



GENERALS WARD & CHENNAULT & LT. HELSETH POST NO. 1 (CHINA)  
CHINA POST NO. 1, THE SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE POST, OPERATING IN EXILE SINCE 1948

J. C. BOND, COMMANDER  
36428 JACKSON ROAD, SLIDELL, LOUISIANA 70460

POOP SHEET - 264  
MARCH 1998

JANET RAE BOND, ADJUTANT  
36428 JACKSON ROAD, SLIDELL, LOUISIANA 70460

YEAR OF THE TIGER  
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1. **CHINA POST #1 1998 REUNION:** Our 1998 Reunion is in Colorado Springs, Colorado on SEPT 25-27, 1998. It will be at the RADISSON INN NORTH at 8110 No Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80920; Phone: (719) 598-5770. The room prices are \$60 for single or doubles plus tax. The cutoff date for making reservations and receiving our special room rate is 1 SEPT 1998. Also, for those of you who wish to come early or stay later, our group prices are good from 24 Sept - 28 Sept 1998. SO START MAKING THOSE PLANS. Our hosts are the COLORADO SPRINGS RESIDENT RAVENS, and they are planning a glorious time for us all. Since the U.S. Air Force Academy is in Colorado Springs, we plan to tour it and to have some other great events as well. Reunion packets will be going out to you in June giving full details, including schedule of events, prices, etc. MAKE THIS ANOTHER GREAT REUNION--and REMEMBER THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR THAT TO HAPPEN IS FOR YOU TO ATTEND!!!

**IMPORTANT NOTICE -- PLEASE READ!!!!**

As we advised in our last Poop Sheet some major changes are about to take place with regard to China Post. The following two items detail these changes and it is important that EVERY MEMBER read Items No. 2 and 3 below:

2. **POST HOME TO BE A REALITY:** We have placed an escrow contract on a .85 acre tract which is some 37,000 sq ft of land in Houston, TEXAS for the construction of a Post Home and Museum. Closing date for the land is set for 1 June 1998 and we are working on drawing plans, arranging financing, and all of the other things that go with this type of project. Since we cannot yet give you an exact ground breaking date, there is still no completion date, but all efforts will be made to keep the membership updated on progress.

The building site is located in the "Regency Square Office Park" on the Southwest Freeway, US 59 between Hillcroft and Bellaire. There is a furniture store behind us, a Golden Corral Steak House across the street--across the steak house parking lot, is the parking lot of a new 4-story Budgetel Motel. Along the freeway--and across from the Budgetel--is the Hilton Southwest Hotel. Within a half-mile on both sides of the freeway there are several motels, restaurants and shops--and the Sharpstown Mall is located at the intersection with Bellaire. It is a good location with restaurants, motels, shopping areas, etc., close by--which was one of our primary goals in locating a piece of property suitable for our Post Home.

3. **CHINA POST OPERATIONS ARE MOVING TO HOUSTON:** Shortly, the functions (day-to-day operation) of the Post will start being moved to Houston in preparation for the new building and museum. In the interim between this move and construction of the Post Home, we have obtained POST OFFICE BOX IN HOUSTON in the Post Office that is most convenient to our planned site. (This will probably be a permanent box for the Post even after we are set up in our Post Home Building with a regular street address.)

Also, we will be setting up a "temporary" office in the area to work out of for the next year or so during the construction phase. New phone numbers for China Post, etc., will be provided as they develop. Starting with our new 1999 membership year on 1 JULY 1998, all new memberships, renewals, correspondence, etc., will be handled out of HOUSTON and not SLIDELL, LA. FROM 1 JULY 1998, please use the following BOX NUMBER for all correspondence pertaining to Adjutant functions and membership:

CHINA POST NO. 1  
P. O. BOX 570607  
HOUSTON, TX 77257-0607

Deputy Commander FRED PLATT will assume his elected duties as Adjutant on 1 July 1998 and can be reached through the HOUSTON BOX NUMBER. Post Commander J.C. BOND can still be reached through the Slidell address and phone number.

3. **CHINA POST OPERATIONS ARE MOVING TO HOUSTON (cont.):**

**SPECIAL NOTE:** These changes take effect on 1 July 1998. Until that time, continue to correspond with JANET & J.C. in Slidell as FRED will not be checking the Houston Post Office box on a daily basis until sometime in early June. We ask the membership for their cooperation and patience during this transitional period.

4. **MEMBERSHIP:** Our membership year is going along fairly well; however, for those of you who have not yet renewed for 1998, PLEASE DO SO immediately as the 1997 membership year ended on 31 Dec 1997 and you are delinquent in the eyes of the Legion. Final renewal notices have just gone forward so hurry up and renew!

5. **EMBLEM SALES:** Our challenge coin and new patches have been going well--if you don't have your new permanent coin or the new patch with the stand-up dragon, you sure ought to get one or more! The coins are \$10 with \$2 Shipping & Handling. The patches are \$5 each with \$1 S&H. After 1 July 1998 the ruling on our challenge coins WILL CHANGE so that the NEW PERMANENT CHALLENGE COINS will outrank the interim one. In other words, in any challenge where one of those involved is holding the NEW PERMANENT COIN and the other person is holding the old interim coin--the individual with the NEW PERMANENT COIN WINS! So get your permanent coins now! You might lose more money in buying drinks than it costs for a permanent coin!!!

6. **CHINA POST #1 BRICK FUND DONORS:** Following is a list of donors not previously reported:

BARBARA & ABE GOLDFARB	\$200	IN MEM MARTY KAUFMAN
NO. VIRGINIA MEM DIV	\$100	" " " "
JERRY WILLIAMS	\$300	
ED CONNOR & MIKE EVERS	\$100	In MEM MARTY KAUFMAN

7. **CHINA POST #1 MUSEUM FUND DONORS:** Following is a list of donors not previously reported:

IMELDA BEAUDRY	\$ 50	IN MEM GENE BEAUDRY
BRIAN RAMSEY	\$ 25	

8. **CHINA POST #1 DRAGON FUND DONORS:** Following is a list of donors (U.S. \$100) or more not previously reported:

ARTHUR J SPARKS	\$100	C,W, BELLAMY	\$100
LANCE GREENWALD	\$100	ROGER URBANIAK	\$115
THOMAS RILEY	\$100	RICHARD PILLSBURY	\$100
JOE R STEEN	\$100	ROBERT de St. ORMONDE	\$100
VICTOR GILBERT	\$100	ROBERT G KLAUS	\$100
CLARENCE PAINTNER, JR.	\$100	LOUIS SEIDEMAN	\$200
RICHARD McELHANNON	\$100	JAMES C BOYD	\$100
HAROLD HUNT, JR.	\$100	PETER W OLSON	\$100

9. **FINAL POOP SHEET:** Except for the Poop Sheet sending out Reunion packets in June, this will be my final newsletter. I want to thank all of you who have been so good in writing, calling in news and sending in items you felt would be of interest to our members. Without input from the members, there would have been no "Poop" for the Poop Sheet. So even though the writer of the Poop Sheet will change--keep those letters, articles, jokes, etc., coming. I am sure FRED PLATT, who is assuming Adjutant duties to include the Poop Sheet, will appreciate receiving them.

It has been quite a run--I started writing the Poop Sheet in 1986 and it is now 1998! Time passes so quickly when you're having fun! However, I must admit it will be nice to read what someone else has written instead of having to write it myself.

I can truthfully say that I have never met, corresponded with, or written about a nicer group of folks--or ones that I could be more proud to be associated with than the membership of China Post No. 1. You have treated me extremely well and I hope in some way, I have brightened your day somewhere along the way. You're the greatest and I now look forward to just becoming one of you again!

10. AND NOW ON TO THE NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS: First, since our last Poop Sheet (263) was devoted to the Reunion, some of the following news items are a bit outdated (but heck so am I). However, even though the news may be a wee bit stale, we figured you would still want to hear some of the newsworthy items folks have sent in...Let's start with RICHARD PILLSBURY who wrote in advising he couldn't make our Ft. Walton Reunion since he would be in the Bahamas then (don't expect sympathy from us, RICHARD!). He also said: "I just got back from 2 months on an offshore platform in Vietnam. The platform is about 120 miles out of Vam Tau (sp?), one of the old American bases. It had been almost 30 years since I was last in VN. It's still a beautiful country with friendly people. In some ways, VN has changed quite a bit. In others, it's still the same. Slowly VN is developing the oil and gas reserves she has and that's where I come in. We just finished a five compressor train installation for gas transmission and injection into their offshore oil fields. By next year, they should be able to have enough gas to run 4 of the 5 compressor sets. I expect to see more and more American companies doing business in Vietnam in the coming years. I'm still working for Dresser-Rand Turbo Products, spending more time in Asia than in the States...only get back home 90-100 days a year." RICHARD ended with: "Even though most people mentioned in the Poop Sheet are not known to me, I still enjoy reading it. You have done a great job running the Post. I'm sure you're looking forward to 'full retirement'. Best of all to you both. CP#1 is a proud Post and I for one am proud to be a member."
11. GENE ROSSELL is always good about keeping in touch. We are sorry to hear of the death of his brother. He writes, "I went to St. Louis two times this year and the last time was for the funeral of my brother. I was on my way to the annual Air Commando Assn (ACA) Reunion and was in Florida when I received notice of his death. I missed the Reunion which was special this year, since they were inducting me into the Air Commando Hall of Fame...The Internet really takes up my spare time; really enjoy it. The ACA home page is full of activities and the e-mail requires a lot of time looking for lost friends, seeking information about their fathers killed in Vietnam in our units, meeting people you haven't seen in 30 years, etc. By the way, I turned 60 this year and my daughter threw a great party with relatives, friends and old military buddies showing up. Really had a ball..." Well, GENE, congratulations on your induction into the ACA Hall of Fame and a belated Happy Birthday. And of course, our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your brother.
12. Nice note from STAN PATROVSKY who wrote in shortly after joining the Post: "In 1972, when I was working for the Air Force in Tainan, Taiwan at the Air Asia Facility, we were visited by the Board of Directors of Air Asia--several of them were originally part of GEN CHENNAULT's Flying Tigers. What a thrill to meet some of those legendary heroes!" Well, try to make a Reunion, STAN. You'll be amazed at the legends you will meet, the stories they will tell, and their background and experience.
13. ROGER and MARY FRERICHS wrote in before our Ft. Walton Beach Reunion to advise they "were sorry we won't be able to join you all in Ft. Walton as we are in the midst of relocating from Illinois to Phoenix. We are looking forward to next year when we should be settled." Great--will see you in Colorado Springs in September!
14. JIM CONNEELY sent in a clipping of a VFW organization that advertised themselves with: "Everyone is welcome to the Only Post #1 in the world" JIM, as a loyal CP#1 member, took offense. Well, JIM, since it's a VFW Post, they might be the only VFW Post #1 in the world--however, we all know there's only UNO CHINA POST NO. 1 in the world and WE'RE IT! Too bad for everyone else!
- JIM also said, "Don't know if I told you" and then advised that his nephew, who was a co-pilot in a MedEvac chopper in Saudi had been killed--"2-3 hours before the cease fire (Gulf War)." He said his nephew was "going back into the crashed chopper with the plane's captain/kicker to get the corpsman out--gas erupted--KERRY HEIN gone. Some GI's in Long Island, NY got a Post named after him..." So very sorry to hear about your nephew, JIM. We didn't know.
15. JOE TAYS checked in last July to say that, "All's well here. Hope all's well with you. Working a contract with Bechtel building cellular sites. Should be stateside this year...Thanks to all of you for taking great care of the Post!"
16. Wonderful letter from CRAIG DUEHRING in Feb 1998. "As you well know, TERRI and I pulled up stakes over two years ago--to come back to Minnesota and follow a dream. Quite honestly, we didn't know what we were getting into but we knew that GOD expected more out of us than we had already given, so here we are!" Well--CRAIG's dream was to run for our Congress, and he has declared his candidacy for the U.S. Congress -- Minnesota 2nd Congressional District. Good for you, CRAIG. We know you gained a lot of political insight two years ago when you ran AND THEN, when there was a deadlock in the endorsing convention, you threw your support behind the other candidate in a show of party unity. It takes a strong and dedicated person to do something like that. J.C. and I personally wish you good luck in your endeavor. (Anyone wanting more info on this, can contact CRAIG direct at P.O. Box 541, New Ulm, MN 56073.)
17. MACALAN THOMPSON sent in a few of the old LAO three-headed elephant decals saying, "Put one on the back of your car and see if anyone beeps...All quiet here in the 'Burbs of Bangkok.'" He noted that he was now a ways from his favorite watering holes--"I'm 60 KM from the Madrid and 57 from the Lonestar so don't get down that way quite as often as previously. Still, the air is better out this way and it's a tad quieter...Still get up to Vientiane about every 90 days...Trip in March (1997) was interesting; stayed at the U.S. Ambassador's place. Way back when--I was too low a grade with USAID to get invited there for a function. Now the Ambassador, WENDY CHAMBERLIN, is an old friend from pre-75 days. She was formerly an IVS volunteer in Vientiane. She even came out to make a couple of parachute jumps with the club that an Australian friend and I started in 1973. She's now come the full circle!"
18. KEN MANKE wrote in to try and locate "an address/phone number for a PHILIP C WOODBURN." He said that he knew PHIL had once been a CP#1 member and thought he might still be. "I worked with him while we were both with LSI in Vietnam in the late 60's and early 70's. I would like to contact him and hopefully find some more of the old 'gang'. We were all working in aviation at the time...Any info you can provide would be greatly appreciated.
- Say hello to J.C. The Post won't be the same without him at the helm, but I can imagine that over the years the Post business has grown into a huge chore." Well, KEN--at our Ft. Walton Beach Reunion, J.C. agreed to run again and was elected to remain Commander until 31 May 1999. Also, as I wrote you earlier, PHILIP C WOODBURN has apparently not been a Post member for a number of years. So---I am asking all you good folks out there reading this, if you have any info on MR. WOODBURN, please send it to us and we will see that KEN gets it. Thanks.
19. J.C. and I are in a quandry. Got a call from our latest Bullshipper, BILL BERGMAN, telling us that he was going to be working near Slidell for awhile and was looking forward to seeing us. AHFFF, are ear plugs enough when entertaining a Bullshipper--or should we lock ourselves into a sound-proof booth??? Oh well, there's always that trusty DUCT TAPE that we can put over his mouth and our ears. COME AHEAD, BILL. We're really looking forward to seeing you and hearing you (did I really say that?). All kidding aside, you will be a welcome addition to the Slidell area.
20. BETTER LATE THAN NEVER OR BETTER NEVER THAN LATE--That is the question! A very belated Happy Birthday to RALPH SIPES in Australia. RALPH--you were 70 in Aug 1997, so I guess this is a Happy 70-1/2 birthday greeting! Hope it was a great one and that the 71st coming up this August is even greater! Thanks to RAY BALMER who attended RALPH's birthday bash and wrote, "A great day was had by family and friends and RALPH inherited enough bottles of wine to last him until his 80th!" Hey, no one ever has enough wine!!!
21. One of our great Reunion Bartenders (they're all tops), ROGER VOGELER wrote to say that he was off to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. "I'll return home in July 1998. This 5 months will give me adequate time to check out all of the watering holes in Southeast Asia!" And we know that you will do a magnificent job of waterhole hopping, ROGER. Bet it will be nice to be on the other side of the bar for a change--and have someone else dish up those drinks.
22. BOBBY COCHRAN has retired. He writes, "Retired from Flight Safety...on 1 Mar 1997. My agenda--NEVER HAVING ANOTHER AGENDA! 12 grandkids and one great grandchild to cover!" Hey, BOBBY, that sounds like work not retirement!

23. Had a request from an OLIVER G BROWN V in late Oct to Post members. He wrote, "I am conducting a search for some items that I hope your members may be able to help me track down. For the past 7 years, I have been trying to find 3 items that I would like to give my father. After being referred from one govt agency to another--resulting in only dead ends--I have decided to enlist the help of your members in this cause. My father, OLIVER G BROWN IV, is a member of China Post #1. He served in the Navy from 1958-1963 as an aircrewman. He was assigned to VAH-123 based at Whidbey Island NAS, and flew in Douglas A3Ds. I do know that the planes were painted gray with the orange nose, tail and wingtips. The tail had the letters "NJ" painted in black. The three items I am looking for are any photographs of any VAH-123 A3D from the early sixties, a photograph or original VAH-123 Squadron patch, and a set of aircrewman wings from the early sixties." OLIVER enclosed a small picture saying that it is, "...the only photograph I have found to date, but it was taken from a book and the publisher refuses to pass my name to the owner of the photograph. I will be more than happy to pay for any of the items your members are able to locate. I will also track down any lead that they may come up with for this special project. Anyone having any info can contact me at the following address and number: OLIVER G BROWN V, 1306 W 3rd Ave, Albany, GA 31707--Phone: (912) 438-0355." So if any of you can help out with this, please do so and contact OLIVER direct.
24. NOEL CAVE, formerly a teacher in Saudi Aramco schools, is now working in Warsaw, Poland at the American School there. She seems to be having a fun time: "I've written my holiday letters from interesting locations and this year is no exception. Singing the first line from the song, 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas', seemed ludicrous in Dhahran, but definitely appropriate in Warsaw, Poland! I have become acquainted with the joys of Polartec and thermal underwear in a new and meaningful way. While Warsaw does not have the Siberia-like conditions that everyone imagines, they do a superb job of turning the outside temperatures way down and keeping the skies gray from mid-Nov to April. Fortunately, it's toasty inside. I'm partly through my 2nd year as the Speech Therapist for the American School of Warsaw. There are 49 nationalities present which makes for a colorful and fascinating U.N. Day. The little kids in snowsuits look like the Michelin Tire Man. The rest of us fight off looking like him from the yummy breads, cheeses and pierogies that keep us in our winter hibernation. 1997 has been a year of travel... Defrosted in Madrid in mid-Feb, basked in Baden-Baden in April, toured Berlin in May and spent the summer at home, glorious home. On my way back to Warsaw, I made stops in D.C. and New York...Went back to Madrid mid-Oct to visit friends...Then I was off to Copenhagen in early Nov and the Hague for a teachers' conference in late Nov. My suitcase never gets stored for very long." Gee, NOEL, it sounds great. I won't even ask if you miss Dhahran!
25. JERI and ALLEN EDWARDS have checked in to update us on the family. "We are all well and all our kids are very well too. Three of them are married and one boy and one girl remain single--both of them live in California now... DAN is a Chemical Engineer and works for Praxair. SHARON works for an arm of Time Life/Turner Warner and she is soon to decide on a move to San Diego and be in charge of sales for pkg and cartons for San Diego. We hope you are well and happy. We think of you often--especially when reading the Poop Sheet!!!"
26. ED CONNOR wrote to say that they had remembered MARTY KAUFMAN "at the Nov RSL Meeting here in Washington, D.C. We had a minute of silent prayer to wish MARTY goodbye. We will remember him!"
27. FRANK GUMIENIK writes, "Just a quick word from Dubai, UAE. I am still here working as a Customer Support Rep for Bell Technical Services, sub of Bell Helicopter Textron. We have been here going on 20 years now but with all my traveling, total actually spent in Dubai is about a third of that.. When I came out to the M/E in 1977, I was the 'lone rep', and now we have 3. Helicopter business out here is pretty good and with our new BB609 tilt-rotor coming on in 2001, it will be growing much faster...This is a 'new' generation flying machine for the next century..." Thanks FRANK for the note and for the info.
- When you mentioned the year 2001--it sort of brings one up short--the 21st century always seemed so far away before!
28. MIKE FRAKES sent us a Happy New Year wish and said, "I appreciate the quick mailing of the Challenge Coins and patches. One coin is for JIM DAVIS who is also a Post member. JIM and I met after I came home from Zaire in the early 70's. He was at Wheelus AFB - Tripoli, Lybia in the 60's and later after we had met, I went to Lybia in 1976-77 and got to see where he was stationed at with the USAF."
29. RICHARD LOWE provided the following update..."I drive a DAV van to the Iowa City VA Medical Center once a week. Our 13 vans transport over 1,000 vets each month. I meet many interesting vets--many vets are too old or sick to get there on their own. We need more drivers in the network. All my time is credited to the Legion. Our daughter is a NAV on an RO-135 out of Offutt--will spend Christmas in Saudi. We are very proud."
30. JOHN WHITESIDE sent us a "Life After 40" item advising "How to Know You're Growing Older". Here are a few excerpts: "The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals. You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere. Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D. Your children begin to look middle-aged. Your mind makes contracts your body cannot meet. Your knees buckle but your belt won't. Your back goes out more than you do. A fortune teller offers to read your face. You sink your teeth into a good steak and they stay there. Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you see a pretty girl walk by. The best part of your day is over when your alarm goes off." Well, JOHN, about a year back, I made up a list of similar items for a female in our family who had just hit 50. Here are a few: "AARP is putting you on the mailing list for their latest magazine, 'SENIOR SENILITY'. MARILYN MONROE committed suicide long before she ever reached your age. You no longer have to worry if photographs of you are out of focus--you pray they will be. Nobody blames you if your memory is bad--they expect it. Older women are still making career gains: JANE POWELL sells denture adhesive --JUNE ALLYSON, Depends! The personal column is changing your ad from 'Younger woman looking for older man' to 'Older woman looking for younger man--or anyone still breathing'.
31. Really good to hear from another old friend, LARRY CUTTING. LARRY writes from California, "...Things are fine here. I guess I'm retired; being a former Aramco --about the only thing I qualify for is flipping hamburgers! However, am doing fairly well (so far) in the Stock market and am very active in that area. WENDELL (his brother) is also doing fine. He's the Chief of Staff for DUNCAN HUNTER, U.S. Representative, 52nd District, California. HUNTER is one of the very few Vietnam vets (Army Ranger) we have in Congress. Although he wasn't Air Force, he still does a pretty good job!!! The doctor says WENDELL is 'almost cured' which--considering that two years ago he was given 2 to 6 months to live--is damn wonderful...My best for a Great 1998. If you get out to this neck of the woods, give a holler." You can bet on that--if we're that way, you and WENDELL will hear us loud and clear.
32. TIM WALL is down south--way down south in BRAZIL. He wrote to say "Thanks for your continuing work on behalf of CP#1. I have lost contact with my original sponsor and another colleague, JAMES DIMON, in my travels. I hope someday to attend a meeting and get to know you and others I have only read about--but are proud to share membership in CP#1."
33. WILLIAM "BILL" BARBEE, JR., has written regarding an item we had in an earlier newsletter. "I noted with interest Item 51 in the Aug 1997 edition of the Poop Sheet concerning Military Historical Tours, Inc. (MHI) of Alexandria, VA. I am well acquainted with COL WARREN H WIEDHAHN, USMC (ret.), and the work performed by MHI. MRS. BARBEE and I have personally participated in a travel program organized and directed by COL WIEDHAHN of MHI to take approximately 1,000 WWII warriors and their wives back to Guam for the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of that island from the Imperial Japanese forces during WWII. The trip was flawless and it was a delight for all of the participants. I would not hesitate one bit to highly recommend MHI to any individual or group that might be interested in making a pilgrimage back to the Far East. These guys are really good at what they do... Please feel free to publish my endorsement."

34. Our thanks to GEORGE FISCHER who writes the FISCHER REPORT for the following article giving his thoughts on various subjects:

"DEAR WARRIORS:

Much has happened since my last letter to you. Saddam and the U.S. have retreated from war, at least for the time being. He will tug on the chain that keeps us attached to the Persian Gulf and we will go through another feckless exercise. All of our people in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia stayed put through the 'crisis'.

Indonesia's woes continue, and, according to our people there, not much will change until President Soeharto leaves office. Americans in Jakarta are keeping a low profile, while those in Sumatra, particularly at Pekanbaru where Caltex has a large contingency of Americans, apparently have been unaffected. The Indonesians blame the Chinese, as they usually do, and the Americans for their problems.

Thailand is recovering nicely, as is the Philippines, although slowly. We continue to receive orders for manpower from Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well, of course, from the Middle East. We are also beginning to see some activity in South America, particularly Venezuela, Argentina, Chile and Peru. Latin America is an awakening economic region that will produce billions of dollars in business over the next two decades. As our Fischer Report Newsletter, and demands for personnel on our Manlink Data Base attests, overseas work continues to be strong.

As for our President, ABC SAM DONALDSON had it about right when he said, "The reason that this President has trouble telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, is that, for him, they are three different stories.

If you are interested in working overseas, contact either myself or my son MIKE at: THE FISCHER REPORT, P.O. Box 2770, Laguna Hills, CA 92654. Ph: 1-800-984-9777; Fax: (714) 966-3381; E-Mail: HOBOS1@AOL.COM. Visit our Website at WWW.HOBOS1.COM or WWW.FISCHERMAN.COM. (signed) GEO FISCHER"

35. DON LEEDLE advised that somehow his renewal package got lost and immediately placed blame on his lovely wife JEANIE saying "I would never lose such an important package." (The Post replaced it so you're off the hook, JEANIE!) DON went on to say that it was hard to believe they had celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary in July 1997. "Since you, J.C., could not be there as best man, I tried to drink your share. Amazing how the years have an effect on this process! On our first anniversary in Okinawa, as I recall, we drank 6 bottles of champagne. JEANIE had one glass. Now JEANIE does not drink, but I try to compensate." WHAT A HUSBAND YOU ARE, DON! DON continued by saying that JEANIE had had four major medical problems that past year, "But she is playing golf and amazing the doctors with her ability to overcome adversity..." Thanks for the update, DON, and we're so glad JEANIE is recovering so well. Maybe sometime we will make it your way and relive those fun days in Japan and Okinawa--way back when! (Actually, I guess I should say WAY, WAY, WAY BACK WHEN!)

36. HE'S GONNA TO GHANA. BILL ESTES advised: "Just a quick note to let you know that I am now working in Ghana, Africa for Stone and Webster. I got over here in the middle of September. I will be here for at least a year but the way things are going, it will most likely be 2 years. I keep hoping to make a Reunion but either finances or timing are not right. Keep up the good work, and I look forward to receiving my Poop Sheets." Thanks, BILL--since Ghana is pretty far from Colorado Springs where this year's Reunion is being held--guess we will have to wait until another time to see you. And yes, our chances of holding a Reunion in Ghana are nil!

37. GENE HORROCKS wrote in during the holidays with a donation for the Post and a note: "The continued association with this Post and her members is one of the reasons that I can still walk with my shoulders back; back straight, and my head held high. In this, the holiday season, we can be again proud, as govt officials have again pinned a sprig of mistletoe to their coattails and told the American people and Congress and all the noble things they represent to 'pucker up.' I use my vote; I'm proud to have served my flag; I'm proud to be a member of China Post No. 1 and to be able to walk in the shadow of our past and present Post Commanders..."

38. EDMUND R CIRIELLO sent us a note recently saying that he hopes "to make the next Reunion, and I am particularly disappointed that I missed JIM PARKER's talk (JIM was guest speaker at our Ft. Walton Reunion). As a 4th Directorate alumnus, I would love to swap stories with him, and hopefully, will be able to at the next get-together. Also I would like to say hello to PAUL O'KRUSKY and if he happens to read this, please call me at (413) 584-1221 or he can contact me through CP#1. Meanwhile, keep up the good fight and I look forward to our next meeting."

39. Another remembrance of MARTY KAUFMAN came in from MIKE EVERS, Our Northern Virginia Men Division Adjutant: "Please excuse the handwriting--but I blew up my computer while installing a new cord). Here is a check for \$200 for two bricks in memory of MARTY KAUFMAN. One brick is from the No Virginia Men Div and the other is from ED CONNOR and myself. We will sure miss MARTY..." I think everyone feels that way, MIKE. It has been a tragic loss for both his family and China Post !.

40. VERN SHELTON checked in from Florida. He noted he was single once again and said: "I went back to work full-time in May 1996 as Director of Marketing and Sales for a Contracts Electronic Manufacturer in Homosassa, Fl. Business is very interesting and quite competitive which continues to keep my life busy and my mind challenged. The Crystal River area, where I live, is semi-rural and the pace of living is really laid back. Since it's located on the Gulf of Mexico, there is much fishing and boating and there are over a hundred good golf courses within 50 miles. If you want to do any sophisticated shopping or be entertained, then one must drive to Tampa or Orlando. The only traveling I have done, in the last couple years, has been with my good friends, GARY and VIRGINIA PLAYER, in conjunction with GARY's professional golf tournaments. I usually go to five or six in the U.S. and then travel to the UK for the British Open, British Senior Open, and this last year, the British Senior Masters at Wentworth, near London, on consecutive weeks." He also went on to say: "I visited my mom in San Antonio, TX in early Nov this year, for a week, and plan to return 1-4 Jan 1998. My daughter and her husband DIMITRI will be visiting my mom and my son JIM, who now also resides in San Antonio. Daughter KIM and her husband live in Mycenea, Greece where she is an archaeologist and site manager. As I don't get to see them very often, I am excited about their visit." Thanks JIM for the letter and have you tried out all 100 golf courses yet? That would seem to be a challenge to say the very least!

41. EION M CORRIE wrote in Nov to say that "all is well and settled into my new area of living. I have had several mobile-homes in the past and seems this is a good home as I do not have the cleanup that there was in the condo--and always being in demand to help all the older ladies after they find that you can repair things...I have more time to spend with the grandkids now and that is great--makes me feel like I am going to live another 25 years!"

42. Nice letter from MARK and GERALDINE RUWE advising that GERALDINE had finished her studies at the University of Washington and last Feb started working for Boeing on the commercial airplane side. He said that due to child care issues, they decided to sell their home in the Seattle area and move to the south tip of Mercer Island. "It's very rural and quiet. We love it..." MARK said that he is "still at Boeing working on the AWACS (Airborne Warning & Control System) Program." He said that in Nov, after one night in their new house, he had gone to the UK to participate in a semi-annual program mgmt review with the USAF and our final customer (UK Ministry of Defense and Royal Air Force) in Bristol, England. With regard to their two beautiful and charming children he advised that BLAKE is now in the 4th grade at St. Monica's and 5-year old CAROLINE started attending Bellevue Montessori. Well, it sounds as though you have a full life--Sure wish we could see you more often. I think the last time was at the Seattle Reunion when you and GERALDINE so graciously had me for dinner on the last evening. It was a super time.

43. LARRY BROADHURST sent us a shortie from 'Merry Olde England. All is going well and settling back into my roots nicely, although I'm glad this is not a permanent assignment--the U.S. is still home to this transplanted Brit."

44. EMMET SULLIVAN continues to keep us informed of his comings and goings---He wrote just before the Reunion: "it looks like I'm going to have to do flight training the 16th and 17th (Oct). Doesn't look good for the Reunion. Between weather and maintenance, it can take a week instead of two days. We've got 20 simulator instructors but only 4 of us do training in the actual aircraft. Lloyd Helicopters of Australia bought me a 'round-the-world ticket in June to go down there and set up a training program for them. Spent 3 days in Adelaide and 6 in Karratha (the offshore base). Then I met my wife in Hong Kong for 4 days and we hit Thailand for a week. Visited IZZY FRIEDMAN at his Crown Royale (I traded him by Sikorsky hat for 2 beers). Then went to Pattaya for 3 days. Had a great time! Some things were a lot different but a lot of things were about the same. I hope to go back for Lloyd around 1 of '99. We have other flight training scheduled in Johore, Macau and Korea right now in 1997 and lots more in '98. So I should get a trip or two for Sikorsky by spring. We (Flight Safety - West Palm Beach) need two more instructors for the SK-76. We're working a 7-day on and 7 off schedule now which is really nice. The starting pay isn't great but it's a good job if you enjoy instructing. I also like Florida, which is why I've been here 10 years. This is public info if anyone is interested. Say hello to everyone for me--even ELVIS!!!" EMMET ended with a personal observation or was it a rhetorical question??? "Why are the girls on Patpong so much younger than they used to be???"
45. NICKY ANDERSON sent in a note: "You two will truly be a hard act to follow as the running of the Post goes. But you certainly deserve a little slack time after the terrific job you've done. Nothing earth-shaking out here. We're pretty involved in local politics, especially trying to get our local school district in a position to turn out kids with a good education. Otherwise, I seem to be keeping the state birds from starvation. Somehow we manage to go through 25 pounds of birdseed a week! So sorry to hear about MARTY KAUFMAN's passing. He will be missed. Our very best for 1998--enjoy your retirement."
46. WAYNE BOLLAN wrote last Aug to bring us up to date. WAYNE, one of our volunteer bartenders when attending a Reunion, passed a milestone birthday last July. So a very happy but belated birthday, WAYNE. And as you noted in your letter ("Do not tell me--I know I'm still a kid"), we can't help but agree. Since both J.C. and I outdate you--I guess that makes us teenagers! WAYNE also sent news on CHUCK and MARY ALEXANDER who he advised had left for retirement in July 1997. (CHUCK and MARY stopped by Slidell--so we can verify this firsthand!). WAYNE said that on July 31, CHUCK flew his last flight for Aramco and "several of us met him at the aircraft when he arrived. I can imagine having a strange feeling walking down the steps of an aircraft as a pilot for the last time." He went on to say that CHUCK had had his own retirement on Aug 21--There was a small party with the Aviation staff. The Manager gave a brief speech on CHUCK and "I was impressed with his statistics. CHUCK had over 20,000 flying hours and over 1,000,000 take-offs/landings while flying for Aramco." WAYNE ended with a P.S.: "I have just learned to use a computer and I'll have you know this is the first letter I typed to anyone in my life (does it show?)." He closed asking that we give his regards to ART and PATRICIA WALSH. Will do, WAYNE. And we are honored you chose us as recipients of your first computer-typing effort. It was a masterful job. If we don't have a bartending job for you at a future Reunion--possibly we can use you as a typist/computer clerk! (Stick with the bartending--it's got to be more fun).
47. ROGER SHERIDAN wrote from KAZAKSTAN: "Just got Poop Sheet 262...I am presently Resident Engineer on a 192 KM stretch of highway construction in Kazakstan (FSU - Former Soviet Union). Quite an experience. This is the first international road project they have done. We have now gone to bid and on 10 Sept will sign an international contractor for the job. Believe me, the most common phrase here is, 'it's the local custom'...I plan to be in the States Dec and Jan as the weather gets to 40 degrees C below zero and work stops during those months!" Gosh, ROGER, sounds like the weather is a local custom too. I am definitely crossing it off my list of places I want to visit.
48. RALPH W RICHARDS liked the CP#1 Challenge Coin--"I received the coins and patches you sent. The coin is really impressive. I gave one to a fellow member on the condition that he can't challenge me with it." Good thinking, RALPH.
49. Nice note from PAUL SHEPANEK in late Nov: "Yet another year has passed, and once again it's time to send in my renewal for the upcoming year. Seems I'm a bit late this year...Sorry about that! But being a bit late with my dues this year gives me an opportunity to also wish you and J.C. a Happy Thanksgiving!!! We trust that all is well with you and J.C. and realize that you are quite busy with holiday activities as well as on-going Post activities. ...My wife and I have also been quite busy this past year. We began by purchasing our first home in late Nov last year. My wife continued her employment at the local casino while I toiled away in the local school district. I finally decided that I wanted to try the casino scene, so I applied there and was hired. I've been there for a bit over four months now, and really enjoy it. This past year has been good to us, but it is with considerable sadness that I relate the very unfortunate loss of a dear friend and Post member, WILLIAM BAKER. BILL has succumbed to his battle with cancer. I regret being unable to bid him farewell at his funeral, but RALPH W SCHNEIDER was there to bid BILL a fitting farewell. RALPH was also good enough to advise you of BILL's demise shortly thereafter. All those who knew BILL miss him dearly! Once again, many thanks to you and J.C. for all of your continuing support to China Post #1."
50. QUANTRILL PAGE has checked in with, "Hope the Reunion went well. Cancer has taken me out the last two times. Surgery, then radiation. We are hoping this last radiation got the remains. Time will tell. Thank you for your wonderful work these past few years. I'm praying that you and yours enjoy a less hectic life." Thanks, QUANTRILL--and AMEN.
51. We apologize for not being able to make BILL BARBEE's birthday bash in Nov. Loved the invitation which was to the "Attention of Antique Lovers", and advised MRS. ELIZABETH ANN BALMGARDNER BARBEE and the BARBEE children and grandchildren "would like to invite you to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in an exclusive birthday celebration for their favorite spouse, father, and grandfather, WILLIAM HENRY BARBEE, JR." Well, BILL we know it must have been a great one. Your family sure worked hard making it a very special one for you. And from us--a belated birthday wish--and I won't tell just how antique you are!
52. ARDEN DAVIS sent us an article entitled "WWII Braniff and Northeast Employees Gain Veteran Status---The Secy of the Air Force recently determined that U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Braniff Airways, who served overseas in the North Atlantic or under the jurisdiction of the North Atlantic Wing Air Transport Command (ATC) as a result of a contract with ATC during the period Feb 26, 1942 through Aug 14, 1945, are now considered to have served on active duty and may apply for VA benefits. (See 62 Fed. Reg 36263 - July 7, 1997). U.S. flight crew and aviation ground support of Northeast Airlines Atlantic Div who served overseas as a result of Northeast Airlines' contract with ATC during the period Dec 7, 1941 through Aug 14, 1945, also are considered to have served on active duty and may apply for VA benefits." It went on to say that to apply for benefits, "a qualifying person must complete and submit Dept of Defense Form 2168 to obtain an Armed Forces Discharge Certificate. For more information, contact Mr. JAMES D JOHNSTON, Secy of the Air Force Personnel Council (SAFPC) 1535 Command Drive-34d Fl--EE Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, MD 20762-7002." (The article was dated July 1997.)
- ARDEN also enclosed a personal note which said in part: "I am enclosing an item that relates to recognition for military service time for WWII. The Merchant Seaman (civilians) received the same recognition about 3 years ago...What was so different about the Air America civilians in Southeast Asia versus WWII civilians???...DAVE HICKLER pursued recognition for civil service time and the Civil Service Commission turned it down. We (former Air America employees) might have a chance on the military recognition bit."
53. JOHN GREENWAY wrote in to advise how his annual CP#1 Pacific NW Mem Div Picnic went last Aug. "Had the picnic, weather was beautiful despite wx man's promise of rain. However, those of no faith believed the wx man so only 23 people--but nice picnic." Thanks, JOHN. Guess your weatherman was spooked by El Nino! However, glad he was wrong and that it was another super bash. Those who have attended in the past have said it's always great!

54. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL VETERANS:** We received a call from RUSS WINGFIELD regarding his concern over possible loss of VA medical benefits by veterans who not enrolled with the VA by a certain date. We have been researching this via the Dept of Veterans Affairs Home Page on the Internet ([www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/)). Following is part of a recent news release by the VA on this subject:

DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - NEWS RELEASE DATED MARCH 11th, 1998 ENTITLED: VA CLARIFIES RULES FOR HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT: Washington, D.C., "In response to incorrect information distributed by others on the Internet, the Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) is clarifying recent changes regarding veterans eligibility for health care.

VA is required by law to establish an enrollment system for health care services to be in place by Oct 1, 1998. While veterans must be enrolled to receive care, it does not mean that veterans who have not applied for enrollment by that date will lose their eligibility for VA health care. Veterans who have received VA health care services since Oct 1, 1996, will have an application processed automatically on their behalf.

Applicants will be placed in one of 7 enrollment priority groups specified by Congress. Based on the priority they are assigned, the number of other veterans requesting to be enrolled, and the funds available for VA health care, VA will determine how many veterans can be served. Veterans will be notified by mail beginning in late spring whether or not their application for enrollment has been accepted.

After Oct 1, 1998, some veterans may still be treated without being enrolled. Veterans with service-connected disabilities may be treated for those disabilities and veterans who were discharged or released from active duty for a disability incurred or aggravated while on active duty may be treated for that disability within the first 12 months after discharge. Veterans who are classified as being service-disabled with a rating of 50% or greater will continue to be eligible for VA health care services without making application for enrollment.

While veterans in these categories do not have to be enrolled to be treated, they are encouraged to do so to help VA plan its services and allocate its resources." The article then went on to describe what those who are enrolled would be eligible for. It ended with information on how to apply for enrollment: "To apply for enrollment, veterans should call, write, or visit their nearest VA Health Care Facility. Most facilities have designated special enrollment coordinators to assist veterans and their families and to answer any questions they may have."

To ascertain how the above affects you individually, you should contact your nearest VA office or Medical Center or call the VA's toll free number, 1-800-827-1000. If you have Internet access, you can go to the VA's 1-Stop Customer Service Inquiry Page ([va.gov/customer/consumer.htm](http://va.gov/customer/consumer.htm)) for assistance. From this page you can make an electronic inquiry directly with the VA on any number of issues. OR, if you just want more information on this subject, you can go directly to the Dept of Veterans Affairs Home Page ([www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/)) which has numerous items on it and also an e-mail address if you need it.

Because of the confusion involved surrounding this issue, J.C. attended a meeting here in Slidell where our Congressman BOB LIVINGSTON talked and then answered questions from the floor. Since he was handling questions mostly concerning the Louisiana area, he asked J.C. to send a letter to his office regarding this matter and he would advise. We do not have his office's response as yet but will try to see it's printed in a future Poop Sheet once it is received.

55. **SUNKEN PLEASURE.** JIM L BAKER wrote to say: "Hi Gang! Here is an article that appeared in one of two newspapers (in England)...on my wife JUNE (known as JULIE--her European stage name--to her friends), who appeared throughout the motion picture 'TITANIC'. I thought you all may like to see it...The writers took 'poetic license' when they stated that 'her husband, JAMES...' was a 'special agent' on a mission..." Partly true. I had been called back to active duty for an assignment (TDY) to England. I had been commissioned in Military Intelligence back in 1958 and had been retired (on 'hip pocket orders') in 1980. Right now, I am very busy with the effects of 'El Nino' here at the Coast Guard Air Station in San Diego."

55. (cont.) Now for the article entitled "TITANIC ROLE FOR LEIGH (UK) WOMAN: It begins, "Film fans across the country are rushing to watch 'Titanic', the most expensive film of all time. But one former Leigh resident not only got to see the film earlier than all of us--she got herself a part in the production. JUNE BAKER...attended auditions for the film with her American husband JAMES and both were offered a part. But due to work commitments, JAMES declined...bravely allowing his wife on set with Hollywood heart-throw LEONARDO DI CAPRIO. JUNE...was picked not only as an extra but also in a character role. She played the part of a 60-year old Swiss woman called LISA LARRAROL... From her home in California she said, 'I have seen the film 3 times so far and each time I see myself in different scenes.' JUNE has always been in showbiz and has travelled all around the world with her dancing talents." It went on to say how she had been married to husband JAMES for 8 years after meeting him in London...'She said, "at the time he was a special agent on a mission and I was introduced to him by my cousin. JUNE describes JAMES as a man of achievement and he has a 'green beret' to prove it. JAMES, now retired, works with the local Coast Guard in California. JUNE spent 7 months on the set of the film 50 miles from the U.S. border in Mexico and mingled with the stars. She said 'LEO (that's LEONARDO DI CAPRIO to those who don't know him) is a nice man, very unspoiled by his way of life. In fact, until recently he was still living with his mum'..The film is in cinemas now, and JUNE highly recommends buying the soundtrack. So keep an eye out for her in the Southampton scene, or at very least her name in the credits at the end."

Hey, JAMES, you didn't tell us whether JUNE's character sinks or swims--Yeah, I know---go and buy a ticket and see for myself!!! Well I will. All kidding aside, it sounds like it was a truly memorable experience and we appreciate the letter and the article.

56. POLLY ROGERS had hoped to make the Reunion and as usual offered to help work the Reunion. She sent us a note in Aug: "Dear JANET & J.C., two of the nicest people I know, and I am always late to tell you while mailing in my late dues. I'd give you all the valid reasons; but I'm afraid you would print them in the newsletter! I did miss you, JANET, at Cocoa Beach (the Air America Reunion), and I hardly had a word with J.C. to find out about your health. I know it's been a tough year for you on top of all the China Post duties. I hope this finds you well--both of you and your family! I'm trying to work in Ft. Walton beach-- I really want to be a part of the 50th Anniversary and Memorial Ceremony for CASH!" Sorry you didn't make Ft. Walton, POLLY. Always love seeing you. But now you can try to make Colorado Springs in September.

57. JEFF JOHNSON who was at our Ft. Walton Reunion wrote in his holiday letter: "Greetings from the Land of Smiles--and a short note to update you on what is happening with us in Thailand. KHUNNAKORN ROBERT JOHNSON was born on Dec 11, 1997 @ 0830 in Nontaburi, Thailand, fighting weight 3520 g (7.76 lbs). SABRING turned 6 in Oct and is in the top of her class; also taking ballet, gymnastics, swimming and English in her spare time." He went on to say he was still working for J T TEC CO., LTD that offers services in factory design and construction management. "Finished the design and construction of a factory called K.R. Precision that manufactures parts for the hard disc drive industry... Looks like retirement for awhile with the current currency crisis in Asia." He mentioned his visit to the States in Sept/Oct to attend his 30 year college reunion and the China Post 1 reunion--and to visit friends and decide about returning. "Will think about this again in another 5 years. JAEW is fine and spends most of her time taking care of JEFF and now the kids..." First, JEFF, it was great seeing you at our Reunion and secondly, many thanks for the news. Also, a belated congratulations on the birth of your son. It sounds like 1997 was a great year for you!

58. ROGER SHERIDAN is on the move. He recently wrote, "I'm still getting pouched mail from Colombia--but am now in China. I'm Executive Chief Resident Engineer--what a title--on a 136 KM 4-lane expressway from Luoyang to Sanmenxia, Henon Province, China (PRC). Well, ROGER not sure how well I did reading and then spelling exactly where you said you are--but I gave it my best shot. If I messed up, it won't have been the first time and definitely not the last. Let's hear some more about China!

## REST IN PEACE

Lo, the gate swings wide at my knocking,  
 Across endless reaches I see  
 Lost friends with laughter come flocking  
 To give a glad welcome to me.  
 Farewell, the maze has been threaded,  
 This is the ending of strife;  
 Say not that death should be dreaded--  
 'Tis but the beginning of life.

A SOUL'S SOLILOQUY - WENONAH  
 STEVENS ABBOTT

59. HARRY J BONESSA was called to his final destiny in Aug 1997 after a long illness. HARRY and his wonderful wife NANCY joined the Post during the Vietnam conflict and were involved in numerous events the Post held in Vientiane, Laos and Udorn, Thailand. HARRY was one of our truly great recruiters in the SEA time frame and they attended numerous functions in the years following. They were also in Iran where they were Post supporters and helpers and they appeared in our 1st Shanghai Players performance PORK CHOP CHOP. Their neighbor had written this gen and NANCY was our heroine. Our condolences to NANCY who has cared for HARRY these past years during his illness and helped maintain his quality of life. Life won't be the same without HARRY (who called himself EL DAÑO) BONESSA in it. We'll miss you, Buddy.
60. JOSH FERRIS has passed. Word came from son JOHN, JR who wrote that his dad "...was one of this country's bravest and most devoted patriots, serving in WWII, Vietnam, Laos with Air America, and countless missions worldwide. As his son, I traveled with him to SEA...and will never forget my experiences with him, It is deeply etched in my memory. JOSH was a man who without question, would give his life for our country; a great friend who would go out of his way to help others, to help others in need. JOSH will be deeply missed with all our hearts. I am proud to be his son and can only hope to carry on in his great footsteps....God bless him for all he has done." MAY HE REST IN PEACE.
61. DAVID L DUNSTON has died. We do not have details of his passing although we had heard from his wife SHERRY earlier that he was in a VA hospital. DAVID served in the USAF between 1969-1989. He became a China Post member in 1995 when signed up by JERRY WILLIAMS. Our sympathies go out to his family in their loss. HE WILL BE MISSED.
62. WILLIAM 'BILL' BAKER has met his call. Word of his passing came from a former Post member, RALPH SCHNEIDER who wrote, "WILLIAM (BILL) BAKER, 68, a long-time member of China Post 1, lost his 10-month battle with cancer Aug 29, 1997. BILL was Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 35, sponsored by Dundee VFW Post 2298, which met regularly for over 20 years until the mid 1980's. He helped transform hundreds of boys into productive and mature young men with his guidance and skills. BILL served honorably with the U.S. Army Occupation Forces after the surrender of Japan. After his retirement 6 years ago, BILL and his wife ELAINE moved to a small farm in DeSoto, Wisconsin...BILL was busy and happy in his retirement...He will be sorely missed by the people that came to know him during his lifetime..." WE WILL NOT FORGET HIM.
63. E. S. WISE has gone forth to a better place. It is with great sadness that we advise of the loss of EDDIE, who joined China Post in 1925. His blue card shows that he was in the service (Army Field Clerk) from Sept 1918 - March 1921. He was born on 2 July 1897. He died on 16 July 1997--shortly after his 100th birthday. We had heard that EDDIE was in a nursing home because of Alzheimer's disease. Our sympathies go to his family. CHINA POST 1 Salutes you EDDIE, for your loyalty and dedication to our traditions and what we stand for. You have a special place in our history and our hearts.
64. DR. ROBERT P TREISTER has passed. His good friend BOB BLACKMER wrote to say, "It is my sad duty to inform you and CHOL members of the passing of DR. ROBERT TREISTER. BOB was my good friend and also my proposer to China Post. His funeral services were beautiful, especially the military part...He and I served on different aircraft carriers in WWII...We will all miss him." Our condolences to BOB's family in their loss. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.
65. WILLIAM 'BILL' LEACH of our Dhahran Mem Div was called to his final destiny in early Jan 1998. BILL, a lodge brother and colleague of J.C.'s, was also a wonderful friend. He was a proud graduate of the Citadel. He and his equally great wife PAT could always be counted on to help--whether it be for the Division, the Lodge, for the U.S. troops stationed in and around Dhahran, or for just folks in general. Both felt that friendship was a commitment, a sacred duty to be there for friends and others who needed help--whenever or wherever the circumstances required it. AND THEY WERE ALWAYS THERE.
- If you met BILL, you would see a sturdy, no-nonsense type guy--but with a twinkle in the eye and that ever-present sense of humor. When meeting you, he would stick out his hand and say gruffly, "BILL LEACH HERE". Or, on the phone, he would answer in that low, booming voice, "BILL LEACH HERE." And somehow, deep down, you knew that BILL LEACH would indeed always be there--which made it even more difficult to lose him so quickly to cancer. J.C., BRIAN BURKE, LARRY MORGAN, and WALT BASKIN attended BILL's funeral in Aiken, S.C. Our condolences go to wife PAT, his mother, and to his three children--BETHANNE, JENNIFER and BILLY.
- BILL's not gone. He's still here. Maybe he's not at the end of that handshake or that phone call--but he's here in the hearts & memories of everyone fortunate enough to have known him or to have been touched by his life. Fond farewell, Dear friend. Until our paths cross again--we will remember you, the good times, and how much we all miss you.
66. R. C. PENNINGTON met his final call on 27 Sept 1997 after a long illness. Word of his passing came from his wife who wrote, "I regret to inform you of the death of my beloved husband, R.E. 'PREACH' PENNINGTON of pulmonary disease and pneumonia. She included his obituary and a wonderful eulogy given by one of his children at his funeral. Here are a few excerpts. "I stand before you today representing a family in grief. All of us here today are united in our desire to pay our respects to my dad. Let me start by saying that his smile never failed to brighten our day, his laughter always lifted our spirits and his hugs made us feel secure. We will never stop appreciating his honesty, sensitivity and generosity. But most of all we will never stop remembering what a blessing it was to have him in our lives...Whether we were riding camels in Cairo, elephants in the jungle, or skinning a crocodile in Ceylon, life with Papa was an exciting adventure. Our memories are precious and so is he. Thank you Pa--God be with you and give you fair winds and following seas." Our sympathies go to the Pennington family in their loss. WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.
67. JOHN D 'EARTHQUAKE' McBRIDE died in May of 1997. Word came from his daughter. We have no details. JOHN became a member of the Post having signed on in Aug 1975. His sponsor was ED PENKER. JOHN served in the USAF and was a pilot. We know his many friends in the Post are saddened by his loss. HE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.
68. NORBERT J OPTIZ met his final call to destiny in Oct. Word came from his daughter KATHLEEN. In her note, she included a Memorial Tribute to him. Following are some excerpts: "The following is a tribute to my father who just passed away after a long, final battle with cancer. This is really a short story about an American and my hero in the quiet sense of the word." She tells how, after graduating from high school, he had entered college when midway through--WWII began. Enlisting in 1942 for cadet training, he ended up staying in the Air Force until 1965 after 22 years of active service...Upon returning to Sacramento in 1965, he joined Air America and went to Vietnam. She writes, "He loved to fly, retiring from the Air Force because promotion meant a desk job..." He remained with AAM for 10 years until the fall of Saigon. On the front of the Tribute was a picture of her dad and our China Post 1 standup dragon and logo. We know all that knew or worked with NORBERT are saddened by his loss--WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.
69. CHARLES E DAY died in July 1997. We have no details. CHARLES Joined CP way back in 1975 and was sponsored by J BRIGGS DIUGUID. CHARLES was in the USAF from 1950-77 and was an aircraft mechanic. He retired from the AF as a S/MSGT. Our condolences to his family. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

## REST IN PEACE (cont.)

70. WILLIAM M AVEY met his final call on 10 April 1998 in Las Vegas. BILL was not only a loyal Post member but a close personal friend as well. J.C., AL HARRIS, MIKE KANDT and TOM KROHN attended the funeral for a kind wonderful guy we had met & known since Bell Helicopter/Iran days in the mid-late 70's. Following are excerpts of the eulogy by his children: "Our father slipped away today. It was such a contrast to the hustle and bustle of Dad's everyday life. He never knew much about sitting around relaxing. What we all learned from Dad was to work hard, take care of our responsibilities, and everything else would take care of itself. Dad was a disciplinarian...but he taught us some very important principles; like being honest, being quietly patriotic, doing your duty and being fair. It was hard for all of us to watch Dad develop some severe health problems near the end. We feel blessed that Dad went quickly and could keep his dignity--That was something that was very important to him. As a family, we thank all of our relatives and Mom and Dad's friends who have shown such great support over the years. At difficult times like this, it is wonderful to feel the love and concern of our family and friends."

Our sympathies go out to BILL's beloved wife NITA and his children in their great loss. He has not left us; he will ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS AND MEMORIES--and what great memories they are and always will be...Goodbye for now Dear Friend.

71. THOMAS F DOUGHERTY, JR., has passed. His wife MARGARET wrote, "I am writing with a heavy heart to inform you of my husband's passing." She said he had died after months of battling prostate cancer,,He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Section 48, Nov 26, 1997. Our sympathies go to MARGARET and his family. THOMAS was a long-time and loyal Post member, having joined in 1973. He served in the USN from 1947-1977. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

72. RICHARD E ALLEN, a former Post member has died. Word came from TED and ALI BOYER. RICHARD served in both the Navy and the U.S.A.F. In the 50's, he was in Germany & trained German pilots--and in the early 60's, piloted B-47s for SAC. In VN, he flew the Al-E Skyrider, and rec'd the DFC with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster for his last mission in which he was shot down over Laos. Later he flew Jolly Green Giant helicopters for the 'Pony Express.' After retiring he immediately joined CASI in Laos where he accumulated over 3500 hours. Our thanks to the Boyers for the obituary from which we took this info. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

73. HOWARD BERUBE died in Jan 1998. We do not have confirmation of this. If anyone has info, would appreciate having it as we know his friends and former colleagues would like to know. HOWARD was a long-time Post member having joined the Post in 1975--HE WILL BE MISSED.

74. MILES L JOHNSON met his final destiny on Oct 26, 1997. Word of his passing came from RONALD L YOUNG who sent in the article which said in part: "MILES had a long, varied and exciting career. From 1953-61, he worked summers for the U.S. Forest Service as a smokejumper...From 1957-59 he served in the U.S. Army--and from 1960-62, he worked for the CIA in the winters as a parachute dispatch officer. Two highlights of his career at this time included night-time overflights in support of the Tibetan revolution...and providing support & training to Cuban revolutionaries during the Bay of Pigs invasion." It went on to say that during his career, he was involved in numerous "projects of historical significance." These included "the first operational use of the Fulcrum Skyhook, training of parachute aerial reinforcement units in Thailand, air operations scheduling of rotor and stol aircraft in VN, parachute loft Supvr. to Intermountain Aviation in Az & finally serving in heavy lift ops in Laos." We know his many friends and former colleagues will be saddened by his loss. HE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN. JUMPERS AWAY, MILES.

75. DONALD L SNYDER met his call in March 1998. Word came from WIFE BETTY who advised he had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for several years. She wrote, "He had a total of 43 years of Federal Svc--25 with the USAF serving in the ETO during WWII; he flew the Berlin Air Lift in late 40's and the Kinderlift...in 1951-54...After retirement...he flew out of Okinawa & VN (1965-68)...There will be services at Arlington National Cemetery on 5 May with full military honors. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

## DIVISION NOTES:

76. ABU DHABI MEM DIV is up and running strong. Have had a number of items from HAL & JUNG HUNT with details. They have been having quite a few events. HAL also wrote about his & JUNG's trip to VN saying "Saigon is twice as big and crowded...Traffic is dense but if every motorcycle owner owned a car instead, the city would be in perpetual gridlock...We celebrated the 'Year of Tiger' 3 times; 1st in Cholon, next in Bangkok's Chinatown, and then back in Abu Dhabi where we hosted a CP/1 get together...About 2 dozen showed up for potluck and Chinese food and we had a great time." Thanks for the updates; keep up the good work!

77. ANDROS MEM DIV--The new Adjutant, RHONDA SAWYER, wrote and provided the names of the newly elected officers: They are: JOE JAMES - Cmdr; ERNIE KUZMA - 1st VC; MERLE NELSON - 2nd VC; RHONDA SAWYER - Adj; JOHN BEARD - Chaplain & Sgt at Arms. Sounds like a good group. Keep in touch.

78. EMBLEM SALES BOOK SHELF: Want to sit down with a good book. Well, we have a limited quantity of the following on consignment. These books are either written by and/or about CP members. These folks have been there--done that. See and hear about the Vietnam War and the Secret War in Laos as they really were--AND NOT as the media portrays them.

LAST MAN OUT by JAMES E PARKER, Jr. - The amazing story of an American CIA agent in Vietnam and efforts to put a human face on the war. Two days after the American Embassy in Saigon was evacuated, JIM was still in VN--still at war. He was the last American evacuated.

PRICE: \$24.00 Plus S&H of \$4.00

ACROSS THE MEKONG by CHARLIE O DAVIS - A vivid account of the author's 2½ years as a pilot for Air America. Thru lifelike word pictures...you will be in the cockpit of a single engine Sikorsky H-34 flying over the war-torn country of Laos. You will experience flight above rugged mountains, through rain-drenched tropical storms, and in areas of extreme danger due to the raging civil war...

PRICE: \$25.00 plus S&H of \$4.00

CODE NAME MULE by JAMES E PARKER, JR. - Recruited by the CIA in 1970...JIM PARKER--CODENAME MULE--led a band of Hmong tribesmen and Thai mercenaries against mainline No Vietnamese forces on the Plain of Jars and in defense of Skyline Ridge...Now...with the CIA's approval, he reveals the details and captures the esprit de corps of American case officers and pilots and their special bond with Hmong warriors and their families in Laos.

PRICE: \$25.00 plus S&H of \$4.00

THE RAVENS by CHRISTOPHER ROBBINS - Story of how a handful of elite Air Force pilots--wearing anything BUT their uniforms and piloting unarmored, small, prop-driven aircraft, fought a secret war in Laos...these incredibly brave and skilled pilots were known as Ravens; their mission: fly low and slow, spot the enemy, and direct the winged artillery of American air strikes from adjacent So Vietnam, Thailand and U.S. aircraft carriers...Ravens learned fast or died quickly. They found 'neutral' Laos a very dangerous place indeed!

PRICE: \$25.00 plus S&H of \$4.00

79. Some good folks have dropped by--AL HARRIS & his neighbor came over Easter weekend. AL was particularly excited with our back yard in which we have two large oriental water jugs displayed with a sign above them reading: PLAIN OLD JARS (in respect for the jars on the Plain of Jars in Laos.) At first, he insisted it was a dumb idea/pun--stupid in fact. Finally he admitted to total envy. Apology accepted, AL!

KARL and ERNESTINE KACHIKAS also dropped by for a nice visit--reliving the old days. Sure was good to see them.

80. GEORGE SMITH recently wrote, "It will be good to become an active member in the Post once more. At present time, I am on active duty, doing a project of importance for the USMC. Time to time I perform active duty special work...for the Corps. I have kept up my Marine Reserve status..."

81. RIP. DALE WILLIAMSON died on 5 Jan 1998. Word came from JOHN GREENWAY who also arranged flowers. DALE was known by so many Post members--we know his passing will sadden them. Our sympathies go to his beloved wife and his family. HE WILL LIVE FOREVER IN THE HEARTS AND MEMORIES OF HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES.