

DR AHEAD May '86

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet--but I borned it and I still like the name. I know, we decided to become:

THE ELLINGTON AFB NAVIGATORS' ASSOCIATION

Let it be said--let it be written--let it be done! So, how do we do it? Unfortunately I left my notebook in the breakfast room, but I remember that I was voted President, John Dinsmoor Vice Pres, Jack Mudie Secretary and I was entrusted to keep on keeping on with the treasury. Jack recently wrote that he misunderstood and intends to just maintain contact with 50-F. I'll tell you what I'm gonna do. Inclosed find my "letter to the editor" which I'm asking each of you to send to any "big city" papers in your area with a cover letter or better yet, take it in to them. I'll forward copies to: AF Times, ROA, VFW, the Afterburner and a few others. I hope some of you will forward to TROA, AFA, American Legion, AMVets, The Observer (Mather AFB), Dear Abby, and any newspaper or magazine you feel an ex-gator might read.

I applaud each of you, for not being encased in a senior cocoon, for taking the time from your busy lives and the funds from your savings, to join with us in Vegas. For Ruth and me, it was a peak experience and I hope it was for you too. My only regrets are that with all the details running through my head I did not get to share as much of YOU as I wanted. Bob Schlegel, sagely counseled me, that we probably will never again reach that glow, which 35 years rekindled. Perhaps not, but I hope we try.

One of the reasons I started "coming down from cloud 9" was waiting for me in our mail on 29 April when we got back home. George Leithiser's son wrote that George, who had planned to join us, was diagnosed cancerous on 2 April and died 13 April. I wiped away the tears and realized how good it was that we "gathered" when we did. I for one--can not wait two years to see you all again. Another reason followed that obit. Two days after we got back I was asked to install a VA headstone on a veteran's grave. Working alone, on a cold rainy day brought me up short the following morning with a severe lumbar strain. The doctor felt I'd been under a lot of stress during the last year and I tried to tell him how much fun it had been. It's now 3 weeks later and I can sit and rise without thinking about it again. So look out, the next knock you hear may be us. Mother taught me to call first, so you'll have some warning. Why else put a directory together?

So what do we do now? I hope you are making plans to call new friends in your area. How about those who couldn't join us (for whatever reason)? How far do you have to go to see.....? When I think of how casually I asked the Corcorans and the Langleys to host mini-reunions. I love them for their ready "sure Clarke". Dare to reach out and keep the "magic" alive!

Right here SPECIAL THANKS must be extended to Bill Polhemus, who briefed many of us in the hospitality room on Sat while the fire drill was in progress. He boggled our minds with innovations in navigational aids, which should have impact on all facets of industry, travel, transportation and ecology. I meant to mention you during dinner Bill. I'm in awe of you and oh so proud of you.

Anyone of you can play this game of find the navigators.
What else did we decide to do during that chaotic meeting?
Meet every 2 years with regional get-to-gathers in the interim.
Class reps will continue the search; gather and enlist:

Student Officers: John Nicodemus
50-D: Clarke Lampard
50-E: Art Green
50-F: Jack Mudie
51-03: Bob Nicholl
51-06: Lew Egglefield
51-08: Clem Smith
51-09: Bob Campos
51-10: Irving Zippel
51-26: John Thomason

With help from Donald Ryan I've found Samuel T.W. Davidson and now only Tanner and Yurgel elude me. Thank you Don.

Who organizes the minis? It became apparent that we were too many to agree on much. I should have foreseen that but I've never been known for my organizational abilities. I do know that we can book any number of rooms at HIC in Vegas with a 12 month lead time at \$30/night. I think I'll get hamburger next time. What can you do in your area? I've written a letter to Holiday Inn HQ and asked them to make us an offer we can't refuse. Who knows, maybe they will.

Regional Reps volunteered to work on Mini-reunions ASAP:
Eastern--David Besanko and Elden Lorah, with assistance from everyone over there assured to them. Sunbelt--Bill Fuller, Mike Gurgevich, Tom Hanley, Clem Smith and Bob Schlegel, with the entire Texas contingent assuring help. Western--Frank Corcoran, Bud Langley, Jack Mudie and Bernard Vash.

Ken Johnson has our data and is ready to add to same. I'll be working on a membership card and I've asked Ken to credit those of you who contributed more then your dues, with paid up years. For those of you who had to cancel out past the catering cut-off date all I can do is credit you with paid up years worth of dues in the association and hope you're all well now.

I/We love all of you and I'm prepared for a slight let-down the next time we meet. Thank you for the down payment on our computer. I can hardly wait to access into Ken's. Thank you for the warm compliments. You deserve the best and I tried to deliver just that--but is that all there is? For those of you who still believe in Tinkerbelle and Auld Lang Syne, let's crank it up and go for it again!

When you get feeling low, pull out our dinner program and hum through the song I meant for us all to sing at the close of the dinner....it only takes a spark, to get a fire going.... and you Texans (or anyone for that matter) be looking for the Association Sextant. It must be hand carried to the next person, not to anyone who has had it and within 30 days of getting it. When you've delivered it with your name added to the list inside send me a post card so I can log it's location on our supply form.

DUES \$10/YEAR

Very Respectfully
Your President, Pro Tem etc.

Clarke