

# THE TIGER RAG

FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 1985



## AVG-CNAC ORIENTAL ODYSSEY

OCTOBER, 1984

# TAIWAN TRIP OUR 1984 ORIENTAL ODYSSEY

Those who were fortunate enough to make the trip to Taiwan and the Orient in October were treated to the extreme in oriental hospitality.

General Y.T. Loh and his staff at the CAF Veterans Association arranged a most wonderful visit for our group. Every available hour was filled with some function, tour, luncheon or banquet. Retired CAF generals K.Y. Wang and S.Y. Liu worked around the clock to see we wanted for nothing. Meals and tours were provided for those who arrived early, even before the official program started.

Taiwan, and especially Taipei, were all decorated for the Double Ten Holiday. It was a most festive mood, with the emphasis on celebrations. Our group paid tribute to Gen. Chennault and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, visited the National Palace Museum, and many points of interest around Taipei and Taiwan.

We were hosted by the Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Air Force, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by the Ministry of National Defense and by the Far Eastern Air Transport.

We witnessed the Double Ten Parade, visited Kinmen (Quemoy) Island and the Taroko Gorge, the Ami Village and a marble processing plant.

On our last night, we were able to invite all our Chinese hosts to a cocktail party, hosted by the Flying Tiger Line and a banquet which our group hosted.

The Chinese Air Force Veterans Association provided our transportation, hospitality desk, our lunches, all the arrangements for the various functions and they left no stone unturned in seeing that we had a good time. Everything was so well done that it is

hard to note and describe it all. One example which illustrates the extreme effort of our hosts was the building of ramps to the airplane especially to accommodate Rode's wheelchair. As you can guess, this had to be a long gentle incline. On Kinmen Island, every stairway, threshold, or difficult passage was especially ramped to make sure Rode was able to see everything on the program. Our tour of Kinmen was conducted by Maj. Gen. Hsu, Ta-mu, who was a most gracious guide, with a great sense of humor. It was an unforgettable trip.

The price reductions and considerations from China Airlines, Far East Air Transport and the Grand Hotel, were all arranged through General Loh and the CAF VA.

It was good to see two other CAF men from our Kunming past. Gen. Chow, who was Commander-in-Chief of the CAF in 1941/2 and also Gen. S.M. "Tiger" Wang are still active and recalled the "old days" with us. I believe they are the only two surviving CAF four-star generals. There have not been many of this rank. Excepting the Generalissimo, they are probably the only others to ever hold this rank.

When we were in Kunming, all the pilots were awarded CAF wings. Since the CAF has re-designed their official wings, we were all given a pair of the current CAF wings.

After the Taipei visit was completed, the group broke up into various itineraries. Some returned home and others took off for different destinations. The majority split in to two groups, with one contingent going to Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong and back to the US; and the other going to

Hong Kong, Tokyo and return home.

The CAT Association had their reunion at San Francisco the weekend before the Taipei bash, and many continued on to Taipei on the same China Airline flight with our San Francisco departees. They also stayed at the Grand Hotel. They also had some who continued on to Hong Kong and we were able to get together for a fabulous cocktail party and dinner at the Peninsula Hotel. Mrs. Renee Robertson set this up with help from Sue Hacker. Renee also picked up the tab for the cocktails and part of the dinner.

The early Hong Kong group continued on to Tokyo on Thursday, October 18th. In Tokyo the 25th Regiment Fighter Squadron (T-25), called the Hayabusa (Falcon) hosted a cocktail party and banquet at the Shinagawa Prince Hotel for us. It was an unusually elaborate dinner, arranged by Massaki Inoue and Renzo Aoki and members of their 25th squadron.

Although it was only a few blocks from our hotel, they provided a bus to take us there and back. That turned out to be a big plus, as it was raining at the time, clearing up the next day and for the rest of our stay. Gifts and prizes were raffled to all the people of our group, with a few happy recipients going home with beautiful, lavish Japanese kimonos. We were served American and Japanese food in abundance.

The gang did a lot of sightseeing in Tokyo and the surrounding areas, including Mt. Fuji, Lake Hakone and Nikko, among other points of interest.

A tired, but happy group did the sights of Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong before heading for home.

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FRONT COVER — Tex Hill, Bill Maher, Dick Rossi, Chuck Older, Gen. Y.T. Loh, Ed Rector, Gen. S.Y. Liu. Seated, Gen. Chow.

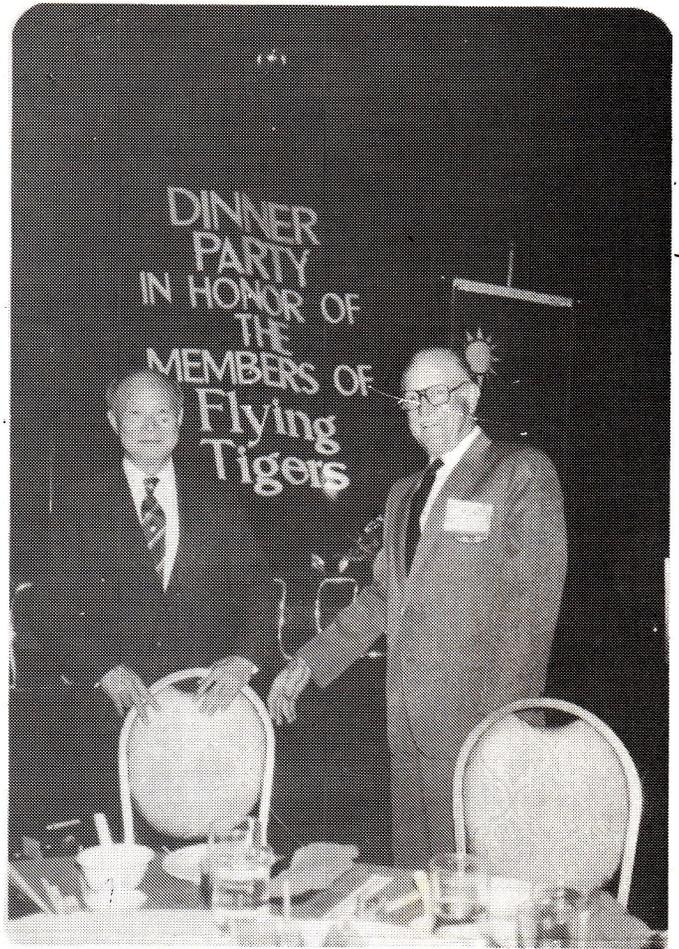
## JOIN THE GANG AT OJAI! July 4th - 5th and 6th, 1985

## THE TAIPEI ATTENDEES

Russell and Edna Armstrong  
 Twisty and Roz Bent  
 Peggy Blakely  
 Glenn and Shirley Carroll  
 Paul and Dorothy Clouthier  
 Michelle and J.R. Clouthier  
 Bob and Martha Conrath  
 Jim Dalby  
 Parker Dupuoy  
 Rob and Holly Farrell  
 Roy and Margie Farrell  
 Jake and Mary Fassett  
 Joe and Mary Gasdick  
 Bus and Metha Keeton  
 Bob Hedman and Mitsu Barnett  
 Tex and Maizie Hill  
 M/M David Hill, Jr.  
 Art and Cissey Kininmonth  
 Bob and Marian Layger  
 Linda Le Van  
 Bob and Peggy Lee  
 Pak and Sun Lee  
 Gordon and Jo Anne Lee  
 Bill and Anne Lee  
 Bill and Mary Lee Maher  
 Dave Majors and Marcia Burklew  
 Jo Neal  
 Butch and Joan Norman  
 Al Oldenburg and Mary Smith  
 Chuck and Kitty Older  
 Alys Hoffman Phreaner  
 Louis and Sharon Hoffman  
 Dale and Janet Hoffman



Gen. and Mrs. S.Y. Liu.

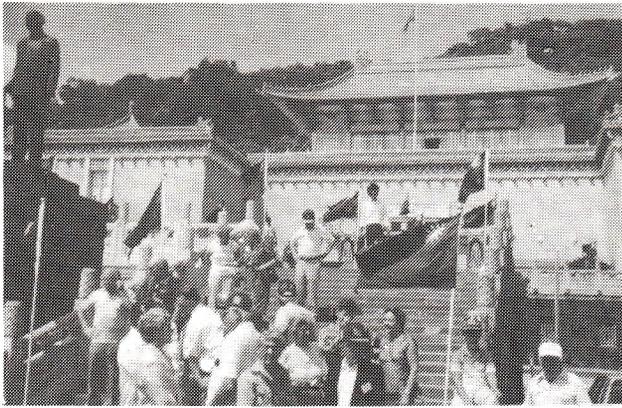


Gen. Y.T. Loh and Rossi.

Ed Rector  
 Bob and Margorie Rengo  
 Rich and Dorothy Richardson  
 Don Rodewald and Dolly Luce  
 David and Alice Rossi  
 Dick and Lydia Rossi and Tony  
 Bob and Audrene Sherwood  
 Gerry and Angela Shrawder  
 Ed and Edith Stiles  
 Dick Stuelke  
 Jules and Peggy Watson  
 John Williams and Opal Williams  
 Nancy Older Wood  
 Irving (E.Y.) and Levia Yu  
 Chuck and Willa Baisden  
 joined us in Tokyo

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

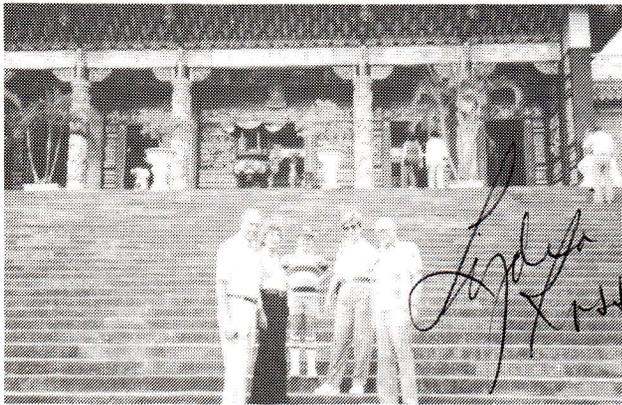
*This issue of the Tiger Rag was typeset, composed and printed by the Palm Spring High School (California) VICA (Vocational/Industrial Clubs of America) printing class, under the direction of Bob Andrade. We want to thank the students and Bob for this fine work.*



The group visits the National Museum



Miniature Chinese Cities Park



Art and Cissey Kininmonth with Tony, Lydia and Dick Rossi visit a temple in Taiwan



Porcelain factory — Taiwan



Reception at Hualien by Ami Aborigines



Lunch at Kinmen (Quemoy) Island, Kitty and Chuck Older. Gen. Hsu and Rossi in background.



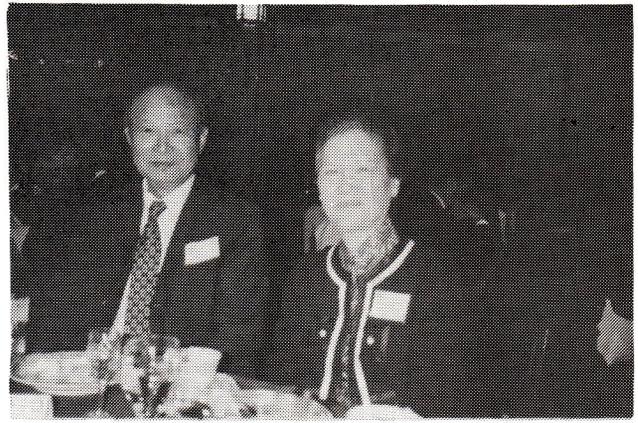
Mr. and Mrs. Pak Lee and Gen. K.Y. Wang at Mongolian barbecue



Jim Dalby and Dick Stuelke — Taipei.



Gen. and Mrs. "Tiger" Wong.



Gen. and Mrs. Y.T. Loh.



Kitty Older and Marian Layher at T-25 banquet — Tokyo.



Sue Buol Hacker (CAT) celebrates her birthday at Hong Kong dinner. Hostess Renee Robertson in center.



Tony at Buffet at T-25 dinner. Ed Rector guards beef cask in background.



CNAC Office in Hong Kong.



Tony gets lesson in Japanese food from Masaaki and Renzo



\*One of our Japanese hosts with family Sadako, Masaaki and Yukiko at T-25 dinner.

# RODE'S TRIP

As most of you now know, Rode completed his solo round-the-world flight. He landed at Oakland International Airport on November 11th, and eventually found his way back to Washington, D.C. His trip was made by flying Eastbound around the globe, with numerous side trips. He is the first paraplegic to circumnavigate the world solo.

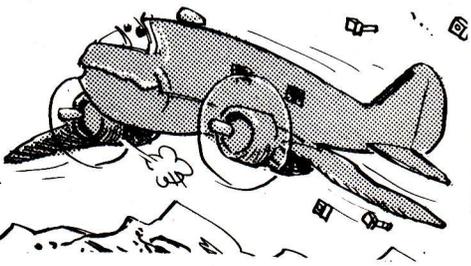
Rode arrived in Taipei on October 2nd and was taken under the wing of the CAF. General Y.T. Loh saw to it that Rode was given VIP treatment. After the festivities in Taipei, Rode went on to Hong Kong and Tokyo with the group, and then returned to Taipei to complete his trip, of over 40,000 miles.

When Rode arrived in Oakland, we had an AVG contingent there to greet him. Tex Hill handed him a scotch and soda, his daughters Donna and Judy were there as he stopped at the blocks, along with members of the wheelchair pilots association, and other friends, press and well wishers. We had quite a parking lot party, with all the supplies brought in by Joe Gasdick and Rich Richardson in their motor homes.

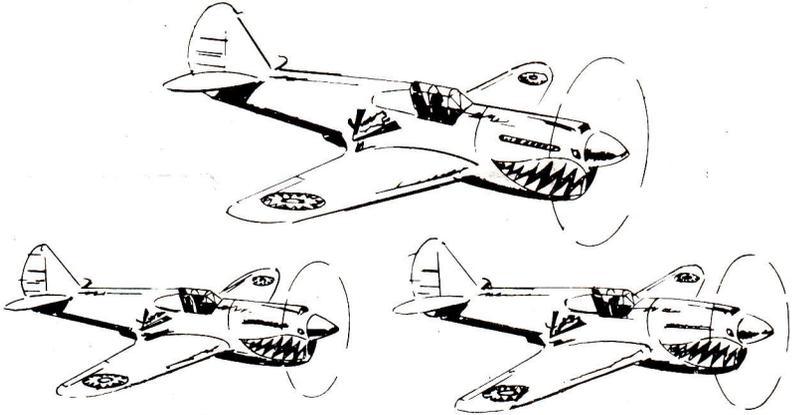
When Rode came through Los Angeles, Wayne Hoffman had a luncheon for him at the Flying Tiger Line headquarters. He then came down to Fallbrook and dropped off his life raft, "unused," he was happy to report. Mize Misenheimer and Mike Shields were here to join a little local celebration in his honor.

We are all proud of Rode and his accomplishment. His flying goes back to his first solo at age sixteen. Then in August, 1943, he graduated from flying school.

Rode covered many miles on this trip, and was in many countries. His trip will not be covered here, as we are hoping to get his own personal story when he has had time to settle down and recount it. We will get a report at Ojai I'm sure.



The gang poses with Rode at Taipei.



Rode at Oakland after hop from Honolulu.



Rode and plane at Taipei with Roy Farrell, Peggy Lee, Angela Shrawder, Edith and Ed Stiles, Rode and Rossi.

## NEWS ITEMS

General Clair Lee Chennault was enshrined in the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame at Montgomery, Alabama, at Maxwell Air Force Base, on November 16th, 1984. We had AVG representatives on hand for the occasion.

Robert W. Prescott was nominated to the National Aviation Hall of Fame at Dayton for last year's enshrinement program. He was not one of the four selected, but it is quite an honor to even be nominated. It is very likely he will be one of the ones selected in the next year or so.

Johnny Petack was honored at McGuire Air Force Base last year and his family given the Distinguished Flying Cross, which had been awarded to him in July, 1942 after he was shot down by Japanese fire. The medal had never been presented, although it had been approved.

1984 ended on a happy note for Robert "Bus" Keeton. After all these years, the two surviving members of the AVG Victory Confirmation Committee, Jim Howard and Bob Neale, confirmed a claim made by Bus in February of 1942. This involved a fight over Toungoo, where Bus was stationed at that time. Due to evacuation and other confusion, no action was taken at the time, and the incident was overlooked. However, Jim and Bob finally got around to making it an official victory. Better late than never.



1st SQUADRON



2nd SQUADRON



3rd SQUADRON

## AVG/CNAC 1985 REUNION AT OJAI

This is a reminder, for those who have not already done so, to get in your deposits and reservations for Ojai. The dates are JULY 4, 5 & 6, 1985, at the Ojai Valley Inn, Ojai, CA 93023. Telephone 805/646-5511. Send your checks and reservation c/o Kay Dornbusch. Send \$100.00 single and \$150.00 double as deposit to get a confirmation.

To free Bob Smith for more bridge time, please send in your reunion registration fees to him at 401 Mt. Washington Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065. For members and family over 21 years of age, the fee is \$20.00 PER PERSON. For guests, it is \$40.00 PER PERSON. As per previous reunions guest reservations will be confirmed after June 1st.

The Flying Tiger Pilot Award will be presented to Senator Barry Goldwater this year.



Kitty Older and Bob Lee at Hong Kong dinner.



Joe Gasdick on Hong Kong tour.



Shrine for the Generalissimo — Roy Farrell,  
Bill Maher, Dick Rossi, Bob Conrath.



Shrine on Mt. Fuji at the 8000-foot level.

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