



SHERMAN DECKROW
 3740 N. Pontiac Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60634

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FORWARDING POSTAGE
 GUARANTEED
 DEADEYE DISPATCH

SPRING
 1974

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION IS RECOGNIZED AS AN OFFICIAL VETERANS ORGANIZATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. OUR CHARTER IS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. BEING A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WHATEVER INCOME THERE IS MUST BE USED TO BENEFIT THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP.



EDMUND BIGGS, 96th QM, Our Reunion Chairman
 Says: **"MORE IN '74 IN INDIANAPOLIS."**
 Seventeenth Annual Reunion * JULY 25, 26, 27, 1974



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Edmund Biggs

INDIANAPOLIS JULY 25, 26 and 27th

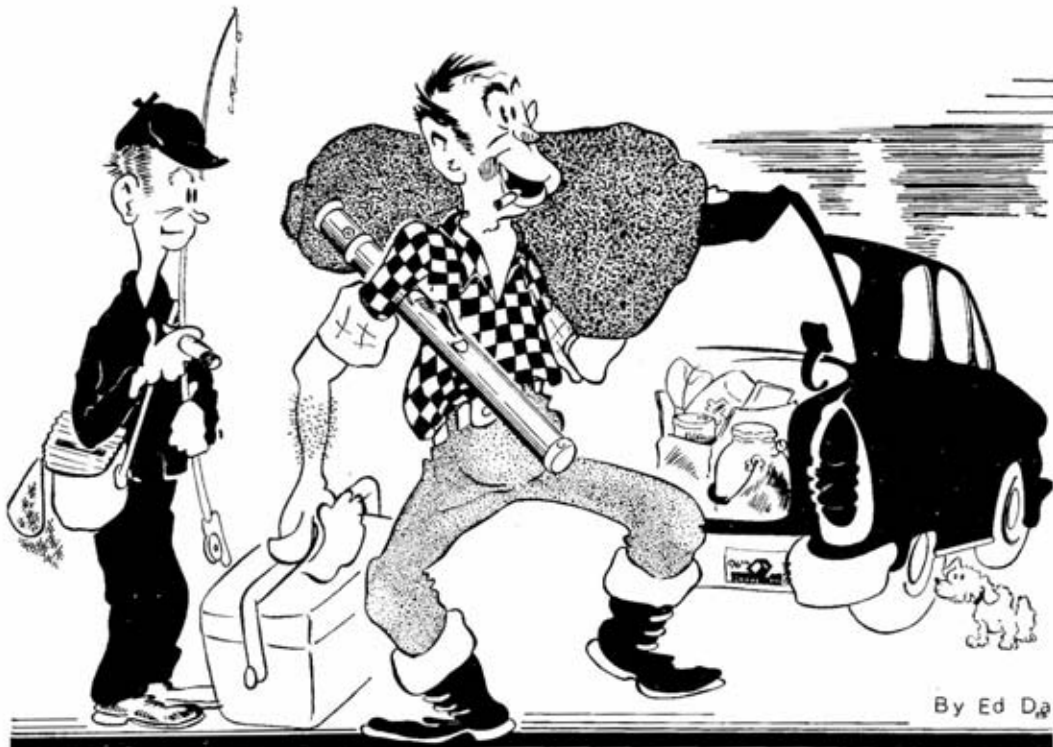


NOW HEAR THIS!

Ed Biggs, 1st Vice President, and Convention Chairman for Indianapolis this year. He is making his point very clear that we are going to have the greatest time ever in Indianapolis this year, and Chicago is only going to be remembered as the second largest after Indianapolis.



GOING FOR BROKE

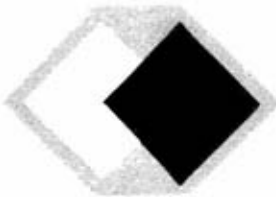


By Ed Dakan

FISHING - NO, WE'RE HEADIN FOR THE DEADEYE REUNION IN INDIANAPOLIS;

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missing.

DUES PAY FOR THE "Deadeye Dispatch"



TO INSURE PROMPT DELIVERY OF **Deadeye Dispatch**

And other information, please advise the
Corresponding Secretary of any Change of Address

Name _____ Unit _____

New Address _____

Old Address _____

SEND TO

SHERMAN DECKROW
3740 N. PONTIAC AV.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60634

REMARKS:

Send free Roster
Of my Outfit

I am ordering
TIE TACKS
at \$3.00 each

C. D. STERNER
3053 STRATFORD
LINCOLN, NEB. 68502

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

MAKE REMITTANCE PAYABLE TO:

96th Infantry Division Assn.

ZIP _____

DeadeyeTIE TACK



\$3.00 ea. postpaid

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FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1974

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------|
| 9:00 am – 5:00 pm | Registration | Lower Lobby |
| 9:30 am – 11:30 am | Welcoming to Indpls, & General Business (Joint Aux. & Men) | Ballroom West |
| 10:30 am – 11:30 am | Ladies Auxiliary | Ballroom West |
| 12:00 Noon- 2:00 pm | Ladies Aux. Luncheon & Hair Style-Show (L.S. Ayres & Company) | |
| 2:00 pm – ? | Tour of Indianapolis, Power Arama, Motor Speedway and other points of interest. | |

(Due to energy crisis this is not a GUARANTEE – WALKING TOUR will be
conducted if above plan fails)

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 8:00 pm – 1:00 am | BEER BUST | Ballroom Centre & East |
| 9:00 am – 12:00 Midnight | Teen HQ & Pool Open | Room 928-932 |

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1974

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 9:00 am – 5:00 pm | Registration | Lower Lobby |
| 9:30 am – 11:00 am | General Session | Ballroom Centre |
| 12:00 Noon- 1:00 pm | Memorial Services (Indiana World War Memorial with Full Cermonial Service) with backup at hotel in case of foul weather - (Ball Room Centre & West) | |
| 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm | Jam Session (Bull) | Entire Festival, Monument & Assembly Area |
| 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Reception (Cash Bar) | Entire Festival, Monument & Assembly Area & Lower Lobby |
| 7:00 pm – 1:00 am | Banquet & Dance | Entire Ballroom |
| 9:00 am – 12:00 Midnight | Teen HQ & Pool Open | Room 928-932 |

POOL OPEN TO MEMBERS AT NO CHARGE

Chairman – **ED BIGGS** 96th QM
Co-Chairman – **Robert Huff** 383 A
Assistant Co-Chairman – **Richard Keller** 728 AMTRAC

Mrs. Harm Alberts
Culbertson, Neb. 69024

Enclosed \$1.00 Auxiliary Dues _____

I want _____ Cookbooks @ \$3.00 ea. _____

I want _____ Div. Insignia Pins @ \$3.00 ea. _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

(City) (State) (Zip)

AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

Please reserve _____ tickets for Auxiliary Luncheon, on Friday, July 26, 1974 at Noon.

Mail to:

Mrs. Hilda Biggs
213 Wayside Drive
Plainfield, Ind. 46168

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AUXILIARY MEMBERS PAY \$1.00 DUES

When you have paid dues ten years Auxiliary members will receive a ten year membership Certificate. You may mail the dues directly to Mrs. Harm (Virginia) Alberts, Culbertson, Nebraska 69024, or mail along with your husband's dues to C.D. Sterner. Either one will return your membership card.

* * * * *

OFFICIAL COLORS Brilliantly colored 4" x 6" printed rayon flags mounted on 10" black enameled wood staff with gilt spear



\$3.00 per set postpaid

TABLE SET - U. S. flag and 96th Infantry Division flag

CYRIL D. STERNER
96th Inf. Div. Assn.
3053 STRATFORD AVE.
LINCOLN, NEBR. 68502

Make Remittance Payable To
96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I am ordering
enter number
TABLE SETS

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

STATEMENT

DEADEYE DISPATCH is the official publication of the 96th Infantry Division Association. All communications should be directed to the Corresponding Secretary or Treasurer who serve as editors.

Aims are to promote the activities of the Association and serve its members in every way possible. Your comments, questions, pictures, anecdotes and suggestions are solicited.

If at any time fewer than 10 members are in attendance at a reunion, the Association will be dissolved and any remaining funds will be contributed to OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, CORVALLIS, OREGON.

A LETTER FROM A LOVELY LADY

Dear Alex,

Your editorial in the last newsletter, "DISPATCH" ending with your greeting and good wishes to me is very greatly appreciated. I had a small weep when I read it, but not as much as when I could not go to Peoria. How I missed being there and seeing all my good friends.

It is hard to say that I'll be in Indianapolis next July because my physical trouble is hardening of the small arteries in the brain. It seems there is nothing they can do about it. So, I just have to accept it and plug along from day to day, and do the best I can. I stagger around as if I were drunk (which I am not) and at all times I have the feeling of falling over backward, which I assure you is something very hard to contend with. Naturally, it becomes worse whenever I become tired. The result is I have to forego doing many things I would love to do. Just the 5th of this month my Grand niece, who is also my God-Child, was married in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and I could not go, Sandy went and said it was lovely in every way. It also was why I was unable to send the several hundred Christmas Cards I have been sending to folks I love for a number of years.

The result of that has been not only many letters, but a good many long distance calls from many people, including the Henry Whites. Ed Dakan was here recently and we so much enjoyed seeing him.

This brings my affectionate good wishes to you and Eleanor and all whom you love and especially my deeply felt gratitude for your very wonderful tribute. I think of all of you so much and shall continue to do so. **PLEASE DO NOT EVER FORGET ME!**

Devotedly,
Inez Easley

EDITORS NOTE:

A letter or a card would be just the medicine that would do more than a thousand Doctors.

GOD BLESS YOU INEZ EASLEY

Address your Cards and letter to:

Mrs. Inez Easley
3601 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20008

* * * * *

The 728th Amphibian Tractor Bn. held their annual re-union at the Ramada Inn in Knoxville, Tennessee on August 2, 3, 4, & 5th 1973. There were 54 present of the 300 men on the roster.

A tour was conducted on Saturday, through the Atomic Energy museum at Oak Ridge. Saturday night, of course, they closed with a gala banquet.

In 1974 they will be with the 96th at Indianapolis, so make your plans now for the greatest re-union yet!

Harold McCoy, Bn. Sec.
139 E. Auburndale
Youngstown, Ohio 44507



OFFICERS FOR THE 1974 CONVENTION

Front Row: Rec. Sec. Tyson Shelton, 1st Vice President Edmund Biggs, Pres. James Breece, 2nd Vice Pres. Ed Dakan, Sgt. At Arms Charles Ratz.

Second Row: Howard Carrico (Fort Worth 1976 Convention Chairman), Treasurer C. Dean Sterner, Historian Harold Strand, John Rader (Kansas City Convention Chairman 1975).



Minor Butler had an idea that the DEADEYES were a group of men that fought together, and now wanted to enjoy life together. Thus he began the Greatest Association ever formed. He is a very proud man, and enjoys telling all DEADEYES about it, and what a wonderful feeling it gives him to see this outfit grow into something that has never been done before. Minor keeps saying to us all, "Just write six DEADEYE BUDDIES as he did and we can make this the biggest and best outfit of it's kind."





STAND PROUD ALL DEADEYES FOR THIS MARK OF HISTORY HAS FINALLY COME TO REST. LET US PRAY THAT IT WILL STAND FOR PEACE FROM THIS DAY FORWARD. MANY GREAT MEN WILL BE REMEMBERED WITH THIS MONUMENT.



50 YEAR OF BLISS

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Dickerson being presented with a Silver Table Set by Mrs. Rose Fritz, from the Women's Auxiliary in recognition of their FIFTY years of Marriage.



James Breece receiving gavel from Iden Johnson as President for the year of 1974.

* * * * *

Eleanor Markus receiving gavel from Rose Fritz as President for the Auxiliary for 1974.



Chaplin Todd again in Peoria addressing DEADEYES as he had done so many times before during Memorial Services.

HOW DID THEY GET IN? CHECK THEIR PASSES

WITH THE MP'S IN PEORIA

Ten made it to Peoria this year.

Jack Kelly, Jim Simpson, Pop Schnorr, Ken Simonson, Milo Thompson, Herb Then, and Minnesota Fats. Tiny got called back to work and I had to leave before the big feed.

Some bad news; Kelly Vick has had it with hospitals, first with gall bladder problems then a ruptured appendix and then peritonitis followed.

Joice Sevier lost his house and almost a daughter to a mud slide. Erv Temple has had some heart problems. They are all hoping things are looking up for all of you.

Had a quick visit with Tiny on my way through Florida and chased Bill Nolle all over the south of Florida. Found him at Lake Okeechobee and had dinner with him and his family. Left for Birmingham where I spent the night with Clell Stephens. The next morning I had my first taste of grits which was followed by a gabfest with Jim Simpson and his wife who dropped in. With that I practiced what they call eat and fly. All you MP's start making plans now to attend this year at Indianapolis, we had ten in 1973 - let's make it twenty in 1974!

CHUCK KNAPP

* * * * *

CAN WE MAKE IT? "YOU BETCHA"

Every once in awhile we come upon a story that stands out.

We have such a story.

We have learned that a DEADEYE is a creative, happy-go-lucky, friendly guy, and this time even adventuresome too!

Herbert and Armeta of Battle Creek, Michigan were determined to be in Peoria and this determination brought out their explorer instinct. They packed their bags and made ready but instead of loading up their car they loaded up their Houseboat. They made their way from Michigan by way of Lake Michigan and the Illinois River to Peoria. They parked at the Detweiller Marina and joined the Reunion at the hotel.

Herb and Armeta we must congratulate you for your adventuresome trip, which until now is a first.

Norma Bauer

* * * * *

"THE TWENTY NINTH YEAR AFTER LIBERATION"

The return trip to the Philippines was a very rewarding one to those that made the trek. Royalty was never received any better. Public Officials as well as thousands of people came out to greet them and show their appreciation for the part the 96th played in the liberation of their home land. A very special attraction in Indianapolis will be the film and slides that were taken there and will be shown by Henry White and Ed Biggs. I recommend that you make a special effort to see them.

Ed Biggs led a group of twenty four people, that toured the Phillippines.

THE PEOPLE OF DULAG PAY TRIBUTE TO THE 96TH DIVISION - "DEADEYES!"



Atop the height of this hill 120 (KAN ANANG HILL) Blue Beach 80, San Rafael, Dulag, Leyte at 10:42 a.m. 20th of October 1944, only 42 minutes had elapsed since the first assault troops of the 3rd Bt., 382 Infantry, 96th Division of the American Liberation Forces had landed. 1st Lt. Clifford W. Mills raised the American Flag in the Philippine soil for the first time after it was lowered at Bataan-floating high and proud was tangible proof that the Americans had made good their promise to the Phillippinos.

The Memorial on Hill 120 was built by the people of Dulag, it's erection was a labor of love, with the Mayor Faustino Serrano as laborer and Supervisor, Engineer Fortunato Bajarias made the blue prints and furnished his labor and Miss Gloria M. Sano secured the information from the National Archives.

Hill 120 is a Memorial to the 96th for it was here the first American Flag was raised by Lt. C.W. Mills of I Company - 382nd, who was later killed in action on Leyte.

The Memorial is located in Dulag and although the 96th never entered the city these people constructed this memorial with moneys raised only in their city and had no Federal or Government assistance financially. There is no memorial more highly mentioned then this one other then the one marking the spot on which General McArthur stepped ashore. The photo shows the Marker with Ed Biggs, Mary Lou White, Helen Stuckmeyer, Mayor of Dulag, Faustino Serrano, and Ed Elliott, (Ret. Gen. Idaho Nat'l. Guard, Former Major on Leyte). On right edge of photo is the painting of Lt. Mills raising the American Flag on a Coconut Tree



* * * * *

DEADEYES that made the return trek to the Philippines for the 29th year of liberation Celebration.

* * * * *



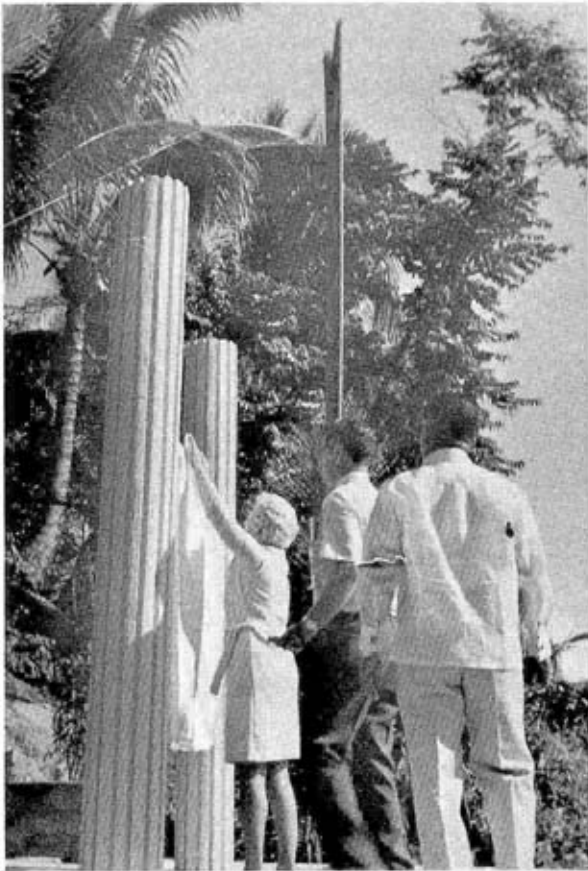
Bringing the colors to the Marker.

* * * * *



Mr. & Mrs. Fred Weeks unveil the marker, Dulag Liberation Memorial Park.

* * * * *



1



3



2

1. Unveiling of the Marker at Hill 120 - Helen Stuckmeyer - Ed Biggs - Mayor Sarreno.
2. Raising the Flag at Hill 120 - Ed Elliott - Mary Lou White - Mayor Sarreno.
3. Placing flowers at the Marker at Hill 120 - Fred Weeks - Mrs. E. Elliott.

Ed Biggs states that his trip back to the Philippines was such a success that he plans to go back in October 1974 - if you want to join him drop him a line or contact him at the Reunion in Indianapolis.

Address:

Ed Biggs
213 Wayside Drive
Plainfield, Ind. 46168

Home on the Range in Oregon

By Ed Dakan (381-B) and Harold Roetker (96QM),
who made the trip

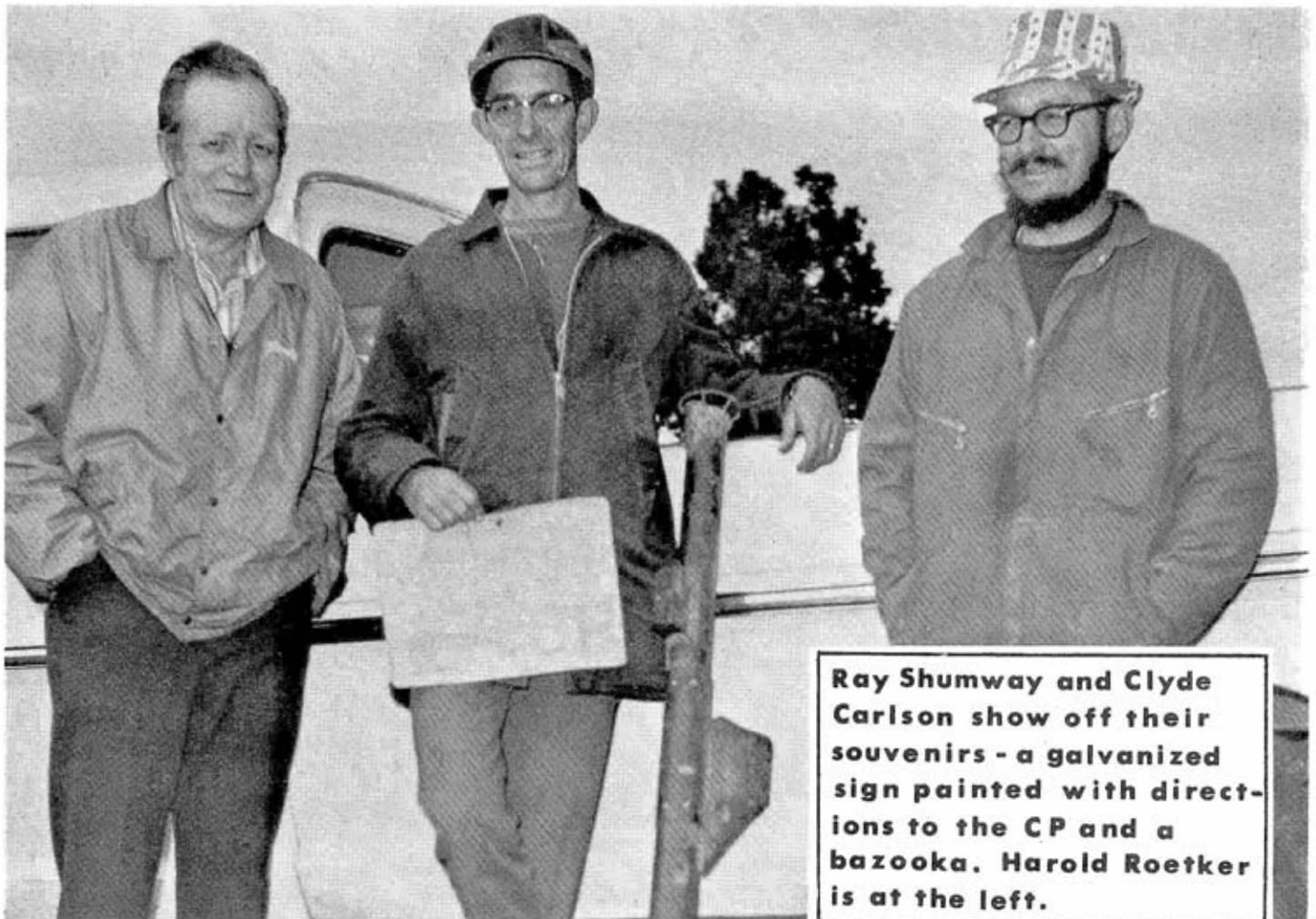
We talked with second generation ranchers Carlson and Shumway who live on POWELL BUTTE and like it

Telling tales with the Constables at the Brothers Store ended the first episode of our story. We had used up the day and it was time to find a place to bed down.

There was one other lead to be checked out, however, because the people at the store knew about an old fellow who had a place on the back side of Horse Ridge. He must have been there during the maneuvers, they said.

Following their directions, we left the highway east of town and set off down a side road. More sand and sagebrush. Remember how dark it gets on the desert? It was one of those pitch black nights and we did not find hide or hair of the hermit. That useless excursion left no choice for us except to backtrack to the highway that would take us to Bend and a warm motel.

We had the road all to ourselves on the way to town. It was as if the inhabitants had pulled into their enclaves with the coming of darkness. High-balling along, we talked about the lonesomeness of the desert and of nights spent under those skies.



Ray Shumway and Clyde Carlson show off their souvenirs - a galvanized sign painted with directions to the CP and a bazooka. Harold Roetker is at the left.

We missed seeing long convoys and trudging columns of men.

Soldiers and desert go together. Musing about events of our day, the things that were missing were strictly military - long convoys, trudging columns of men . . . and night bivouacs.

Just pick out any one of the old trails, follow it for a ways in imagination, and sure enough, there is an encampment of **DEADEYES** in the dusk. Conjure up a scene that fits the terrain and circumstances of 30 years ago . . . remember?

Over there, in a cluster of junipers a squad leader appears to be lining up a guard roster for the night. GIs are bitching and kidding each other as their smudgy fire burns low. Off to the side a glimmer of candlelight coming from a pup tent outlines a hunched-up figure who is examining and powdering his feet. Someone moves away from the group, heading in the direction of the straddle trench . . . others drag their assorted belongings toward their sacks.

End of scene from maneuvers past. Night has settled in and the ghosts have gone, but for a minute, they were almost real.

Well, that was enough for one day.

November 19 dawned clear as a bell and at least cold enough to freeze a canteen solid. Ready to continue reconnoitering, we started out by driving the full length of the bypass around Bend, noticing that it had been mainly built up with restaurants and motels.

In the place where we ate breakfast, the girl behind the cash register told us, "At this time of year a lot of people come up here from California to ski. There is a large resort on Mt. Bachelor."

On our way out to the Powell Butte area, we noticed a fellow loading hay bales, so we stopped to ask him about any old timers who might live in the vicinity. Art Peterson directed us to the Shumway ranch further on up the same road that we had traveled the day before north of Alfalfa.

After driving about 10 miles, we spotted the ranch buildings and corrals strung out along the foot of the butte. A familiar landmark, the irrigation ditch, crossed the road just south of the driveway.

The two fellows working around the machine shed turned out to be Ray Shumway and Clyde Carlson and they had been raised right there on the ranch.

After we told them about our mission, they showed us their souvenirs - the CP sign, a bazooka and a machine gun belt full of 30 caliber blanks that had been stashed away.

"There's a lot of old brass out there," says Ray Shumway.

"There's still a lot of old brass out there, but it's pretty tarnished now," Ray said. "Sometimes we find 'C' ration cans that contain dried coffee. Why, you can walk up that ridge and look at foxholes all over the place."

"I don't remember when we found the bazooka. It has just been here for the past 30 years," he added.



ILS CARLSON (Mrs. Clyde) handles the domestic chores on the ranch. Part of her time is spent with granddaughter, **JOLEEN**, who visits Powell Butte frequently.

In their living room, we thought back to the time of the maneuvers - Ray Shumway had been 11 years old and Clyde Carlson, being raised by the Shumways, about a year older.

"The first recollection that I have of the maneuvers was one morning when we got up and saw a half-track parked up the ridge behind the bunk house," Clyde said. "It was kind of an exciting time for a boy my age. Mainly, I remember meeting a lot of soldiers, but don't recall any particular dates. The Army was just here."

Asked about his parents feeling toward the Army, Carlson said, "The maneuvers were held through the country and that was it. I never thought much about it, but I doubt that the folks were paid for the use of their land. It was sort of a patriotic thing to do. Dad got a kick out of seeing everybody here, too."

According to Clyde, their family had become quite well acquainted with two mess sergeants, or supply sergeants, whatever they were.

"Mother remarked to them about the great big round

loaves of bread that were in their truck and said that she would like to have some. This was bread that was being baked in a field kitchen not far from here," he said.

"One morning before daylight, we heard a noise of someone coming in the backdoor - then a loud thump. They had left a gunny-sack full of bread for us."

"There were other things that we couldn't get or were short of and they would drop it off when they came by," Ray commented.

Back in those days, the Shumways had used part of their irrigated ground for the growing of potatoes. Ray recalled that at digging time in the fall, some soldiers stopped and were helping buck potatoes. "Of course we were short of labor and their help was really appreciated, but they got into trouble with an officer who came looking for them. They were supposed to be on a water detail."

Clyde Carlson told us that now, as then, the productivity of the valley depends upon the canal. Throughout the valley, the irrigated land is used for the growing of hay crops, especially alfalfa, although the type of ranching being carried on has changed from sheep to beef cows.

He said that the Shumway-Carlson operation involves about 20,000 acres of deeded land, including part of the southwest side of Powell Butte. "We use Charolais bulls on our herd of about 800 cows, then sell the calves to a feedlot on the coast. The butte is good for spring range because it greens up early and the herd can be kept there for a month or six weeks."

"For the most part, the grazing of Powell Butte figures out to between 12 and 15 acres per cow per month. Some of the flat rocky country will run as high as 45 acres per cow. That is poor and a cow has to walk pretty fast to get enough to eat."

Talking about the canal, Clyde pointed out that it is really a huge stave flume that runs down the side of the butte in front of the ranch house, then the open ditch begins in the flat country beyond their place. It is layed out exactly as it was in the times when the DEADEYES sneaked the water to supplement their regular water ration (one quart per day).

**Clyde Carlson remembers
when the Blue Army tried to
capture his sister, Jean,
because she had on
a red swim suit.**

According to his story, they used to swim in the canal. "One day when we were up there, my sister, Jean, had on a bright red bathing suit and the Blue Army figured they ought to capture her. We laughed about that."

Everything considered, the home on the range seemed to be a comfortable place to live. When asked why he prefers to stay on the Oregon desert, Ray Shumway said:

"We have clean air and all of the modern conveniences - Bonneville power by REC and TV from the Eugene station. Many of the roads have been blacktopped and have nameposts now. Some of the ranches are being broken up into 20 and 40 acre plots. Retired Californians keep coming here in droves and building expensive homes."

"I have never seen any place else where I would want to go to stay," said Clyde Carlson, who has raised his family here. "It is what we are used to."

AUXILIARY COOKBOOK

Mrs. Rose Fritz announced that the cook book went to the printers in November. The coupon for placing your order is enclosed in this news-letter.

.....
GUEST ROOM RESERVATION CARD

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

All reservations will be held until 6 P.M. unless a later arrival time is noted. Reservations must be received 2 weeks prior to opening date of convention.

ARRIVAL DATE _____ HOUR _____ AM CHECK OUT TIME 2:00 PM
PM DEPARTURE DATE _____

Should you desire to be billed for expenses incurred during your stay, it will be necessary that you contact our credit manager 2 weeks prior to your arrival. No last-minute billing requests will be honored.

**96th INFANTRY DIVISION
July 25, 26 & 27 1974**

The following rates to prevail:

SINGLE: \$19.00
DOUBLE: \$24.00
(Two People)

BIGGS ROLLS AGAIN

"THIS TO BE THE BIGGEST YET"



**OTIS R. BOWEN, M.D., GOVERNOR
STATE OF INDIANA, TO ATTEND**



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FIRST CLASS
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PLENTY OF TIME
TO WRITE

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INDIANAPOLIS

JULY 25, 26

&
27th, 1974