



NEWSLETTER



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

General



By Gene Walker

So, what if my confirmation number didn't mean anything and there was no reservation for me at the Inn. I was not going to let anything detract from this trip. The time for the 707th get together had arrived and my mood was blissful. Just give me a room, Taylor, and let me be on my way; the party was waiting.

Taylor was the desk clerk, and the poor fellow was totally unaware of the wrath about to come down on him. Barney had gotten word of my plight and was on his way to the rescue. While I diverted my attention, by talking with Romus Broadway and Don Karcz, who both were being registered without incident a few feet away, I could hear Barney and Taylor discussing my situation; Taylor, poor soul, was lending little to the conversation. A few barks and growls later I was on my way to room 1009, right next door to and connecting to the hospitality suite (HS). *Life was good.*

Bags stowed away and room inspection complete, Joan and I headed next door to the HS, where we were greeted by the Sessions and the Fishers. The party was about to begin. Already gone was Jack and Jill somebody or other, who had once been a member of the 707th battalion of the U. S. Marine Corps. They were just a little bit lost, but enjoyed a visit and refreshments with us anyway.

Soon the rest of the real 707th group began to arrive. There was: Len and Mary Place; Don and Vee Karcz soon found their way to the suite and the group was starting to take shape. Within the next two hours the room had filled. Now also present were: Fred Rosenbaum and Cecilia, along with two sisters-In-Law; Jim and Colleen Nardone, Tom and Sandy Nielson; and Romus Broadway. It was late afternoon, October 23rd and eighteen had joined the ranks. With all the war stories and other chatter taking place you would have thought twice that many were present. It was already a good group. Before heading out to dinner, Barney gave each family a pass key to the HS so it was available to all twenty-four /seven.

By eight o'clock the group had reconvened at the restaurant where the staff had arranged tables in a private area for us. We had a relaxed dinner from the menu. Following dinner the group started breaking up. Some went to bed while others went back to the HS for a nightcap. *Life was still good and getting better.*

I chose to sleep-in the next morning and found the HS already abuzz when I finally dragged myself to the first spot emitting even the slightest hint of a coffee aroma. After a couple cups of jo I began to focus on the people who had preceded me to the HS. There were quite a few. I was already getting this eerie feeling that there was more than one of Pete – wherever I went, everyway I turned, he was already there. It was nearing eleven o'clock and Bruno and Beth Gaizauskas had joined the group. This morning the conversation was about this sleek, fire engine red Cadillac sports car sitting right outside the front entrance of our building. Surely, Paul Newman must have slipped in during the night or, perhaps, Jay Leno. Whoever it was, we were no doubt in the presence of greatness. “Just look at the people gathered around that chariot” someone suggested. It was certainly receiving a lot of attention. It was lunch time and we all gathered for the stroll down to the choo choo restaurant.

Following lunch we reconvened at the HS where we were joined by Pat and Judy Bullock, both looking marvelous and much too young for our group - I wish I could bottle what they are drinking. Just a short repose then back on the trail. Now with the Bullock's in company, we were off to the aquariums. After a couple of hours viewing all sorts of sea and freshwater creatures the group prepared for dinner. Now this preparation varied. Some of us went back to the hotel to freshen up while others stayed to see more of the aquarium while others just found a pub to await the return of the others. You may guess which group I was in.

At dinner we were joined by late arriving Jose Mila, who had spent the day resting from his trip from Florida. Everyone's attention was now on greeting Jose and hearing about his trip. A “long grueling drive” some one surmised. “No, not really” Jose replied. Seems that all Jose had to do was set his car on cruise control and enjoy the ride. You see, the car's cruise control would actually sense when it was approaching the rear of another car and would adjust its speed accordingly and speed back up when the way was clear again. His car would practically drive itself. “So, Jose”, someone asked, “What kind of car practically drives itself. What kind of car do you have?” Yep, you guessed it – a sleek, fire engine red, Cadillac sports car. Not Paul, Not Jay, but Jose - our Jose.

There was only one more person unaccounted for. Gus Campana had not yet arrived. We knew he would be making a side trip and had expected him to be late. It was not a long wait. Gus arrived later that evening and the gang was all there. *Life really was good.*

Tuesday morning found a handful of us out on the links. There was Pete, Tom, Barney, Jim, yours truly and Colleen. Yep, Colleen. Talk about a real sport. We were few in number but we had a great time. Colleen took home the trophy. Five men dressed like Eskimos (coats, earmuffs, gloves, thermal wear) and Colleen with short sleeve shirt and sun tan lotion. She can be on my team any day. After golf we were back to the HS where we found the rest of the crew setting up for a surprise Birthday Party for Barney. It almost worked. Barney tried to enter the HS and was summarily redirected to his own room, where Geri kept him occupied for thirty more minutes. (Don't ask – that's another story). By the time the surprise was ready it wasn't a surprise. A good time was had by all.

At six o'clock (1800 hrs Barney time) we all gathered around the Chattanooga Choo Choo for a group picture then piled into several cars for the trip to the riverboat. In Cahoots serenaded us down the river while we feasted on southern style barbeque, baked beans, corn on the cob, and Cole slaw. It was finger licking good. *And yes, life was still good and getting better.*

Wednesday morning we had to say goodbye to Romus, Gus and Fred & Cecilia. Several of the gang gathered downtown in the antique district. Jose, Bruno and I held down a park bench while Geri, Pat, Sandy, and Beth, with Pete, Barney and Tom in tow, shopped. The rest of the day was spent doing whatever each person wanted to do. Most of the guys sat around the HS and visited. At 7 o'clock the gang met at the Choo Choo Restaurant for the farewell dinner. Dinner was great, company better. A lot of goodbyes were said after dinner. The rest went back to the HS to pack things up and prepare for the next morning checkout. And I will leave it there. *Life is good!*



Bulletin Board by Barney Fisher

ALERT: Well as much as I hate to do this, here goes. Folks this is the last newsletter, that is unless I stick my hand out and ask for your help. We have enough to get this one to press, I hope. As usual, if we were a little short the Yellow Hats will make it happen but then it comes to a halt. Our cost for 2004 – 2005 came to \$1,184.00 and our donations covered \$816.00 of that. That was a short fall of \$368.00, which was picked up by the Yellow Hats. I mentioned this at the get together in Chattanooga and 4 of those present have already responded. Now, if you would like to continue the website and the newsletter were going to need your help. Last time we asked for \$8.00, some one took the bull by the horns and sent everyone an email and asked for \$20.00 we had 39 members donate and I want to THANK YOU. I still feel that I should name you all but so many asked to remain anonymous and I respect your wishes. This time I'm still asking for \$8.00 but it will take everyone to respond to make it work, Please if your interested in this project don't let the other guy/gal carry the weight. Please make your checks payable to the 707th AC&W Reunion, or myself. Thanks.

GET TOGETHER 2005: It's over, and all I can say is I really enjoyed myself and from what I saw, so did everyone else. Gene has covered it all in his column but I had to get in my 2 cents worth. THANKS to all that attended and made this small gathering a large memory. I fully understand the reasons for those that were unable to attend and pray that the strife ends soon. I'm looking forward Grand Rapids come 2008, hope to see you there.

2006 CRUISE: If interested contact Dino at dinotata@charter.net or call 508-765-5710 for further details. Snail mail will reach him at 91 Tillyer Ave. Southbridge, MA 01550



Day Room by Barney Fisher

Remember, you may use this section of the newsletter to pass trivia on to your brothers. GET INVOLVED!!!!

As you know I'm trying to cut this newsletter short but it wouldn't be a newsletter without:

Ferd's Words of Wisdom:

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.

Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.

When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.

You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.



Inform and be Informed by Barney Fisher

Late Breaking News: We're not over the effects of earlier hurricanes and now we have more to report. When Wilma came ashore some of the folks from Florida had already come to Chattanooga. Well they received the bad news while at the get together. Jose Mila and Pete Sessions found out they had wind and water damage, and Gus Campana had some wind problems. Also heard from Dick Cole and they had some limbs etc down and power was out for 3 days. We have quite a few brothers in Florida and hope to hear that they all made it through safe and sound. Power outage is a big problem when trying to check on our folks, so if anyone has had contact with anyone in Katrina, Rita and Wilma areas please let me know.

Sick Call: The following folks are home and recovering from surgery, Harley Jenson was making progress but had to go back in, and Marg McKeever came home a few weeks ago. Mike McKeever was in the hospital with heart problems and was sent home – now it looks like he might have to go back in for by-pass surgery. Darryl Nealis had to cancel Chattanooga as his wife Deweyetta underwent surgery. Also learned that Ray Sanders is going in for some test. I'm sure I missed some one, please keep all our members and their loved ones in your prayers.

Movers and Shakers: Check out the Master Roster that's a part of this mailing for the latest contact information on the following members - Dick Albright - Ralph Briggs - Len Dillaman - Larry Froning - Jerry Pierce - Pete Sessions - Jim Stoll - once again I'm sure I missed some of the up dates. The Master Roster is current as of 14 Nov 05. If you know of any changes please let me know.

Links: There have been 2 more additions to Interesting Links on the website, check them out when you get a chance. Do you have a site you visit, something you think others might enjoy. Let me know and I'll add it to the website links.



From Headquarters

by Barney Fisher

I like to think that No News is Good News. I haven't had a report from HQ for awhile, but I do know they are still having the monthly dinners and that they are talking about GPZ 2008. Come on HQ staff keep in touch.



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: The website is still in the revamp stages but it is coming along. I took to heart the complaints I had about dial up being so slow. Hopefully the new site will be more user friendly. As I said I'm not giving a date for it as I've missed 2 already. Someday your going to bring it up and there will be a surprise. Remember I'm interested in the problems you encounter, and I can only fix them if I know of them. I'd sure like to have some ideas or suggestions you all might have, all will be given serious consideration.

PICTURES: I'm sure that pictures of the Chattanooga gathering will soon be on the website. Gus had some business to take care of before he will be working on them but they will be posted. Keep your eyes open for a different kind of presentation, sounds real neat to me. Don't forget we're always looking for pictures from the past or present. Thanks.



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.

Since the last newsletter we have received word of 2 more names to be added to Taps.

Dick Chapman and Len Lutomierski 24 Apr 05.

If anyone remembers Len I would appreciate it if you'd contact Gene or myself. Len's daughter, Karen, ask our help in putting her in touch with people that remember him. We got a chance to help someone folks, lets see what we can do for her.

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

OK, so it's not as short as I wanted, sorry bout that. Enjoy the upcoming Holidays and be Careful Out There. From Our House to Yours, Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Be safe and be happy!

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