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Rustic News

www.rustic.org



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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

I can't believe it has already been a year+ since we gathered in Fort Walton Beach for our 2017 Rustic Reunion. And time will surely fly toward our next reunion in Las Vegas in October 2019. Laura and I hope to see all of you then. Please start making your preliminary plans if you can meet us there. Our June 2019 newsletter will have the final details and registration information. **Shad Kimbell** is putting together a very interesting and fun agenda for all. See you there!!!

Your Rustic Board of Directors just completed the scheduled bi-annual Board meeting. The usual array of routine issues and discussions took place. Several "Open" items, such as our standardized tagging of historical Rustic photographs (discussed in this newsletter), etc., continue to be worked.

However, the Board addressed a time-sensitive issue before the Board's adjournment and sent it to every Rustic on 25 Sep for voluntary action. That issue is to continue Rustic support to Sunrise Ministries' efforts in Kompong Cham, Cambodia, in a time of need. Each of you should have received earlier my letter explaining the circumstances and challenging you for your support. The Rustics FAC Association was originally organized with one of its main purposes being to support appropriate charities in Cambodia. Here is a chance to continue that honored tradition.

In short, our goal is to raise \$10,000 by this year's end and the Rustic FAC Association will match the amount donated by its members. If you have not yet participated, please strongly consider it. Any amount is not too small. The original letter (below) explains the circumstances and provides our treasure's address for your contributions (all of which are eligible as tax-deductible). Our treasurer, **Jim Nuber**, reports, \$6,600 has been donated in the past two months since our initial appeal on 25 September 2018. That's a great start!



Johnny & Laura Drury and Bailey

Fellow Rustics and Friends,

Sep 25, 2018

Your Rustic Board would like to make you aware of the dire financial needs of Sunrise Ministries in Kompong Cham, Cambodia and how we might continue to help this important outreach.

THE NEED

Tom Capps, Rustic 12, recently learned of the financial situation at Sunrise Ministries when **Susan Smith** of Innerchange and her adopted eighteen-year old Cambodian daughter spent two nights with Tom and Peggy. The Sunrise budget for ten staff members has been \$115,000 in recent years. Most of this amount had been provided by two foundations, but both foundations have terminated support. One of these supporters ran out of funds; the other one decided to support a different entity. Sunrise is operating solely on savings accumulated by the director, **Darany Hang**, who has faithfully managed the entire ministry every year she has been in charge. These resources will run out in about six months. We don't know what the final solution for Sunrise may be, but the Rustics would like to help now where we can, and your support is needed.

THE REQUEST

If you are prone to pray for Sunrise, start with that. Pray that Darany and her staff will find a way to continue to serve the community while they wait for the lost income to be replaced and that the financial needs of Sunrise will be fully met.

If you have an interest in making a difference in the lives of Cambodians served by Sunrise, consider a large one-time gift or a recurring monthly gift, or both. You can make donations through the Rustics by sending them to our Rustic Treasurer, **Jim Nuber** (1439 Evening Shade, Prescott, AZ 86305-6432), earmarked for "Sunrise".

THE RUSTIC GOAL IS FOR THE MEMBERSHIP TO RAISE \$10,000 BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND THE ASSOCIATION WILL PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT FROM OUR TREASURER.

Additionally, if you know how to request grants or recurring gifts from charitable trusts or know anyone who can help us find replacement income for Sunrise, please contact **Tom Capps** at cappstom@gmail.com or 919-812-4848 and let us know what assistance is available.

The Rustic Board hopes you will take this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many Cambodians by supporting Sunrise. **Johnny Drury**, Rustic 12, President, Rustic FAC Assoc.

SUNRISE MINISTRY HISTORY

When the Rustics first connected with our friends in Cambodian ministries, we primarily supported two activities—House of Hope for young girls coming out of prostitution who were taught a sewing skill in hopes of keeping them out of the sex trade and secondly, the government run orphanage in KPC. When House of Hope was not able to keep the girls out of prostitution, this ministry shut down. Then, there were accountability problems in transferring money to state orphanage as well as difficulties in maintaining viable contact with the children. But, Sunrise Ministries, under **Darany Hang's** leadership has been able to keep a viable ministry operating as the needs of the people change.

Initially, Sunrise served as a hospice for HIV/AIDS patients. The success of this service is borne out as follows: 90% of HIV/AIDS patients in the local hospital died whereas 90% of HIV/AIDS patients in the Sunrise hospice were able to return home to their families. Sunrise provided the same medications and nutrition offered to hospital patients, but the tender care supplied by Sunrise created a vast difference in outcomes. When the government began offering free HIV/AIDS medication to the population, the need for the Sunrise hospice diminished. So, Sunrise found another way to help Cambodians with HIV/AIDS; they shifted into a community outreach mode. In this way, they not only help HIV/AIDS patients at home and in prison, they also render assistance to families, especially to children by providing school uniforms and tuition to pay teachers so children can attend.

Tom Capps visited House of Hope and Sunrise Ministries in 2005, 2007 and 2009. Initially, **Darany Hang** was an employee but then was put in charge of Sunrise. He reports "I have never seen a more capable ministry leader in all of my experience. Even though she is a single mother, she has demonstrated remarkable leadership and managerial skills in every responsibility. She is absolutely trustworthy, and she always gets the most benefit from the resources she manages. There are no credibility problems with Sunrise Ministries."

*Our thanks go to **Tom Capps** who prepared the above background information and history of Sunrise.*

NEXT RUSTIC REUNION. Las Vegas, NV, 1-4 Oct. 2019. Start making plans now to attend. **Shad Kimbell** is putting together a great line-up of events. A visit to Nellis AFB will include the Thunderbird museum, a visit at the 19th Weapon Squadron “Rustics”, a luncheon, and briefings on the Nellis AFB mission(s). Several local dinners and a Las Vegas show are on tap. Time for local sight-seeing is also available. The culminating event will be a Thursday evening banquet at the Tuscany.

Unlike past reunions, the 2019 reunion will be held during the week (Tues-Fri.) and not on a weekend. This allows us to take advantage of room rates that are about 50% of weekend prices.

The reunion hotel is the Tuscany Casino & Suites located at 255 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89169. Room rates will be \$79.00 per night plus tax (13.38%) for single or double occupancy. The normal nightly \$28.00 resort fee is being waved and parking will be free. If you elect to stay through the weekend (Fri or Sat. night), the room rate is \$ 139.00 per night, plus tax, single or double occupancy. Additional persons in the room over two (2) will be at twenty dollars per person, per night, plus room tax. Children twelve and under may share the same room with parents at no additional charge.

Attendees must call the Tuscany Room Reservations desk (877-887-2261) to make their own reservations. Ask for the “Rustic Reunion” rate or give them our Group Code “15C9PY.”



Reservations must be made no later than 9/15/2019 to get the Rustic reunion rate. Requests received after 9/15/2019 will be confirmed *on a space available basis at the prevailing rate.*

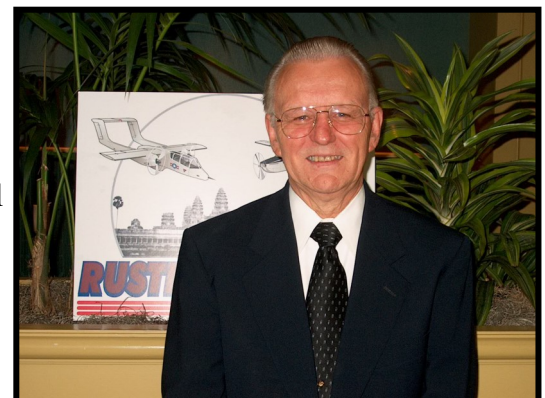
ANNUAL RUSTIC ROSTER. Everyone should have received a copy of our updated 2018 Rustic Roster with this newsletter. Added to this year’s roster is our Rustic Next-of-Kin roster. Please review both rosters. Any discrepancies should be passed along to our Database Keeper, **Lendy Edwards**, at lendy@cox.net or 850-651-6766. *Thanks for taking the time to review your entry.*

Those who have new addresses include: **Gary Ball, Roland Deshaies, Donald Dorr, Sharon Friedhofen, Mick Gibbar, Robert Jessup, Pierre Lavoie, Susan Van Dyke, Stanley J. Richie, and Lanny Trapp.** Some new additions have also been made to the Next-of-Kin roster.

RUSTIC INTERPRETER FOUND--Actually, he found us. Please welcome another new Rustic member, **Pierre Lavoie**. He spent a short time as a Rustic. He arrived in mid-February 1971. He flew with the Silver Fox, Rustic Arnie Sims, in the OV-10. Pierre recalls, “When flying with Arnie Sims on my first flight he de-moed an aileron roll and then had me do one. I had never flown an aircraft before. I was scared S.....! Norman Cimon and I arrived Bien Hoa together. I stayed less than a week or so and was transferred to Ben Thuy to work with the Tilly FACs and later to Tan Son Nhut where I was a Sundog. I cannot remember my Rustic call sign. My Sundog callsign was C.” Pierre and his wife, Nadia, live at 1201 Havasu Falls Ct., Rio Rancho, NM 987144, 505-414-5424, pierre_pl@hotmail.com. *Welcome Aboard.*

RON DANDENEAU TAKES FINAL FLIGHT. As reported earlier via email, **Ron Dandeneau**, Rustic Foxtrot, passed away 28 Sep following complications of open-heart surgery. A viewing was held Saturday, Oct 6, 2018 at the Advent Funeral Home in Falls Church, VA. An obituary is available at the funeral home’s website. Ron’s son, “Joe,” reported the funeral and burial will be at the Arlington National Cemetery at a date TBD. It might take a couple of months to get the burial date established and another several months for the actual burial. The family will keep us advised of the final dates.

Ron was one of the original eight Rustic interpreters recruited for the Rustic mission in June 1970. He served as the interpreter’s



NCOIC and oversaw the development of the interpreters' initial training program. The high standard he set for training our interpreters is part of his enduring Rustic legacy. Ron, two of his daughters and one son attended our 2017 reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL. Slow hand salute for a gentleman and patriot!



Pam Dandeneau Spires: "Our dad was SO proud to be a Rustic! Even his license plate reflected his pride."

Ron Dandeneau (L) at the Rustic's 2017 reunion, along with **Jerry Dufresne** (first interpreter to fly a Rustic OV-10 combat mission.)

HISTORIAN REPORT (Jon Safley). The project to return the Rustic books' source material and donated Rustic Memorabilia to their "rightful" Rustic owners is now complete. The source materials included transcripts and/or cassette tapes/CDs of the various Rustics' inputs that were used in developing the Rustic books. Their options were for me to: (1) return their source materials to them, (2) forward them to the Ft Worth Aviation Museum (FWAM, which includes the FAC Museum), or (3) destroy them.

In all, I dealt with 37 inputs and contacted the vast majority of the Rustics "rightful" owners. The majority of those contacted opted to have their inputs forwarded to the FWAM. For the inputs of those Rustics I could not contact, I forwarded their inputs to the FWAM.

In addition, I contacted the FWAM to determine what of our remaining memorabilia they would like to incorporate into their files. Their answer, "Send it all." Accordingly, I forwarded the remaining Rustic historical memorabilia to the FWAM this spring. Bottomline: all the memorabilia held by this historian is now in the archives at FWAM.

SHORT BURSTS:

Reunion CD Photo Project. Our thanks go to **Jim Seibold** who has mailed out a Photo CD to every Rustic. The CD contains photos of all our past reunions and each Rustic has the photos of themselves in their own separate photo folder. *Job well done, Jim!*

Mike Gagne, Rustic K, is planning a trip from his home in Chateauroux, France to New Orleans next year, 8-16 Oct 2019. If all goes well, the week prior, he will be at the Rustic reunion in Las Vegas.

Next A-37 Reunion, 28 April - 1 May 2019, Wichita, Kansas at the Historic Drury Plaza Broadview Hotel 400 W Douglas Avenue Wichita, KS 67202 Reservations: (800) 325-0720 Online: www.druryhotels.com, Group Code: 2348715. To register contact **Jerry Sailors** at jdsailors@charter.net. Our president plans to attend, contact Johnny Drury at 719-282-9100 or rustic04@aol.com. Can any other Rustics join him?

"Good Times, Bad Times." **Hank Keese**, Rustic 16, recently had one of his A-37 stories published in the A-37 Assoc.'s April 2018 newsletter, page 5. The article can be found at www.A-37.org. Hank flew with Bien Hoa's A-37 8th Attack Squadron before volunteering for the Rustics.

It's a Hard Life, but Somebody's Gotta do it. **Doc Thomas** reported on June 13. "Suffering on the Kenai River in AK through mid-August. Then to Oahu until November. It's hard."

Other World Travelers. **Don and Jin Hee Brooks** returned from a visit to the Baltic Region in mid-June. They flew to Stockholm where they boarded a cruise ship with stops in Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Riga, Gdansk, and Copenhagen. Quite a trip.

O-2A tail # 962 on static display at Shaw AFB. Two Rustics **Steve Hopkins**, and Rustic 34, **Mike Thrower**, flew 962 as a Rustic. Steve flew 11 missions in her and Mike flew seven. As reported in our June 2018 newsletter, 962 was rededicated May 4 to honor the service and sacrifice of the Red Marker Forward Air Controller Detachment members and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. *Any others have time in this bird?*

Additional Rustic War Stories. If you have any additional war stories or remembrances of SEA that you would like to share, send them to our editor, **Claude Newland**, at: rustic19@cox.net.

Laura Drury retired November 17 from a long career as an RN. She says she will now have more time for her grandchildren and making "Honey-Do" lists for Johnny."

ROCKET POD SEARCH FOR HURLBURT OV-10. **Claude Newland** and **Lendy Edwards** have contacted the Hurlburt Field Air Park Committee in an attempt to get two rocket pods installed on OV-10 #626 which is on display at Hurlburt Field. Both the O-1 and O-2 on display have rocket pods on them. This is a joint project with the FAC Association. To simplify matters, we have requested two pods that hold 7 rockets each, either LAU-59s (rocket heads extend out of pod's front) or Navy LAU-68s (rocket heads barely visible). The LAU-59 was in common usage at Bien Hoa. The LAU-68 became prevalent at Ubon.

A LOT OF DOWNSIZING IS GOING ON. Remember to update us on your new addresses when you move.

In July, **Susan Van Dyke** (gredepath@hotmail.com. (C) 913-207-9047) moved to 1902 West 139th St., Leawood, KS 66224. She "down-sized", just down the street from her previous home. She is doing well after last year's hip surgery and was disappointed the surgery prevented her from attending the 2017 Rustic reunion. She continues to work at the same job she has had for many years and plans to stay at least another year.

Sharon Friedhofen (C) 417-860-2246) reported she has moved to 305 East Peachtree Drive, Apt. 301, Nixa, MO 65714. Sharon says she is doing well but recently down-sized to a retirement community apartment.

Don Mercer, Rustic 41, is in the process of downsizing. He plans to stay in the general Tidewater area of Virginia. He says, "The cost of maintaining our house, landscaping, and keeping up with the yard has now far exceeded my tolerance level. Also, I have found that my hands no longer fit most yard implements! The money to be saved from such costs could easily cover a cruise or two."

Jon Safley reports he is also planning to make a move in the near future. (*Keep us updated.*)

FAC MEMORABILIA PRESERVATION. The Rustic FAC Assoc. and the FAC Assoc. are both "Last Man Standing" organizations. When we go ten-toes-up, our family members are going to have to decide what to do with all our Rustic/Air Force/FAC Memorabilia. Unfortunately, much of it may get trashed if specific guidance is not left with our family members. This is something we should all be thinking about.

Our Rustic historian, **Jon Safley**, is going to work in conjunction of a FAC Assoc. rep to develop a basic letter to be sent to each Rustic FAC and All-FAC member that allows them to instruct what needs to be done. This letter could be included in your Trust, Will, or final Instructions to your family. A cover letter to the basic instructional letter could list suggestions on how to fill out the "Instructional" letter and list several options for places to send memorabilia such as the FAC Museum, Texas Tech Vietnam Archives, Air Force Museum, etc. The truth is most items sent to large museums will never see the light of day, but they will be saved and archived.

A space could be provided in the "Instructional" letter for FACs to list specific items that should go to specific family member, etc.

If you have any suggestions as to what should/could be included in the "Instruction" letter, please contact **Jon Safley** at rdleader@77@verizon.com or 703-690-0034. Cleared Hot!

SAVING YOUR MEMORABILIA--HOW THE FAC MUSEUM CAN HELP. **Jim Hodgson**, txavi8or@gmail.com. Just for the sake of information, we, the Bronco Association, FAC Museum, et al, are in the process of proposing a partnership between our local college and Alliance Airport for a museum expansion. We are proposing a combination museum and aviation science center that has the potential to be the only academic aviation museum combination in the world. We are discussing a phased approach to a 50,000 to 80,000 soft facility over the next ten years; Cost \$30 - \$50,000,000. Tentative endorsement has been received from Congresswoman Kay Granger and from Gordon England. Gordon was the President of General Dynamics Fort Worth Aircraft Company. He was also Secretary of the Navy and Deputy Secretary of Defense, as well as the first Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. He is a friend of the museum and is one of our advisors

The FAC Museum will be a part of this institution. More details as they develop.

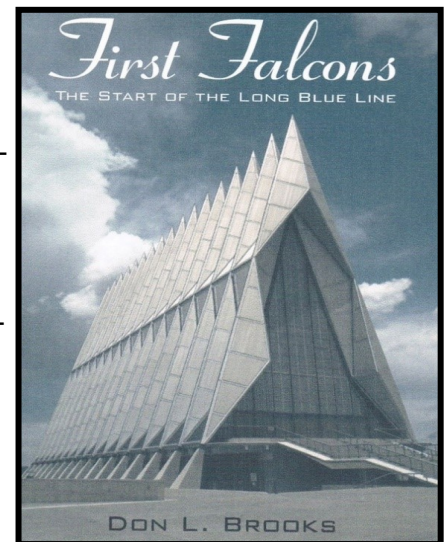
Note: *The A-37 Association as already addressed this issue. Their president, **Lon Holtz**, recently reported the A-37 Assoc. plans to send their memorabilia to the Robins AFB Museum of Aviation near Macon, Georgia. It is the second-largest aerospace museum of the United States Air Force and the fourth most visited museum in the Department of Defense. Additionally, it has one hangar dedicated to aircraft that served in Vietnam and has one of their A-37As (Tail #: CK 525) already on display. "This opportunity is like winning the lottery because we have been searching for a suitable location to exhibit our memorabilia for years without success."*

MARINE OV-10s BEING RESTORED. A group of folks at California's Chino Airport (KCNO) are committed to the restoration and continued support of flying the Bronco. The organization has received seven Marine OV-10 Broncos. The aircraft are being inspected for structural integrity and repaired to the highest standards of restoration. The fleet arrived from Fort Worth, Texas in January 2018. The OV-10 Squadron loaded six decommissioned aircraft onto a convoy of trucks. The aircraft made an epic 1,300-mile road trip from the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells, TX to meet up with the 7th OV-10D in the fleet at California's Chino Airport. The restoration specialists in Chino are the best-of-the-best in the warbird business and are some of the industry's last remaining experts in hand formed aluminum sheet metal, fabricating Plexiglas canopies, and rebuilding engines long out of service.

Please join us in this exciting project to build a small squadron of OV-10 Broncos for general aviation flying. The aircraft will be used in conjunction with the Mangic Foundation as well as commercial and airshow operations. Sign up and stay up to date with all the latest restoration news. And be sure to follow us on your favorite social platform.

DON BROOKS PUBLISHES THIRD BOOK. Many of you are aware of Don Brook's first published book, "Fly to the Sound of Battle," which was published in 2010. Well, Don is becoming a prolific writer. He recently published a second book titled "Flying in the BUFF" which recounts his years flying the B-52 in the Strategic Air Command. His third and most recent book, "First Falcons: Start of the Long Blue Line" is a compilation of memories of the U.S. Air Force Academy's first graduating class. Don is a member of that Class of 1959. Don explains, "I completed the book just in time for the recent Fifty-Ninth Reunion of my Air Force Academy Class of '59 and thought maybe some of you might like to have a copy as well. This isn't a historical book, but rather a collection of memories, both mine and those of some of my classmates, of events that took place during those first four years. Some are sad, some funny, and some ironic, but hopefully all are interesting."

All three books are available at www.lulu.com in both hardcover and electronic formats. Just logon and "search" author's name, "Don L. Brooks."

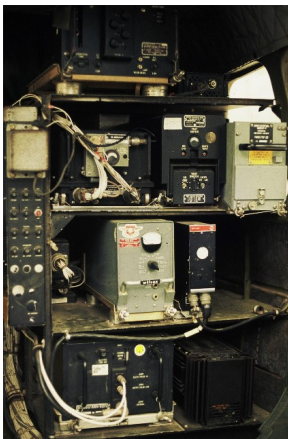


0-2A RESTORATION INFORMATION NEEDED. The Wings Over the Rockies Air Museum at the old Lowry AFB in Denver needs some advice/intel on a 0-2A restoration project they are doing. The museum is well on the way to having a completely restored 0-2A, tail # 86877, ready for dedicated at the upcoming 2020 FAC reunion in Denver, CO.

The restoration team, headed by Nolan Hargrave, is not sure what exact radios and equipment go in each slot in the radio rack in the back of the aircraft. Do you have any advice on what goes in the radio rack? They recently received a copy of the T.O that covers what goes where, but things are still being figured out. Any help would be appreciated.

The team has a starlight scope to display with the plane, but they are still looking for a set of gyro-stabilized binoculars. Do any of you know where Nolan can acquire gyro-stabilized binoculars?

If you can help, please contact Nolan at: nolan1947@hotmail.com or 303-717-9494.



THUNDER FROM DOWNUNDER--OV-10 # 639 RESTORATION. Aussie **Ken Semmler** Issue 28.

Ah, 'tis with thanks and delight that we're able to report that the work on 639 by the Australian War Memorial is proceeding apace. It's 18 months since Mrs. Laura Kennedy the AWM Conservation Manager and Kim Wood the ace bender and mender, visited the ever-supportive OBA team at Fort Worth, CAL FIRE and Marsh Aviation at Mesa. Early this year Woody, armed with a shopping list, returned to the US with the focus on Marsh Aviation. Our late friend Floyd Stilwell had accumulated a host of OV-10 components and Woody was able to tick most of the boxes on the shopping list. The next slice of good news relates to the RAAF cooperating 'above and beyond' in that one of our C-17s collected the precious container and brought it back to 'Oz'. Woody and his team have been busy!

It's well worth noting that recently there's been a burst of activity which is adding to the history and significance of 639.

Greg Freix, an Issue and Rustic FAC has, in addition to that mentioned in the 639 history as compiled and presented to the AWM by Darrel Whitcomb in 2008, supplied more detail and lays a fair claim to it being 'his' aircraft. Greg flew his last combat mission in 639 and his last flight as a USAF pilot was in, yes you guessed it, 639! Amazing stuff! This was in July 1991 and only a few months before it was transferred to the Philippines.

With restoration well underway, the AWM invited the 'Oz' FACs to Canberra to view progress. This was on 20 July and a great group made the pilgrimage, this including O-1, O-2 and OV-10 FACs as well as those who flew the F-4. Recently one of the latter attended a reunion in Tucson of those who had flown out of Phu Cat. In yarning, one thing led to another and he discovered some of his mates had subsequently flown OV-10s out of Sembach in Germany. Guess what? 639 was one of the aircraft flown!

It's just over 20 years since our quest for an OV-10 began and while we do not know a completion date, we trust that soon there'll be a target. In closing we again pay tribute to Jim Hodgson, Chuck Burin and many others who continue to contribute. The AWM staff have stated that the interest and support given has exceeded anything before experienced regarding a restoration project. On behalf of all in 'Oz', **Ken Semmler**

FRANK SOVICH, RUSTIC 36--WHO KNEW? **Frank Sovich** is perhaps the only Rustic who has flown both the O-2A and the OV-10 extensively. He flew the O-2A at Bien Hoa from June 70 to April 71. The attached OV-10 photo is the aircraft Frank flew at Hurlburt Field in 1972-73. He explains, "I had just checked out as an instructor pilot (IP) at the 547th TASTS [at Hurlburt] as the first O-2 IP to transition to the OV-10 to get turbo-prop time in order to qualify for a fighter assignment. I got my first student, then got a call from assignments to come and pick up my orders for an assignment to Minuteman Missiles!!! I drunk A LOT of beer that day!!

Frank had two more Air Force assignments that involved the OV-10. After completing Maintenance officer school and a two-year stint as MX officer for the 405 TFW at Luke AFB, he was the Chief of Maintenance for the 27th TASS at George AFB from 1986-1988. He explains, "I was chief of maintenance for a squadron of the 'ratiest' OV-10's on the planet. They had been stationed at Sembach, Germany and came back to the USA in mass in the summer of 1984. God knows the airplanes did not meet TAC standards for maintenance.

"TAC built one brand new squadron out of what had been three in Germany and called it the 27th TASS.

A full Col was in command with an ops guy who had over 100 pilots and ME -- Chief of Maintenance with around 100 airplanes. We had 'NO' personnel. Some came back with the airplanes. Most were 'scrounged' from the F-4 Weasel Wing at George where we built the 27 TASS. It was a 7day/12-hour environment -- at least for ME. Two years later, the first sentence on the IG report read---"BEST MAINTENANCE UNIT SEEN TO DATE"!!!



OV-10 #639 being restored in Australia



Frank Sovich's helmet is in front of the OV-10 he flew at Hurlburt Field. He was quick to point out the O-2As in the background.

“Every one of my shops got an “Excellent” or “Outstanding” -- to include the AMU! Col Syptak said to me, “Frank come back to TAC HQ with me and you will make Colonel. My response, “Naw, I think I’ll take the wife and four kids and go to Hawaii and be the 25th Infantry’s senior ALO. I was told, “Frank, if you do this you will NOT make Col,” but I said, “I’ll take my chances SIR, thanks anyway! Well, he was RIGHT---I was wrong.”

Departing George AFB, Frank served as the Senior Division Air Liaison Officer (ALO) of the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks and Wheeler AFB in Hawaii. He goes on to say, “I had a class date for an OV-10 long course at Patrick AFB in the summer of 1986. The long course was needed because I had not flown since 1981 when I returned back to the states to attend Command and Staff school. I was really looking forward to some quality time with family after two ‘hard years.’ I knew I could fly the airplane and do the FAC stuff, so the course would have been fun!

“Well, things are never that simple. Next thing I know, I get a ‘panic’ call from the assistant 326 AD/CC on-scene in Hawaii begging me to come ‘immediately.’ The present senior ALO had been hired by American Airlines and was getting out immediately. There was no ALO, and an IG Inspection was due in 90 days. But, there was also the promise of a local checkout instead of my Patrick Long course. Like a fool, I agreed and left for Hawaii almost immediately.

“WELL, it was a BIG Mistake. They jacked me around, ‘forever’ before I threatened an IG visit. I finally got my checkout, flew around ‘Paradise,’ shot rockets at Kooalave (before they put it off limits), and flew approaches to Barking Sands -- IT WAS REALLY ‘NEAT’!

“Then the TASS started sending their OV’s permanently to Osan, Korea; as they began to ‘draw down.’ Flying opportunities got slim, so I pulled the plug. But, amongst the turmoil, the Army, the IG, etc., I did get to create one more great unit.

“My last assignment was perhaps not my smartest pick, but only God knows! After being passed over I officially retired at Whiteman AFB on 1 Jan 89 -- 30 years ago this Jan! BUT on 3 July 1989 I was sitting in Denver in a UAL new hire class, so I am a BIG believer in “Get the hell out of the way---only GOD knows!”

RUSTIC & ALL-FAC PHOTO RESERVATION PROJECT. The Rustic FAC Assoc., in conjunction with the FAC Assoc., is working to establish a standardized “tagging” system to label all our FAC photos. This will allow future researchers to search our archives for specific photos by subject, name, etc. The good news—**Rustic Ned Helm** has already preserved many of our Rustic photos in individual Rustic folders for each Rustic who submitted their photos to him for preservation. Most of these photos are already “tagged” but the tags do not contain all the information that will be sought in the new standardized tagging format.

Once the standardized “tag” format has been established, we will return each person’s photos to them and ask them to tag each of their photos in accordance with the standardized format. If you have photos that need to be added, you can add them. The new tagging system will be fairly simple, so don’t let this project scare you. Standby for more news.

Currently, we have photo folders for: **Aitken, Baker, Berent, Carruthers, Caywood, Cooper, Dahle, Dandeneau, Decabooter, Deshaise, W. Dodd, Echelberger, Edwards, Ernst, Freidhofen, Gabel, Garand, Gaskill, Green, Hamann, Harshaw, Hawker, Hellwig, Helm, Hopkins, Keese, Kilo, Kiraly, Larson, McClellan, Murphy, Newland, Robertson, Scaling, Seibold, Sims Spencer, Storer, Thomas, Trapp, Van Dyke, Van Kirk, Wilson and Yarborough.**

If you have Rustic photos that need to be preserved, please contact **Ned Helm** at rus-ticfac15@gmail.com or 931-752-8102. Ned can scan all your photos and will return them to you.

THE LAST DAY OF THE SEA WAR--AND THE DAY AFTER. **Darrel Whitcomb, Nail 70.** Yep, I do remember that day, 15 AUGUST 1973. After the last Rustic/Nail OV-10 four-ship pitched out and landed at Ubon, we fired up the BBQ and proceeded to burn and consume dead beef (I think). Anyway, some of the guys started to drink. Later that day, a serious whisky/tequila/gin/Sing Ha front rolled through, and well, some of the things that happened were disappointing.

There were rumors that select groups ‘visited’ some of the other squadrons and said unkind and certainly unprofessional things. I do remember that our commander, **Howie Pierson** was just shocked - SHOCKED at some of the reports and declared that he was going to look into those reports with stern letters to follow. I do remember that he was upset about the report that somebody wearing a 23rd TASS patch had urinated in an inappropriate area. He wanted us to discover who stole our squadron patches.

I had nothing to do with that truck and was just disgusted at what had apparently happened. **Randy Roberts** concurred. However, I do confess that I was there when some banana trees were uhhhh - trimmed.

Then there was the guy who was taped to the pole. He was one of the AC-130 navigators and well, what can you say?

I was proud of the Rustics. They had a quiet evening of cookies and milk and somebody gave a neat lecture on proper military decorum followed by some nice singing. Such a wholesome lot, obviously the cream of the 23rd TASS. Perfect propriety (*Editor: I'll bet there is another side to this store.*) I do recall the next morning that many of us had just a little problem with breakfast.

Then we went down to our Ops building to see what was going on. The scheduling board which usually was full of names and take off times only had four sorties designated--all ferry flights back to NKP. And I remember, we looked at each other and said, "What do we do now?" ...Sweet youth.

AIRCRAFT LOSSES OF THE VIETNAM WAR. Wikipedia. All told, the U.S. Air Force flew 5.25 million sorties over South Vietnam, North Vietnam, northern and southern Laos, and Cambodia, losing 2,251 aircraft: 1,737 to hostile action, and 514 in accidents. 2,197 of the losses were fixed-wing, and the remainder rotary-wing. The USAF sustained approximately 0.4 losses per 1,000 sorties during the conflict, which compared favorably with a 2.0 rate in Korea and a 9.7 figure during World War II. Among fixed-wing aircraft, more F-4 Phantoms were lost than any other type in service with any nation, 445 total and 382 in combat. F-100 Super Sabre losses--243 total, 198 in combat; First loss: 1964, final loss: 1971. A-37 Dragonfly losses--22 total; First loss: 1967, final loss: 1972. The great majority of U.S. combat losses in all areas of Southeast Asia were to AAA.

FAC losses:

- O-1 Bird Dog—172 total, 122 in combat; First loss: 1963, Final loss: 1972
- O-2 Skymaster—104 total, 82 in combat; First loss: 1967, Final loss: 1972
- OV-10 Bronco—63 total, 47 in combat; First loss: 1968, Final loss: 1973

NADY TAN UPDATE.

Many of you know the story or how Cambodian Air Force commander **Nady Tan** saved his family after the fall of Cambodia. The complete story is in Chapter 8 of our Rustic book. Nady eventually returned to Cambodia and served as the country's chief civil servant until he retired several years ago. **Doug Aitken** reports: "I got this pic from **Sarady Tan**, Nady's son, whom you might recall is a USAF O-6 Flight Surgeon. After finishing National War College, Sarady was assigned to NSA, and sent me an e-mail wishing us Happy Thanksgiving along with the news that he has received orders back to Lackland AFB for 2019. You might recall that Lackland was where he and his family settled with Carol and I after Cambodia fell. I asked how Nady was doing and he sent this pic. Pretty good it looks like!" Doug



Nady Tan with two nieces next to him. His caretaker, Linda, is at the far left.

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

From John Dandeneau (son of Ron Dandeneau) john_dandeneau@hotmail.com

Hi Johnny [*Drury*], Thanks for the note you sent to my sister Patty. My dad was so proud of the two books he contributed to that covered the Rustics. You are all heroes. I remember not really understanding what he did until the missions were declassified many years later. Those books were a way for him to share with us the important role you all played and allowed him to be publicly proud of something that he had to keep quiet for so long.

From Doug Robertson, Rustic Radio, 71-72 (FACNET)

On July 31, 1971 I boarded a worn-out Boeing 707 bound for Viet Nam from Travis AFB. I have to say that my time spent as a radio operator for the Rustic's was definitely THE highlight of my military career and in

life in general. It was a pleasure talking to many in the skies of Nam, Cambodia, and Thailand. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. While I was on Nui Ba Den mountain, I got a Spectre diverted to us when we reported a convoy heading south out of Cambodia and could see lights flickering on the mound that was to the side of NBD. The Spectre was orbiting low to us when it expended it's mini-guns which was one sight and sound I will never forget. If nothing else, it put on a good show for the troops and I'm sure it spoiled their party down the hill from us.

From Ned Helm, rusticfac15@gmail.com (FACNET)

Every time I look at an OV-10 I just smile. Even though I went to F-4s later in my somewhat truncated career, it never had the place in my heart that the OV has. I see sunrises over Nui Ba Den (way to the east on a seriously clear day when I was astro-facing my way down south well above 10K) and Sunsets over the Tonle Sap. In Europe I saw the Alps on the way to Aviano, Italy, the Pyrenees on the way to Zaragosa, Spain, and the English Channel on the way to a meeting at Bentwaters. I recall scenic rides down the Germany's Rhine river below the ridges, the South Korean Koon-ni Range and landing on the Seoul Pusan Highway, Cleared Hot, and watching the rescued Aardvark crew waving from a Red Eagle (Khmer Huey Gunship) door in Cambodia. And, of course, "The FAC is in to mark!"

As some Old Head FAC said to the new Lt, "Never in your Air Force career will you ever exercise such power and have such authority to you do now. From here, it is downhill all the way to retirement." How true. Thank you for restoring another veteran. (Does anyone have the exact quote that I paraphrased above?) Crash

From Gary Ball, Rustic 13, emailbag80@gmail.com

Hello Claude, thank you for your email. It's nice to hear from you. In July 2017, I followed God's call and moved from Trier, Germany, to Monument, CO and enrolled in Liberty University Online Divinity School. Since January, I'm on course for a bachelor's in religion to add to my BS and MS degrees in other disciplines. Also, I am regularly in contract with Embry-Riddle instructing aeronautics online and am connected with Springs Church, so, I have a full life. If I took on any other commitments, I'd have to give up something currently on my plate. Blessings, **Gary Ball**

From Jerry Dufresne, Rustic I

I recently attended a fund raiser for Outdoors for our military heroes. They take wounded GI's hunting and fishing. I donated some numbered prints that raised \$150.00 and Roselyn's afghan got an amazing bid of \$650.00 during the auction. It helped that the afghan was hand-made and was red white and blue We think it was bought by a large corporation group. Over the years, Roselyn has made and donated over 1,200 baby blankets for the Navy Marine Corp Relief Society Layette Program in San Diego. She was awarded a 50- thousand-hour volunteer recognition plaque from them. She has also donated over 500 handmade larger lap blankets to various VA hospitals and has given away many scarfs for the homeless. *Wow, Roselyn and Jerry, good on ya! Keep up the good work!*

From Joe Garand, Rustic E (*We heard Joe had broken his hip several months ago. Here's an update.*)

Hi Claude, Yes, I did have an episode of broken hips. I think the first time I fell was in June of 2016. I fell in my driveway and ended up in the hospital. The x-ray showed I had a broken left hip at the joint. Subsequent x-rays showed a fracture.so, we let it heal itself which took longer. In 2017 it was the right hip in...there you go. I fell and broke the leg bone completely off the joint. That said, I needed pins installed in the joint to connect to the leg bone. That last fall happened inside the house close to front door with easy access to making a 911 call.

The VA bought me an expensive walker for having Parkinson's, which I have been using. Best of all, I had the pleasure of having beautiful women (most of them married with children) come to our home as my therapist. I forget to tell you, I also had to go to rehab twice.

Today, Sunday, I attended church service with the family without my walker, a four-probe cane that stands on its own. **Roger Hamann**, bless his soul, he wants to take me to a Rustic reunion. I would have gone to a lot more when I think about it, but I can't walk strait or talk with a decent speech. Hey! I could have dropped over in North Vietnam or Cambodia and never have seen home again. All's well that ends well! I'm ever so grateful to God, country, family, and friends who I can see any time I wish. (*Joe, glad to hear you are on the mend!*)

From Doug Aitken, Rustic 16

Ron Barlow is an Aussie living in CA and a good friend of my brothers. He is an aviation enthusiast and he and I have shared many emails over the years. I gave him a copy of our book and he sent out a recent review to his friends (below). I also just ordered one for Sarady Tan, Nady Tan's son who an Air Force flight surgeon. Geez, I also sent copies to two relatives and an old AF buddy. Egads, I should get a commission! Cheers, Doug

Ron Barlow's review of Rustic book:

The OV-10 "Bronco" was specifically designed as a Light Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft for low altitude tactical support. It was built by North American Aviation and powered by two Garrett Air Research turboprop engines. A total of 305 were built. 157 went to the USAF. The balance went to the Marines and Navy. The aircraft served admirably over the skies of Cambodia and Vietnam, and was flown by very brave airmen.....and if you spoke any school boy French, you virtually got yourself a job as an OV-10 jockey or interpreter!

In June of this year **Doug Aitken** (Rustic 16) gifted me the book "The Rustics" (A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia) which he and fellow Rustics describe their history as Forward Air Controllers during the period 1970-1973. Without doubt...THE BEST BOOK I have ever read, of the virtually untold stories of this era.

On this eve of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank Doug, and all the men and women mentioned in this book for their outstanding bravery and dedication. This fabulous aircraft now does an incredible job of fighting California wildfires from the air! Long live the Bronco!!



CALENDAR:

1. **A-37 REUNION**, Wichita KA, 28 Apr-1 May 2019. All FACs invited.
2. **RUSTIC FAC REUNION**, Las Vegas, NV, 1 Oct- 4 Oct 2019
3. **OV-10 #639, DEDICATION CEREMONY**, Australian National Memorial Military Museum, Canberra, Australia, 2019, date TBD. This aircraft was flown by many Rustics.
4. **ALL FAC REUNION**, Denver, CO, Fall 2020, date TBD. This reunion will be held in conjunction with a FAC aircraft fly-in and dedication of an O-2 being restored at the Wings Over the Rockies Air Museum at the old Lowry AFB in Denver.



Wishing You All a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year