



# Rustic News

**www.rustic.org**

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**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU** to all of you who are receiving this newsletter. This means you are a 2003 dues paying members of the Rustic FAC Association and your continued support is greatly appreciated!. Your dues are what help make this organization and our reunions possible.

**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION:** Tentative dates are 22-25 Sep 2005, Ft Walton Beach, FL, Ramada Beach Resort Hotel. Start making your plans now to attend. The Reunion Planning Committee (**Don Echelberger,, Lendy Edwards, Claude Newland, and Bill Sleight**) recommended several dates to the Rustic Board of Directors, who then voted in favor of 22-25 Sep 2005. This date is contingent upon a satisfactory contract being signed with the Ramada hotel once the 2005 prices are established. This is the same week we have used for our two previous reunions in Ft Walton Beach, so plan on warm, sunny skies and a nice sea breeze on the beaches and the golf course.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT: Don Ellis.** The Rustic treasury is in good shape. The transfer of the account from **Lendy Edwards** to Don Ellis has been completed and a budget for 2003 is being developed and will be included in my June report.

### **ON THE MOVE:**

**Ralph Dow** 59 Michaud Road, Wallagrass, ME 04781 Tel. 207-834-3389 redow@nci2.net  
**Albert P. Richards** 59-427 Kawowo Place, Haleiwa, HI 96712 Tel. 808-638-0268  
put.richards@hihick.ang.af.mil

### **NEW E MAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS:**

<b>Wayne Baker</b>	stumpbaker@cs.com	
<b>Jerry Dufresne</b>	-----	928-778-0121
<b>David C. Van Dyke</b>	owc@sound.net	913-390-9091
<b>John A. Koppin</b>	geo4jak@aol.com	
<b>Claude Newland</b>	rustic19@cox.net	
<b>William E. Powers</b>	wpowers1@austin.rr.com	
<b>Michael B. Thrower</b>	afa68flyboy@hotmail.com	
<b>Wayne Wood</b>	wrwood@attbi.com	

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Claude Newland.

- 1) Computer Skills. As a Association, our challenge now is to learn how to carry on in a virtual world and effectively conduct our Association's business using the computer for the majority of our communications, rather than face-to face meetings. I'm confident, however, that we will break the code and do a superb job!--just as the book committee did in putting together our first Rustic book. Your support is greatly appreciated. I can tell you from experience that your past Rustic officers, including myself, have greatly expanded our computer skills since we first started doing Rustic business back in 1996. Hell, I didn't know what E mail was in '96.
- 2) Uniform Business Report. **Lendy Edwards** and I filed the Association's 2003 Uniform Business Report in Feb. This is an annual report that the assn is required to file as a Florida not-for-profit organization. The cost was \$61.25. Lendy wrote the check and will coordinate with Don Ellis to keep our financial records straight. This is actually a simple one page report that mostly consists of listing the current (new) officers. Since Lendy is no longer an officer, I replaced him as the association's designated 'agent' on the form. In the future, I'll file this report as long as I'm serving as president. Note: this will be a recurring annual expense.
- 3) 2003 Rustic Budget. This is our first attempt to develop a formal annual budget for the association. In the past we just made sure expenses didn't exceed our revenues. After we get up to speed on this process, it should become second nature for us. We will not deficit spend and will also need to track the Lifetime Dues money separate from other Assn. accounts so, we don't spend these funds (without careful consideration).
- 4) Florida Vender's License. **Lendy Edwards** has filed the required paperwork for the association to get our Florida vendor's license. This is required since any commercial products we sell to Florida residents, such as the Rustic commercial book, require Florida sales tax to be paid. The required taxes will generally be a piddling amount, but we must keep required records and pay this tax none the less. A copy of this paperwork has been sent to the treasurer.

**COMMERCIAL BOOK GENERATES FIRST ROYALTY CHECK TO RUSTICS.** From **Dick Wood**. In late December 2002 **Lendy Edwards**, (outgoing treasurer) received a check from **Dick Wood** for the amount of \$1230.65 for royalties for sales of our new commercial book "Call Sign Rustic" in 2002. These funds have been transferred to **Don Ellis**, our new treasurer. This is a great start for our book as it has only been in print for three months. *Editor's note: These funds, as well all future book royalty checks, have been earmarked for Cambodian relief as approved by the membership vote at our 2002 reunion 'business meeting.*

**TO ORDER BOOK 'CALL SIGN RUSTIC'.** If you'd like to purchase copies of the commercial Rustic Book, 'Call Sign Rustic', you can order copies from the Rustic FAC association. Each book is \$18.00/book, plus \$4 shipping and handling for the first book, and \$1 added shipping for each additional book. (Note: The commercial list price is \$24.95 and Amazon.com's price is \$18.50, plus shipping and handling.) If you buy from the Rustic FAC Association, the association actually makes some royalties and profit, so we hope this is what you'll choose to do. Make check payable to 'Rustics' and send it to Don Ellis, Treasurer, 235 Glenwood Drive, Manning, SC 29102.

**RUSTIC DAVID MORRISON FOUND.** DMorri6017@aol.com : Saturday, February 15, 2003. Hello, I am **David M Morrison** and was a Rustic from about Dec 70 to Mar 71. I am listed on the "don't know where they are" section right now. I am letting you know that I am alive and well in San Antonio, TX. I can't remember my call sign number but I was an O-2 pilot. It was probably in the high twenties because a bunch of use were brought in from different corps to fill gaps that were occurring from people shipping home. I would like to get updated on the Rustic board and would also like to know where **Wayne "Stump" Baker** is and how he is doing. We flew several missions together and I grew to admire and respect him. Thanks for the help. Please note my e-mail address because that is the only way that I can be contacted at the present time. No job, no money, but I do have the library and AOL. Hope to hear something soon and get updated on the board. Had I known about the reunion in SA I would have made part of it. Maybe next time.

**Dave Morrison**

*Editor's Comment: Dave, glad to have you aboard! Let us know when you have a permanent address.*

**AWARDS AND DECS UPDATE:** From **Don Mercer**. Recently I received one page recommendations from SAF/MRBR at Randolph AFB for both the award of the DFC 2nd OLC to **Mick Gibbar** and the DFC 1st OLC to **Bob Harris** for their actions on February 23, 1971, in support of Fire Support Base Blue. The base near the Cambodian border had been overrun. Their efforts over a period of several hours included conducting an airstrike, controlling a gunship, coordinating the use of Army strike helicopters and directing the successful evacuation by Army medevac helicopters of numerous American casualties that resulted in American lives being saved. The submissions were made in 1971 but were never acted upon.

Of particular interest is the fact that these are the first two positive recommendations received to date from the Air Force and the "Discussion" section sums it up nicely: "Many members of the Rustic FAC units did not receive recognition of specific flights due to the rapid mission requirements at that time in the Republic of Vietnam. Recognition is now being afforded these Rustic FAC members when the necessary documentation is provided."

The "Recommendation" section states in part: "We recommend approval..."

Additionally, Don reports 'a DFC oak leaf cluster for **Larry Landtroop** have been approved. Also as a result of Don's efforts, **Doug Robertson** recently had an Air Force Commendation Award approved. Doug Robertson received his AFCM, citation, certificate and orders along with a copy of his DD214 and all other medals which were due him. The folks at Randolph turned that request around in record time and we have one happy radioman. I think it would be appropriate to present his AFCM at the next reunion along with the DFCs to Mick, Bob and Larry. Hopefully we will have a presentation for Gloria Auth (For **Jerry Auth**) and for **Ron van Kirk**.'

*Editor's comment: Don, great work, you're winning the battle! We'll definitely have another awards ceremony at our next reunion.*

**RUSTIC PILOTS - DID YOU FLY WITH RUSTIC INTERPRETERS MIKE GAGNE OR JEAN PAUL DOYON?** From **Don Mercer**. Possible DFC packages for Rustic interpreters **Mike Gagne** and **Jean Paul Doyon** are in the works; however, I need help from the pilots who flew missions with them if this effort is to be successful. If you flew with either of these interpreters, please contact me and I will give you guidance on how to submit an affidavit of support. Thus far I've only run into dead ends after contacting a number of pilots but need to find a pilot who has specific records and/or recollection of a mission flown by each man that is consistent with the award of the DFC. Contact Don at: 757-412-2272 or dmercer@life-insure.com

**WHERE HAS YOUR RUSTIC MEMORABILIA GONE?** **Jim Gabel**, Rustic Historian, has begun archiving all the Rustic memorabilia that he has received for safe keeping. **Claude Newland** also recently mailed him a large container of items that were left in the FAC hootch at previous reunions and donated to the Assn. If you have any items you'd like to donate to the Rustic Archives, please get in touch with Jim. Our thanks to Jim for all his work in this area. He is a meticulous record keeper now has a indexed list of all items in his possession.

**CAMBODIAN CHARITIES: Lendy Edwards** received a recent letter and photographs from the House of Hope (Tammy Fong) which thanks the Rustics for their recent contributions to the Kompong Cham orphanage. With this money, the House of Hope staff and girls purchased uniforms for the children and delivered them to the orphanage on behalf of the Rustics.

This photo shows (L-R) Director of the Orphanage, House of Hope Mother, Director of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Commune Leader, and HoH Administrator, Diane Moss



Children at the orphanage with gifts in foreground

House of Hope guard presenting one of the gifts

**2002 REUNION VIDEO/DVD'S AVAILABLE:** Doug Aitken has produced a beautiful 2002 reunion video (and reunion DVD). The background music and graphics, not to mention Doug's expert craftsmanship when it comes to editing, make this a great keepsake. It includes the entire awards ceremony that was part of the banquet activities. The video/DVD is 90 minutes long.

To order a video or DVD (specify which), send \$15.00 (for each item ordered) to **Don Ellis**. Make check payable to 'Rustics' Don's address is: 235 Glenwood Drive, Manning, SC 29102.

**0-2 MODEL AIRCRAFT ON SALE:** From **Dick Roberds**. If anyone would like an O-2 aircraft (similar to the one awarded Don Mercer at the awards banquet) contact the vendor, **Rich Hayes**. He is at rich@hangarmodels.com or 800 647-9080. There are 3 other O-2 jocks that are dealing with him as we speak. Rich is a Delta pilot, so he has to be good, right? He has a company in the Philippines make the models for him.

#### **DON MERCER BEGINS LAYING FOUNDATION FOR HIS NEW UPCOMING BOOK. HE NEEDS OUR HELP.**

In preparation for writing a new book about the Night Rustics, Don Mercer would like to interview:

- 1) As many Night Rustic crew members as possible.
- 2) Any day Rustic crew members (pilots or interpreter) who flew in support of the Chenla operations in Cambodia or were involved in the battle of Prey Totung in 1970. (That's most of us!)

If you participated in any of these operations or think you might have something to contribute to his book, (in particular, pictures, film, letters and tapes home, copies of citations, flight logs and memorabilia) please contact Don at: 757-412-2272 or e mail; **dmerc@life-insure.com**

Don is going to take a number of trips this year to collect interviews and first-hand accounts for his book:

- (1) To NC, GA, FL, and SC to conduct about 10+ interviews.
- (2) To the DC area to interview Dung and her husband and at least one A-37 pilot.
- (3) A cross country trip starting with interviews in Ohio and traveling the expanse of the country for about 5 months. He plans to fly home every 8-12 days for a break of a few days to a week to take care of business and then head back "on the road again." Those interviews will hopefully be like gold and will provide comments and stories that will make the book a most worthwhile historical text.

In addition, he hopes to produce a video of the Night Rustics. He has been in touch with several professionals who have expressed an interest in such a project and has discussed with Doug Aitken his dream of eventually putting together a "made for TV" video on the Bien Hoa OV-10 operation and the Ubon operation. Don says if he 'has any success with this book, he might pursue another that will cover those aspects and battles not addressed in this one.'

#### **MICK GIBBAR RECEIVES DFC, 3 MAR 03. Citation:**

– "ATTENTION TO ORDERS. CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO **JAMES M. GIBBAR**. FIRST LIEUTENANT **JAMES M. GIBBAR** DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT AS A PILOT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ON 23 FEBRUARY 1971. ON THAT DATE, LIEUTENANT GIBBAR FLEW IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN TROOPS WHO WERE IN CONTACT WITH A HOSTILE FORCE THAT HAD OVERRUN THEIR FIRE SUPPORT BASE. HE COORDINATED REQUESTS FOR TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT, THE USE OF AIR POWER IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS, AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF MEDICAL EVACUATION HELICOPTERS. AS A RESULT OF HIS ACTIONS, MANY LIVES WERE SAVED. THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, AERIAL SKILL AND DEVOTION TO DUTY BY LIEUTENANT GIBBAR REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE."

"REMARKS" PROVIDED BY **MICK GIBBAR** at his ceremony on Monday, 3 Mar 03, at Scott AFB at which Major General

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Roger A. Brady, Director of Operations, Airlift Mobility Command, presented the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**“General Brady, Col Morris, Col Veazie, distinguished guests, family and friends,** thank you for being here, I am greatly humbled.

Let me explain how this award has come about...

- Our Awards and Decs officer in Vietnam was **1LT. Don Mercer**, Rustic 41; currently he lives in Virginia Beach, VA
- During our tour in Vietnam, he submitted many packages nominating Rustics for awards
- Several years ago at the first Rustic Reunion, he realized many award nominations were never approved...for what ever reasons: Classified mission, limited man power, fast moving operation
- He took on a personal mission to reconstruct and resubmit all the packages that were never approved to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records
- As a result of his work, 18 awards have been approved...**THIS IS ONE. I'M HUMBLLED...everyone should have such a good friend...Thank you, Don**

Let me tell you briefly about the mission—it was a remarkable opportunity for me to witness both true heroism and, in a way, a comedy of errors. I do not include myself among the heroes, but I did have a leading role in the comedy.

- In the early morning hours of 23 Feb 71, when I arrived over Fire Support Base Blue, a US Army artillery site, the situation was already chaotic...and appeared to be rapidly deteriorating.
- The US Army ground commander, radio call sign “Country Wonder 07,” reported his position was over run...Viet Cong sappers had breached the perimeter, blowing up their big guns—eight-inch artillery pieces—and his troops (about 135 men) were engaging the VC in close-quarter fighting, within the compound. He asked if I could run an air strike directly on his compound...I had briefed him while inbound that I had a flight of two A-37 fighter jets on station (call sign Hawk 07).
- I told Country Wonder that wasn't possible...such a strike would kill everyone, his troops would have no chance...the fighters were carrying only 500 lb. bombs and napalm. If he could hang on, I told him, I had a gun ship (call sign Shadow 61) inbound armed with two gattling guns (these are six-barreled, motor driven machine guns capable of firing 6,000 round per minute). If he still wanted an air strike on his position at that time, I would have the gun ship fire directly upon his compound if he could get his men under cover to protect themselves from the over head fire. He agreed.
- Awaiting the arrival of the gun ship, I expended the fighters' 500 lb. bombs away from the perimeter of the compound, progressively bring the bombs to within about 200 meters. When the Shadow 61 arrived, I told Country Wonder...he responded he was ready.
- But before directing Shadow 61 to fire, I radioed a US Army medical evacuation helicopter, call sign Dustoff 156, who was in a holding pattern I had assigned to him a little earlier. I told Dustoff to position himself south of the compound, now, and to get ready to land on the pad at Blue to pickup wounded, if it became possible to do so after we shot up the base with Shadow's guns. In acknowledging my radio call, Dustoff screamed over the radio that he was upside down...then, silence. I called him repeatedly...no answer. I was sure he had been hit and started looking on the ground for his crash site...finally he came up on the radio. He said he became disoriented due to the darkness, smoke and flickering flare light...he experienced a case of vertigo, losing control of the aircraft and went inverted. Somehow, he recovered. It was my mistake to hold him where I did. He said he was OK, although I detected that he was shaken, and that the aircraft was OK; so, I told him to move out and turned my attention back to Shadow 61.
- After checking with Country Wonder one more time to ensure he was ready, I told Shadow 61 to fire on Blue--he did. In a matter of a few minutes, he expended 13,500 rounds, all that he was carrying at the time.
- I'll never know how effective Shadow 61's machine gun fire was; but after we strafed the compound, the momentum shifted to the GIs who were able to contain and corner the VC. Quiet settled over Blue. We focused on moving the wounded out.
- I began giving Dustoff 156 instructions into the compound. I told him to turn off his aircraft lights (he was an easy target)...I could no longer see him. In following my directions, he repeatedly stated that shooting was still going on at the compound—I repeatedly answered, “every thing is under control, press on.” This was another serious mistake on my part...he did press on and landed in the middle of a fire fight...he was at the wrong location. An artillery site in close

proximity to Blue, belonging to the South Vietnamese Army, was also under attack. He lifted out and, remarkably, was not hit. Needless to say, he was upset—I could tell by his use of some rather colorful words, begging to differ with me on the meaning of “Everything’s under control.”

- Finally I got him headed in the right direction to Blue. As he was landing, the GIs were already bringing the wounded to the pad. Suddenly, from the shadows, 3-5 VC started firing on the party carrying the wounded. Two men were killed outright and several more GIs were wounded. Dustoff 156 lifted out...without any of the wounded.
- This was followed by a furious firefight...in a few minutes Country Wonder told me everything was under control...I sent Dustoff 156 back in once more...but, I avoided the use of that expression. Dustoff landed and we started moving out the wounded. Shortly, more med-evac helicopters arrived and we were able to airlift out all the wounded...and the dead. The rest of the operation was uneventful.
- I continued to direct the deployment of flares over the compound until dawn...at first light, a final fire fight ended the attack. 20 VC were killed inside the compound.

Let me put a few things into perspective...I am humbled to be here because this ceremony is not about me. Let me explain...

On 23 Feb 71, 26 men were killed in all areas of the Vietnam War—all US Army

- 1 11 men died in Laos-helicopter crash due to hostile fire
- 2 9 died in locations throughout Vietnam-accidents and hostile fire, and
- 3 6 men died in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam, at Fire Support Base Blue
- 4 In addition to the 6 KIA, 23 GIs were wounded

We listen to statistics as these with interest, but the significance of the numbers often escapes us. Not that we are insensitive to the loss of life...rather we seldom pause long enough to allow the reality of life or death to sink in...I know I’m that way. But for me, the men who died at Fire Support Base are not STATISTICS...having been there overhead and having witnessed the fighting and heroism of the men and having been involvement in the struggle myself...all these considerations have made the men involved there very real people...with names...leaving people behind who miss them even to this day. I know you are familiar with the saying, “All gave some—some gave all.”

**These are the men who gave all (I ask you all to please stand as I read the names those who died at Fire Support Base):**

**GENARO GARZA**...United States Army...**SAN BENITO, TX...he was 38.**

**FREDERICK LEE BEATTY**...United States Army...**MAPLETON DEPOT, PA he was 26.**

**JOSEPH BRENDAN HART**...United States Army...**RICHMOND HILL, NY...he was 23.**

**RONALD JAY FISHER**...United States Army...**AKRON, OH...he was 22.**

**DOUGLAS JAY CRAWFORD**...United States Army...**BAY SHORE, NY...he was 20.**

**VINCENT JOSEPH MEDJESKY**...United States Army...**INDIANAPOLIS, IN...he was 19...he was only a boy.**

## **Please be seated**

I hope the reading of these names puts this in perspective for you. These were real people, not just STATISTICS. I said earlier that this ceremony is not about me—it’s about the men who died there. It’s also about the 23 wounded. It’s about Country Wonder 07 and his effort to save his GIs, who fought on and triumphed. It’s about my fellow Rustic, 1 Lt Bob Harris, who was with me in the aircraft. We called him Redeye—he had taken a blow to the eye and his eye remained blood-shot forever, it seemed. That night we were a team. I used the “I” word and the “Me” word throughout...but for you to assume this was an individual effort is simply inaccurate. It was not physically possible to control the air situation on my own during the attack on Blue—alone I would have been task-saturated almost immediately. This ceremony today is also about Hawk 07 and Shadow 61 and Dustoff 156—they all made remarkable contributions. It’s also about the Viet Cong who attacked Blue...they were real people, real men... who fought with bravery...whether you agree or disagree with their cause. Finally, this award ceremony is about us, America’s Air Force...keeping alive our traditions...our values...remembering the past that we might learn, might become a better Air Force.

In the early morning hours of 23 Feb 1971...in a remote corner of South Vietnam...in Tay Ninh Province...a battle occurred...insignificant to all, save to those who were there...but all gave some...some gave all.

For me to be here alone, accepting this award today, somehow seems inappropriate...but I'm deeply grateful. I meant it when I said I'm humbled.

Bear with me a few moments longer...I'd like to introduce to you some family members and friends, and to present some flowers to some special ladies.

**This is my good friend, Anh Vo.** Anh, please stand. Anh is from Vietnam and is now an American Citizen. When I came back from Vietnam, I was assigned instructor pilot duties...Anh was one of my students. He returned to Vietnam following pilot training and after Vietnam fell to the North, he came to live with us. He lives in San Marcos TX. He's a great American...owns and flies an RV-4 experimental aircraft.

**Mr. and Mrs. Eddie and Pete Young...**please stand. Pete is a sister to my Mother-in-law. Her husband, Ed, was a flight engineer and gunner in the top turret on B-24s during WWII. He was part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force flying from England on bombing missions throughout Germany. Ed survived 30 missions...he has some interesting stories—talk with him over a beer at the reception. Pete, these flowers are an expression of my appreciation for your friendship and for being here.

**Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Gagnepain.** Ladies and gentlemen, these are my wife's mom and dad. I'm the luckiest guy to have two such wonderful people as Mother and Father-in-law. Velda, these flowers are an expression of love from Mary and me. Thank you both for being here.

**And, this is my wife, Mary...Please come up.** Mary is the love of my life...without her, I'd be lost.

**Gen Brady, thank you again. Thanks, Chris. Don Mercer...thank you. Please join us in the Hospitality Suite and meet my family and friends. Thank you for coming.**

*Editor's Note: Mick, you're a class act!! Well Done!*

## On-Going Rustic Projects

**PRESERVE YOUR FAC PHOTOS BY SUPPORTING THE RUSTIC SOUTHEAST ASIA PHOTO CD PROJECT.** **Ned Helm** requests you send him your FAC photos taken in Southeast Asia. He is putting together a CD which will include all your photos so we'll have a comprehensive photo archive to complement our book project. We know there are some great pictures out there that never make it into our book, so get out your photo albums and either mail your photos to Ned or scan them and send them to him electronically. His address is: 1725 Gabert Road, Woodstock, VT 05091 E mail: ned@wingset.com

So far, **Claude Newland, Dick Van Dyke, Don Mercer and Don Brooks** have indicated they will provide inputs to Ned for this project. How about the rest of you?

**RUSTIC REUNION CD PHOTO PROJECT:** **Jim Seibold** has volunteered to put together a CD which will contain the complete photo history of each of our past Rustic reunions (1997, 1999, and 2002.) Please send Jim your best reunion photos either (1) via E mail scanning to: seiboldjim@aol.com, (2) or mail your photos to Jim at 1853 E Inca Circle, Mesa, AZ 85203. Be sure to indicate year of picture, who is in it, etc. If you have any questions contact Jim via e mail or call him at: 480-969-3523. All photos will be returned to you.

**ORIGINAL RUSTIC (BLACK) BOOK TO BE PUT ON CD:** **John Charlton** has taken the entire Word file for our first (black) Rustic book and is putting the book on a CD. **Lendy Edwards** is assisting John by providing some of the missing attachments.

**Doug Aitken** is working to produce all of the book's photo sections for John so they can also be put on the CD.

This will be a great way to preserve our original book. In the future, we can provide unlimited copies of the CD to Assn. members and we might even consider offering the CD for sale on our website and at future FAC association reunions, etc.

Since most research libraries are storing books electronically, this should also solve our dilemma about how many and which libraries should receive a copy of our book for historical purposes. Since CD's are cheap to reproduce, we can send them a CD instead of hard copies of the original book. That will enable us to keep all of our hard copy books for future located Rustics.

**RUSTICS' STORIES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ALL-FAC HISTORY BOOK PROJECT. YOUR INPUTS ARE SOLICITED. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO WRITE YOUR STORY AND GET IT INCLUDED IN THE BOOK PROJECT:** Rustic FAC **Ned Helm** has agreed to be the Rustic project officer for coordinating/editing all inputs to the Rustic section of the FAC book. This project is not a duplication of our first book. Rather, the Rustic section will include an approximate 40 page summary of the overall Rustic mission (written by **Dick Wood**) and all of the individual, first-person, Rustic stories that were in the original book ,

plus any new stories that you submit to Ned. As yet, there is no firm cutoff deadline for getting your new inputs to Ned, but don't delay (*Editor's note: We expect a 1 July 2003 cutoff date to be announced.*). Start writing today, especially if you missed the chance to contribute to the first book.

Please E mail your inputs/stories to Ned at: ned@wingset.com or mail them to him at: 1725 Gabert Road Woodstock, VT 05091. Ned's phone number is: 802-457-9922 if you have any questions.

## Other FAC Trivia and News

**ADDITIONAL NAME TO BE ADDED TO HURLBURT FIELD FAC MEMORIAL:** From **Don Echelberger**. Lights are now installed at the FAC memorial in Hurlburt Park.. Another name needs to be added to the FAC Memorial. Don will coordinate with the FAC Assn to get the engraver down to Hurlburt Field. Money for this project will be come from the ALL FAC Assn's Memorial fund that was established in 2000. **LTC Andrew Matyas** was KIA on 18 Feb 1968 in a Rx/mortar attack at Binh Thuy (Phong Dinh, SVN). He was assigned to the 22 TASS. Jim Meade, our friend 'Down Under' came across his name while looking through listings on the 'Virtual Wall' web site. After posting a query on the FACNET, he received several positive confirmations. It's obvious other FACs knew him. Looks like we have addition No. 221.

**BRONCO ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:** **Jack Thompson**, Rustic vice president, reports that he is devoting two days a week to help restore the Bronco Assoc's Pre-Production full scale OV-10 mockup. The Assn. is getting close to being able to put the big pieces back together but probably at least a year away from having all of the work together.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA AIR LOSSES** (From the FACNET): **Chris Hobson** in his book "Vietnam Air Losses" has outlined the loss/fatalities/POWs listed by type and service (pages 268-271). A quick summary of USAF FAC losses (according to Hobson) include:

O-1: 178 aircraft lost, 93 fatalities, 1 POW.  
O-2: 104 aircraft lost, 84 fatalities, 2 POW.  
OV-10: 64 aircraft lost, 43 fatalities, 5 POW.

Others USAF losses for comparison:

Thuds: 397 aircraft lost, 150 fatalities, 103 POW.  
F-4s: 445 aircraft lost, 321 fatalities, 135 POW. (not RF-4s)  
Spads: 201 aircraft lost, 107 fatalities, 4 POW.  
C-130s: 60 aircraft lost, 395 fatalities, 0 POW. (not AC-130s)  
Huns: 242 aircraft lost, 87 fatalities, 6 POW.  
F-111s: 11 aircraft lost, 14 fatalities, 2 POW.

According to research done by **Dick Coyner** (dusty@succeed.net), FAC aircraft losses by TASS went like this:

TASS:	O-1	O-2A	OV-10A
19th TASS:	53	12	16
20th TASS	31	55	22
21st TASS:	41	16	1
22nd TASS	13	3	0
23rd TASS:	7	15	23

**PUT A FACE WITH A NAME---VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL:** From fellow FAC **Dale Hill**, dale.hill@saic.com.

A year ago the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Kinko's launched a campaign to collect a picture for each of the 58,229 men and women whose names are inscribed on The Wall. More than 2,500 photographs were collected during the 4 month campaign. Although Kinko's support to do this for free ended on 31 Dec of last year, the VVM Fund continues to work toward the goal of 58,229 pictures.

We can help! Here's how:

1. Scan and upload the photo from home. On The Virtual Wall, find the veteran's profile page and click on 'Post a Remembrance.' Complete the required information and choose 'Attach an Image from my computer.' Click on 'Next Step' to review the remembrance before submitting it for approval, or
2. Email your scanned image to the VVMF as an attachment (jpg, jpeg, or gif preferred) to Mariah French (mfrench@vvmf.org).

In the body of the email, be sure to include the veteran's name, your name, a password and any other information you would like included in the remembrance, or

3. Mail a copy of your photograph to the VVMF. Include the information above as well as a return address so the photo can be returned. Mail the photo to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Attn: Put a Face with a Name, 1023 15th Street NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20005

*(Editor's note: Anyone willing to be the Rustic POC to see that our three Rustic brethren, **Joe Gambino, Garret Eddy and Micheal Vrablick** have been properly represented? Please contact **Claude Newland** at: rustic19@cox.net.)*

#### **ACTIVE DUTY ex-FAC GENERALS:**

Charles (Chuck) F. Wald, O-2, Da Nang, 72/73

Promoted effective Jan. 1, 2003, and reassigned as Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany

MAJOR GENERAL (Ret) Micheal C. McMahan, OV-10, 20th & 21st TASS, 72/73, Commander, Air Force Personnel Center

Retired effective Jan. 1, 2003.

This reduces the number still active to 10.

#### **SHORT BURSTS:**

MARIETTA, Ga., Jan. 7 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- The Lockheed Martin led F/A-22 Raptor air dominance fighter team has delivered its first aircraft -- Raptor 4012 -- to the U.S. Air Force's Air Warfare Center (AWFC) with the recent signing of formal acceptance documents here by government officials. The aircraft will soon be flown to AWFC's 422nd Test & Evaluation Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nevada.

## **Letters To The Editor:**

From **Doug Robertson** (on FACNET) para4T5@aol.com

All, I would like to use this forum to publicly say "THANK YOU" to Mr. **Don Mercer**, former Rustic FAC who through his perseverance has managed to secure for me the awards I never received when I left the Air Force on Feb 1st, 1973. Thirty long years have passed and in the past few days through his efforts he was able to contact the proper people to assist in this endeavor and I will be finally getting my awards shortly. In addition my DD214 will be amended to reflect the awards that were a long time coming. A Big Salute to you Sir and again 'Thank You' **Sgt Doug Robertson, Rustic Radio 71-72**

From **Don Mercer**, Rustic 41

My Fellow Rustics, what an outstanding time my family and I had at the (San Antonio) reunion! My letter below was forwarded yesterday to **Joe G. Lineberger**, Director, Air Force Review Boards Agency, and **Raymond H. Weller**, Deputy Executive Director, Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records. The gift I received of the O-2 model provided me one of life's rich experiences. Thank you. Don

**Joe and Ray,**

"Last night my wife and I along with our three daughters returned on two different planes from our Rustic Reunion in San Antonio and what a grand time it was thanks to the work the two of you performed on our behalf! The banquet Saturday evening will be, without a doubt, one of the highlights of my life. Indeed, it will be, I am sure, one of the highlights for those who received long overdue recognition in large part due to your unrelenting efforts to assist us in the Rustic FAC Association.

"It was my pleasure to recognize the contributions that each of you have made in our efforts when I addressed the audience from the podium prior to the presentation ceremony in which recently retired Lieutenant General Lanny Trapp, Rustic 07, pinned the medals on each man's chest. The final assessment resulted in nine awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross to six interpreters, the Bronze Star Medal and Air Medal to our Chief of Intelligence and four Aircrew Member Badges.

"While I will pen a letter to each of you later this week I wanted to take just a few minutes this morning to express my sincere gratitude for your willingness to work with me and our Association and especially your efforts to expedite matters in the eleventh hour. My wife received the Aircrew Badge directives and wings that you overnighed on Tuesday, Ray, and brought them with

her on Friday for the awards ceremony.

"One of life's unique ironies visited me yesterday on my return trip home, Joe. In some of our past conversations, I vividly recall the discussion and your comments surrounding **"Tex" Hill** of Flying Tiger fame. Your work in providing recognition to him, the award of the Distinguished Service Cross, held particular significance for me as my Dad served in China in the Army for three years during WWII providing support, in part, for the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group. I was raised on stories of the Flying Tigers and life as it was then for Americans in China.

"When my daughter and I arrived in San Antonio on Wednesday for the reunion our room was not ready so we browsed in several of the shops located in the hotel and, to my amazement, found a model of the P-40B that was flown by the Flying Tigers with the authentic markings on it. To my further surprise they had one that had recently been autographed by **"Tex" Hill**, so I immediately purchased it for my bookcase to rest below the escape and evasion cloth that my Dad wore when he "flew the Hump."

"As one of my daughters and I sat in the airport terminal in San Antonio yesterday awaiting our flight to Dallas en route home, I was carrying the gift of an O-2 carved in the Philippines that had been presented to me for my work in obtaining recognition for those Rustics honored the previous evening. A distinguished older gentleman came up and, while putting his hand on my shoulder, asked if the package marked with a return address in Magalang, Pampanga, Philippines, was by any chance a model of an airplane. I responded, "yes, sir" and as I rose to address the gentleman, I noted a P-40 pin in his lapel and the baseball cap he was wearing with the insignia of the 23<sup>rd</sup> FG and then the man introduced himself as **"Tex" Hill**.

"I've never been much on heroes as most Americans define them but **"Tex" Hill** is one man who is, in my mind, a great American hero. Thus, the work that you did for all of us, that in turn resulted in the gift that I received, truly resulted in one of the finest moments of my life as I was able to stand and chat with "Tex" Hill for awhile after deplaning in Dallas and have a few pictures taken with him. While he did not know my father, it was as if I was taken back in time to those years when he served in China. It will be forever a most memorable moment in my life.

"My family seldom has ever seen me excited and they had that opportunity both Saturday at the banquet and presentation ceremony and again when my daughter accompanying me on the trip home had that opportunity when we met **"Tex" Hill**. Thank you for all that you accomplished for us and for those men for whom you have been able to provide some much appreciated closure. I know I speak for all involved - the men, their families and the Rustics - in expressing our heartfelt thanks for the work you have done for us and the work that you are continuing to do for other veterans. You, gentlemen, are making a significant difference in the lives of those you touch."

Respectfully, **Don Mercer**

*(Editor's note: Don, well said!!... and a big Rustic 'Thank you' to **Joe Lineberger** and **Ray Weller** for their invaluable support to the Rustics! Don Mercer... Again, from all the Rustics, our heartfelt thanks to you for your efforts in seeing that these long over due awards and decorations were finally made possible! On behalf of the Rustics, Don presented a Rustic hat to Joe and Ray.)*

THE VOICE OF GOD. From the FACNET, Dec 02 **Tim Eby**, Rustic 40

One of the duties of a FAC in Laos was Air Traffic Controller. Each FAC was responsible for everything that happened within his sector of the Trail. Each sector had a UHF frequency, on which any aircraft entering was required to check in with the FAC. While air traffic wasn't heavy, at least the FAC would know if another aircraft could impinge upon the safety of his airstrikes or other activities. If no one had checked in the FAC would know that he was alone with his war.

Catch a glimpse of a quiet day -- no airstrikes -- not even any gun activity for several hours. The rule of thumb said (can you spell s-u-c-k-e-r?) that the gunners would lay low unless you stirred them up by doing something dumb, or putting in airstrikes. I was minding my own business, just VR-ing (visual reconnaissance) over the trail. Without realizing that I had become complacent, I neglected to glance above frequently for flak bursts, the most reliable sign that the guns were active. No one had called in my sector, so I knew I was all alone.

Suddenly, a very strong, authoritative voice on my discrete UHF frequency said, "COVEY 540, YOU'RE GETTIN' HOSED!" I looked above in horror to see the sky over my airplane turning black with the smoke of hundreds of ugly air bursts, punctuated by continuous orange flashes as more kept adding to the terrible sight.

"Those cunning Communists - they're cheating!" said I as I jinked away in a spectacular display of panic stricken airmanship. Or words to that effect. I had never seen the gunners barrage fire so heavily, especially without provocation. As my heart settled back into its rightful place and my brain regained its function, the thought occurred to me, No-one is out here. Yet someone warned me, by name.

A few bars of the theme song from The Twilight Zone tickled my imagination. Who was that? As soon as I could summon the strength to flick the transmit button on the throttle, I said simply, "Who are you?" The answer did little to settle my nerves. "This is KING!" the authoritative voice said. Of course, I knew that KING was the call sign of the SAR (Search and Rescue) airborne command post. It was a C-130 that was airborne day and night, but I had assumed that it orbited over Thailand, waiting for a distress call

to start rescue operations for surviving crewmen. Obviously, it was a lot closer than Thailand, although I never did see it, as hard as I looked.

"For a minute there I thought I'd heard the voice of God!" I said.

"Well, we saw all the flak and noticed that you weren't getting out of the way," he responded.

I assured him that I sincerely appreciated his attentiveness. And I assured myself that I would never get complacent again. I've often thought that maybe it really was the voice of God. Even the call sign was right.

Was it a miracle? No, it was a real airplane carrying a real man using a real UHF radio. It was scientifically explainable. Let's call it divine coincidence. Whatever you call it, that coincidence has generated many grateful prayers.

Sincerely, Tim, no longer complacent, Eby

From: Magic Mike, michael.gagne@oreka.com (Rustic interpreter)

Hi Claude,

I have recently gone to adsl and forgot to send my new e-mail to a bunch of friends, sorry. Got a call from **Tim Early**, we had known each other in Chateauroux as he dated a French girl ( a long ways back !!) and we met again in Nam, glad you all found him! Chateauroux is located in the center of France about 250 kilometers south of Paris. If you can make it here let me know, I will go to Brussels to meet you, actually, it's real close and it would be a great occasion to go there as I have never visited either ! I haven't received a DFC, I did get the flight medal while stationed in Greece, retro-actively of course. I do intend firmly to attend the next reunion, thanks for the great job you have done for all of us. Keep in touch, Mike

P.S. I ordered the new Rustic book from Amazon and will receive it shortly

## WHAT WAS YOUR CHRISTMAS LIKE IN 1970,71, 72?

From **Roger Hamann**, RstcYankee@aol.com Subject: Christmas 2002

My memories of Christmas 1971 bring back my worst mission as a Rustic as this was the first time I actually saw many on the ground virtually disappear into oblivion after an A-37 bomb run.

Fast forward to last evening's Christmas with all of my 3 adult children present, ages 22, 25 and 27. I presented each of them with a copy of Call Sign, Rustic and inside the cover of each one I had written a personal note to my daughter and her two older brothers. Each message related to how what they were doing today had touched my life in regard to my time spent as a Rustic. As each read their private message from "Dad", I watched their faces. In a matter of seconds, tears became evident on all three. They all stated this was the best present they'd received this Christmas. They've yet to read the book but they all know how proud dad is to have been part of the Rustics' role in the Vietnam war. It means so very much to me and to my children as well.

My worst nightmare dealt with seeing innocent children running with terror in their faces amidst bombs going off all around them. The faces were that of my own children. May the tears that were shed last evening be the closest thing my kids ever get to experiencing war on their homeland in their lifetime.

Sorry folks, this isn't meant to be a "downer" for a "Christmas memories" collection. This is actually one Christmas the Hamann family will always remember as being extra special due to the very personal and unique bond I was able to finalize with the help of a small history book about an outstanding group of brothers known as the Rustics.

Cheers to all, Good health and good luck in 2003, **Rog Hamann**, Rustic Yankee

From: "**Tim Eby**" <teby@htcomp.net> Subject: Christmas past

You did it again! Brought up a long-buried memory. One charged with bitter-sweet overtones, which probably explains why it got buried so long.

Christmas of 1970, Pleiku, with the Coveys. I don't remember the party, if any, but I remember the mission. Dawn patrol, a normal Trail mission with a new guy in his check out, which meant back-seat duties for me.

Right off the bat, a SF team in a world of hurt hears our noise and calls us in somewhat of a panic. After locating them and launching the Prairie Fire assets, we attempted to take some heat off the team with our popguns. At the direction and correction of the team leader, we made multiple passes, firing into the jungle, while he did his Army stuff, trying to disengage. By the time the Prairie Fire Covey arrived, the team leader was real proud of us, giving us credit for two NVA killed, and he had his team in a better position. All in a day's work, except that I kind of hated starting off Christmas day by killing people. I had to remind myself that we had also

saved our own people. Happy holidays to us and Uncle Ho, too! It just never did seem an appropriate way to spend Christmas. As a postscript, the team was extracted under fire later that morning. One of the Huey slick pilots with curly hair like a honky Afro, whose callsign was Brillo, (go figure) picked them out of the jungle, taking a .50 cal hit in the transmission in the process. He steadily lost torque and didn't have a prayer of making it back to anywhere safe, so he took a chance on landing at Leghorn. Leghorn, to the uninitiated, was a radio relay outpost on top of a vertical rock protrudence adjacent to the Trail in Laos. The helipad was no wider than the skids of a Huey, and the vertical airflow coming up the mountainside made a normal, powered landing very tricky. Brillo ended up autorotating onto that windy postage stamp. The Huey hit, skidded a foot or two, and stuck, the front of the skids extending out over the rock face several hundreds of feet above the valley floor. After it quit rocking and skidding, everyone let out a big exhale in unison. Brillo punched the mike and said to no-one in particular, "Merry F----- Christmas!"

A little crude, perhaps, but it conveyed the message of the moment. This is the way I remember it. Don't hold me responsible for all the details. One or two of them may have changed over the years! Wild Willie Hartsell, was that you on that extract? BTW, Tom McGrain, I don't see any reason for you to retire to silence. You give good story!

Now that I think of it, this Christmas wasn't much more peaceful. Four grandsons under the age of 3 1/2 just left. Whew!!  
Tim combat fatigued Eby      Covey 540      Boy howdy, it's quiet around here!

From **Jennifer Martinez**, yotanka@carolina.rr.com, Amarillo Globe News  
Subject: **Robert Harris** receives awards, Wednesday, January 08, 2003

A Sunray native recently received a "long overdue" award. **Robert Harris** received the second award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, First Oak Leaf Cluster, for a combat mission flown Feb. 23, 1971 as a U.S. Air Force pilot. Harris was presented the award Dec. 10. He had received the first award of the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1971.

Harris thought of the moment of when he flew the mission as an "exciting time." He flew with 100 other men on the Rustic Forward Air Controller division. "This award is for everybody in the Rustic FACs. Any one of us could have completed this mission. I just happened to be out there that night," Harris said.

Harris served with the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron based at Bien Hoa Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam as a pilot in the O-2A. He flew 205 combat missions, which 146 were over Cambodia. This, along with congressional legislation, made it possible for the pilots and commanding officer of Harris' unit, the Night Rustics, to bestow the award upon Harris. Don Mercer, who was on the awards and decorations committee for this mission, said everyone involved in the Rustic FAC goal was to shield the Cambodian troops from the American public. At this time, American troops began with drawing from Cambodia because the Vietnam War was ending. Since Cambodia was a neutral country, the Khmer Rouge, or the red Communists, wanted to deny the Cambodians access to using the land for building arms and food holding areas. Harris flew as a part of a two-man crew in support of operations in Cambodia. Another unit came to the assistance of First Support Base Blue, a U.S. Army base in close proximity to the South Vietnam and Cambodia border. Harris' aircraft scrambled and arrived on station as the previous aircraft had to depart due to fuel considerations. During the ensuing fire fight in which the base was under intense attack and eventually overrun, Harris coordinated tactical air power which included a flight of A-37 attack aircraft and an AC-119 gunship. First Lieutenant James M. Gibbar also contributed to this use of tactical air power and received the award as well. They both released from their plane and directed the use of illumination flares while taking intermittent ground fire. They further coordinated the employment of medical evacuation helicopters in support of American troops.

"It was amazing that our mission was first to use the nighttime military tactics like laser-guided bombs. Now, they are being used all the time," Harris said. Mercer said the only element that is still classified regarding this mission is a few intelligence issues. There are still a few people who haven't identified themselves as supporting the Cambodians.

Harris always wanted to fly for a living. At the time, his primary destination wasn't to go to Vietnam. "The plane and pilot training I chose only flew to southeast Asia," Harris said. Harris and the Rustic FACs still keep in touch. Mercer considers Harris one of his best friends. They recently joined together for a reunion in San Antonio. Harris and the other men contributed their stories to a book called "Rustics: The Secrets of the War in Cambodia." Mercer even plans to take 18 months off from his job to write a book. Harris might contribute to this work, too.

Former Vice President Al Gore was a part of this mission as well. He wrote a recent article for Nashville newspaper stating that while 5 men died, Army helicopters successfully evacuated 23 wounded men.

Harris was raised in Borger and lived in Sunray for 23 years. He graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1968. He served in the Air Force as a pilot from 1969 to 1974. He moved to Amarillo in 1999. He currently works for the Transportation Security Administration as an airport checkpoint security supervisor in Fort Lauderdale, FL. "The military made me want to get involved in

homeland security measures," Harris said.

Robert, a Texas Tech graduate, and Tiffany, a junior at West Texas A&M, are the children of Robert Harris and Beverly Harris.

From Ned Helm (ned@wingset.com)

Subject: New Patches

Jim Hodgson...OV Assn BX guru has issued forthwith three new offerings....especially for those of you who flew the Friendly Skies of Cambodia.

All are copies of real patches..the originals are attached for your viewing pleasure....

First is the red Scorpion Patch...this is the Patch of the Scorpion Squadron at PP (Phnom Penh). they were the host of all Nails and Rustics who belonged to the Phnom Penh for lunch bunch...watching them taxi out with canopies rolled back and scarves blowing in the propwash....was...well...inspiring.

The second is the Khmer AF insignia....looks like wings to us...it was presented to all later Rustics and Nails by the Scorpions...

The third is the Khmer Blood Chit....the original was cotton and was worn on the back of Khmer party suits...(no one even vaguely thought the bad guys would trade a pilot back!!). Mine was presented in PP by Maj Kim..the ops officer....it got a bit tatty from all those "deceased insects"...so I removed it from my party suit ...had it copied...and then framed it. This is made from a copy of the scan..

Pricing is up in the air but..the Blood Chit is expensive (it measures about 11/14) @ around 50.00...and we have to make 24 or more of them....so far we have two sold...only 22 to go.....Patches 20.00 or less...quality is super.

Also available now the Rustic Ubon Patch...and the 23d Patch is in the works...all will be on the Bronco Assn Web site...eventually...

Crash

From **Paul Godfrey**, Rash FACs who flew early missions into Cambodia.

Greetings, I just found the wealth of "stuff" on the www. about OV-10's (an airplane/mission that has never been properly recognized by aviation historians).

My name is **Paul Godfrey**. I was primarily a RASH FAC (Rash 27 and 14) with the 19th TASS in SEA, Sep '69 - Sep '70. I did fly as a Rustic, the first time before the "invasion" of Cambodia, and carried a Senior Air Force Officer over the border for an "observation" trip. Then during the "invasion" flew in the right seat of an O-2 as a "Head Beagle" airborne controller for the TASC for about a week before continuing as a RASH FAC. Then in late July '70, I began flying some missions as RUSTIC 15 or "Rooostic une cinq." I still continued to fly some missions as a RASH FAC. This continued until mid Sep '70 when I prepared to return to the States and my next assignment.

I am looking forward to reading your book and joining both the OV-10 and the Rustic organizations.

Paul A. Godfrey 2006 Creekside Lane, Anacortes, WA 9221 360-293-8283

From: Paul Godfrey, godfrey.2@earthlink.net

I will have to dig out my box of old Air Force stuff and see what notes I did retain....

My first mission was pre-invasion with a Colonel out of Saigon. My boss, Al Gray, woke me up at oh-dark thirty and took me off for a briefing about going over the fence. Shortly after sunrise, the Colonel and I took-off from Bein Hoa, went north to the border then worked west. Found a tall "span" type bridge that he went berserk over. During the initial invasion, Roger Dodd put-in the fighters that took out that bridge. Overall it was a nonevent type flight. Later flights as a Rustic were to the KPC and KPT areas of Cambodia. My last flight in early Sep '70 was to the south end of Lake Tan Le Sap (sp???) for a suspected gathering boat force moving south toward the river and Phnom Penh. Initially not finding much, we (my enlisted French speaker in the back seat and I) went "a little below" our "by the rules" minimum altitude and found that a group of "tiny" islands had floating hulls below the mass of vegetation that was well placed on their top. I called for the massive amounts of air I was promised, and finally a AC-130 showed up. From his altitude all he could see was islands. I put a WP in the water right beside the largest "island" and lo and behold a massive number of islands began moving south toward the river mouth. We never got clearance to fire on any of them, and with myself at bingo on fuel, I headed home. I was getting very close to DEROS and very frustrated with some war management issues that were emerging, so that was my last Rustic mission. Though, I did fly a few more RASH missions.

Post SEA, (thought I was going to Hurlbert to instruct in the OV-10) went to C-5's at Charleston AFB (late 70-73) with a unit move

to Dover AFB (73-75). Then three years teaching at USAFA (75-78). Then to C-5's at Travis AFB (78 to end of 83). Air Force Legislative Liaison, House of Representatives (83-87).... retired in 87. In 88 went to work for FlightSafety Services Corporation as Site Manager for the C-5 training program at Stewart ANGB, New York, and did that until Dec 2002. Now in Anacortes, WA and hoping for a "greeter" job at Wal Mart, or whatever.

I will get to my archives and see what more I can come up with, hopefully with better detail on dates..  
Thanks for the response! P. Godfrey

Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Rustic News

**www.rustic.org**

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**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION:** 22-25 Sep 2005. Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Ft Walton Beach, FL. 70 rooms have been reserved. Rates will be announced in 2004 once they are known. Start planning now to attend! This will be another 'Mother of All Reunions' for the Rustics!!

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** From **Claude Newland**. A great big bull's eye "Shack" to all 84 of you who are actively supporting the Rustic FAC Association through your annual dues or lifetime memberships. 'Thought you might like to know who you are:

Lifetime Members (16): Aitken, Clifford, Dahle, R. Dodd, Edwards, Gabel, Garand, Hellwig, Keese, Mercer, Newland, Nuber, Reese, Roberds, Wilson, R. Wood

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Another Rustic Located	7	<b>NEXT ALL FAC REUNION ANNOUNCED:</b> From <b>Cal Anderson</b> , Covey FAC and reunion Coordinator, calvindolly@earthlink.net. The next All FAC Reunion is set for 5-9 May, 2004 in San Antonio, TX at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Carolyn Petty, EEM Tours, Carolyn@EEMevents.com will be handling all the bookings as she did for the 2000 Hawaii Reunion. We have a preliminary agenda--just waiting for the misc. costs and other events to solidify before we put out the final agenda.
Another Rustic Book	8/9	
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Letters to the Editor	9/10	<b>UPDATE ON DON MERCER'S BOOK PROJECT:</b> From: <b>Don Mercer</b> . I've been out on the road conducting interviews so please excuse my tardiness in replying to several emails that I see I have from you ( <i>Editor</i> ). So far I've gotten nine interviews in Florida including a most interesting one with <b>Col. Perry Dahl</b> (III DASC CC) and over 3,500 miles on the car with two flights home to see the family. 'Just returned late last night with three more tapes in hand from a trip to DC. I head west next week and plan to be on and off the road for a bit over 4 months.
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I'm having the time of my life and my family is most supportive. Neat things seem to be happening and coming my way like meeting up with some of the Thunderbirds two weeks ago at the Air Sea Show in Fort Lauderdale. **Bob Harris** and I were at the poolside bar one evening where he lives temporarily at the Airport Hilton as he's with TSA and where those on the Demonstration Team were also staying.

We had a grand time. I even had Lead Solo, **Maj. Todd Canterbury**, get on the phone to my 16 year old daughter, **Cheerie**, who was pretty impressed. He sent us VIP Passes to the show at Andrews this Sunday so we're taking a family day and driving up with my wife and 3 daughters to see the show. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed for good weather. And the Thunderbirds now have a copy of our first book that I shipped to him.

Of course, driving back with Redeye from a side trip to Key West with the top down and a Jimmy Buffet CD playing provides a great perspective on life.

The only thing of help on my book that I need to address at this time is an issue of copyright as to some of the stories, particularly those which I solicited from O-2 pilots for inclusion in the first Rustic book. I plan to use some of that material, although mostly rewritten by me for my book, and want to be sure that no conflicts arise with the Rustic FAC Association. All such excerpts and/or direct quotes will be attributed to their source but I want to make certain that no problem whatsoever arises. Any input you have as to that would be welcome.

There are also a few pictures from the first book that I'd like to use but it may be best to go back to the individuals who provided those pictures and deal with them directly with respect to my book.

Although I bought Dick Wood's book and have actively sought to promote it, I have purposely not read the first page as I have no plans to reference anything written by Dick in my book. I just don't want to go down that road as to any potential conflict with him and that book as a source of income for him. Additionally, the basis and research for the two books is entirely different.

Aside from that, the interviews have been going exceptionally well. I've learned about numerous aspects of the mission, its genesis in a meeting with **Gen. Lucius Clay** in Saigon in 1970, the beginnings of Rustic Alpha and life on top of Nui Ba Den along with a considerable number of humorous stories and incidents of which I had no previous knowledge. The hospitality provided by everyone with whom I've stayed and visited to date has been overwhelming.

Several airline pilots have provided passes (I've reimbursed each for the ID 90 rate or whatever the cost) for my return flights home and then back to my car to date and going into the upcoming trip west for 4-5 months that has helped to hold down some of the expenses. The open passes have been invaluable in allowing me to flex my schedule somewhat and backtrack as needed as when I had to drive back to Tampa to obtain the interview with **Col. Dahl** as he had to reschedule my visit with him.

My interview with him was most interesting as he related many of his experiences in the South Pacific in WWII: his shooting down three Japs and himself having been shot down once, bailing out during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and escaping and evading for 31 days in the Philippines along with losing three other P-38's during the course of the war. One had 152 hits in one wing and an engine before the crash landing. His take on that was that if he'd lost one more P-38, he'd have been a Japanese ace. We had a good laugh when I asked if he'd gotten an exemption from Jungle Survival School or if he had been asked to help teach it. He, of course, had to attend like the rest of us but I'm sure he did so with a huge smile on his face.

I've never seen anyone at age 80 in such great shape and as sharp as a tack with such a quick wit. He would be a most welcome addition to our next reunion in 2005 to even perhaps have him speak or have a breakout session as we did with Col. Oum in SAT where Col. Dahl could relate some of his wealth of information and experiences and answer questions. He truly is an American hero.

An excellent example of one of the stories is that obtained in the interview with **Pierre Ligonde** in South Miami. He went from being a cook on the chow line at Bien Hoa to jumping into a cockpit over Cambodia within two days once he was identified as speaking French. Then someone discovered that he didn't have a Top Secret clearance and after a few more days the problem was identified as his not being an American citizen.

The solution was to fly him to Hawaii, take him before a judge to have him swear his oath to the United States, and then fly him back to Bien Hoa after a day in Hawaii, obtain the necessary clearance and then back again to flying over Cambodia. 'Quite a story for a young man from Haiti who escaped from there to find his way in the world of America in order to obtain an education and a better way of life. His willingness to fight to defend our way of life (while not even being a citizen) when others here were protesting the war in SEA is quite a story in itself.

My interviews with **Dung Le** (nee Le Ngoc Dung), our hootch maid, and her husband, a former ARVN captain, tell compelling stories. She lost everything when her family fled from what became the North in 1954 and then again in 1975 when she escaped to the US. They have truly lived the "American Dream" as they put it and it's amazing what they have accomplished in spite of such adversity while other Americans sit around and complain. It has given me quite an insight into first generation individuals who immigrate to the US.

God willing, the project will result in a book and a hoped for video for TV (Wings, Discovery or History channel). And after all that probably around late 2005, I hope to edit all the interviews and submit those to the Library of Congress in conjunction with the National Veterans History Project that is being underwritten by Congress to obtain stories from our country's veterans.

Your willingness to share my progress with the Board and through the newsletter is also appreciated. Just keep in mind that I'm not seeking center stage. The work I've done with Awards & Decs, for example, is not about me but about long overdue and well deserved recognition for some amongst us. What my efforts are all about in this book project are to pay tribute to the Rustics with whom I flew and served and the valiant Cambodians with whom we fought.

(Editor's comment: **Dick Wood**, our Rustic Association copyright guru has been in touch with **Don Mercer** to help clarify any copyright issues. Thanks Dick for assisting. Your book publishing expertise has been invaluable to the Association!

OK GUYS, IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT ASSIST DON IN HIS BOOK EFFORTS, LET HIM HEAR FROM YOU AT: [dmerc@life-insure.com](mailto:dmerc@life-insure.com). or call 757-412-2272.)

**MISSING RUSTIC MYSTERY?** Does anyone recall a **Joseph A. Galland** being assigned to the Rustics as an interpreter? **Roger Hamann**, one of our Ubon Rustic interpreters, was recently reviewing our Missing Rustics list and asked whether this name may actually be a typo for **Joseph A. E. Garand**, our own Rustic Echo, who is very much accounted for. Could be?! If you can verify that there was such a person as Joseph A. Galland assigned to the Rustics during your tenure or if you can confirm that he was not a Rustic during your tenure, please contact **Lendy Edwards**, our database keeper at: [lendy@cox.net](mailto:lendy@cox.net) or 850-651-6766. Maybe there's no such person?

**RUSTIC'S VIETNAM CD PHOTO ALBUM PRESERVATION PROJECT.** From **Ned Helm**. As the Rustics know, I am compiling a CD of images from the Rustic tenure at Bien Hoa and Ubon-by-the-Sea. I have not been overwhelmed by the number of scans I have received and or the photos that have arrived. Perhaps the term underwhelmed would be more appropriate.

A few days back the phone rang and it was **Roger Hamann** (Rustic "Yankee", who lives in nearby Maine...as in five hours away...as in... you can't get there from here.) Yankee was one of the Rustic "Riders" (my term). They were enlisted "French Speakers" (a lot of whom were Canadians from Maine) who were literally "snatched" from other jobs all over the world and plopped into the rear cockpit of OV-10's (or right seat of the 0-2) and thrust on to the pointy end of the spear.

He said he was going to be "in the area" and could he stop by? My reply was..... *Hell yes!!* Well, Yankee and Bravo showed up this morning and smashed the routine here at Wingset (our mail/web catalog) and boy was it a good thing. We were are BORED this time of year, but even more importantly, I was damn glad to see him again (we had met at the Rustic Reunion in San Antonio last October and on the FACNET!)

Under his arm was a photo album that is pure gold! Lots of personality shots from Ubon.--guys I have met.. either in person or at reunions, who have been transformed from 50 something to 20 something with a click of Rog's Instamatic.

**Come on guys. Get those pix scanned before they yellow out beyond rescue, or just mail them to me for scanning. A WORD OF CAUTION if you mail me your pictures: Please send them Fed-Ex or UPS, not regular mail. Both UPS and Fed-EX have a much better tracking system for their deliveries. We don't want to take a chance on losing these one-of-a-kind photos .**

Please send scanned pictures to me at: [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com) or mail them to me at: 1725 Gabert Road, Woodstock, VT 05091.



Here is Yankee in his trusty Oscar Victor One Zero at Ubon...then ,again, in front of his current steed , here in scenic Woodstock, VT...with a VERY NICE license plate.

For those on digest on the FACnet... the first one shows Yankee in the Rear Cockpit , arms on the rails,....looking, shall we say, "evil", or Yankee Air Pirate "ish" (spell checker is gonna love that word!).

The second is Yankee kneeling in front of his Jeep SUV (well... he does live in Maine and needs one!). The license plate surround says on the top **Protector of Freedom**, and on the bottom **Veteran Aircrew**. The plate itself is a Maine veteran's plate with the number being **OV-10**. It also includes a **DFC decal**. Almost makes me want to move back to Maine...but then again the "good" plate is already spoken for!!

(Aside to **Don Mercer**, Rustic Oscar Duck Driver, who ramrodded the DFC's for the "Riders"....thank you , and all the guys who helped him...it was worth the effort!!)

Please guys...need those pix.... and Yankee...damn good to see you again....

*(Editor's Comment: OK, Guys, who's next? I finally got my pictures to Ned. He scanned them and promptly returned them. Our Rustic Historian, **Jim Gabel**, plans to send Ned all of the Rustic photos collected in our memorabilia archives. These are the pictures from the photo albums that were donated to the Rustics at previous Rustic reunions . Digital photos are the answer to long-term preservation!.. Arm 'em up and cleared hot! Get your photos to Ned ASAP. He swears he can keep you' forever young' in your photos*

**WANNA FLY AN OV-10 AGAIN?** From **Jim Hogdson**, OV-10 Bronco Association, [www.ov-10bronco.net](http://www.ov-10bronco.net).

Hi folks, I had an interesting chat with a gentleman from East Inc. yesterday. East is a subcontractor to Dyn Corp. and the State Department. Seems they are looking for 3 or 4 people to fly OV-10D's "down range" to spray in Colombia. The job is for a 6 month contract with a possible extension of another six months. They are looking for qualified pilots with at least 1,000 hours of flight time, not necessarily in OV-10's, a commercial pilot's license and current class 2 medical.

The job pays about \$90k on an annual basis. 15 days on and 13 days off. Travel on off days. One of our members, **Jamie Henao** has recently been interviewed and plans to take the job if offered. Jamie is a former Colombian Air Force OV-10 driver.

If this offering is of interest to you contact **Norbert Violette** or **Kevin Christensen** at [violetten@infl.state.gov](mailto:violetten@infl.state.gov) or 321 783-9860. We have also invited them to attend Bronco Fest IV in October (10-13 Oct, in Ft Worth, TX) to brief the group on their operations. They might even bring an airplane or two along with them. Cheers and Happy Easter,

**KHMER BLOOD CHIT.** From **Ned Helm**. Gentlemen, we are doing up a story about the Khmer Blood Chit for the FAC history book. My chit was given to me by either **Major Lee** (Scorpion Ops) or **Kohn Om** (Sq CC)...most likely on my first time into PP, but might have been after my sterling attempts to break their runway.

Who out there has one? How did you get it?...etc.

I have a picture of the Khmer Pilot Training Graduation party with Khmer Scorpions wearing them on their Party Suits, but I NEVER saw a (Cambodian) T-28 Jock in anything other than a completely unadorned K-2B.

Mine went onto the back of my Rustic Party suit. Any comments will be appreciated. Please send me any information you have on this subject. Thanks. Ned Helm, E mail:

[ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com); call 802-457-9922; or mail to 1725

Gabert Road, Woodstock, VT 05091.

*(Editor' Comment: If you're interested in purchasing a Khmer Blood Chit, contact **Ned Helm**( or **Jim Hogson**, [www.ov-10bronco.net](http://www.ov-10bronco.net)) for details. Cost is \$45 Limited quantities remaining.)*



**Note:** The Bronco Association is selling "Party Shirts" for those of us that can no longer get into their SEA party suits. The pictures below were made by Ned "Crash" Helm. They really look sharp. If interested, contact Crash or Lendy for details.



**HOUSE OF HOPE (HOH) AND KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE:** From **Lendy Edwards. lendy@cox.net.** Many of you will recall that the Rustics donated \$930 to the House of Hope at our 2002 reunion. I recently received three messages from Tammy Fong, the Director of the HOH. . This will keep you up-to-date on what's happening.

1) **Hi Lendy**, I hope you are doing well! After what seems like VERY long days of extreme heat here, it is finally storming! It is great! Thunder, rain, cool weather! I only have one little problem-- my little wooden house is leaking. I can handle that. The heat is more questionable. : )

I wanted to let you know that we made some decisions on your latest donation of \$930 to HOH and the orphanage. Our management team decided to donate all the funds to the orphanage. They are currently restructuring their orphanage in may good ways. They currently have over 60 orphans and instead of having them all in several big rooms they decided to create a more home environment. They plan to have 6 smaller houses on the premises so that 10 orphans and a house mother could reside in each one. They eventually hope to expand and take in over 100 orphans as they look ahead at the increasing numbers of orphans as the result of their parents dying of AIDS.

The orphanage has budgeted the salary for their House Mothers (who work 6-7 days a week 24 hours a day) only 50,000 riels (\$12.50) a month. They have 4 House Mothers now at that budgeted salary. We would like to use your donation to increase their current 4 House Mother's salary to \$25 a month and help them hire 2 more House Mothers also at \$25 a month. We would use your donations until it was all up and they would continue to look for funds on their own.

This week I will meet with 2 of our Khmer staff to discuss how to present this to the director and how to set up a system of accountability with the distribution of funds. Any thoughts? Thankful for you! **Tammy**

2) **Lendy**, some of my staff and I went to see the director of the Dept of Social Affairs to ask him about his ideas of the needs for the orphanage. We decided that we will support the salaries for 6 House Mothers at \$20 a month from June to December and whatever funds remain from the \$930 we will use toward purchasing rice for the orphans. HOH and Sunrise (Diane's ministry) will add some funds too so we will be able to purchase one ton of rice which is enough for 60 plus orphans for a month.

They were very happy!! We will write up an agreement on behalf of the Rustics Association so that there will be accountability on their end. I know you don't require this, but it is good practice. I will send you a copy of it. It is very general about what their role is and our role.

Both the director of the orphanage and the director of the Dept. of Social Affairs express their deep gratitude to the Rustics Association!!!! You've made many people very happy!! Blessings to you, **Tammy**

3) **Hi Lendy**, nice to hear from you! I went to visit the director of the orphanage the other day with my Assistant Director and it was a very good meeting. We walked around the orphanage and we were impressed with how they have developed the place with the assistance of another NGO's (non governmental organization) support. We went to gather info from them about their needs. After talking to them we decided we needed to think through a little bit more about how to readjust the funds. If we increase the salary of the House Mothers only then it would create tension with the other staff who work equally hard and only earn 40,000 riels (\$10 a month). We want to be sensitive to all of their needs. I will let you know what we come up with. We hope to meet also with the director of the Department of Social Affairs here, who is in charge of the orphanage.

That is great that the Rustics have written their second book! I appreciate all of your hearts....so kind in your care for the Cambodian people. I will let you know if we have any needs. At this point HOH does not, but we so appreciate your partnership with us. It is also an honor that we can act as a liaison with the orphanage for you! Many blessings to you all! **Tammy**

4) **Hi Lendy**, we decided to only do 7 months b/c once the new year starts in 2004 there is another funding source who will fund the house mothers salary. They were so happy for the funding for this year! I think we might consider other needs they might have. The ton of rice is for only one month. I know shocking! They have 66 or so kids! They eat probably 3 meals of rice a day. That's a lot of rice, huh? : ) My pleasure to serve! Warmly, **Tammy**

Lendy's final comment: We'll keep you posted of future developments. I realize this was lengthy to print all four letters, but I felt you would be interested in the discussions and correspondence between the HoH and the Rustics. Currently, I'm corresponding with the HOH staff to see if we can further assist them or the orphanage since we have approx \$1200 from book royalties that are earmarked for Cambodian relief.

*(Editor's Comment: The \$930 donated to the HOH was to be use as the HOH deemed best. Its very gratifying to see them use it to improve the conditions at the orphanage, while foregoing some of their own needs. Although Tammy said the HOH has few needs at this time, those of us who went to Cambodia know that there are 'many needs.' The HOH is truly very protective and frugal in their use of the funds we provide them. They are sensitive to insure the money does not upset a delicate balance between meeting healthy, legitimate needs versus building unrealistic financial values or expectations among the Cambodian people they serve. )*

**HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FAC HISTORY BOOK PROJECT?** From **Ned Helm**. I'm still receiving stories to include in the Rustic section of the FAC History Book project. I expect the senior editor to cut off submissions within a couple months or so, so get your stories to me now. Don't be left out! Contact me at: ned@wingset.com or mail them to me at: 1725 Gabert Road, Woodstock, VT 05091. Include photos that go with the story if you have them.

**Jim Gabel** reports that he and **Jim Reese** have reviewed 24 Rustic stories that are in the Rustic archives and will submit them to Ned Helm for inclusion in the FAC History Book project.

**REUNION CD PHOTO PROJECT:** From **Jim Seibold**. Anyone who has photos taken at our previous Rustic reunions, please send them to me for inclusion on our new Rustic Reunion CD. This will be a unique historical record, so get your photos to me. Please label dates, names, locations, events, etc. Send your scanned photos to me at: seiboldjim@aol.com or mail them to: 1853 E Inca Circle, Mesa, AZ 85203. The general response had been somewhat slow, so I need to hear from a lot of you!

**SHORT BURSTS:**

**1) Mark Berent's (Papa Wolf) Web Page:** www.markberent.com. Mark has several books for sale that might be of interest. He has attended our last two Rustic reunions, and was our guest speaker at the 1999 reunion in Fort Walton Beach, FL. If you buy a book, be sure to ask him to autograph it for you.

**2) Next A-37 Association Reunion.** 26-29 June in Tucson, AZ at the Ramada Inn & Suites Palos Verde Hotel. For more information, contact **Ollie Maier** (Assoc. President.) 512-353-7432 or omaier@swt.edu.

**3) Information on Bronco Fest IV**, sponsored by the Bronco Association, can be obtained at: www.ov-10bronco.net or call 214-366-9777.)

**4) A Cambodian Veterans' Organization website** that might be of interest: www.khmerucaa.org/bookgateway.htm

**5) Claude Newland will be flying CRAF** (Civil Reserve Air Fleet) missions for Uncle Sam 1-18 June, using Delta aircraft. He will be staging out of Rome and flying in and out of Kuwait and Qatar.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OR FACNET:**

From: **Roger Hamann**, RstcYankee@aol.com , Subject: Memorable Memorial Day weekend

As I stood in front of the local IGA this past Saturday morning selling poppies for my VFW post, a guy in his mid 50s approached me and handed me a five dollar bill. "For that amount, I should give you the whole bouquet", I told him. He just smiled and said, "That's OK, I'm a Nam vet myself and I know that money goes to a good cause." He appeared as if he wanted to say more but instead turned towards the entrance to the store. "Thanks bro' and Welcome Home" said I. He turned around and his face reflected a sense of pride and yet at the same time, sorrow. He gave me a hand salute and walked into the store. A memorable moment for me.

Fast forward to Sunday morning.....As my wife and I were walking to our vehicle after attending church, I noticed one of our parishioners had a Purple Heart license plate. I'd seen it before but hadn't been able to talk to the individual. This time I caught him just as he was about to leave the parking lot. Knocked on his window as he was about to pull out, he stopped and rolled the window down. "I saw your license plate sir and I just wanted to thank you for serving our country." As his wife remarked, "Well isn't that nice?", his face became one big smile. And I walked away ...

Today we visited with my youngest son in Bangor, ME. After lunch, Matt asked if I wanted to visit the Korean War Memorial as I'd spoken about going there on a previous visit. Upon arrival, we read many of the names on the memorial plaques.....including that of my dad's youngest brother, **Emilien Philip Hamann**, USMC, the first Mainer killed in the Korean War, awarded the Purple Heart posthumously. As I stood and reflected on this day, I counted my blessings for having been one of the lucky ones to have made it back home. Too many men and women did not. Hand salute to those who gave all. And a hand salute.... to all of you.

Respectfully, **Rog Hamann**, Rustic Yankee

*(Editor's Comment: Roger, we likewise render a hand salute to you and all those in your family who have served!)*

From: **Ned Helm**, ned@wingset.com, Ref: Memorable Memorial Day Weekend

It seems that, belatedly, some nice things are happening to Vietnam Vets around this country. I too had a very pleasing experience this weekend. For over thirty years now I have gone to the Berkshires in North Western CT for the sports car races at a little town called Lime Rock Park. I parked my mini motor home (all 21 feet of it) along the fence and spent the rest of the weekend being neighborly (drinking other peoples beer and eating other people's food!).

Saturday night we were all gathered around the camp fire swapping racing stories, then one guy told a story about one of the drivers flying his helicopter into the track. One the guys I have known for 20 or so years (a "racing " friend, the type you see once a year at the same race) said, "you flew in SEA didn't you?" I replied that I had. No war stories....just "yup".

From across the fire came "Thank you". I thought I had misheard so I said "Excuse me?"

He repeated, "I said, thank you ", the response was then repeated all around the fire...about 10 guys and a couple of bravos....all said "thank you", or similar words. That warmed this FAC's soul.

For once I was at a total loss for words...then after a bit I said "It was my pleasure". I do like this country....I like it even more after Saturday night. Funny how two words can mean so much.

Crash, Rustic 15

**No titles required below!!!**





Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Rustic News

## www.rustic.org

### Board of Directors:

<b>President:</b>	Claude Newland, cnewland@gnt.net	<b>Director:</b>	Doug Aitken, 76140.3076@compuserve.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jack Thompson, jackov10@earthlink.net	<b>Director:</b>	Don Mercer, dmercerc@life-insure.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Don Ellis, donellis@FTC-I.net	<b>Director:</b>	Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Marcel Morneau, rusticv@juno.com		
<b>Historian:</b>	Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com		

### Project Coordinators:

<b>Website/Database:</b>	Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net	<b>Rustic SEA Photo CD:</b>	Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
<b>Book:</b>	Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com	<b>Rustic Reunion Photo CD:</b>	Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
<b>Air Park Liaison:</b>	Don Echelberger, echelberg@aol.com	<b>Rustic input to FAC book:</b>	Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
<b>Search Committee:</b>	Ron Dandeneau, RusticFoxtrot@aol.com	<b>Rustic Book CD:</b>	John Charlton, jcharlton@houston.rr.com
<b>Bronco Assn Liaison:</b>	Jack Thompson, Jackov-10@earthlink.net		

**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION:** Start making plans now to attend the next Rustic FAC reunion **22-25 Sep 2005** on the sugar white beaches of **FT Walton Beach, FL** We'll gather again at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort—site of our two previous FL reunions. Seventy rooms have been reserved. Special room rates and reunion details will be announced in 2004..

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**ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES FOR 2004 ARE NOW DUE: WHY NOW?** In years past, our Annual Membership Newsletter (which included a complete Rustic Personnel Roster) was mailed to you in December. This year we will begin sending out the Annual Membership Newsletter in the Sep issue. Why? So we can avoid soliciting the membership for annual dues in December when we all have a multitude of other competing financial priorities. Those who renew their 2004 membership now by sending in the enclosed Membership Renewal Form (located at the end of this newsletter) will receive the annual Rustic Roster with their December newsletter.

Interestingly, we discovered that most of the non members who recently renewed their membership had merely just forgotten to respond to the previous Annual Membership Newsletter. (So, don't let this be you.) It's your annual dues that make this organization possible. Your membership will keep you in touch with what's happening with all your Rustic buddies, the FAC community at large, and will help make possible future Rustic reunions and history projects. The Board of Directors would like to thank all of you who have continued to support our Association over the years! Your support is greatly appreciated.

So, please stay in the loop and complete the enclosed 2004 Membership Renewal Form while it's fresh in your mind and mail it to **Don Ellis** as indicated on the form

**SILVER STARS AWARDED TO TWO RUSTICS. From Don Mercer.** Silver Stars were recently awarded to **Ron Van Kirk** and to **Jerry Auth** (posthumously) for FAC missions flown in SEA. Medal packages have been received by Ron and Gloria Auth on behalf of Jerry as both were approved in May. I'm presently working on Press Releases for both and will then coordinate presentation ceremonies. I'm still working on the ceremony for **Larry Landtroop**. Additionally, I am pursuing the aircrew member badge for **Don Dorr** but that effort is in its infancy.

*(Editor's note: Don Mercer has clearly rewritten the book on how to get Awards and Decs approved. EVERY award he has submitted to the Review Board, since he started addressing these issues, has been approved. Don, the Rustics are awestruck at your talent and perseverance. Thanks and keep up the good work!!)*

**SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT--NEW MEMBERS ADDED: From Claude Newland.** In July, the Board of Directors authorized a one time membership drive newsletter to be mailed to all Rustics who are not current members of the association. As a result of this special mailing, the following Rustics have now rejoined the Association:

**New 2004 Regular Members:** Walt Arellano, Michael Ballard, George Larson, Les Gibson, Larry Gill, Curtis Hawker, Walt Krueger, Randy Hetherington, Glenn Perry, Frank Sovich, Donn Stone, and Larry Underwood.  
**New life members:** Gil Bellefeuille, Tom Jamrosy, Jim Lester and Joe Paquin.

(Editor's Note: *Welcome back guys. It's good to have you with us!!*)

**TREASURER'S REPORT. From Don Ellis.** Our Association is in great financial condition. If you desire details, contact Don. The Association currently has 99 dues-paying members and 5 honorary members.

**LOST RUSTIC FOUND: From Ned Helm.** With the help of **Shell Storer** (Rustic 14) and Any Who (ain' t technology grand!!), I found **Mark Krupinski** (Rustic 23) last night. 'Chatted with him for awhile and gave him info about the Rustic FAC Assn. He retired in Alaska and is currently a Bush Pilot (sigh!). Here's what we know:

**Mark Krupinski**, Rustic 23, Email [citabria@gci.net](mailto:citabria@gci.net), Phone: 907-696-4933

Mark's Tour dates were Oct 72 to Oct 73 (he started as a Covey, then was sent to 23rd when the 20th was closed down, and then sent to Ubon (as he was a French Speaker) and then back to NKP in Oct 73 to DEROS). He was a two tour FAC. His first tour was in-country in an Oscar Duck.

(Editor's note: *we're still don't have a mailing address for Mark. Does anybody have it?*)

**RUSTICS ON THE MOVE:** The following have new addresses:

<b>Mark Berent</b>	7118 E. Sienna Bouquet Pl. Scottsdale, AZ 85262
<b>Si Dahle</b>	3320 Harbor Dr., Atwater, CA 95301-47010
<b>Larry Driskill</b>	6301 County Road 7410, Lubbock, TX 79424-8403
<b>Roy E. Eklund</b>	4231 Cambridge Way N., Pace, FL 32571
<b>Norm Falcon</b>	PO Box 3240, 132 Rainbow Dr. Livingston, TX 77399-1032.
<b>Ray Stratton</b>	3 Bayshore Point, Valparaiso, FL 32580

**WE NEED TO FIND THESE LOST RUSTICS. CAN YOU HELP? From Claude Newland.** We seem to have lost touch with the following non association members. Their last newsletters came back as undeliverable with no forwarding address:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Last Known Address:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Glen Bell, Jr.</b>	8001 Brookside, Rome, NY 13440	315-337-4612
<b>Bill Bennett</b>	8025-A IH 35N, Austin, TX 78753	512-531-5417
<b>Jack Bowen</b>	5269 Eagle Lake Dr., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418	561-691-9185
<b>Bill Leydorf</b>	475 Centennial Rd, Winchester Road, TN 37398	615-967-9087
<b>Bob Messer</b>	P.O. Box 620543, Oviedo, FL 32762	407-977-1061
<b>Wendall Pells</b>	760 San Aleso Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086	510-754-6524
<b>Merle Shields</b>	P.O. Box 27674, Sacramento, CA 95827	916-369-0571

CAN YOU HELP US? IF YOU ARE LOCATED IN OR NEAR ANY OF THE ABOVE 'LOST RUSTIC' CITIES, OR HAVE SOME EXTRA WEEKEND CELL PHONE MINUTES AVAILABLE, HOW ABOUT TRYING TO CONTACT THE ABOVE RUSTICS--AND THEN SEND THEIR CURRENT INFO TO **Lendy Edwards** at: [lendy@cox.net](mailto:lendy@cox.net) or 850-651-6766. THANKS.  
**NEW E MAIL ADDRESSES:**

<b>Larry Driskill</b>	<a href="mailto:larry@kittingittogether.com">larry@kittingittogether.com</a>
<b>Don Ellis</b>	<a href="mailto:donellis@sc.rr.com">donellis@sc.rr.com</a>
<b>Don Haller</b>	<a href="mailto:donaldhaller@msn.com">donaldhaller@msn.com</a>
<b>Randy Hetherington</b>	<a href="mailto:baiglobal@bellsouth.net">baiglobal@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Shad Kimbell</b>	<a href="mailto:rustic10@earthlink.net">rustic10@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Donn Stone</b>	<a href="mailto:donn@stonedesign.us">donn@stonedesign.us</a>

**RUSTIC INTERPRETER OIC, CLINT MURPHY, TAKES HIS FINAL FLIGHT WEST.** We regret to report that **Clint Murphy**, Rustic Romeo, OIC of the Bien Hoa Rustic Interpreters, passed away at noon on 11 June 2003, at the Scott AFB Hospital. He had been in failing health from cancer for some time. He lapsed into a coma and never regained consciousness. The wake

was on Sunday with the funeral on Monday at Jefferson Barracks with a military rite. As many of you know, Clint left the Air Force and then joined the Army where he completed his career. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Murphy. If you'd like to contact her, she can be reached at: 424 S. Sappington Rd, Oakland, MO 63122 or 314-966-5212. Mrs. Murphy spoke very appreciatively of the Rustics who have already been in touch with her. She said she would like to donate Clint's FAC memorabilia to the Rustic archive s for future safekeeping.

From **Mike Gagne**: I remember Clint, He was a great guy, rest in peace Clint, you' re back in the sky now **Mike Gagne**, Rustic Kilo, 1970

From **Roger Hamann**: Clint.....Hand Salute Sir! May he rest in peace and keep a watchful eye over the rest of his fellow Rustic brothers still serving their tour here on earth. It was a sincere pleasure to have met Clint at Pahn Rang when I first arrived in SEA in Oct., ' 71 as he was probably the one responsible for my being chosen to remain in the Rustic backseater program and continue on to Ubon. A true gentleman that he was. Respectfully, **Rog Hamann**, Rustic Yankee

**RUSTIC'S VIETNAM CD PHOTO ALBUM PRESERVATION PROJECT. From Ned Helm.** Come on guys. Get those pix scanned before they yellow out beyond rescue, or just mail them to me for scanning. A WORD OF CAUTION if you mail me your pictures: Please send them Fed-Ex or UPS, not regular mail. Both UPS and Fed-EX have a much better tracking system for their deliveries. We don't want to take a chance on losing these one -of-a-kind photos .

Please send scanned pictures to me at: [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com) or mail them to me at: 1725 Gabert Road, Woodstock, VT 05091.

Attaboys to the following Rustics who have already sent in pictures to be scanned into the Rustic SEA CD Photo Project: **Aitken, Dahle, Dodd, Echelberger, Edwards, Gabel, Garand, Hawker, Hamann, Helm...well Duh!, Keese, Kiraly, Newland, Seibold and Virnig. Good going Guys!!** How about the rest of you?

**LAST CHANCE! RUSTIC STORY AND PHOTO INPUTS TO FAC HISTORY BOOK PROJECT NEEDED YESTER-DAY!! From Ned Helm.** Have you got a story to contribute to the FAC History Book Project? If so, the no-kidding cutoff to the FAC book is 15 OCT. That means ALL stories or pix to go with stories HAVE TO be to me by 15 Sept or soon thereafter. I have selected approx 40 stories from the original Rustic book, plus others new Rustic stories not found in the original book, to be included in the FAC History project. If you have a story in the original book (AND ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE ANTHOLOGY SECTIONS), I would like to have a SEA picture of you (preferably COLOR) to go with your story. Get it to me ASAP/yesterday!! Time to get moving!

Send picture(s) to: Ned Helm, 1725 Gabert Road, Woodstock VT 05091. Please use FEDEX or UPS, or insure via Snail mail. Pix are too important to us to have them end up in a Dead Letter box.

Special ATTABOY to **Magnet Ass Seibold** and the Hawk for sending me CD' s with captions or names imbedded....awesome...am using in current stories where appropriate. But I fear that some will go with out pictures other than generic. I have had to go to the Group shots of the Rustics and crop pix for stories...better than nothing but not good enough (IMHO!!)

I've heard the rumblings about the FAC Book Disk being full in FAC land...I am not biting. **Charlie Pocock** gave permission for us to have a section and I' m doing it. But that brings up another subject and that is that I am slowly building an anthology of FAC stories...both for the Rustics and Nails...so this is NOT the cut off. we can do our own CD for the next reunion. We could do also do a DVD with ALL the pix and ALL the stories.....the mother of all CDs. This shit is addictive.....it' s cutting into my day job. **Crash**

**REUNION CD PHOTO PROJECT: From Jim Seibold.** Anyone who has photos taken at our previous Rustic reunions, please send them to me for inclusion on our new Rustic Reunion CD. This will be a unique historical record, so get your photos to me. Please label dates, names, locations, events, etc. Send your scanned photos to me at: [seiboldjim@aol.com](mailto:seiboldjim@aol.com) or mail them to: 1853 E Inca Circle, Mesa, AZ 85203. The general response had been somewhat slow, so I need to hear from a lot of you!

**HOUSE OF HOPE AND KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE UPDATE. From Lendy Edwards.** A number of changes are taking place at the House of Hope (HOH) at Kompong Cham, Cambodia. I recently received the following updates from one of their Directors, Tammy Fong, whom some of us met during our visit to Cambodia in 2000. A major change in personnel is taking place and some special needs have been identified. I'll let Tammy explain.

"Hi Lendy, I am doing well. I have less than 3 months remaining here in Cambodia. I am grieving the loss with my eventual departure. Cambodia has become home for me. Seven plus years.....

"The girls are doing well as well as the orphanage. They are doing great actually so my Assistant Director tells me. She is the one responsible for following up on them and seeing that the staff (House Mothers) are actually working as contracted. She says their new system with 6 house mothers and the children divided into small groups has worked out well. So please tell the Rustics that their support has been well used!!! (*Rustics contributed funds to enable the orphanage to hire House Mothers.*)

"Yes, no dream...I am engaged and will marry end of December. It is a great blessing. Paul, my fiancé, is a wonderful man. He is a school teacher and is now looking for a job after being here for a year working in a Christian international school. California' s budget crisis makes it harder to find a job though. We continue to pray! Blessings, Tammy"

Dear Lendy, "Greetings! Good to hear from you! Thank you for asking if there are any needs with HOH and the orphanage. The last I checked with the orphanage they seem to be doing fine for now. I am sure in the future they will have needs and we will keep you abreast on their needs. As for HOH, we will be moving to a new place the end of September. We are excited. The new places (office and center) are larger and for a cheaper rent! Most of our staff went to see the new places today to see how they will layout their office/classrooms. There is an air of excitement!

"One way the Rustic Association can help us is to help with some of the unexpected changes in the new center that we would like to meet our needs. Our landlords are great so far and have been cooperative to meet most of our requests for changes and additions for which we are grateful but there still remains some last minute changes which they will not be able to cover. If the Rustics could help us in any of the expenses, that would be very much appreciated. We would like to:

- 1) Add a ceiling in our vocational training room. At this point it is a corrugated tin roof which is very hot for the girls to sew and study in. Approx. cost: \$200.00.
- 2) Cement part of our back yard so the girls can play volleyball as they have been at our current center. They love it! You should see them laugh and work out their emotions as they play! It would cost us \$270.
- 3) Build two separate small structures for our guards as they guard the center and office at night. Approx. cost us \$100.
- 4) Buy a keyboard. This would enable some of our staff to learn to play music for the girls dance practices and performances for special events and for our time of singing in our morning times of worship. We think it would cost about \$300.

"Thank you for asking us, Lendy. If you can help us in any way we would so much appreciate it! I will leave the end of October [to return to USA]. You can continue to write to me until then. **Diane Moss** [Director who attended our 2002 reunion in San Antonio] will be in the US the end of October also until early December. You can start writing to her at [Dmoss@crmnet.org](mailto:Dmoss@crmnet.org) in December.

"I will miss our contact when I return to the US. If I am ever in your area, I will definitely let you know. We will need to share a meal together! Please give my warm greetings to **Sue [Edwards]**! Warmly, Tammy"

*(Editor's Note: The total amount for the above identified 'needs' for the HOH is \$870.)*

**RUSTICS DONATE \$1,000 TO THE HOUSE OF HOPE.** To assist the HOH in their move to their new facility and to help cover the additional expenses outlined in the above letter from the HOH, the Rustic Board of Director's unanimously approved a \$1,000 donation to be made to the HOH on behalf of the Rustics. This donation will be paid from association funds received from book royalty fees collected from our commercial book sales. *(Editor's Note: In Oct 2002, the membership agreed that all book royalty fees were to be used specifically for support of Cambodian charities.)*

#### **RUSTICS SEEK CHRISTMAS DONATIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF HOPE AND THE KOMPONG ORPHANAGE.**

Would you like to make a BIG difference in some Cambodian's life this year? As you might expect, there are always unspoken 'needs' that arise at the House of Hope and the orphanage --many of which are never made know to us. The Rustics want to make a difference, so we are asking all Rustics to consider making a special Christmas tax deductible donations to the House of Hope and/or the Kompong Orphanage. If you'd like to make a donation, please mail in your contribution with your 2004 Membership Renewal Form (see Membership Renewal Form.) Remember, a 'dollar' goes a long way in Cambodia and will accomplish much more than you'd ever expect. Importantly, since we have a direct connection to the HOH staff, we are confident that \$100% of all contributions go directly for their intended purposes. With your contribution you'll be making a vast difference in someone's life this Christmas. If you're able, we hope you'll be generous, but any amount will be greatly appreciated..

#### **SHORT BURSTS:**

- 1) **WEBSITE OF INTEREST.** From **Rog Hamann**. **Dave Heffernan** makes custom veteran license plate frames that might be of interest to some of you. His website is: [www.usaircombat.com](http://www.usaircombat.com).
- 2) **FACNET.** If you'd like to join the FACNET, contact Skip Smotherman at: [skipsmo@swbell.net](mailto:skipsmo@swbell.net) or call 405-528-5496. The FACNET is at: [FACNET@yahoogroups.com](mailto:FACNET@yahoogroups.com). This service is free and you'll only receive one daily message when you request the 'digest' message mode. You can unsubscribe at any time.

**COMMERCIAL BOOK SALES UPDATE.** From **Dick Wood**. The August issue of Flypast, England's really great aviation history magazine, has an aviation book advertisement which includes "Call Sign Rustic." I've submitted a proposed article to the editor of Flypast. If it is accepted, we'll get some worldwide publicity. Stay tuned. I also recently sent a letter to Smithsonian Books inquiring about their marketing plan for our book and also requested a progress report on the book's sales. **Kiki Forsythe**,

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their Marketing Manager, responded by saying:

"Yes we are doing well here, and extremely busy as marketing was downsized along with other departments at Smithsonian Books due to federal budget cuts. I am glad to report we have a new sales manager on board, **Candler Hunt**, who I am including in my reply to you, as well as a new aviation and military history editor, **Jeff Hardwick**.

"The book is still selling steadily. It has been sold to aviation museums and book stores, they all have accounts with us or with our main trade wholesaler Ingram Books. In August, we will now be distributed and sold by W.W. Norton and their sales team, and we should see a surge in sales for the backlist at that time.

"As far as reviews, we are terribly behind on sending reviews to authors since the position with that responsibility was cut. We have a temporary assistant in here for the time being and we are trying to catch up--you will be sent copies of any reviews of your book that we have received here. Best, Kiki"

#### **ORIGINAL RUSTIC BOOK NOW ON CD.**

**WOULD YOU LIKE A COPY? From John Charlton.** It's practically finished. Our entire original self-published Rustic book, "The Rustics, A top Secret Air War In Cambodia" is now on a CD which includes the book's dust jacket cover, maps, complete text, and all photo sections. **Dick Roberds, Claude Newland, and I** are in the final stages of proofing the CD, and it should be available shortly. Would you like to have a copy(s)? If so, please complete the CD survey question on the enclose Membership Renewal Form. The Board of Directors has not, as yet, determined exactly how to distribute the CD to the membership. For now, just let us know how many copies you think you might be interested in. This is not a commitment to buy. We are merely trying to see if there is interest in this product. IF the CD is sold at a future date, the anticipated unit cost may be in the \$5.00 to \$10.00 range. If you'd like to see the CD, the book can be accessed at:

[http://users3.ev1.net/~class68d/rustic\\_book.htm](http://users3.ev1.net/~class68d/rustic_book.htm).

Your comments are welcomed.



**From Ned Helm:** Claude, I downloaded John's masterpiece...ain't it grand. It really makes the Black Book a true reference gold mine. I have the original [book] that Lendy gave me...but this is sweet!! Ned

#### **THE CONTINUING SAGA OF DON MERCER'S**

**TRAVELS IN SEARCH OF ANOTHER RUSTIC BOOK/VIDEO. From Don Mercer.** (Editor's note: As many of you know, Don Mercer is taking a year off from his job to travel the country and gather Rustic interviews and data for a future book and video.

*Early July.* This picture was taken by **Bob Harris** aka "Redeye" while fishing out of Homer, Alaska, in the Cook Inlet. **Peter Karwowski**, captain of the Sorceress, is to my right wearing the Salty Dawg Saloon sweat shirt. That is one of the renowned bars in the area and actually the oldest building in Homer. You should make note of the town's proud heritage of being "a quaint drinking village with a fishing problem." I definitely found that to be the case and all the more enjoyable for it.

I arrived in Alaska on Sunday, July 6, from Seattle and met with [Rustic] **Tom Case** on Monday afternoon. He took me up in his Cessna 185 float plane for a couple hours. We over flew Beluga Glacier, set down on an isolated lake for a bit and then, while returning to Anchorage, flew over a black bear.

The next day, Bob, together with his girlfriend, Sondra, and I rented a Dodge Durango and headed for Homer at a leisurely pace. We stopped at Cooper Landing and checked out the Princess Lines' Lodge there. Once at Homer, the Halibut Cove Lodge where we were staying for two nights had arranged for a water taxi to take us across Kachemak Bay (about 8 miles up from the Cook Inlet that in turn empties into the Gulf of Alaska/Pacific Ocean). The next morning we arose at 4:45 and headed via water taxi back across to Homer - about 30 minutes - and boarded the Sorceress.

We headed out for a great day of fishing. Swells started out at 1-3 feet and later in the day rose to 2-4 feet with a pretty good wind coming in from the Gulf of Alaska. All in all the fishing was great with 13 landed and 5 released as 8 was the limit - 2 per person per day. The day's fishing license was a whopping \$10 and another \$10 went to entering the Homer Fishing Derby. I just couldn't stand the thought of landing one of the numerous potential prize fish and not having the derby ticket.

We spent that night at Halibut Cove Lodge and then headed back to Anchorage, again taking our time. We stopped at a large wood carving shop - they use chain saws and I'll have to send along a picture of me in a high chair as I found something that made me look a bit smaller, Moose Pass for lunch (they definitely need a sweat shirt saying "Haul Ass to Moose Pass"), Portage Glacier and Alaska Big Game where moose, a grizzly bear, caribou, deer, black bear, elk, musk ox, and a few other indigenous species may be seen.

Once back in Anchorage on Thursday evening, we had a night cap at the Crow's Nest in the Cook Hotel and I turned in. Went downtown on Friday morning prior to departure for the requisite shopping for the family. The flowers lining the streets in Anchorage are spectacular as the city gets about 21 hours of daylight each day this time of year. And the US Army band was playing in the park just off the main street during the lunch hour.

Funny you (Claude) should mention the idea of a trip (to Alaska). Noreen, our three daughters and I were just discussing that over lunch out this afternoon. Take a cruise out of Seattle next July to Anchorage, spend a night or two there, drive the 4-5 hours to Homer, stay there for three nights to get in two days of halibut fishing, then back to Anchorage for a night and fly home. Needless to say, none of them could find a problem with that.

7/20/03. Am in my warp 9 mode this afternoon as I'm returning to Seattle tomorrow at 6:20AM to rejoin my car and equipment for the next leg through Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Utah for about 7 more interviews. Will be back August 3 to respond to any emails received in the interim.

Early August. Just got back home after almost 5 months on the road and have some fascinating interviews with more to come as I plan to head back out in late October. I had to revise some travel plans as I needed to replace a transmission in Cottonwood, AZ, and then a water pump in Santa Rosa, NM. You haven't really savored life till you find a few drops of coolant dropping beneath the car while stopping for gas in Santa Rosa. The capstone was then being told that the only repair shop in town is named "Bozo's Garage."

It was at that point that I thought I best head for home via Lubbock as I had an appointment with a director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech. That car is now retired for local usage as Noreen has agreed to let me use her new Jeep when I head out toward the end of October.

(Editor's Note: If you'd like to get in touch with Don about his book project, contact him at: [sher85745@mac.com](mailto:sher85745@mac.com) or call 757-412-2272. Don, you may also need to write a book about your sojourns and travels across the country. Keep the updates coming!)

**FAC HISTORY BOOK ALMOST FINISHED.** From Charlie Pocock,, FAC Book Committee Chairman, on [FACNET@yahoo.com](mailto:FACNET@yahoo.com), CharMarPock@aol.com wrote: Just in case you haven't noticed, since January we haven't been actively soliciting FAC Book stories and photos and at the end of June we took down our monthly reminder on the FACNET. Why did we do this? Simple answer, we're done.

We are currently at 660mb and 3500 files. The CD will hold 700mb so you have essentially filled the bucket. **Bob Gorman**, our CD compiler, is going on a well deserved 60 day vacation. Among other things he'll be attending his 50th Anniversary at Annapolis, yup Blue U. Yeah, I know what you're thinking, but in 1953 there wasn't an AF Academy. When he returns we'll be starting our final review and then the last step will be getting a company to actually make the copies of the CD. Take it from me it will be an awesome sight to behold. To those of you who have given so much of your time and effort to bring this all about my personal thanks. To those of you who wanted to find the time to help but didn't, perhaps next time. Anyway we're on track to have the FAC History Book CD ready for the San Antonio Reunion in 2004. **Charlie Pocock**, FACBOOK Committee Chairman

(Editor's note: Despite what Charlie Pocock says, Rustic **Ned Helm** is still collecting Rustic stories for inclusion in the FAC Book, so if you still have a story to tell, get it written ASAP and send it to Ned **YESTERDAY** at: 1725 Gabert Rd, Woodstock, VT, 05091 or [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com). Ned also requests that you send him any pertinent photos that go with your story and also include a SEA photo of yourself--Ned's doing a great job of combining your photos with each story.)



**RUSTIC ASSOCIATION OBTAINS BOOK NEGATIVES FOR OUR ORIGINAL SELF PUBLISHED BOOK , “The Rustics, A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia.”** From **Jim Reese**, Book Committee Chairman. The printer of our original self-published Rustic book recently contacted me to say they have the book's negatives which require further disposition. (The printer maintains the negatives for only a set number of years before they will discard them.) After a brief discussion, the Rustic Board approved our paying a nominal fee of \$25 to have the negatives mailed to **Jim Gabel**, our historian, for safe keeping in the Rustic archives. **Jim Gabel** reports that he has received the book negatives. This will enable us to reprint the book at a future date if we so desire.

**FUTURE RUSTIC NEWSLETTERS--REGULAR MAIL VERSUS E MAIL? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOURS?** Please fill out the survey question on the Membership Renewal Form to let us know if you'd prefer to receive your future Rustic newsletters via e mail. We plan to continue to send out all newsletters in the regular mail unless you prefer the e mail method. The advantage of e mail is it might save us some postage and printing costs, but possibly at the expense of effective communication (i.e. E mails can be too easily erased or overlooked.) If we should decide in the future to send out newsletter via e mail, it will only be to those who have requested this method, and even then, we will continue to send out all 'Annual' newsletter and Reunion Newsletters via regular mail. So, tell us your preference.

#### **FAC HAPPENINGS:**

**1) BRONCO FEST IV, 10-12 Oct 2003. From Jack Thompson.** Get ready, Bronco Fans! BroncoFest IV will be held on Friday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, to Sunday, Oct. 12th, 2003 in Ft Worth, TX. We will be dedicating the newly-restored original OV-10 engineering mockup, introducing the new Bronco Ready Room facility (OBA's HQ/Museum) as well as the traditional casual and fun parties, receptions, awards and tours. Location is the same as Bronco Fest III - the Clarion Hotel in historic (and pleasant) downtown Ft. Worth - which has been remodeled since the last 'fest'.

We strongly encourage you to register early! If you [register online](#) before August 13 (*See note below*), you will get a special discount on your registration and even save on airfare. By registering early, you will also help us to plan better. See the BroncoFest IV page for more information on registration options. See you there!

#### *Editor's notes:*

1) Obviously the 13 August early registration deadline has already past, but you can still get info about the Fest and register by going to the OBA website at: [www.ov-10bronco.net](http://www.ov-10bronco.net) or by contacting Tim Sikorski at: [tslop@attg.net](mailto:tslop@attg.net) or 972-530-7606.

2) The following Rustics plan to attend Bronco Fest IV: **Lendy Edwards, Ned Helm, Bill Sleight, Jack Thompson, and Lanny Trapp** ( guest speaker). Anyone else plan to go? If so, contact **Jack Thompson**, at: [Jackov-10@earthlink.net](mailto:Jackov-10@earthlink.net) or call him at: 817-540-4687.

**2) REGIONAL FAC REUNION, 24-25 Oct., Charlotte, NC:** Rustic FAC **Bill Carruthers** and a group of FACs in the North Carolina area are sponsoring a mini 'FACs and Friends' reunion in Charlotte, NC on 24 -25 Oct. A block of hotel rooms have been reserved at the Courtyard by Marriot at Ballentyne. All FACs and friends are invited. Hotel reservations can be made at: <http://www.ballantynesort.com/accomodations/courtyard.cfm>. The weekend's activities include: golf, BBQ lunch, visit to the Carolinas Air Museum, banquet, and group breakfasts. For details, contact Bill at: [bille@carolina.rr.com](mailto:bille@carolina.rr.com) or 704-366-8890.

**3) RAVEN FACS TO HOLD THEIR 32<sup>nd</sup> REUNION 23-26 Oct 2003 at Randolph AFB, TX.** For details, contact **Larry Sanborn**, President, 850-936-8060, or [lsanborn@msn.com](mailto:lsanborn@msn.com).

**4) NEXT ALL FAC REUNION TO BE HELD 5-9 May, 2004 in San Antonio, Tx:** From **Cal Anderson**, Covey FAC and Reunion Coordinator, [calvindolly@earthlink.net](mailto:calvindolly@earthlink.net). The next Mother of all FAC reunions will be held **5-9 May, 2004** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown San Antonio, TX. Carolyn Petty (a FAC's wife) of EEM Tours, [Carolynp@EEMevents.com](http://Carolynp@EEMevents.com) will be handling all the bookings as she did for the 2000 Hawaii Reunion. Start making your plans now to attend.

**5) OV-10 BRONCO MODELS. From Ned Helm.** At the last Rustic Reunion **Jim Hodgson** (OV-10 Bronco Assn --OBA) had some OV Models from the Philippines for sale and they vanished quickly, so I put one on order. It came yesterday. Jim has been on these for a couple of years...and each "generation" gets better. Looks very good with the following exceptions....spinners were black on 626 (this model's tail #...and you can specify the Tail # you want)) and the spars are a bit short and are angled down a bit much....but I am being highly criti-



cal. oops ....also does not have the flat black paint aft of the engine exhausts... but I have a sneaking inkling that these omissions will be fixed by the time you get one!! If you are interested, contact Jim at: **txavi8or@flash.net**.

The only real problem is that it is TOO clean and pretty...by the time I got to these birds they had been rode hard, put away wet, and had numerous NVA,VC, PL and KR woodpecker holes repaired. Since I am a modeler, I will distress mine. Crash

6) **FAC MAP CASE WEBSITE:** The FAC' s Map Case website is now located at:  
<http://www.davidlattin.com/military/fac/maps/>  
It has maps of all of Southeast Asia.

## **The Barf Bag, or, How I became a Rustic**

Roger Hamann, Rustic Yankee

Ubon RTAFB, 1971-72

I' ve always prided myself on having a fairly good memory, with faces and names anyway, but for whatever reason the Commander-in-Chief up there on that final landing strip in the sky has decided for me, my tour as a Rustic GIB (Guy in Back), aka, airborne interpreter, is pretty much a blank. Oh, I remember a few missions, the first, naturally, the mission I flew at Christmas time that really opened my eyes and my last mission. And even those three are a little hazy. As for the other 166 missions..... they' ve somehow stowed themselves away into the far recesses of my mind. I' d like to think that someday, somehow, something will trip that mental circuit breaker which will reconnect me with that part of my youth which was so unique, exciting, and, dare I say, not the norm for a just turned 21 year old.

Since the memory banks are dried up, I' ll give you a little background as to how I came to be one of the famed, or as others have put it, infamous, enlisted backseaters, who flew with the Rustic FACs.

I enlisted in the Air Force in June of 1970, therefore my summer was spent at Lackland AFB, Texas.....basic training! A Maine Yankee in Southern fried temperatures!! But I got through it. While in basic, recruits were given the opportunity to test for any skills they might deem of some use to Uncle Sam' s needs. I' d been brought up speaking French all my life, my parents both being natives of Canada who' d come to Maine as youths and become U.S. citizens, working and living the American dream. Figuring my ability to speak French might come in handy at some point during my military career, I decided to take the French language test. That done, basic training continued until early August, at which time I was sent to Michigan as a new airman, a POL specialist to be exact.

Specialist? I knew absolutely nothing about POL (Petroleum, Oils, Lubricants)!!!! I was one of only four in my flight to get a DDA assignment, that is to say, a direct duty assignment; no technical school training before reporting to my first base... this was an OJT (on the job training) assignment. The main objective of a POL airman... refueling of aircraft, a gas jockey.

Not exactly what I had pictured myself doing as a member of the United States Air Force but at least I was near airplanes and drove my fuel truck onto the flight line every day.

Sometime between the time I arrived in Michigan in August 1970, and early spring of 1971, I put in a volunteer statement to go to Vietnam / Thailand. Why so? Basically, I was bored and figured a change of scenery would do me some good. Hey, how dangerous could it be refueling aircraft in Vietnam or Thailand? I' d spoken with guys who' d been there and they all seemed to have really enjoyed their time there. These were Air Force bases, not Army camps in the jungles of Vietnam! No sweat!

As the summer of ' 71 approached, I was notified that I' d received orders to go to Vietnam...but those orders came with a slight twist from what I expected. These orders were sending me to Vietnam because of my French speaking qualifications...and oh...one more detail...I was going to be flying.



Now as far as I knew, speaking French was not a pre-requisite for POL troops being stationed in Vietnam, or Thailand, and neither was flying. But this is all I was told at the time. That, and the fact that I'd have to go through altitude chamber testing at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, Survival School training at Fairchild AFB, WA, and Jungle Survival ("snake school") at Clark AB, Philippines. This definitely was not a POL assignment. I left the friendly confines of Wurtsmith AFB, MI in August of '71 for a few weeks leave back home in Maine, then went about getting all my training done. It was a little like touring the United States, first Maine, then Ohio, all the way across to Washington, the Philippines and eventually, my new duty base, Phan Rang AB, So. Vietnam.

I stepped foot in Vietnam on Oct. 30, 1971, three days shy of my 21st birthday. I'd never felt so alone in all my life! *"What am I doing here?"* I asked myself. With still no definite answer to that question, I must have found my way to my new squadron, the 19th TASS, according to what was written on my orders. If memory serves me correctly, they didn't know who I was or why I was reporting to them.

*"Here's my orders,"* I said.

They seemed puzzled. I distinctly remember being told I might be shipped back home.....seems "my kind" wasn't needed any longer, "my kind" being a French-speaking type. Now I was confused.

I was driven to the barracks and given a room, and I use that term with great liberties. Now I know we Air Force types were known to have it easy compared to living conditions described by other lesser-ranked branches of the armed services...but this was considered a room? Plywood walls, plywood desk, yes, a desk... remember, this was Air Force, and a bed. All the comforts of home! No small wonder Phan Rang was known as "Happy Valley".



After loafing around for about two weeks, waiting for my fate to be decided upon, I was told I was being sent to Ubon RTAFB, Thailand and the 23<sup>rd</sup> TASS. There, I'd be flying in the backseat of a man observation aircraft, the OV-10 Bronco, as an airborne interpreter. Sounded fantastic to me! But why did Uncle Sam need a French-speaking interpreter in the backseat of an OV-10, whatever that was? Well now, they said, Airman Hamann, you're going to be flying over Cambodia, talking to the Cambodian ground commanders and their radio operators, some of whom only speak Cambodian...and French. My mother had always told me not to lose my ability to speak French, that being bilingual would someday be of great help to me. I wondered what she might have to say about her oldest son's new job!

On Nov. 10, 1971, I experienced my first OV-10 ride, a two-hour trip from Phan Rang AB to my new duty station at Ubon RTAFB, Thailand. With Maj. Benny Atkins (Rustic 02), as my pilot, I arrived in sunny Ubon in late afternoon. POL had nothing on this!!! I was a young Airman in the United States Air Force...and I was going to fly! What more could I ask for?

I was introduced to my new commander, Lt.Col. John Cary (Rustic 01); my NCOIC, TSgt. Joe Garand, a fellow Mainiac (aka: a native of Maine); one of the radio operators, Airman Doug Robertson; and, last but not least, the squadron mascot, Missue, a lovable, blonde dog of indeterminate parentage. After the introductions at the ops building were accomplished, Joe took me to the backseaters hootch, my new home. Now this was more like it. Not much in the way of privacy, as five of us shared this basically two-room dwelling, one half sleeping quarters, the other half dayroom, with TV, air conditioning and fridge. This was better than the dorm room I had stateside!

Joe introduced me to the other backseaters, all enlisted guys like myself. TSgt. Ralph Dow, another Mainiac, SSgt. Marcel Morneau, originally from Canada, Sgt. Carl "Doug" Norman from Illinois, SSgt. Jean-Claude Gestas, originally from France and Airman Nick Lewis from North Carolina. These are the GIBs I remember the most but there were a few others who flew with us during my time at Ubon. Some of us spoke a Franco-American or Canadian type French, others spoke the Parisian French and, of course, we all spoke English!

The next few days were spent becoming familiar with the aircraft I'd be spending the next 12 months in, the OV-10. With five radios built in, the opportunity to speak with more than one person at a time was readily available and those opportunities would become a common occurrence.

Familiarization with the maps, code wheel, the lingo used amongst the forward air controllers (FACs) and the Cambodian ground commanders, proper parachute harness hook ups..all this and more was drilled into me. And lastly, I had to choose my personal callsign.

All pilots were designated with a number, i.e., Rustic 01, which was usually assigned to the commander. The backseaters were allowed to choose from the phonetic alphabet. I decided to go with the letter "Y." Hence, I became Rustic Yankee. Has a certain ring to it, doesn't it? Being a Mainiac, I thought the moniker fit me well.



# 2004 Membership Renewal and Survey Form

(We respectfully request every Rustic complete this form. See mailing instructions below.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Rustic Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive future Rustic newsletters? Reg. Mail \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_

I have SEA photos for Ned Helm to include in the Rustic SEA Photo CD Project. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I have Rustic Reunion photos for Jim Seibold for inclusion in the Rustic Reunion Photo CD project. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I have additional Rustic Stories for inclusion in the Rustic/FAC History Book Projects. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I'd be interested in going on a Rustic Alaska Cruise/Land trip. Summer 2004 \_\_\_\_\_ Summer 2005 \_\_\_\_\_

I'd be interested in going on a Rustic Australia/New Zealand trip at some future date. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to maintain my Rustic FAC Association membership in good standing and stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic FAC newsletter, and help support efforts to promote continued Rustic FAC camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects. Enclosed are my dues for 2004.

Amount Enclosed:

Annual Dues of \$20.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Membership in the Rustic FAC Association:

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership Rates:

55 & younger \$ 250

56-60 \$ 225

61-65 \$ 200

66-or older \$ 175

My age is: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime memberships may be paid in four monthly installments, if you so desire.

First Month: \$ 50 Sep 2003 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Second Month: \$ 50 Oct 2003

Third Month: \$ 50 Nov 2003

Remaining Balance: Dec 2003

2003 Tax Deductible Contribution to House of Hope: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2003 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail to : Don Ellis, P.O. Drawer 250, Manning, SC 29102**

# **The Rustics Ubon Summer 1973**



©Si Dahle '73



# Rustic News

## www.rustic.org

### Board of Directors:

<b>President:</b>	Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net	<b>Director:</b>	Doug Aitken, daitken@nc.rr.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jack Thompson, jackov-10@earthlink.net	<b>Director:</b>	Don Mercer, dmercer@life-insure.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Don Ellis, donellis@FTC-I.net	<b>Director:</b>	Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Marcel Morneau, rusticv@juno.com		
<b>Historian:</b>	Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com		

### Project Coordinators:

<b>Website/Database:</b>	Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net	<b>Rustic SEA Photo CD:</b>	Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
<b>Book:</b>	Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com	<b>Rustic Reunion Photo CD:</b>	Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
<b>Air Park Liaison:</b>	Don Echelberger, echelberg@aol.com	<b>Rustic input to FAC book:</b>	Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
<b>Search Committee:</b>	Ron Dandeneau, RusticFoxtrot@aol.com	<b>Rustic Book CD:</b>	John Charlton, jcharlton@houston.rr.com
<b>Bronco Assn Liaison:</b>	Jack Thompson, Jackov-10@earthlink.net		

**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION—Sep 2005:** Start making plans now to attend the next Rustic FAC reunion **22-25 Sep 2005** on the sugar white beaches of **FT Walton Beach, FL**. After holding a very successful 2002 reunion in historic San Antonio, we'll gather again in 2005 at the popular Ramada Plaza Beach Resort—site of our 1997 and 1999 Ft Walton Beach reunions. A block of rooms have already been reserved--special room rates and reunion details will be announced in 2004.

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**PRESIDENT'S 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REPORT: Claude Newland.** 2003 has been a momentous year for the Rustic FAC Association. On behalf of all of the Association's 'charter' officers, staff and Board members, I like to say it is an honor for us to be serving the Association in our present capacities. Since our election at the Oct 2002 reunion, we have been breaking new ground by learning how to communicate via computer and conduct the Association's quarterly business meetings. To everyone's credit, we have made excellent progress and your association is in good hands! My personal 'thanks' goes to each member of the Staff for their dedication and individual efforts in supporting the objectives of the Association. Their spirit of voluntarism and personal initiative—particularly among our volunteer project officers—is what makes this organization such a great group with which to be associated. While most of the Association's accomplishments are routinely posted in our quarterly newsletters, I thought you might find it interesting to see a summary of some of the Association's accomplishments since our 2002 reunion and see who is 'making things happen!' Since the 2002 reunion, the Rustic have:

- 1) Established the Rustics as a non profit veterans' Association in the State of Florida. (Former unelected officers)
- 2) Held our first official election of Association officers and Board of Directors. (at the 2002 Reunion)
- 3) Saw our book "Call Sign Rustic" come out in commercial print (**Dick Wood.**)
- 4) Added a Rustic Store page to the Rustic Website (**Lendy Edwards.**)
- 5) Completed the Rustic input to the All FAC book project (**Ned Helms and Dick Wood.**)
- 6) Developed a complete inventory of all items presently contained in the Rustic Historical collection (**Jim Gabel.**)
- 7) Presently completing the Rustic Book CD project (Jan 04-**John Charlton**)
- 8) Donated \$1,000.00+ to the House of Hope and Kompong Cham orphanage.
- 9) Held a very successful 3<sup>rd</sup> reunion in San Antonio with 130+ in attendance (**Ron Van Kirk, Chairman**)

10) Received a number of long overdue awards--including the Silver Star being awarded to **Jerry Auth** and **Ron Van Kirk**. (**Don Mercer**.)

*(Please note: a number of ongoing Rustic projects are not listed above since they are still "in progress.")*

Again, thanks to all for your continued support and membership! **Claude**

**TIME TO SEND IN YOUR 2004 MEMBERSHIP DUES:** **Don Ellis**, Treasurer. 2004 membership dues are now due. If you haven't already sent in your dues, please complete the Membership Renewal and Survey Form at the end of this newsletter and send it to me. Do this now before you forget.

**2004 MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** **Don Ellis**, Treasurer. To date, the Rustic FAC Association has 51 dues paying members for 2004-- which includes 25 lifetime members (underlined):

**Aitken, Arrellano, N. Baker, Ballard, Barrazzotto, Bellefeuille, Brooks, Clifford, Clinch, Dahle, Decabooter, R. Dodd, Dufresne, Edwards, Gabel, Garand, Gestas, Gibson, Gill, Green, Harris, Hawker, Hellwig, J. Hetherington, R Hetherington, Hull, Jamrosy, Jones, Keese, Krueger, Larson, Lester, Leydorf, Mercer, Newland, Nuber, Paquin, Perry, Reese, Richards, Roberds, Safley, Sleigh, Sovich, Stone, Stratton, Underwood, Vaillancourt, Vick, Wilson, R. Wood.**

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our Association. Your annual dues are what make this organization possible. Through your dues we are able to continue our Rustic history projects, maintain our website and publish a quarterly newsletter, plan future reunions, and support Cambodian charities. If your name is not listed above, that means your dues expire at the end of December. This can be confirmed by checking the mail label for the expiration month and year. A membership renewal/survey form is included for your convenience.

*(Editor's note: the 2004 Rustic Roster is enclosed with this newsletter.*

**FUTURE NEWSLETTERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SENT OUT IN REGULAR MAIL:** The results of the Oct newsletter survey indicated that most Rustics prefer to continue to receive their quarterly newsletter in the mail vice e mail or on the Rustic website; therefore, we will continue to budget for and plan to send out all newsletters in the regular mail. *(Please note: we will continue to post all newsletters on our Rustic website.)*

**RUSTIC JERRY AUTH RECEIVES SILVER STAR.** On Friday, 23 Nov, 2003 at 2:30 pm at the 552d Operations Group Auditorium, Bldg 282, Tinker Air Force Base, OK, **Brigadier General Mike Hostage**, commander, 552d Air Control Wing, posthumously awarded the Silver Star to **Lt Col. Edward G. Auth, Jr.** A reception was held immediately following the ceremony at the Tinker Club.

All of this was made possible as a result of the singular efforts of **Don Mercer**, Rustic 41, who fought to get Gerry Auth the recognition he deserved for his historic combat mission flown on the night of 19 June, 1970. This was the very first Rustic mission--the genesis of the Rustic FACs. On that night, then Captain Auth was air diverted while on a mission in his O-2 and told to land at Tan Son Nhut Airbase. Upon landing, he was briefed on a priority mission, given maps of Cambodia (which he had never flown over), provide a Cambodian interpreter who served as clearance authority and then immediately relaunched to Kompomg Thom, Cambodia, where he successfully helped defend the beleaguered provincial city which was under heavy enemy attack. The rest is history.

*Our congratulations go to the **Auth family** and to **Don Mercer** for his untiring support in making this happen! Following the ceremony, **Gloria Auth** sent a recap of the day's events.*

Hello Don,

The gang has all just left - all the kids, grandkids, Jerry's brother from SC and Jerry's best friend from High School who lives in Arkansas - now I can unwind.

It was truly an awesome ceremony. The entire auditorium was filled - at least 300 seating -and some standing in the back of the room. I was amazed. Many were 552nd people - all in some form of uniform. I asked the BGen if he had ever been to one of these before and he said no - he was very nice as was the entire AF staff and Governor and Staff.

I have extra copies of the program for you. Every TV station was there and the base will include their footage with the ceremony tape and get it to me. Do you want a copy? It really was a first class act. I will check into the photos. I only saw one picture in today's Edmond paper and don't know if the other will carry it later or not.

Yes - Curt was there and had on a Rustic pin. I decided not to mention him in my remarks since I did not have his permission. But an AF Historian came up to me and asked where he could get the book and contact info. I told him I thought the contact info was in the book - and he may contact someone. He was really interested - and I bet the book will have more sales because of this. I gave the Governor and BGen one as part of my comments.

We had Thanksgiving this afternoon and now that everyone is gone - I'm going to settle in for a nice glass of wine.-) The mess can wait till tomorrow.

---

Will let you know when I get all of the info and send it out to you.

**Gloria**

(Editor's note: Those in attendance included: **Gov Brad Henry, State Senator Cliff Aldridge, Gloria and her children and grandchildren, Tom and Pat Auth** and other family members, Chamber of Commerce reps, and 18+ Tinker commanders, plus countless other. If you'd like to get in touch with Gloria, she's in the Rustic Roster.)

**DON MERCER CONTINUES TO TRAVEL THE COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF RUSTICS:** Don Mercer spent 4 days in Ft Walton Beach, FL, in early November interviewing all the local Rustics for his proposed future book project. He spent a minimum of 3-4 hours with each Rustic recording their history and gathering insights into their most memorable Rustic moments. Impressively, he is fully equipped with the latest sound, lighting and camera equipment for the task—it was like being interviewed for some Discovery Channel program! While Don was in Ft Walton Beach, the local Rustics used this as a good excuse to get-together for dinner at Giuseppe's Wharf Restaurant, in Niceville, FL. Below is a picture of the group:



Names L-R: Back row: Katrin Echelberger, Don Mercer, Roy Eklund, Claude Newland and Ray Stratton  
Sitting: Tona Newland, Nancy Sleigh, Sue Edwards and Jan Stratton  
Kneeling: Don Echelberger, Bill Sleigh, and Lendy Edwards

Once Don finished his Ft Walton Beach interviews, he continued on to Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma for more interviews. If you'd like to help Don in his efforts to record Rustic history or have questions about his project, please contact him at: [dmerc@life-insure.com](mailto:dmerc@life-insure.com) or 757-412-2272.

#### **RUSTIC BOOK CD PROJECT COMPLETED:**

**John Charlton** has completed his project to put the entire original Rustic self-published book "The Rustics—A top Secret Air War In Cambodia", (to include all photos) on CD. The Board of Directors has authorized 125 copies of the CD to be reproduced and will advise you in the March 2004 newsletter how copies may be obtained.

**ALL RUSTICS—IF YOU ARE AWARE OF ANY CORRECTIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE TO OUR ORIGINAL BOOK** "The Rustics—A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia", PLEASE SEND THEM TO JIM GABEL ASAP. Jim is preparing an errata sheet which will list all needed corrections and we want to add this to the end of the book CD being done by **John Charlton**. Send your corrections to Jim at: [jagabel@aol.com](mailto:jagabel@aol.com) or call 605-342-6158. The book, as it appears in the CD, will not contain any of these changes, but will appear exactly as it was originally published.

**RUSTIC INPUT TO FAC HISTORY BOOK PROJECT COMPLETED:** "Sierra Hotel" to **Ned Helm** for completing the Rustic input to the FAC History Book Project. We also want to thank **Dick Wood** for his efforts in writing a detailed condensed summary of the Rustic mission to accompany the many stories and photographs that Ned sent in the FAC Book Committee. The FAC Association plans to put their book on CD and have it available at the May 2004 reunion in San Antonio, Tx.. It will definitely be a Keeper, so get in the loop on the All FAC reunion.

**SEA PHOTO CD PROJECT: Ned Helm.** I have received pictures from the following (what it means is that I have at least one picture of, or from, that individual): **Atiken, Baker, Barent, Brooks, Carruthers, Caywood, Dahle, Echelberger, Edwards, Fox-trot, Friedhofen Gabel, Garand, Green, Hamann, Hawker, Hellwig, Helm, Hopkins, Keese, Kilo, Kiraly, Larson, Missue, Murphy, Newland, Robertson, Scaling, Siebold, Van Kirk, Wilson, and Yarborough.**

In some cases I received a CD, in some cases I am scanning, and in some cases the above names represent a mere photo for a story. OK, all you FAC shutterbugs, I need copies of your Southeast Asia photos to help make our Rustic Photo History complete. What are you waiting for? Please get in touch with me and send me your photos—either Fed-ex mail or electronically to:

[ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com) or mail them to me at: 1725 Gabert Road, Woodstock, VT 05091

Thanks, "Crash"

**NED HELM CONTINUES TO COLLECT RUSTIC STORIES:** Although the Rustic input to the FAC Book Project is complete, we are continuing to collect Rustic stories from our members. If you have a story to submit, please send it to **Ned Helm** at: 1725 Gabert Road, Woodstock, VT 05091 or e mail it to him at: [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com) Ned would also like a photo(s) of you to accompany the story—if at all possible.

**DID YOU TAKE PHOTOS AT THE 1997 OR 1999 RUSTIC REUNIONS?** If so, we'd like to get a copy of them for our Rustic archives. **Jim Seibold** is working this project and will be putting all our reunion photos on a Rustic Reunion CD. This will be a great keepsake for the Rustics—we hope you'll help us with this project. Jim requests you send "ANY PICTURES YOU HAVE OF THE 1997 & 1999 REUNIONS. (He has plenty of the 2002 reunion photos) PLEASE SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS ASAP BECAUSE I'M FINALIZING THE REUNION CD NLT 1 FEB 04. AFTER THAT, THE PICS ARE ALL YOURS TO ROT IN YOUR HOUSE. FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT SEND ME PICS, THANKS & I' LL BUY THE FIRST ROUND IN 2005. HAPPY HOLIDAYS."

*(Editor's Note: Pictures may also be sent to Jim via a CD or e mail. If you can't send the photos right away, at least contact him to let him know you have some for him. Jim, I'll take you up on that drink offer!!)*

**Jim Seibold**, 1853 E. Inca Cir, Mesa, AZ 85203 Phone: 480-969-3523 E mail: seiboldjim@aol.com

**NAIL FAC BACK IN THE INVESTIGATIVE SADDLE:** Nail FAC **Darrell Whitcomb**, author of "The Rescue of Bat 21" and FAC Association Historian, recently took early retirement at Delta Airlines so he could take a full time job working at the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency as a CSAR expert. He says its, "Very interesting work. Pays well too. I am the "lessons learned" guy here. I look at personnel recovery/CSAR history and structure it for use in future operations. Currently, I am collecting stuff form the most recent conflict and putting it in historical context. I have already written a snap history of recovery in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most of what I do is classified. All of my clearances have been reactivated.

"Can' t really say much more than that. My work with the Bat 21 story led me to this. After it came out, I was approached by the Agency and made an "offer I couldn' t refuse." I started part time and when I mentioned to my boss here that Delta retirement was an option, he built me a work package here. Seamless. I am very lucky."

#### **RUSTICS DESCEND ON BRONCO**

**FEST IV:** The Rustics had their best showing yet at Bronco Fest IV which was held in Ft Worth, TX, 10-12 Oct 2003. Some of the highlights of the weekend included: a Friday night flight suit party; briefings on the current OV-10 operations in Columbia; dedication of the new OBA hangar museum 'Ready Room' at Meachem Field--which included a moving tribute to all OV-10 pilots who were KIA in SEA and the unveiling of the OBA's OV-10 KIA Memorial; O-2 orientation flights, and a great banquet—the guest speaker was none other than our own **Lanny Trapp**. The next Bronco Fest will be in two years. Rustics who attended the event are in the following photo:



**BRICK AND MORTAR FAC MUSEUM IN THE FUTURE?** If we heard correctly, it sounds like the Bronco Association (OBA) may consider expanding their charter to include in their organization all FACs from the Southeast Asia period. Since they are the only FAC outfit to have a brick and mortar facility—to include the beginnings of a FAC museum—they talked about the feasibility of opening/growing their organization to include all FACs ...Interesting possibilities here . Let's wait and see what develops.

**COMMERCIAL BOOK REPORT: Dick Wood.** In July [2003] I submitted an article to FlyPast, the magazine on historical aviation published in England. Today I received an email from the editor. He likes the article and intends to publish it as soon as he finds room, which will probably be several months. The article is very similar to the one I submitted for the Big FAC Book which is coming out next spring on a CD-ROM. I' ll be working with Doug Aitken for pictures to illustrate the article. Getting published in FlyPast ought to improve foreign sales a bit. Stay tuned.

My book contract with SIP sez that we' ll get a royalty statement in October and payment by the end of November. I just received a letter from them which reads as follows:

Dear Author,

We have just completed a big change in our sales and distribution system. Our new sales and distribution partner is W.W. Norton # Company, Inc.

Because of the provider changes, the royalty statements for period ending September 2003 will be delayed.

We are excited about this new alliance which will improve outreach among booksellers and book buyers. Kindly bear with us as we revise our system which is designed to serve you better and improve sales. Please expect the statements by around November 30, 2003.

With best wishes, **Prospero M. Hernandez**, Business Manager

(I particularly enjoyed his third paragraph which was obviously translated from some other language using a blunt crayon. This is a technical violation of the contract, but what the hell. Maybe it will work better in the long run. **Dick Wood**.)

**HOUSE OF HOPE. Lendy Edwards** received the following messages from **Tammy Fong**--whom the Rustics met on our trip to Cambodia in Nov 2000. Tammy has returned to the States and she reports:

Hi Lendy, I arrived Oct 28 (2003)! Still in a bit of culture shock! Rule #1 for those returning from a developing country after a long stay...don't go shopping in a grocery store or shopping mall the second day! Wait until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week!! I was in such a daze! All the variety make my head spin. I was a loon! The expensive prices also!! Man! I am better now....

Glad you got the photos! We are very happy with the places we have. Diane, Natalie (other teammate) and I are all doing well. The Staff are doing well at HOH also. They all brought us to the airport. We all drove to Pochentong Airport together. It was a very tearful goodbye!!

God has blessed us abundantly! Our flight was safe and smooth! All the luggage went through and arrived safely ! Natalie even brought her dog Slice back to the US. Slice is loving her new home in Long Beach also. I have a temporary place to stay until I get married. I also got a car to borrow from this wonderful couple in Natalie's church. They might even donate it to me. I am so blessed!

Being with my fiancé is a wonderful gift too! I have missed him. We are doing well. Trying to set up our apartment (I move in after we marry) and preparing wedding stuff. I am enjoying life...glad for a time to rest. This is a big adjustment.

I've appreciated all you have done to support us! Diane will be a great contact for you. She is a great and talented woman. I hope we can stay in contact too. You warm my heart! Love, **Tammy**

Hi Lendy,

I hope you are all well. I wanted to send you a photo of our new office and center! All renovations are done and we had a great 5th year anniversary party. Thank you again so much for helping us! We all love our new place!!! Blessings, **Tammy**



**House of Hope Center**



**House of Hope Office**

Now that Tammy Fong has returned to the States, the work at the House of Hope is continuing under the leadership of **Diane Moss**. Although the Rustics have not personally met Diane, we look forward to a continued strong relationship with the HOH under her direction. Diane recently sent us the following message by way of introduction:

Dear Lendy,

Thank you so much for your introduction...I am well aware of who you are. I have been with HOH since the very beginning in 1998. I was home on furlough when the Rustics group came 3 years back. I was with Sue when Don came on the initial investigating trip. I am looking forward to our continued relationship and will continue with correspondence, newsletters, etc. With Sue's return to the US, Tammy and I have worked even more closely together over the last 1.5 years.

I am aware of the commitment that Rustics has to both HOH and the Orphanage. With the salary for housemothers at the orphanage ending at the year-end, I hope to be able to send you an email with an update. Also I will send pictures of the new center and office, that Rustics gave \$1000 towards buying furniture and supplies. I am currently in the US, for 5 weeks on home-assignment (it was fun to return with Tammy!). If you ever have any concerns or questions please feel free to email and ask as well. I value our relationship and hope to see it continue into the future! Joyfully, **Diane Moss**

#### SHORT BURSTS:

1) **All FAC Reunion, 5-9 May, 2004**, Hyatt Regency Hotel, in historic downtown San Antonio, TX. To get information or register, phone: 1-888-366-3836. The All FAC Association is mailing out a newsletter in Jan 2004. If you haven't been receiving the All FAC newsletters in the past, contact the Association's database keeper, Glenn Bremerkamp, [gsbrem@aol.com](mailto:gsbrem@aol.com), (228) 338-2817.

2) **Gil Bellefeuille, Rustic T**, reports he is back 'in the nest' (in Daytona, Florida) after spending time in Washington DC on a work assignment. 'However, I am now traveling in Florida --down here in Miami for 10 days. Home for about week and a half and back to Miami again. Lot of work down here and the local guys run their leads between tee times. Ergo, I go TDY even in Florida. Later. **Gil B.** *(Editor's note: Gil does private security and investigative work.)*

3) **Jerry Dufresne, Rustic I**, attended a mini FAC reunion in Phoenix on 11-12 Oct 2003.

4) **Ned 'Crash' Helm** recently purchased an OV-10 Bronco Association (OBA) Ready Room Memorial Chair in memory of **Rocky Brown**, one of the Rustic's famous 'maintainers' at Ubon. Ned asked the OBA to inscribe it, 'From the Rustics.. for Rocky.'

5) **Bill Carruthers, Rustic 34**, and others, hosted a successful mini FAC reunion in Charlotte, 25-26 Oct. Bill said it was a great experience for him. To date, he has not been able to attend a Rustic FAC reunion, but he recently joined the Association and says he plans to attend the 2005 gathering. *(Bill, we look forward to seeing you there!)*

**OV-10 LOST IN COLUMBIA:** FACNET, September 21, 2003. Gentlemen, for those interested in the subject, a Dyncorp OV-10 based in Colombia was crashed at 0815, Sunday, 21SEP while it was performing crop spraying duties close to the Venezuelan border. **Mario Alvarado**, a Costa Rican national contracted by Dyncorp, did not survive the crash. At the moment, details are somewhat sketchy inasmuch as the first reports indicated that the aircraft was downed by small arms fire. Earlier today, the Colombian gov't stated that the event was not due to hostile fire, stating that unfavorable WX conditions in the region may have played a role in the accident. According to a Colombian AF spokesman, the aircraft was spraying a coca leaf plantation in the vicinity of Catatumbo when the aircraft apparently struck a tree and flew into the ground.

In regards to Sunday's loss, there's not much info on what really happened down there. As a matter of fact, Colombian gov't and Dyncorp sources are pretty much at odds as to what really happened. According to the Colombian Army, the weather over the region was downright miserable, with reduced visibility, etc. Consequently, they're saying that the pilot misjudged the pass and struck tree-tops at one end of the coca leaf plantation.

On the other hand, DynCorp's spokesman **Chuck Wilkins**, affirms that the aircraft was hit by small arms fire during the run. Yet, what strikes me as unusual is why would anyone perform a crop spraying sortie under bad WX conditions over an area with a pretty nasty relief (check TPC L-25b or ONC L-25). It should also be noted that on the day of the crash and the day that preceded it, the Colombian Army, Air Force and police forces were carrying out a major counter-narcotics operation and from what I understand, there was some very heavy fighting with losses on both sides.

Anyway, if anything with a little more substance to it comes up, I'll contact you... Regards **Jackson**

**OV-10 TAIL # 681 GOES DOWN—THIS ONE A FORMER RUSTIC BIRD:** **Charlie Pocock**, FACNET, 30 Nov 2003, reports OV-10 aircraft number 681 crashed on Saturday, 29 Nov, in the Philippines; both pilots bailed out successfully. The aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing for still unknown reasons near a remote village in Batangas province, reports reaching the Philippine Air Force said. The OV-10, aircraft number 681, was being piloted by Capt. Froiland L. Paras and 1st Lt. Peter Paul C.

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Lim, both from the PAF's 15th Strike Wing, when it made an emergency landing near the backwater village of Munting Indang in Nasugbu town around 12 noon Saturday.

Maj. Restituto Padilla, PAF public information officer, said the plane was returning to Danilo Atienza Field in Sangley Point, Cavite, from the Armed Forces Western Command in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. "It was on its way to Cavite for regular maintenance," Padilla said. "It had performed regular maritime patrol missions in Puerto Princesa."

The two pilots, who were pronounced safe, were able to bail out when they experienced trouble with the plane's right engine. With only the left engine functioning, the OV-10 began losing altitude before eventually crashing. Of the two, only Paras was hurt but both were immediately taken to Villamor Air Base for medical examination. "Except for Captain Paras who complains of a painful leg, 1st Lt. Lim is up and about," Padilla said. There was no reported damage to property or injuries to people on the ground.

"The real cause of the accident has yet to be determined," and is under investigation. Initial reports received by the PAF team on the ground described the OV-10, which was given to the PAF by the United States in the late 1980s, as "totally wrecked."



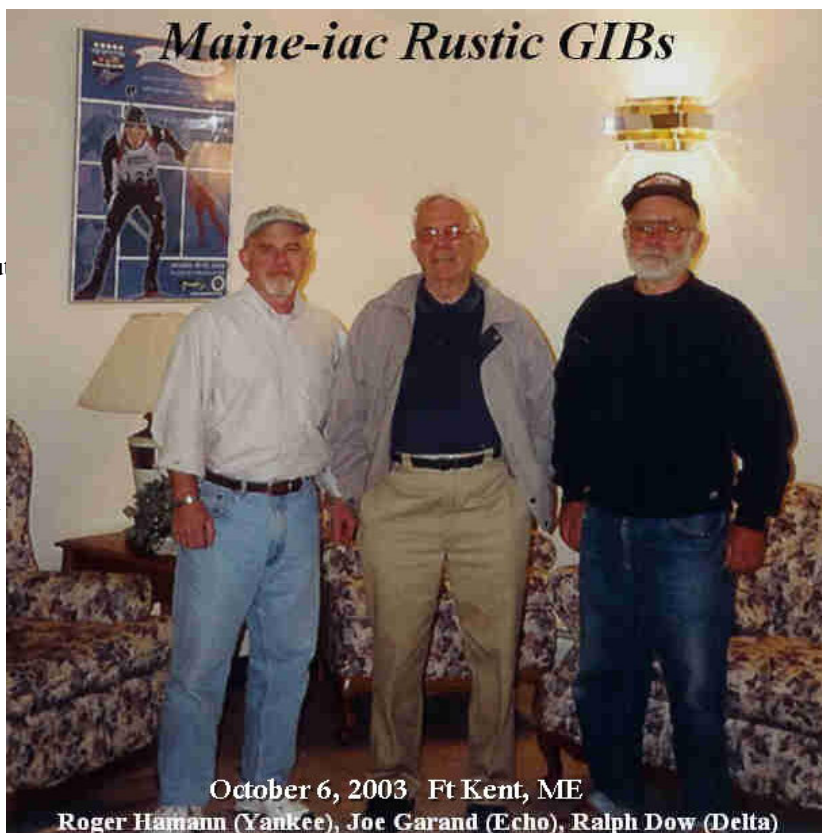
*(Editor's Note: Aircraft #681 was at Ubon and flown by the Rustics. **Roger Hamann**, Rustic Y, reports he had 10 missions in #681. **Ned Helm**, **Lendy Edwards** and **Bill Carruthers** also report having flown #681 while at Ubon. As Ned said, "Sorry she's gone".)*

**RUSTIC ROAD TRIP: Roger Hamann, Rustic Y**, Sunday, Sep 2003, FACNET. This past Monday, **Joe Garand, Rustic Echo**, and I took a long awaited, much talked about road trip to the far reaches of northern Maine (read as.... You can't get much further north and still be in the USA), matter of fact, we DID have dinner Monday evening in Canada! Our objective was to visit our fellow airborne interpreter, **Rustic Delta**, AKA, **Ralph Dow**, the other Maineiac who comprised the Maine connection at Ubon back in '74-'72.

I had gotten together once with Ralph in the late 70's, early 80's, after DEROS'ing to Loring AFB in '72 but Joe and Ralph hadn't seen each other since early '72, although they have communicated via phone and e-mails.

After about six hours of driving, we finally arrived at Ralph's little piece of heaven on earth. Man, this place had Rustic written all over it; a quaint log cabin in the woods, away from all evidence of city life as we know it, yet close enough to civilization that I can't really say that Ralph was the hermit I thought he'd turned into, what with the poker table set up in the loft for the weekly "Poker nite".

After the obligatory hand shakes and, well, yes, bear hugs too, we sat down to reminisce about the "old days", Ralph taking out his photo album and each of us testing each other's memory for names and places. I had brought along several videos and we reviewed these as well, making comments as to how much younger we all looked, war mongrels that we were at



the time! Funny, but in a way, it seemed like only yesterday that we were flying in the backseat of that trusty OV-10, talking with **Col. Oum, Sam** and **Shanta** at Kompong Thom.

Monday evening, Ralph suggested we have dinner at the local eatery, just a short walk across the street from where our motel was, only to find it closed. Says Ralph, "OK, let' s go across the bridge into Canada and ' Parlez vous Francais' over there". So ~~walk~~the quick two minute drive across into foreign soil and enjoyed fine Chinese cuisine in Oh Canada.

Upon our return to the U.S., we obliged someone from the motel management to take a few pictures of the Three Amigos, most probably the last time these three Rustic GIBS will ever share the same AO again until we meet in a more worthy (speaking for Ralph and Joe here) place up above.

Tuesday morning, Joe and I set out to visit a few of the Yankee Air Pirates (former FACs in the New England area) in Maine as we headed back home. Our first stop took us to Limestone where we met up with **Jerry O' Keefe** AKA, Spat 17, an O-2 driver with the 22nd TASS back in ' 69 ' 70. Jerry is now a Latin and Ethics teacher at a magnet school here in northern Maine for the Maine Math and Science School. Imagine, A FAC teaching Latin.....AND ethics !!!!! Needless to say, Jerry proved to be a great gentleman and host. With his stocky build and bald head, the moniker, "Padre", which a fellow staff member had mentioned to us as we first walked into the school building asking for Mr. O' Keefe, fit him to a "T". We discussed our tours of yesteryear for 30 minutes or so before Jerry had to get to his next class. We welcomed him home, thanked him for his service and then we were on our way south.

After several hours of driving, our next stop was Dexter, Maine and a visit **Bob Simpson**, AKA, Nail 34, an OV-10 driver with the 23rd TASS out of NKP in ' 72 ' 73. Bob is now the town manager in Dexter and our unscheduled yet somewhat announced visit caught Bob in the middle of a meeting with one of his town council members. Being Rustics, we interrupted the meeting in a cordial manner and discussed the "Whens and wheres" of an earlier era with Bob for a few minutes, thanked him for meeting us (did he really have a choice?), welcomed him home and thanked him also for serving, picked up our absentee ballots for the November town elections, (OK, just kidding) and headed on to our last leg of the trip back home.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable and rewarding road trip.

I know this isn' t your typical FACNET posting. No bickering, no digs at somebody' s posting. It' s the main reason I' ve been off FACNET for the past few months. Didn' t even know I was gone, did ya? But I DID miss some of what goes on in here.....so ~~th~~ back, with a new s/n and a new puter.

Cheers, **Rog Hamann**, Ubon ' 74 ' 72

**OV-10 MOCK-UP BEING RESTORED BY THE OBA: Jim Hodgson**, President of the OBA, sent us the following before and after pictures of the OV-10 mock-up they have been restoring at the OBA's museum at Meachem Field, Ft Worth, Tx. He reports, "As many of you know, we have been restoring the original factory mockup for over a year now. This week we reached an important mile stone. To date, over 2,000 hours of work have been put into the effort. Most of this work has been done by a dedicated group of former Lockheed employees along with OBA



**Before Restoration Efforts**



**After Restoration**

members **Jack Thompson** [Rustic] and **Tom Kemp**. Many other folks have also lent a hand here and there. Last June I happened to meet **Bob Parcell** while my son was taking flight lessons. Well, one thing lead to another and before long Bob is working with us to do the painting portion of the restoration. Well, today I got a chance to see his work. Bob has worked diligently to continue work on the cockpit, replace all the glass and paint the fuselage.

The picture you see below is the result of the collective efforts of our restoration work. It is exciting to see how far we have come. We aren't finished but this is a great accomplishment and I wanted you all to see what has been completed. Best regards  
Jim



## Something to Ponder!!

A foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport.

"These hills are getting steeper as the years go by," one complained.

"These fairways seem to be getting longer too," said one of the others.

"The sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember them too," said the third senior.

After hearing enough from his buddies, the oldest, and the wisest of the four of them at 87 years old, piped up and said..."Quit your dang complaining and just be thankful we're still on the RIGHT SIDE of the grass!"

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# 2004 Membership Renewal and Survey Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Rustic Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

## I have:

SEA photos for Ned Helm to include in the Rustic SEA Photo CD Project. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Reunion photos for Jim Seibold for inclusion in the Rustic Reunion Photo CD project. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Additional Rustic Stories for inclusion in the Rustic History Book Projects. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

I'd be interested in going on a Rustic Alaska Cruise/Land trip. Summer 2004 \_\_\_ Summer 2005 \_\_\_

I'd be interested in going on a Rustic Australia/New Zealand trip at some future date. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

I'd like to maintain my Rustic FAC Association membership in good standing and stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic FAC newsletter, and help support efforts to promote continued Rustic FAC camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects. Enclosed are my dues for 2004.

## Amount Enclosed:

Annual Dues of \$20.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Lifetime Membership in the Rustic FAC Association:

### Age: Lifetime Membership Rates:

55 & younger \$ 250

56-60 \$ 225

61-65 \$ 200

66-or older \$ 175

My age is: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime memberships may be paid in four monthly installments, if you so desire.

First Month: \$ 50 Jan 2003 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Second Month: \$ 50 Feb 2003 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Third Month: \$ 50 Mar 2003 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Remaining Balance: Apr 2003 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Contribution to House of Hope: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail to : Don Ellis, P.O. Drawer 250, Manning, SC 29102