



NEWSLETTER



707th WEBSITE is: www.af-acw.com

General



By Gene Walker

What is a Yellow Hat?

It could be an article of clothing: 100% polyester, made in China, yellow with blue borders; or it could be representative of an attitude: love, caring, kinship, and sharing; or it could be a symbol: Unity, Oneness, Devotion, and **Brotherhood**; or it just may be all of the above.

It was cool and a light mist was in the evening air when five ladies strolled into a Virginia department store, with one dauntless husband in tow. The husband's self-imposed mission was to protect the integrity of some well used credit cards; an imperiled task from the get-go. Left behind, the four remaining husbands laughed and joked about the predicament their friend had opted into; Poor soul.

After an half hour or so and after envisioning their comrade enduring agony at the hands of the wives, the remaining four husbands were delighted to see the ladies returning, and behind them, still in tow, the spending enforcer, now carrying an arm filled with the girls loot. *Man oh man; he was never going to live this down.* But, wait what is that the enforcer is wearing? It looks like a fisherman's hat, a **yellow** fisherman's hat. "Why did he buy a funny looking hat like that" the left-behinds asked each other. This was going to be great; he was going to be at their mercy for several days. Ah, life was good. It was a joyous moment.

The joy was short lived, however, for upon settling into their seats, the ladies, grinning like Cheshire cats and with a glow that could only mean trouble, presented the left-behinds each a gift; A **yellow** fisherman's hat exactly like the enforcer's, who, by now, was also smiling like the Cheshire cat. Smug rascal. There they were, four left-behinds plus one enforcer now rejoined, not at the hips, but at the heads, with hats - **yellow** hats.

That is the story behind the article of clothing, the **yellow hat**, 100% polyester, made in China, yellow with blue borders, that is. But there is a lot more to this story.

Jump forward eight hours or so. The streets are crowded and its members, all going somewhere, seem to be in harmony with each other, but are not really. But the five ladies flittering here and there, looking first in this shop then another, were enjoying each others company and oblivious to all other goings-on. Now you may think that this scene would indicate the five husbands were left to their own devices. This is only partially so. The fearless five were on their own, but the ladies had made sure they would be easily retrieved if needed. For they quickly realized all they had to do to locate the clueless wonders was to ask passersby if they had seen a group of paunchy men wearing yellow hats and in very short order the yellow hats were located. With that was born the "Yellow Hat Gang", and the yellow hat would forever be a banner symbolizing that birth and how the wearers of the hat are bound. During the next few days the yellow hats were seen in many places around Washington, DC and since then in Chattanooga, and Montgomery.

Of course the yellow hats aren't worn all the time. As a matter of fact they are seldom worn; only at the one meeting a year when the gang gets together. But whenever one is gazed upon by its owner, it immediately brings forth the emotions it represents. For the people belonging to this little group know the true meaning of the hat. It represents the love and kinship that can only be felt between brothers and sisters; Like that of the "Yellow Hat Gang".



Bulletin Board by Barney Fisher

As most of you are aware we have a phone survey going on. If you haven't been contacted rest assured you will be. By virtue of this canvas we have found quite a few changes to the Master Roster and we're posting them as fast as we get them. The only problem is, those members without access to a computer never see them. I've looked at different options to try and publish an updated Master Roster and hope that, with the help of a friend, I might be able to publish one for the next newsletter. This version of the roster will only have members listed that we are in contact with. Unk's will not be included and as you'll notice there have been many more names moved to this list. **Pete Sessions and Tom Nielson are doing the phone survey and I'd like to say, Thanks for a Job well done.** They indicated they had to leave many msg's and I hope that anyone that hasn't responded will do so. There were 142 changes to the roster as a result of this survey, so I'm not going to attempt to post them here. I'm quite certain, that as many of you reply to the msg's left, there will be more. It is only through your co-operation that we have the ability to keep people in contact with each other.

GET TOGETHER 2005: We've had a few more people sign on for the October event and sure are looking forward to seeing you all in Chattanooga. The phone canvas has made a few more people aware of the gathering and I'm hoping that we have a good showing. I've talked to the people in charge and if needed we can have a hospitality room and even a sit down meal if we want. Hopefully we can work all that out once we know how many people are there. I would like to have a little gathering on the 24th just to explain what is available in the area and to get a head count. I had 10 rooms blocked at \$89 + Tax. If you would like to stay at the Choo Choo you can call **1-877-872-2529** and tell them you're with the 707th AC&W Sqd. I'm really sorry about having the wrong number in the last Newsletter but I guarantee you this one is right, as is the one on the website. Remember you don't have to stay at the Choo Choo, other hotels/motels that cost more and less are available in the area.

The following have said they are definitely coming or seriously considering it:

Bill Allison - Bill Beddie – Romus Broadway – Sherman Brown – Pat Bullock – Dan Capece – Gus Campana – Jose Carrillo – Lloyd Cogswell – Don Couch – Dick Dutton – Bob Ferdinand – Don Findlay – Barney Fisher – Bruno Gaizauskas – Jerry Guite – Bob Hamill - Dick Heffron – Joe Hine – Judy Johnson – Len Kapuscinski – Don Karcz – Jim King- Bill Lee – Dave Lehnerr Jose Mila – Fred Minifie – Dewitt Mitchell – Jim Nardone – Darryl Nealis – Tom Nielson – Jerry Pierce – Len Place – Jim Remley – Larry Rickard – Fred Rosenbaum – Carl Schenk – Les Schultz - Stan Schwengels (driving RV) – Pete Sessions – Don Sroka – Don Starbuck – Jim Sutherland – Ken Taylor – Bob Tolonen – Mel Townsend - Del Turner – Don VonBank – Gene Walker – Joe West – Frank Zebreske

Now you know of 51, I'd settle for half but the more the merrier. How about getting a group together and coming on down to a great city for a lot of fun. Hope to see YOU there.

NOSTALGIA UPDATE: Anybody remember Dewitt Mitchell, he was the Supply Sgt Back in 56-57, well he retired from the AF with 23 yrs and goes to Florida in the fall. He's going to incorporate that trip with Chattanooga. Being as were talking retirement, how about Allison Penn from Radar Maint. He put in 30 yrs and ended up a Chief Master Sgt. by the way he'll be 80 in June. **Congratulations Chief.** Bob Nipper from Telephone Rpr retired with 21 yrs and Jack Shadeck, Base Commander retired in 1971 with 31 yrs he's 86 now.

CRUISE 2006: Dino posted on the website that he is now working on the final touches for the cruise. We will have a special section on the website bulletin board just for **Cruise 2006** and if you have any questions or comments you can make them there. If I recall correctly he stated that there have been over 20 people showing an interest. Right now it looks like a 7 day Caribbean Cruise on Holland American Lines. Dino ask that if you are going to email him to please put 707th in the subject box, this is to ensure that he reads it. I'd like to add if you use snail mail it wouldn't be a bad idea to put 707th on the outside of the envelope. If interested, or you need more information, you can reach him at any of the following, dinotata@charter.net or call 508-765-5710 for further details. Snail mail will find him at 91 Tillyer Ave. Southbridge, MA 01550



Day Room — by Barney Fisher

Ferd's Words of Wisdom:

Life ain't about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce. Life is simpler when you plow around the stump. Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads. Every path has a few puddles. Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance. Always drink upstream of the herd. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer. When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty. The best sermons are lived, not preached. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment. If you get to thinking you're a person of some influence, try orderin somebody else's dog around. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin. It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep. You cannot unsay a cruel word. Lettin the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in. Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin you none. Don't judge folks by their relatives. Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.



Inform and be Informed by Barney Fisher

FYI:

Just in case you didn't notice there are some new links on the site and one in particular RAO Bulletin is of great interest to those of us that have retired. I highly recommend that everyone read this link it brings to light a lot of things you normally wouldn't hear about.

WEBSITE:

Since we've not received too many complaints on the website, **could be no one uses it**, I think were going to stay with the format we have. After trying many different ways to present the material, this seems to be the easiest to work with and is pretty user friendly. PLEASE if you have any problems let me know. Our response to problems might be a bit slower in the next 3 – 4 weeks as our technical department is going to be busy with his full time job. That doesn't mean we won't be looking into any reported problems or suggestions just that the fix might lag our normal time frame.

WHO'S GOTTEN TOGETHER:

We had a meeting of the Yellow Hats in Montgomery, AL the 19th – 23rd of March. Needless to say we had a great time and sure wish more of you would do the same type thing. We didn't have to find activities to keep us busy, just talking about the old times and enjoying each other's company was enough. I'm sure that some of you do get together but also certain that there are other's that are missing out on a great time. I heard that Pete Gilbertson and Pollie Williamson got together for a week a short time ago. That's Wisconsin and Virginia, not what you would call next-door neighbors. How about it got anyone else out there that wants to fill me in on what's been happening. I'd like to have a full column about these types of activities. By the way, my Thanks to Gene for writing his article on the Yellow Hats, if I wrote for years I could not have expressed it better.

SICK CALL:

I know were all getting older and we have our health problems but figured it would be nice if we all took a minute and said a prayer for our brothers that are ill. This is by no means the entire list just those that I've learned of in the past month.

Sherman Brown – Pete Gilbertson – Harley Jenson – Ben Koski – Mike McKeever – Fred Ronnermann – Stan Sakai – Ken Shoup – Gene Walker

WHO'S ON THE MOVE:

Bob Bonsignore is moving to Arizona – Art Wilson moved to Eden, GA – Bruno Gaizauskas is going to a Korean War Reunion in Sept. and then hopes to make Chattanooga – Bill Hamblen has moved to Murreils Inlet, SC – Don Lincicome is moving in OH –



From Headquarters

by Barney Fisher

As usual not too much to report from those hail and hearty types up north. I want thank Ray Sanders for suggesting putting the RAO Bulletin on the website.

From what I hear the monthly dinner is still being held and the number of folks that attend varies but a good time is always had by those attending.

Some bad news – Harley Jenson is in the hospital, he's had a relapse. Conventional meds aren't working, and they are trying some type of experimental drug.

I'm hoping to have some input on how the brick sales are going. Last I heard there weren't but about 5 or 6 of us that purchased them. Sounds like a great way to leave our mark on GPZ. The form is still available on the Photo Gallery page.

Don't forget GPZ 2008



Sound Off

by Barney Fisher

You got a gripe, not happy about the way things are going. Here's your chance, let me know and it'll appear right here for all to see.

CHANGES: There have been many changes to the website, some good and maybe some bad. I really don't know which until you all let me know. As stated elsewhere in the letter were going to try and work with it the way it is. I know that some of you have been having minor problems and usually you seem to work them out yourself. I'd say that 99% of the problems encountered have something to do with your browser or security settings. I realize that the Bulletin Board is not what some of you want, but if you give it a chance and try it out I think you'll like it. As always if you have a problem or suggestion let me know.

PICTURES: How about sending in some pictures for the photo gallery. Been a long time since we've added any. We would sure like to see how you all look today, better yet how about a before and after picture. I know you all have an old cigar or shoe box with some pictures in it, and surely you have a camera to get a current one. Don't be bashful you're among friends.

AFTER THOUGHT: After posting the above message about pictures, in the last newsletter, we didn't receive a single one. Now folks I know there have to be some photo's out there. I had one fellow tell me he didn't have any old or new, after talking for awhile I realized what he meant, lost all the old pics and now had a digital camera. So just in case you think like he did, these are great and Gus would really like to hear from you. Just as an after thought all of you that are coming to Chattanooga, how about bringing your pics along, we'd like to see them.



Taps

by Barney Fisher

This spot reserved for reporting the passing of our brothers. Also, please visit the website and take a few minutes to reflect and say a prayer for a friend now gone ahead.

I'm sorry to report that since the last newsletter we have added 2 more names to Taps, Myles Carter 9 March 2005 and Dale Cline 18 March 2005
Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

If you know of anyone that has suffered a loss, or is ill, please keep us informed so we may acknowledge them, and keep the members aware. Thanks



Dismissed

by Barney Fisher

That's it for this issue, Take Care and **God Bless America!**

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Be Safe and Be Happy!