

VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

**VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
(VLOA)**

**October - December
Fourth Issue 2007**

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A Note From Our Director

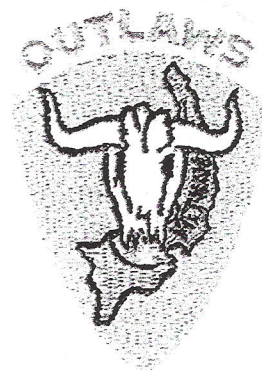
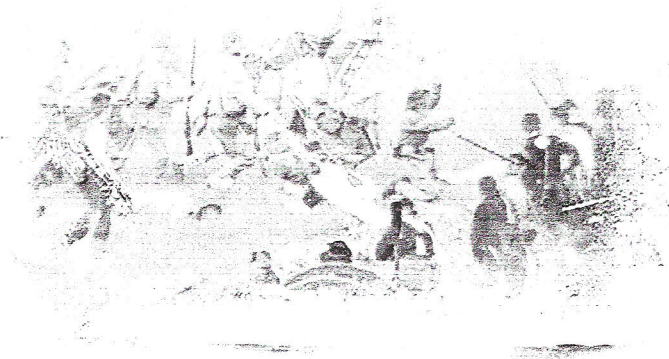
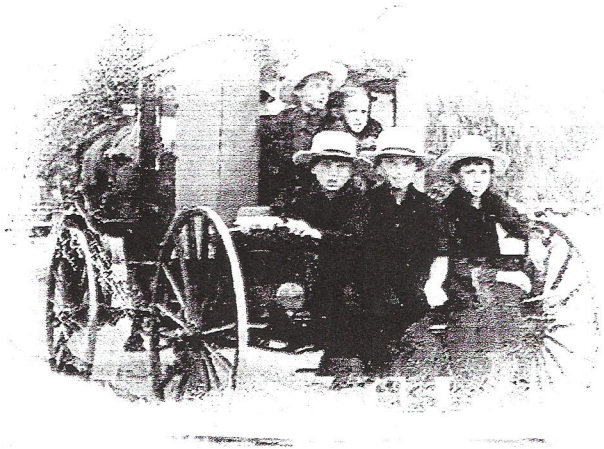
It has come to my attention recently that we are getting older very fast. Well, some may ask..."Where have you been?" Actually, my health has been pretty good...aside from diabetes, but good enough to go out west for my favorite sport of hunting deer and antelope.

Recently, I have heard that a few of our VLOA members have been having some health issues and could benefit from help available through various organizations. Many eligible veterans and/or spouses do not know how to access the many services available to them.

However, I would like to speak to you about important information I learned from my job as Director of Veteran Affairs in Pennsylvania a few years ago. Many Veterans didn't know that each state has a veterans affairs office readily available to them. Most states such as Alabama and Pennsylvania have county veteran's offices to provide assistance. Don't forget the veterans service organizations such as the DAV, the American Legion, VFW, The Purple Heart Org. and others. These organizations all have service officers to assist. You don't have to be a member. A personal visit to your local veterans organization or a telephone call to one of those mentioned above may be all that is required. But if there is no acceptable result then call another until the issue is resolved. Put this information in a conspicuous place so that others may quickly access it should the need arise. Don't forget your religious leader, who can be a comfort in such a situation. This is especially important for us old geezers who may need assistance in a hurry.

Joe

VLOA Round-Up '08



September 11-13, 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, 9/4	
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

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

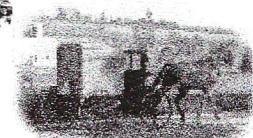
Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) to Exit #247. Follow 283 North to the Swatara Exit (#2). At top of the ramp, turn right. Then, turn left at the first light. The hotel is on the left hand side.





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 Buffet	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	X
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 X	
7:00-10:00am	Church Service, Hospitality Rm.	at Hotel
10:00-11:00am	VLOA Meeting, Hospitality Rm.	at Hotel
11:00-5:00pm	Golf on Own-Transportation provided	at Dauphin Highlands Golf Club
12:00-12:00pm	Lunch on Own X	
2:00 -4:00 pm	Hospitality room for social time	at Hotel
2:00 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.
5:00-7:00pm	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 AACAMUSEUM 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: \$10 Adults, \$8 Seniors, \$7 Juniors

Guests



VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION

Round UP 2008 (R2K8)

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

September 11-15, 2008

All reservations to be made through VLOA. Hotel cannot accept reservations for Round Up R2K8.

Please complete this form and mail check to Charles Bouton at the address below.

Registration fees include: Four nights hotel accommodations - 2 group breakfasts- Round Up Welcome-Back Buffet - Guided Tours in Gettysburg - Dinner and Lunch in Gettysburg - Admission to one (Jennie Wade House or Soldiers Museum) - Battlefield Theatre Show - Lancaster Lunch - British Invasion Show - Farewell Dinner - all local transportation - all taxes, gratuities and amenities!!

Name: _____ (1) Name for Badge

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____ (2) Name for Badge

Do you have any special needs? _____

# of Persons Per room (Please check one)	Price per person	Total due based on # of people in a room	Smoking/non-smoking room- mark S or NS	Handicapped Accessible room-check if needed
1	\$800.00 per person	\$800.00		
2	\$550.00 per person	\$1100.00		
3	add \$300	\$1400.00		
4	add \$300	\$1700.00		
no room cost	\$300 per person	\$	N/A	N/A

Early Arrival/Late Departure Reunion Hotel Nights

Will Arrive ___ Days Early @ \$125.00 per night

Will Stay ___ Days Later @ \$125.00 per night

Total Due: (Includes Reunion Fees plus early arrival/late stays) \$ _____

Round Up Choices: Please mark with number of people (1-4).

Gettysburg Day: Jennie Wade House _____ or the Soldiers Museum _____

Golf at Dauphins Highlands _____ Bass Pro Shop _____ Hershey Chocolate World _____ Antique Auto Museum _____

Farewell Dinner: Chicken Saltimbocca _____ Pan Seared Atlantic Salmon _____

Golf Shirt Sizes: M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

Arrival Mode: I will be ___ driving or ___ flying to the reunion (Please indicate this for our planning.)

I will have an item to place in the **Silent Auction:** ___ yes ___ no.

Payment: 50% deposit is due to Charles Bouton, No Later than May 1, 2008. Remaining 50% is due to Charles no later than August 1 2008.

Cancellation/Refund Policy: Individual Cancellations must be made 10 days prior to arrival. No refunds will be made prior to the reunion. Full refund will be made if notification received earlier then 10 days prior to arrival. Partial refund will be made if notification received later then 10 days prior to arrival.

Please mail form and make checks out to: VLOA and mail to Charles Bouton 2013 SW Providence Place, Port St. Lucie, Florida



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Back Pew"

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

As Ronald Reagan was fond of saying, "There they go again." And here we go again. Ready or not, another year has started. We have no idea what lies before us. Will it be a time of joy, peace, good health, etc.? Or will it be a year of less of the things we wish for. Let's face it! We are all getting older, try as we may to not do so.

I guess, for me, that is the way it will be. I'm not rich, like many of our self proclaimed celebrities. I can't afford a face-lift, tummy tuck, or any of the other things they get in search of eternal youth. I don't know about you, but I think it is sad, when people will spend thousands of dollars trying to look young, when all around us are people that cannot afford to pay for needed medications or food, or any of the basic necessities of life.

There are things in life we can do nothing about. Then there are things we can do something about. We need not be rich - just willing. Jesus said that we are to "love our neighbors as ourselves". Now this is something we can all grab hold of. It doesn't require money, good looks, or special talent. All that is required is that we open ourselves and our heart to someone in need. In many cases it does not even require money.

This year, can we give a little of our love, talent, compassion, and time to "love our neighbor as ourselves"? We don't even have to know their name - just their need.

Do you remember the song made famous by Ray Stevens, and that kids still love to sing: "Every thing is Beautiful"? Your world will become beautiful when you take time to put aside your needs to meet the needs of a neighbor. Make this a "Happy New Year".

John

Agent Orange

The VA has presumed that some illnesses and diseases were caused by Agent Orange. What this means is that if you get sick with one of these illnesses or diseases, VA will not require that you prove it was Agent Orange that caused it.

My cancer was covered by this presumptive cause. I filed (with the help of my local Veterans Affairs Officer) my claim and was not required to "prove" Agent Orange caused my condition.

Below are the diseases that VA currently presumes resulted from contact with Agent Orange:

- + *Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia*
- + *Hodgkin's disease*
- + *Multiple myeloma*
- + *Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma*
- + *Prostate cancer*
- + *Respiratory cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea.)*
- + *Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma.)*

If you are diagnosed with any of the above diseases or illnesses, visit your local Veterans Service Office for help in filing your claim.

You can find information on Agent Orange and other concerns on VA's website: www.va.gov

John Doyle

A Quarter Century of Visiting the "Wall"

November 13, 1982 was a cloudy, rainy day in Washington DC. I was scheduled to leave in late afternoon on a business trip to Hawaii. (Yes, I was still working and paying FICA back in those days!). I had been reading reports of the controversy surrounding even the proposal to establish a Vietnam memorial, the approval of the design, the ground-breaking earlier in 1982 and finally the announcement of the dedication date for the memorial. I felt a keen sense of duty, and obligation, to be at the Wall on the day of the dedication.

Unfortunately, the formal dedication ceremony was scheduled for mid-afternoon and I had to be at Dulles airport by that time. So, that morning about 0900, knowing I'd never find a parking space anywhere close to the site, I parked at Fort Myer and walked the mile or two across the Potomac river bridge to the memorial.

As I approached the area, I remember being absolutely overwhelmed by the thousands of Vietnam veterans who had already assembled at or near the memorial site. The 10 foot wide stone walkway, now in place all along the base of the memorial, was not yet installed. A makeshift walkway had been laid down but nearly everywhere the rain had already turned the grass and walkway into a sea of trampled mud. I was not familiar with the memorial layout, as I have become in later years, so even if I could have found my way to the front of the crowd I wouldn't have known how, or where, to look for names of comrades and friends who were on the Wall.

Mixed in with the thousands of people were hundreds of partially or fully uniformed VN veterans, every one seemingly recounting their own story of service in Nam. Lots of hugging, crying, war stories all around me. I was by myself and didn't feel a need to talk to anyone. I stayed at the memorial site less than an hour but felt a sense of relief for having been there.

November 11, 2007 was a bright, warm sunny day in Washington DC. I have visited the VN Memorial literally dozens of times since that first time in 1982. But, I felt the same compulsion on this Sunday morning as I did at that first visit a quarter century ago, to attend the 25th anniversary of the dedication. The day before, over nearly 20 hours, all 58,256 names on the Wall had been read aloud. Again, I went alone. Again, thousands of visitors. Lots of old soldiers like myself. Again, lots of banners, flags, signs, jackets with patches. Families, grandchildren with parents and grandparents. But, a much more subdued and reflective crowd than 25 years earlier. The Wall has matured as have the veterans.

I had a chance meeting with a young man that was particularly poignant for me. He was probably in his mid-30s. After we began chatting, he showed me a picture of his father whose name was on the Wall. The picture was loaded into his Blackberry. He told me about the father he never knew, who was a crew-chief on a Huey in the 52d Aviation Bn. and lost his life in a combat action in the highlands. He had his dad's service record, pictures he had sent VN, his service awards, his obituary and much more all stored in his Blackberry. He was so proud to show me all the history he had collected about a father who died before he was old enough to remember him. He asked me if I could help him locate a unit crest of the 52d, which we found at one of the vendor stalls along Constitution avenue.

The 25th anniversary dedication ceremony was memorable. A series of speeches by people who have been instrumental in getting the memorial approved and constructed brought me, unabashedly, several instances of a lumpy-throat and teary eyes. Then, the keynote talk was eloquently delivered by General Colin Powell! (Why can't we have a man like HIM as our next President???) General Powell began his talk by declaring that "there is magic in this Wall that has now stood for 25 years!" And he was SO right. I have visited the Wall during the day and at night. I have been there alone and with friends, many of who are Outlaw comrades. I never fail to be emotionally engulfed by the simplistic beauty and historical symbolism that the Wall exudes. The fact that there are many comrades' names on the Wall only adds to the pull that the Wall has for me.

The black polished granite memorial is the most visited site in Washington, over 3 million each year! It touches people who never had a family member or friend in Vietnam. Every day dozens of items are left at the base of the Wall, under a name that is normally not identified, to maintain a personal contact with one of those 58,256 people with whom we served. As you know, some of that number are Outlaws who served with us.

Why am I writing all this? Because those of you who will be attending R2K8 in Hershey, PA this fall should seriously consider taking the time to make a side trip to Washington, D.C. It's not that far. A visit the Vietnam memorial will bring you back to the reality of why we served together in Vietnam. You will always be glad you made the effort.

I have told you many times that I consider it an honor to have served with each one of you and an honor to have known many of those whose names are forever engraved on the Wall.

(submitted by Tom Anderson)

Information Regarding the Outlaw R2K+8 Silent Auction

Mary and I have agreed to coordinate the silent auction again for the Outlaws' R2K+8 roundup in Hershey, PA in September. This is always an interesting, fun and lucrative part of the activities and we hope to keep it that way in 2008. The revenues from the auction help defray several costs for the entire group, e.g., some meals, transportation, entertainment, etc. that are not included in your registration fees. Items for the auction may be donated and are welcome by members, relatives, etc.

It has been demonstrated in the past that there is a tremendous amount of talent within VLOA in painting, carving, crafting, writing, pottery making, cooking, scrap booking, nostalgic or military memorabilia, as well as many other areas. You may not think that your hobby or any leisure pursuit would produce anything of interest, but you may be assured that someone will have an interest in any and all items presented. So put on your thinking caps regarding what you will make or what you may have around the house that would be of interest for someone. Remember the saying, "One person's trash, another person's treasure." If you are convinced that you have no talent or treasures as mentioned, please go out and buy some interesting item, antique, etc. and bring it for the auction.

Each item presented will be given a number and placed on a table in the Outlaw hospitality suite, along with an interesting description of the item and the contributor's name unless that person prefers to remain anonymous. If there is a minimum bid established by the contributor that, too, will be stated. Beside the item will be a bid sheet to place the bidder's name and the amount bid for the item, below the previous bidder's name and amount bid. All items will be on display for the entire length of the reunion. On the evening prior to departure, we will retrieve the bid sheets and return to the hospitality suite, after the farewell dinner, to announce the winning bid and the winner for each item. The successful bidder will then pay the treasurer and/or his assistant for his/her item and take it home.

When you register for the roundup in 2008, there will be a place on the registration form for you to indicate that you will bring an item for the auction. Please let Mary and me know the item description, any historical or other significance and whether or not there is a minimum acceptable bid. If more than one item, will they be presented as one package or separately? If separately, we will need the identity, etc. for each. We will take all the individual information submitted and make an "A-frame" presentation with the above information for each item, along with a consolidated list of all items contributed and the presentation position of each for inclusion in the Outlaw bag that will be given to you upon your arrival and registration at the hotel.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Hershey.

Ole and Mary Thornton
3603 Gawaine Court
Annandale, VA 22003-1311
Home: 703-698-0548
Cell: 703-203-2624
Email: olenandmary@cox.net

Army-Navy Game:

Every year, something miraculous happens the first Saturday in December - the Army-Navy game. It is one of the most fabled and long-standing rivalries in American athletics. Navy Midshipmen and Army Cadets spend their entire four years of college saying 'Beat Army' or 'Beat Navy' dozens of times a day. In the weeks leading up to the contest both Academies wage mock war against each other - with pranks, commando raids and high jinx. This year a squad of Army Cadets-turned-Special-Forces sneaked from West Point to Annapolis to kidnap Navy's mascot, Bill the Goat, then made a hostage video and sent it around the world on YouTube. The day before the game, each Academy sends a game ball hundreds of miles, tucked under the arms of Cadet and Midshipmen marathon runners. On game day the entire Army Corps of Cadets and Navy Brigade of Midshipmen travel to a neutral city for the battle.

Not only is the Army-Navy game one of the oldest college football competitions in the nation, in many ways it is one of the best. It's not that the football is great, because it's usually not. The young men who play for Army or Navy weren't recruited by the top university teams -they're too small, or too light. They aren't semi-professional football stars, living, eating and studying apart from their college classmates. The men who play at West Point or Annapolis major in physics or electrical engineering and spend more time doing homework and marching in drills than at football practice. When they graduate they won't be drafted by the NFL. It is the last organized football game most of them will ever play. In a few months time, they will be ensigns standing watch on ships in the Persian Gulf, Marine lieutenants flying helicopter reconnaissance missions in Afghanistan, and Army lieutenants walking the streets of Baghdad.

So why is the Army-Navy game one of the best in college football? Because it is a metaphor for what is best about America. It shows us that we are at our best when we fight ferociously in the game but afterwards, no matter who wins or who loses, we come together as brothers..

The finest moment of the Army-Navy game comes after the whistle blows. Last Saturday, Navy won 38-3, in a game that was closer than the final score suggest. At the end, no fans rushed onto the field. Nor did they head for their cars to get ahead of the traffic. They stood at their seats, took off their hats, and put their hands on their hearts. The entire stadium was silent, respectful, alert.

The players don't do war dances or whoops of victory, either. Both teams walked solemnly across the field and met at the 50-yard line. They shook hands and patted the backs of their opponents. They took off their helmets, tucked them under their arms and walked together to Army's side and, shoulder to shoulder sang the Army alma mater to the entire 4000 Corps of Cadets.

Both teams then turned and walked to the Navy stands and sang the Navy Blue and Gold anthem to the 4000 Brigade of Midshipmen. If you looked up at the stadium screens you could see that many of the players had tears in their eyes. If you looked at your neighbors in the stands, they did too. Because what everyone in that stadium witnessed was the miracle that is America - that after the fiercest of contests we can rise above the victory or the defeat and come together as one nation. Regardless of our religion, family heritage or political affiliation, we are first and foremost, Americans. As much as our differences matter to us, our shared patrimony matters more.

Within a few weeks Americans will begin our presidential campaign ritual. The contests will be fiercely fought, sometimes honorably, sometimes not. But politics is not for the faint of heart. There will no doubt be plenty of times the ref should throw a flag on the play, but in politics the only referees are the voters.

When this campaign season is over, the ballots cast and counted, and the victor declared we should all remember the sight of the Army and Navy football players standing shoulder to shoulder on their field of battle, paying homage to their opponents in the shared belief that what matters more than our partisanship is our brotherhood.

Wouldn't it be a miracle if we could follow their example and, after this next election, lay down our rivalries and animosities and suspicions, and realize that we're in this together - and that what is more important than being a Republican or a Democrat is being an American.

--The writer, KT McFarland, is a former top Pentagon official in the Reagan Administration and a frequent television and radio commentator on national security issues and foreign affairs.

Frank

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

(submitted by Pat & Patty Theriot)

Take twelve whole months, Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy,
Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.
Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts,
but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.
Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work.
Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.
Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.
Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humor.
Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile,
and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness. You're bound to have a happy new year.

Happy New Year!

T'was the day after Christmas, and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose. such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely reared,
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt-
I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
So -- away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
"Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie -- not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore-
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all, and to all a good diet!

PLEASE NOTE

VLOA membership dues are due in January at \$20 per year for membership. Lifetime dues are a one time cost of \$100. You can find the Treasurer, Charles Bouton's address and information on Page 12.

Al & Nell Moist
Communications Direc-