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The Octofoil, July/August 1976

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 XXXI Number 4

July-Aug 1976

WORCESTER MEMORIAL NOVEMBER 7



A change of command of the Association as two Raiders from Easy and Fox companies turn over the gavel of authority. Walter O'Keefe the outgoing President (E Co. 47th) hands the gavel to Charles Koskie (F Co. 47th) the newly elected President of the "Old Reliables".

BUSY GALS

The Ladies Auxiliary were busy "gals" at the reunion but found time at their social and meeting to hold their election of new Officers for the year. Julia Netta was chosen as the leader of the group for the coming year, with Irene Tapp assisting at the helm as Vice President. Keeper of the funds will be Phyllis Perna as Treasurer. Keeping the gals posted will be Lillian Krasovetz as Secretary. Listening to their woes will be Ruth Victor as Chaplain.

Good Luck Ladies.

HOSPITALIZATION Many veterans become ill and use their life savings to pay for needed care before they inquire as to their entitlement to be admitted to a Veterans Administration hospital. Medical and hospital care are very expensive today, and most people who are regularly employed are covered by some type of health and hospitalization insurance. Many veterans fail to realize that they may be eligible for care in VA hospitals even though they are covered by insurance.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon anyone is to preside over an organization as great as the 9th Infantry Division Association. I assure you that I will devote all my efforts to carry on the fine work that made this Association what it is today. With the help of the dedicated officers and the devoted Board of Governors, I look forward to an interesting and successful year.

My congratulations to the New York Chapter for a very enjoyable and well organized reunion.

The next gathering of the Association is November 6th and 7th when we meet in Worcester, Massachusetts to join Father Connors and his parishioners for the 32nd Annual Memorial Mass and Service for our deceased members. I urge all of you to attend for a very impressive service that will never be forgotten.

Illinois members are deep in their work planning a downtown Chicago reunion for 1977, which they hope to make the best one ever.

In conclusion I wish to thank past president Walter O'Keefe for his hard work and good judgement, that made the past year so successful.

Sincerely,
Charles N. Koskie

Tip Of The Hat

Many thanks to these members who remembered the Memorial Fund and to those attending the reunion who contributed the largest sum ever collected at a reunion - \$831.00.

Rev. Edward T. Connors
Anthony J. Carmeci
Harry Herman
Felton Jones
Bill Coen

Ben Coen's was one of the first donations the association received at the reunion and Bill who spoke at the meeting regarding the restoration of the Memorial monument at Worcester told the secretary "I spoke of the spending of this fund and want to put my money where my mouth is."

The Ladies Auxiliary made a donation to the collection of \$50.00 and the Michigan Chapter members contributed \$100.00 to this fund.

Once again-many thanks to all.

Taps Sounded

When a reunion is over and we stop to think of some of the guys that didn't show, we often wonder what happened to them. Perhaps they had other plans or weren't up to par and couldn't make it to the Big City. But when you think of men that always attend the reunions you put out feelers to find out what happened to them. One of the "Old Reliables" was missing this year and he was with us last year in Detroit and in Atlanta in 1974. George A. Whitney, Jr., we found had passed away a few months ago. A real good member of the association and a former member of the New York Chapter who had moved a few years ago to the warmer climate of Florida and for the last several years had located in Atlanta.

We didn't know George while in the service as he was in Division Headquarters and we were strictly 47th men but we got to know him through the association and especially at the New York Chapter meetings. A great little guy who "hung in" there with the old gang and was one of the guys that was among the last to leave the meeting places. I can still picture him when our gang met in Geredes Bar and Restaurant in 18th Street in New York. George moved South around that time (about ten years ago) but he attended all reunions. "We bid Him farewell and may God be good to Him."

32nd Annual Memorial Mass and Service for the deceased of the 9th Infantry Division will be at the Immaculate Conception Church, Worcester, Mass., Sunday, November 7, 1976 at 10:00 a.m.

If you are interested in receiving notification of this Memorial Mass, drop a note to Reverend Edward T. Connors, 353 Grove Street, Worcester, Mass. 01605.

For Room Reservations, contact Francis K. Maher, 14 Davenport Street, Worcester, Mass. 01610 - Tel. 617 756-1803.

Free Buffet Supper will be served by the Parishioners at Connors' Coffee Shop, Saturday night. Sunday's Dinner will be at the Sheraton Lincoln Inn.

REGISTER EARLY

Franny Maher who is handling the reservations for the Worcester Memorial weekend informs us that "The Sheraton-Lincoln Motel in Worcester is insisting that all reservations be submitted two weeks prior to November 6th and all those that cancel without notifying Maher or the Sheraton-Lincoln will receive a bill for same."

When the Sheraton-Lincoln Motel is filled the Holiday Inn will become the next choice for rooms. If you do not want the Holiday Inn please indicate in your letter to Maher. Early reservations are a must.

To those who never attended the Memorial Services in Worcester you are missing one of the greatest weekends of your life. It's sort of a mini-reunion with the gang arriving on Saturday and leaving Sunday afternoon. It may be a little longer than 24 hours but it seems more than that. Everything is packed into one weekend.

Saying hello to old friends and new ones that we've met through the association is one of our big kicks but the weekend is more than that. Saturday evening the parishioners of Father Connors Church put out a spread that will delight the hearts of all the old chowhounds.

Sunday morning finds the "old reliables" falling in for a short march to the Church where our comrades are remembered in prayer. After the Mass, which is attended by members of all Faiths, a short service is held at the sight of the Monument, on the Church grounds, overlooking Gold Star Boulevard.

Then it's "a break" at Connors Coffee shop and off to the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn for dinner. The good Padre always makes certain that the gang is back on the road to home around 3:00 P.M.

Once again if you plan to attend make your reservation early.

Travel Tips

For those coming from New York, Connecticut, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania and the South. Leave the Mass. Pike at Exit No. 10 take the Worcester Expressway No. 290 leave Expressway at Exit No. 20. Overhead sign will read Burncoat-Lincoln St. This will bring you to a traffic light, proceed across the intersection to the next traffic light and turn left. You will now be in the 400 block on Lincoln St. A short drive on Lincoln St. will bring you to the Sheraton Lincoln Inn. The way will be marked with 9th Division road markers, keep an eye out

If you are coming from the North on the Mass Pike exit at Millbury-Worcester Exit, after leaving ramp make a left turn into Grafton St. Two traffic lights which are spread about two miles apart will bring you to a small rotary, make a left turn and you will still be on Grafton St. From here you will have two more traffic lights, at the second light make a right hand turn onto the Worcester Expressway and leave it at Exit No. 20. Burncoat-Lincoln Streets. Go across the intersection to the next traffic light, make a left hand turn and you have only a short distance to go to the Sheraton.

For those coming from the North and East if you use 495 Exit at the sign reading 290 West. Proceed to the sign marked Exit No. 20, Burncoat & Lincoln. Make a sharp right turn and you are now facing a large building of the State Mutual Life Assurance Co. You are now on Lincoln St. and just a short drive from the Sheraton. Keep your eye out for the 9th Division Road markers.

Inn to Church

Leaving the Sheraton for the Immaculate Conception Church make a right hand turn on Lincoln St. until you see the marker No. 290 West. Take this for a short distance until the overhead sign reads Holden-Fitchburg. Exit here continue on until you come to the traffic light at the bottom of the hill. Proceed across the intersection and make a left hand turn. You are now only a short distance from the Church.

NINTH MAN DOES IT AGAIN
JOHN A. YOUNG, 60th Inf. and Commander of V.F.W. Post 2492 Imlay City, Michigan has been awarded a White Hat and elected to the "All State Commanders Team" of Michigan for 1975-1976.

Due to the efforts of John "Al", his Commanders and the Auxiliary, his Post 2492 received 24 Awards and Citations at the State level for the years, 1975 and 1976.

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken,
N.J. 07087
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATED EDITORS Walter O'Keeffe and
Daniel Quinn.

Charles Koskie, President
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Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

William Bongiorno, 2nd Vice-Pres.
3 Cedar Ridge Ter.
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Leonard Tomassone, 3rd Vice-Pres.
4448 Witherspoon Ave.
Pennsauken, N.J. 08109

Harrison Daysh, Judge Advocate
Kennsington, Md. 20795

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue,
Somerville, Mass. 02144

Daniel Quinn
412 Gregory Ave.
Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Board Member Emeritus

Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig (Ret.)
Honorary Member Emeritus
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 conditions.

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 spirit 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."

Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month. Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

July-Aug 1976

Volume XXXI Number 4



Westy (center) as he chats with the old gang just before the parade. Lenny Tommasone on his right with Elias Hopkins on the left, (maybe they were inviting the General to the 1978 reunion, as the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter will be host for that year).



The Ladies Auxiliary members are shown as they await the call for "fall in" for the march to the Memorial Services at the Eternal Light monument on 23rd Street.

Mail Call CONT'D

R.M.Z. Hirst
6146 Edsall Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
Dear Dan!

You do not seem too enthused about my recent intelligence about the membership and the two associations and the need to become one, but maybe this note will warrant the interest of the membership - the memory of the Remagen bridge is about to become a memory. Yes, the remaining portals, those steadfast columns which now stand on either bank of the Rhine river at Remagen (on the westbank) and Erpel (on the east bank) will be torn down in the very near future. They'll be made a memory in a needed effort to widen the Rhine river (in that area).

I've just been informed of this fact by a correspondent in Germany - the bridge which on 7 March 1945 was taken by the 9th Armoured Division, which was built during World War I (!!!), which was 330 meters long, which carried twin railroad tracks across the river, which stood 10 meters over the river, which carried the name of a famous World War I German general (Ludendorff), which carried (or permitted to be carried) the remnants of German units across in a vain effort for defense in late April, which was defended by General Hitzfeld's 57th Corps, which collapsed into the Rhine river on 17 March 1945 - yes, it will be in very short order more a memory than it is today. I am proud to say, though, Dan, that I DO have one of the building stones from that bridge (is it possible that other 9th members might wish one?)

Either way, Dan, I thought the guys would like to know - one of our avenues to one of our grandest achievements will soon be only a memory - the real thing will be soon - rubble and carted off as landfill, wherever!

77 REUNION in CHICAGO

All the pictures in this issue were taken by Walter J. Victor. Anyone interested in obtaining copies can get in touch with Walter by writing to him at 2745 Dodson Lee Dr., East Point Ga. 30344. Walter has many other Reunion pictures which we were unable to print because of lack of space.



Congratulations are in order as the Co-Chairmen of the 76 Reunion Frank Fazio and Emil Langer get together before the banquet knowing the reunion is a big success.

POSSIBLE MERGER

A question that has been kicking around for a long time is whether or not our Association should expand its membership to include those men who served with the Ninth Infantry Division in Viet Nam. This question has been the subject for extensive debate at almost every general meeting held during the past ten years. Several times it has been put to a vote and on each occasion our members decided that the membership qualifications should remain unchanged.

Recently the dimensions of the question have been enlarged to include consideration of the relationship that should exist between our organization and the men of the Ninth Infantry Division which is presently a unit of the U.S. Army on active duty at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Some members of the Division feel that some link should exist between the present wearers of the Octofoil and their predecessors who did so much to make the Octofoil a badge of honor. What that link would be, or how it would be achieved is a matter that is open for consideration.

The situation outlined above has generated strong feelings among the members of our Association. There are avid proponents for each side of the question. It is apparent from the course of past events that the question will not fade away, and it is equally apparent that some solution must be found for the problem.

Realizing the complexity of the problem, the Board of Governors established a committee to make an in-depth study of the question. National President, Charles Koski, with the concurrence of the Board appointed the following members to the committee: Chairman Walter J. O'Keeffe, Harrison Dash, Francis Maher, Everett Tapp, Al Perna and Charles Koskie, will also serve on the committee. The committee will confer with General Westmoreland who will act as liaison between it and the members of the Octofoil Association who have petitioned for membership in our association.

The committee's primary functions will be to explore all facets of the question, and to develop plans for alternate courses of action. These plans will be presented to both the Board and the membership for their consideration. The committee is not empowered to take any action beyond the collection of the information and data that it may require to develop its report.

If the committee is to develop viable plans, it must know how our members feel about this situation. Therefore, as Chairman of the committee I am requesting that our members drop me a line advising me of their thoughts on this matter. Please be frank, no one will be quoted, all replies will be confidential. We want a true picture of what is going on, we want to do what is best for the Association, we want to make this a team effort, we are open to suggestions and advice.

Please address your correspondence to Walter J. O'Keeffe, 1858 Woodbine St., Ridgewood, Queens, N.Y. 11227.

Business Transacted At Reunion

The 120th meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in New York City, on July 22, 1976 at 5:15 P.M. at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, attended by Messrs. Walter O'Keeffe, William Klauz, Michael Deresh, Paul Clark, Everett Tapp, Elmer Wagner, Herbert Olsen, William Bongiorno, Ralph Carci, Anthony Chaconas, Oscar Richards, also Treasurer Thomas Boyle, Vice-President Vincent Guglielmino, 2nd Vice-President Francis Maher, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Past Presidents John Bonkowski, Fred Josey, Paul Keller, and Robert DeSandy.

President O'Keeffe called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a silent prayer for the departed men of the Ninth.

The secretary Daniel Quinn read the minutes of the 119th meeting that was held in the Spring in Pittsburgh and upon a motion duly made by Bill Klauz and seconded by Bill Bongiorno, it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and to instruct the secretary to place same on file.

Thomas Boyle the Treasurer was called upon for his report and Tom gave the members copies of the quarterly report from April to June of 1976 of the income and spending for that quarter. Upon a motion duly made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Ralph Carci it was voted to: Accept the Treasurers report.

Emil Langer, Chairman of the Reunion, reported to the Board members that registrations at the desk were very good and the Reunion should be successful. President O'Keeffe thanked Emil for the report.

Herb Olsen spoke of the next Memorial Services that will be held in Worcester on November 7th. Reservations at the Sheraton-Lincoln Motel must be in at least two weeks in advance. As usual the parishioners will be hosts to our members at Connors Coffee Shop on November 6th and on Sunday November 7th Father Connors will hold Mass and Services for the 32nd year for the men of the Ninth.

A discussion was held on the proposal of changing the By-laws in order to admit into the membership those who served after the dates of WW2.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion duly made by Michael Deresh and seconded by Paul Clark it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

Minutes of the 31st Annual Reunion New York City.

The 31st meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on July 23, 1976 at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, at 11:15 A.M., in New York City. There being a quorum of 74 members present the President, Walter O'Keeffe called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for a moment of silent prayer for the departed men of the Ninth.

The secretary Daniel Quinn then read the minutes of the 30th meeting that was held in Detroit, Michigan in 1975. Upon a motion duly made by Al Geist and seconded by Lenny Tomassone it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and to instruct the secretary to place same on file.

The treasurer Thomas Boyle was called upon for his report and Tom gave a detailed account on the income and spending of the association for the past year. He concluded his report and stated "In my opinion all bills of the association have been paid, the association is in good financial condition and the officers of the association are to be congratulated for their efforts in managing the affairs of the organization."

Upon a motion duly made by Bob DeSandy and Seconded by Art Schmidt it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report. President O'Keeffe thanked Boyle for his report.

BUDGET

Oscar Richards, Chairman of the Finance Committee named these members who served with him on this committee: Vincent Guglielmino, John Clouser, Robert DeSandy, and Treasurer Thomas Boyle as advisor. The committee submitted the following budget for the year 1976-1977.

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Anticipated Income: | |
| Dues | 4400.00 |
| Invested Funds | 1400.00 |
| Reunion | 500.00 |
| Total | 6300.00 |

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Expenses: | |
| Secretary Salary | 600.00 |
| Clerical Expenses | 600.00 |
| Utilities | 500.00 |
| Postage | 950.00 |
| Supplies | 200.00 |
| Misc. Expense | 185.00 |
| Octofoil | 3000.00 |
| Editors Expense | 400.00 |
| Secretary Expense | 350.00 |
| Treasurers Expense | 200.00 |
| Printing | 235.00 |
| Board of Governors | 300.00 |
| Accountant | 150.00 |
| Dues Reminder | 100.00 |
| Memorial Wreath | 25.75 |
| Reunion Gratuities | 100.00 |
| F.I.C.A. | 35.10 |
| Total | 7930.85 |

The finance Committee recommends that: (1) the estimated deficit of \$1630.86 be borrowed from the Capital Fund; (2) Consideration be given to increase dues of the membership.

Upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Paul Keller it was voted to: Accept the budget as submitted by the Finance Committee.

President O'Keeffe thanked Oscar Richards and his committee.

NEWSPAPER

Francis Maher, Chairman of the Newspaper Committee, was called upon for his report and Maher named these members who served with him on this committee: Everett Tapp, Paul Clark and Art Schmidt.

The committee discussed and recommends the following for the Octofoil.

1. Continue with six (6) issues a year using the same format of the red addresses for delinquents and to continue with same number of pages.
2. The budget should be the same, with the Editors given authority to absorb any increase in printing and postage.
3. Each issue to carry notice to Pay Dues in order to try to reduce expenses of mailing dues notices.
4. Urge the members to send news items and photos.
5. Impress upon the members to inform the Octofoil of any change in address.
6. The committee wishes to thank the Editors of the Octofoil for doing a good job and extend their wishes for continued success. That the Editors Dan Quinn and Walter O'Keeffe continue on the job.

Upon a motion duly made by Robert DeSandy and seconded by Vincent Guglielmino it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Newspaper Committee. President O'Keeffe thanked Oscar Richards and his committee for their report.

MISCELLANEOUS

Herb Olsen, Chairman of the Miscellaneous, named these members who served with him on this committee: John Bonkowski and Irving Greenberg.

The following recommendations are submitted by this committee:

1. Recommends that the Association assist towards the re-building and repair of the Ninth Division Memorial located on the Parish grounds of the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, Mass.
2. Does the dues run from year to year on a calendar year from January to December? Recommend that the dues for membership be from January to December 31: so that if card is stamped 1976 it is for that year.
3. That the Board of Governors be notified of the committee action on these matters.

Upon a motion duly made by Anthony Varone and seconded by Paul Clark it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Miscellaneous Committee. President O'Keeffe thanked the members of the committee.

BY-LAWS

Fred Josey, Chairman of the By-laws committee, named these members who served on this committee: Charles Koskie, Fred D'Amore, and Edward Egan. The committee discussed the By-laws and does not recommend any changes in the By-laws at this time.

Upon a motion duly made by Bill Bongiorno and seconded by John Bonkowski it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the By-laws committee.

The Committee members were thanked by President O'Keeffe.

NOMINATIONS

President Walter O'Keeffe then called upon the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, William Bongiorno, who named these members of the committee: William Klauz, Al Perna, Oscar Richards and Elmer Wagner. Four members are leaving the Board of Governors and the committee recommends their vacancies be filled by the following members:

BOARD MEMBERS

New Englander Chapter -- Francis Maher; New York Chapter -- George Bako; Philly-Delaware Chp -- Pat Decolli; Illinois Chapter -- Charles Koskie.

President O'Keeffe called for nominations from the floor and upon a motion duly made by John Clouser and seconded by Lenny Tomassone it was voted to: Close the nominations.

Upon a motion duly made by Paul Keller and seconded by Al Perna it was voted to: Instruct the secretary to cast one ballot for a unanimous vote.

Paul Keller addressed the members and again recommended (part of the Miscellaneous committee report of the Detroit reunion) that the committee reports be printed and copies be given to Chairmen of the various committees at the reunion the following year for their edification.

RESTORATION

Francis Maher opened a discussion on the condition of the Memorial at Worcester and the possibility of the Association helping to defray the expense for the rebuilding or repairs of the Monument.

Upon a motion duly made by Bill Coen and seconded by Vito Splendorio it was voted to: Have the restoration of the Memorial be entrusted to the Board of Governors and the association assume the responsibility of affecting repairs to the monument and the mechanics of paying for same with the sum not to exceed \$4500.00.

PURSUE ANY COURSE

John Haller, a member of the association and a member of the Octofoil Association (new Ninth Division member) who recently retired from the Army and who had at one time served with the outfit in World War 2 and the Vietnam conflict, spoke to the membership about the merger of the two outfits. He informed the members that General Westmoreland had recently visited Fort Lewis, Washington where the new Ninth Infantry Division is stationed and the members of the Octofoil Association unanimously approved the motion to empower General Westmoreland with the authority to act as its agent to pursue any course he deems appropriate and necessary to effect the merger of the National Ninth Infantry Division Octofoil Association and the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

SCHOLARSHIPS

John Clouser, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, was called upon for his report. This is a permanent committee consisting of Dr. David Heller and Frank Ozart. Clouser explained how the recipients are selected, all related to members of the Division and selected according to their academic ability and financial need.

This year there are four awards - one new applicant and three renewals:

New Applicant

Phyllis Dubina, daughter of Philip Dubina, 15th Eng. Bn., will attend Suffolk University, Boston, Mass. (Journalism) \$300.00

Renewals

Martin Feinberg, son of Irving Feinberg, 47th Inf., will attend SUNY Binghamton, N.Y. (Industrial Engineer) \$200.00
Martin D. Goldstein, son of Edward Goldstein, 60th Inf., will attend New York University. (Lawyer) \$300.00
Richard J. Pepper, son of Richard J. Pepper, 39th Inf., will attend Siena College, Loudenville, N.Y. (Lawyer) \$100.00

Total \$900.00

As of this year a total of \$21,325.00 has been awarded since the Scholarship Program was started in 1961.

The Board of Governors at their Spring meeting held in Pittsburgh on April 24th - approved the Committees recommendations and awards. President O'Keeffe thanked Clouser and his committee for their report. Upon a motion duly made by John Young and seconded by Fred Josie it was voted to: Accept the report of the Scholarship Committee and to give the committee a standing vote of thanks for their efforts on this committee since it started back in 1961.

Clouser asked for the floor and briefed the members on the 1977 Reunion that will be held in Chicago. Details will appear in the Octofoil.

Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh addressed the assembly and asked the members to consider and remember the Association in their last wills.

Frank Fazio, Co-Chairman of the New York Reunion, briefed the membership on events of the reunion and asked them to make early arrangements at the registration desk for seating at the Banquet on Saturday night. The members are requested to have their banquet tickets with them when they make reservations.

There being no other business to come before the membership and upon a motion duly made by Harry Wax and seconded by Francis Maher, it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 1:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

The 121st Meeting of the National Board of Governors The Ninth Infantry Division Association

The 121st meeting of the National Board of Governors was held in New York City on July 23, 1976 at the Statler-Hilton Hotel at 5:02 P.M., attended by Messrs: Walter O'Keeffe, Paul Clark, Charles Koskie, Elmer Wagner, Herb Olsen, Francis Maher, Ralph Carci, William Klauz, Dominick Greco, George Bako, Everett Tapp also Treasurer Thomas Boyle, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh, Past Presidents John Bonkowski, Frank Ozart, John Clouser, Fred Josey, Leonard Tomassone and former Board Members Michael Deresh and Bill Bongiorno.

President Walter O'Keeffe asked the members to stand for a moment of silent prayer in memory of the departed men of the Ninth.

Upon a motion duly made by William Klauz and seconded by Francis Maher it was voted to: Omit the reading of the minutes of the 120th meeting of the Board of Governors.

Upon a motion duly made by Everett Tapp and seconded by Ralph Carci it was voted to: Omit the financial report.

NEW OFFICERS

Election of Officers for the coming year was held by the Board Members and the following members elected to serve for the next year.

President - Charles Koskie;
1st Vice-President - Vincent Guglielmino; 2nd Vice-President - William Bongiorno;
3rd Vice-President - Leonard Tomassone; Judge Advocate - Harrison Daysh; Treasurer - Thomas Boyle; Secretary - Daniel Quinn.

Outgoing President Walter O'Keeffe then turned the meeting over to the newly elected President Charles Koskie.

Francis Maher asked for a standing vote of thanks for Walter O'Keeffe. O'Keeffe thanked the members for their support and cooperation during the past year. Charles Koskie thanked the members for electing him President and pledged to do his utmost for the association and asked the members for their cooperation this coming year.

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CHAPTER NEWS

NEW YORK CHAPTER

LARGEST EVER

In the words of the Reunion Co-Chairman, Emil Langer, we had our largest Reunion, ever. The large attendance at the banquet seems to bear this out. As everyone knows, the Reunion was held at the Hotel Statler Hilton, West 32nd Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City, from July 22nd through July 24th, 1976. It was our 31st Reunion.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

The writer reported to the hotel one day early, where he found Emil Langer and his wife taking advance registrations. Quite a large group from the Detroit, Michigan Chapter arrived by train on Wednesday, July 21st. Several early arrivals came from New York and out of town. The writer went to bed early because he had to get up early to work at the Registration Desk on Thursday, July 22nd, 1976. Some of the people who worked at the Registration Desk were Dominick Miele, Betty Rizzo, Doc Seslowe, Irving Greenberg and Francine Guglielmino. They were kept busy throughout the three days of the Reunion. General William C. Westmoreland was also busy in the Registration Room autographing copies of his book, "A Soldier Reports", while Howard Waldman was taking orders for the book.

ENJOYED BY ALL

Both the Thursday night Beer Party and Dance and the Friday night Beer Party and Dance (New Year's Eve Night) were enjoyed by all. Harry Meltzer, John Parisi, Val DeMaria, Dave Gelman, George Bako, Al Orletti and Harry Wax were some of the hard workers who made these two affairs a huge success. The New Year's Eve Night must have been a success because the writer got up to dance with Captain Frank Rankin's wife, Margaret. Frank was with B Co., 15th Engineers. The writer refused to give up, and after the band stopped playing, he was seen with a fine group of vocalists, including Mr. and Mrs. Frank Buzanoski, Tony Madonna, Jimmy Keohane and another couple. A woman whose name I forget did a fine job at the piano. This gave the writer an opportunity to sing a solo of his favorite World War II song, "You'll Never Know". Both Tony Madonna and Jimmy Keohane said I had missed my calling.

ALWAYS CROWDED

The New York Chapter C. P. always seemed to be crowded. Even I was seen to be meandering around. Somehow I got lost once or twice when John Obermiller and Elmer Wagner insisted on showing me where the Detroit C. P. was. George Bako, Bill Klauz, Lou Almassy, Vincent Guglielmino, Frank Fazio, Harry Meltzer were some of the hard workers who kept things moving at the New York C. P. A few strays from the Rhode Island VFW Department came into the C. P., and the State Adjutant gave me his business card. I may use it when I attend the VFW Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. Maybe I can scrounge a few drinks.

IMPRESSIVE

The Memorial Services at Madison Square Park, New York City and the Parade were impressive thanks to Edward Egan, Parade Chairman and Bill Klauz. We had a large contingent in the Parade, including the Ladies' Auxiliary, and although the Parade was for 10 blocks long no one dropped out. I was lucky enough to get a ride in the Police Van. The First Army Band, Color Guard and Firing Squad did a fine job, not to mention the cooperation from the New York City Police and Park Departments. Someone "upstairs" must like us because we had fine weather for the parade and services.

The banquet came off without any misgivings thanks to Mike Deresh, Max Umansky and Bill Klauz. The room was packed. Some of the people on the dais were: Rev. Jerry Rowan, Rev. Edward Connors, General Westmoreland, Dan Quinn, Walter O'Keefe, John Clouser, Frank Fazio, Tom Boyle, Emil Langer and Chuck Koskie. It was sad to note that Father DeLaura, who had been scheduled to be the Toastmaster, was absent, due to a serious illness. In his absence Emil Langer took over as Toastmaster. Father Connors and General Westmoreland made their good-humored remarks against each other, and after announcing that Father Connors had been made a General, he (General Westmoreland) went on to speak as the Main Speaker. He made a fine speech about the necessity for being militarily prepared and made some comments about why the war in Vietnam was lost. Father Connors invited us all to attend his 32nd Annual Memorial Mass and Service in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 6th and 7th, 1976. Emil Langer announced that our next Reunion will be held in Chicago, Illinois on July 29, 30, and 31, 1977. He thanked all committees and everyone who helped make this reunion a great success, and he complimented Frank Fazio, Reunion Co-Chairman, for his hard work on the Reunion. Walter O'Keefe thanked the Board of Governors and the membership for helping him to have a successful year. He then turned the gavel over to Chuck Koskie of the Illinois Chapter as our President for 1977. Chuck thanked the Board of Governors for electing him and asked for the cooperation of the membership. John Clouser named the recipients of the scholarships and reported that over \$831.00 was donated to the scholarship fund at the banquet. George Bako of New York was elected to Board of Governors.

The Journal Committee, consisting of Ralph Witzkin, Frank Fazio and Vincent D'Addonna produced a fine Journal.

15th ENGINEERS

The writer counted 16 15th Engineers registered at the Reunion, and he was particularly pleased to meet the following men from Co. B: Jordan Bierman, Fred D'Amore, Charles Hoffmann, Anthony Madonna, James Keohane, and Captain Frank Rankin. I also enjoyed meeting Sergeant Major (Chief) John Haller from the 9th Infantry Division stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. Haller is now retired, but he served with us in the 47th Infantry Regiment in World War II and stayed in the Army.

HELP TO MAKE

I do hope that I will be forgiven if I have failed to give due credit to everyone who helped to make the Reunion a success.

My closing thoughts are that everyone who enjoyed the Reunion should be making plans to attend Father Connors' Memorial Service in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 6th and 7th, 1976 and the 1977 Reunion in Chicago, Illinois. Contact Francis K. Maher, 14 Davenport Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01610, Telephone 756-1803 for room reservations in Worcester and write the Hotel Hyatt Regency in Chicago for reservations for the 1977 Reunion. Anyone attending these two events will just be assuring himself of having a great to-gether such as he had at the New York Reunion.

At the banquet Daniel Quinn presented the following awards: Mike Deresh for completion of three years on the Board of Governors; John Parisi for outstanding service to the New York Chapter.

Auf Wiedersehen!

Arthur R. Schmidt,
Secretary,
Greater New York Chapter

Michigan Doings

With the Chapter Picnic and the National Convention so swiftly behind us, we bid farewell to "Summer of '76" at an out-door party at The Joseys in Grand Blanc, Michigan on Saturday, August 21st. Fred and Jane open their doors to The Chapter at 12:00 Noon. The "Gals" brought their favorite dish to pass and our Hosts furnished the meat and set the table at 6:00 PM. The Chapter took care of the refreshments.

The "Guys" held their Meeting at 8:00 PM. It was brief with only the Reports on the Picnic, National Reunion and the coming Frankenmuth Outstate Meeting on the agenda. The rest of the night was fun under the stars.

PICNIC

The time was barely Seven in the morning when we arrived at the Annual Chapter Picnic on June the 13th and The Ninth already had things well in hand. The Octofoil signs were out; Old Glory was already waving; some Red Pop was in the coolers and there was an inviting fragrance in the air. Don & Helen Lewis along with Floyd & Leora Hennessey were fixin' breakfast and waiting for the Troops to show up.

GREAT ANTICIPATION

It was a familiar scene except for one thing- the absence of Maurice and Vi Mitchell who were early comers through the years. This was the first Picnic since they have moved to Florida and we sincerely missed them. A note from Mitch mentioned how much they wished that they could be there when Don lights the fire. Send their best regards to all. They hope to see the Gang before the year is over, if at all possible. (We'll be looking forward to the next three events with great anticipation.)

It was so nice to see a large family group of seven join us at the Picnic when Charles & Doris Williams came bright and early, to share a wonderful day together.

And a pleasant surprise, indeed as Paul & Idola Keller along with Catherine Ausley drove up all the way from Columbus, Ohio. Paul is a former Michigander and it sure made us feel good having them on that happy occasion.

Usually we have to wait for a National Reunion before we get to see Bob & Mac Cole. This time we were more fortunate and there they were. Should happen more often but Bob can't get away from his work that easy.

And how glad we are to see Bill & Lucille Andrews more often at our Chapter doings. Seems like old times and that's great.

Again we thank Gene Reedy for delivering the remainder of Red Pop. We also thank our good neighbors, Steve & Mary Gasparovich for all that good fresh tasty popcorn - enough for everyone and yet some.

Our appreciation to John Zulkiewski for the kielbasa that the Gals grilled and passed around and to his brother Tony for some old fine tunes on the accordion.

Vice Pes. Ed & Marge Wisniewski regretfully missed the Picnic. There was a Graduation in the family.

Illness kept others away: Tony Berdinski was undergoing tests on his hip at the Ann Arbor V.A. Hospital. He may be home now.

Kleb Stockford had pains in his chest which later were found not as serious as first thought and we are thankful.

Bill Phelps still under medication.

Charlie Fox not feeling up to par that morning but he's all right now and that makes us all feel better.

Sorry that The DeBruynes, DeLucas and Williams had to cancel out of the Amtrak Group. The 16 who made that trip had a grand time: Fred & Jane Josey, Oral & Martha Auten, John & Jane Young, John & Rose Bonkowski, Charles & Charlette Fox, John, Thelma & Denny Obermiller, John Zulkiewski, Vincent Temple, Pres. Elmer Wagner

We were proud, when it was announced that Irene Tapp was named Vice Pres. of The Ladies Auxiliary.

And Bob DeSandy was honored with the Outstanding Chapter Award, which he so rightfully earned.

THANKS TO CHAIRMEN

Thanks to Chairmen, Emil Langer and Frank Fazio for arranging our Chapter C P in the "Albany Room". Many friendly visits and chats during the Reunion made it seem like the Detroit Convention all over, again. Fred Josey, Elmer Wagner, John Young and Bob DeSandy did a fine job behind the bar.

Congratulations to Bob & Flo DeSandy who will always remember their 27th Wedding Anniversary - the day they became Grandma & Grandpa.

The same to Floyd & Leora Hennessey on the arrival of April Ann, on July 15th to their son and daughter-in-law, Tom & Beth.

As we're running out of space, one final reminder, let's all come down to the Party at Fred & Jane Josey's home on August 21st. We'll have so much to talk about and celebrate at this last event of the season.

Sincerely,
Elmer Wagner, Pres.
John Bonkowski, Sec.

Illinois Chapter

Fired Up

The Illinois Chapter has fired up for the thirty-third reunion to be held at the elegant Hyatt Regency Chicago. General chairman John Clouser, with his co-chairmen Bill Hennemuth, Chuck Koskie and Frank Ozart, has named the following committees: Reunion treasurer, Chuck Koskie; Registration, Bob Winkelman, Chairman, Roger Elmer, Jerry Fajnor, and Cas Pawelek; Concurrent Activities, Joe Lacic, Chairman, Helen Clouser, Peggy Hennemuth, Irma Koskie, Ceil Lacic, Ann Belmonte and Dorothy Fajnor; Program Book, Frank Ozart, Chairman, Jerry Fajnor, Chuck Koskie, Al Sebeck and Emil Radic; Hospitality Committee, Bill Hennemuth, Chairman, and Bob Pappas; Auxiliary Activities, Lorraine Clark, Chairperson and Georgene Winkelman; Golf Outing, Mike Belmonte, Chairman and Bob Pappas; Welcome Party, Paul Clark, Chairman and Bud Remer; Friday Dance, Bill Hennemuth, Chairman, and Mike Belmonte; Memorial Service, David Heller, Chairman, Roger Elmer and Chuck Koskie; Banquet, Chuck Koskie, Chairman, Emil Radic, and Paul Clark; Reception, Joe Lacic, Chairman and Jerry Fajnor.

As a preliminary step in the extensive planning ahead, Chairman Clouser recently met with representatives of the Chicago Convention Bureau. They are anxious to welcome their Ninth Division guests next summer and promised to be of service wherever needed to make our reunion a great one.

New York Declared
"Tops"

Those attending the New York reunion all agree that it was "tops". Dining at the "Top of the Park", or the "Top of the Sixes," viewing the city from the top of the World Trade Center of the Empire State Building were among the "top level" activities many enjoyed.

The "top-notch" evening programs were great and spirits ran high. The impromptu parade led by flag bearer, Tom Boyle and the patriotic songfest "topped" off a funfilled Friday night.

As always the Memorial Service was most impressive and touching as those who have gone on ahead were remembered and honored.

The grand finale, the reunion banquet produced some "top" features, too. The amiable Chaplin and "Top-banana" Father Connors entertained with his clever remarks and invited all to the Bicentennial Memorial Service in Worcester. Hearing "Top-dog" Westmoreland's speech was inspiring as he proposed true Americanism and patriotism as a goal to be established to insure our country's future.

The "top" amount of money ever gathered at a reunion banquet for the Memorial Scholarship Fund was received in New York.

To "top" it all off, our own Chuck Koskie was elected National President for 1977.

So, thank you New York, for a "Top-Notch" Reunion +!!

Mr. and Mrs. J. Clouser
901 Graceland
Des Plaines, Ill.
60016

76 Reunion In New York

"AS WE SAW IT"

Wednesday, July 21st, about a quarter to mid-night, sixteen tired but happy travelers arrived at the main lobby of The Statler Hilton in New York. They were the very first group ever, to come to The Association's Reunion by Amtrak.

The adventure began at a 7:00 AM rendezvous at the old Michigan Central Depot in Detroit. An hour later, we were on our way and with minutes crossing the border through the tunnel under the Detroit River. From there it was the Canadian country-side all the way to Fort Erie and then into Buffalo. The route was along the Mohawk to Albany and down the Hudson River bank.

HAVING A BALL

In the meantime, The Michigan Chapter Gang on board was having a ball. There was "Red-pop" and "Wooji-water" galore. We forgot about our diet for a day and done more snacking, dining in the Diner and drinking in the Lounge, than we thought we were capable of doing. Of course, there also was time for chatting and laughter. Now and then we'd "take ten" and even grab a few winks. The train pulled into the Grand Central Station about forty minutes late. A convoy of four cabs rushed us through the streets of New York and it wasn't long before we were in the Hotel. One of the first Association people we've spotted was Betty Rizzo and it was nice seeing her again.

After we checked into our rooms and refreshed a bit, Fred & Jane Josey, John & Jane Young, Rose & I have decided to step out and have a late snack. According to the tab, they had to think that we were some left-over delegates from the other Convention, but it was a lot of fun.

FRIENDLY GREETINGS

Next morning, the first order of business was registration in the Hospitality Room. Here we found Chairman, Emil Langer and his crew already on duty. There were many friendly greetings and a pleasant atmosphere.

From there a ride down the escalator to the main lobby where Rose and I planned to meet for some sight-seeing about town. Charlette Fox was hoping to do the same while Charlie was resting in his room. Along came Elmer Wagner with his camera and we made it a four-some.

FANTASTIC

The view atop the Empire State Building was fantastic. Elmer, who has been there on previous occasions said that it never was that clear. After admiring the view from all sides and taking many snapshots it was time to descend, but not until an inscription was left on the wall, "CHARLIE WASN'T HERE".

While the Gals took off on some side shopping tours, Elmer and I continued on to the Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Here I've offered a little prayer for a beautiful Saturday morning for the Memorial Parade and Service.

More shots were taken at The Rockefeller Center and other places of interest as we headed back for the Hotel. Along the way we've picked up some supplies for the Chapter C. P. The after-noon gave us a few hours of rest until the Board Meeting at 5:00 PM. It was a well attended and informative session in the Boston Room.

RED, WHITE & BLUE

As the first day of the Reunion went on, more Chapter Members kept arriving. We had quite a crowd at the Welcoming Party on Thursday night. Most of us wore something in red, white and blue as we were celebrating in the Bicentennial Spirit, John Obermiller was jumping around like he was having a time of his life. The band was good and we all had a grand time.

GENERAL MEETING

The second day of the Reunion began with the Committee Meetings at 10:00 AM in their respective rooms. Our Chapter was represented by: Fred Josey, Chairman, By-Laws Committee Bob DeSandy, Finance Comm.; Elmer Wagner, Newspaper Comm.; Everett Tapp, Nominating Comm. and John Bonkowski, Miscellaneous Comm. The Chairmen of all of these five important Committees presented their Reports at the 31st Annual General Membership Meeting, which followed immediately in the Georgian Room. Pres. Walter O'Keefe presided and the attendance was good. Some of the recommendations have been made in the form of a motion and have been acted on by the Body.

AUXILIARY MEETING

At the same time, The Ladies Auxiliary were having their Meeting and Election in the Play Penn Room. Julia Netta was elected Pres. and one of our Michigan Chapter Gals, Irene Tapp Vice President. Lilly Krasovetz, Treas. Phyllis Perna, Sec. Ruth Victor, Chaplain.

NEWLY ELECTED

The final Board of Governors Meeting of this Convention was held at 5:00 PM in the Boston Room. The newly elected members to the Board were seated and the election of Officers for the coming year followed. This would indeed be a proud moment for John Rizzo if he could have been with us to see his buddy, Chuck Koskie as our National President. Chuck has served on the Board several terms and his experience will make him a fine Leader for the Association. The other Officers elected: Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P.; William Bongiorno, 2nd V.P.; Len Tomassone, 3rd V.P.; Harrison Daysh, Judge Advocate; Thomas Boyle, Treasurer; Dan Quinn, Sec. Philadelphia Chapter was awarded the Convention for 1978 and they will pick an appropriate site. Discussion on the restoration or replacement of the Memorial Shrine in Worcester was handled eloquently. The Association will finance this project and we have every reason to believe that the Membership will respond. General Westmoreland attended this meeting and presented his appeal for our Association and the new Octofoil Association to eventually join as one group. The sentiment is very strong to keep our Association just the way it is, and this is the feeling that is shared by most of us in the Michigan Chapter.

OUR MOMENTOES

The General devoted many hours throughout the Reunion, autographing and entering inscriptions for those that brought their book, "A Soldier Reports". This will be added to our momentoes that we've gathered through the years.

NEW YEARS IN JULY

Theme of the Friday night dance party was "New Year in July". The Grand Terrace Ballroom was the place to be as a great band played our tunes just the way we remember them back when-----. The dance floor was crowded and everyone was having a wonderful time. As the Grand March formed and the Patriotic songs that followed, we couldn't help thinking of another memorable night at the 1967 Boston Reunion. At Midnight everyone was up on their feet as the band struck, "Auld Lang Syne". There was hand shaking, greetings and friendly kisses among the traditional New Year's Eve hats, noise makers and streamers. This scene will be one that we'll always remember in years to come.

When the Party was over, the action moved to the Chapter C P, in the Albany Room. We owe our gratitude to Frank Fazio for the wonderful arrangement, Friendly visits with plenty of good cheer were going on far into the night. It was great having Matt and Jeannie Urban with us, enjoying those drinks that were promised a couple of months ago. Fred Josey and his crew were doing a great job behind the bar. If there happened to be a stranger in the crowd, he'd wonder how in the world will the Troops fall out for the Parade in the morning.

MEMORIAL PARADE

The morning came and not only did they make the Parade but there was a fine turn-out at Father Connors' Memorial Mass at 8:30 AM. There was time for breakfast and by 10:00 AM they all were out on 32nd Street as a great Army Band was getting ready for the march to the Memorial Ceremony site. The Ladies Auxiliary formed at the rear and proudly carried the small American flags. It was a real beautiful day and our prayers were answered. Over at the Park, Rev. Jerry Rowan opened the Service with his prayer. Emil Langer had a nice Program arranged with Father Connors, Ralph Witzkien, Walter O'Keefe, General Westmoreland and Rev. Speers all taking part. The placing of the wreath, Taps and volleys by the Honor Rifle Squad made it an impressive Ceremony.

REALLY MISSED

The afternoon was for shopping, sight-seeing, napping or whatever. John Young, Fred Josey, Elmer Wagner and I went out to stock up for the Chapter C P for the big night, yet to come. By now there were over thirty of us from Michigan and those that couldn't make it, really missed a good Reunion.

As usual, Father Connors and Father Jerry concelebrated Mass at 5:00 PM for the travelers. The attendance was very good.

RECUPERATING

At 8:00 PM the final event was at hand and the Grand Terrace Ballroom was filled for the Banquet. Once again the new reservation seating arrangement worked beautifully. Chairman Emil Langer took over for our intended Toastmaster, The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Anthony DeLaura, who was recuperating at home after his recent heart attack. The Program was traditional. Father Connors said a few words and invited everyone for the 32nd Annual Memorial Week-end in Worcester on November 6 & 7th. Franny Maher was accepting reservations.

NEW HIGH

General Westmoreland was the Main Speaker of the night. It was gratifying to see the Memorial Fund collection reach a new high of over \$800. The Michigan Chapter proudly done its share with individual contributions and a Chapter donation of \$100. There was a generous gift of \$50 from the Auxiliary. Every Chapter honored their Man of the year and our Bob DeSandy was presented his well earned Award. Out-going Pres. Walter O'Keefe introduced the New President and handed the gavel to Chuck Koskie, who made a few but meaningful comments. The program came to an end with a prayer and everybody singing, "Auld Lang Syne".

All the Michiganders and our friends from every Chapter dropped by at the C P as a most wonderful Reunion was coming to an end. It would be impossible to mention all the names in the crowd that included Pres. Chuck & Irma Koskie and the General, without leaving someone out. The pleasure having you was ours and we'd do it again. As the C P door was closed for the last time, we stopped over to bid our final farewells to the New York Gang. Their Party was still in full swing and it was obvious that they were good till morning.

HIT THE ROAD

Seems like we just hit the pillow when it was time to get up, and get ready to "hit the road". By 7:00 AM we were down at the Grand Central Station. Even at that early hour, the crowd began to form at the departure gate. The chances of the Chapter Gang sitting together as a group, looked very dim. But at this point, the greatest "military maneuver" of the entire operation was about to unfold. With the best resources on hand - a note with Lincoln's picture and the element of surprise, our glorious Leader, Fred Josey gave a secret command. We all picked up hand baggages, made a flanking move out of the waiting line and marched to a gate away from the surprised crowd, who didn't even know what happened. We made a beach-head on the train and by the time the "army of people" were getting on board, we already were comfortable in our places. (For this great act beyond the call of duty and without a single casualty, we commend our glorious leader a citation.)

JOURNEY HOME

The journey back home was just as enjoyable, because we had so many memories to share. Over in the Diner car we met a former 60th Officer, John P. Ryan. He was returning from the Reunion and also had an excellent "operation" in mind for us. He invited the entire Michigan Group aboard to get off with him in Albany and spend a day together. He'd put us back on the train the following day. Since some of fellows had to report to work in the morning, it just wasn't possible. We all thanked him for his generous offer and hope to meet him again some day.

GOODBYES

The miles slipped by quickly and we arrived at the Mich. Central Depot right on time. From there, after the last "goodbyes" everyone headed for home. Some had their cars parked in the lot, others had someone meet them at the station. And so came the end of a most wonderful week-end.

John Bonkowski Sec

Cont from Pg. 3

Meeting National Board of Governors

REBUILDING

President Koskie appointed the following members to serve on the committee for rebuilding the Memorial at Worcester: Francis Maher as Chairman, Thomas Boyle, Bill Bongiorno, and Herb Olsen. This committee will check with Father Connors as to his feelings on the matter and will be empowered to act as agents for the association regarding costs etc., for the monument. The general membership had voted at the annual meeting to go ahead with the necessary repairs or rebuilding with the sum not to exceed \$4500.00.

MERGING

General Westmoreland addressed the Board members and requested that they explore the possibility of merging our Associations with the Vietnam members who have their own association known as the Octofoil Association. President Koskie then appointed the following members to serve as a committee to explore the desirability and feasibility of merging or some way linking the associations. Francis Maher, Walter O'Keefe, Everett Tapp, Al Perna, Harrison Daysh and the President will also serve on this committee. Walter O'Keefe will be the chairman.

78 REUNION SITE

President Koskie then called for bids for the 1978 Reunion. Al Perna submitted a bid for the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter. There being no other bids and upon a motion duly made by Everett Tapp and seconded by Ralph Carci it was voted to: Close the bids, and award the 1978 Reunion to the Philly Chapter with the reunion to be held in that area and not necessarily in Philadelphia.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion duly made by William Klauz and seconded by George Bako it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

CHICAGO IN 77

Before the cheers for one reunion has faded it seems the wheels are turning for the next year's event. The Illinois members have selected the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago as the C.P. for the 1977 reunion, with the dates set for July 28-31st. The Regency is where the magnificent mile begins.

Each of the Regency 1000 guest rooms and suites commands a view. The rooms and bathrooms are all large, and furnished with the sort of amenities one expects of a Hyatt Hotel.

The Hyatt Regency Chicago offers those who are meeting in Chicago a unique new addition to the city's superb convention facilities. The Regency is suited not only for Chicago's own social affairs, but also as center for major national and international gatherings.

"I would like to marry your daughter."
"Well, sir, you can leave your name and address, and if nothing better turns up, we can notify you."

MAIL CALL

THE OCTOFOIL

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

Hq. Co., 60th

Marvin Teakle
R.R. No. 1.
Box 163,
Clinton, Iowa 52732

I expect I am like most members, getting more forgetful and slower with my share of ills and bad days. With reasonably good health I do odd jobs, gardening, boy scouting, helping out at the church and driving a school bus after retiring Dec. 1975. I had driven semi tractor trailer 25 yrs. even a million mile safe driving award. We have 3 sons, married and families of their own. All have been in the service and 2 are still in the guard and one is in service for missionaries in New Guinea as a pilot. We also have 2 sons and a daughter at home (12, 14 and 17) I am glad to have been to one reunion, at Springfield, but still up in the air as to New York. There were so many of our company from that area. Those I had been close to are all gone now, except the widow of Tony Dobrynski in Cresskill, N.J. We spent a week of our honeymoon with them in 1947 and have not seen them since. I'd like to hear from any guys in the 60th. My brother Orie, also served in the same company until after the war in Germany was over. He doesn't belong to the association but does read by Octofoil. Thank you so much for the letter reminding me of my dues, and God bless.

Hq. Co., 47th

Jackie Della Porte
188 Coffey St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11231

Hi Dan:

Marge and I want to thank you and the rest of the gang for a wonderful time and also to Frank on the committee for setting up the entertainment, especially New Years in July which was very appropriate for our occasion. I have two more dead enders and will encourage the others to join. Thanks again for a memorable reunion and will see you all in the near future.

Co. H, 47th

Edward Trainor
182 William St.
Stoneham, Mass.

Received the Octofoil and reading thru it saw that Frank Fazio had been in the hospital, sorry to hear it. Tell him and Al Orletti and Walter O'Keeffe and the rest of the gang that I'm sorry to have missed them at Worcester.

Co. M, 60th

Joseph Gargie
R.D. 1, Box 181
Selinsgrove, Pa. 17870
Joe sends his check to cover Life Membership and is looking forward to seeing some of his old friends at the reunion.

Co. F, 47th

Earl Wilkey
402 Calhoun Ave.
Rome, Ga. 30161

Just a few lines to say I will not make the New York reunion. On June 28 I had a cardiac catheterization and was in the hospital for 3 days. I was also in the hospital in March and May. I will try to make the Memorial Mass in November. I am going to stay with my son in S.C. and he is going to take me over to Ft. Bragg to see Capt. F.M. Smith. It will be good to see him after 33 years. Will also try and see Sgt. Jones in Georgia. I am 100 percent disabled and it is so good to hear from Sam Bumie and my tent buddy Hoppie Hopkins. Good luck to all.

Bty B 26th F.A.

James Hennelly
25 Maple Avenue
Newton, Ma. 02158

Sorry to be late with my dues. When I read the apologies of the other tardy members, I felt snug in the fact that I had paid my dues on time, for a change - I don't remember having receiving "The Red Address Copy". Anyway, herewith my apology and check. Regards to all.

Co. L, 39th Inf.

James L. Richardson
Box 586
Barnwell, S.C. 29812

It embarrassed me to see my name addressed in red ink while reading the Octofoil. Enclosed find check for dues so this will not happen again. Ex-pvt. to 1st Sgt while serving L Co 39th Infantry from England to the Rhine. Presently a "best up" peanut farmer in Barnwell, S.C. - Best to all.

Co M, 39th Inf.

Anthony J. Carmeci
Barryville, N.Y. 12719

Just thought I'd drop a line to let you know all is well here and I hope the same with you and yours. I am retired up at Barryville, New York and enjoying every minute of it. I thought I sent a notice to that effect as they are still sending my Octofoil to my old address. Andy Wolchok (M Co 39th) was up here for a visit with his family. Received a letter from Nick Asperger (M Co 39th) and he is doing fine in Madison, Illinois. I wish the Association continued success and all the best to all the gang.

B Co, 39th Inf.

Thomas Orband
30 Delmar Street
Binghamton, N.Y. 13902

Just a line to let you know I am doing OK. Since Gert passed away I haven't been doing much of anything. I retired last Sept. 5 from my Public Works' job. I have been taking life real easy.

Dan I hope your family is well and growing up fast. I saw Mrs. McInerney, the day before Mother's Day. She fell and cut her eye. Her daughter took her to the hospital and put stitches in. She is really doing well for her age. As you probably know we still have our Co. B. Reunions. We had it at Elmira this year. Next year it will be our 25th reunion. We will hold it at Fairport, New York. This should be our biggest one. Dan if you can send me an "8 star to victory" book and tell me how much it is, I will send you a check. I loaned mine out and never got it back. Can't make the reunion this year.

Cannon Co. 47th

Leonard Kupkowski
27 N. Gazelle St.
Dunkirk, N.Y. 14048

I am working in Pittsburgh now so don't think we will be able to make the New York reunion. Say hello to the 47th Cannon Co. guys who make the reunion for us. Hope to make the reunion next year if not too far from home.

Co M 47th Inf

Dom Miele
12 Mastic Blvd.
Mastic, N.Y. 11950

"To the Officers, Committee members, and all the members of the Greater NY Chapter, I want to express my opinion on the Reunion held at the Statler Hilton Hotel in July. I didn't like it, I LOVED IT!"

It surely was the finest reunion ever attended by me, I, surely had a grand time, especially, the Friday night dance, with all the dancing and the fine performance by Pete Mezzapelle and his wonderful musicians. I liked it when all of us marched around the ballroom, with the flag waving, and the singing of our fine patriotic songs we all sang. Now, to the Officers, Committees and members I want to Thank one and all for the wonderful job you performed, and I'm happy to have been on the registration Comm, to help out."

In closing, please give my very best regards to the Officers and members of the NY Chapter. Hope to see all of you at the Christmas Party.

Tony Varone 39th Inf.
75-Ninth Ave.
Kings Park, N.Y. 11754

Tony writes that he and his family are all well and enjoying life as much as possible. His daughter is enjoying army life and is stationed in Fort Hood, Texas which is a bit far away, and he hopes to retire soon to do some of the many things he has always dreamed of. The one thing good with being in the Ninth was the chance of making so many wonderful and long time friends and seeing so many far away places. Too bad it cost so many lives and gave so many others the many heartaches. God Bless them all and may God help us all make peace in our world soon.

47th Inf. A Co.

Laurence C., Neudeck
6811 Boston State Rd.
Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

Larry sends his dues because he does not want to miss the Octofoil. Says he is well and hopes to make a reunion one of these days.

Co. C, 9th Med.

John H. Klooz
Rt. 1
Sullivan, Ohio 44880

John didn't make the reunion this year and hopes to make it next year. He hasn't heard from Ed Van Meter for a couple of years. Last he heard was that he was living in Huntington, Ind.

Bty. C,
84th F.A.

Harmon J. Raybon
Route 3, Box 246
Headland, Ala. 36345

Harmon sends his dues and is sorry he can not make the reunion, but hopes to come to one in the near future. He is still in contact with some of the guys from the 84th, "who are some of the finest fellows he has known."

Chicago in
1977

THE OCTOFOIL

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AG Div Hqs

John M. Alley
4701 Kenmore Ave.
Alexandria, Va. 22304

We really enjoyed the reunion in New York and seeing all the people we haven't seen in years. The New York Chapter is to be congratulated for a fine job!

The enclosed note from Maj. Gen. Hoyle was sent to me at the Hotel to be read at the dinner but it was never delivered to me. Gen. Hoyle will be 93 in September and he really hated not being able to have taken the Ninth Division overseas from Fort Bragg, we see him about twice a year or so.

Again, we did enjoy the New York Affair and wish we could join you in Chicago but we are planning a trip to Japan and Hawaii and can't quite make both.

Maj. Gen. R.E.D. Hoyle (Ret.)
80 Hepburn Road
Hamden, Conn. 06517

My love and affection always goes forward to my beloved Ninth Infantry Division.

9th Q.M.

Bill Palady
403-29th Street
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

To the NY Chapter our Congratulations on a successful reunion, one of the best. The passing away of Harry Orenstein was indeed a shock to all of us, we will miss him, may he rest in peace. It was good to see Pete Compton and Mark Adlerstein again. The last time was in 1949. Those attending the reunion: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Russo, Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Witt, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Tapp, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Palady, Gene Berasi, Horace Abrams, Ernie Siegel, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Adlerstein.

All in all everyone had a good time and hope that many more of us can get to next year's reunion in Chicago.

26th F.A.

William Griesbach
137 E. Coronado Rd.
Phoenix, Ariz. 85004

Dear Dan:

I'm back from Brazil, as you can see. Have had a bad time and spent a good part of it in a hospital out here -- feeling pretty good now. My best wishes to you and all the fellows of the 9th especially Father Connors.

M.P.

Louis Vivolo
283 Lexington St.
E. Boston, Mass. 02128

I have been a member for the last ten years and we are all well at home. We celebrated 25 years of marriage and are all happy.

Another Michigander has retired. John Al Young was passing his Official Retirement Cards out to all his friends. He and Jane are packing and moving further North. We hope that this doesn't mean that we'll

L.L. Doyle
R.R. 1

Humboldt, Ill. 61931

I found the "tell-tale red ink" on last Jan-Feb. issue of the Octofoil. Perhaps this check will re-instate him.

Last year we had the privilege of going to Europe to visit our elder son, a captain in the 28th Inf., U.S. Army. Loren enjoyed seeing Germany without ducking bullets and commenting on how much it had changed.

Since Loren retired in January of 1975, he has learned to eat and sleep at regular hours instead of whenever the railroad called. His retirement is a time of joy for both of us. He now has time for his interest in woodworking and furniture refinishing, and has just finished redoing a washstand that was a family heirloom.

During reunion time we will be in the west as we plan to visit Loren's sisters in San Diego after a stopover in Oklahoma with our younger son, a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. But give our regards to the men of the Ninth.

Sincerely,
Marianne Doyle

Co. F, 49th Inf.

Belton Jones

Box 1
Alapaha, Ga. 31622

Dear Danny:

On March 30, I underwent surgery on my right eye for the removal of a cataract and much to my sorrow it hasn't healed very fast. I won't be able to secure new glasses for another six weeks. However, I feel confident the operation will be a success because I already have some vision with the old glasses.

It is with deep regret that I will not be privileged to be with you and all the gang in New York. I'm sure you have a great program outlined in this Bicentennial year. Extend my kindest regards to everyone and may God richly bless you.

Div Hqs

William B. Cardoza, Sr.
17 Jones Terrace, Apt. 5
Stoughton, Mass. 02072

I'd like to inform you to change my address from Forestville, Maryland to 17 Jones Terrace, Stoughton, Mass. Perhaps this is the reason why the Octofoil takes so long.

I will be attending the chapter meetings in Worcester as soon as I get well. I was recently discharged from the hospital where I had a hernia operation. Regards to all.

Continued on Page 2

see them less. No Chapter can afford to lose dedicated Members such as they, who forsake the privilege of traveling free on the Greyhound and paid their full fare to be with the Gang on the Amtrak. (Our Best Wishes, Always.)