

# VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION  
(VLOA)

October—December - 4th Quarter 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1 **Message From Director  
Bob Koonce**
- Page 2 **Chaplain's Corner  
John Doyle**
- Page 3 **Memories of Jack  
Moodt  
Shorty Farley**
- Page 4 **Treasurer's Report  
Charles Bouton**
- Page 5 **Minutes Of Business  
Meeting  
Larry Jackson**
- Page 8 **VLOA Quartermaster  
Store  
Tom Anderson**
- Page 12 **Updated Membership  
Renewal Form**

**Scattered Throughout  
Pictures From  
"Roundup 2010",  
Nashville, TN  
Frank Estes**

## A Message From VLOA Director, Bob Koonce

Here we are 2011, can you believe it? 2010 is just a distant memory, boy did it pass quickly seems like yesterday we were in Tennessee at the reunion then the holidays hit us, Thanksgiving then Christmas, and lastly New Years.

Laurie and I always like to put up our Christmas Tree up the weekend after Thanksgiving, it makes for a great start to the "Christmas Holiday Season", it's great to get up in the morning put the tree lights on sit and have breakfast enjoying the morning. The lighted tree gets you in the seasonal mood, it makes you want to go out and buy something!

We open our gifts to each other on Christmas Eve, just the two of us it's a nice quiet time that we enjoy so much, it's kind of a precursor to the hectic Christmas morning at our son's home with all the ripping and tearing, and yelling, look what I got! No look what I got! Ah the joys of having grandchildren, I don't believe that Christmas would be the same without "little Ones" running around all excited and tearing into their presents, their so excited at opening gifts that they forget what they have, it seems that it takes days before they finally figure out what they received.

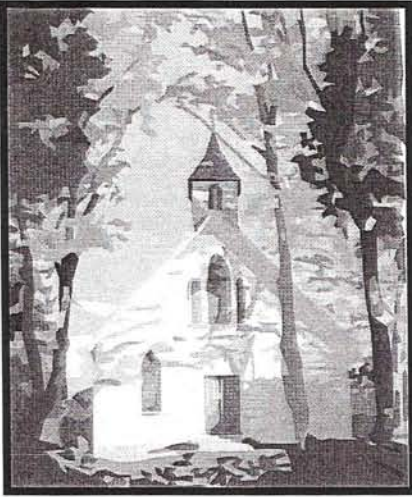
This years Christmas morning was different than in past years, this year our son wasn't with us he was in Kuwait with the Air force Reserve, however he was able to take time off from loading aircraft to watch his kids unwrap their gifts via Skype, ah what a marvel of modern communications, something that wasn't available to us some 40 plus years ago. We adults also enjoyed the opportunity to see and talk to him that morning. Was good to be able to wish him a merry Christmas and Happy New Years in real time.

Laurie and I both wish you a Happy New Year, Good Health, Joy of Family, and hopefully this year won't move as fast as last year!

Plans for the Las Vegas reunion are just starting to get underway, Laurie and I have looked at several venues that might be of interest to the group, but nothing to really report at this time, the first order of business will be to hire a reunion planner which we are looking in to at this time. Hopefully there will be more information to share with you, in the next newsletter.

Respectfully,  
Bob





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### "The Back Pew"

*From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle*

Preachers are like everyone: They like to hear a compliment. However, what they hear is not always what they want to hear. I can attest to this. I had a habit of saying things that many in the congregation didn't want to hear.

Often, as the service ended and I took my position at the door, there would be those that felt my message was not appropriate, the translation being, "That was not what I came here to hear!" My translation would always be: "You stepped all over my toes. You didn't make me feel good!" Let's face it, we all want to hear those things that make us feel good. Jesus called it "tickling ears."

We don't want to hear about our sins; we want to hear the choir sing, the preaching centered on "what will Jesus do for me?," not "What must I be doing for Jesus?" We want to be told what great Christians we are, not that we are falling short of the mark. What we want is to have our ears tickled.

Now here is a secret: Tickling ears is not always bad. That is, outside of the pulpit, and in the pulpit, it is good to tell people things they want to hear. Now I do not mean false compliments. I am talking about things like, "You sure look pretty today. Is that a new hair-do?" Or, "Bob, I appreciate your friendship over the past years. I always know I can count on you when I need help, or someone to talk to." It is the same in the pulpit. People want to hear that a loved one that died is "with the Lord." They want to hear the positive side of the Bible, not just the warnings. There are times, both in the pulpit and in the neighborhood, when we tickle ears. Consider your ears tickled.

John

## MEMORIES OF JACK MOODT

Contributed by Shorty Farley

In early August 1964 and while reporting for duty at 774th Railway Group, Fort Eustis, VA, I met up with Mr. Moodt. He was the start and I believe the first assigned member of the newly formed 150th Transportation Detachment. Over the next few days he fashioned ways to keep the growing number of new and anxious incoming members busy. His invitation to join a professional diving group would, most often, lead one to a Latrine he believed was in need of cleaning. After receiving, packing and shipping the prescribed equipment, Mr. Moodt departed Fort Eustis for the new duty station as the only advanced party from the 150th.

Mr. Moodt was a consummate professional and absolutely dedicated to excellence. He demonstrated his vast knowledge of the L-20 with the wing over stall to us green weenies. I still remember my being terrified and his ear to ear smile after my unexpected experience. He spelled out what had happened by explaining the need to keep the nose down. Years later I reminded him of the experience and he told me "he just wanted to show the guys a good time". I remember it as a "Spoiling of the Fruit of The Looms" moment.

Upon arriving in Vinh Long, Mr. Moodt had a sign painted and placed over the maintenance office door which read.

### HUEY LAMENT

Its not my place to run the train,  
The whistle I cannot blow.  
Its not my place to say how fast,  
The train's allowed to go.  
Its not my place to shoot off steam,  
Nor even clang the bell.  
But, let the Damn thing jump the track,  
And see who catches hell.



Everyone has memories and stories of Mr. Moodt and his kindness. Anyone serving with the 150th Transportation Detachment would have more than a few stories to share about Mr. Moodt. They might range from a stern dressing down to an exceptional moment of praise and oftentimes within the same work period. His knowledge of Helicopters was without measure and his willingness and desire to share it was without limits.

I remember a firm but compassionate person who always had time to listen but had a keen sense for recognizing (BS) dramatic performances. During our tour in Vinh Long, Vietnam, I would guess that Mr. Moot did not miss a promotion party for any enlisted person. He always arrived early with best wishes for the one or ones promoted and with a good size contribution of Beer for the celebration but seldom stayed beyond a few minutes.

Mr. Moodt is walking the Golden Streets of Glory, preparing for the day we will again be reunited as we were in Vinh Long some 46 years ago. He was an American Patriot and a fellow Soldier and I am enormously proud and pleased to have served with him. Until we meet again Mr. Moodt.



## Treasurer's Quarterly Report – 4Q 2010

Account value at start of 4Q 2010 (checking account)	\$ 20,256.27
<u>Total prior to reunion</u>	\$ 20,256.27
<u>Funds received at reunion</u>	
Associate memberships	\$ 1,500.00
Life memberships	\$ 600.00
Incidentals (late entries & functions)	\$ 1,457.00
Donations	\$ 95.00
QM sales	\$ 914.25
50/50 ticket sales	\$ 1,500.00
Silent auction	\$ 3,077.25
Misc. received by T. Anderson	\$ 269.00
<u>Total funds prior to expenses</u>	\$ 29,668.77

### Expenses

Reunion misc. (refreshments, banner, shirts & hats, etc )	\$ 1,892.89
50/50 winnings	\$ 325.00 *
Radisson Hotel	\$ 7,595.01
Radisson Hotel –final – extended stays	\$ 364.72
Destination Nashville – final	\$ 117.50
Swinging Doors (entertainment)	\$ 200.00
Reunion overpayment refund	\$ 356.00
American Watch Co.	\$ 486.00
Aplus.net (website)	\$ 9.99
Quarterly Newsletter	\$ 280.74
Returned check (includes \$12.00 fee)	\$ 162.00
 Total expenses	 (\$ 11,789.85)
Adjustment	\$ 89.57

<u>Checking account value as of 12/31/10</u>	\$ 17,968.49
<u>Total VLOA funds</u>	\$ 17,968.49

\* This amount represents the actual pay-out after a return of \$425.00 by some individual winners

Charles F. Bouton  
Treasurer, VLOA

# VINH LONG OUTLAW ASSOCIATION (VLOA)

## Business Meeting

9 October 2010

The VLOA Business Meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee in conjunction with the VLOA Roundup 2010 on October 9, 2010.

The meeting was opened by Frank Estes, the National Director, who again welcomed all participants to the Roundup. Copies of the 13 September 2008 minutes were made available to the participants and the minutes were read to the membership.

There was no old business.

Al Iller made a motion to approve the 2008 Minutes and it was seconded by Tom Anderson and approved by unanimous vote.

Frank Estes, National Director, presented the financial report which contained an overview of the financial status of the reunion and the overall financial status of the VLOA. The checking account balance as of 9/30/2010 was \$20,256.27 which did not reflect the final payments of the reunion expenses or the proceeds from the silent auction, 50/50 chances, QM sales, donations and membership dues paid during the reunion. The biennial financial audit has not been scheduled at this time. Pat Theriot made a motion to approve the treasurers' report, and it was seconded by Jim Kirkley and approved by unanimous vote. Bob Koonce will direct Chester Voisin to schedule an audit upon completion of the non-profit tax filing being performed by Tony Clemente.

A number of new business topics were discussed and voted on by attendees:

Ernie Isbell made a motion to increase the Regular Membership annual dues to \$25. The motion was seconded by Al Iller and approved by unanimous vote.

Ernie Isbell made a motion to establish a Life Member Associate (non-voting) at \$100 for spouses who desire to support the VLOA. The motion was seconded by Pat Theriot and approved by unanimous vote.

Jim Kirkley made a motion to leave the newsletter in its present form and delivery method. The motion was seconded by Paul Martin and approved by unanimous vote.

**Officer/Director Nominating Committee:** Tom Anderson made a motion that this committee will be appointed by the serving National Director and should be composed of former Ex Officios/National Directors to nominate a slate of officers/directors for the coming two years. The motion was seconded by Ernie Isbell and approved by unanimous vote.

**Election of Officers/Directors:** the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee was approved by the Membership; no nominations were submitted from the floor. Included in this listing is the new position of Historian.

(cont'd on Page 6)



**Changes to the Constitution:** Chapter 5, Paragraph 2 of the VLOA By-Laws (which refers to the Nominating Committee) currently reads:

2. *The Nominating Committee will develop a slate of candidates who are willing and able to serve as officers of the VLOA.*

*A list of nominees will be presented to the membership during Reunion registration. Additional candidates may be nominated by the membership during the Reunion business session prior to the election.*

The membership approved the following changes to Chapter 5, Paragraph 2 of the VLOA By-Laws:

2. *Approximately 9 to 12 months prior to the next reunion, the National Director shall appoint a Nominating Committee of no more than three members to recommend names of members to fill upcoming open positions on the Steering Committee. The Nominating Committee will be comprised of eligible VLOA members who have either served as members of the Steering Committee, are Ex Officio members of the organization, or are members sufficiently familiar with the VLOA membership body to make appropriate nominations for positions of leadership on the Steering Committee.*

*The Nominating Committee will recommend a slate of nominees, one for each open position, and forward its recommendations to the Director for review and comment. After the Director's review, Committee members will individually contact each of those on the slate to ascertain their willingness to serve if elected. If not, an alternate will be nominated.*

*The list of nominees will be presented to the membership at the reunion General Membership meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the meeting.*

The changes will be posted on the website in the near future.

**Annual Income vs. Expenses:** Previous years' incomes has been marginally enough to pay for our quarterly *Outlaw Newsletter* and operation of the newly formatted Outlaw Website. It costs about \$1500 - \$2000 to publish four quarterly newsletters, and an additional \$250 to keep the website online. Numerous issues were discussed, with a number of important decisions being made on how to increase income and reduce expenses. First, we will increase the Regular Membership annual fee to \$25 beginning in January 2011. Second, we will send reminder postcards to members who have not paid their dues by February 15 each year, and again by March 15 each year. Third, we established new levels of Life Memberships: Warrior Life Member at \$200, Leader Life Member at \$400, Patriot Life Member at \$600, and Legacy Life Member at \$1000. Fourth, we established a Life Member Associate (without vote) at \$100; for the ladies who desire to support the VLOA at that financial level. All these efforts clearly enhanced our ability to build the VLOA revenue streams to keep us on sound financial footing.

**Tax Exempt Status:** Frank Estes discussed the process we went through beginning in October 2009 to research, document, and complete the IRS required application to obtain tax exempt status, and culminating on January 27, 2010 with submission of the application to the IRS. On April 30, 2010, the IRS granted the VLOA nonprofit, tax-exempt status as a 501(c)19 war veterans organization of the U.S. Armed Forces. That means that all donations and contributions to and for the VLOA's use are tax-exempt.

**Reunion Committee:** Tom Anderson made a motion to let the Steering Committee plan the reunion through a professional Reunion Coordinator. This motion was seconded by Ernie Isbell and approved by unanimous vote.

**Reunion Coordinator:** Numerous alternatives were discussed, with the final position being to hire a professional for the next reunion. This usually requires a fee of 10-15% of the expected reunion costs.

**Next Reunion Location:** Various considerations were evaluated in regard to deciding on a reunion location. After discussion, the members identified a number of locations, with Las Vegas and Dallas/Fort Worth being tied in an unofficial pole of members present. The newly elected Steering Committee met afterwards and determined that the primary location will be Las Vegas, with Dallas being the backup.

**Continuity Files:** Tom Anderson and Frank Estes worked for more than three months to research, document, and develop a set of continuity files that define the processes the VLOA has and/or should be using for proper and legal operations. These files were developed such that each member of the Steering Committee would have a copy, with the National Director maintaining all original copies of key documents. All original documents will be place in the National Director's Policy Files Notebook, with a backup copy in the Secretary's hands, and DVD copies in the hands of remaining Steering Committee members.

(cont'd on Page 7)



**Building the Treasury Status:** With all the discussion on annual income versus expenses, this topic became moot. Further, the unofficial financial report at the end of the reunion indicated that we had probably improved our treasury by about \$8,000 from reunion income (silent auction, 50/50 chances, QM sales, donations, Life Member & Life Member Associates joining during the reunion, etc.).

**Awards Committee:** The National Director appoints this committee to determine if someone is deserving of an award.

**Search for Webmaster:** Frank Estes will continue serving as the Webmaster until such time that a younger, more knowledgeable, experienced, and hot-shot webmaster volunteers to run our website at no expense to the VLOA.

**Website Updates:** Let Frank Estes know what you want to see on our website, new, better, different, less of, more of, and similar things. Send to [estesf@charter.net](mailto:estesf@charter.net).

**Future of Sanford Hall:** Jeannette Smith provided all of Jack Sanford's files to Jim Donnelly who will scan them into digital format, provide me a copy of the DVD. Frank Estes will coordinate with Fort Rucker personnel to develop the Sanford Hall display better than it currently exists.

**Copyright Issues:** The VLOA's position is provided on our website's Home Page (bottom of left column). The VLOA National Director will send this information to Joe Kline via letter, asking if he would like to be our official Outlaw artists while informing him of our copyright position.

**Mechanism to Merge 62<sup>nd</sup>, 175<sup>th</sup>, & B/1-158<sup>th</sup>:** after discussion, the VLOA position is to continue contacting members in other year groups in hopes they will join us at future Roundup

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the following were made officers of the VLOA:

National Director-Bob Koonce

Permanent Advisor-Tom Anderson

Deputy Director-Angelo Spelios

Secretary-Larry Jackson

Treasurer-Chester Voisin

Members at Large-Duane Truman - Don Palmer

Chaplain-John Doyle

Unit Historian-Jim Donnelly

Communications Director/Newsletter-Al & Nell Moist

Communications Director/Website-Frank Estes

Quartermaster-Tom Anderson

There being no further business, Al Iller made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Pat Theriot and unanimously approved by the membership present. The membership will meet again at the call of the National Director in 2012 during the R2K + 12 VLOA Roundup to be held in Las Vegas, NV.

Larry L. Jackson, Secretary, Vinh Long Outlaw Association (VLOA)



Breakfast Gathering



Breakfast Gathering 2



## VLOA Quartermaster Store

### Will Open Soon

By Tom Anderson

In September 1998 (when we were all much younger) I was one of 10 original Vinh Long Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners and 28<sup>th</sup> Signal Detachment guys who got together in Branson, MO for our first, and long-overdue, mini-reunion. Many of us had not seen each other for nearly 34 years.

The one single item that bonded all of us together, even after 3 ½ decades, was our colorful Outlaw patch that Bob Bergquist designed in September 1964 when the advanced party arrived in Vinh Long. It wasn't long after the main body of the unit arrived, that Outlaw patches were being made somewhere in downtown Vinh Long and every member of the Outlaws was wearing the patch on our fatigues. However, 36 years later in Branson, none of us had a spare patch that we would consider parting with.

But, being the forward-thinker I try to be, several weeks before leaving for Branson, I had taken one of my two remaining original Outlaw patches to an embroidery shop to see what it would take to get a patch embroidered on a polo shirt for that first mini-reunion, I was told I'd first have to get the design converted into a computerized program that the embroidery shop could then use to make the shirt. Should be easy enough!

So, I took that old original Outlaw patch to a computer guy who the shop recommended. Lo and behold, he turned out to be a nice little Vietnamese man who was delighted not only to get the work but also to find that there was a connection with his country. Sounded like a win-win for both of us.

Several days later I picked up the floppy disc, took it to the embroidery shop and ordered a few shirts for myself and a few for some of the others who would-be in Branson. I knew the shirts would be a HIT! But, when I picked the shirts up, was I ever in for a surprise! Turns out that apparently no Vietnamese have ever seen, or knew about, a real Texas long-horn steer like our patch displayed. Thinking that he would be nice, and correct that "error" in the patch I had taken to him, my nice little Vietnamese friend converted the long-horn steer horns on my shirt-patch into typical rounded curved Vietnamese water-buffalo horns that he was familiar with in his country! I still have those shirts and I now consider them to be "collector's items"! (Don't even TRY to buy them from me. . . . you couldn't afford them!)

However, thus began our first foray into obtaining authentic Outlaw memorabilia supplies. At every reunion since, we have had a variety of Outlaw items available, either as give-aways in the Welcome Bag or for-sale at what we've come to know as the QM Store.

The legal basis for a QM store was established when the attendees at R2K2 (Reunion 2002) in San Antonio approved the VLOA Constitution, which included the position of Quartermaster as one of the Steering Committee offices. The also-approved VLOA Bylaws prescribed that the Quartermaster manage and coordinate the procurement, storage and sale of various items of Outlaw memorabilia and make such items available to the members. Items are sold on a "for-profit" basis as another revenue source for the VLOA treasury.

Al Iller, by virtue of his having taken on the task of procuring the first of our Outlaw items for the full Branson reunion (R2K), became the de facto QM for the first several VLOA years. Al did a great job of identifying various Outlaw items that could be used by reunion attendees. For the next several reunions, Al continued to work with the VLOA reunion coordinators to select and order cups, caps, crests, belt buckles, decals, shirts and a wide variety of other items all with the Outlaw, Maverick, Roadrunner and/or 28<sup>th</sup> Sig Det insignia logos.

Bill Hensinger took over the QM position from Al for the Hershey reunion and continued the process of selecting great items for that reunion. (Remember the cocktail glasses with the Outlaw insignia etched on the side?) However, Bill found that family issues prevented him from continuing in the QM position. Frank Estes and I shared the QM role for the Nashville reunion and Frank's selection of the Outlaw-faced watches for both men and women was an absolute home-run! Plus, our QM Store sales during the reunion brought in over \$800 in gross sales.

But, Frank still has more than enough on his VLOA plate, even after the Nashville reunion closed. Foremost, Frank has assumed the time-consuming role of webmaster for our VLOA web site and the results of his efforts are obvious when you now bring up the site. So, I took on the QM role.

The objective of establishing and maintaining a QM store is two-fold: 1) To provide an additional source of revenue for the VLOA treasury. 2) to provide former Outlaws and affiliated unit members with a source for purchasing Outlaw memorabilia throughout the year.

Several years ago Al Iller set up a similar mail-order QM store. At that time, we did not have the web site available, mail and email orders were few and the cost and level of effort for each order did not justify continuing the project. Al recommended to the Steering Committee that it be discontinued and revisited at a later time. Because the circumstances have changed, I felt we could now reestablish the QM Store.

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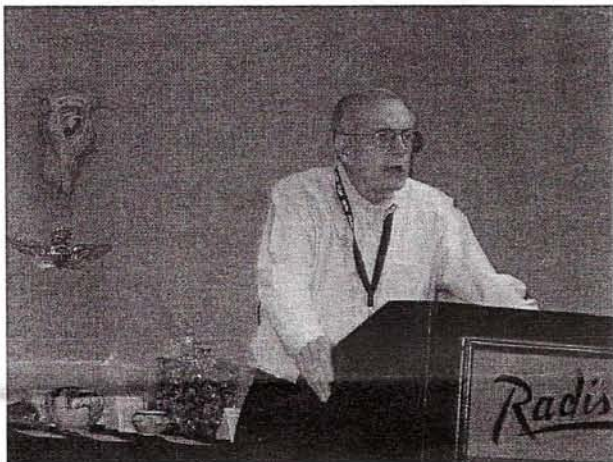


So, to reduce or eliminate the stock of items we currently have in the Store, I first inventoried all items now on hand after the Nashville reunion. I have asked Frank create a new QM page on our web site and place all these items "for sale" on the site. Initially, you'll see an Order Form which lists everything currently in the QM store inventory. Most of these items are already in short quantity and when they're sold, we probably won't re-order many of them. The web site Order Form you'll see initially will be changed later to reflect the smaller number of items we'll stock for longer term sales.

Second, I have forwarded to Bob Koonce, our National Director, and the Steering Committee a recommended "Charter" for continuing the QM Store on-line. If approved, we will stock the "store" with items that have a highest probability of sales turnover. For example, we'll probably stock Outlaw patches, Outlaw and Maverick insignia caps, the great-looking Outlaw crests, Outlaw and Maverick decals, and a few other items that will have the highest likelihood of being sold. We may also consider such items as polo shirts, cups, tote bags, thermoses, etc. The obvious constraint is the amount of initial investment that the VLOA treasury will have to absorb to establish initial inventory stock levels.

The VLOA Steering Committee will be responsible for approving the recommended QM Store Charter. The QM will, of course, report sales to the National Director. The recommended Charter has a provision that at each reunion the previous two-year record of QM Store sales will be reviewed by the Steering Committee and a determination made whether to continue operating the QM Store.

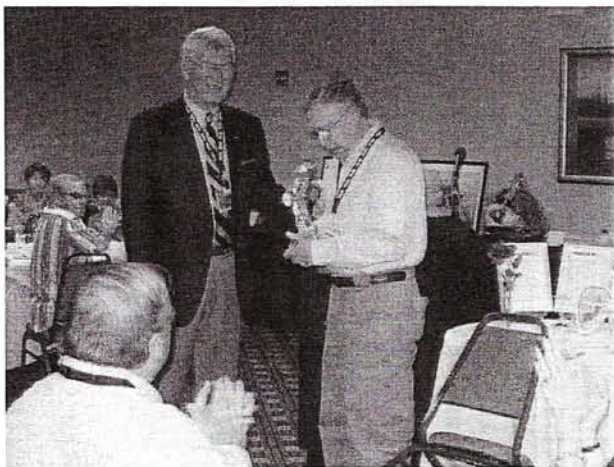
Hopefully we'll have the QM Store up and operating in the 2d quarter of 2011.



Chaplain Doyle giving Sunday Services



Dahlia Davis, our youngest attendee



Bob Koonce, receiving Director's Award



Chester Voisin & Mo Myers



**Please Note: In some of the following pages you will find photos from the Roundup 2010, Nashville, TN. If anyone else has photos that were made there and would like to have them in the next few issues of the VLOA Newsletter, please send them to us. All photos in this issue were submitted by Frank Estes.**

**Al & Nell**



Arrival and Welcome Banner



Arrival Dinner #1

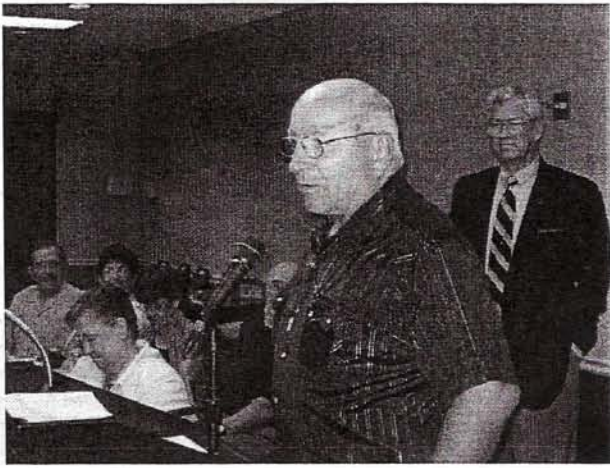


Arrival Dinner #2



Arrival Dinner #3





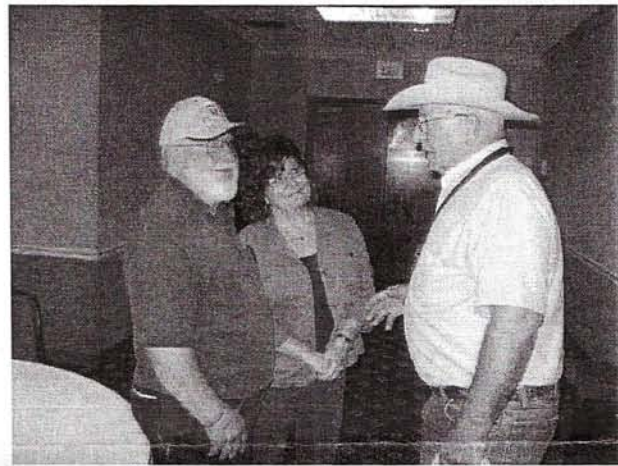
Bob Sharpe, rendering some levity



Farewell Dinner 9



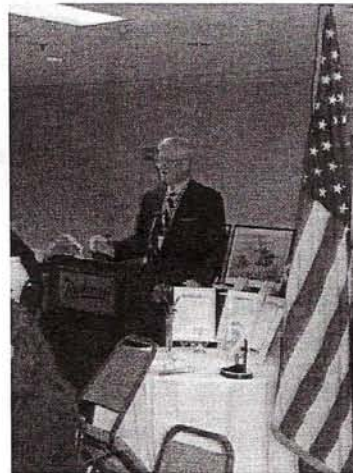
Farewell Dinner 6



George & Karen Kyle & Bob Sharpe



Donnellys at Country Hall of Fame



Ernie adding levity to the evening



Outlaw Group Photo 3