. Hy Goodman read off the communications. Mike and Hy have done a good job. Livie Maynard was honored for being elected Jr. Vice Commander of the D.A.V. Post #118 in Westport, Ma.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next meeting will be at Chet Morleys in New Hampshire on June 8th

Pat and Ginny took a trip to Las Vegas eating in the best of places. I also heard Ginny came home with a real bank roll and the drinks are on her in June.

I regret to write Joseph Fournier passed away. This was reported by his wife. Condolences to his family from the Boston Chapter.

Until next issue.

Amby Tynan,  
323rd FA Bn.



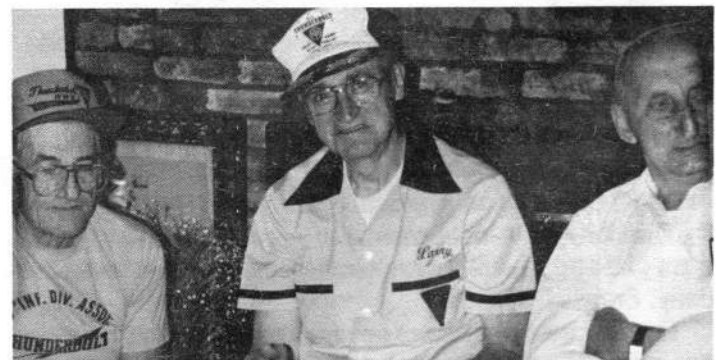
**Part of the Boston Group at Young's home in Marblehead, Mass.**



**Boston Chapter getting ready for business meeting.**



**Pat Worrick, selling Al Remy a "Winning Ticket"**



**Meeting at Frank Young's home in Marblehead, Mass.**



**Executive Board at Omaha**

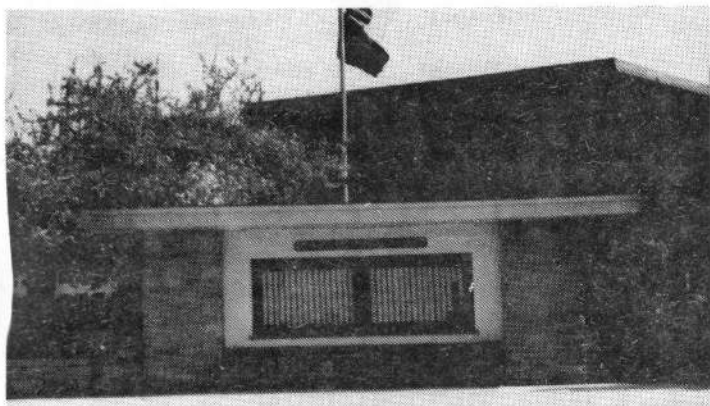


**At Executive Board meeting in Omaha.**

## **Cleveland Chapter**

83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Oh. 45013-9102

On Memorial Day in Maple Heights, Ohio members of the 83rd Division, Cleveland Chapter marched behind the American Legion Memorial Band Post 309: John Dusek conductor. Our men proudly carried the Stars and Stripes, the new Chapter flag and rifles-World War II vintage. Many groups marched in the light rain to the monument. It was built and dedicated in honor of the WW II veterans in 1947. It has been refinished and new rededicated in memory of fallen comrades of all United States wars. The Cleveland Chapter contributed toward



**Memorial Monument in Maple Heights, Ohio**

expenses. After the services at the F.O.P. hall in Bedford the members and ladies enjoyed an All American cookout. During the meeting it was voted to send a donation to the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial Association.

Kenneth Jackabowski, son of John, B Co. 329th and Betty was ordained at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland on May 25, 1991. He has been assigned to St. Mary's of the Falls in Olmstead Falls, Ohio.

This makes the second priest from Cleveland chapter members. "Steve" Lanza, son of Joe, Co. A 331st and Julie of Dover, Ohio, is an associate priest at St. Michael's in Orland Park, Ill.. He celebrated his tenth anniversary in May. He is an honorary member of the Boston Chapter.

Most members have made reservations for the Sept. reunion at the Pines. We hope to see many of you there.

Kid L. Williams  
2 Bn. Hq. Co. 330th  
Staff Reporter, Cleveland Chapter

## **Dixie Chapter**

I'm back home after 2156 miles between May 25 and June 5. I was in the heart of Dixie for our summer meet of the 83rd Dixie Chapter.

It was a great trip working and visiting friends in 5 states. Only one was sad. In Cedartown, Ga. I found a long lost buddy, Jess Bedford, A. 322 had passed away. Its so sad. He never knew of our great organization that you and I love so much.

Dropped in on my bear hunting buddy, Burton Sales and Toina. We were treated royalty. They're just getting settled in their new home, raising pure bred cattle, cutting hay, and all those exciting things that 83rd veterans do.

Found an 83rd man, A 322 after 46 years in Harpers Ferry, W. Va. Freddie Ranalli, made some plans to get together again.

Arrived in Ala. on Monday, Beautiful but hot. Not on 83rd man in sight but signs of them everywhere. Hotel reported that F.M. Haney had everything under control. Being early I settled in and got ready for the rush. It was about to begin.

Ames Miller and Helen showed up on Wednesday. F.M. & I laid in some supplies and iced down the beer to be ready for the troops who were already on the roads from Penn. to Arkansas. We have to be ready when they get here.

Let me pause to thank our hosts and the committee who worked so hard to keep us happy.

Hot & cold foods & drinks with all kinds of cakes and deserts from early in morning beginning with coffee and pastries thru the day and evening. Our ladies just kept bringing more food everyday. Twas truly a wonderful experience.

We had many new faces present. We welcome each



and expect you to be with us in future meetings. E 330 with F.M. Haney, Troy Woodridge, Bob Overton, T.L. Brill, George Mayfield looked like sure winners in attendance until a recount showed E 331 with George Naylor, Bob Parsons, James Duncan, Larry Dalton, Malcom Wade came to the finish line in a photo finish for a tie with five each. Good work Boys!!

26 units were represented coming from 14 states to celebrate and to remember the real heroes "The Fallen" who paid the supreme price.

7 members of the Blancett Clan were on hand C330 Walter Blancett was clear winner in this category. Dorena kept them straight and Brenda recorded it on V.C.R. I'd like to see that.

The 308 Engineers were noticeably absent, trust they've mended and able to join us next time. Artillery was represented with three cannoneers, John Cox, John Hobbs, Yours truly with their lovely wives.

Everyone present was truly a winner and enjoyed each day more than the previous one. Frank Morris and Nellie had a great time in spite of air conditioner problems. They brought their little peeker puppy to his first reunion ever..

Plan to come in December, It'll be cool then.

Meadows Mimick and Grace arrived late but lost no time finding a place to go dancing. What a lovely couple. The Prices and Massies caught them having breakfast in a little hideaway across the lake from Macs Landing.

Happy to have the Browns' and Jacksons with us taking time before leaving for Australia. Marva looking great after surgery and LeRoy Mac Manaway still up to his tricks.

Just what was going on in the ladies restroom with the big wide door. Those ladies were sure smiling when they came out! O.L. Cook busy keeping the women in a good humor and taking pictures! Busy, Busy.

Phil Simmons made some promises for March 1993 in Macon Ga.! Let's be there! Missed Willie and Tony Vigliove. Hope you're better and able to be with us soon.

Jim Price & Delores, old friends of Haran & Dot Martin, New friends of Dixie Chapter made quite an impression on the southern food, just made it disappear, I can see us now at that table for 8. The Livingstons, Prices, Sharpes, Massies up to their ears in cole slaw, hush puppies, frog leggs and catfish. Just trying to survive and get back to the conference room so Delores could teach our "southern Bells" tatting and other crafts. Thank you so much Delores and Jim for trying, I'll keep you posted on future progress.

Guess who found time to swim a mile everyday at our meet? She's a gold medalist in Senior Olympics!

There are so many stories to tell and not enough time and space.

Of course we elected new officers for the coming year. We look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Lets plan to get together real soon and do it all over because we do love you! you know that.

We missed all who couldn't come and send word. I just hope you could feel that we were thinking of you throughout the entire meeting. If you can't make the national in New York. Meet me in Gatlinburg, Tenn. in Dec. and Williamsburg, Va. in March 1992.

Until then remember!!

We Love Yah!!

Ellsworth Massie

Reporter for Dixie Chapter

I had a letter from Pat DiGiammerino a fellow artilleryman forwarded from Emmett Anderson, Sioux City, Iowa, after 45 years. He was a mighty fine cook, but we got separated. He was seeking information on 7 men whose names he had seen in a Thunderbolt. I was so happy. I wrote him and was able to send a picture of each person he inquired about. These were recent pictures taken at the national. He was so delighted he called and we had a long conversation. Made definite plans for National in 1992. The men were Cyn, Sihlanick, Cramer, Benbow, Sechrest, Zingg, Massie. He also wants to get in touch with Rankin, Mess, Sgt., I'm sending his address.

Just contacted Freddie Ranalli, yesterday. After 46 years. He was working at the polls in local, election, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. He wants to know what happened to his old Sgt. Cooley? Anybody know? We're still turn up new men - just got word Cyr is recovering from cancer, plans to be in New York. Just found out Jess Bedford passed away in Cedartown Ga., This information came from his first cousin. I had gone to Cedartown to see him but alas! I was too late.

If you want to contact some one. Do it now!! Don't be too late.!

Look forward to seeing you all at the National in New York.

Ellsworth Massie



## **ATTENTION!!!**

**If your membership card says Aug.  
1990 - your are delinquent in your  
membership dues.**

**Please send \$10.00 immediately!**



## Companies

### Co. "M" 330th

Our "mini-reunion" in Sarasota, Fla. during March was so much fun, first wish everyone in Co. M. could have attended. This was our third winter for a similar get together and it appears the occasion is no longer a "mini get together" as there were 23 in attendance this year. Those attending were as follows:

Russ and Jennie Antt  
John and Bettie Casella (along with Bette's sister and husband - Shirley and Bill)  
Edd and Delana Etter  
Jim and Martha Fowler  
Leo and Martha Hand  
Weldon and Charlotte Higginbotham (along with their daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Charles)  
Mert and Jeanne Johnston  
Bill and Juanita Robbins  
Walter and Edith Wheeler  
Carlton Ely who drove alone all the way from Debran, New Jersey to be with us.

The first two reunions were for one day each but this one turned out to be for two days. Thursday evening we assembled at the motel where several couples were staying and all went out for dinner together.

Friday morning we gathered at the Clubhouse at Sarasota Lakes RV Resort where we had a big picnic lunch and then "chit-chatted" all afternoon. Around 6:00 p.m. we all went to the old Hiedelberg Castle for a scrumptious dinner and the best Bavarian entertainment you've ever seen. The food, music, dances, atmosphere, etc. made us think we were back in Germany. It wouldn't surprise me if next year we have 30 or more in attendance.

Leo K. Hand  
Co. M. 330th Inf.  
1700 S. Hwy. 57  
Washington, Ind. 47501



### Co. "F" 329th

Since the 44th Reunion in Pittsburgh at which 20 F Co. men were privileged to be together again, some for the first time in 45 years, Bill Furguson and his computer has been keeping in touch with us promoting the 83rd Division Association and its Reunions in anyway he can conjure up.

At present Bill is working with 100 buddies names and addresses of which approximately 44 are either bad addresses or that recent correspondence that has been sent them has not been returned by the Post Office, but from who he has received no response. If you are one of the latter and get a request for information please take a minute and help keep us advised of your present situation.

Bill is presently surveying the Co. to learn of your individual plans regarding the Reunion at the Pines, Omaha in '92 and another winter get together in Florida in '92 for anyone in the area of Port Charlotte so help Bill, fill out and return your postage paid postcard.

In Florida this past winter as always is the case when F Co. men get together more of the details and some additional information is uncovered regarding our own experiences F Co's and the 83rd's spot in World War II History. A man recalls times, a day, someone, something and his recollection jogs your mind about things you just haven't remembered for a long time and everyone present recalls the event from their view point, based on what they were doing at the time. These are proud and honorable recollections. We wish more of you could have been with us and we are sure there will be this winter '92.

All of the 20 who were together in Pittsburgh have been in touch with one another in some way since then and some of us have been able to either see or talk with others who were not there, this was possible in part thru the help of the Association Roster we were provided with, it was greatly appreciated and is being used.

On the way back from Florida my wife and I spent an afternoon and night with George and Becky Kittrell in Portsmouth, Va. He's the same ole Kit and in good shape. Appreciated their southern hospitality.

Talked recently with Sylvain Fishman in Jackson, Tenn. He has been having some physical problems but presently is doing pretty good which I know all of his buddies will be glad to know.

We are going to try and have F Co. happenings in all future Thunderbolts so send me your news, pictures etc.

Company "F" 329th  
Charles R. Whitcomb  
1314 Center Ln. Dr.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

## Co. "H" 330th

### HELLO BUDDIES:

Once again it is time to bid farewell to another year in the History of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. It is time to sit down and make our final plans for this our 45th Annual Reunion which will be held in September in the Pines, S. Fallsburg, N.Y. The Boston Chapter is doing a great job in trying to make this a tremendous Reunion. I would like to take a minute out to thank each and everyone of you who have helped me with your donations to the Co. "H" page in our Ad Book. Without this book, the Reunion Committee would have a tremendous job trying to make the commitments that must be met to make it a great Reunion.

I am quite disappointed with the responses that I have received so far from our Co. "H" men. I sincerely hope that by the time our deadline date arrived that I will have more responses. This has not been a joyous year for Co. "H", we have lost two great men from our Company, first was Capt. Jack Masters a great Company Commander and just recently Sgt. Tom Longshore, a great Soldier a credit to his Rank of Sergeant and a dedicated Father and Husband. Both of these men are sadly missed. I also heard of the death of another man, he was Ira Liles, I am sure that you all will remember him, he was a good soldier. Within Co. "H", we had some of the best men who served with the 83rd Infantry Division. As years pass by, we are losing more and more men. Again, thank you all for your support. May GOD BLESS you all.

Larry Redmond

### HELLO BUDDIES:

Here we are coming to the end of another great year in the History of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. It has been many years since the founding of this great Association, and we have had our ups and downs, but thanks to a few dedicated men, we have managed to rally out of our dilemmas.

As the years have gone by, we have managed to have many great Reunions, some were profitable and some were not, but thanks to those hard workers within our Association we were able to keep going. We owe a word of thanks and praise to those men who served this Association as National Secretary-Treasurer, because without their hard work and dedication we may not have been able to survive. This is a thankless job, it is a job that takes many man hours in order to manage it properly. It is not like going to work on a regular eight hour a day shift, this is job that continues on into the late hours of the night and the early hours of the morning.

As you all know, or should know, this year we will celebrate our 45th Anniversary Reunion, our Host Chapter will be the Boston Chapter. They are a dedicated group

of men and are trying hard to give you a Reunion to long remember. Having had the honor and pleasure of working with the Ad Book Committee, in behalf of the Ad Book Committees of the past, present and future, I wish to express our sincere thanks to all of you who have helped the Reunion Committees so graciously by contributing to the Ad Book. Were it not for the help we get with this Book, our Reunions could never have been the great success they have been.

I know that there are a certain few of you who resent getting letters of solicitation from me. But were it not for these letters, we would not have had half the donations that we have received. To those of you who have contributed, I wish to say "THANK YOU" remember this is your Association, let us all do our part to keep it as solvent as it has been for a long time. This year I have sent out about 1500 letters all over the Country. The responses have been very slow, but I sincerely hope that by Reunion time, those of you who have not responded, will do so. As you all well know, our ranks are getting thinner, let us all try to take an active part in the Association. If you have never attended a Reunion, try making one and meet that long lost Buddy that you said goodbye to about 46 years ago. As I write this letter for the final issue of this year. I want to thank each and everyone of you for your help. I sincerely wish you all the best of luck and good health. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Larry Redmond

## 329th "B" Bag

Sorry to report that I haven't heard a word from anyone in the last 3 months. So I guess no news is good news. I'm still going to visit "Red" Geyer in the next few months and see how he is doing. I'm about half way with the new address list. It should be ready to be passed out at the Pine's Reunion. A lot of people helped me in getting these addresses. I hope all of the 12 guys from the last reunion and their wives will be at the Pines as they promised. Maybe we can try and see if each one can bring another "B" buddy to the reunion. That would be great.

While we were in Parkersburg, W. VA. to guard the President returning from Mexico. The Battalion was stationed in a park, and everybody spent about 4 hours lining up the tents in a military manner. John Farrei was in a tent writing a letter, when someone threw a live snake in his tent. He screamed and run. About 30 tents were knocked down. It took a couple of more hours to line up the tents again. They promised to court martial the snake tosser, but he was never found out.

Have a happy and safe summer and hope to see you all at the Pines.

Your Buddy,  
Bob Uher "B" Co. 329th



## **Co. "I" 329th**

I hope that the members of I Co. have their reservations in for the reunion, also have sent in an ad for the AD book and would like to remind them to send in their \$10.00 check for their 1991 - 92 dues.

Elizabeth Hayes had her operation Thursday before Easter, so perhaps she and Jesse will make it to the reunion in September.

Got a letter from Chas. Grey, he identified Oscar Gqinn as the one standing to the right of Jim Jornof in the picture that was in the spring issue of the Thunderbolt. Frank Bellino thought it was Oscar but wasn't quite sure. Oscar retired in April 1991 as the director of Athletics for Inman Mills in Enroce, S.C. Chas said he is still waiting to hear from Julian Quevy he might be able to identify some of the others.

Got a letter from Pat and Steve Barther, they stopped at a roadside stand in Sebring, Fla. for some tomatoes, it was a big surprise to meet Jean & Dick Haas so they had a nice visit, Dick informed me that they bought a place in Sebring and its only a mile away from the Bartha's, they are selling their house in Warrenson, Ohio, spend their summer at this cabin on the Lake in Michigan and winter's in Sebring. Because of all this activity they probably won't be able to make it to the reunion.

Dick also received a letter from St. Forest Brown who joined I Co. in June 1945. He gave me his address which is in Phoenix Arizona. I sent him an application to join the association, a list of 62 present address of I Co. men and a brochure about the reunion. He phoned me saying that he had a stroke in 1983 and isn't able to travel, also promised to send me a list of names of the 1st platoon under his command at that time, it may help us to find or locate some more old I Co. men.

Sorry we won't make it to the Kentucky Chapter meeting the 21th & 22nd of June. Agnes and I have to attend a wedding in New York on that weekend.

Agnes and I have 15 grand children and this morning June 3rd our oldest grand-daughter Shelly who lives in Columbus, Ohio presented us with our first great grand son, Eric Jeffery who weighed in at 7 lbs. wearing no trunks!!

Hope to see some new faces along with the regulars at the Pines in September.

Art Koerner

## **Co. "G" 331st**

There is joy in the Macaluso household, our son, Cpt. Wayne Macaluso returned home from the Persian Gulf on the 28th of May. It was a long wait at the airfield and a long drive to Fort Polk, but he was glad to be home. His daughter, who was only 5 weeks old when he left, will be 10 months old in a few days. She looked at him as to say, who are you Bud. After a few days she knew it was her Dad. For you people that were in the Ordnance Branch (That's Wayne's Branch) it is now called Materials Management, although he still wears the Ord-

nance Insignia.

I have heard from about twelve of the men from G Company, and we have some good news and some bad news.

I have told you about Mort Gaynor. He is still taking some test, but I don't believe Mort is feeling good these days.

Joe Phillipone has had trouble with his bypass operation and is going to another clinic for another opinion. These two men need our prayers and any encouragement we can give them.

We all know that we are getting up in age, and as a reminder, Al Suess the baby of the crowd has reached 65 years of age, so we do find that it is later than we think.

I believe that both Joe and Mort are still planning on attending the reunion at the Pines in September.

I talked to Ralston the other day. I had a card from his daughter (it is more like an invitation to their parents 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 30th of June. Let's send him a card to let him know we still think of him. I didn't realize that Kermit was as old as I am, and didn't know that he was married at that time.

Had a letter from Singleton, he seems to be doing fine, but like all of us age is catching up with him. He informed me that Jim Porter is having a little trouble. Also, that Jim and his wife have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

I am trying to convince some of the men that live up in the east, that this is the year that they should attend the reunion in New York. So far I have heard from Bob Goldstein, John Rung, Clyde Flanary, Casel Bush, Richard Heath, Ripley, Joe Ruberto, Gene Costanzo, Ed Walsh, Al Suess, Joe Phillipone, Lee Titus, Babe Gautschi, Mike Mizerock.

Mike seems to keep busy these days entertaining the men from the Cleveland Chapter, Mike is still in the habit and putting our good food, and that seems to be drawing the crowds.

About a month ago, I had a call from a Herman Day, who was a member of E Company, he was one of the men that was captured at the Rhine River, he has been living in Lafayette, La for the past twenty years.

I sent him a roster of the men in E company that were members of the Association.

I tried to contact him as I went through Lafayette last week but no luck, I will contact him later.

Also on my little trip through Louisiana I stopped in Duson, to see Izzy Labbe; To the men of the Ordnance Izzy promises to be in New York in September.

Talked with Kate Pangle and loyal seems to be keeping pace no improvement and no set backs. Keep plugging, there is another one of men that will celebrate a 50th Anniversary this year. Good Luck to all of you and hope; you have many more.

Hope to see you in New York at the Pines in September, make your plans now. I have also heard from Lt. Fish, who was member for G.

Capt. Mac.



## 323rd FA Hq. Btry

A few weeks ago I visited George Polites in Dracut, Ma. He has been ill for the last few years but never has lost his sense of humor. If you get a minute drop him a line or card he certainly will enjoy hearing from you.

Erwin Erhardt tells me he was with Tom Houlette in Sidney, Ohio. I believe Bob Shumann was also there and they had a great time together.

I went down to Altoona, Pa. to attend the 50th Anniversary of Don and Amy St. John on May 18th. Their family had a nice party planned and I was happy to be invited. It was nice to see them all again, along with Lois Shaner, Gerry, Sandy and Sharon. It was a great celebration. Good Luck to Don and Amy in the next 50 years.

I had a letter from Ralph Morgan today. Frank Wirth and we hope Dusty Starbuck will have a meal with us in Fort Meyers, Va. on June 30th. Nancy and I are looking forward to this meeting.

Dallas Williams is building a new home in North Carolina. He moved back from Portland, Oregon this past year.

I telephoned Les Taylor from Harrisburg, Pa. but got no answer. He must have been out golfing.

Pat DiGiammerino tells me he has heard from Richard Audette from Hudson Falls, N.Y. Richard talked with Captain Shogren on the phone. We are glad to hear they are getting together again. George Connors has made a few Boston Chapter meetings.

Don't forget to send a few dollars for the Memorial Page for our departed buddies.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan

323 F.A.



## Cards & Letters

May 31, 1991

Dear Mr. Derickson:

Enclosed are 3 photographs, each numbered on the back.

1. Stephen L. Harris somewhere in Europe
2. Stephen L. Harris 3rd from left
3. Stephen L. Harris ?

My brother "Stevie" was KIA Jan. 11, 1945, 83/331 AT Co.

If possible, please publish these in the THUNDER-

BOLT. If anyone could respond to them I would be grateful.

I am going to try to make it to the reunion.

Sincerely,

Godfrey Harris



Stephen L. Harris - somewhere in Europe.



Stephen L. Harris - 3rd from left.



Stephen L. Harris - ?

Samuel R. Cook  
1505 S. 4th St.  
Wilmington, NC. 28401  
1st Bn. Hq. Co. 330th Inf.

Hello Robert;

Just a short note to let you know that I am enclosing my dues for the coming year 91-92.

I am hoping that you and Pearl are doing well & that Pearl has recovered from her accident.

I have been looking through Division book & I haven't seen anyone from "Charlie Company" 330th Inf. Regt. or Hq Co. 330th Inf. 1st. Bn. I took Basic training with "Charlie Company" & stayed until Tenn. Maneuvers, then after we walked to Cp. Breakenridge I was transferred to 1st. Bn. Hq. Co. 330th Inf. into the Anti-Tank Platoon. I stayed with the Anti-Tank-Platoon until I was wounded on the 8th of July 1944. I was in the Aid-Station when the German's over-ran the place. We were finally rescued by our Engineers, they escorted to the other Aid-Station, we were checked over then moved out to the beach where we were flown to England. While I was in the hospital in England I received a letter from my Father telling me he had received a telegram from the War-Department that I was missing-in-action, & I wrote him back I was not missing because I was in the hospital in England. I rejoin my outfit sometime in January located in a small town somewhere in Belgium-(Fron-Le-Compe), I think that is the way to spell it. I stayed with the unit until the war was over, then I was one of the hundreds of men that was transferred to the 8th Arm'd. Div. to bring the colors back to the states, then process to be discharged from the Army. I went to work in Washington DC. for about ten months then was transferred to Atlanta, Ga. April 1, 1946 I enlisted in the US. Army Air Corp. I spent over 20 years in service, went to Korea Dec. 1950 returned May 1952 was stationed at Ft. Bragg until Sept. 1954, transferred to Ft. Eustis, Va. & forty-five days later was on orders for Germany, spent 35 1/2 months in Germany, sent back to the States to Ft. Knox, Ky., discharged Nov. 1958, stayed out of Army for 6 days, re-enlisted at Ft. Jackson for six years. 1961 when the Berlin-wall was put up I was sent back to Germany & assigned to the 8th Inf. Div. 16th Inf. Battle-Group Hq. I stayed in Germany for 4 years then returned to the States and put in my request for Retirement &\* retired in August the last day of the month 1966.

I guess I will close for now.

Your friend  
Sam R. Cook  
1505 S. 4th St.  
Wilmington, NC. 28401  
1st. Bn. Hq. Co. 330th Inf.



On the 26th of April, 91, I received a phone call from Anthony Viccaro, telling me that a French Mayor, of a city near Dinnard, France, was writing his daughter & son-in-law near my home in Detroit. He asked me if I would represent the 83rd Div., in receiving a medal that the Mayor wanted to give to the 83rd Inf. Div. in recognition of our liberating his town on Aug. 18, 1944. They have erected a monument in their town, and every year on Aug. 18, they have a memorial service in honor of the 83rd Div.

I told Tony Viccaro I would be pleased and honored to except the medal on behalf of the 83rd Inf. Div.

The mayor asked me to in turn, present this medal at our next reunion in N.Y. at the Pines. He also gave me a letter, stating their feeling for our Division, in the Liberation of their town.

(Letter to be printed in Thunderbolt.)

I found the mayor, his wife, daughter and son-in-law, to be pleasant people, and the mayor & wife spoke very good English.

We took pictures of the presentations and I had to leave for another appointment. Tony asked me to bring a jacket & cap, of the 83rd Div. and in turn present him with our symbol to be encased in a frame for display purposes. Compliments of Tony Viccaro.

Looking forward to make the presentation at the Pines in Sept. in N.Y. to the 83rd Inf. Div. Association.

Vito Palazzolo  
Co. G. 329th

P.S. Oddly enough, I was wounded on Aug. 15th 1944 in our quest to liberate Dinnard, the City the above mayor lives near, and is mayor of.

Vito



Mayor Michel LeBras receiving Jacket & cap to be put in museum by Vito Palazzolo, Compliments of Tony Viccaro



Vito Palazzolo excepting "The Medal of Honor" for the 83rd Inf. Div. Asso., presented by Mayor Michel Le Bras, Saint Briac Sur-Mer.

Mr. Vito Palazzolo

To: All 83 Inf. Div. Assoc. Members

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I find myself among you today.

I greatly enjoyed the unexpected visit of twenty veterans and their spouses to St. Briac, two years ago.

However, we had to be brief, as the veterans also wanted to visit other places they had liberated: therefore, they only had a few minutes to gather in front of the memorial erected in St. Briac in honor of the Americans who had lost their lives in combat for the liberation of our city.

I felt a deep regret after the veterans' departure not having been able to make symbolic gesture of recognition toward those dear soldiers of the American Army who had given us freedom.

I shall endeavor today, by offering the medal of honor of the city of St. Briac to rectify this omission and to prove that we have not forgotten the bravery, the devotion, and the glorious victory of the American Army. Also thanks to whom France and many other countries had regained their freedom.

Following the war, the population of St. Briac had begun funding for a memorial to be built in a public park in honor of your dead: a captain and two privates First Class.

Ever since August 15, 1945, on the anniversary of the liberation of St. Briac, the citizenry holds a parade in front of the memorial on which today the American and French flags unfurl, and a commemorative ceremony takes place.

Our meeting today and the presentation of the Medal of Honor of our city to the 83rd Infantry Division shall confirm and reassure our gratitude toward the entire American Nation.

In conclusion, I thank my son-in-law, Major, A.R. Colter, (ret.) for assisting me in my desire to arrange this meeting.

Upon returning home, I shall arrange an exhibit of photographs that Mr. Tony Vaccaro has generously offered to put at our disposal.

This will probalby occur in 1992 and thus enable us to contribute to the memory of this extraordinary Victory of World War II. Thank you for having come and be assured of my efforts that the memory of your bravery and sacrifices during this famous odyssey shall stay alive.

Mayor, Michel Le Bras  
Saint-Briac-Sur-Mer

Post card sent asking for General Dodge's address.

Dear Bob,

I suppose my letter to my company A buddies got there to late for this next issue of the Thunderbolt. However I would like to get the enclosed news to you while it is still fresh in my mind.

Joseph F. McMillan died last evening. Mac was a regular at our reunions and I am sure he will be missed very much by his Co. A. 308th Engineer buddies.

I also heard from Ann DeMarchi. She tells me that J.R. is in a bad way with cancer of the prostate and spine.

A bit of good news, I got a very nice letter from General Roy T. Dodge who was our battalion commander during W.W. If you could publish it, I am sure it will be of interest to all 308th Engineers.

I don't know if the General is a member of the Association, but as you can tell he is interested in us. If he is not a member, please let me know and I will take care of his membership as I have done with some other of our buddies.

January 12, 1991

Dear George,

I certainly did appreciate your sending me the letter about the A Company news. I did indeed find something of interest in it. I have to hand it to you guys for keeping the organization alive and active. I haven't done my share for sure, but your note and the letter have started my nostalgia wheels turning and I want to make the next reunion if at all possible.

This Iraq situation has somehow caused me to start reliving WWII all over again. I have a grandson who is now a 1st Lt. with a combat engineer battalion in Germany and his unit has just been alerted to ship out to Saudi Arabia in the next two or three weeks. This takes me back to Camp Atterbury waiting for our call to the port.



Then the short stay at Camp Shanks, N.Y., followed by the stay in England waiting for D-Day.

My thoughts went on from there all the way to the Elbe.

All of this got me in the mood to want to talk to some of you guys about the old WW II days. I went on to my full thirty-year career so I had other experiences, but none like quite the same as those with the 308th; what a great outfit that was! I can't believe today's outfits can perform like that one did.

All of this adds up to what I said earlier, I am going to make every effort to get to the next reunion. I presume I will receive some information later as to exactly when it is to be and exactly where "The Pines" is. Please let me know if you think I will not get it as a matter of routine.

I am still in pretty good health for my age. I guess we are all getting up there now. I am fully retired now except that I have been asked to go down to the Washington Transit Authority about 2 or 3 times a month on a consultant basis to advise them on a couple of contracts that have gone sour. Other than that I play golf about three times a week. Mrs. Dodge is well too except for a couple of artificial knee joints and some foot arch trouble. However, she plans to come with me if all works out that I can come.

Again, thanks a lot for thinking of me and sending me the news. In the future I will try to be a little more active.

Sincerely,  
Roy T. Dodge

P.S. I got myself a Word Processor for Christmas and this will be the first letter that I will have sent outside the family. If you find any errors, keep them to yourself.

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## **During husband's captivity** **Mrs. Tice maintained** **positive outlook**

By Robert W. Steuteville

Staff Writer

Cynthia Tice, the wife of Air Force Maj. Jeffrey S. Tice, said she survived the ordeal of her husband's 46-day captivity in Iraq by keeping her and her children's outlook as normal and positive as possible.

"I never looked at it in terms of 'would I get him back?'" I always thought it was just a matter of time," Mrs. Tice said Thursday night during a banquet in her husband's honor at the Perkasio Owls Club attended by 125 people.

A group of residents stood and applauded as the Tices arrived at the Owls Club, waving hand-held American flags.

Maj. Tice, who lost about 43 pounds on a starvation diet while a POW, sat down to a meal of ham, turkey and mashed potatoes.

Also at the dinner were Maj. Tice's parents, Josephine

and Darwin Tice of East Rockhill Township.

Mrs. Tice, who spent much of the night looking after their two daughters, Jessica, 7, and Amanda, 3, said she tried to maintain a daily routine in her home in Spain during her husband's captivity.

"I kept life as normal as I could," she said.

"When I found out he was shot down, I was hopeful because I knew (other Allied pilots) had seen a good parachute" belonging to her husband. "So I knew he was OK. It was just a matter of who got to him first."

Unfortunately, Maj. Tice was taken prisoner before he could be rescued.

Three days later, Mrs. Tice saw her husband on television after the Iraqis had made videos of captured Allied pilots.

Even that was cause for optimism, she said.

"He was speaking clearly and sharply, and he looked OK," she said. However confident she was, Mrs. Tice acknowledged she had help while waiting for her husband's return home. "I had a lot of support," she said.

Among the flag-wavers who cheered Tice was Debbie Ansbach of Perkasio, who attended the banquet with her friend, Kathleen Romendio, who brought her children Emily, 8, and Jason, 13.

"We just want to welcome him back and give him support," said Ms. Ansbach. "We're just glad things worked out the way we wanted them to."

She called Maj. Tice "a humble person, and that's a tremendous quality to have."



Tice gets together with Norman Schuster (left) of Sellersville, a World War II veteran and past commander of Hartzel-Crouthamel Post 280 of Perkasio, and retired Brig. Gen. Hugh S. Niles of Sellersville, who served with the Pennsylvania National Guard, at the Owls Club. (Staff photo by Donald R. Boorse)

Owen & Mildred Biller  
624 Eads Bluff Rd. N.W.  
Georgetown, Tenn. 37336  
Dear Bob & Pearl:

Just a line to let you know we are sending in our reservations to the Pines Hotel so we can see you again. We are moving to a suburb of Cleveland, Tenn. on route 75 near Chattonooga. It is hard to leave our church friends of 48 years but we need to be with our 2 sons that live side by side on Lake Chickamauga. It is a good place to fish all over the place. HA! We are enclosing a recent article to give you some idea what we have been doing during our life here in Indiana.

Should we bring our slides of the trip to France to show at the Pines? We will be driving from Tenn. to the Pines. We can be reached by phone if necessary to our Son Douglas Biller after June 4th. 1-615-336-5290.

As of now we are packing and moving little by little.

I have just finished a note to Sgt. Barr - mess sgt. of Co. A 331st. Barr & I were good friends and we have good memories of life in Camp Atterbury and places after training.

Hope this finds you both in good health

Owen & Mildred

## Biller played role of Mother Nature

March 2, 1991

by Jeff Walz

The Vidette-Messenger

UNION TWP. - From the ponds and lake he built, to a tree limb forming the letter "B", Owen Biller has left a lasting imprint on his wooded wonderland.

Biller and his wife, Mildred, bought 78 acres of useless farmland in 1957 and transformed it into a nature haven at 640 W. County road 100N.

Born in Gary, Biller moved to Porter County to "escape gangism" which had plagued their two sons in the Gary schools.

"I wanted to find a place where the boys could learn everything, where they could go fishing and learn how tools work," Biller said.

"When I bought the land, it looked like a strip mine. The previous farmer didn't know what he was doing."

From 1957 to 1964 nothing -- not even weeds -- grew on the adobe, brick-like surface. Once, he planted wheat in one section, but birds ate the crop.

Before the Billers moved into their present home in 1969, the family lived in a brick house at the entrance to the property. Bricks for the home, constructed about 120 years ago, were from the Hobart Brick Yard.

Biller, a 40-year employee of U.S. Steel, used his electrical engineering skills in developing the natural sanctuary.

"I looked for a site for 12 years. I've wanted to make

a lake ever since I was a boy."

While growing up, he and his brother, Marvin, began to develop lake constructing abilities. Marvin, who lives south of Owen, has built three of his own ponds.

One of the property's numerous highlights is what Biller calls the biggest washout in Porter County. Before he moved there, water from heavy rainfalls would rush downstream, developing a gaping hole in the earth.

Formed from what he called improper farming techniques, the washout is about 50 feet deep and 150 feet across. It took a lot of work and trees to remedy the erosion, he said.

Underfoot is original buffalo grass, grown from seed here years ago.

Almost everyday, Biller walks the property on trails fit for both man and machine.

"You make the laboratory, and other birds and wildlife will find it," said Biller, pointing to tracks of various creatures.

While he had a zoologist job lined up at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, the depression halted those plans. Instead, he used the bulk of his vacation time to build his own sanctuary.

On the diverse trees and flowers, one of his favorites is the rose pink, an orchid.

Biller, who credits his wife with tremendous assistance, said it would be almost impossible for another enterprising nature buff to perform a similar transformation today. Bureaucratic red tape would get in the way.

Sometimes, he treats children from Central Baptist Church in Hobart to sleigh rides on a silver chariot, pulling the young ones on three miles of trails with a tractor.

"The most difficult part of the job with building the lake and ponds was the earth-moving, getting the area cleared. I needed my sons and brothers to help with that part."

At a recent county Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, Biller came under fire from nearby residents. He plans to sell the property to a developer who wants to turn it into a subdivision.

"My health is not the best, and I want to move to Tennessee to live near my two sons. The developer has told me he wants to keep it as much as possible how it is now."

Biller's property, which he's been trying to sell for 12 years, would be converted into two-acre lots.

"I'll leave with mixed emotions. I put 35 years of my life into this place."

The couple's sons, Tom and Douglas, each have six acres side-by-side on Lake Chickamauga. Owen and Mildred plan to live somewhere in their sons' own nature habitat.

**The Vidette Messenger**  
**Valparaiso, Indiana**





### **A message to all 83rd members...**

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**83rd Reunion** will be held at the Pines Hotel  
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