

DR AHEAD # 5 May 1985

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Dear: Fred, Don, Barry, Frank, Peter, Jack, David, Tom, George and hopefully dozens more in the near future. The TROA ad seems to be working, where all else sputtered! As usual I was too pessimistic about how a chain letter would work. Just over a year ago Fred and I discussed the concept and I started the action. Today I had phone calls from Tom Stanton (51-06) and David Lentz (50-F). Both flew with me out of Goose Bay in 51. Yesterday I received Jack Mudie's long letter about his daze since Ellington. Seems his year book has pictures of the first three classes. He was originally 51-A and it became 50-F. I wish I could forward every letter but feel as editor emeritus that some information should remain just in my files. Know that I will guard your off-hand remarks as Top Secret as long as each of you send me the 3/4 page bio with photo as requested. When we get together I hope old antagonisms will dissolve and AGAPE Love will prevail. We must have done something right because we're still here and God Bless Those who aren't, this Memorial Day.....I've taken the liberty of asking for bios from several of our widows and along that line here are those I have been advised are on that long celestial:

Mario Cianci-March AFB Dec 1950	Jack Carrara-Korea 1951
Claude White-Korea 1951	Karl Armstrong-N.E. Atlantic 1951
Kenneth Nisk-Korea 1951	James Shaw-Randolph 1951
Lloyd Wentworth-Korea 1951 (?)	Wayne Meade-1973
Jim Low-1975	Bob Machina (several years ago)
Art Manzo (B-66 over Houston)	George Cox (same)
Ed Cayemberg-Korea	Bruce Robertson (707 near Saigon)
Norm Bowen, Martin Howell and Steven Byrne	

I pray that's the extent of our losses and hope someone will deny or confirm my info on Lloyd Wentworth. Please include any more grim news in your separate notes to me, when you send your bios.

Now as to the next phase of operation trackdown. Several of you have reminded me of the Air Force Locator Service and I'm about to venture into that maze--as soon as I complete my chore as Buddy Poppy Chairman for the Lakeport VFW and put Memorial Day to rest for the year at our local cemetery. Incidentally if any of you are at loose ends I have a suggestion. I found over a dozen veteran grave markers at our tiny local cemetery in their storeroom. Veterans buried but no one to pay for the installation of the VA markers. Takes about three hours of work and about three sacks of sackcrete--good for curing the blahs. That's for those of you like me who actually retired--thank you Merrill-Lynch!

Starting with the most recent calls and letters: Dave Lentz is a tech writer with a bus manufacturer and trying to avoid counseling work in psychological hospitals. Tom Stanton is instructing at Napa Muni Appt and we hope to meet soon. Jack Mudie wonders if there are any other sentimental guys like him who were at Ellington (at least one Jack). Jack is a living directory of old faces, but not too many addresses. If someone knows Priscilla Presley's, ask her where Pop Beaulieu is.

I'll try to meet with Jack in July when we head South to visit our children and grandchildren in Covina, Brea, Banning and San Diego.

Please Include Telephone Numbers

Frank and Lethea Corcoran are retired from the Santa Rosa Sheriff's Dept. and will begin drawing reserve USAF retirement in Jan 86. We visited with them and their life is a telephone clearing house--very active in dozens of helping organizations.

George Taylor retired in 1970 and has worked with the Internal Revenue ever since, as a training officer. He may retire again in 1990. He may be able to contact Bill Barlow, who came back on active duty a few years after his medical retirement--great news that!

I traced Peter Petersen thru the Corcorans and the able forwarding of his home office, IBM. He was amazed he could be traced--I didn't tell him our oldest grandson hacked into IBM's Personnel Bank.

Don Pongrace must take the class cake as numba whon papa recruiter--three out of five sons went USAF and two are navigators and one of them is in, yes, B-52's at Fairchild near Fred Meier. I'm sure that all of us grieve for Don and Mary at the loss of son Dave--a USAF Pilot and Captain, in a car crash at the age of 27.

Barry Bonwit is very retired and when not traveling around the world Space "A" can be found sailing and enjoying the Gulf. We missed he and Roberta in October on our swing back, but we'll catch him at home yet. He promises to teach us to sail--so what better place to DR Ahead?

Saw Bob Schlegel when we lived in Boulder City, Nevada three years ago but have lost contact since. He's a contractor on Galveston Island. Come on in Bobbie and join the hunt.

Fred and Lib Meier and we Lampards get together often and Fred calls regularly to tempt me on good bond buys. They're presently planning on a trip to Scotland and not Space "A". Daughter Cyndie works for an airline and I wrote an evaluation last fall for son Rick, who is pondering a career in the USAF.

Incidentally the Corcorans broke the news about Seedy and Jim Low to me.

Now for those of you in classes other than 50-D, I suggest that since you have your yearbooks with names and old home addresses you have the ball and should run with it. I'll be glad to consolidate the info you obtain but don't want to accept the entire load. If one of us has a home computer to store addresses it would greatly enhance the work. I don't want to try sending your original bios in a chain process again as the package could bog down too easily. What I'm hoping to do is process a reasonably decent yearbook with a page for each of us, which will include a color snapshot of you and yours. Until then I'll send you updated directories, as I'm sure many of you will want to reach out and touch someone/s. Already the nucleus for two mini reunions is there by we six in the western U.S.A. and you six in the eastern half. I've tried many journals to get this far and will query the AF Locator this week for 50-D grads using our original assignment orders. I'm hoping to receive bios from Montgomery, McChesney, Velentchick and Carver soon and thank you Don for your help!! Scratch your brains for means to reach the moles in our classes. I'm getting excited to see all of you and can't believe we won't get together by October (35 years).

Respectfully and So Anxiously,

Clarke