



The Tiger Rag



1975 Joint AVG-CNAC Reunion



**IF THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH,
WHAT THE HELL WILL HAPPEN TO ALL US
TIGERS ?**

THE 1975 REUNION

... from Dick Rossi

Now that the dust, smoke and noise have died down we will try to get out a report on our 1975 bash.

Fortunately, we are able to report that we had more survivors than casualties. Some of the wives were giving their husbands credit for posing for our program cover. While most could qualify for this, we must report that it is a composite. We don't want anyone to feel left out.

This year we had an unusual number of people arriving early, some as much as one week. This is great, and lets one get a little rest before the main activities start. Also, a chance to get in a little practice on the golf course or tennis courts, and get the elbow warmed up at the bar.

The reunion officially got started on Thursday, July 3, and was really set off with a bang at the Boeing Cocktail Party, which Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Heckard hosted. And we do mean a BANG!

With help from "Doc Rich" a cannon arrived on the scene, and became a daily happening at all the cocktail parties. It scared a few people out of their skins, and drove a lot of others to drink, but it was a short drive. Thanks "Doc".

Following the cocktail party, we had a steak barbeque and square dance. "Doc" and Emma Jo haven't slowed down any. They kept the dance caller real busy.

On Friday the first rounds of the golf tournament got underway. Also, the CNAC business meeting was held, and the new officers elected for the next two years were: "Potty" Pottschmidt, President; "Robbie" Roberts, Vice President; "Doc" Farrar, Secretary; and Bob Rengo, Treasurer. A more detailed report was to be forthcoming from the Secretary.

Following lunch, some movies of China and the war days were shown in the lounge. We had a very good film that John Williams procured for us.

That evening, Doug and Nina Strauss hosted a cocktail party given by Johnson & Higgins Insurance Company.

At the CNAC banquet, MC'd by Red Holmes, the featured speaker was famed pilot Dick Merrill. His talk was very interesting and entertaining. At 81 years young, he could put a lot of us to shame. He still passes an FAA First Class Physical, and reads without glasses.

And, for an interesting side-light, Dick's wife, the former movie queen, Toby Wing, turns out to be "Tex" Hill's cousin. Small world.

On Saturday morning some of the more hearty souls got down to the serious business of the finals of the golf tournament.

The AVG business meeting was held Saturday afternoon, with "Tex" Hill being unanimously elected President. The remaining officers are pretty much the same, and details have been sent to the AVG membership.

THE 1975 REUNION (continued)

The evening cocktail party was hosted by Bob and Anne-Marie Prescott, with Miss Rhonda Fleming as Miss Flying Tigers for 1975. "Doc Rich" had Rhonda fire the cannon that evening. As the composure of the crowd was being regained, following the announced blast, Tex Hill commented that the Inn's laundry bill probably just doubled.

Following the cocktail party, the China War Memorial Decoration was presented to the AVG and CNAC members by Minister S.K. Hu. He was assisted by Ambassador Y.T. Loh and Neil Armstrong. Minister Hu came out from Washington, D.C., while General Loh arrived from Taiwan, to join us at the reunion and make the presentations.

The AVG banquet was MC'd by Bob Prescott, and the Flying Tiger Pilot Award was presented to NASA Astronaut Neil Armstrong. We were treated to a short film clip of Neil's landing on the moon, followed by a very entertaining talk by Prof. Armstrong.

The trophy will be on display in the Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum of the Ohio Historical Society in Wapakoneta, Ohio, at least through 1976.

What with autographs and photographs, etc. Neil didn't have much privacy or free time. He was a most gracious and charming guest, and we are honored to have his name placed on our trophy. He was accompanied by his oldest son.

At the dance, following the AVG dinner, quite a few of the women had the chance to dance with the first man on the moon.

Sunday morning most of the gang took off for home to rest and recuperate, and get ready for the next meeting.

--RR

1976 MINI-REUNIONS

At the AVG/CNAC business meetings it was decided by the respective groups that they would hold an off-year mini-reunion. Plans are definite for a mini-reunion at Ojai over the 4th of July, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This will be a meeting like the get-together held in 1974, with a minimum of programs or plans, and a maximum of just visiting. All members of both groups are invited.

As in the past, the West Coast mini-reunion will be at the Ojai Valley Inn. At the 1974 gathering there were about 70 of the gang, and everyone seemed to enjoy the informality of the occasion --no program, no speeches--just doing your thing, eating, drinking, laying around the pool, enjoying golf, tennis, riding, swimming or whatever else you want. Make your reservations directly with the Inn, attention Bill Briggs, Ojai Valley Inn, Ojai, California, 93032.

In addition, MacDonald encourages regional-area AVG/CNAC reunions.

ATTENDEES

AVG/CNAC

Bill Bartling and son
Dr. Carl and Anne Brown and Guests
Cliff Groh and brother Gordy
Duke and Mary Ann Hedman
Buzz and Jean Loane
Bob and Ann Marie Prescott
Dr. L. J. Richards
Dick and Lydia Rossi and Tony
Eric and Ilse Shilling, Ricky and Inger

AVG

Mr. and Mrs. Twisty Bent
George Burgard, 2 sons and
1 son-in-law
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clouthier
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Crookshanks
Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Colquette
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cross
Mr. and Mrs. Walt Dolan
P. J. Greene
Mrs. Robert Gallagher, daughter and
friend
Mrs. E. J. Hanks
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Haywood, two daughters
and husbands
Mr. and Mrs. Tex Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Hubler
Sen. and Mrs. Ken Jernstedt
Mr. and Mrs. Al Kaelin
Mr. and Mrs. Bus Keeton
Merlyn Kempf
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kustay
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Layher
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Locke
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Neal
Judge and Mrs. Chuck Older and family
Mr. and Mrs. Preston Paul
Paul J. Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Poshefko
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Don Rodewald
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schaper
Robert M. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Stolet
Tom Trumble
Mr. and Mrs. John Uebele
Mr. and Mrs. Don Whelpley
Mr. and Mrs. John Williams
Harvey Wirta
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wylie

CNAC

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Allison
Carey Bowles
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Carroll
Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Chen
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Chinn
Don Codrea

CNAC (con't)

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dalby
Vince De Salvatore
Dr. and Mrs. Reg Farrar
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Farrell
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Glen
Joe Hall
Christy Hanks
Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hardin
Don Hassig
Red Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. Art Kininmonth
Bill Maher
Mr. and Mrs. Bill McDonald and
Cameron McDonald
Robert McGinty
Mr. and Mrs. Vic McHenry
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Michaels
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mitchell
Mary Lou O'Hara
Al Oldenburg and guest
Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Pottschmidt
Gene Power and son
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rengo, dgtr. and son
Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Robbie Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Rocky Roncaglione
Henry Schaus
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sherwood
Col. and Mrs. Gerry Shrawder
Felix Smith
Lela Soldinski
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Stuelke
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Tung
Mr. and Mrs. Jules Watson and son
Dolly Wong

GUESTS

Mr. Neil Armstrong and son
Jack Chennault and daughter
Col. and Mrs. Owen Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Conrath
Nissen Davis and Susan Taylor
Gen. Jimmy and Jo Doolittle
Colleen Ferguson
Rhonda Fleming and Ted Mann
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Heckard
Minister S. K. Hu
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Jan Koff
Mr. and Mrs. Len Kimball
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lee
Ambassador Y. T. Loh
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Merrill
Marge Noble
Claudette Rees
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ross
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Strauss
Lola Styles
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Toth

"We Couldn't Make It, But..."

Doreen Reynolds, writing from Geneva: "Give my love to all the gang."

Dick Peret was having a bout with cancer at reunion time. From his Tucson, Arizona home, he told Rode to hold everything in readiness for the next reunion.

"Rick" Ricketts had to cancel out because of a cancer bout but told Rode he was past the radiation stage and was starting to feel better.

Charlie Mott: "I regret I can't make it to Ojai this year. Business prevents-- I have to attend an armanent planning conference at Eglin on 2-3 July. Meanwhile, best wishes for a successful one and pass on my hellos."

Ed Janski cancelled at the last minute because of business crunch--that's his alibi!

Jo Buckner Shurette cancelled at the last minute but said if any of you Tigers get to Dallas, rattle her cage.

Ed and Edith Stiles had to file a last minute cancellation because of illness in the family--hope to God this is over and join us at the next one.

"Pappy" Paxton writes, "I'll be thinking about all of you, my closest and best buddies any man could have--wishing for you the best reunion ever--and so sorry I cannot join you."

And From One Who Was There...

Early morning note, Sunday, July 6, to Dick and Lydia Rossi: "Thank you very much for inviting me to such a wonderful occasion. I enjoyed so much meeting my old friends. Sorry I couldn't say goodbye in person, but I didn't want to wake you up so early. Hope to see you again. Sincerely, Y.T. Loh.

FINAL LANDINGS

Lynn A. "Tex" Hurst -- Wing man, AVG. Jo Shurette let Rode know at reunion time of word from Mrs. Hurst of Lynn's death in Dallas, Texas on 21 September, 1974.

James E. Regis -- Photographer, AVG. Post-war; Air Force Photography, identified with many pioneering space photography projects. Died in Bangor, Maine, in an automobile accident, 18 May, 1975.

Mary Williams -- wife of Col. John Williams, AVG. Died August 25, 1975, from cancer, in San Diego, California. Mary was last with us at this 1975 reunion in Ojai.

REPORT ON THE PETACH MEMORIAL DINNER AND CHENNAULT MEMORIAL SERVICE

...from Charlie Mott and Phyllis Dolan

An enjoyable weekend was had by those attending the John E. Petach memorial dinner 7 June, 1975 at the Ramada Inn in North New Jersey (near Perth Amboy - Pete's home town). Mr. Rick Schraeder and Lew Levinson of the New Jersey Historical Assn. (Aviation) hosted the affair. We had a great turn-out (17) with Emma J., Jim Howard, Charlie Mott, the Joe Poshefko's, Allen Fritzke's, Mike Callan's, Twisty Bent's, Paul Clothier's, Bus Loane's, Walt Dolan's. Subsequently, Room 304 at the Inn hosted a party attended by the above, plus an equal number of the Historical Assn.

The historical association has plans for a temporary exhibit at the N. J. State Capitol at Trenton, and a permanent exhibit at the airport at Tom's River, N. J.

The attendees can't get over the hospitality and interest of the 100 people who attended. Among the guests was Tommy Walker of the International Group, which Gen. Chennault recruited prior to the AVG. It was a great turnout. Red Hanks, Jim Howard, and Charlie Mott all obliged as speakers with reminiscences of Pete and the AVG at the dinner - all of which was very well received.

The Chennault Memorial Service on Memorial Day at Washington was most impressive. It was really a well organized program thanks to the Memorial Committee. The Chinese Embassy in particular were most gracious hosts at the Embassy reception. The Chinese don't fool around where food, drink, and conviviality are concerned. Next year let's try for greater participation. Frank Andersen, Charlie Mott, Wayne Ricks and Hal Wylie placed the flowers on the tomb for our deceased in the past year. Don Berlin, the father of the P-40 was also there.

Phyllis adds:

We truly enjoyed the brief but honoring remarks from the head table at the Petach dinner. "Red" recalled a few humorous happenings, like being married with a black eye and beating the General at cribbage as long as Pete coached her. Red was more than pleased to see everyone because she hadn't heard if anyone was going to show. But you know us "Yankees", we wouldn't let our Lady Tiger down!

A special pamphlet, entitled "Tribute to a Tiger," was published by New Jersey Historical Association for the dinner. It recounted the exploits of the AVG and John Petach's part as a member of General Chennault's Flying Tigers. It described his career from his birth and education in Perth Amboy to his enlistment in the U.S. Navy and finally his volunteer service with the AVG, where he gave his life in divebombing a Japanese gunboat. He was one of a small group of pilots who volunteered to stay on after disbandment of the AVG in July, 1942. It was during this additional service period covering the transition of aerial combat from the AVG TO U.S. military forces that his career ended, just a few months after his marriage to Emma Jane Foster. Their daughter was born the following February of 1943.

NEWS & NOTICES...

Tigerag Photos

If you desire photo copies of any of the pictures in this issue, please contact Don Rodewald, 1220 No. Fifth Street, Burbank, California, 91504.

To AVG Members, For Posterity's Sake

With the passing of John Williams' wife, Mary, he has been spending several months completing and expanding the AVG exhibit and Archives in the Aero-Space Museum. Some 700,000 people from all over the world view the exhibit annually. Now is the time to dig into those dusty old foot lockers, send pictures, artifacts, personal stories or memorabilia with your name as donor to: San Diego Aero-Space Museum, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, 92101. Attention: AVG Exhibit. Time is running out and your name as donor will be part of history for many to see and remember as part of the legend of the Flying Tigers. Your personal story will go into the 15 volume Archives. (P.S. Dates, names and places are a must!)

In Memory of Chennault

Mayor Troy of Monroe, Louisiana, has announced that a large new recreation park in Monroe would be dedicated in memory of General Chennault. Monroe was the General's hometown. The dedication was to take place at Monroe on April 11, 1976.

At the suggestion of Ernest W. "Bus" Loane, a flag was flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C., in memory of General Chennault. Bus received the following letter from Helen Meyner, member of Congress, 13th District, New Jersey:

"Dear Mr. Loane: Thank you for your recent letter. I have already requested a flag be flown over the Capitol in memory of General C.L. Chennault on July 18th. As soon as the flag is returned to me, I will be more than happy to forward it on to you. In the meantime, please feel free to call on me if there is any way I may be of further assistance."

Hump Pilots Get Together

The China-Burma-India Hump Pilots Association will hold its 31st annual reunion at the Ramada Inn in Monroe, Louisiana August 5-8, 1976. For further information contact Jan Theis, Executive Secretary, CBI Hump Pilots Association Headquarters, 917 Pine Boulevard, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, 63901. Phone: (314) 785-2420.

Re: the '77 AVG/CNAC Reunion...A guest policy:

A guest policy was announced which was concurred with by CNAC; i.e., All guest reservations will be deferred until 30 days before the reunion date to allow regular members to establish their reservations. When all accommodations at the Inn are filled, guests and members who have sent in their reservations less than 30 days before the reunion will be placed in billets available outside the Inn.

A STORY FROM RED HOLMES...

As Neil Armstrong was to be the honored guest at the TIGER Banquet, we decided on a plain introduction at the CNAC Banquet. However, I had a back up story just in case that might have come out something like the following:

In the second seat to my left sits Neil Armstrong - which is the story of my life - he has always been just outside of my reach. Seriously folks, on Sunday, July 20th, 1969, I sat at home, my eyes glued to the TV set, sweating Neil out on his trip to the moon - one shot after another. Shortly after Neil took 'giant step' (with another shot for me) I began to wonder what the temperature was there on the moon. I kept thinking, Jesus, why don't they tell us what the temperature is? Everybody wants to know. So I went to the kitchen phone (closer to the shots) and dialed NBC TV in NYC. They were unable to answer my question but did suggest that I call Mission Control in Houston. So I did what any red-blooded American would do, I called there and the two-way conversation went something like this:

"NASA, MISSION CONTROL, Staff Sgt. Alvin Bomier here."

"Yes, my name is Red Holmes, I live in Stony Brook, NY and I'm one of the stockholders in this caper of yours, with a question. What is the temperature up there on the moon?"

"Standby one." (hand cupped over phone - barely audible) "Some character on the phone here wants to know what the temp is on the moon." (inaudible) "Sir, in the sun or in the shade of the LEM?"

"How about both, okay?"

"Standby." (inaudible) - "Sir, it's zero degrees centigrade."

"In the shade or the sun?"

"Both, Sir."

"Zero, huh---huhm. Is that estimated or actual?"

"Standby." (audible) "Now he wants to know if that's estimated or actual." It's actual, Sir."

"Thanks a lot, goodbye." (another shot) I don't like being put on and now I'm fuming. I'm thinking, "Red, if you were the first person to place a call to the moon, you might become famous, too." So I dial "0".

"OPERATOR, may I help you?"

My name is Holmes at (516) 751-2412 and I'm calling person-to-person to Neil Armstrong on the moon."

"Do you have the Area Code, Sir?"

"No, I think it's a new one."

"One moment please, and I'll get my supervisor." - "This is Ms. Baker, may I help?"

"Yes, I want to place a person-to-person call to Neil Armstrong on the moon."

"Well, Sir, I don't believe we can complete your call."

"I don't see why not---they are talking to him now from Mission Control in Houston."

"Just a moment please, I will have to check with our technician." Soon an unidentified male voice came on the line apologetically, informs me that much as he would like to connect me, it is utterly impossible, -- no cables up there, yet."

Dejected, I return to watching the box and Neil returns to the LEM.

In a short while they cut in on the program and the announcer says: "We interrupt this program for the following SPECIAL----The President of the United States will now become the first person to talk on the telephone to an American on the moon."

Like I said, Neil has always been just outside of my reach. And that's the truth.

Red Holmes

Dear Red:

Thanks for the note which I found awaiting my return to the campus after the summer. I still don't know what the temperature was when I was up there. We didn't have a thermometer. And that's the truth.

Neil A. Armstrong

Now Hear This!!



We're a Good Group!



**THE GANG'S
ALL HERE!**

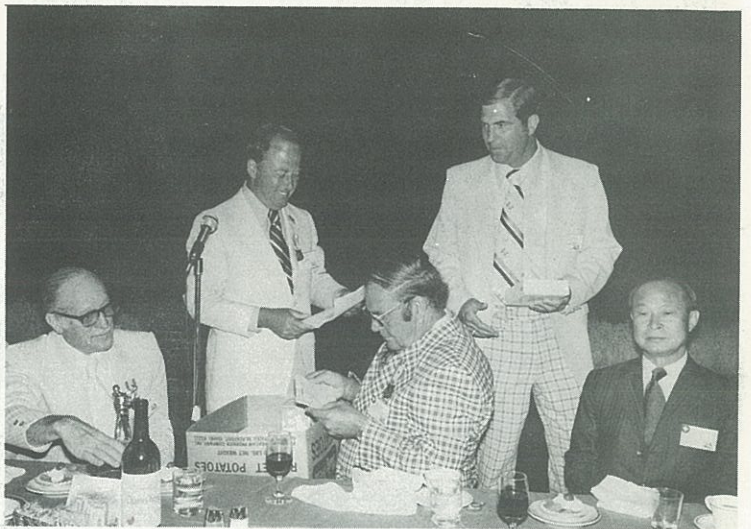


**Out of the
Frying Pan
Into the Fryer**

**Strictly
Business**

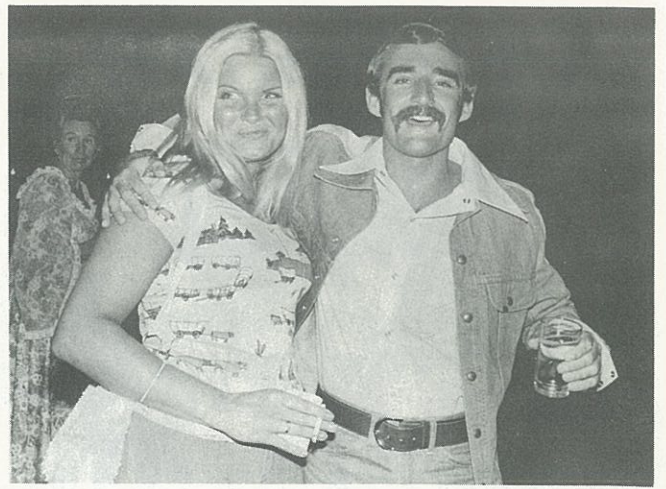


On the Banquet Circuit...

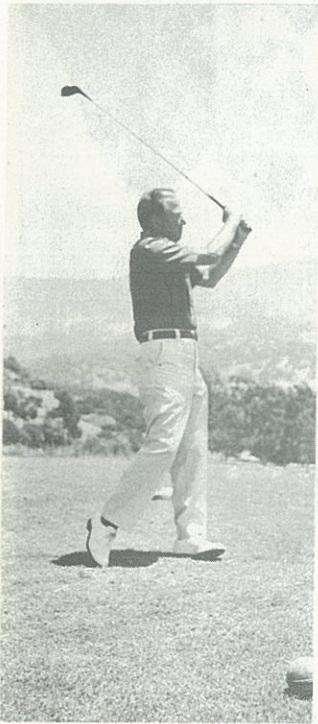


Personally and Confidentially--

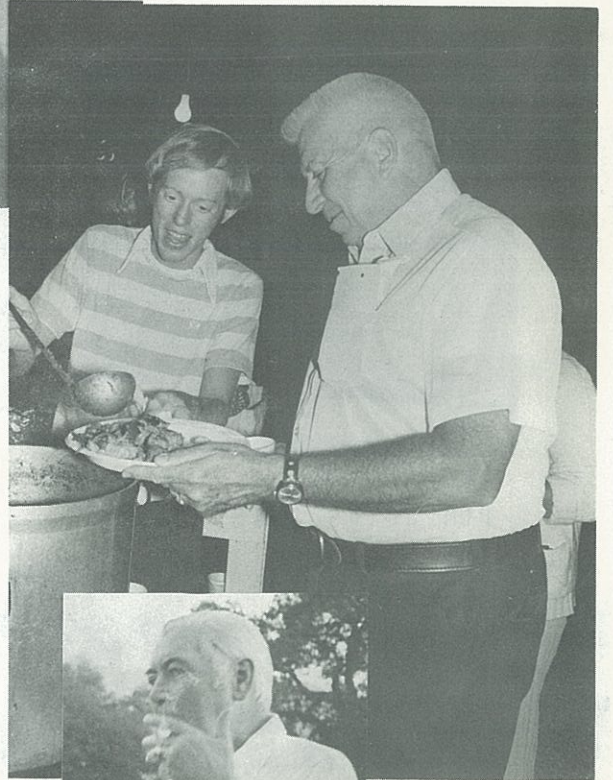




Athletes, All.

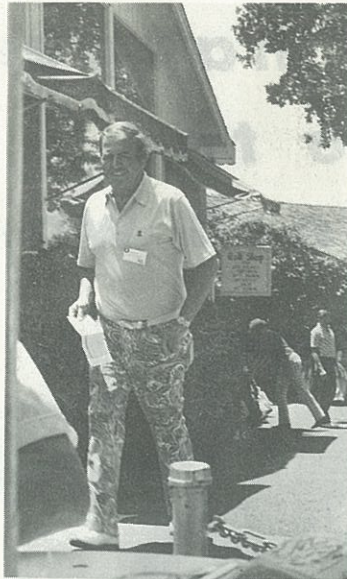


What happened to the 32-inch waist?





NOW, WITH GINGER ROGERS
I DID IT THIS WAY.



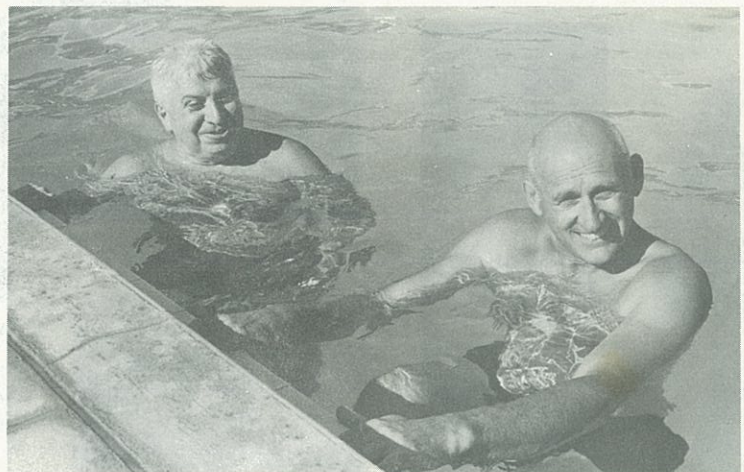
THERE MUST BE
SOME GUY AROUND
HERE I CAN BEAT.



THAT MOON STUFF'S OKAY,
BUT LEMME TELL YOU HOW I
SHOT DOWN FIVE PLANES IN
ONE DAY!



NOT NOW---
I'M GOING SWIMMING



SINCE JAWS, I NEVER SWIM ANYMORE



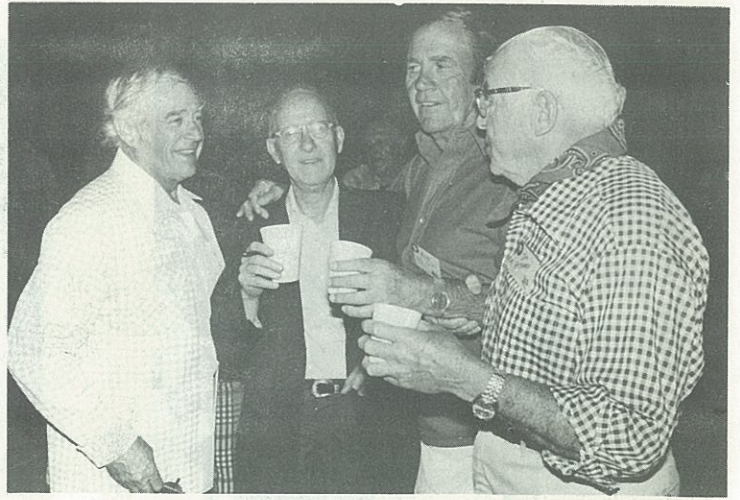
---YES, AND BRING ME THE RUBBER GLOVES



FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T TELL BETTY!



OH, LORD, HOW MUCH LONGER?



HASN'T HE FINISHED YET?



WHAT'S FUNNY ABOUT THAT?



NOW, THAT'S FUNNY!!



HEY, WAITER, WHERE'S MY OTHER DRINK?



OKAY,
JUST BECAUSE
YOU PAID
FOR THE BOOZE
DOESN'T MEAN
YOU CAN MAKE
A SPEECH.



ANY OTHER GENIUS COULD HAVE
DONE THE SAME.



ONE GIANT STEP BACKWARD FOR MANKIND.



YOU GOTTA SPEAK CHINESE,
DOC, IF YOU'RE GONNA USE
ALL THOSE HERBS.



WHADYA MEAN,
I AIN'T GOT
NO ROOM?



WOULD YOU LIKE IT RIGHT ON THE CHOPS?



I THINK IT EVEN FEELS BETTER
THAN SEX!



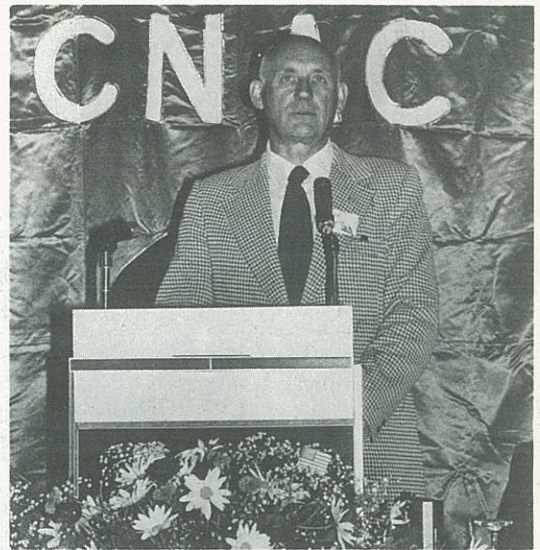
---AND WHEN WE SELL ALL THE STOCK,
WE CAN BEAT IT TO MEXICO



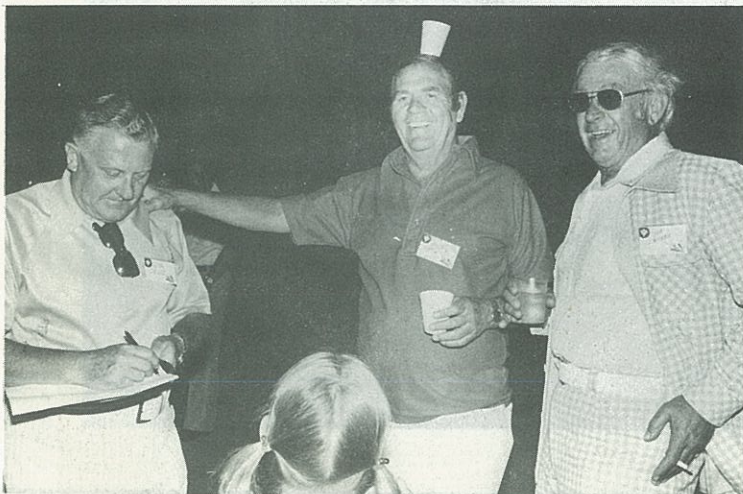
DO YOU THINK THEY'D BUY THOSE
GOLD BARS?



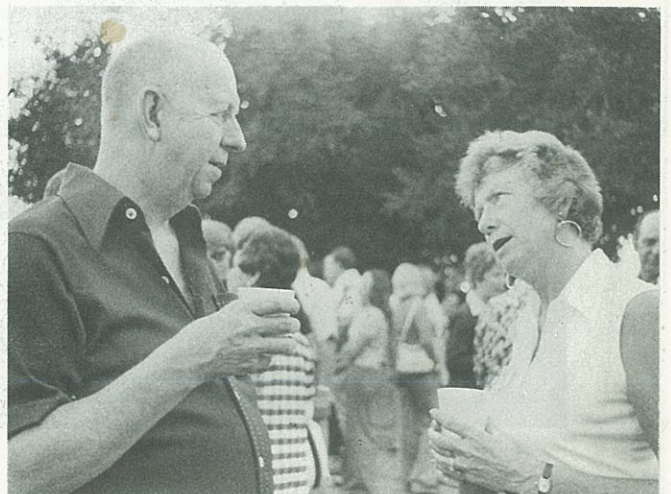
---AND THEN
WHEN WE GET
THOSE EXCLUSIVE
LANDING RIGHTS
FOR TAIWAN...



FATHER, FORGIVE THEM.



THAT'S ANOTHER ROUND I WON, CROSS.



DON'T YOU GIVE ME THAT-----

NOTE TO NATIONAL AIRLINES:

---NO FRILLS FLIGHT ON CNAC,

CIRCA 1942!

