

THE UGLY ANGEL

Memorial Foundation Newsletter



Vol. I January 1996

Santa Claus came early this year and brought a flight of Angels who report, either directly or through friends, they plan to be in Las Vegas for the reunion. They are Allan Bloomer, Bo Beumer, Bob Feeney, Ron Fix, Jim Gordon, Ron Harkless, Bill Kelly, Ed Southworth, Tom Thurber, Carl Wheeler, Bill Wilkison, and our much esteemed former maintenance chief, Willie Sproule. Tom Bong and Vic Speroni will make it, jobs permitting. Willie reports that he has already started on a six foot long, two foot high Ugly Angel banner to hang in the hooch area of the Grand Ballroom.

The Angels who reported in Op Ready in November are Pestkiller 6 - Dick Cline, Ben Cascio, Bill Duffy, Doc Jones, Dave Moore, Gunny Sachs, Marc Sohm, Al Thomas, Charlie Upshaw, and Jimmy Villarreal. So far, that makes **25** former Angels committed or leaning. Gene Bailey and Russ Hohman checked in to say hello to everyone, and regret they can't make it. Skipper Dick Cline tells me he has a line on Jim Barfield and Chuck Travis so we should be hearing from them shortly. Ditto Gunny Sachs for Bill Willey.

Overheard on FM: *"When you have secured the LZ,
don't forget to tell the enemy".*

Reunion Coordinator Frenchy LaFontaine tells me the Grand Ballroom at Bally's is about the size of a Santa Ana blimp hangar. As it is now planned, the squadron hooch area ala Marble Mountain (you know - the place with the beach, nurses, and USO shows) has enough room for the entire First MAW, general's quarters and all. The squadron hooches will be trade-show style canopy tents or something similar. Specs and pricing unknown at this time but he assures me "reunion deals" will be available. Hopefully, I will have more information on this, and on T-shirt and baseball cap prices, in the February newsletter.

In my initial 1 November letter I proposed that all of us get together for dinner in Las Vegas. A close look at the Reunion schedule shows that Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights already have planned activities. Not a problem however - the advance info indicates that the tables for the Sat. & Sun. dinners will seat ten people. Assuming it can be arranged, how about sitting as a squadron at adjacent tables on one of these nights instead of a special dinner? This will achieve the same end at no additional cost. Sure would appreciate your input on this.

Briefing item: *"Remember, if the enemy is in range,
so are you".*

Speaking of ideas, Marc Sohm has suggested that we expand the mailing list to include every former Angel listed in the 1994 USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Pilots & Aircrew Reunion directory in addition to the fifty names I dug out of the 1966-67 Ugly Angel cruise book. That's

about 160 guys altogether. I think it's a good idea, and will send a letter to each of the 110 additions in early January outlining the program. He also proposes we set up area coordinators for each major section of the country to contact former Angels on the mailing list and encourage their participation. He has volunteered himself & Doc Jones for the Midwest, Ben Cascio will cover the East, and Willie Sproule the South. We still need someone for the West coast. Any volunteers?

If anyone out there has the current address of Tom Bottorf, Bill Lelash, Harry Makeever, Herb Roberts, and Curt Ryan, I would appreciate your sending them to me.

A couple of guys have asked whether they could chip-in to help defray the cost of the mailings. The offer is greatly appreciated, but I can handle it until we go to the 160 man roster and mail the February newsletter. While the area coordinators (henceforth ACs in Marine jargon) are willing to ante up the additional Fifty Scoots it would take to fund this, I am instead requesting everyone who can afford it to send me \$2.00. That should cover all the extras associated with publishing the newsletter through the June issue. Please don't send any more than that, especially you airline pilots, cause I will only buy expensive booze with the excess and further screw up my liver. Speaking of excesses, I am going to try to limit the length of the newsletter to two pages to hold down the cost.

Things you learned too late: "*Suppressive fire - won't*".

On the other hand, you can help fill out the two pages by sending me brief news items about yourself or other Angels with whom you are in contact. For instance, I am sure most of us would like to hear what you're doing, how you're doing, and the like. More importantly, if there are any former Angels out there who could use some moral support, we would like to hear that too. I know it has been a long time, but I would like to think we are still a "*band of brothers*".

If the replies keep pouring in the way they have this month, you just might find yourself standing in the 362 Ready Room in Lost Wages with **40** other former Angels next June 21st. How about that!

NOTAMS: If I haven't heard from you yet and you want to continue to receive the newsletter, please check in NLT 25 January.

I urge those of you who haven't made hotel reservations yet to act quickly. Judging from the Pensacola Reunion, room space at the convention hotel disappears fast.

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