



The Soldier's Home original bell was manufactured by Howard's Bell Company, Troy, New York was installed in 1868.

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Sherman Clock On Time Again

By Ray Colvard (W)

One can compare, if not equate, the renovation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home - Washington's Sherman Building to the rebirth of the bird of myth's rise from its ashes to the freshness of youth. The Sherman Building was not in ashes, but was mired in a century of neglect and decay. In the ruins in recent years one saw the part of Barton Alexander's masterpiece in the now, Sherman South. Under the modified central tower can be envisioned the original open platform, lookout and signal station. One will also see the faces of the clock installed in 1868. The Board of Commissioners ordered a New York clock-maker to "put up a clock at Soldiers' Home, having four dials equal in quality with the

one put up by him at the Military Academy, West Point, New York."

Even before the clock was installed, the tower had historic importance. The two-story building stood on the highest point of the grounds of the Home, 328 feet above sea level. The tower rose another 115 feet. It was used during the Civil War to observe maneuvers of Confederate forces near the city of Washington. In the summer of 1864 President Lincoln and other government officials climbed the tower to observe a demonstration of signaling from the tower to the roof of the Smithsonian Institution Building. Later that summer Confederate General Jubal Early moved to capture the Union's capital city. He reached Fort Stevens, two miles north of the

Soldiers' Home. General Early wrote in his memoirs that, "We could not move to the right or to the left without being discovered from the signal station on top of the Soldiers' Home which overlooked the country, and the enemy would have been enabled to move its works to meet us."

It seems difficult to understand why the Home's Board of Commissioners voted to enclose the signal platform in 1869, and other Boards over the next two decades put another fifteen feet of concrete and masonry on top. By 1889 an annex building and large north wing had been connected to the original structure and a third story had been imposed on the tri-partite Scott, Annex and Sherman Buildings. Since 1954, the com-

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AFRH COMMUNICATOR

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The AFRH Communicator is an authorized publication of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

Residents and employees are encouraged to submit photos, art, news items, and features. Materials will be edited by The AFRH Communicator staff for journalistic style and length.

Editorial views and opinions expressed in these pages are

not necessarily those of AFRH or the leadership of each Home.

Please be aware that any mistakes in this publication are there for a purpose; we publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for errors.

Throughout the newspaper AFRH-G input will be donated as (G) and AFRH-W as (W).

AFRH Editors Column



The other day when we heard about the Clock Tower project at AFRH-W, and it made many of us sad that the old clock was being removed. However, this was only until we found that the clock was still there with new works.

How good it was to hear the clock chimes sound again after the repairs had been completed. Not only

did they sound again, but, *most unusual*, the hours sounded were in agreement with the actual time.

The clock chimes grow familiar. The ones I listen most for, perhaps subconsciously, are the 2100 hour chimes which start the quiet hours and the 0600 hour chimes which start our day. Having looked at the breakfast menu the evening before, we already know whether to get up or sleep awhile longer.

The melodies played with the musical chimes grow on you. You notice them only when they are absent. They are a secondary way of telling what time of day it is. Perhaps these sounds are more meaningful to our vision impaired comrades, since they too now know the time-of-day.

Early one morning, while enjoying a cup of java and cereal in our "...snack bar without coin slots..." I got in conversation with a fellow resident about computer classes. He was interested in continuing education in web site design.

My own interests in this area led me to joining the International Webmasters Association (IWA). This organization provides numerous online classes covering subjects relating to web site design. For your information here is a couple of URLs used by IWA. The first, "<http://www.iwanet.org/>" is the administrative URL. The second, "<http://www.iwanet.org/profdevel/>" deals with the many courses and certifications they offer. Enjoy!

"Old Acquaintances Are Not Forgotten"



Many Home residents here in DC will fondly remember our former and first PAO Kerri J. Childress. You see above Pat Childress, Kelly Childress, and Kerri Childress, and Alan Johnson, Kerri's guy, is standing.

Kerri's son, Pat, and daughter, Kelly, *who most of remember as kids*, are grownups now. We recall the many times they were here with Kerri. It's like they're our own.

So — what's happening with the Childresses? Well, Kerri [still a dynamo] is now Director of Communications for the Veterans Health Administration. Pat is in his last year at Virginia Tech. Kelly, *still interested in politics*, is a lobbyist with the American Heart Association. Alan teaches at West Potomac High School in Fairfax.

For years there has been continuing interest in the status of the parcel of land that the Catholic University wanted to annex for next to nothing. Now that this issue is essentially closed you should know, that Kerri was the sparkplug behind the winning opposition to CU's plans from all the veterans' organizations

Kerri says, "...rarely a day goes by that I don't think about the Home and remember my friends with love..."

AFRH NEWS

Message from the Chief Operating Officer

I am pleased to announce that the sale of the two beachfront properties adjacent to our Gulfport facility was finalized on January 12, 2004. The beach-front acreage was sold to Messrs. Gene and Brent Wars, local Mississippi businessmen, for just under \$1 million dollars.

The decision to sell this property was based on the fact that the AFRH Facility Master Plan for the Gulfport facility did not require us to possess the beachfront acreage/homes in order for the Gulfport facility to achieve its mission and accomplish its planned growth.

Prior to the sale, we formally notified the Department of Defense (DoD), as required by law, and the DoD then made the required 120-day notification to Congress which was also required

by law. The 120-day Congressional notification period expired in early December and we were given the "green light" to proceed with the sale of the property.

The entire profit gained from this transaction will be placed directly into the AFRH Trust Fund to further support our distinguished residents.

Regarding the sale of the 49 acres on the Washington campus, another Court date has been scheduled for February 12. I continue to be optimistic that we will bring closure to this transaction this Spring.

Timothy Cox
Chief Operating Officer

A Very Special "Thank You" to Our Friends at COSTCO Wholesalers

By Nancy Duran (AFRH)

In November 2003, we received a phone call from Ms. Tonya Mitchell and Mr. Dean Roberts from the Northeast Region of COSTCO Wholesalers. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Roberts stated that the management and employees of COSTCO Wholesalers wanted to do something special for the residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home for the 2003 Holiday Season. The COSTCO representatives asked if there were any particular items that our residents could use. On their first visit to the Home, the fine folks at COSTCO delivered six large television sets, a mountain of flannel shirts, an assortment of articles of clothing, socks, cookies, etc. And then, to our surprise, another call came from Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Roberts stating that they wanted to make another visit to our Home just days before Christmas.

The second visit was to deliver two additional large televisions, over a thousand pairs of Hanes underwear, fleece warm-up suits, Redskin tee shirts (hold on to them, cause next year the "Skins" will be going to the Super Bowl!), a lighted Christmas tree and a large number of winter coats for our residents.

We would sincerely like to thank Tonya, Dean, and all the fine folks at COSTCO for their truly OUTSTANDING support to the residents of our Home. We would also like to especially thank Mr. Joseph Portera who is the Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer for the East Coast of COSTCO Wholesalers for his personal support to our Home.

The AFRH is extremely fortunate to have the employees and management of COSTCO Wholesalers as our friends and supporters.



Thankful, "Chuck" Dickerson, Chief Resident Services; Jo Colvard, RAC(W) Member; and Bob DeVaney, Chair RAC(W).



Partnerships Bring Big Smiles: Medical staff personnel along with Dr. Rader, Capt Ulmer, Tonya Mitchell, Dean Rovers, Robert DeVaney and Jo Colvard enjoy this special moment.

AFRH-G NEWS

Office of the Director

Silver is a graceful color, and very much unlike the remaining colors of the rainbow. Our natural inclination, however, appears to lean toward the other hues as symbols of power, truth, excitement, tranquility, etcetera. And, this inclination just might be more gratuitous than reasonable.

As with colors, there is a tendency to assign certain values to youth and the appearance of youth, at the expense of intrinsic values on the other side of the coin. We reminisce longingly about our earlier years while dismissing the knowledge and experience we've since acquired. Moreover, we bestow honor and confer special treatment upon those who appear to be reeking with youthful vitality. The fact that we will eventually become victims is the unfortunate downside to this behavior pattern.

Having a head full of hair that is nei-

ther gray nor white is hardly the basis upon which to make a meaningful decision about someone, for crying out loud. Sure, aging is most likely accompanied by physical change, and it is not unusual for such changes to require appropriate adjustments. However, wit and wisdom usually takes over and enables us to continue forward in comfortable fashion. It is the human spirit that should be the bond to unite us and engender lasting, harmonious progress.

Whether their relationships with others are active or passive, elders are uniquely attractive because of the congeniality, perspective, knowledge and generosity that they invariably possess. For this reason, I am grateful for this opportunity to walk and serve among those of you whose crowns are nestled within.

CAPT Jerald Ulmer

Economics

By Byron Dennis (G)

I wish I had the intelligence to understand the reasoning of Government economics. For instance, when I came to the AFRH (formerly and still U.S. Naval Home to many), there was a set of rules. I had to be either retired from the service or have battle stars, had to have a physical beforehand and be in reasonably good health, like being able to climb stairs and such, pay according to income, with a maximum of \$800.00 per month. The AFRH-Gulfport was doing fairly well in the financial department - apparently not good enough, according to the powers-that-be. It seems to have been decided that rules are for fools and the solution is to fill up the place with people. So, we start scouring the woods for people, regardless of whether they can pay or not, or what shape they are in. I'm sorry to be ignorant, but this reasoning escapes me. It's like the old guy at the Farmer's Market in Jackson, who was going down to Smith County and paying \$2.00 for watermelons, hauling them to the market and selling them for \$2.50. Business was good of course, but when a friend reminded him that he was losing money, he replied, "Yeah, I know, but I've got it all figured out. I've got to get a bigger truck."

AFRH-G Elects New Resident Council Chairman

By Doug LeMere (G)

William "Bill" Stewart was elected as the new chairman for the Resident Council in Gulfport. Bill has already hit the ground running with a trip to Washington, DC, working with other residents in the development of new council policies and procedures for both homes.

"The trip was great," said Bill. "We worked to resolve issues for the common direction of both homes."

"I've met with 50% of the RAC already," he said. "The outlook looks good."

Bill Stewart's term we run through September - when we'll have new elections.



William Stewart, Resident Council Chairman at AFRH-Gulfport takes over as Chairman until September 2004.

New Wheels on AFRH-W Campus

The Washington campus residents are now benefiting from new bus service provided by the Martz Group (Gold Line/Gray Line). The new service, which started on January 24, 2004 operates full shuttle service throughout the campus and to offsite locations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Veteran's Hospital and the Washington Hospital Center.

Please review the new schedule located on the bulletin boards throughout the dormitory areas.

Office of the Deputy Director

Resident Fund and Advisory Council Improvements!

This past few months, several efforts have been undertaken to improve how the Resident's Fund is managed and how the Resident Advisory Council (RAC) performs their daily mission on Armed Forces Retirement Home * Washington.

The first effort is the development of a Resident Fund Advisory Board (RFAB) which is part of a draft AFRH instruction on the Resident Fund. The draft Resident Fund instruction calls for having the Deputy Director and three other AFRH staff members plus the RAC Chairman and three Resident Representatives to be voting members on the RFAB. There are also three non-voting staff members designated. The agenda for the RFAB meetings will be built from a combination of the distilled minutes from the RAC meetings where expenditures are discussed, financial reports, investments, non-funded and unbudgeted items, revenue and expenditures.

The Resident Fund may derive income from any lawful sources other than

through appropriated government funds. Sources of permissible income include, but are not limited to, commissions on retail vending sales, operation of on-site concessions, fees from any facility activity or service for which user charges are authorized, profits from facility-sponsored resale items and consignment fees. Expenditures will be made according to the purpose of the Fund. The Chief Operating Officer's approval of the annual operating budget, or an amendment to that budget, conveys approval to expend funds. Any expenditures not approved in the annual operating budget or an amendment to that budget, must be reviewed by the RAC and then approved by the Deputy Director, Director, or Chief Operating Officer depending on the dollar value of the expenditure.

The actual make-up of the RAC is also under review through the development of another draft instruction. The proposed make-up includes the RAC Chairman, a maximum of two floor representative from each floor, one Ombudsmen for every 50 Residents in Assisted Living and Long Term Care, a Recording Secretary and

Master at-Arms (non-voting members). There will also be alternate representatives subject to their availability, who will act when the primary representative is unable to attend. The primary representative will be eligible to receive a stipend, the alternate representative will be eligible for a portion of a stipend., provided required duties such as meeting attendance are fulfilled.

AFRH Staff are working hard with existing RAC members to improve our RAC organization, process and also to standardize both Washington and Gulfport to one common standard and process. When we are completed, Washington and Gulfport will be very similar in how we manage the Resident Fund and perform the RAC function. The draft instructions will be put out formally once they are signed and released at the agency level. That's it for now, contact your RAC personnel if you have more questions on this improvement process.

CAPT (s) Paul Soares

Letters and More *King Health Center*

Submitted to AFRH-W

Thanks and congratulations are due to Dr. Linda Radar and the entire staff of the King Health Center (KHC). I was admitted to the KHC two years ago and again last year. My most frequent admittance was in November 2003 and the improvement was quite obvious.

I found the staff members on my floor to be interested in my well being, thorough and took pride in their day to day jobs

My niece who is a Physical Therapist and sees many nursing homes remarked on the attractive rooms, the cleanliness and the absence of the usual nursing home odor. She stated, "the staff could not have been more gracious and helpful and the patients seemed to be well

taken care of".

Frankly, I enjoyed my stay and Dr. Radar deserves a round of applause for all the improvements.

Name withheld on request

Grateful resident

Submitted to AFRH-W

I would like to say thank you to the individual who was kind enough to return my money pouch (which included my charge card amongst other items) to my room.

Bless you,

Elizabeth Grab AFRH-W resident

Scott Library concerns

Submitted to AFRH-W

I have lived here at AFRH-W for 13 months and really like it here. As a volunteer for the Public Affairs Office I am proud to show prospective residents and active duty personnel our wonderful campus and

great facilities. However, seeing many changes over the past few months the one thing I find upsetting is the change in our library. The 24 hour policy is a self destruct policy for a wonderful professionally run library. It is a pleasure to show this library to prospective residents. However, I can already see a decline with the new 24 hour honor system. Unfortunately a few dishonest people can ruin a good thing for everyone.

I believe in a "Can Do," attitude. I also believe if its not broken don't fix it. Our library is not broken and does not (yet) need fixing. Leave well enough alone in this case.

I personally believe that full and part time paid resident employee was money well spent.

Mike Longwell
AFRH-W resident

AFRH STATS

Residential Statistics at AFRH-G

<u>Resident Population</u>		<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>Length of Service</u> (no data)				
Domiciliary	514	Single	75	Under a year			
Long Term Care	79	Divorced	229	1-5 years			
Total	593	Married	76	5-10 years			
		Widow	213	10-20 years			
		Unknown	0	20-25 years			
				25-30 years			
				30 or more years			
<u>Population by Gender</u>		<u>Religion</u>	<u>Highest Rank</u>				
Males	524	Protestant	411				
Females	66	Catholic	131				
		Jewish	2	04	7	E9	17
		Other	49	03	3	E8	63
				02	4	E7	196
				01	1	E6	144
						E5	49
						E4	37
						E3	39
						E2	14
						E1	1
<u>Average Age</u>		<u>(Last) Branch of Service</u>					
Male	78	Army	116				
Female	80	Air Force	131	W4	1	E4	37
Home	78	Navy	312	W3	5	E3	39
Oldest Male	95	Marine Corps	33	W2	9	E2	14
Oldest Female	94	Coast Guard	1	W1	3	E1	1
Youngest Male	55						
Youngest Female	54						
<u>Time at AFRH-G</u>							
Most time	28						
Average (no data)							

Residential Statistics at AFRH-W

<u>Resident Population</u>		<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>Length of Service</u>				
Domiciliary	829	Single	262	Other			4
Long Term Care & Assisted Living	194	Divorced	363	1-5 years			177
Total	1023	Married	135	5-10 years			34
		Widow	258	10-20 years			52
		Unknown	5	20-25 years			696
				25-30 years			46
				30 or more years			14
<u>Population by Gender</u>		<u>Religion</u>	<u>Highest Rank</u>				
Males	944	Protestant	547				
Females	79	Catholic	318				
		Jewish	16	04	1	E9	33
		Other	142	03	1	E8	72
				02	2	E7	269
				01		E6	278
						E5	170
						E4	73
						E3	53
						E2	27
						E1	15
<u>Average Age</u>		<u>(Last) Branch of Service</u>					
Male	75	Army	532				
Female	78.6	Air Force	361	W4	7	E4	73
Home	75.3	Navy	97	W3	5	E3	53
Oldest Male	98	Marine Corps	27	W2	11	E2	27
Oldest Female	94	Coast Guard	6	W1	2	E1	15
Youngest Male	39						
Youngest Female	54						
<u>Time at AFRH-W</u>							
Most time	46 years						
Average	11 years						

RESIDENT CORNER**WELCOME HOME****NEW RESIDENTS
AT AFRH-G**

Leonard Montague	USAF
Memphis, TN	
Reginald D. Foster	USAF
LaGrange, GA	
Henry R. Edwards	USA
Old Fort, NC	
John G. Norton	USAF
Holyoke, MA	
Robert L. Smith Sr.	USA
Fitzgerald, GA	
Gilbert B. Doty	USAF
Brockton, MA	
Claude K. Hodge	USAF
Middleton, CT	
John D. Penland	USAF
Asheville, NC	
John W. Ellison	USMC
New Orleans, LA	
Kenneth R. Leonard	USN
Bath, ME	
Billie Putman	USAF
Admire, KS	
Virginia Putman	USA
Pulaski, TN	

Census: 593

Note: As of 1/22/04

**NEW RESIDENTS
AT AFRH-W**

Elza Spencer	USA
Las Vegas, NV	
Bob Jordan	USA
Daytona Beach, FL	
Arthur Costa	USA
Toms River, NJ	
George Wells	USA
Washington, DC	
Joseph Campbell	USN
Camden, NJ	
Michael Ladish	USAF
Humansville, MO	
William Ward	USA
Toms River, NJ	
Michael Bishop	USAF
Ocala, FL	
Elmer Keene	USA
Springfield, VA	
Bruce Mundy	USN
Graniteville, SC	
Philip Cagle	USA
Arlington, VA	
Jeffery McGee	USA
Holidaysburg, PA	
Lawrence Brech	USAF
Jacksonville, FL	
Robert Lavender	USAF
Waldorf, MD	
Thomas Schaaf	USAF
Columbia Heights, MN	

Census: 1023

Note: As of 1/22/04

HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

plex has been called the Sherman Building, or for identification, Sherman South, Annex and Sherman North. Over more than a century the Annex and Sherman North were subjected to many structural revisions and modifications. By good fortune, Sherman South, the original "Main Building" enjoyed benign neglect.

By the mid-1900s architects and building engineers were recommending that the whole rotting mass of the Sherman Building be demolished. Then in 1974 someone added the name of the Sherman Building to the National Register of Historic Places. The Register notes the "Four pre-Civil War structures of the Soldiers' Home" and the "Sherman structure" is identified as "a two story Norman Gothic structure," and it mentioned that "The building is connected by an annex to Sherman North." One may envision and



The 1868 Soldiers' Home bell was removed from Sherman Tower and will be on display in the future.

hope to see the historic original two story Norman Gothic structure reborn, but it is not an expectation. What, most probably,

will continue to be seen is the aging 1889 version, "completely redesigned." The Sherman North and the Sherman South, tied together at their rears by an annex, are united.

Upkeep was minimal, active were the destructive forces of weathering and gravity. These did not mar the quality of the popular views for the photographs to visitors and residents. The south facade of Sherman South became a virtual icon of the Home.

For residents who have roamed its corridors the building held an eerie, ghost-like ambiance. Not of the ghosts that "go bump in the night," but spirits of hope. As poet Robert Frost explained, the hope of the past, present and future "not only hope for the future and the present but hope the past will be found to have been all right for what it was."

The Sherman Building, remains the dominant architectural presence in the ground of the Armed Forces Retirement Home-W community. Philosopher Ernest Dimmet wrote, "Architecture, of all the arts, is the one which acts most slowly, but most surely, on the soul."

More concern has been given to the preservation of Sherman since the year 2000 than in any previous decades of the 1900s. The building is looking better outside and vast improvements have been seen within. One sees the barriers against erosion, rust and rot. Railings and decorative iron-work have been restored, windows and woodwork are undergoing repairs, cleaning and painting. One may now traverse even sub-surface spaces without encountering noxious smells and hazardous wastes. A shining example of good is the utilization of the Annex and Sherman North's top floors as space for artists and hobbyists. Fortunately the term "hobby" is loosely defined. Originally it meant a little horse, then a child's toy—a stick with a horse's head—he could pretend to ride. And for Sherman's hobbyists it connotes "whatever turns one on."

It is a truism that what goes around comes around. In the first decades of the twentieth century the Home's security and administration officers were pulled out of the Sherman Building to their own build-



Hands on Hands! The restoration of the Sherman clock was completed earlier this month.

ings. In the first years of the twenty-first century Administration and Security Buildings were closed and their personnel—after a hiatus for nine decades—returned to the Sherman Building.

The first building, today's Sherman South, is the location of not only the main offices of AFRH-W, but houses offices of the Chief Operating Officer and staff of corporate Armed Forces Retirement Home. The building is an historic and architectural treasure. Within its interiors one can sense the harmony of mass and space which the poet Goethe called "frozen music."

The West Point clock, copied and set up in the central tower in 1868, is now being recreated, to be in service by December, 31, 2003. Should the foregoing be published, residents will recall whether or not the new tower clock timed the New Year.

From hearsay, one can surmise the original clock was operating until 1994, erratically over its final years. The real story of the clock is an enigma. When the clock was removed, part of the assembly was a bell engraved with the 1868 date. What its role was, with the clock, or in the tower is, to the writer, conjecture.

FROM ABOVE

Recalling The Flying Jenny

By Ludwig Olson (W)

I've been fascinated by airplanes since I first saw one at Shiocton, Wisconsin, in 1921. Someone said it was a French SPAD fighter plane left over from World War I and sold as surplus. It had engine trouble and made an emergency landing in a large cow pasture at the edge of town.

In 1922, when I was six, our family moved to Valders, Wisconsin, a small town 12 miles from Lake Michigan. It was there I saw a "Flying Jenny", popular name for the Curtiss Model JN-4 training plane produced in large quantity for the U. S. Army during World War I. It was a two-seater biplane powered by a Curtiss OX-5 liquid-cooled engine of 90 horsepower. Top speed was 75 miles per hour, considerably less than that of World War I fighter planes. Effective ceiling was 11,000 feet.

My cousin, Melvin Thompson, purchased a surplus Flying Jenny in virtually new condition at extremely low cost, and made money by taking up passengers at county fairs and similar events. He charged \$5 for a 15-minute ride.

Thompson was a tall lanky man who frequently stuttered, but never seemed to

get excited. One of his good friends was Charles A. Lindbergh who became world famous in 1927 for his transatlantic flight. During the 1930's, Thompson was the personal pilot for Governor Kohler of Wisconsin.

I was intrigued when I saw Thompson's Flying Jenny at a fireman's picnic in Valders during 1923. The cloth-covered fuselage, wings, tail, and rudder were painted olive drab. Wooden struts between the wings were nicely varnished, and the propeller was laminated walnut. Piano wire served as wing bracing.

Thompson stuttered incessantly as he talked to customers who wanted a ride. It certainly didn't inspire confidence, but he had the reputation for being a "cool cat" when flying. After making a number of flights with passengers, he would put on exhibitions such as flying in figure 8s, loop-the-loop, etc. Then, he would take up a stunt man who would walk out on a wing, hang from the axle between the wheels, and perform other hazardous feats. Viewers on the ground would gasp with amazement.

The Flying Jenny, like many early planes, was underpowered, and subject to stalling especially while climbing after

takeoff. A great danger was hitting an "air pocket" (local down current). on one occasion, Thompson's plane hit an air pocket at about 500 feet, and he crashed. He was unhurt, but the passenger's legs were severely injured. During another flight, he had engine trouble, and his plane landed in a farmer's field near Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Seeing the Flying Jenny inspired me to make model planes from wooden orange crates. I made the wings, tail, and rudder from thin boards. Thicker boards at ends of the crate were used to make the fuselage. Those models were crude by any standards, but it was great fun to make them. The wooden propeller, cut to shape with a knife, would spin rapidly in realistic fashion when driven by the wind.

My interest in planes decreased as I grew up. It was 1938 before I had a plane ride. A friend from Appleton, Wisconsin, took me up in his Travelair biplane. As we flew along with the wind hitting my face, I could imagine how it must have been in a Flying Jenny. I flew in many planes over the years, but that first flight in an open cockpit was the most enjoyable.



Navy Terms

submitted by Bob Mears

Three sheets to the wind – We use the term "three sheets to the wind" to describe someone who has too much to drink. As such, they are often bedraggled with per-

haps shirttails out, clothes a mess. The reference is to a sailing ship in disarray, that is with sheets (lines — not "ropes" — that adjust the angle at which a sail is set in relation to the wind) flapping loosely in the breeze.

S. O. S. – Contrary to popular notion,

the letters S.O.S. do not stand for "Save Our Ship" or "Save Our Souls". They were selected to indicate a distress because, in Morse code, these letters and their combination create an unmistakable sound pattern.

AFRH-W Happy New Year 2004



Charles Layton, Bill Gardner, and Robert Devaney, Chairman of the Resident Advisory Committee enjoying Scott Lounge hospitality on New Year's Eve 2003.

Resident Tony Pilato, Son Bob Pilato, and daughter-in-law Patti Pilato. Bob and Patti commented on how much they enjoyed visiting our Home.



A happy crowd of residents and their guests brought the New Year 2004 in at the Scott Lounge on New Years Eve. AAFES provided a buffet with many scrumptious snack items.

Left: "What was that?" Donna Wink and Resident Ed Woessner stopped in their tracks when the flash went off.

There was dancing in the Scott Dining Hall and plenty of snacks served by AFRH-W's Volunteers. AAFES again provided the snacks.

Right: Residents Leslea Pidgeon and Edward Nlaha ring in the New Year dancing in the Dining Hall lobby.



Residents Bill Woods and Marty Ryan bring the New Year 2004 in conversing in the Scott Lounge.

Residents Marjorie Grigonis and Vicente Salazar enjoy each other's company and ring in the New year

AFRH-G SPECIAL EVENTS

A Recipe for AFRH-G New Year Ball

Photographs by Bob Mears

By C.C. Genter (G)

AFRH-Gulfport held the annual New Year Ball with festivities beginning in the ballroom at 7:00 p. m. and going full tilt until the traditional big, New York City Ball dropped in Times Square. The different time zone however, permitted revelers to party for an additional hour. One might inquire, "What is the recipe for success of the AFRH-Gulfport ball?" It requires the planning, cooperation and work of dedicated personnel to achieve extraordinary success. Progression of events goes something like this.

Develop a plan and identify desired goals. Procure an enormous mixing bowl...combat size! Primary ingredients consist of Charlie Freeman, a versatile one-man band and a multitude of eager, jovial AFRH-Gulfport residents and guests. Procure (or hijack) a railroad tank car full of Puerto Rican rum to lace down the eggnog. Add generous amount of merriment. Throw in noisemakers, ridiculous looking hats and a headdress for the gals. Required completion of an Arthur Murray dance course, but permit ingress of a limited amount of "toe crushers" so shrieks of trauma will add to the excitement. Maintain a fleet of "Gray mutt" buses to transport extra dollies from the local community. Relief dancers can compensate for injured or exhausted original dancers. Provide an appetizing buffet of party goodies and include those dainty, pot roast (not roast pot) sandwiches. **NO C-RATIONS.....PLEASE!** Gently mix all these ingredients for three minutes at low speed and now you have it... a recipe for the AFRH-Gulfport - New Year's Party.

Dress code prevailed for the holiday event. Prohibitions included no grass skirts, swimming trunks or hobnail ski boots. Increased manning of Code-7 med-

ical rescue teams on standby reassured the party folks their health and safety concerns had been met. Minimal use of dance wax also assured one's safety.



New Year's Eve - Residents and guests enjoying the spirit of the evening.



New Year's Eve - The ballroom was filled with great friends and the dance floor stayed full.



New Year's Eve dance - The dance floor stayed full of well wishers till the late hours of the night.

Prohibitions of other elements included no volunteer tuba players or karaoke vocalists. Ingress of pets was restricted to nothing larger than a coral snake. Crap games in secluded corners was frowned upon as well as substitute noisemakers like fireworks or Claymore mines. Lastly, political campaigning on dance floor were strictly taboo. Undaunted by these few restrictions, the gang partied on, and on.

Amid a gentleman's request of, "Mam, can I borrow your frame for this game?" - the party progressed in gleeful fashion culminating in the big ball drop. A significant factor throughout the evening was the abundance of truly excellent dancers. They remained a pleasure to the admiring audience. It was evident that Arthur Murray was a good instructor. Andy Anderson (resident) echoed the sentiments of the crowd by exclaiming, "I wish I could have kicked the Times Square ball back up to the top so we could have partied for four more hours." **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**



New Year's Eve - The party hats and noisemakers waiting for their opportunity.

HEALTH

Dental Health Education

By Vanessa D. Noble R.D.H. (W)

In an effort to educate the staff and residence of the AFRH-W on the connection between oral health and total health, the dental clinic will be working on various projects to get this important message across.

Recent scientific research has linked the presence of periodontal disease with an increased risk for other systemic diseases like heart disease, stroke and diabetes. The connection is that regular brushing and flossing removes the oral bacteria that can lead to other diseases. This research helps us to see that maintaining a healthy mouth is good for your total health. Our goal is to deliver this information to all persons living and working at the home. To reach our audience, we plan to do the following:

- Place dental health posters in strategic location in various buildings.
- Inform the community newspaper about the project.
- Schedule dental health seminars for all health care providers.
- Provide dental health informational stations in strategic locations.
- Provide free dental floss, tooth brushes and educational booklets.

If you have any suggestion or questions about our project, please feel free to call (202) 730-3478. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Community Health Services

by Howard J. Sweet



The Community Health Group – Front row: Dr. Meiyun Ko; Jane Butler, R. N., M. N.; Kathy Jay, R. N.; Back row: Simone Hamilton, LPN; Nursing Assistants: Alavain Wilkey, Barbara Turner, and Brigett Ross. Judy DuBois, R. N., was not pictured was on leave.



Jane Butler, R. N., M. N., is the Nurse-in-Charge.

A few months ago I sent a Letter of Appreciation thru channels to the Community Health Service. The letter never arrived. Accordingly, this short article is to show my appreciation for the care I received by the Service's Medical Professionals.

About a year ago I endured a bypass on my left leg (*a zipper job*). There were complications. It didn't seem that the leg was ever going to heal. I was quite depressed, and I must say that without the TLC by Jane Butler and her staff, I don't think I would have made it.



Resident Louie Aiello has his vital signs checked by Kathy Jay, R. N.



Dr. Meiyun Ko is the responsible physician for all the residents in the Dormitory area.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New Look for Resident Advisory Council

The Resident Advisory Council (RAC) is getting a new look. The RAC has held many discussions with the Directorate and effective on February 1, 2004 the new directives relating to the Resident Fund and the RAC will be in place.

The Executive Committee of the RAC, Jo Colvard, Red Cooper, John Grimes, and Bob Devaney attended a three-day "on site" seminar. Representatives from AFRH-G were here and the discussions were lively and productive. The AFRH-G RAC and the AFRH-W RAC have much in common but are entirely separate and apart. It has been determined that each location is unique in it's own right.

A major concern was the lack of participation by many Home Residents. It was agreed that the RAC membership be increased and each floor in the Scott Building and the Sheridan Building have (2) Representatives and (2) Alternates. As an example, Scott fifth floor will have (1) Representative and (1) Alternate. The Scott fifth floor East and have (1) Representative and (1) Alternate for Scott fifth floor West. All floors in the Scott Building and Sheridan Building will be represented. Biannual elections will be held in the month of September in the even numbered year for the Representative and the second highest vote-getter will be the Alternate.

The duties for the Representative and Alternate will include keeping the proper official data being posted on the Bulletin Boards, maintaining a lookout for unusual happenings that may affect the well-being of the Residents, holding a monthly meeting with the floor residents to determine what may be done to improve the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, and greet and work with the sponsors of our new members to explain the RAC and home conditions in general. The Representative will turn over to the Chair the "wish list" in order for it to be placed on the Agenda for the next RAC meeting. The Representative will report on the RAC meeting Agenda so the residents can have input.

The Representative and the

Alternate may participate in the "Stipend" if they so desire. The choice to participate in the program or to not participate is up to the Representative and Alternate.

The present membership of the RAC are the Representatives of their floor and will remain so until the election in September, 2004. The Chair of the RAC will be elected by the general population in September, 2004.

The Chair does not have a vote unless there is a tie. Each Representative has one vote. The Alternate does not have a vote unless the Representative is absent and the Alternate is in his stead.

The Directorate is actively engaged in discussions with the individual Armed Services to have an active duty E9 assigned to AFRH-W to act as Associate Director, Ombudsman. The E9, comparable to the Command Master Chief now being assigned to AFRH-G will be considered "Charge of Quarters" (CQ) or "Master at Arms" (MA).

It is possible that the MA or CQ will be helpful in the enforcement of Home Directives and thus make our morale stay on a high level.

The "off site" seminar for the Resident Fund Council was held in Gulfport, MS on November 12, 13, and 14, 2003. The Resident Fund Council resident members were Jo Colvard, Red Cooper, Casey Collier, and Bob Devaney. The AFRH-G had 4 resident members attend. The discussions were spirited, constructive, and led to a conclusion that is beneficial to all Home Residents.

The Resident Fund Council was dissolved and replaced by the Resident Fund Advisory Board. The Home Residents will have four (4) members on the RFAB and the Directorate will have four (4) members. The four (4) directorate members will be the Deputy Director, Chair, Chief Resident Services, Health Care Administrator and Campus Operations Administrator. The Resident representation will have four (4) votes and the Directorate will have four (4) votes. In the event of a tie, the Director will be the tie-breaker. If desired the Appellate procedure may be carried on to

the COO.

The Resident Advisory Council is charged to work with the Resident Services, Leisure and Wellness, and the King Health Center to provide a Budget for the year. The RAC must be furnished data on a "line-item" basis and in a timely manner in order to insure the information is available to the RAC as a whole to vote to approve the items or not approve. The procedure is being installed for the first time in the history of the Soldiers' Home.

The RAC is following the DoD directives that address the MWR policies and thereby insuring the funds are directed to the best interests of the Home Residents. The expanded RAC is working to insure that the wants and desires of the Home Residents are addressed, and it is imperative that the Home Residents participate and let be known what their "wish list" is.

The RFAB will be furnished with a monthly statement showing the income and expense for that month and a year to date summary. The RAC will post the data on the Bulletin Boards.

The RFAB will review the yearly budget to insure that funds that should come from "Appropriated funds" do so and that the Resident Fund will disburse funds from the Non-appropriated fund instrumentality only. This policy will insure that funds are available to satisfy the residents MWR. Salary payments are being reduced and eliminated for the sole purpose of having the funds spent for MWR.

Our Home Residents must "grab the moment" and become involved. The only people that will make these two new initiatives work are the Home Residents. Failure to participate must mandate that each resident lose his right to gripe. Spreading rumors, griping, and finding fault accomplishes nothing. Now is the time to work together and with the Directorate to accomplish the issues that will make our life style better.

The Resident Advisory Council has worked for the past three and one-half years for this opportunity. Now you have it. Don't let it die on the vine.

BOB DEVANEY

Chair, Resident Advisory Council

RESIDENT PROFILE

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

by Fred Fayerweather (W)

A wish made nearly 30 years ago became reality for Charles T Beebe, Jr. when he began his AFRH-W residency on 3 March 2003. His wish was prompted by the fact that his father was then a Home resident, and Charles was very much impressed by the lifestyle and benefits his dad was enjoying.

Charles' father entered what was then identified as "The Soldiers Home" in February 1970 while Charles was a Virgin Island resident. Consequently, Charles got into the habit of commuting from the Virgin Islands to the Home, at every opportunity, in order to spend some quality time with his dad, Charles T. Beebe, Sr.

The elder Beebe was a World War I veteran, then assigned to an artillery regiment of the U.S. Army. A Germantown, Pennsylvania native, he would fascinate his son with stories of his military escapades along the Mexican border while serving under General "Blackjack Pershing." These

stories were often corroborated by his fellow WWI buddies at the Home.

When his father's health began to fail, Charles Jr. left the Virgin Islands and returned to the United States. He eventually found work at Washington, D.C.'s Rogers Memorial Hospital which was then located on nearby Massachusetts Avenue. This afforded him the opportunity to be closer to his dad while becoming more familiar with the amenities offered by the Home. The more he observed, the more he hoped that - like his dad - the Home could be his ultimate place of retirement.

Charles T. Beebe, Sr. passed away on 9 August 1975, and Charles Jr. migrated to the Central American country of Costa Rico. Some 20 years and three children later, Charles Jr. was informed by a close AFRH-W friend of his father that the eligibility requirements for the then recently reorganized Home had changed. Because of his WW II and Korean Conflict disabilities, the Braddock, Pennsylvania native



Resident Charles Beebe enjoys a cup of coffee in our Snack Bar (no coin slots).

was now eligible to apply for Home residency.

The past is now prologue for the more salient story: An 80-year-old former U.S. Navy engine room mechanic is now at the AFRH-W * trading happily in his father's footsteps.

Navy Seabee Re-enlists at AFRH-G

Submitted by AFRH-G

Petty Officer Second Class Ron Kellogg, a Navy Seabee Steelworker from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven, re-enlisted for six years at the gazebo

on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport.

Petty Officer Kellogg was the crew-leader on several sidewalk projects which were developed by the Campus Operations

Department. Kellogg chose the Armed Forces Retirement Home as his re-enlistment site after working here and interacting with the residents and staff of the home.

Congratulations Petty Officer Kellogg!



Mr. Ralph Marshall, Director of Campus Operations, gives SW2 Ron Kellogg a command coin for support of AFRH-G.



SW2 Ron Kellogg raises his hand to his Chief during his re-enlistment at the gazebo.



SW2 Ron Kellogg from NMCB 7 was crew leader for sidewalk projects at AFRH-G

SPECIAL OUTING

Residents Attend Christening of USS Halsey

By Doug LeMere

Thirty-five residents from AFRH-Gulfport, along with more than 1,000 spectators, gathered Saturday the 17th at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems for the christening of the USS Halsey (DD97), a ship soon to be part of the Navy's most powerful destroyer fleet.

The ship, named in honor of World War I and II naval hero Adm. William Frederick "Bull" Halsey Jr., is the 22nd Aegis guided missile destroyer to be launched and christened of 28 ships under contract to Northrop Grumman.

The mission of the 9,300-ton ship will be to sustain combat operations at sea and provide protection of the Navy's aircraft carriers and battle groups. A crew of 383 officers and crew members will operate the ship, which is capable of fighting air, surface, and subsurface battles simultaneously.

The weather was cold and rainy, but the christening was an honorable event. After the ceremonies, guests dashed to the Pelican Landing reception hall for great food and spirits.



Al Helton and Raymond Wise picking through the great food at the USS Halsey Christening reception.



BettyLu Scheer and Byron Dennis dodging the raindrops at the USS Halsey Christening.



David O'Hearn digs in for his third helping at the reception luncheon of the USS Halsey Christening.



Front row seating for the Special Guests at the USS Halsey Christening Ceremony.

Marine Corps Advisory Group Tours Home

Submitted by AFRH-G

Several enlisted members of the USMC Amphibious Advisory group took a break from their Gulf Coast conference and shared some stories, ate lunch and toured with the residents of AFRH-Gulfport.

Resident John Morash coordinated the lunch, tour and social for the active duty and resident Marines.



US Marine Corps from Amphibious Advisory group tour the home with residents of AFRH-G.



US Marine Corps from Amphibious Advisory group enjoy lunch with residents of the AFRH-G.

A MUST READ

Deceit at Pearl Harbor

Book review: Submitted by Byron Dennis (G)

Author: Lt. Cmdr. Ken Landis USNR (ret)

From the last survivor of Admiral Kimmel's staff, this new book reveals the astonishing transcript of a telephone warning between Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt eleven days before Pearl Harbor, showing that the British and even Hitler knew of the oncoming disaster, but Admiral Kimmel did not.

Aided by Rex Gunn, a member of the early warning radar, and Lawrence McNabb, a crew member of the U.S.S. Pennsylvania, Landis tells how this team reveals a host of facts covered up by over 60 years of obfuscation and denial in the name of National Security.

Lt. Cmdr. Landis tells the story of FDR's madcap scheme of sending out three small ships (now known as The Tethered Goats) as pickets from Manila, to intercept the oncoming Task Force and be sunk, thereby accepting the first blow and igniting WWII. Pearl Harbor occurred before that happened and the story of the Tethered Goats faded in the dustbin of history.

The war's major players, Roosevelt, Churchill and even Hitler, all knew well in advance of the oncoming disaster in Pearl Harbor. It is time the public learned the true story of how America's worst military disaster could have been avoided.

This book includes never-before published WWII photos taken by the author, including the ruins of Tokyo after the fire raids as well as the last remaining Japanese battleship burning in Tokyo Bay. The book can be bought for \$18.95 (\$28.95 hardcover) plus \$4.00 for S/H from Ken Landis, 78020 Calle Norte, Dept. M6, La Quinta, CA - 92253*.Phone (760) 564-0808

Did You Know?

By Byron Dennis (G)

At the time of Pearl Harbor the top U.S. Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'). The shoulder patch of the U.S. Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika. Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". For obvious reasons, all three were soon changed.

German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but it wasn't considered worth the effort.

German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the U.S. Army.

Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 U.S. and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska. 21 troops were killed in the firefight, but it would have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

Women Veterans

Submitted by AFRH-W

Women are Veterans, too.

We weren't just tokens or pretty faces, to decorate your offices and platoons; we weren't dumb, too plain or too Stupid to make it in the real world.

We've marched your muddy roads, carried and shot your heavy guns.

We've been shot at, wounded, and died, and been prisoners of war.

We've been active in all services, and risen to high ranks.

We've tended your bleeding wounds, and held you when you were dying.

We've flown your mighty airplanes and navigated your giant ships.

We've fixed your broken engines and driven heavy equipment.

We've mailed letters for you, and brought you news from home.

We've stood along side of you, without flinching or running away, and continue to stand by you today.

We are not asking for special treatment, or that you should go out of your way.

We're only asking that you recognize that women are veterans, too.

Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association

The Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association, Space Coast Chapter #64, meets the second Saturday of each month. Meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. at the 1080 Hickory Street (Salvation Army Building) in Melbourne, Florida. Membership is open to all women who served honorably with the Women's Army Corps, the Women's Army Air Corps, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Army Nurse Corps, and those who have served or are serving honorably with the Army, Air Force, Air Force Reserves or the Army National Guard.

There next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2004. For addition information, please contact Norman Water at (321) 253-1135.

The Pond

By Leslea Pidgeon (W)

Pixie dust and moon beams

shimmering on the pond,

in the evening-are a

pretty sight-to make any one heart sing.

One Day on a Nike Ajax Missile Site

By M.R. Relgub

The writer was in the Detroit, Michigan defense on a Nike Ajax Anti-Aircraft Missile Site at Selfridge AFB, Michigan. The year is 1954. The season: Fall and Winter. Our missile units were not ready to go into the field. Why then were we there? Our citizens were afraid of Russian Bombers.

The permanent underground launcher sites were under construction. We had to build temporary sites wherever we could. Ours was in what one might call a swamp. There was a dike around the perimeter of the base, which was below lake and river level. Groups of 36" pumps along the perimeter kept the Lake Saint Claire and the river at bay. There were slightly elevated paths around the launchers. We looked forward to the first freeze so we would be able walk anywhere around the site on the ice.

This was among the first Nike Ajax Missile Sites operational in the United

States and the first underground Nike Ajax Missile Site operational in the United States -- we learned as we went along. In a sense we were the guinea pigs and pioneers in the guided missile field of those days. This had never been done before.

"My Son Was Launched With a 20 Ton Crane"

It was late November afternoon. We had to em-place a 70KW Alternator near one of our launcher sections. This involved swinging the alternator across a portion of the swamp and placing it in position adjacent to the launcher section.

An afternoon of scrounging located an Air Force 20-ton Rite Way Truck Mounted Crane. We convinced the Air Force [the Air Force was always ready to help. Only one question, "Do you need this to perform your mission?"] to come out to our site and place the alternator for us. My

last instruction to the crane operator was, "Follow me!"

Shortly we arrived at the site and the alternator was placed on its pad near the launcher section. -- Just as this was done the Battery Clerk came running up and said, "Sir, your wife called and said you need to get home right away." *Gloria was very pregnant with our son and just about due so this constituted an emergency.* I jumped in car and drove off heading for home as fast as I could.

Arriving home, I jumped out of my car. Hearing a truck engine I looked around. There in a very small parking lot was the 20-ton crane. Perplexed, I looked at the driver who said, "Sir! You said to follow you."

A few hours later my son made his debut at nine pounds and he topped out in the years that followed at 6'5" and 216 pounds.

Memories

By The Ole Salt (G)

I wonder why it is so easy to remember things that happened early in your life and impossible to remember the things that happened yesterday. Aging is a weird and worrisome thing.

I actually can remember how soft and sweet smelling my mother was. How stern and loving my dad was. Mom was always there when you needed her. She was also there when you didn't need her. To this day, I can't figure out how Mom knew we were getting ready to do something we were not supposed to do, before we did it.

Dad was in the restaurant business and you would think he would take all of his meals at one of the restaurants. He didn't. A rule that was strictly kept was that Dad

had dinner (it was called supper, then) at home. Some times we ate late but we ate as a family. There was a ritual when Dad got home. He came in, went to the kitchen to talk to Mom. That was the kids signal to stand behind their chairs at the table. He came out of the kitchen and sat down at the head of the table. Mom sat at Dad's left, we all took our seats. At the time it never occurred to me that there was an order to our seating, but there was. We were seated by seniority. I guess when we got old enough to eat at the dining room table, we took the next empty chair. After Dad gave thanks for the family and the food, he asked Mom how the day had gone. (of course Mom had already briefed him in the kitchen). We were a pretty good bunch of kids, four brothers

two years apart. I was next to the youngest so I had two older brothers to learn from and one younger to teach. I had more fun learning than teaching. We had a lot of fun at the evening meal. Dad was really interested in what we did. Each son was expected to tell Dad briefly, how his day had gone, both good and bad. We boys liked to brag a little bit about our exploits but there was always one or more of the brothers who knew what really happened - so there was a lot of ribbing and laughter at the table.

I learned more about life, love and brotherhood at that table, than any other place I have come upon thus far in this journey.

RESIDENT'S DESK

Mrs. Gibbons' Apple Pie

By John P. Bednarz (W)

Mrs. Gibbons' apple pie really wasn't an ordinary apple pie. It was a pie like you have never tasted before.

One Thursday morning, I stopped in the little town of Harriet in the rolling hills of south Kentucky to have a tire fixed. Jake Moss, the local gas station operator was taking off my ailing tire when suddenly from up the valley came the sweet fragrant aroma of cinnamon, spices and fresh brewed coffee. Jake stopped his labors and looked up sniffing the morning air. "It's ready!", he said looking at his watch.

"What's ready" I asked.

"Mrs Gibbons apple pie." he said.

He dropped his tire wrench and like a person in a trance, he started up the street

towards the tiny cafe at the top of the hill. Along the way, he tapped on the window of the barber shop and the newspaper office. "It's ready," he said, as he went along his way. I tagged behind, not knowing what else to do.

Soon we reached the tiny coffee shop with only ten stools at the counter and four small booths. The cafe was crowded with business people and teenagers. Even the school principal and the mayor were there. On the back counter was the most beautiful stack of apple pies you ever did see, and Mrs. Gibbons was busy pouring the hot steaming coffee into gleaming white mugs and dishing up large pieces of apple pie.

I sat on a stool at the counter that

seemed as if it had been reserved just for me, next to the mayor of the town. He smiled kindly as Mrs. Gibbons brought me a piece of pie and a cup of coffee. As she placed it before me, I said, "Why does everything here in Harriet seem to stop at ten o'clock on Thursdays?" She smiled and I saw the mayor smiling too. As I looked around the room, everyone was smiling and looking at me. And Mrs. Gibbons said in a very friendly voice, "Like Jake told ya, 'it's ready!'".

In all of my life, I have never had a better piece of apple pie or a better cup of coffee. Then I awoke to find that I was only dreaming and wondering.....Now How in the world am I ever going to get back to Harriet again!"

Things You Don't Really Need to Know

Contributed by Everett Rioux (G)

Money isn't made of paper. It's made of cotton.

A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce continuously from the bottom to the top.

315 entries in Webster's 1996 dictionary were misspelled.

On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily.

Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system. A few ounces will kill a small dog.

Donald Duck's films were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.

A tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion will make it instantly go mad

and sting itself to death.

By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you won't sink in quicksand.

e plaenicism and the ice of pessimism, t

Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a space suit will damage it.

(Now don't you feel smarter? You won't make much money out of this, but it will make you feel a little smarter than your neighbor.)

A Special Place

By Kathryn (Katie) Browning (W)

I have a little place in my heart marked 'special', for special friends like you; and in this little place in my heart maked 'special' are very, very few. I hope in your heart is a place marked 'special', for a friend I'd like to be; and I hope in this place in your heart marked 'special', is a special place for me.

**In my teens, I wrote this poem to express my feelings, without having anyone particular in mind.*

Many years later, near Christmas, my mother died; and the very next day, her very best and last friend died.

The poem came back to me because I knew that these dear friends had a place in their hearts for each other, and I dedicated the poem to them.

That is why I am sharing these feelings with you.

Youth

Contributed by Bettylu Scheer (G)

Youth is not a time of life-it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions. It is the freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of fifty more than in a boy of twenty.

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin; but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair - these are the long, long years that bow the heart and turn the greening spirit back to dust.

Whether sixty or sixteen, there is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder, the sweet amazement of the stars and the star like things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing childlike appetite for what is next, and the joy of the game of living. You are as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

In the central place of your heart here is an evergreen tree; its name is love. So long as it flourishes you are young. When it dies you are old. In the central place of your heart there is a wireless station. So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, grandeur, courage and power from the earth, from men and the infinite, so long as are you young.

When the wires are down and all the central places of your heart are covered with the snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, then you are grown old, even at twenty, and may God have mercy on your soul.

The Military

Contributed by Naomi Pointer (G)

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent high school graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and 155mm howitzers. He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must. He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional. He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues; he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his

water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job. He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat, and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding. Remember him always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood. And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so.

As you go to bed tonight, remember this shot* A short lull, a little shade, and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

Of all the gifts you could give a U.S. Soldier, Sailor, Coastguardsman, Marine or Airman, prayer is the very best one.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

AFRH is not merely a place to live but a place to live more. Our model retirement centers are designed for residents to maintain an independent lifestyle in an environment designed for safety, comfort and personal enrichment.

Eligibility

Military veterans from each service branch can live at either Home.

Veterans are eligible to become a resident of the AFRH if their active duty service in the military was at least 50 percent enlisted, warrant officer or limited duty officer and who are:

- Veterans with 20 or more years of active duty service and are at least 60 years old, or*
- Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to a service-connected disability, or*
- Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to non service-connected disability, and who served in a war theater or received hostile fire pay, or*
- Female veterans who served prior to 1948.*

To receive an informational brochure please contact the following offices:

In Gulfport, call 1-800-332-3527, or write to Admission Office,
AFRH-Gulfport, 1800 Beach Drive, Gulfport, MS 39507-1597.

In Washington, call 1-800-422-9988, or write to Public Affairs Office,
AFRH-Washington, 3700 N. Capitol St. NW, Washington DC 20317.

Visit us on the web at: www.AFRH.gov



Five reasons to become a resident volunteer! Mike Longwell volunteers in the Public Affairs Office which includes conducting prospective resident and activity duty tours around campus.

(l to r) Pete Louque, 1st Sgt, USMC (ret.) and Walter "Frenchy" Bouchard Jr., Chief Storekeeper, USN (ret.) - stop for a snapshot in the main lobby of the AFRH-Gulfport.