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The Octofoil, May/June 1974

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$5.00 per year — \$1.50
will be earmarked to pay for the Octofoil

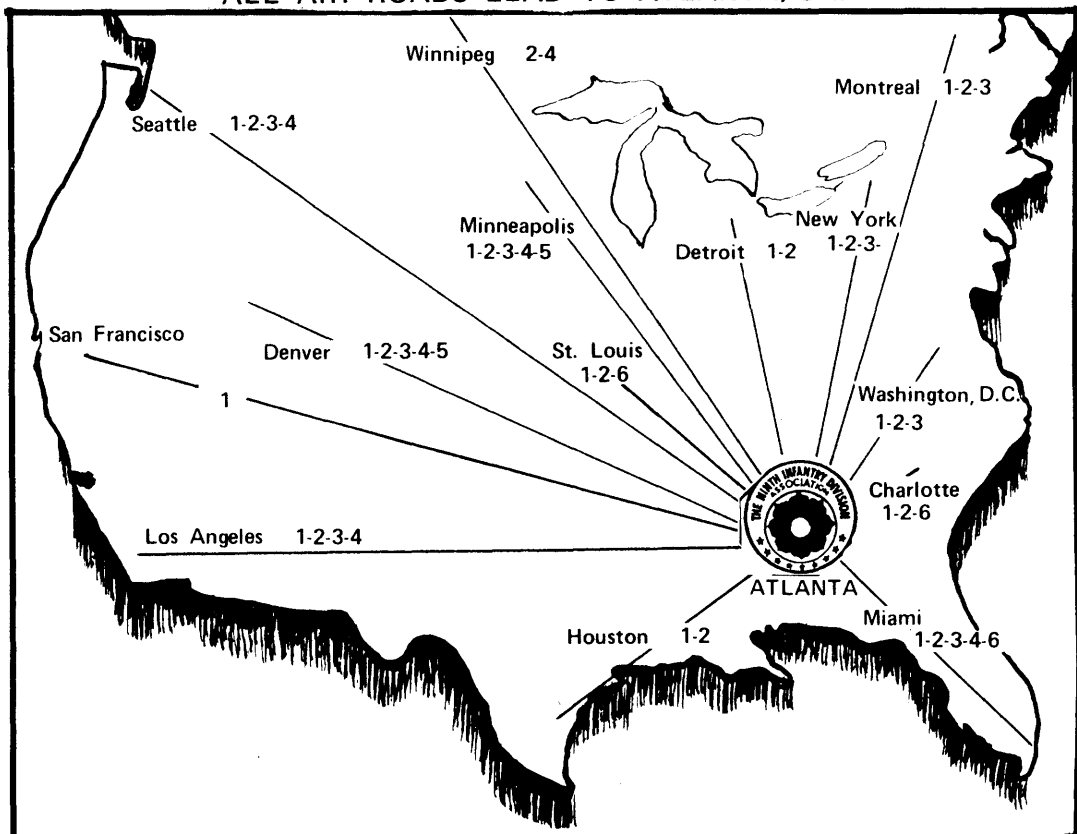
VOLUME XXIX

Number 3

May-June 1974

PEACHTREE STREET SWINGS

ALL AIR ROADS LEAD TO ATLANTA, GA.



1 - Delta 2 - Eastern 3 - United 4 - Northwest 5 - TWA 6 - Southern

Worse than combat

The beginning of a political career can be a numbing experience for anyone, but for William Childs Westmoreland, it must be like having society on his spitshine. Thirty-six years a soldier, 19 of them as a general officer, he is now shorn of his rank by the political necessity of suddenly becoming one of the people. It is, he says, "a humbling experience."

Seeking votes in a drug store on main street is not the same as reviewing the troops at Fort Benning.

But Westmoreland is nothing if not a trooper. When he retired from service last year he says he spent two months "playing tennis and nearly going crazy."

Withering at 60, he took a posh job as director of something called the Governor's Task Force on Economic Growth, but even that was not enough activity. Now he's decided to grin and bear the agony of politics, "Because I think government is too important to be left to the politicians." So: Grin, smile, hand outstretched. "Hello, I'm General Westmoreland running for governor."

And not only is he a trooper, he's a thick-skinned one. He served in the Army establishment at a time when its image was almost zero, and now enters a political profession held in equally low esteem. On top of this, the formerly nonpartisan general (to remain neutral, he didn't even vote before 1972) has registered as a Republican in the era of Watergate and in a state that hasn't had a Republican governor in 100 years.

Addressing 40 members of the Walterboro Rotary Club recently, he plowed through a list of seven state problem areas, and paused only for a moment; before anyone could applaud the long awaited finish, the general incredulously and unabashedly continued with 10 more points of solution.

He is at the early stage of his race, little more appealing in the street. He approaches voters with a "call-me-general" reserve that borders on diffidence. When an aide suggests he greet people with one hand and pass out bumper stickers with another, Westmoreland shrugs: "You pass them out." Very often, at a barbecue or at a luncheon, the general stands off to one side, hands in pockets, alone.

But in fairness it must be said that Westmoreland's novice style has its appeal. He does not come on as the commander, but as the self-conscious major with promise, and many citizens appreciate it. South Carolina is filled with silver tongued Foghorns soliciting votes with sweet but meaningless charisma, and the Westmoreland change is welcome.

But besides being shy, Westmoreland is also convinced that he can help his state in many ways. And there is no doubt the state needs help. A midwestern research organization recently named South Carolina as the worst in the Union in terms of living conditions, opportunity, etc.

His integrity does not appeal to all, however. And his aides, mostly more political than he, are trying to modify his behavior to fit traditional state electioneering. Thus it is that the prestigious general is now receiving orders from a 30-year-old former Marine lieutenant named John Coursen.

Coursen is the boss, says Westmoreland, "I go where he wants and do what he wants." Recently, Coursen wanted Westmoreland to refrain forever from saying he's anti-right wing; "There are degrees of being right wing," he explained, "and we don't want to take the chance of antagonizing anybody."

Bets are that the aides and the circumstances will eventually transform Westmoreland fully from soldier to politico. Despite respect for his famous name, most voters in the state are hawkish Democrats and can't forgive the general for "losin' Vietnam" or "ignorin' Lt. Calley."

Says one top Republican: "He has to get down to people's level, pass the baloney a little. People understand that."

Meanwhile, even without the baloney, candidate Westmoreland must yearn for the days when all he had to do was worry about Claymore mines. In the Rotary Club meeting the other day, after the third or fourth chorus of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean," the general observed optimistically, "Well, at least the campaign only lasts a few months."

The first thing you should do in Atlanta is go through the ceiling. Demand to be taken to the Hyatt Regency on Peachtree Street and shown the express elevator. Step inside the glass rocket-shaped container—outlined in lights like a glittering cage—and take off. Up, up you'll silently soar through the wide-open spaces, as if on an amusement park ride, all the while seeing every bit of the twenty-three-story atrium-shaped lobby, until you hit the ceiling and burst through into the electric-spangled night!

Eating in Atlanta is an act of circumspection. First, you must decide whether you want international cuisine or down-home Southern cooking. (The latter is even harder to find than the former, so don't think getting folksy will simplify matters.) The most elegant and expensive restaurant in town is the Midnight Sun in Peachtree Center. An expression of Portman's great affection for Denmark, the restaurant plays off the typical Scandinavian wood construction, evoked by rows of tree-shaped columns, against the chic glint of plate glass walls framing an illuminated marble fountain. The Danish smorgasbord is excellent (when seafood is available), the beef is good and the wine list is the finest in the city. Much less expensive and much less glamorous are a couple of typically dark ("atmosphere" in Atlanta means murk), "New York" style restaurants favored by sophisticated Atlantans: The Pleasant Peasant and Gene and Gabe's. The former specializes in French provincial cooking, the latter leans toward good northern Italian dishes.

If you plump for regional cooking, your choice is between famous names, like Brennan's of New Orleans—which is slightly out from town—or local establishments like Aunt Fanny's Cabin in suburban Smyrna or Pittypat's Porch downtown. Some diners get a kick out of the plantation manners of Aunt Fanny, where a soulful young black waiter presents you with the menu chalked on a slate yoked around his neck (in the old days they used to sing the menu!).

Pittypat's Porch, in the heart of Atlanta, evokes the antebellum South without Uncle Tomism; and its quail, 'Bama bird, pheasant and ham have just the sort of Continental flavoring that would have characterized the tables of the most cultivated planters. For basic Southern cooking, though, you must go to a more offbeat place: Paschal's Restaurant, which is in a black motel, once the nerve center of the Civil Rights movement. Today, the political and racial overtones are remote, but the fried chicken, candied yams and country fresh greens are as delicious as ever—especially at the incredible price of \$2.10 per person.

Once you've polished off your deep-dish Georgia peach cobbler, you'll want to go out on the town and have a little fun. Whatever its shortcomings in other respects, "Hotlanta," as the good ole boys call it, has plenty of action after dark. The place to begin is Underground Atlanta, a four-block district by the railroad tracks that was submerged by overhead viaducts and roadways early in the century and has been recently revived as a gaslit tonk strip that boasts some eighty-odd old-time saloons, cabarets, steak houses, ice cream parlors, curio shops and emporiums for everything from books, records, clothes and toys to "head" merchandise and bizarre souvenirs. Superior to anything of its kind in the U.S., and possessing genuine historic interest because it was here that the builders of the Western and Atlantic Railroad drove the Zero Mile Post and founded the city (orig-

inally called Terminus), this gaudy, bawling, day-and-night midway, beneath the streets is an Alice-down-the-rabbit-hole escape hatch from the computerized uptightness of Skyscraper City. Among the outstanding attractions are the fine black soul bands at the Mine Shaft, the sleeve-garter banjo pickers and washboard strummers at Ruby Red's Warehouse and the blues of Piano Red at Muhlenbrink's Saloon. Zanier than all these is a haberdashery called Lester Maddox U.S.A., where on Friday and Saturday nights the ex-governor of the solemn state of Georgia will autograph your purchases.

TIP OF THE HAT

The Memorial Fund was increased with the generosity of James Leopold. Many thanks Jim.

★ THE OCTOFOIL ★
Form 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue,
Weehawken, N. J. 07087.
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Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Ret.)
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Rev. Edward Connors, Worcester, Mass.
The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are (\$5) per year with \$1.50 of the (\$5) earmarked for six issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J. of any change in address.

Published six times a year, July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition. An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of their fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

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May-June 1974 Volume XXIX Number 3



A trip through Jean Ribaut's Adventure at Six Flags Over Georgia is a hair-raising experience for the boldest "voyageur." Indians, wild beasts, and hostile soldiers lurk along the shore, recreating the exploits of Jean Ribaut, daring Frenchman who cruised the Georgia coast during the mid-16th century. Six Flags is located ten minutes west of Atlanta on I-20.

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FREE PARKING

Barber Plugs Reunion

"Old Reliable" John Brandi has been a barber since 1930 and is currently serving his 16th year as Tiltonsville, Ohio councilman. A recent issue of the Martins Merry & Bellaire, Ohio "Times-Leader" carried a feature article on John which we are reprinting in the "Octofoil".

Former Military Barber Remarks on Those Who Passed Under His Scissors

John Brandi, veteran councilman and barber, tells of lasting friendships with the men of the 9th Infantry Division whom he trained with at Fort Bragg and followed through the European Theatre of War.

"My barbering trade stuck with me in the Army and naturally brought the soldiers to me for haircuts," Brandi reflected.

Among the most famous heads that Brandki had the opportunity to groom belonged to the now retired General W.C. Westmoreland. Another was sports announcer for the New York Mets, Lindsey Nelson.

Brandi said that he traveled with these men through Africa, Sicily and Europe and has maintained friendships with them through the years.

Westmoreland was a Lieutenant Colonel at that time and was with Division G1. Conversation at the Post barber shop with him was limited to every day army life or events that happened around camp.

"I've cut his hair many times during the war years and we became good friends," the Tiltonsville barber said.

The 9th Infantry Division's men filed into the barber shop for their traditional military crew cuts and it was there that he also met Lindsey Nelson, the now noted sports announcer for the Mets.

"Lindsey was in public relations during the war and he broadcasted all baseball games at Division Headquarters." Brandi said that Lindsey passed under his scissors and clipper frequently.

Thirty years have passed since Brandi first met the men of the 9th Divisions but he speaks with pride of still "getting together" at least once every year at a reunion which is held in a different city in the New England states or in the southeastern part of the U.S.A.

"We've had these reunions since 1946 which gives us the opportunity to meet each other's families and to keep in contact with one another," Brandi said.

Brandi confessed that he makes sure he locks up his shears before attending the reunions. He said he forgets about cutting hair for a short time while he and his wife Nell, enjoy the reunion with the men of his division. The annual event includes a banquet, excursions, sight-seeing, dinner and dancing. Brandi still finds time to reminisce of the war years with his World War II buddies.

Brandi said that each year at the reunion the 9th Inf. Division Association awards two or three scholarships to students who wish to continue their schooling.

They Remember Hero Best as Good Neighbor

Sometime in the future, someone sitting in the pocket-size park in the Norwood section of the Bronx may look up at the sign, notice the name, "The Henry A. Whalen Memorial Park," and wonder who he was.

Yesterday, a host of dignitaries took part in the dedication and naming of that small park at 205th St. and Perry Ave. Henry A. Whalen was a decorated World War II veteran who became a legend in Bronx veteran and community affairs before he died on July 13, 1973, at age 56.

The Association of the Friends of Henry Whalen sponsored the movement to give that small piece of city real estate a name. They were joined by many local politicians and veterans' groups. Perhaps the best argument for the memorial was made by Bronx U.S. Rep. Mario Biaggi.

In a moving address to Congress last August, Biaggi noted that Whalen won a Silver Star and three Bronze Stars, plus the Purple Heart, in Army service in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, with the 9th Infantry.

Worked for Vets

After being discharged, Biaggi said, Whalen became a dynamo of activity in all veterans organizations in the Bronx and served as commander of the United War Veterans of the Bronx in 1967-69.

In 1963, he was honored by Gov. Rockefeller and the State Legislature for his services on behalf of the veteran, including his long personal fight to win construction of another veterans' hospital in the metropolitan area.

In 1965, the Catholic War Veterans gave him a plaque for unselfish service and loyalty and in 1969 he was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Hendrick Hudson Post 3300 of the Bronx. In 1972, Mayor Lindsay awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation for his work on behalf of veterans and the community.

Helped Others

Biaggi noted that in 1970, fire destroyed Whalen's home and left four other families homeless. Whalen started a fund drive to help his neighbors and the action resulted in his founding the Norwood Civic Association to help neighbors in trouble.

Whalen also served on the parish council of St. Brendan's Church as well as an organizer for all patriotic parades and events in the Bronx and citywide.

Whalen before his death lived at 3146 Perry Ave. Now about a block from his home, is a park which will forever serve as a monument for his dedication to his neighborhood and borough.

The National Secretary attended the dedication.

SUPPORTS GENERAL RANDLE

The subject today, 'We Don't Need Two Veterans Days'! The author, Brigadier General Edwin R. Randle, USA (Retired). The source, his article, same title in the January-February 1974 edition of "The Octfoil", published by the Ninth Infantry Division Association out of Weehawken, New Jersey. General Randle's article is one which DEMANDS the interest, preservation, and wider publication for all Americans to read, digest, and make their presence known. It is the sum of a contest to wonder why we must sacrifice tradition - hard fought tradition - for a long weekend. It would seem that Congress has the strength, in this sense, to have us all have all of the LONG weekends they wish BUT let us not sacrifice what little tradition this Nation has for that purpose. This is like saying why celebrate the coming bicentennial of our Nation !!!

I'll send each of you an electrostatic copy of General Randle's article - this guy has really brought it to the point where any AMERICAN can readily understand his point - his logic - his desire that we retain some of our national heritage. Let's not sacrifice it all for the long weekend. I do not wish to beat the proverbial 'dead dog' to death - but I can not help but FULLY understand what this gentleman is striving to retain - better put, what he is striving to R E G A I N!

Like he says, November 11th will A L W A Y S be Veterans Day - N O T the 4th Monday in October! If it is so damned important to have L O N G weekends, let's not establish these at the expense of what some of us guys strove to protect for O T H E R reasons. Yes, I too am a veteran (on the front line) of those certain basic things that this Nation stands for and I did not go forth then with the idea in mind that I'd end up, for the rest of my days with a LONG WEEKEND!

We fight there at opposite ends of the pole. Again, if we need three day holidays for the people, there is another constitutional means of achieving them other than breaking tradition. You might try this one time on nations steeped in tradition, England, German, France and see what they might say to change Bastille Day - or Easter Monday - or Guy Hawkes Day. Thank you for your indulgence but better still, I'd be indebted for your reading, digesting and coming up with a meaningful other way of making for LONG WEEK ENDS other than sacrificing tradition.

Sincerely
Scotty

R.M.A. Hirst
62 Wiesbaden
Gustav-Freytag Str.6
60th Inf

Reunion Dates Aug. 1-3

THE OCTOFOIL

CHAPTER NEWS

Harry O's Corner

NEW YORK CHAPTER

On May 11th everyone had a ball. The New York gang turned out in mass for the Chapter's Spring dance and buffet. It was standing room only. Once again the committee came up with the perfect format - plenty of good food, big drinks and lively music. Co-Chairmen Frank Fazio and Bill Klauz deserve a big round of applause from the Chapter. Another fellow who deserves a hand is Ed Egan. The bartender didn't show up, so Ed spent the whole night BEHIND the bar serving drinks to the thirsty troops. If you know the New York drinkers, you know how busy Ed was. He handled the job like a real pro. At the end of the evening Ed reported that business was good but the "subway" was poor.

Fly Me To Atlanta

Many of the gang from New York are going to fly to the reunion in Atlanta. Since everyone will be going about the same time they have decided to leave together and take advantage of the group fares that the air lines are offering.

Two groups will be leaving from New York. One will depart from Newark Airport and the other will leave from one of the airports in New York City. Frank Fazio will make arrangements for the group leaving from New York and Ralph Witzkin will handle the group that leaves from Newark. If you are interested you can contact them at the following addresses and telephone numbers: Frank Fazio, 830 Mace Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10467 Telephone: 100 2-5655 and Ralph Witzken 100 Stone Hill Rd., Springfield, N.J. 07081 Telephone (201) 467-0430.

News-Notes

Chapter President Joe Kearns celebrated his birthday at the June meeting. A long lost member showed up at the May meeting and rejoined the fold, Joseph Rzesniowiecki who served with Co. G of the 47th renewed acquaintances with George Bako and other members of G Co. - Bill Klaus's brother Joseph passed away. Harry Orenstein gave the members a run down on his recent trip to Israel. Harry and his wife visited Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Bethlehem and many other interesting biblical and historic spots in the Holy Land. Harry reports that the country's amazing irrigation system has turned once barren sandy beaches into lush farmland. He and his wife can't wait until they are able to make another trip to this amazing land.

Next Meeting

When President Joe Kearns ended the June meeting the Chapter closed up shop for the summer. The gang will get together at the reunion but the Chapter will not hold meetings in July or August. The next regular meeting will be at 8:00 P.M. on September 6, 1974 at the 69th Regiment Armory, 25th St. and Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y.



TAP SOUNDED

Salvatore Biondo.....A Bty 26th FA

Mrs. Anne Elmo.....Ladies Auxiliary, wife of Fred Elmo 15th Eng.

May they rest in peace.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

Activity and involvement has been the name of the game for the Illinois chapter. The May meeting at Tedtman's was well attended by members and their wives. Plans were finalized for the memorial service. Following this, reports were made by Bill Hennemuth, Mike Belmonte and John Clouser on the Board of Governors Meeting which they attended in Pittsburgh. Considerable discussion was generated regarding the proposed amendment permitting the use of invested funds for reunion expenses.

Frank Ozart was able to add to his long list of boosters to be included in the reunion booklet. From all indications, there will be a great migration southward from Illinois to Atlanta.

Memorial Service

On Saturday, June 1st, chapter members and their wives met at the Holiday Inn in Springfield. The occasion was to have our annual memorial to honor deceased friend and member, Ed Arn. Lenore Arn and her family came to the Inn where a caravan was formed to lead to Roselawn Cemetery. There a great number of Ed's relatives and friends were assembled. The groups merged and quietly and solemnly followed the color bearer, Paul Clark to the graveside. There Bob Winkelman implanted a bronze Octofoil standard and Mike Belemonte placed an Octofoil floral piece at Ed's grave. John Clouser eulogized Ed and remembered all of the deceased members of the Ninth in prayer. Chaplain Bud Reimer gave an inspirational talk urging all to live full, active lives for complete well-being. A closing prayer was then offered by John Clouser.

Fulfillment

The group reconvened at the C.P. room of the Holiday Inn. It readily became evident that all were willing to accept Bud's advice. Following this social hour, dinner was served in the Holiday dining room. Concluding activities back in the C.P. room consisted of fun and laughter with special song provided by Bill Hennemuth and Chuck Koskie. Following Sunday morning breakfast, everyone started the return trip home, feeling a sense of fulfillment and appreciation for having gathered together for the service and fellowship.

A Sad Note

All were saddened recently by the death of Connie Pawelek, daughter of Casimer and Jean Pawelek. Connie attended all of the chapter affairs with her parents and especially enjoyed the reunions. All had developed a special fondness for Connie and we will miss her. The Chapter has made contributions to the St. Rose School for Retarded Girls and to the Kennedy Job Training Center in Connie's memory.

Submitted by
Helen Clouser

Editor's note: Thank you Helen for keeping us posted on the Illinois Chapter news. Sure wish we had many more like Helen.

Michigan Doings

The boys and gals from Michigan were certainly on the go during May and June. On Sunday, May 26th the gang got together at the Ponchartrain Hotel for a brunch. After the meal the group proceeded to the Mariners Church where a Memorial Service was held for the departed members of the Association. On June 9th the Chapter members gathered at Kensington Metropolitan Park and enjoyed themselves at the Chapter's annual picnic. Once again Don Lewis got up before sunrise to reserve the shelters for the gang. Don was soon joined by some early arrivals who cooked breakfast on the spot. During the day plenty of liquid refreshments were on hand to cool off the thirsty members, it was a great day and everyone had a wonderful time.

Reunion News

At the April meeting John Young suggested that the Chapter make inquiries about reserving a bus for the trip to the Atlanta Reunion. John Bonkowski looked into the matter and made the following report. If the bus leaves from the same location as it did on previous trips the fare would be \$38.50 per person for a 38 passenger bus or \$37.50 per person for a 43 passenger bus. If anyone is interested in going to the reunion by bus they should contact the chapter as soon as possible.

Secretary James Bruner reports that he has received a good response to his appeal for Journal Boosters. Already 54 members have become boosters and Jim expects to hear from many more. Last year the Michigan page had 67 names listed. Jim is hoping to top that number this year.

News-Notes

Everett and Irene Tapp hosted the April 6th meeting and they showed the gang a wonderful time. Don Lewis celebrated his birthday at the meeting. Among the missing were Elmer Wagner and John Obermiller. Elmer was proudly serving as godfather at his nephew's christening and John was working O.T.

Ed Winnewski had a serious accident and suffered the loss of two fingers. The chapter wishes him a speedy recovery and hopes that he and Marge will soon be able to attend the chapter's functions.

Tom Hatton had a pleasant surprise when an old buddy, Tony Bardinski, called him up. Tony and Tom had served together in C Co. of the 60th Inf. They had not seen each other since October 1944. Tony was in Saginaw for a bowling tournament and he decided to look up Tom. They had a great time talking over their days in the Ninth.

Wedding bells continue to ring for families of the Chapter. Richard Lewis was married in March and on May 12 Bob DeSandy's daughter Nancy was married. The Bruners traveled to Mississippi on May 8th to attend the wedding of Audrey's niece.

1975

The Detroit Hilton will be the site for the 75 Reunion. Chairman Bob DeSandy knows that he has a tough job on his hands and he is looking for plenty of help. If you are interested in being part of the reunion committee look up Bob, he will be happy to have your assistance.

New England Reports

Recently some of the boys with their wives got together at the dinner table. It was a pleasant evening among pleasant people.

Many Discussions

After everyone had his fill the gals gathered around one table and their men at another. As expected Ninth News and Ninth activities were the main topic of discussion. What should be done at Atlanta to make our association a better one? Whom should lead the battle of recommendations and procedures? Was it a mistake to raise the dues? Is it true or just a rumor that the National office will give seed money to chapters who run conventions? It is a good idea. If true this money could be used to reduce the price of strip tickets, offer a free activity not included in the price of the strip ticket or possibly room rents could be subsidized.

Future Reunions

Someone started a new round of talks with the suggestion that at some future date a convention be held on an ocean going cruise say to Bermuda. This thought may come up at Atlanta as new business.

Eddie and Mrs. McGrath joined the jet set at Acapulco for 3 weeks. Fabulous, unbelievable, beyond description are just a few of the words used to describe their stay in that playground.

Ronnie and Mrs. Murphy are planning to spend some of their time this summer in that beautiful seaside town of Camden, Maine.

At the present time Bill Bongiorno, Tom Boyle, Herb Olsen, John Edmunds, and Fran Maher are making final plans to be in Atlanta. More from New England are expected to make the trip.

The McKenzies are planning a cruise this summer.

John Murray is one of the many victims of the energy crisis. After more than 30 years servicing Oldsmobiles his boss made that unpopular move.

Good feeling

As the old soldiers are slowly packing their gear and getting set for retirement from their jobs (and let's not kid ourselves we are all around the same time) its a good feeling to hear of the "young set" coming along with many of them finishing college and many more embarking on the sea of matrimony. Recently we learned that the son of Fred D'Amore - young Frederick was married to former Diane M. Beaudet of Lynn, Massachusetts. Fred Jr. is with the Rich-Life Vitamin Company and the couple will live in Lynn. (Eds note - Maybe young Fred can give us some of those Vitamin pills to perk us up.)

Apologizes

I must apologize to Jimmy Boyle and Harry Fry of Munhall, Penn and Service 26FA. Before Bill Bongiorno went to Pittsburgh for a Board of Governors meeting I gave him the addresses of Jim and Harry. Bill said that he was so busy during his short stay in Pittsburgh that he could not find time to make a phone call. So Harry and Jim keep those lines open. I have a sentimental reason for a trip to Pittsburgh.

Joseph McKenzie

26th FA
95 Washington Avenue
Waltham, Mass., 02154
May 20, 1974

Pleasant Evening

Walter Kraft - C.O.G. Company -47th Infantry was in New York recently and invited some of the old gang to be his guest at a U.N. Dinner held in the New York Hilton with Vice-President Ford as guest speaker.

Walt is living in Palm Springs, California most of the time but still travels to Kodiak, Alaska every summer where he operates a business established 70 years ago by his Grandfather Otto Kraft.

It was great seeing Waldo and he was joined by George Bako and his wife Paula, Frank Fazio, Vince Gugliemino, Joe Rzesniowiecki and his wife Rose and Dan and Marie Quinn.

It was a very pleasant evening for it was the first time we've seen Walter since 1945. He plans to be back East in October and we are hoping that he'll be able to include in his plans the weekend in Worcester at Father Connors Memorial.

Reunion Dates Aug. 1-3

PROGRAM 1974 ATLANTA REUNION

Thursday Aug. 1	
Registration	10:00 A.M. till ?
Board of Governors Meeting	5:00 P.M.
Welcome Party	8:30 P.M. to 12 midnight

Friday Aug. 2	
Registration	10:00 A.M. till ?
Committee Meetings	10:00 A.M.
General Membership Meeting	1:30 P.M.
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting and Social	To be announced
Board of Governors Meeting	5:00 P.M.
Dance	8:15 P.M. till ?

Saturday Aug. 3	
Registration	10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Memorial Service and Parade	10:00 A.M.
Excursion to Stone Mountain (return at 5:00 P.M.)	11:30 A.M.
Dinner and Dance (Dress informal)	7:00 P.M.

Sunday - Safe journey home

MAIL CALL

Well it's time for another issue of the "Octofoil" to go to press and our desk is still piled high with letters from our faithful readers. Try as we might, we can never seem to get to the bottom of the pile; however we aren't complaining because the stack of letters on the desk proves that the "Old Reliables" are out there reading the paper. Here are some of the letters that we received during the past few months.

9th Recon Trp.

Charles E. Neal
901 E. Old Hickory Blvd.
Madison, Tenn. 37115

Enclosed is a check for another years dues. My wife and I hope to see the gang in Atlanta this year. We are hoping that some of the boys from the 9th Recon Trp will show up for a change. We were sorry that we couldn't make the Boston Reunion but were glad to hear from all the gang.

34th F.A.

Joe Dailydas
Box 94, Rt. 2
Midway, Ark. 72651

Be the Good Lord willing we will make the reunion in Atlanta. It is a wonderful place to go, especially out Stone Mountain way. Hope some of our activities will be out there. Looking forward to seeing the gang. Retirement is good, fishing is plentiful but there are no 9th Inf. Div. members out here.

M.P.'s

John Weber
46 Bromfield St.
Quincy, Mass. 02170

John had a little setback of late and had two major operations but is finally on the road back to recovery. He regrets not to be able to attend the reunion this year but wants to be remembered to all the "old gang".

2nd Bn
Hq's 47th Inf.

Perry Payne
509 Sutherland Drive
Chickasaw, Ala. 36611

Perry decided he'd better come out of hibernation and attend the reunion being that it will be held in the South. It's been several years since he attended a reunion and is looking forward to meeting his friends in Atlanta.

9th Recon

Grover C. King, Jr.
418 S. Cool Spring Street
Fayetteville, N.C. 28301

Grover regrets that he will miss the reunion in Atlanta as his son is returning home after five years being stationed in Europe in the Air Force, and will be back in the States at Reunion time. Grover has had his share of hard knocks and has been in and out of the VA Hospital for the past two years. He closes with best wishes to all at the reunion.

9th Div. Hdqs.

John Dooley
904 Gary Drive
Plainfield, Ind. 46168

Expect to be at the reunion in Atlanta. Hoping to see some buddies from Division Headquarters. I'm feeling fine and ready for the golf season.

39th Inf.

John Holick
Cresskill, N.J.

Been having some trouble with the wounds I received in July '44, they laid me up for a few weeks, this winter the flu laid me low for a while and I couldn't make some of the meetings. Feeling fine now and hope to be in Atlanta for the reunion and will get some fresh Georgia peaches while down there.

F Co. 47th Inf.

Tony Repetti
220 Laurel Pl.
Neptune, N.J.

Noticed the "Red" address on the Octofoil. Guess I goofed. Regards to all.

K Co 47th Inf.

John T. Weatherall, D.D.S.
1425 19th Ave. No.
Tampa City, Tex. 77590

Well, I see by the red ink that I'm almost a delinquent again. I enjoy being able to read about the old group too much to ever let that happen. Even though I've never had the chance to make one of the conventions, they sound wonderful.

I've often wondered what ever happened to the old Co. K 47th Inf. group. Joey Massereces, etc. I haven't even seen anything about Lt. Col. Inzer in a long time.

Hope the reunion is the best ever.

709th Ord.

Ray Kennedy
413 Stratton La.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205

I have a few copies of the "Octofoil" that were printed at the very beginning in Europe and I would like to know if there is a museum or someone who is making a collection of this type of memento. Please let me know as I hate to have the copies destroyed.

My regards to all former members of the 709th Ordance.

D Co. 47th Inf.

Ronald Frank
Rd. No. 1 - Box 122D
Leechburg, Pa. 15656

Enclosed is my long overdue dues. Time sure does fly by. Busy with a wedding coming up, so you know how that is. Had a nice vacation last summer toured the New England States in our trailer. Looked up Edward Garafano, had a nice three day visit with him in North Adams, Mass. Has been 28 years since we last saw each other. It was one of the highlights of our trip. He looks good.

Got a letter from Ray Golden from Detroit, Mich. He took his trailer and went to Oregon and looked up (Kid) Kanhanen in Astoria, Oregon. Then went south to Tulilake, Calif. and had a visit with Al Kangslie and family. It's so nice to hear the gang is getting around to seeing one another after all these years. Give my regards to all.

Co. E. 60th Inf.

Glen K. Gates
809 Emma
Trenton, Mo. 64683

Enclosed is my dues for the coming year. I would like to know if there are any records available of the men who served with the 60th Inf. during the Normandy Campaign.

Thirty years have slipped by and so have some of the names and places, but I still have memories of my service with the Ninth and the 60th Inf. although it was of short duration.

Sister of Chaplain
Irving Tepper

Doris Tepper

I follow the "Octofoils" news avidly, deeply appreciative that all these years I've received it as a courtesy in honor of my brothers devotion to "his boys".

Co Bty & Hqs
Bty 26th FA

William Griesbach
c-o Audrey C. Griesbach
242 Boston Turnpike
Shrewsbury, Mass. 01545

Bill is on the move again but took time to keep us posted on his latest change of address. He is leaving for Brazil, S.A. to direct the operation of a new Folding Paper Box enterprise and requested we send his Octofoil to his daughters address. She is now a 3rd year student in Medical School at Massachusetts Medical College in Worcester, Mass.

Before leaving around the end of June, Bill expects to look up Father Connors and will be back in a year as his Daughter will be getting her M.D. Degree next June. He closes by writing "I have not seen anyone from the old outfit for a long time. Regards to all the gang of the 9th."

60th Inf.

Albert M. Hodge
5818 White Bluff Rd.
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Dear Dan:

I received your letter of May 15th, with a few lines requesting my aid in getting acquaintances to support by inserts for the souvenir journal.

Dan I am unable to do anything in that I just underwent surgery for three crushed cervical discs in my upper neck. My release from the hospital has been for only a short period of time.

Depending upon the rate of progress in my recovery will determine whether I will be able to attend. Sorry that I can't be of some assistance, but these things do happen.

Sure hope I can recuperate sufficiently in order that I might be able to travel to Atlanta, but right now my hopes are slim. Certainly hope the reunion is a success. Regards to Mrs. Quinn.

Co. D 60th Inf

J.E. Thornton
11 E. Goethe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Dan:

Just a few lines hoping this short letter finds you and yours in good health, and that things are going along real good for you. I am doing pretty good for an Ole retired guy of 66, but getting old and crabby, but that's to be expected when one gets old???

I have a new address for you, hope I will be here for a long time, so if I can get used to it, will stay for a while, if not, will make another change, will let you know of any change.

Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 for an 8th page Souvenir Program. In case I may be too late for this, use the money for a Booster Ad, and buy yourself a drink and give the rest to the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Won't be able to make the Atlanta Reunion, but hope it will be in Chicago one of these years real soon, we can then have a real nice visit. I used to be a little active in the Illinois Chapter many years ago, but kind of dropped out of it, now that I am retired I will get in touch with them again. John Clouser and Frank Ozart will probably be the only old timers that will remember me a little.

Must close for now, so keep well, and do hope the Atlanta Reunion will be one of the best ever.

JOHN J. CLOUSER
901 GRACELAND STREET
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS
60016

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967

39th Inf.

Hughie Lee
42 Montrose Ave.
Summit, N.J.

Just a quick note to let you know we became grandparents again. My son's wife presented us with a lovely new granddaughter Mary Elizabeth on April 25th.

Have some bad news too, Jackie Scully's lovely niece Judy Flynn, Kitty and Walt Dineen's only child, was buried today at the age of 32. She died of cancer leaving besides her parents, her husband and a 3 year old son.

Co g 47th & Div Hq.

Marty Gill
2401 Pennington Rd.
Trenton, N.J.

Enclosed is my dues, this should have been taken care of before the year-end I'll blame the delay on recent hospitalization as poor an excuse as any.

Admitted to the hospital on December 17th for a series of tests that culminated in lung surgery on December 22. Came home on January 5th. Recovery progress is slow but very satisfactory, so the good surgeon tells me. If all goes well, expect to be back to work shortly.

Kindest regards and best wishes to one and all.

Co B 39th Inf

George Rosen
5001-8th Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220

Enclosed is my dues for the year 1974 and I am including money for a booster in the Reunion Journal. I will be looking forward to receiving the Octofoil and enjoy every paragraph of it.

Keep up the good work.

AT 60th Inf

Louie Netta
2629 Belaire Drive
Wilmington, Del. 19808

Lou writes to inform us of his new address and in the last Octofoil in the Taps Sounded column we had his brother Anthony, who passed away, as a former 60th member but he served with Hq's 47th Inf.

(Editors note - Sorry about the error Lou - we hope you will understand. Thank you for keeping us posted on your address change.)

Co. H. 60th

Mayme and Al Geist
11400 S. Millard Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60655

Dear Dan:

You can place an ad in the souvenir program for the Atlanta reunion for Mayme and I. You can use the copy below, which is about the same as was used in the program book for the 1970 reunion in New York.

Things are well with us and trust you and Marie are the same. We are planning on attending this year again in Atlanta and we do hope that there is a good turnout.

Good luck with your souvenir program book and I do hope that you get a good response from the membership.

See you in ATLANTA. Best regards to all.

1st Bn 60th Inf
& 9th Med. Bn.

Doc Hummel
2411 Lommel Lane
Marion, Ind. 46952

Sorry to be a little late again - no good excuse - Good Luck and best wishes to all.

34th FA

Jessie R. Davis
Box 84
Hebron, Ohio 43025

I received a letter from Tippie Plunkett and she told me of things she read in the Octofoil. I didn't know until we received the letter from Tippie that my wife had written to the Octofoil at the time I was in the hospital. I am out now and back to work. I am not 100 percent back to normal, but I am improving each day, not as young as I used to be, so it takes longer to mend.

We won't be able to go to Atlanta, for it is very hard for me to get time off in the summer months. Where I work I have been there several years, but I am still way down on the seniority list and for me to get a vacation in the prime months is out. We haven't missed the Memorial Mass for almost 20 years, and as always we hope to be there again this fall. I am one of Father Connors greatest admirers and I don't know how any of us can repay him for what he has done for all of us. I will sign off for now - kindest regards to all.

Co K 39th Inf

Al Napadano
715 Mabel Street
New Castle, Pa. 16101

Al writes: "I haven't seen you since the Boston Reunion and I am looking forward to the get together at Atlanta." Al had an accident while swimming early in the season but he's in fine shape for the reunion. He writes that he is sorry that he didn't know about the association years ago for he would have joined up a long time ago. He wants to make sure his reservations for the reunion are taken care of for he'll be there and will plane in from Pittsburgh.

While on vacation he drove to Cumberland, Maryland and met two of his buddies from the 39th. Every year he goes to Waynesborough, Pa. and places a wreath on the grave of his buddy George Barron who was killed in the Hurtgen Area in October 1944.

Al tells us that there are a number of former 9th Division men living in the New Castle area and after reading in one of the Octofoils an article by his old platoon leader Ray Bruger of Leewood, Kansas, he wrote to him and found out that Lt. Bruger is now a veterinarian in Kansas. "Imagine after 25 years I finally heard from him." Ray sent Al some pictures taken in France near Cherburg. He also felt great hearing from Chaplain Kines of the 39th.

Wishing you and the men of the outfit all of the best, I close for now.

Co G 39th Inf

Bob Smith
134 Roger Avenue
Bellevue, Ohio

Bob sends his dues and writes - "Don't know if we will make the Atlanta reunion as we are leaving on a 6000 mile trip through the western states in July but will make the Detroit reunion next year for sure.

How about a reunion back at Bragg one of these years, I am sure a lot of the boys would like to see Fayetteville once again.