



CHINA POST # 1 POOP SHEET



December 2003 • Year of the Ram

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DUES FOR 2004

As more than 60 % of the Post is already aware, we started the 2004 dues year on 1 July 2003, the start of the fiscal year. If you still have a 2003 card, it will expire on January 31. If you have an earlier year's card, it has already expired and the fact that you have not received a dues notice means that you have been expired for over 2 years. National sends out our dues notices. When your membership lapses for the second year they drop you from the Legion. We still try to send your Poop Sheets as long as we have a good address but your membership is expired. Also, if the 2004 dues are not received by the time that we do our December report, approximately the 10th of January 2004, the computer will have dropped your continuous years and it takes several extra steps to try to restore them. **The short note:** If you have not paid your 2004 dues and received your new card, please do so ASAP-even if you do not receive a dues notice. If you have a card and receive a dues notice from National, you do not need to write or call; we sent the card to you but there is a lag time of several weeks before it is posted to the computer that sends out renewals.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

ST LOUIS, MO

In China Post style, we checked into the Legion's HQ hotel in St Louis and received our delegate packets from New York after a trip to their hotel. **Phil Oakley** and **VC Richard 'Dick' Schubnell** attended the NY Delegation pre-convention reception to a stirring speech to the NY delegates about China Post by the NY Adjutant and Exec Committee. **DMD Cmdr. Hans Stockenberger** arrived the following morning and along with **VC Frank Shaw** we had a marching contingent of 6 in the van group of the National Parade that exceeded some of the other groups. The following morning

was the FODPAL breakfast. In addition to Hans and Dick, **Sr VC Tim Brown** who had made a flight in from the Middle East to join us, and local **Col Chuck Hines**, (who missed the parade because he listened to someone who said that he was not dressed for the parade so he went home) attended. Tim was elected to the position of FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Posts and Departments of the Legion) Historian, Hans is Assistant Judge Advocate and Dick is Assistant Sgt. at Arms. What this means is that CP is on the ladder to assume the Presidency of FODPAL in about 4 years. After this breakfast we jumped into a cab for a ride to the New York caucus. Once again we received stirring praise from the NY staff and the message to their delegation to provide us any support we might require during the Convention. Tuesday started the convention floor sessions where Pres. George W Bush treated us to a major foreign policy address. There were a number of unwashed demonstrators out side of our hotel window who objected to the 'counter signs' we posted in the window for 'them' to read. Their reaction was to show us, that they were either #1 or their IQ with one hand. They couldn't stand the fact that our reaction to them was to laugh 'at' them so it was interesting until they were moved onto the sunny side of the street and their convictions seemed to wilt with the temperature. At this point, **Frank and Nancy Shaw** joined us for the balance of the convention. A few words of explanation: In the Legion we are attached to the Dept. of New York. Our SAL squadron is in the NY Detachment. Our Auxiliary stands alone as the Dept. of China. Nancy Shaw was certified as a Delegate for China to the Convention, a first I think, although she attended the regular sessions with us. Thursday morning, Principal Deputy Sect. of Defense **Craig Duehring** addressed the convention (with his China Post hat on) from the main podium. Always a 'gotcha' for those members who go to Posts who don't believe that we exist.

CHINA POST ANNUAL MEETING

This year's meeting in Ft Walton Beach had a number of our Air Commando members able to attend and unfortunately a good number of the Post who were unable to be there because of duties in Iraq and Afghanistan and other areas of 'Southwest Asia'. The Four Points Sheraton was home to the reunion hosted by Post VC **Lance Greenwald**. We opened the 'hospitality room' on Thursday, run in grand style by new Post VC **Dick Geron** who kept a steady hand, decorated the room and did an outstanding job of providing service to the membership. **Tim Brown** and **Rosa** were in on home leave from SA and **Pampers** was able to join us for Thursday and Friday nights before returning across the pond to duty on Saturday. Friday night saw the Post gathered at a poolside Luau that the hotel provided decorations and great food in quantities that we could not even finish. The Post members were 'decked out' in their best Hawaiian togs for a great evening with the adult beverages being provided from our hospitality room. **Tom Tinnish**, who was one of the founders of our Central Europe Division made it in. He is now retired from USAF and working in airport security. **Tom Will**, who transferred his PUFL to CP 1 after attending a No Virginia Division meeting made his first CP Convention, and **Chuck Baird** came back and reinstated after a few years of not making the Post meetings. **Juan and Gretchen Bazen**, and the **Herrington's** who live in the area and are 'old Air Commandos' volunteered to help out with details. At the business meeting on Saturday morning we discussed progress on the Post home, we still need about \$235,000 but we are getting ever closer. The annual elections were held with the personnel on the letterhead agreeing to serve for the next, 2005 Legion year with the addition of **Dick Geron** as a new Vice Commander and the addition of **Tim Brown** to the Exec Committee. **J C Bond, Commander Emeritus** continues to handle the Post's emblem sales and he kept the 'store' open in the hospitality room through out the weekend. **Garren Brown**, who provided us help in Charlotte last year was on hand with **Pam** and continues to pitch in. **Dr 'Bernie' Doyle** returned from Thailand to be with us and **Larry Fraser**, who hosted the last Air America Reunion attended with guests. **Bob Stensloff**, one of our Founders's PUFLs attended with our newest Life Auxiliary member **Emily Conde**. **Charlie Jackson** from the SKY contingent was there and **Dave Kouba**, who helped organize the original AA Division in Udorn came back to the fold. **Jim Luke** brought us up to date on the Post's

books—a special thanks for serving the Post's needs in this area. **Jim & Sandy Maupin** came in from WA and special thanks for their repacking the banners after the dinner. 'Noted' author Air Commando and Aviator '**Bob**' **Moore** and wife **Patricia**, who is also a Post member, came up from Guatemala. **Howard Pierson (USMC)** was in his usual form making the hospitality room the entertainment center for the meeting. At the Banquet on Saturday, Sojourners present joined **John Joyce** in the traditional toast to the flag. **Rev Ed Jones** handled the blessings, a career change for a Navy tail-hooker. Besides the traditional toasts to the services, and the ladies, a toast was offered to those Post members like **Frannie Heibel** and **James Wengenroth** who were absent due to duty in Iraq. Thanks to our host, Lance, we had a floor show for entertainment during dinner with local talent Phyllis Hasty, her father went down in a B-24 and survived on a Pacific island, doing a medley of songs from WW II. **Ken** and **Anita Cook** along with many others were rockin' to the music. After dinner **Martin Duszynski** made a presentation of flags, certificates and books from The Alamo to **J C** and to the Post. The Past 'Great Roosters' selected **Ole Olson** to carry on the new tradition and the past (winners?) of the shipper award decided that **John Wisniewski** would get the cap. **L G Wheeler** was a close second but many of the past shippers had retired while he held court in the hospitality room. On Sunday we kept the room open for departures and **Larry Sanborn** brought over the first cut of the Raven documentary for comment. 2004 Las Vegas is in the planning stages and Honolulu for 2005.

40 & 8

The Post Voiture met after the business meeting and wrecked in 8 new members. **Roger Gowen** has assumed the duty of Correspondent Locale and has volunteered to take the same Post with the Grand.

SOAR 2003

The SOAR Division met at the normal time at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas. They are going through an extensive renovation and up-grading the rooms at the hotel. The details from the meeting will be sent out in the "After Action Report" in a few months. '**Jake**' **Jacobson** transferred back to China Post and we are happy to have his expertise. During the Saturday afternoon lull, the Las Vegas Division members gathered at our LV watering hole, Gilligan's Hideaway and discussed the 2004 meeting for Las Vegas. **Dale Bennett** who was in for SOAR and **Dave Kouba** of CASI were there

along with **Rey Quijano** in from Saudi Arabia. **Dave Ember**, our first SAL life member who just moved to LV from Saudi Arabia had a chance to meet some of the local members. **Dick Schubnell**, **John Lear**, **Tom Krohn** and **Mike Kandt** who live locally all volunteered to work on the 2004 meeting as did **Morrie Kenstler** and **Ted Boyer**. **Bill Anton** came back with a Founders PUFL and also lives in LV. Bill will be helping set up the SFA National meeting hospitality room in Las Vegas and should be able to help with some insight after that duty.

AIR COMMANDOS

A great gathering despite the active duty Commandos deployment to Iraq and other SW Asia points. Air Force Ace, **Bgen Robin Olds** joined us for the weekend and was the banquet guest speaker. At the business meeting, **Dick Geron** was elected as the new Vice President and **Larry Sanborn** was elected to the Board. Among the newest members of the Air Commando Hall of Fame are **Don Moody** and **Bobby Downs**.

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FOUNDERS PUFLS

For those not familiar with the program, we have a Paid Up For Life Program that, for a \$1,000 tax deductible contribution, or an additional \$500 for existing PUFLs, to the building fund, the Post will buy you a gift PUFL membership from National.

Dr William T Anton / SAL member David P Ember/
 Rey Quijano

SPECIAL DONATION

The Estate of David Hale Hickler left a legacy of \$5,000 to the building fund. Dave's passing was mentioned in the last Poop Sheet without mention of this bequest until the estate was settled. He left like amounts to CAT and The Air America Association.

MILESTONES

MEL ROSEN was our longest serving legionnaire with 57 continuous years between the Dept of France and China Post. He passed in hospital in Monaco on 22 Nov. Despite years of failing health, Mel remained active in US Veterans affairs in Southern France. He was the prime force in forming our **VFW Post**, **Cooties Pup Tent** and the formation of our **40 & 8 Voiture**.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek died age 105 in New York City. The former First Lady of China and later of the government in Taiwan moved to NY after the death of her husband in 1975. She has been pretty much in seclusion after President Carter cut off ties to Taiwan and recognized the present Chinese government in 1979, but was an emeritus member of the CP Auxiliary. Several members in the NY area attended on behalf of the Post and sent a wreath.

Nathan (Nate) Kniffin, USN Korea, USA Vietnam and one of our founding 40 & 8 members passed in June of 2002 but the Post only received word in September of this year.

Richard Sagen died in September in Orlando, FL. He was a USA Veteran of Korea and SVN and was active in Telecommunications management, serving 18 years in overseas assignments.

GOOD MILESTONES

In the on-going competition to produce ever 'youngest' members of the Post's SAL Squadron, we have a new winner. The SAL and the Post welcomes **Michael Lucario** and offers our congratulations to father **Captain Thomas Lucario**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Continental Air Services, Inc (CASI) will have a reunion in Las Vegas on Feb 20/21, 2004. Former Air America personnel and 'anyone else' who were associated with their efforts is welcome. Contact Pat Barnett at (623) 975-1836 or e-mail dc3pat@cox.net

Raven Reunion 2004 is scheduled for 21/24 October in San Antonio, TX. Hotel / Motel probably the Clarion

PEOPLE EVENTS

R. B. AKA Shadow is presently operating out of Jakarta. Maybe we will reopen the Division if enough other people show up.

Colin Kelly sent Thanksgiving greetings to the Post from Moscow, no matter what your weather I'll bet his was colder.

Mgen Ken Bowra has retired effective 1 October and will be coming back into the Post.

VC Jim Lint sat in on a briefing for the AL National Commander and the Auxiliary President in Korea. When Jim told him that he was in a "Unique American Legion Post" he replied – "It must be China Post 1". Afterward Jim met with the Aux President about the VFW Aux denying membership to Foreign born spouses. She replied that they are welcome to be members of the American Legion Auxiliary. He will address this point with the VFW Aux President later this week.

On Veterans Day at the foreign cemetery in Chiang Mai, Thailand a memorial was dedicated to honor the American and Royal Thai Air Forces and the individual aviators who fought the Japanese in the area as the Flying Tigers. The individual pilots who flew the mission in March 1942, where one of the Tiger P-40 was shot down and discovered in 1990, were honored in the dedication as was Post namesake **General Claire Lee Chennault**. The Post was represented at the dedication by **Jerry R Dunham**, and Mgen Charles Bond spoke on behalf of the Fling Tigers.

We just got our 2004 calendars from **John Conley**. As usual they are written in Australian. Thanks John!

EMBLEM SALES-ATTACHED

Please send all Emblem Sales orders directly to J C Bond at 36428 Jackson St. Slidell, LA 70460

Do not include emblem sales with dues or send them to the Post PO Box-it only causes a delay because we have to forward them to JC.

Best wishes for the season and a happy and prosperous New Year !!!