

Volume 13, Issue 3

1 December 2009



Rustic News



www.rustic.org

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ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND ROSTER. Every Rustic gets a copy this newsletter whether a member of the association or not. We think it important to keep everyone in the loop so we request you PLEASE REVIEW THE ENCLOSED ROSTER AND advise us of any errors or corrections that need to be made on yourself, especially if you have a change of address, email, or phone number, etc. Hey, life is short...and it's the people who make the difference in our lives..so let's stay in touch.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP. Check your address label to determine when your membership in the Rustic FAC Association expires. A 2010 Membership Renewal Form is attached at the end of this newsletter. Remember, it's your dues that make our newsletters and reunions possible. Our annual dues rate (\$20) has not changed since our inception in 1997...a bargain, to say the least.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS AND AN EMAIL OPTION. Rustic newsletters in the future will be mailed out just twice a year--in November and May. For the past 12 years, our newsletters have been quarterly, but it seems like it is time to throttle back a bit. Although we may not have as many newsletters, we still want you to keep those cards and letters, or emails coming.

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Would you prefer to receive your future Rustic newsletters via email (and in living color)? If so, please advise **Don Ellis** at: donellis@sc.rr.com. This has the obvious benefit of saving the Association some postage expense.

***Please note:** All future reunion Registration newsletters will continue to go out via snail mail, even if you select the E mail option.*

ELECTION RESULTS. Your new Officers and Board members as elected at the 2009 reunion Business Meeting for the next term of office (until the next reunion) are:

President	Claude Newland
Vice Pres	John Drury
Sec/Treas	Don Ellis
Historian	Jim Gabel
Directors	Don Mercer, Shad Kimbell, and Tom Capps

Our "thanks" go to our outgoing Secretary, **Roger Hamann**, and Directors, **Jim Seibold, Dick Wood, and Doc Thomas** for their service on behalf of the Association and we welcome aboard **John Drury, Don Mercer, Shad Kimbell, and Tom Capps**.

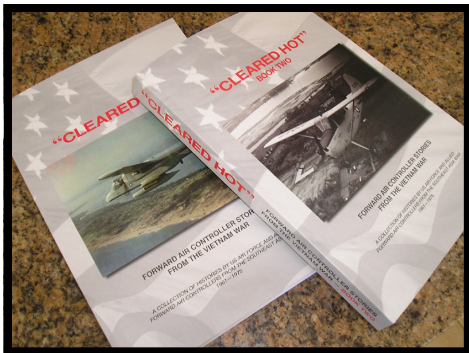
DON MERCER UNVEILS NEW BOOK. **Don Mercer** surprised everyone at this year's reunion by presenting each Rustic in attendance with a signed copy of his newly published 555 page autobiographical book, "Lights Out - Destination Darkness, America's Unknown War: Cambodia." It's a book which most of us, especially the pilots, can identify with as it tells Don

story of his early years and how he ended up in Vietnam as a FAC. The book covers the time period up to and including his initial in-country FAC checkout. Don states, a Volume II is pending which will cover his actual combat tour. Excellent reading...and he doesn't let the politicians off the hook either.

DAVE PARSONS RETURNS FROM MEDICAL MISSION TO VIETNAM. Hi Claude! Sorry for the delay. We've been in Vietnam most of Sep. Our blog gives a summary. <http://parsons-ministries.blogspot.com>. My email is dparsonsm@gmail.com. Our "real" address now is: 2 Intrepid, Lake Wylie, SC 29710; 803-831-6242. Hope all is well with you.
Thanks, **David**

"CLEARED HOT - BOOK TWO" TO BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY 2010. (Peter

Condon, Aussie FAC) The second volume of the FAC History book "Cleared Hot" is expected to be available on line at www.Lulu.com sometime in early 2010. The soft cover, 572 page, book must be ordered online. All of the FAC stories on the original FAC History Book CD that did not get published in Volume 1 are included in this second volume -- to include a lot of Rustic stories that didn't get published in the first book. "Book Two" will definitely be another MUST read for all FACs so plan to get a copy for your personal library. Cost will be approx. \$25.



WINGMAN SUPPORT:

1) Bob Paradis. We belatedly learned from **Dennis Paradis**, son of Rustic interpreter **Bob Paradis**, that Bob passed away on 25 Feb 2008 of colon cancer. Dennis lives at 328 Timberglen Dr., Smyrna, TN 37167-4844. His phone number is (615) 223-7581.

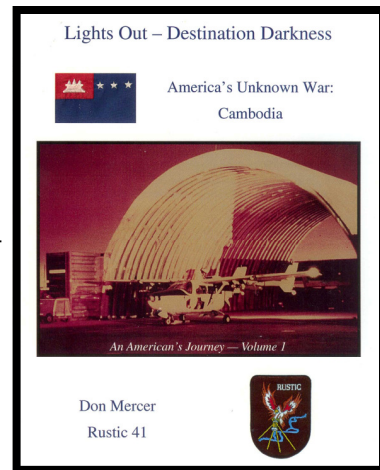
2) Normand Falcon, Rustic Quebec, had Deep Brain Stimulation surgery for Parkinsons in August. He was NCOIC of security police at Bien Hoa when he was recruited as a French speaker for the Rustics. His wife, **Cathy**, can be reached at: catfalcon@msn.com.

3) Condolences. Our condolences go to the **Wayne "Stump" Baker** family and to **Joe Garand**, Rustic Echo. Wayne's mother passed sway on 26 July from a terminal illness and Joe's wife, **Simmone**, lost her battle with cancer in Aug. Please remember Wayne and Joe and their families in their time of loss.

REUNION REPORT. Another great Rustic reunion is now history. Approximately 70 Rustics, family and friends gathered in Herndon, Virginia, just outside of Washington DC, on 10-13 September for the Association's SIXTH reunion... Yep, SIXTH! We've come a long ways since our first reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL in 1997. Our ranks are getting a bit thinner but our spirit is still rambunctious and we still know how to "light our hair on fire." Well...sort of.

The weekend was filled with three wonderful days of sight-seeing, touring, visiting with old friends and getting acquainted with some new ones. We welcomed three first-time reunion attendees. Two of them were early Rustics, **Mac McGarvey** and **Lou Currier**, who were among the first OV-10 pilots to be tapped for Rustic duty. Lou was the Rustic's first French speaking FAC. It was inevitable, therefore, that he would be tasked to give most of the early OV-10 pilots their initial in-country orientation flights. At least a dozen of those in attendance at this reunion made their first foray into Cambodia with Lou in their backseat...*this editor included*. Rustic interpreter, **Jack Otis, Rustic I**, also made his first reunion appearance. He actually found us through our website this past year. Jack was assigned to the Rustics at Bien Hoa before moving to Ton Son Nhut to work with the Sundogs.

The weekend began with a pre-reunion dinner party at the Hyatt Dulles Hotel on Wednesday evening. This turned out to be a fairly sizeable group as a number of Rustics and their guest arrived early in DC. After dinner, everyone pitched in to help stock the "hootch" for the weekend. Reunion Coordinators **Tom Capps** and **Doug Aitken** oversaw the preparations. On Thursday morning a group of about 20 Rustics and guests took an eye-opening tour of the nearby Department of Homeland Security Operations Center. The Rustic FACs, we discovered, are the only private group to ever have visit



this facility---thanks to the efforts of 0-2 Rustic **Bob "Redeye" Harris** who works at the center and has a few "contacts" (Bob also set up a similar tour for the 0-2 Rustics when they visited DC in 2008.) What was the center like? Well, just imagine the biggest command post operation you've ever seen...only this one has all the high tech stuff you can think of and it's on steroids...staffed by a myriad of high level governmental, civilian, and military representatives of agencies that can ruin your day if they have to.. They carry a big stick..and can pretty much reach out and touch you where ever you live... pretty awesome place.

As usual, Thursday was punctuated by a lot of boisterous greetings between old friends and a lot of smiles as friends, family, wives and guests arrived and got introduced or reacquainted. The Official Welcome was held Thursday evening at the hootch. A BBQ dinner was followed by introductions, announcements, and a review of the weekend's upcoming events.

REUNION ATTENDEES: Here's the names and pictures of those that made the reunion TOT and shacked the target: **Special Guests** from the Air Force Military Review Board were: **Phil Horton & Cynthia Deiderich, Chief Master Sergeant & Mrs. Gabrelcik.**



Names are not in order as shown. Doug & Carol Aitken, Tom & Peggy Capps & nephew Chi Harris, Ron & Rosemary Gil Dandeneau, "Deke" & Jan Decabooter, Lou Currier, Roger Dodd, Johnny & Laura Drury, Larry Edmondson, Don & Helene Ellis, Lt Gen John Fairfield & wife, Donna, Phil & Beth Frischmuth, Mike & Corrine Gagne, Dick Goddard, Bob Harris, & guest, Isbell, Doug Hellwig & Lorretta Norville, Steve & Karin Hopkins, Hank & Annie Keese, Shad & Carol Kimbell, Mike Kiraly, Ron & Shirley Koepfel, George & Mucha Larson, Le Family – June, Lucky, Win, & Robert, Tiko & Tony Oum, Mac & Mary Jo McGarvey, Don Mercer, Claude & Tona Newland, Kohn Om, Jon & Kathy Safley, Jim & Diane Seibold, Nancy Sleigh, Marcia Siebert, Doc & Gayle Thomas, Dick & Susan Van Dyke, and Mike & Sherry Wilson

Other attendees included **Mark Berent**, who was "Papa Wolf" at Phnom Penh and **Bob Phillipson**, A CIA operative known to some of the Ubon Rustics as "Blackbird--the fellow on the ground at Preah Vihear temple who they flew over as they crossed the "fence" into Cambodia.

Unfortunately, **Lendy and Sue Edwards** and **Dick Rheinhart** had last minute cancellations due to illnesses. However, Dick lives in the DC area, so some of the Rustics who served under his command as former Rash and Issue FACs **Roger Dodd, Dave Van Dyke, and Lou Currier**, made a point of stopping by Dick's house on Saturday for a long overdue visit. They hadn't seen Dick since 'Nam so they had a lot of catching up to do. They unanimously agreed that their visit with Dick was definitely one of the highlights of the reunion for them. They also promised they would provide us a write-up of their early days as Rustics to add to our "Black Book" book revision project.

MORE REUNION HIGHLIGHTS. The major events of weekend included a Friday morning tour of downtown Washington DC. The Air Force Chief of Chaplains conducted a special memorial service for the Rustics near the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Following his remarks and Taps, he presented each Rustic and Rustic widow a special keepsake coin in recognition of their service to the country. This was followed by a visit to the Wall where we observed the names of our Rustic buds and other friends whose names are forever etched in our memory, as well as in the black granite.

A light morning rain abated as we concluded the memorial service. The group walked over to view the magnificent WW II Memorial and then took a short bus ride to see the splendid new Air Force Memorial which overlooks the Pentagon. The afternoon was spent sight-seeing and visiting the various museums located around the Washington Mall. In the evening, everyone gathered for a wonderful dinner at a nearby Italian restaurant. One of our late Friday afternoon arrivals (and guest of honor) was **Ltc Kohn Om**--our Cambodian fighter pilot and former Rustic interpreter who lives in nearby Annandale, VA.

Saturday was filled with optional tours to either the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park or to Mount Vernon and the Arlington Cemetery. Many observed the changing of guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington. A short business meeting was held in the late afternoon and another memorable Rustic Reunion banquet took place that evening--which was undoubtedly the high watermark of the weekend.

Silver tongued **Doug Aitken** again served as our master of ceremonies and put together a terrific banquet program. The evening began with rousing musical entertainment provided by the Air Force's Combo Band. The presentation of the colors was made by the Stonewall Jackson high school AFJROTC color guard--which was then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests were introduced and special recognition was given to those who traveled the greatest distance to come to the reunion. **Hank and Annie Keese** arrived from Belgium and **Mike and Corinne Gagne** came all the way from France. **Phil and Beth Frischmuth** traveled the greatest distance in the continental US, arriving from McMinnville, OR.

After the introduction of guests, **Ron Dandeneau** explained the symbolism of the POW/MIA Table that was in our presence and the Rustics then took time to "Remember" our brothers who are no longer with us--as our custom, we read the name and call sign of each--and offered a toast. Particular note was made of those who have passed away since the previous reunion: **Bob Paradis, Jack Koppin, and Col Lieou Phin Oum**. They have made their final flight, but we shall not forget them.

Reunion Chairman, **Tom Capps**, offered the invocation and a delicious meal was then served. Following the intermission, our guest speaker, **LtGen John Fairfield**, regaled us with his humor and insights into what it was like to have served in combat as an F-4 pilot and survived an Air Force career. He clearly had done his homework and knew his audience well as he personally address the accomplishments of the Rustics, in general, and pinpointed the individual accomplishments of several Rustics. He also took delight in recognizing the valor and courage of our guest of honor, **Ltc Kohn Om**, by presenting him with an honorary River Rats patch. It was clear that **LtGen Fairfield** was a kindred spirit and brother-in-arms. To show our appreciation, the Rustics



presented him with one our original self-published "Rustic Story" books and declared him an Honorary Rustic. The banquet program concluded with **Don Mercer** introducing our special guests from Air Force Military Review Board who were instrumental in reviewing and approving the various 26 Rustic Awards and Decorations that were submitted by Don and belatedly approved by the AFMRB for individual Rustic actions and accomplishments in SEA. The 26 awards included:

4 Silver Stars	13 Distinguished Flying Crosses	5 Aircrew Badges
1 Bronze Star	2 Air Medals	

Clearly, none of this would have been possible without the magnificent efforts of **Don Mercer**--who received another standing ovation for his efforts on behalf of the Rustics.

Claude Newland, our president, ended the evening by announcing the new officers and Board members for the next term and thanking everyone for their attendance. He also recognized the efforts of all those who worked so hard to make this year's reunion such a success-- in particular--**Tom Capps** who chaired the reunion and **Doug Aitken** who coordinated the banquet. Gentlemen, we salute you!

Unfortunately, Sunday morning came all too quickly, and it was time to RTB, debrief the mission, and get some crew rest. If you missed this one, you missed a good one.

NEXT RUSTIC REUNION. Our next reunion is tentatively planned to be held in conjunction with the All FAC Reunion in Arizona in 2012--that is, unless someone is willing to host a Rustic-only reunion in their fair city in 2011. At this time, we have no volunteers, so those at the Business Meeting voted to join in with the FAC Association reunion in 2012.

If you'd like to host a 2011 Rustic reunion in your city, let us hear from you.

SHORT BURSTS:

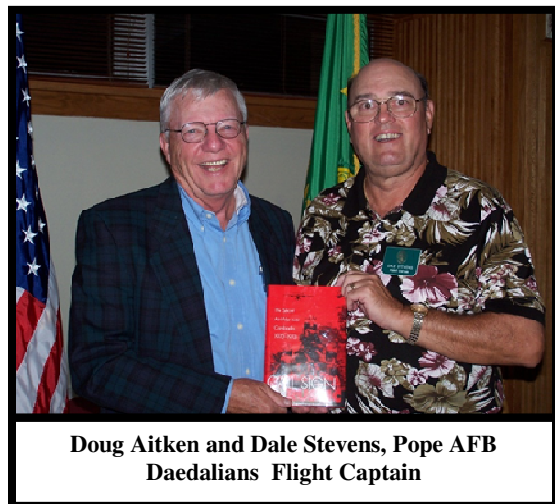
1) Rustic Book Being Revised. Our original, self-published Rustic book, "The Rustics -A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia" is being revised to include all the additional Rustics stories (approx 30) that have been written since the book was published. In addition, new photos will be added to those already in the book. **IF YOUR PICTURE WAS NOT IN THE ORIGINAL BOOK, SEND US A PICTURE OF YOURSELF (taken in SEA) TO BE INCLUDED.** Send your photos or stories to **Claude Newland** at: rustic19@cox.net or mail them to: 4033 Indian Trail Drive, Destin, FL 32541. **YOUR INPUTS MUST BE RECEIVED NLT 1MARCH 2010.**

2) Website Domain Renewed. Our webmaster, **Lendy Edwards**, has renewed the Rustic Website Domain for 20 years with Net Solutions. 'Looks like we'll be around for awhile!

3) "Call Sign Rustic" Book. The Rustic FAC Assoc. bought approx. 70 additional copies of our commercial version of the Rustic story, "Call Sign Rustic" from the Smithsonian Press. The Smithsonian has discontinued marketing of the book but copies can be ordered from the Rustic Store at www.rustic.org.

4) Rustic Doug Aitken was the guest speaker at his local Daedalians chapter meeting this past October. He gave a Microsoft Power Point presentation of the Rustic FAC story which also included some audio of the communications recorded during an actual Rustic mission.

FELLOW FAC ED McMAHON PASSES. Did you know **Johnny Carson's** longtime sidekick, **Ed McMahon**, was a FAC? He flew OE-1's (L-19A) with VMO-6 in Korea. Captain McMahon arrived in March 1953 and flew his first mission the day after he arrived. He flew observation, artillery spotting and FAC missions. VMO-6 flew out of A-9 (Tonngori) and by late 1952 had both OE-1's, HTL-4's and HO5S-1's. On July 27, 1953 he was at the end of the runway ready to go on his 86th mission when the armistice was signed. Although the war went on for another 12 hours his mission was cancelled due to weather. He returned to the states in August 1953. Semper Fi



**Doug Aitken and Dale Stevens, Pope AFB
Daedalians Flight Captain**

OV-10 BRONCO ASSOC. AND FAC MUSEUM GROUP SPEARHEAD EFFORTS TO BUILD A WORLD CLASS AVIATION MUSEUM. (Jim Hodgson) It's official...the Fort Worth City Council officially adopted the Strategic Plan for the Fort Worth Aviation Museum.

We have been a part of the Mayor's Task Force that developed the Strategic Plan that calls for a 135,000 square foot world class museum dedicated to telling the story of aviation and aerospace here in North Texas. That story goes back to 1908 and continues today and we are part of it. That 135,000 square feet will also include a 35,000 square foot restoration center and we will be part of that too.

The museum will cost \$115,000,000 and will be completed around 2016. The City of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History will also be prime players in this new institution.

We will have more news as we move forward, but thought you would like to know this much now.
"Good show" guys and thanks to everyone who continues to support the FACM and the OBA's efforts.

USAF F-4C AND NAVY SKYHAWK TO JOIN THE VETERAN'S MEMORAIL AIR PARK (Jim Hodgson.)
FORT WORTH, TX: The Veteran's Memorial Air Park (VMAP) recovered two static display aircraft from the Joint Reserve Base on Sunday, 20 September, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon at its facility at 3300 Ross Avenue in Fort Worth.

Both of these aircraft had been on static display at the air base since the late 1980's. Recently, both of these aircraft became available to the VMAP through an aircraft loan program with the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Florida.

The TA-4J Skyhawk was built by Douglas as a two seat trainer. This model also served as a Fast FAC, forward air control aircraft during the Vietnam War era. Prior to being put on display at the JRB, this "Scooter," number 158073, served with the US Navy and US Marine Corps in numerous locations, including Kingsville, Texas, many US locations, Cuba, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. Some of the squadrons this aircraft operated in include; Training Squadrons, 4,7,21,22, Navy Composite Squadrons, 1,5,8 & 10 and several others before its last active squadron, VX-5, in China Lake, CA.

The F-4C Phantom II (#64-0825) was built by McDonnell in 1965, it served with the 4520CCTW Nellis AFB, NV and the 4453CCTW Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. In 1966 it deployed to the 366TFW Da Nang AB, RVN where it remained in theater until 1970, also serving with the 12 TFW. It then returned to the States with the 479TFW & 35TFW at George AFB, CA. Next it was transferred to the 170TFS/183TFG Springfield ANGB, IL, the 142FIG Klamath-Falls ANGB, OR and finally last serving with the 301st TFW Carswell AFB, TX in 1987.

These two aircraft will become the sixteenth and seventeenth aircraft in the VMAP collection's air park. The VMAP has recently moved from its previous location on Meacham Field and now occupies five acres for aircraft display its museum and storage facility. The new museum is not yet open to the public while renovations are in progress. When open, in the next few months, the B-36 Peacemaker Museum along with the Forward Air Controller's Museum and the OV-10 Bronco Association will share the display space.

BOEING PITCHES OV-10X BRONCO FOR USAF LIGHT ATTACK.

Boeing confirms it has proposed building new OV-10s with upgraded avionics and weapons for the US Air Force light attack contract. Boeing provided the photo above, providing a glimpse of the new OV-10 concept. The image will surely be embraced by the Bronco's devoted following, who remember the aircraft's notably effective service in the Vietnam War.

The OV-10 could face competition from other Vietnam-era light attack aircraft, such as the Piper Aircraft PA-48 Enforcer. A new class of turboprop fighter-trainers, such as the AT-6 and



the Embraer Super Tucano are also vying for the contract. Alenia, meanwhile, plans to offer the jet-powered M346 trainer.

Boeing inherits the OV-10 Bronco's design rights from its purchase in the 1980s of North American Rockwell, the aircraft's original manufacturer.

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

From Joe Garand,

Claude, I just want you to know I have received your message of sympathy. Thank you for those kind words. I regret I will miss the reunion. I have so many things to take care of. People that knew her [Simonne] are calling and it's becoming overwhelming. Do you know, Bill Sleight's book 'It Still Hurts', well, now I get it. When Nancy sent me email giving us support while Simonne was going through her battle with cancer. The good part she didn't suffer as long as Bill did. The sad part she gone within two months. She wanted to die at home so the prayers from everybody did just that. I truly believe she has gone to meet the Lord a better place to be. I will get back to you. **Joe, Rustic 'echo' 71-72**

From Chip Bahr,

Hi Claude, Haven't seen you since Ft. Walton Beach (?year). I know we were at a FAC or Air Commando reunion & we chatted quite a bit. Will be good to have a Rustic FAC reunion in DC this year. My son is stationed at Ft Meade(Puzzle Palace) so my trip will be twofold.

Please send newsletter & paperwork to finally join. You've been after me for about 7-8 years now!!!! Was with Rustics & Night Rustics at Bien-Hoa in 1971. Maintenance, Crew Chief of 2 O-2's, Radio Operator & occasional Right Seat Spotter, when asked to go along. Was assigned to 19th TASS. Later on during the transition to Thailand, I stayed behind & did Quick Service turnarounds on the OV-10's for awhile until we became Sundog FACS with 21st TASS. You would never believe all the different TASS's & FACS I have worked with during my 4 years in Southeast Asia. 1969, 1970, 1971 & 1972, but all was in II & III Corps.

My partner here in Alamogordo was a Fast FAC out of Ubon or Udorn (F-4's) Larry Crumrine, Col (Ret) & we talk about the old FAC days in Southeast Asia. He was with the Laos Highway Patrol over "the trail" for a year. There are only 3 of us FAC types here in Alamogordo & we tip a few refreshments here at our local VFW, tell lies, as usual & sometimes get a little stupid, but we love it & we earned it. (wives take good care of us).

Looking out the screen at my 12 & can see the reunion!!! Will be good to chat with you again & all the others I haven't seen in years. Thanks **Chip**

From Bobbie Trotter

Dear **Mr. [Lendy] Edwards**, (Rustic 20, I presume), First of all, thank you for providing such a great service [Rustic website.] I was a Red Cross Donut Dollie assigned to Bien Hoa from August 1970 to January 1971. Many of the Rustics were great friends to me; I think about them all the time. After the Nam I joined the Air National Guard and frequently saw the Bronco. I would truly enjoy hearing from any of the guys that might remember me, but I would especially like to find Hank Keese and Jim Nuber. My maiden name was Lischak, my first name is Bobbie. I can be reached at: chiefbobbietrotter@msn.com. Thank you again, **Bobbie Trotter**

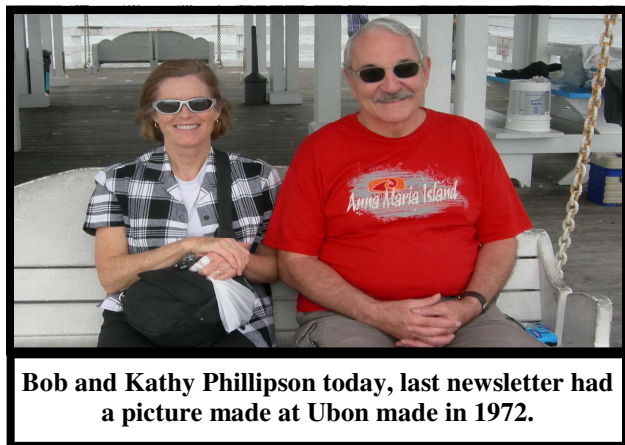
From Bob Phillipson, edradour1@earthlink.net

Hi **Lendy [Edwards]**, I was just surfing the web and came upon your name and e mail. I was known to you guys as Blackbird and was the fellow on the ground at Preah Vihear temple. I have a wonderful picture of the temple you all gave me signed by everyone, with **Ray Stratton's** signature in the middle when you all "nailed me" at some point prior to my rotation out in October 1973. Lendy, your signature is right next to Ray's signature. Is your association still going? I'll try and join you all for the reunion in DC. I am living in Fairfax, Virginia so it isn't much of a stretch to get to DC. We're a bunch of old farts now, but it should really be fun. I spent 27 years with The Company and my last tour

was Senior Intel Advisor to the CINC at Southcom. I never could get fully away from the military!!! Then I worked five years for Cluett Peabody Inc (Arrow shirts, gold toe socks etc) handling their international licensing. That lasted until the company was bought out by Van Heusen. Flunking retirement for the third time, I've been CEO of a start up. I may still get back to retirement! Where are you living and what have you been doing? Best regards, **Bob Phillipson**, aka blackbird.

From Tom Virnig, tertommy@comcast.net

Tah DAH! (6 Oct), I am home. A little dizzy and not sure-of-foot, but home. The big question is was that stupid polyp cancer. Nope.



Bob and Kathy Phillipson today, last newsletter had a picture made at Ubon made in 1972.

Would it have become cancer. Probably in about a year, yes. Nothing guaranteed, but yet, in about a year things would have been quite different. So, for all you slackers out there, get thy colon in to see your doctor for a colonoscopy because you definitely don't want those polyps to grow anymore than being easy for the doctor to remove during the colonoscopy. Catch the bastards early.

The only bad thing about a colonoscopy is the preparation (drinking a gallon of laxative within an hour). But once you get on the table, you won't remember anything that actually happened. It is a lot better than my alternative, have a piece of the colon removed.

The doctor made an 8 inch incision from my bellybutton straight up. One he located the correct portion of the colon he removed about 5 or 6 inches to make sure he doesn't miss anything in case the polyp is malignant. Then he sewed me back up and put me into a hospital bed (And they say water boarding is torture!) for a week to heal. Their concept of heal is you fart. If you can fart, then you can try food other than a drip though a tube into your blood system. And actually, when you get that fart you feel ever so much better. Then they give you "fluids": tea, broth, something that may be related to Jell-o, and maybe a juice. Nothing over 4 ounces each. If you are still alive after that, they continue on to "real food". They like a good joke now and then. My real food was a penne chicken tomato concoc-tion which was an insult to all Italian cooks the world over. Then the doctor decided I could go home. I did not argue. That is where I am now, Home!!!!

My fingers can't type worth a damn and can't spell either. I am dizzy, my stomach is sore, my brain is functioning at about 25%, but I am home. So, that is the status check for today. Love ya all for the cards and encouragement.

Tom and Lyn

From Samantha Baker Evans, (Kompong Cham, Cambodia)

Hi Lendy, here is the [Sunrise Ministries] mid-year report. I am so sorry about the mix-up and the delay in getting back to you. Please let us know if there is any other information that would be helpful to you. Thanks so much for your [the Rustics] support of Sunrise. I am inspired by what you guys do in the region (my dad is a Vietnam vet). Thanks, **Samantha**"

Note: The Sunrise end of year report has now been posted on the Rustic website.

From Roger Hamman

A new blog feature has been added to the "Air Force Together We Served" website that I belong to. I have pasted my contribution to the book **These Guys** by Trish Schiesser on my profile page (link is below) so that you may take a look at my Air Force profile and read my contribution, all in one visit. <http://airforce.togetherweserved.com/profile/393> (found in the "Blog entries" section), bottom, right of page.

Any comments, criticisms (good or bad) will be accepted in a constructive manner. Although I have begun writing my book, it's a long way from being done. Circumstances often occur giving me doubt as to whether the effort would be worth the gain.

Roger, don't quit writing! Yes, it will be worth it! This editor is also try trying to write his memoirs. Anyone else out there doing any memoir writing? Let us hear from you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

- 1) **2010 Cowtown Warbird Roundup, Ft Worth, TX, 20-23 May 2010**
- 2) **2010 All FAC Reunion. Ft Worth, Texas; Date TBD.**
- 3) **Next Rustic Reunion - 2012 at the All FAC Reunion. Tucson or Phoenix, AZ date and location TBA.**



BGen David H. Cyr, AF Deputy Chief of Chaplains and Nancy Sleigh



Lou Currier and Dave Van Dyke



Back Seaters L-R: Mike Gagne, Lunchbox Larson, Jack Otis



L-R: Helene Ellis, Jan and Bill (Deke) Decabooter Don Ellis and Sally Gabel



Our own Roger Dodd entertains the group once more



Department of Homeland Security Operations Center Tour

2010 Membership Renewal Form

_____ Enclosed are my 2010 Membership dues for the Rustic FAC Association. I'd like to stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic newsletter, and help support efforts to promote Rustic camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects.

_____ I'm not a member, but below is my information so we can stay in touch.

Name: _____ Spouses name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone () _____-_____
E Mail Address: _____ Rustic Call Sign: _____
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\$ _____

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Age: _____ Lifetime Membership Rates:

55 & younger \$ 250
56-60 \$ 225
61-65 \$ 200
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My age is: _____ \$ _____

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