

# VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION  
(VLOA)

January—March  
First Issue 2008

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1 Does VLOA Meet.....  
Tom Anderson
- Page 2 This is What We Were....  
Al Iller
- Page 3 Chaplain's Corner  
John Doyle
- Page 4 Shirt Order Form  
Bill Hensinger
- Page 5 Rose Bowl Game 1966  
Don Palmer
- Page 6 Outlaw Living History  
James Donnelly
- Page 7 Danube River Cruise  
Linda Isbell
- Page 8 Komics By Koonce  
Bob Koonce
- Page 9 Membership Application  
& Renewal Form
- Insert: Y2K 08 Roundup  
Brochure

## Does VLOA Meet Semi-annually, Biannually or Biennially?

I got to thinking, the other day, about those three terms and couldn't remember how often we meet. So, after looking up all three, I find we meet biennially! And, here's what Webster tells me about that: "**Biennial:** n. an event occurring once in two years."

Armed with that insightful knowledge, I thought I'd parse the definition in an attempt to first, get your **attention**, and second, get your **commitment**, to come to R2K8 in Hershey, Pennsylvania this fall! So, here's what the "biennial" VLOA Roundup really means.

"An event. . . ." WOW !! Is it EVER an event! If there was ever an "event" that I looked forward to it's to be together with all those old Outlaw soldiers (now 44 years older!) once again. That by itself is an "event", but to also have the great schedule of daily events that Joe Clelan has pre-planned, only adds to the anticipation and the enjoyment.

". . . occurring once. . ." The operative word here is "once". After every reunion, I'm saddened that we only see each other once. I'm sure that those who have been regulars at the reunions depart feeling the same way. The camaraderie, the laughs, the memories, the relaxing days and eventful evenings go by so quickly that "once" never seems quite enough. And, as each reunion ends, I hope and pray that we'll get together "once more", again, next time.

". . . in two years" Here's where melancholy really starts to take effect. Can you believe it's been nearly TWO years since we met in Pigeon Forge? And before that at Ft. Rucker, San Antonio and Branson. I poignantly remember preparing the Pigeon Forge reunion "Honor Roll" with the names of fellow Outlaws who are no longer with us. As I reflected on each name, each one evoked both a memory and regret. I regretted that they were gone, regretted that I didn't remember all of them, regretted that when we were together at the VLOA reunions I didn't spend more time letting each one know how special they were.

(continued on Page 2)

## Does VLOA Meet Semi-annually, Biannually or Biennially?

(continued from Page 1)

Sadly, the "Honor Roll" will include more names again this year. It's my fervent hope that those who read this Newsletter, especially those who have never been to one of our great Roundups, will decide to come to Hershey, to R2K8. Come and experience what it means to go back in time to that eventful year we spent together in the sometimes muddy, sometimes dusty airfield compound we knew as Vinh Long.

Don't take the risk of having to say to yourself (in October), "Damn, I wish I'd taken the VLOA up on getting together at that *"event occurring once in two years"*. It's called the **Vinh Long Outlaws Association Roundup**.

Come to **HERSHEY!** Everyone will be there. . . **BAR** none! Don't **KISS** it off! You'll find it will be the **SWEETEST** thing you've ever done - biennially.

(submitted by Tom Anderson)

## This is what we were yesterday, are today and will be forever!

A little something written from a Brother, HMCM Sea Doc..

We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship, which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the "job" and merely being allowed to leave "active" duty

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God," and you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

Civilian Friends vs.. Veteran Friends

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week. VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry. VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back. VETERAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

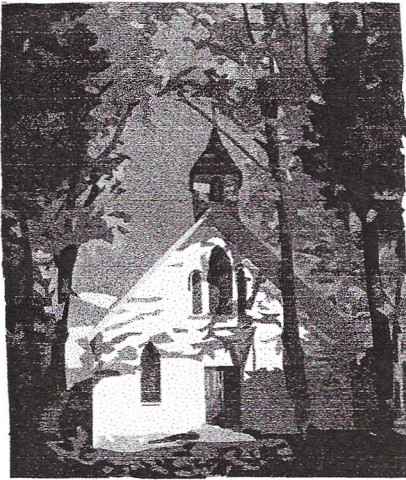
CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you. VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will kick the crowds' ass that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while. VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences. . . VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

(continued on Page 3)



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### "The Back Pew"

From our VEOA Chaplain: John Doyle

*Like most of you that spent most of your lives flying around in an aluminum can powered by a whining engine, I have a slight hearing problem. Ruth isn't too happy with the volume level of the TV, but that is not my big problem. Ruth and I spend a lot of time in the woods hiking, and I can no longer hear a rattlesnake when he shakes his tail. Friends, this is not a good thing in Florida.*

*Unfortunately, many of us have defective hearing. Too often, we hear only what we want to. Now, be honest. Your mama never brought you up that way, did she? Of course not. She taught you what was acceptable and what was not.*

*So why do we turn a deaf ear to someone that loves us even more than our mothers, someone who wants only the best for us? Someone who loves us in spite of all our shortcomings. In spite of our refusal to listen to that small still voice within us that says, "his way is the best way."*

*Maybe I can't hear the rattle of the rattlesnake, however, I can listen to God's Holy Spirit. And I can say in confidence, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil.4:13)*

*Listen to that inner voice that tells you, yes you can.*

*Chaplain John*

### **This is what we were yesterday, are today and will be forever!**

(continued from Page 2)

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, "You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!!" Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will knock the heck out OF THEM..... for using your name in vain.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will forward this.

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, or national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life."

From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your Company. Thank you Sir.

(submitted by Al Iller)

**R2K8 ROUNDUP SHIRTS**

The shirt for this year's Roundup will be the exact same high quality as at the last reunion in a light gray solid color with the VLOA patch embroidered on it.

Cost for each shirt is \$25.00. You may pre-order your shirt (s) on the form below. All shirt orders will be delivered upon Registration in Hershey. Additional shirts will also be available for sale the reunion.

**R2K8 ROUNDUP SHIRT ORDER FORM**  
**QUANTITY DESIRED BY SIZE**

**\*\* MEN'S SHIRT SIZES\*\***

	<b>XS</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>	<b>4XL</b>	<b>TOTAL #</b>	<b>COST</b>
	30-32	34-36	38-40	42 - 44	46-48	50-52	54-55	57-58		
<b>QTY</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**\*\* LADIES' SHIRT SIZES\*\***

	<b>XS</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>XXL</b>	<b>1X</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>TOTAL #</b>	<b>COST</b>
	4	6/8	10/12	14/16	18	20	18-20W	22-24W		
<b>QTY</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

For delivery of shirt orders at the reunion, please indicate name(s) below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL PRE-PAYMENT ORDERS MUST BE IN BY JUNE 15, 2008**  
**SEND SHIRT ORDERS FORM WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE PAYABLE TO: VLOA**

C/O William Hensinger  
 203 Stanley Drive  
 Palmyra, PA 17078  
 717 832-0556

**VLOA WEBSITE**

**Charles "Chuck" Wren has taken over the website and is doing a wonderful job with it. Really looks great, Chuck! The url for the site [www.vinhloutlaws.com](http://www.vinhloutlaws.com) Take a trip there, you will enjoy it.**

**Right now he is recovering from a recent hip replacement so not sure how much time he has to devote to it. We all wish him a speedy recovery!**

# The Rose Bowl Game

## 1966

Having left Vinh Long in September of 1965 along with the rest of you and having five months left to my three year enlistment, I was assigned to an aviation unit stationed at Fort MacArthur, California flying out of Long Beach Airport. Fall was in the air and college football was in high gear. The N.C.O. Club afforded me a haven to watch all of the games on the weekends. I would be able to catch up on a great season after having missed the one the year before. Life was good! But that was all about to change.

One morning in December, after roll-call, I was summonsed to the Orderly Room to see the Company C.O. What could he want with such a "Short-Timer" as me? He informed me that I, along with two other G.I.'s on Post, was invited by the Rose Bowl Parade Committee to see the Parade being one of three newly returning Viet-Nam veterans. The committee would need an answer in the next couple of days.

The UCLA Bruins were slated to face off with the Michigan Spartans. It was stated that the Bruins, who were ranked #5 in the country, had no business playing the #2 ranked Spartans in the Rose Bowl Game. Bubba Smith was about to showcase the end of his college career in this game and we knew later what a great pro career he would have. This game had possible upset written all over with all the typical media hype. I wanted to watch this one! Because the offer from the Rose Bowl Committee only talked about an invitation to the parade I informed the Company C.O. that I really wanted to watch the game on TV and would decline their invitation.

The day of the game, I prided myself for the decision that I had made to stay behind. I watched as the limousine drove off with the two other G.I.'s on their way to the parade. Later that day I made my way to the N.C.O. Club to settle down to all that TV had to offer by televising the game and drinking 3.2 beer in a dingy, smoked filled, military club. I was somewhat surprised at half-time when the two other vets had not returned from the parade; strange! The game ended with UCLA beating Michigan 14-12 in an upset.

The next morning I found out from the two other guys that they indeed had gone to the parade. Right after the parade they were approached by the Rose Bowl Grand Marshall for that year who just happened to be Walt Disney. Walt extended them a personnel invitation to join him in his VIP Box on the fifty yard line to watch the game! Half time also got them a standing ovation from the **100,087** fans that were in attendance. In the weeks to come the two other guys were also invited to be Mr. Disney's guest at Disney Land and be marshals at one of the theme parks Main Street Parades.

There should have been **100, 088** fans in attendance. Need I say more!

Don Palmer  
Outlaw-23

### OUR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING

(names with an \* have not been issued a "lifetime" card yet)

Michalic, Robert #88  
Bisch, Frederick (Tim) #4  
Booze, Kenneth #130  
Bouton, Charles #50  
Madigan, Michael #36  
Sharp, Robert #43  
Frontera, Milton (Skip) #79  
Martin, Paul L. #67  
Moist, Al #63  
Iller, Al #2

Anderman, Melvin E. #142  
Logan, David #21  
Longhofer, James #145  
Isbell, Ernie/Linda #8  
Osterland, Leon #64  
Dunaway, K im #27H\*  
Truman, Duane #49  
Horne, Phillip #16  
Jackson, Larry #100  
Anderson, Tom #1

Theriot, Patrick \*  
Hensinger, William M. \*  
Frederiksson, Gosta P \*  
Maxwell, Willard \*  
Bellochio, John \*  
Brown, John L. \*  
Hess, Carl L. \*  
Clemente, Anthony \*  
Meyers, Maurice \*  
Wren, Charles \*

## OUTLAW LIVING HISTORY DVD SERIES PROJECT

Dear Fellow Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwackers and all support elements:

Hi, my name is Jim Donnelly and I was an Outlaw (OL18 gunner/crewchief) 71-72. I am writing to ask for your help with a project I started six months ago after I retired from the Virginia Beach Fire Department. Over the next few years I want to assemble a history of the Outlaws to be placed on a series of DVDs. I have had many good responses and now have documents, film and pictures from dozens of people, each in a folder in their name. Thanks to people like Larry Cox, Col. Tom Anderson, Doug Wilson, Jim Spiers, Jim Pengov, JR Wright, Bob Giles, Harry Khachadourian, Tom Heydinger, George Bassett, Mike Kenna, Peter Schladweiler, Joe Wisneski, Jon Nyhre, Jim Burroughs, Dave Logan and the list goes on, I have 3 DVDs of history materials at the present time. But the bottom line is the project needs your help. The goal is to have at least one DVD for each of the eight years the Outlaws served in Vietnam and that's a minimum.

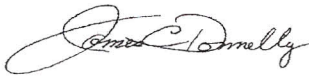
I would love to give you your own folder on your time period DVD. I could really use 8mm film or converted video, pictures, slides, copies of orders, awards, patches, "year books", and your stories (written, video or audio), whatever you think will help convey the history of the unit. I want the series to include as many personal accounts as possible to make it "our living history". It is this type of material which will make the DVD series more than just a collection of facts. At any rate it is a way to get your Outlaw, or Delta related pictures, patches and whatever scanned onto a DVD and perhaps even touched-up.

I will bear all expense of insured transport of materials to me and their safe return back to you. If you have the time to scan the items that would be a big help but I know most of you do not. If you can scan your materials please use 600 dpi jpeg for pictures and 300 dpi or greater for anything else. These settings allow for some minor editing to clean up the images. All materials sent will be treated as the treasure they are and returned to you as sent with a copy of them on CD/DVD to make it easier to share and keep safe.

This is a labor of love, not a for profit venture. It is an attempt to capture the history of Outlaws before it is lost. The DVD will remain free to all Outlaws and their families who ask for it and the materials on it will never be used for commercial purposes.

Please feel free to call, write or email with any questions. Please do not let the portion of the unit history you hold be lost, share it with other Outlaws, their families and the world. Welcome home and I hope your life after Vietnam has been a happy and productive one.

Thanks for any and all help, Stay safe and well, Jim



James Donnelly OL18  
2413 General Longstreet Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-2611  
1-757-481-6196  
jcdonnelly1@cox.net

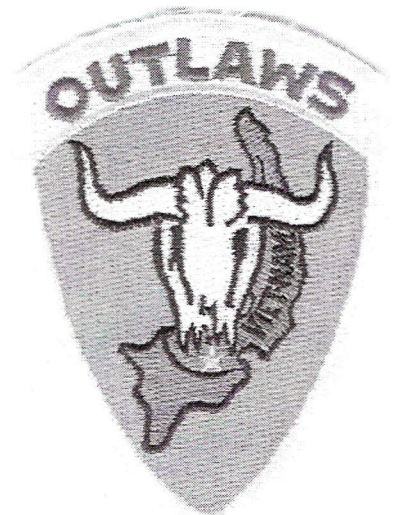


## DUES REMINDER

**Dues for 2008 were due in January.....have you paid your's yet?? If not use the form on the back page and mail to Charles Bouton.**

**Remember Lifetime Dues are a one time only fee of \$100. Come on .. Join us!**

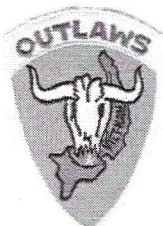
# VLOA Round-Up '08



**September 11-15, 2008**  
**Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey**  
\* **Gettysburg**  
\* **Lancaster**  
\* **Hershey**

*Travel*  
BY DESIGN

Meeting and Event Planners



# VLOA Round-Up' 08

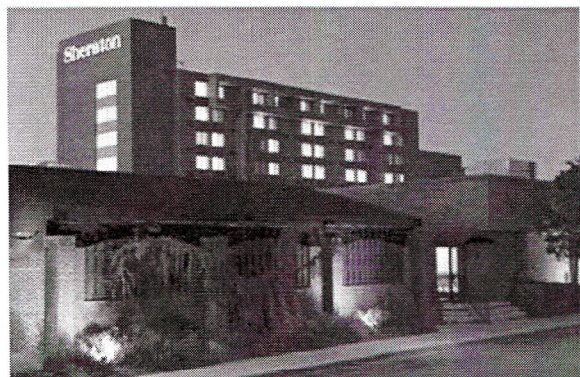
Hello VLOA members, family and friends,

Welcome to the VLOA Round-up' 08. We have arranged a fun filled, 4 day get together with various activities planned. We will be traveling through history while visiting the quaint town of Gettysburg and the near by civil war battlefield. The next day we will be dining at the ever popular Good-N-Plenty Restaurant in Lancaster. From there we will be traveling to the American Music Theatre to see the critically acclaimed musical, "The British Invasion". On your final day you'll have a choice of visiting The Bass Pro Shop of Harrisburg, Hershey Chocolate World, or the Antique Auto Museum of Hershey. We look forward to seeing all of you at our up-coming event in September.

Sincerely,

The VLOA Event Committee

Day 1	Thursday, 9/11	
2:00 to 5:00pm	Arrival at Hotel	
5:00 to 6:00pm	Registration	at hotel
6:00 to 8:00pm	Welcome Back Buffet	at hotel
8:15 to 12:00am	Social free time	in Hospitality room



**Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey**  
4650 Lindle Road  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111  
[www.sheraton.com/harrisburg](http://www.sheraton.com/harrisburg)

#### General Directions to the Hotel

##### From East

Take the Airport Access Road to 283 West towards Harrisburg. Proceed on 283 North to Swatara Exit (#2). Turn right off ramp, then turn left onto High Point Dr. The hotel is on the left hand side.

##### From Baltimore and York (South)

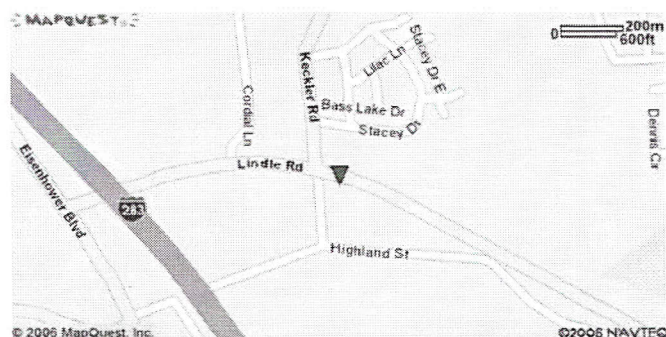
From Interstate 83 North to I-283 South. Take the Swatara Exit (#2). Turn left onto Lindle Rd. At the second light turn left onto High Point Dr. The hotel is on the left hand side.

##### From North

From Interstate 78 West or 81 South, proceed to I-83 South. Continue to 283 South to the Swatara Exit (#2). Turn left onto Lindle Rd. At the second light turn left onto High Point Dr. The hotel is on the left hand side.

##### From West

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) to Exit #247. Follow 283 North to the Swatara Exit (#2). At top of the ramp, turn right. Then, turn left at the first light. The hotel is on the left hand side.

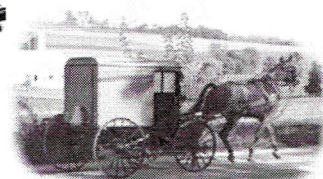
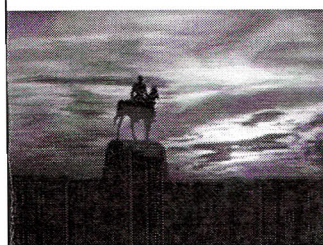






# VLOA Round-Up' 08

Day 2 Friday 9/12			Day 3 Saturday 9/13		
7:00-8:00am	Event Breakfast	at hotel	7:00-8:00am	Event Breakfast	at Hotel
8:15-8:30am	Board Busses	at Hotel	8:30-11:00am	VLOA Meeting in Hospitality Room	at Hotel
10:00-10:15am	Arrive at Theater	Gettysburg	11:15-12:30pm	Board Busses for Lancaster	at Hotel
10:30-11:00am	Battle Theater Show	Gettysburg	12:30-2:00pm	Lunch Good-N-Plenty	Lancaster
11:15-12:30pm	All-U-Can Eat Buffett	General Pickett's	2:00-2:15pm	Board busses for Theatre	at Restaurant
1:00-3:00pm	Tour of Battlefield	Gettysburg	2:15-2:30pm	Arrive at American Music Theatre	Lancaster
3:15-4:30pm	Jennie Wade House or Soldiers Museum. Choice of one only.	Gettysburg	3:00-5:00pm	British Invasion Show	Lancaster
6:00-8:00pm	Dinner at Dobbins House	Gettysburg	5:00-5:15pm	Board busses for trip back to hotel	at Theatre
8:00-9:00pm	Bus trip back to Hotel	at Hotel	6:00-7:00pm	Dinner on own	
9:00-12:00am	Social in Hospitality Room	at Hotel	7:00-12:00am	Social in Hospitality Room	at Hotel
			7 and 6:15pm	Two different bus runs to Casinos	at Hotel
			10 and 12am	Two different bus runs back from Casino	at Casino





# VLOA Round-Up' 08

Day 4	Sunday 9/14	
6:00-7:30am	Breakfast on Own	
9:00-10:00am	Church Service, Hospitality Rm.	at Hotel
10:00-11:00am	VLOA Meeting, Hospitality Rm.	at Hotel
10:15-5:00pm	Golf on Own-Transportation provided	at Dauphin Highlands Golf Club
11:00-12:00pm	Lunch on Own	
12:00 -4:00 pm	Hospitality room for social time	at Hotel
12:00 and 1:00 pm	Shuttle busses from hotel to Bass Pro Shop, Hershey Chocolate World, & Antique Auto Museum	Bus pick-up at hotel two times at 12 and 1pm
3:00 and 4:00 pm	Shuttle busses from Bass-Pro Shop, Hershey Chocolate World & Antique Auto Museum back to hotel.	Bus pick-up at different venues will be on each of two bus runs, 3 and 4pm times.
6:00-7:00pm	Cocktail Hour before Dinner	at Hotel
7:00-10:00pm	Farewell Dinner	at Hotel
10:00-12:00am	Auction and Social Hour in Hospitality room	at Hotel



CRUISE THROUGH TIME WITH US AT THE AACA MUSEUM WHILE YOU'RE IN TOWN!

Remember when gas was only 19 cents a gallon . . . those hot summer nights at the drive in . . . or those burgers at the local diner?

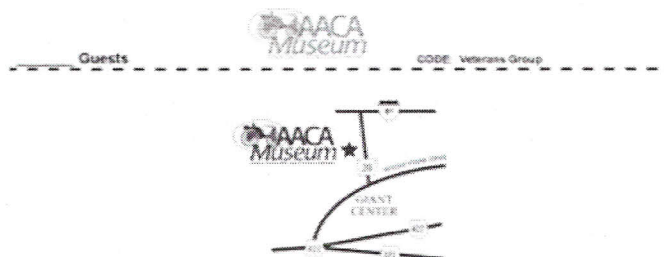
A walk through our galleries becomes a trip down memory lane.

Our special featured exhibit is one that will bring back memories of those Bobby Socks, Leather Jackets and Poodle Skirts as our Fins exhibit features those tail finned cars of the 50's and early 60's!

Shuttle Service from the hotel will be available on Sunday, September 14th!

**\$2.00 OFF ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM**  
 (\$2.00 VLOA Event Savings per person!)

Valid September 10 – 15, 2008 Not valid in combination with any other coupons or discounts. Regular Admission Fees: \$9 Adults, \$8 Seniors, \$7 Juniors



## Danube River Christmastime Cruise

By Linda Isbell

How long has it been since you lived in or visited Germany? We were stationed at Goppingen, Germany, for 1 year during the 70-71 time frame so our German experience was rather limited. This was mainly because Ernie got sent back to Viet Nam for his 3<sup>rd</sup> tour and the children and I went home to San Diego. But that's another story.

This past fall we got a river cruise catalogue in the mail that showed a European cruise from 23 December to 2 January. It sounded interesting so we booked it for our daughter Cheryl and ourselves. We flew on Lufthansa from Dallas to Frankfurt, Germany nonstop, which Ernie says he'll never do again. We changed planes and flew on to Prague, in the Czech Republic. It was only another hour of flying, thank God.

While in Prague we stayed at the Hilton Hotel which is very nice. Christmas Day had us on a bus/walking tour of Old Town Prague. Lots of history in Prague to include castles and churches and dozens of statues of old dead chezks. (Apparently they were cancelled.) There are some impressive bridges in Prague—by the way do you remember that Europe in December is c-o-l-d. We finally got a good chance to warm up with some beer and brats in a quaint little restaurant. Later that afternoon we were able to visit the Christmas markets, which was one of the reasons for going to Europe at Christmas to begin with. There were lots of neat places and things to see at the markets, but Ernie said we had no room to bring things home on the plane, so not much buying went on. He is such a spoil sport sometimes. That evening we went to a local Czech restaurant and enjoyed a typical Czech meal and entertainment. At least it was warm on the bus and while eating. Rather good food I might add. The following morning we took another c-o-l-d walking tour and then had lunch in a Rathskeller. More beer and brats.

That afternoon we were off by bus to Nuremberg. Upon arrival we toured the city before eventually boarding our cruise ship. It was a gray dreary winter day in the city but the guide was interesting. They even showed us the relics of the Nazi regime from WWII. Finally it was time to get to the ship so we didn't have to get off the busses and walk around. I was glad because it was c-o-l-d.

The ship was fairly new. It is built on a barge base with three levels of rooms on either side of a center hall. The rooms are very nice although the shower was so small you merely soaped up the walls and then got in and turned around. (Or so Ernie said, I had plenty of room.) These types of ships are built very narrow so they can pass through the river locks. Even so, they were very spacious in the dining area and in the lounge. Lots of beer—no brats. We found that a great many of our fellow cruisers were from Australia and Canada. All in all we had occasion to make many new friends among our fellow travelers. We cruised all night and docked each day for visits to the many towns along the Danube.

After cruising all night we awoke in Regensburg, Germany, the home of the oldest sausage restaurant in Germany. The brats were very good, with beer, yum yum. Regensburg is one of Bavaria's cultural centers. Out walking about it was really, really c-o-l-d and even layering his clothing Ernie was about to freeze. So we found a Sport Shop and he bought a down filled ski jacket and a warm pair of gloves. They even had his size! Later I found a cute Nutria hat that I bought at the oldest hat shop in Regensburg. It was a nice time in a delightful city especially now that we were both finally warmer. By the way, the dollar versus the euro made this a very expensive set of clothing for Ernie.

The next day found us in Passau-Linz, Austria. We opted for the full day tour of Salzburg which took us to the popular Sound of Music sights. Also saw the church where "Silent Night" was first played. It wasn't quite so c-o-l-d as the sun did come out that day.

The following day we arrived in Melk-Vienna. In the morning we saw Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abby, one of Europe's largest Monasteries. The view from the terrace over the Danube and surrounding countryside was breathtaking! Vienna is known as the "City of Music," and it is thought to have inspired the creative genius of Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss. In Melk we took the optional tour of a local Winery owned by three families. It was interesting to enter a very modern building and then walk down into the cold brick storage areas that survived WWII. Plus we had a wine tasting and bought a few bottles of wine.

New Year's Eve and Day were spent in Vienna, Austria. But by that time all three of us had the stomach flu. Yuck! I did manage to go into Vienna on New Year's Day with a group from the ship and have a look see. But Ernie & Cheryl elected to stay aboard the ship and rest.

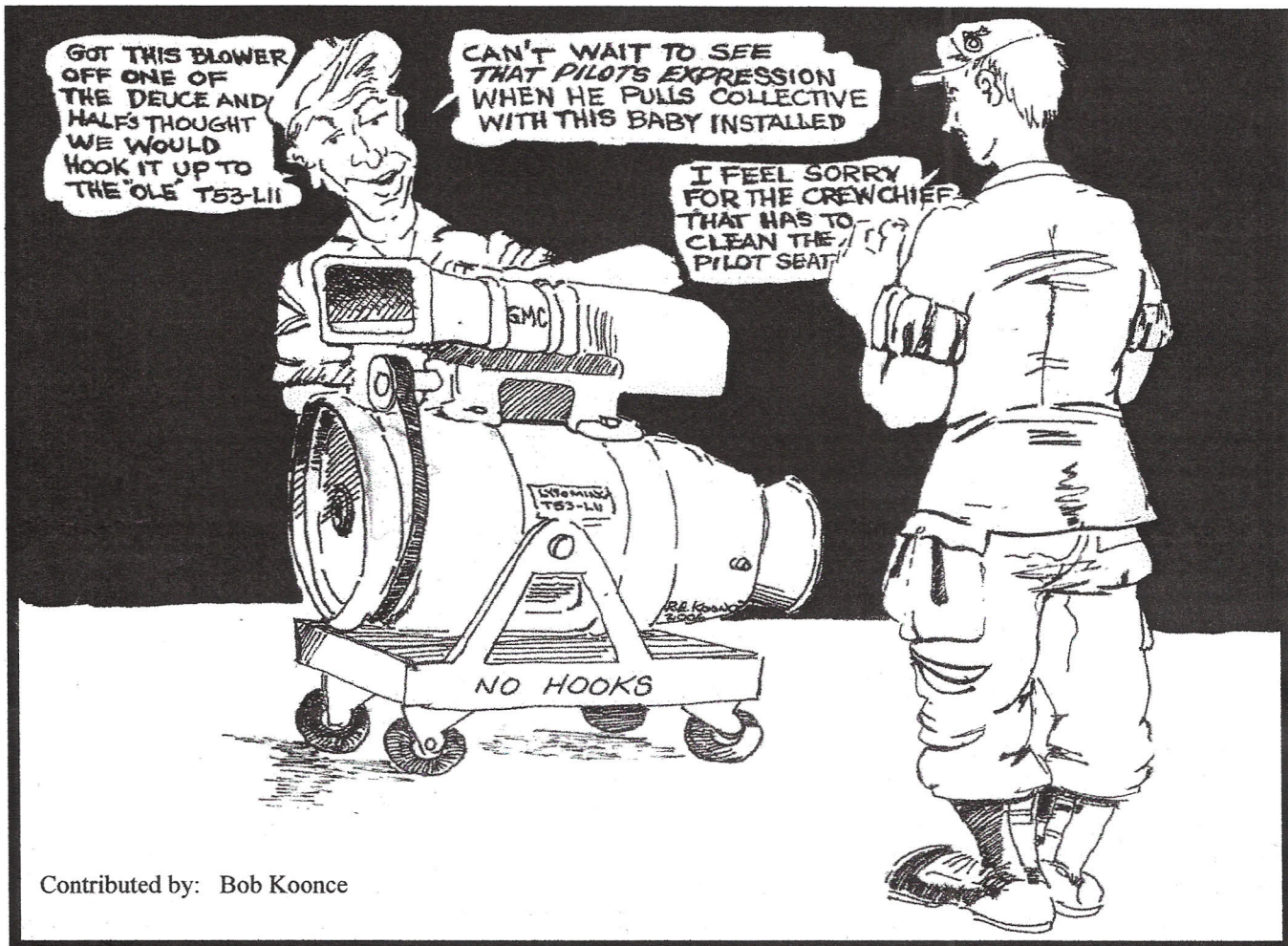
This ended our river cruise and the next day we flew to Frankfurt and then directly to Dallas. It was another loooonnnng flight, especially for Ernie who was still ill. We would do another river cruise just not during the winter. The passenger group is smaller and you get to know most everyone. Even with getting sick we had a good time. But believe we will fly business or first class the next time we take that long a flight. Fortunately Ernie had an empty seat next to him in economy class so he could stretch out while flying home. We were mighty glad to get home to our own beds.

Ernie says our next big trip will be to Scotland. Anyone interested in going with us?

Linda Isbell

(See photo of Ernie and Linda on Page 6)

## KOMICS BY KOONCE



### REMINDER OF THE SILENT AUCTION

In the last VLOA Newsletter, we stated that we would be contacting all who register for the Outlaw roundup in PA in September to secure information about what you will be contributing for the silent auction. We ask that you please contact us and let us know what you will contribute if you plan to do so, along with a description of the item(s). Then, we will only be contacting those who have not contacted us. This will save us a lot of time and we will appreciate it. Please let us hear from you any time, but not later than June 30.

Thanks,

Olen and Mary Thornton  
3603 Gawaine Court  
Annandale, VA 22003-1311  
Email: olenandmary@cox.net  
Home phone: 703-698-0548