



# THE TIGER RAG

FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER, 1979



## 1979 AVG-CNAC REUNION

OJAI, CALIFORNIA



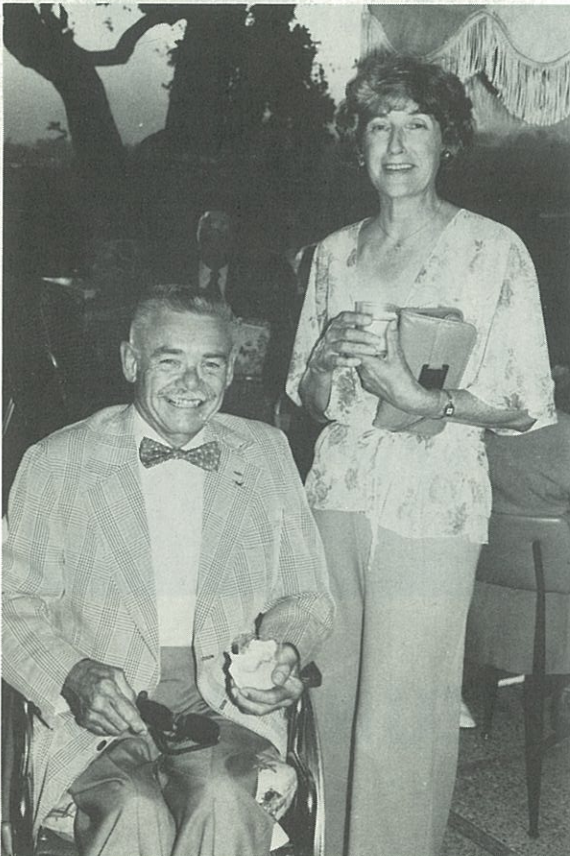
OJAI REPORT

Len Kimball

Memories, enlivened by a meeting of old friends--that is a reunion and the 1979 gathering of the clan at Ojai on July 4,5,6,7 was one of the most memorable of all those of AVG and CNAC since the first one way back in 1952.

The stories haven't changed. In fact, they're better. Time has a way of mellowing history and improving it, and things you might not have thought happened now seem surely to have happened because the story telling is so good. Four days of that sharpens memories. And that is what makes reunions what they are and what makes them so good--that and seeing old friends.

There were lots of old friends at Ojai this Fourth, one of the best of all turnouts -- 48 AVG'ers and 25 CNAC'ers, a total of 73 and with wives and heirs, the total attendance exceeded 190. The bar did an SRO business, especially after the sun had set,

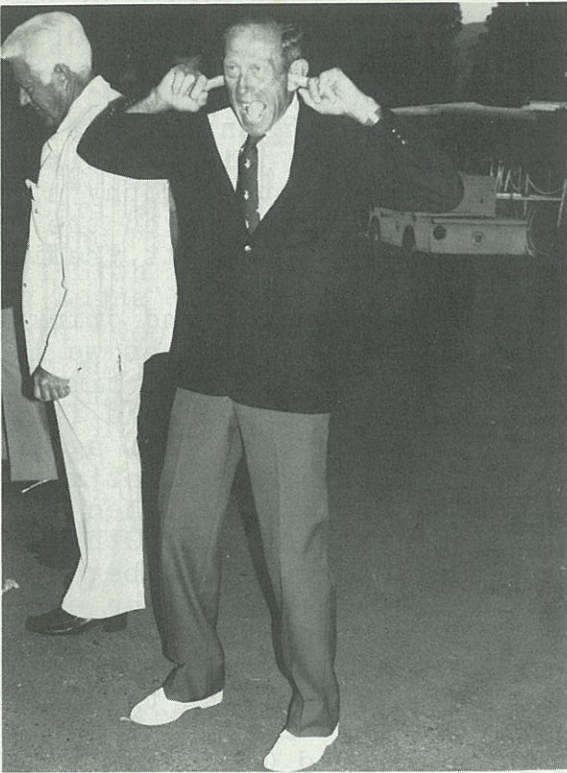


the dancing continued until the lights went out and if old age is supposed to be creeping up on us, there were no signs of it. In fact, "Doc Rich" looked more like a three-year-old in the Derby than an old farmer.

As with all reunions, there were so many things going on that writing about it afterwards, the memory is a little blurred as to what did happen, which is a built-in apology for anything omitted here or generally screwed up. There were tennis tournaments, gold tournaments, bridge tournaments, horseback riding, swimming in and lounging by the pool -- also napping -- to say nothing of the eating, drinking and dancing.

We welcomed for the first time at Ojai Hugh Viverette from North Carolina, Leon Schramm from Pennsylvania and John Young from Illinois. Viverette probably wins the prize for making it the hard way and for showing the kind of stuff AVG'ers are made of -- he rode all the way out from the east coast by motorcycle! That's a first such as we've never had before.

Speaking of attendance, the most farawayers this time were Christy and Red Hanks from Maryland,



Steve Kustay from Pennsylvania, Walt Dolan from New York, Moose Moss and Robby Roberts from Georgia, Joe Hardin from Connecticut, Mel Kempth from Alaska, Paul Clouthier, Twisty Bent and Joe Poshefko from Massachusetts, Jeanne Loane and Carey Bowles from New Jersey and the big Florida contingent of Rocky Roncaglione, Jim Howard and Jesse Crookshanks.

From the Midwest came another big group -- Bob Rengo, Bill Maher, Bob McCaleb, Bob Layher, Al Kaelin, Bob Neal, Morgan Vaux and Ed Janski and out of the Rocky Mountains and Texas came Don Rodewald, Charley Uban, Irv Stolet, Tex Hill, Roy Farrell, and Jo Surette.

The West Coast, as usual, had a great turnout -- Dick Rossi, Jim Cross, Bus Keeton, Otto Daube, Glenn Carroll, Jim Dalby, Al Oldenburg, Eric Shilling, "G.I." Paull, Bob Smith and R.T. Smith, Gerry Shrawder, Dick Stuelke, Jules Watson, Cliff Groh, Bill Bartling, Duke Hedman, Joe Michiels, Bob Sherwood, Jeff Weiner, "Burma Bob" Locke, Joe Hall, John Williams, Chuch Older, P.J. Perry, P.J. Green, Dick Peret, Bill Schaper, Gen Genson, Art Kininmouth, Ralph Mitchell, John Uebele and the aforesaid Doc Rich.

Also, especially included, were Betty Haywood and Edith Sawyer, who joined Jeanne Loane and Peggy Chennault Lee among our celebrated "gals."

A celebrated guest who stayed through the four days of the reunion was 81 year old Don Berlin, who looks as rugged as the P-40, which he designed. Now living in Indianapolis, Don was in most of the events and into all of the evenings, where he swapped stories with a memory that belied his years.

Of course, we had the traditional steak fry and square dancing laced with ample supplies from the bar provided by those topflight insurance hosts, Johnson and Higgins. This usually was our opening gambit but since the Fourth was the first day of the reunion instead of the closer, the opening night was a cocktail party hosted by our old friends from Boeing and followed by a buffet.

Meantime, the bridge tournament began and was topped in a flurry of cards by Kitty Older, Mrs. Ray McEwen of Boeing, and Peggy Chennault Lee.



*Lynia Rossi*

We had two outstanding banquets, the first that of CNAC with Milton Caniff as our special guest and Pratt and Whitney doing honors at the bar. Between Milt's descriptions of how his famous cartoon strip about China and the war evolved and the characters developed from your exploits and the sketches he drew as we all looked on, it turned into one of our most memorable evenings. He graciously autographed every program offered and his letter to Dick Rossi, reproduced elsewhere, tells how much he, too, enjoyed a memorable night.

The closing banquet was a tribute to Bob Prescott, for whom the reunions were probably his favorite time of the year. Joe Healy, who succeeded Bob as president of the Flying Tiger Line and his wife, Audrey, were on hand for most of our events and made this night a special one. Joe and Anne-Marie Prescott and Bob's daughters, French and Kirsten, were with us to accept the Flying Tiger Pilot Award Trophy presented this

year posthumously to Bob, honoring his contribution to aviation. So the man who had so much to do with the success of reunions over a span of nearly 30 years joins an historic group of airmen on the trophy's nameplate. Joe also hosted the bar which was in pure Prescott tradition.

There was dancing and drinking far into that last night as we looked at each other for the last time this year for most of us and said final goodbyes on Sunday. We left again with great memories and that's what a reunion is all about. When you reflect that this is the 40th year since the great adventure began by drawing most of you into the early days of the war and that you are around, so many of you, still meeting together and telling the stories of those days, it makes one think of the meaning behind Chennault's message after the first reunion back in 1952 -- "You boys just let me know when and where you meet next and I'll be there!"

God bless till next time.

*Leh*



OJAI ATTENDANCE LIST  
Members-Families-Guests

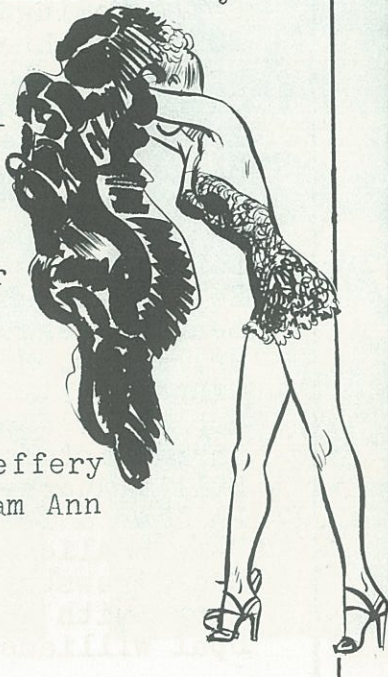
AVG/CNAC

Bill Bartling  
Dr. Carl Brown  
Duke and Many Ann Hedman  
Cliff Groh  
Jean Loane  
Robert "Moose" Moss  
Peter and French Prescott Reill  
Doc Richards  
Dick & Lydia Rossi & Tony  
Eric & Ilse Shilling & Ricky  
Dick & Kirsten Prescott Smith  
Anne Marie Prescott



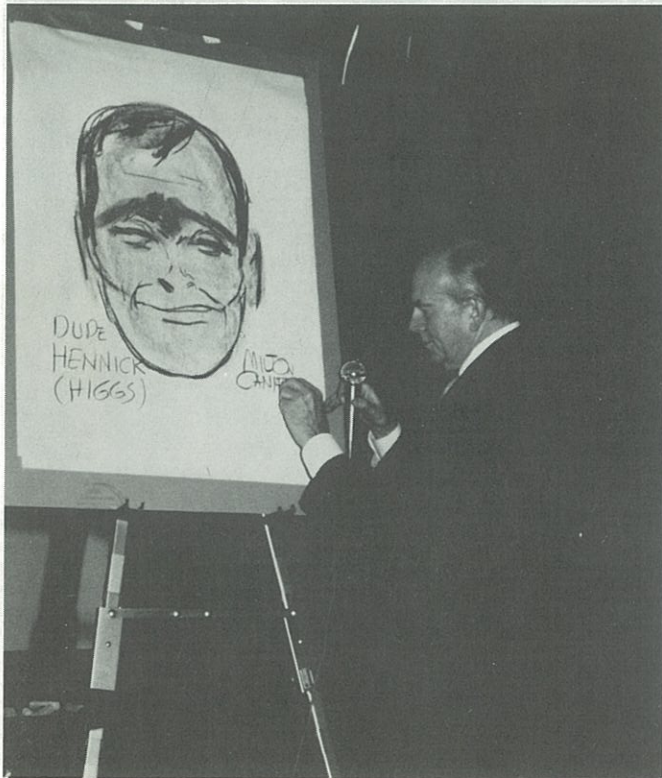
AVG

Twisty & Roz Bent  
Tim Burgard  
Paul & Dorothy Clouthier  
Jesse & Bernadine Crookshanks  
Jim & Betty Cross  
Otto & Marion Daube  
Walt & Phyllis Dolan & Kevin  
P.J. Greene  
"Red" Petach Hanks  
Betty Haywood  
Tex & Mazie Hill  
Jim Howard  
Ed Janski  
Al & Corky Kaelin  
Bus & Metha Keeton  
Mel Kempf  
Steve & Ann Kustay  
Bob & Marian Layher & Bob  
Bob & Peggy Chennault Lee Pat & Terry  
Lee & Alexandria, Denise & Teddy  
Bob & Gwynn Locke  
Bob & Jo Neal  
Chuck & Kitty Older  
Preston & Lottie Paull  
Dick & Jean Peret  
P. J. Perry  
Don Rodewald & Judy  
Edith Sawyer  
Bill & Eleanor Schaper  
Terry & Sandy Schaper  
Leo & Frances Schramm  
Jo Stewart Shurette  
Bob M. Smith  
Robert T. Smith  
Irv & Jean Stolet & Jeffery  
John & Pam Uebele & Pam Ann  
Morgan Vaux  
Hugh Viverette  
John Williams  
Harvey Wirta  
John Young



CNAC

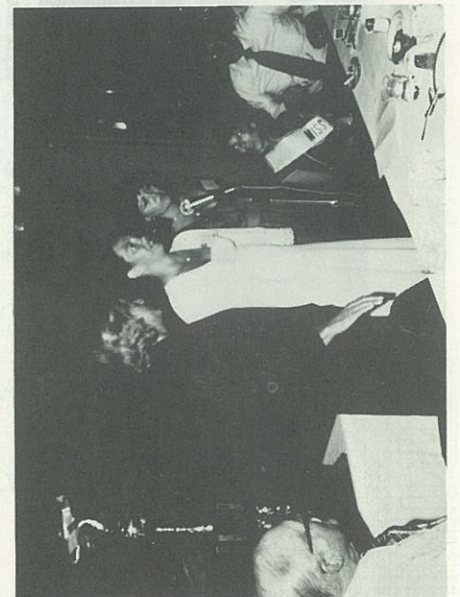
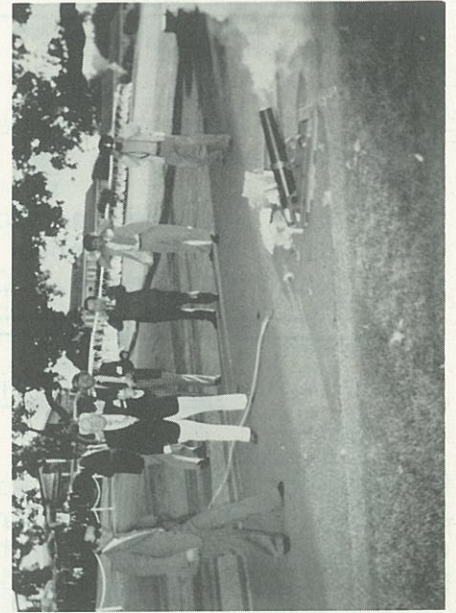
Carey & Cynthia Bowles  
 Glen & Shirley Carroll  
 Jim & Peggy Dalby  
 Roy & Margie Farrell  
 John & Sue Folz  
 Gen Genson  
 Oliver & Rosemary Glenn  
 Joe Hall  
 Fletcher "Christy" Hanks  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hardin  
 Mike & Betty Kan  
 John Kenehan  
 Art & Cissie Kininmonth  
 Bill & Mary Leu Maher  
 Bob & Thelma McCaleb  
 Joe & Isabel Michiels  
 Ralph & Lisa Mitchell  
 Bob & Gert Nash  
 Al Oldenburg  
 Potty & Mary Margaret Pottschmidt  
 Bob & Marge Rengo, Mr. & Mrs. Butch  
 Dorn, Andy & Frank, Mr. & Mrs. Al  
 Fischer & Todd  
 "Robbie" & Lucille Roberts  
 "Rocky" & Esther Roncaglione  
 Bob & Audrene Sherwood  
 Gerry & Angela Shrawder  
 Dick Stratford & daughter  
 Dick Stuelke  
 Charley & Emma Jo Uban  
 Jules & Peggy Watson  
 Jeff & Peggy Weiner



AVG/CNAC GUESTS

Don Berlin  
 Hal Brouk  
 Milton & Bunnie Caniff  
 Bob & Martha Conrath  
 Midge Cook  
 Nissen & Susan Davis  
 Frank Elliott  
 Colleen Ferguson  
 Gordon Groh  
 Bonnie Hastings  
 Joe & Audrey Healy & Shaun  
 Gayle Hemingway  
 Randy Humphrey  
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Jordan & 3 Children  
 Capt. Kim Chang Kyn  
 Len & Deirdre Kimball  
 Margaret Knowles  
 Jack Kruzeloek  
 Gen. Y. T. Loh  
 Dolly Luce  
 Ray & Hatti Lou McEwen  
 Sean McGregor  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Minnick  
 Grace Norris & son  
 Bob & Pat Nowak  
 Larry Pistole  
 Bill & Audrey Raabe  
 Phillip & Traci Rengo  
 Dave & Alice Rossi  
 Sue Shrewsbury  
 Mary Smith  
 Opal Williams





IN MEMORIAM

When we prepared the reunion program, we were unaware that Thomas Henson had passed away in 1978. Our sympathy to his family.

We are sad to have to report that George L. "Pappy" Paxton died on September 17, 1979. "Pappy" fought a valiant fight these last few years. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

NEW ACTIVITIES

In addition to the usual golf tournament, this year we inaugurated a bridge and tennis tournament. Their success has assured that they will be planned for future reunions. Now if Charlie Mott will come out, we could have a chess tournament.

HONORS

President Joe Healy of the Flying Tiger Line announced at the AVG banquet that the next two Boeing 747 aircraft to be delivered to the company would be named after Bob Prescott and Tom Haywood, in memory of their part in the founding of the company.




THE ELBOW BENDERS LINE UP AT THE STEAK FRY



*One of our first letter heads —*

PHONE 2-8529, ABILENE, TEXAS

FLYING  TIGERS

(AMERICAN VOLUNTEER GROUP - CHINESE AIR FORCE)  
INCORPORATED

OFFICIAL HDQTRS: 292 MADISON AVENUE (OFFICE 902), NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
ALL CORRESPONDENCE: 2050 PALM ST., ABILENE, TEXAS

DIRECTORS

MAJOR GENERAL  
CLAIRE L. CHENNAULT  
CHAIRMAN  
JOHN R. ROSSI  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
ROBERT H. NEALE  
DAVID L. HILL  
PARKER S. DUPOUY  
GEORGE T. BURGARD  
GEORGE L. PAXTON  
ROBERT B. KEETON  
ROBERT T. SMITH  
FREEMAN I. RICKETTS  
ROBERT P. HEDMAN  
LEWIS J. RICHARDS  
HARRY E. FOX  
GEORGE F. CURRAN  
DONALD L. RODEWALD  
JOSEPH A. POSHEFKO  
ROBERT W. PRESCOTT  
ALEX MIHALKO  
ALBERT V. KAELIN  
GEORGE LEO WING SHEE  
PRESTON B. PAULL

July 2, 1979

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AND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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ROBERT H. NEALE  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
LEWIS J. RICHARDS  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
DAVID L. HILL  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
GEORGE L. PAXTON  
SECY. TREAS.  
ROBERT B. KEETON  
ASST. TREAS.

Dear Rossi

Just received your  
letter of June 28 - thanks.

Please read the following  
to our Tigers at the reunion —

I'm with you all the  
way in spirit if not in body  
— all of you to me  
represent the finest and  
most valued friends anyone  
could have - God Bless -

"Puppy" Paxton

AVG/CNAC AIRMANSHIP AWARD

The AVG/CNAC Associations presented a joint AIRMANSHIP AWARD to Capt. Kim Chang Kyu, for his outstanding display of airmanship in April, 1978. Capt. Kim safely crash landed his Boeing 707, in the dead of night, on a frozen lake, after being attacked and damaged by Soviet MIG fighter planes. This was accomplished without passengers or crew sustaining any deaths or injuries beyond those inflicted by the fighter attack.

The following is Captain Kim's speech on accepting the plaque:

Mr. Rossi, Mr. Watson, Mr. Caniff, Members of the American Volunteer Group and the China National Aviation Corporation, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for this great honor. At the time, I did not think of myself as an airline pilot, but simply as a man who was "skating on thin ice". For many years I wondered what that American expression meant. Now I know.... Because I "skated on thin ice" in a Boeing 707!

I must admit to my fears at the time. And I prayed to God. And I thank God that my prayer was answered and my passengers and crew were able to escape disaster.

To be recognized by this group is an even greater honor than you may know. I have admiration for the courage and good deeds of the men of the AVG and CNAC. It is with humility that I accept this award from you. To be honored is good. To be honored by heroes is truly much greater. Thank you very much.

1980 MINI - REUNION

This is a reminder for those who are planning to attend, that next years mini-reunion will be held at the Ojai Valley Inn on July 3-4-5. There are no planned programs, and all reservations are made on an individual basis. There are no restrictions on guests. Just make your reservations while there is still space. Ojai Valley Inn, Ojai, Ca. 93023.



MILTON CANIFF Palm Springs  
10 July 79

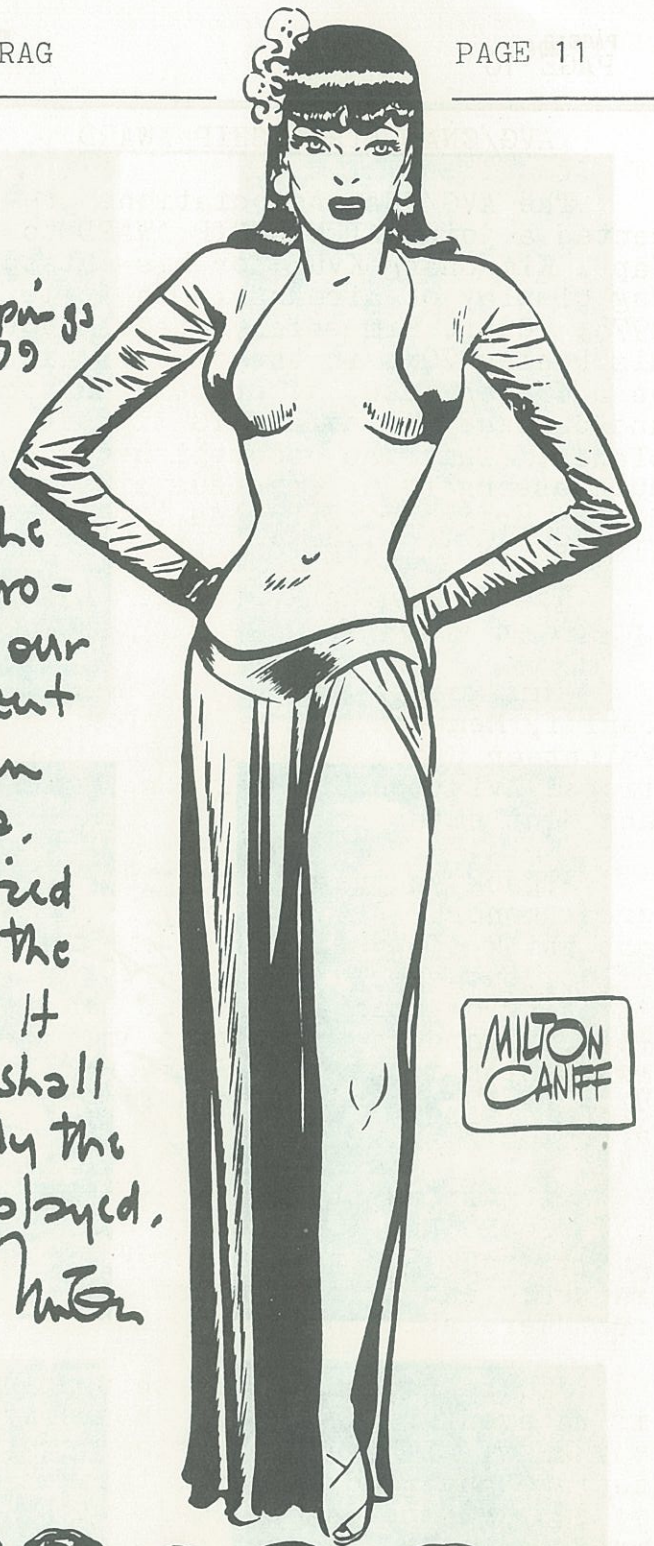
Dick =

It was really great!

— Not only the dinner, the 'trophy' and the printed program, but the warmth of our reception by the troops — sent Bunny and me back to Palm Springs in a haze of euphoria.

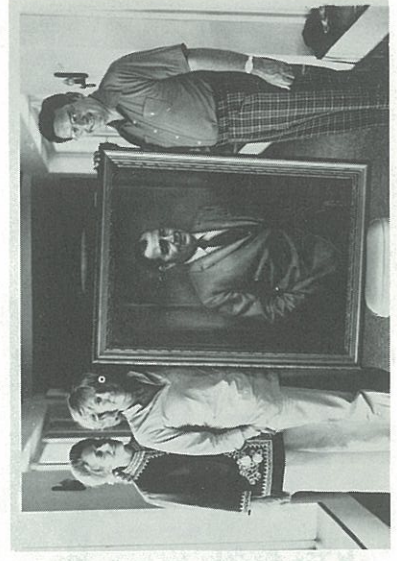
I hope everyone realized how moved we both were by the dimension of the occasion. It is for certain sure that we shall never forget it — and especially the heavy part you and Lydia played.

Warm regards, Milton

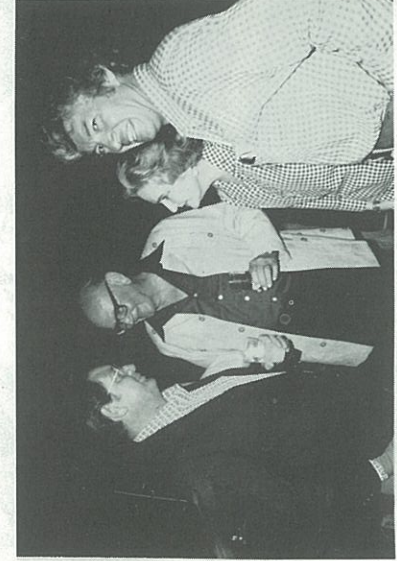
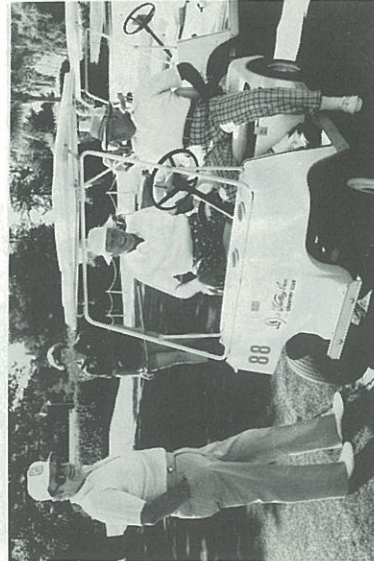
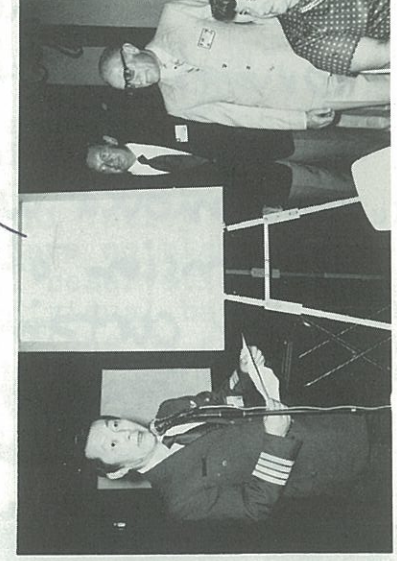


MILTON  
CANIFF



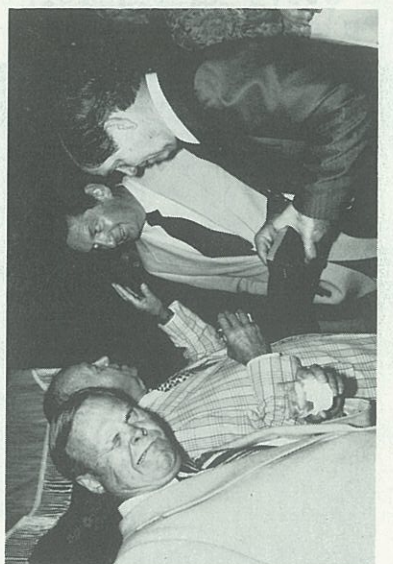
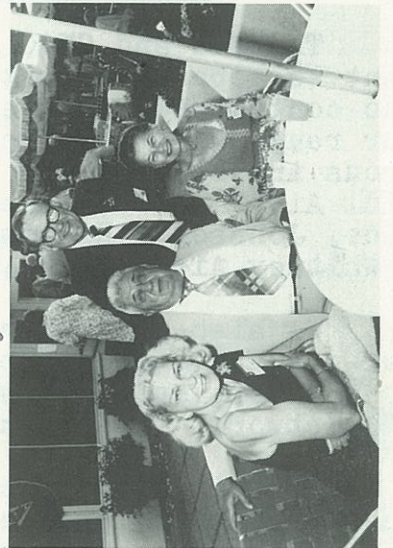


*Lynnei Kossi*





*Lydia Rossi*



NEW ADDRESSES

We want to thank Larry Pistole for coming up with addresses for two of our missing members. They are:

Edward J. Harris  
P.O. Box 287  
Clifton Forge, Va. 24422

Charles V. Misenheimer  
780 Willow Ct.  
Marco Island, Fl. 33937

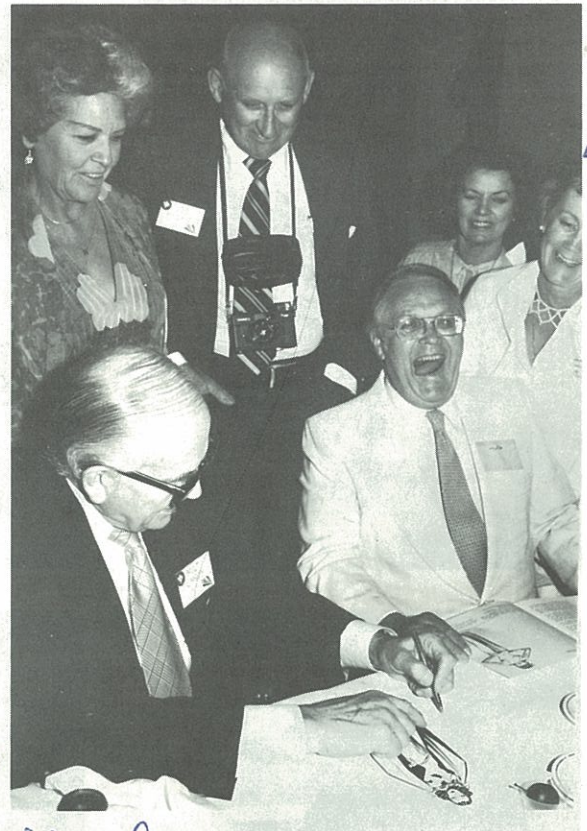
Now, If he can only get his uncle, Herb Pistole, to attend the next reunion, we will award him a gold star.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The AVG and CNAC Associations want to repeat their thanks to those who contributed to the success of our reunion. We appreciate the generous interest of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Co. the Flying Tiger Line, Johnson & Higgins, and Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co.

We also thank young Joe Rosbert for designing and preparing the program cover, and Milton Caniff for the artwork, inside the program.

We join "Doc" Richards in thanking Don Caster for the use of his cannon these past several reunions, and Steve Kustay for the gun powder. It's a blast.



*Milton Caniff*

ELECTIONS - AVG

The AVG Association elected the following corporate officers:

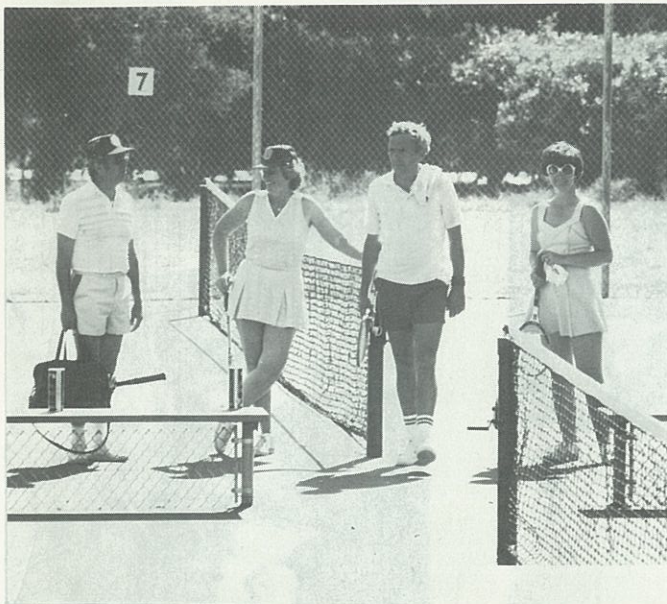
- John R. Rossi-----President
- "Red" Petach Hanks--Vice President
- David L. Hill-----Vice President
- Charles H. Older----Vice President
- Donald Rodewald----Secretary
- Robert M. Smith----Treasurer

ELECTIONS - CNAC

The CNAC Association elected the following officers:

- Fletcher Hanks-----President
- William Maher-----Vice President
- Robert Sherwood----Vice President & Counselor
- Henry J. Hardin----Vice President East Coast
- Walter Roncaglione--Secretary
- Robert Rengo-----Treasurer

Full business meeting reports will be sent to the membership from the respective secretaries.



BILL McDONALD & JOE MICHIELS

We missed Bill and Peggy McDonald at the reunion this year. They were amongst our most salwart regulars in attendance. Mac had a severe stroke shortly before the reunion, and had to cancel his reservation. He is at home in Birmingham recuperating. He is still in serious condition, and would appreciate hearing from his old China friends. We can not make him well, but we can cheer him up.

Joe Michiels is still holding his own in his battle with cancer. He has been making a great stand. He came over to Ojai and joined the gang for a visit. Joe has not lost any of his sense of humor. He can brighten up any gathering he attends.



AVG ADDRESS CHANGES

C. Y. Gee  
1307-B Yesler St.  
Seattle, Wa. 98122

Gale E. McCallister  
143 Lewis, M.M.H.PK  
Marysville Ohio 43040

John M. Williams  
4250 4th Ave. Apt. 132  
San Diego, Ca. 92103



CNAC ADDRESS CHANGES

Gen Genson  
11922 Rialto St.  
Sun Valley, Ca. 91352

Guy Harden, Jr.  
The Manor House  
Old Bosham/Chichester  
West Sussex, PO 188 HS. UK

James Maupin  
26 Rockinghorse Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca. 90274

Mrs. Robert Prescott  
23024 Saddleback Road  
Topanga, Ca. 90290

Jack Reid  
10435 Clifton Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Mrs. Helen J. Shapard  
1223 Trotwood Ave.  
Columbia, Tenn. 38401

Mrs. C. L. Shard  
2401 Vista Oaks Circle  
Palm Bay, Florida 32905



*Rosemary & Glenn*

