

1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY



" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "

VOLUME NUMBER 2 -- DATED 15 AUGUST 1998 -- ISSUE NUMBER 04

FROM THE
COMMAND TRACK... A SHORT UPDATE



Dear "Ichanbaners:"

Included within the contents of this flyer is information on the upcoming reunion in September of 1999. The next newsletter will have an updated E-Mail Directory for those of you on-line. If anyone has changed their address or if I have incorrect information within your section, please e-mail me the correct info and I will include it in the next newsletter.

I personally want to thank all of you who have chipped in and helped with the numerous jobs that have to be done for the Association: First to locate and contact our fellow soldiers. Those who joined the Association, I thank you for your support very much. To those guys and gals out there who have pitched in to help with the newsletters and who as we speak are working with me to get the next reunion planned, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Sandy, your help with the labels and other items for the newsletter are greatly appreciated, for sure! We have a year to go before we all again meet in one watering hole, but that year will tick off the calendar faster than any of us may want. So get your plans in now to attend and save that last minute rush and possible heart aches if you should not "get on the band wagon" in time. Let's make this reunion one of the best anywhere.

A sad note to report to those out there who know Bob Gold. On 27 June 1998, Bob's lovely wife, Cynthia, lost her battle with cancer. Many of his fellow troopers remember her when Bob and Cynthia held parties at their house in Fort Hood Texas. Bob, Although I personally did not know your wife, I am sure she was one heck of a lady to put up with you. We will all miss her, for sure. Our best wishes to you and your family in this time of need. And Cynthia, We know you are looking down on Bob and will watch over him for all of us.

Any of you out there who wish to get involved with the planning of the 1999 Reunion, please drop me a note or call and let me know in what capacity you could serve. You do not need to put much time into it, if enough people volunteer just a little time, we can help make everyone's reunion time very enjoyable.

I am fully aware that my youth has been spent, that my "get up and go" has "got up and went." But I really don't mind when I think, with a grin, of all the places my "get up" has been.

EDITOR'S PAGE



SENATOR GLENN'S RESPONSE ...

May 3, 1974, Ohio Senate Democratic Primary. Howard Metzenbaum to John Glenn:

Metzenbaum: "How can you run for Senate when you've never held a job."

Glenn: "I served 23 years in the United States Marine Corps. I was in two wars. I flew 149 combat missions, and my plane was hit on twelve different occasions. I was in the space program. It wasn't my checkbook, it was my life that was on the line. This was not a 9-to-5 job where I took time off to take the daily cash receipts to the bank."

Glenn: "I ask you to go with me ... as I went the other day to a Veteran's Hospital and look those men with their mangled bodies in the eye and tell them they didn't have a job. You go with me to any Gold Star mother, and you look her in the eye and tell her that her son did not hold a job. You go with me to the space program and you go as I have gone to the widows and orphans of Ed White, Gus Grissom, and Roger Chaffee, and look those kids in the eye and tell them their dads didn't have a job."

Glenn: You go with me on memorial Day and you stand in Arlington National Cemetery where I have more friends than I like to remember and you watch those waving flags, and you stand there, and you think about this nation, and you tell those people they didn't have a job. I tell you Howard Metzenbaum, you should be on your knees every day of your life thanking God that there were some men ... SOME MEN... who held a real job. And they required a dedication to purpose and a love of country and a dedication to duty that was more important than life itself. And their sacrifice is what has made this country possible."

Glenn: "I HAVE HELD A JOB, HOWARD!"

(This article was sent to me by Col M M Oliver, ex-battalion XO)

Dates of the Second "Official" Reunion of the 1st/50th Infantry:
September 17th, 18th and 19th, 1999

Place of Reunion:
Kansas City MO (Hotel to be announced in the next newsletter)

Agenda: To be announced in next newsletter. A tentative schedule is listed on a separate sheet enclosed within this newsletter.

Registration Fee: \$20.00 for member only. Wife and children free. This fee will be used to help defray costs associated with the reunion. These costs include bus transportation, Hospitality room refreshments, name badges, program printing, Fees associated with meeting room, Tour costs, and many other little costs which always appear prior to, during, and after the reunion dust has settled.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE KANSAS CITY REUNION

**1/500th MECHANIZED
INFANTRY BATTALION**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1999

Registration: 1 PM to 7 PM
Cocktails: 5:30 to 7:00 PM
General greetings: 7:00 PM
Dinner: 7:30 PM
General Membership Meeting: 8:30 to 10:00 PM
Hospitality Room Opens: 10 PM to 2 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1999

Complimentary Breakfast: 7 AM to 10 AM
Tour of National VFW Headquarters: 11 AM
Casino/Shopping trips: 1 PM
Cocktail Hour: 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Dinner/Tour: 7:30 PM
Hospitality Room Opens: Midnight to 2 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 1999

Complimentary Breakfast: 7 AM to 10 AM
Hotel Checkout: 11 AM

General Notes about the agenda:

National VFW Headquarters has been talking with me about providing us with a color guard from one of the VFW posts. Details were a bit sketchy at this time, but I think that would be a nice gesture on their part. They also say they have been talking with the surrounding VFW posts, and hopefully Saturday night will be a full schedule of touring several of those posts, along with meals, entertainment, and refreshments. For those of you who do not wish to partake in these events, we will have a Plan B set up, just in case.

I have also talked briefly with the Ladies Auxiliary about setting up a shopping/sight seeing tour for Saturday afternoon. The details on this have to be worked out yet, but it is progressing along smoothly at this time.

Keep in mind, of course, that Kansas City is located along the river and as such, there are several casinos/river boats available for your enjoyment as well. We are not located far from the baseball stadium, although I do not know the schedule for their team, if it will be in town or not. All these things are available for those who wish to arrive early, maybe spend the entire week there, as I plan to do.

Kansas City is filled with many fine museums, restaurants, shopping plazas, etc. for those of you who enjoy those events. Anyone wishing to spend the week there can also use the services of the trolley which is available for all downtown events. Costs are not that much for the trolley ride and it is available during most of the evening hours.

~~~~~

Other news to ponder. Starting in September, I want to set up a monthly "Town Cryer Meeting" on the Internet. The second Wednesday of each month, we will be on-line from 5 PM until 9 PM. All those who have an on-line service and I have a record of their e-mail addresses, will be notified by me the week before of where our "Chat Room" will be located. Once this location is set up and we have a good response to it, we will set it up permanently.



+++++  
 RE-APPOINTMENTS  
 +++++

A year has passed almost, since the last reunion. Each year, we nominate the officers for the upcoming year to serve us and keep the Association running smoothly. Since we will not have a reunion this year, at which we would normally elect new officers, the officers have to be voted on by September 1 this year by ballot, which is enclosed. Listed on a separate sheet are the nominees for this year. PLEASE! Take a few moments and make your choice, then send it to me by the end of August.

On the attached paper is listed nominees to fill the position of President, Vice President, Chaplain, Historian, and Secretary/Treasurer.

These names were suggested by several members and I need to have a vote from membership (that is you) as to your choice. If you have a more suitable person in mind, please add them to the blank space included on the ballot, and return this ballot to me by 30 August, 1998. It is your right to elect officers of the Association per the bylaws, SO ... Gentlemen, cast your vote and return to me by the end of August. Thank you for your support.

+++++

The Association would like to host its first ever "Cow Pie" raffle on or about 1 June, 1999, to help raise money to pay for some of our expenses at Kansas City Reunion in September 1999. Here is how it works:

The members of the association would sell raffle tickets to who ever wants to buy them: your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Tickets are \$2.00 each or a book of 6 for \$10.00.

Now! How does it work? First, you sell tickets to anyone you can. Then, on the day nearest 1 June 1999, a cow will be released into a one acre field. The field will be divided up into how ever many tickets we sell: (ie: 4500 tickets sold, each square will be about ten square feet). There will be a minimum of two OBSERVERS in the area of the cow. When the cow decides mother nature has called and releases its load, the square the cow pie hits will be the official winner. Should it hit on the line between two or four squares, each of those (lucky?) ticket holders will receive a percent of the prize money. (50% for two lines, and 25% for the corner of the square.) The amount of the prize will vary depending on the amount of tickets sold. If sales of, say, 2500 tickets, the winner(s) will receive \$2,500.00. The person selling the winning ticket will receive \$150.00. Convenient number there, huh?

After expenses for ticket printing, lime to stake out the field, etc., we anticipate raising about \$750.00 for each 1,000 tickets sold. Thus, if we sell 2,000 tickets, we would have \$1,500.00 to put toward the expenses of the reunion. Hopefully, between the registration fee, money raised in this event, and the "free" stuff I talk National VFW out of, it should not cost anyone much for the reunion, other than room and travel. At least, it sounds like a plan, if things go well.

So! The only thing I have to do is convince all of you out there this is a good idea and to purchase your tickets, plus tickets to sell to your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Tickets will be printed once I receive enough orders to know how many will be needed, plus I plan on having printed 50% more than the orders. More tickets can be printed as the re-orders for tickets come in. Support your Association and have a great time at the reunion, inexpensively. Some lucky winner(s) out there will end up with spending money of their own.

\*\*\*\*\*  
BIG BROTHER ALIVE AND WELL  
\*\*\*\*\*



If there is anyone left in this country who does not think bureaucracy has gone mad, and that big government has not reached a crescendo of deafening proportions, the following story should unveil how "Big Brother" has taken control of our lives.

Carl Erickson of Hanover PA (Yes, my home town) received this letter from a Michigan friend that included a copy of an official letter from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to a landowner that exemplifies the power bureaucracies exert over us daily. Carl's friend also included a copy of the landowner's response to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

May I suggest that you be seated while reading this exchange.

"Dear Mr. DeVries: It has come to the attention of the Department of Environmental Quality that there has been recent activity on your property. You have been certified as the legal owner and/or contractor who did the following unauthorized activity."

"Construction and maintenance of two wood debris dams across the outlet of Spring Road. A permit must be issued prior to the start of this type of activity. The files indicate no permit has been issued."

"Therefore, the Department has determined this activity is in violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the public Acts of 1994 and Sections 324, 30101 to 30113 of the Michigan Compiled Laws annotated."

I love the way bureaucrats write, don't you?

It goes on.

"The Department has been informed that one or both dams partially failed during a recent rain event causing debris and flooding downstream." (A rain event? What is a rain event?)

"We find dams of this sort are hazardous and cannot be permitted. The Department therefore orders you to cease and desist unauthorized activities at this location, and to restore the stream to a free-flowing condition."

"All restoration work shall be completed no later than January 31, 1998. Sincerely, David L. Price, District Representative, Land and Water Division."

WELL! That certainly put Mr. DeVries in his place, didn't it?

Now, the landowner writes to Mr. Price in a response:

"Your certified letter of 12/17/97 has been handed to me to respond to."

"First of all, Mr Ryan DeVries is not the legal landowner and/or contractor at ... Pierson, Michigan. I am the legal owner, (no name given), and a couple of beavers are in the process of constructing and maintaining two wood 'debris' dams on the outlet stream of my Spring Pond."

"While I did not pay for, or authorize their dam project, I think they would be highly offended by you calling their skillful use of natural building materials as 'debris'."

"I challenge you to attempt to emulate their dam project any dam time and/or dam place you choose." "I believe I can safely say there is no dam way you can ever match the dam skills, the dam resourcefulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam determination and/or their dam work ethic."

"BIG BROTHER ALIVE AND WELL" (Continued)

"As to your dam request the beavers must fill out a dam permit prior to the start of this type of dam activity, my first dam question to you is this: Are you trying to discriminate against my Spring Pond beavers, or do you require all dam beavers in the State of Michigan to conform to said Dam requests?"

He goes on to ask, "if the dam beavers do not have dam legal representation, will the State provide a Dam lawyer for their use?"

He also said, "if you want the dam stream 'restored' to a dam free flow, contact the dam beavers, but if you arrest them, be sure to read them their dam Miranda rights."

"In my humble opinion, the Spring Pond Dam Beavers have a right to build their dam unauthorized dam as long as the sky is blue, the grass is green and the water flows downstream."

He concluded by saying: "I would like to bring your attention to a real environmental quality health problem: bears are defecating in the woods. I believe you should persecute the defecating bears and leave my dam beavers alone."

"If you are going to investigate the beaver dam, watch your step! The bears are not careful where they defecate." Sincerely, (name not given)

The only thing I can add is: Beavers of the world, ... unite! Don't stop your dam building. Make the bureaucrats come to heel and let nature take its dam course.

The beavers are not like the spotted owl, snail darter, or the kangaroo rat that brought private enterprise to a halt. Go Beavers!

\*\*\*\*\*

Just thought I would pass the word around, that so far this year two mini-reunions have been held by fellow Play the Game troopers. One was held the first week of June in Cincinnati. Tim Culbertson, ... I understand you done a great job on that one, had ten guys show up, some with their wives and they all appeared to have a great time. Tim, you might as well volunteer to help with the Kansas City reunion next year, I could use your input.

Also, Carl Pollock put together one in the Tennessee mountains and seventeen guys showed up for that one, many brought their wives and they also had a great time. Carl ... same for your bro, ... can use your help with the KC Reunion in September of next year. Carl says all the men at his reunion were from the 1st Platoon of Bravo Company and they represented 14 different states.

\*\*\*\*\*

Plans are in the works for a mini-reunion in the Pittsburgh PA area toward the end of September or beginning of October. If anyone in that area would like to take a little time and find a decent hotel for us to meet at, it would be appreciated. I would hope it could be for both Friday and Saturday, but an all day event on Saturday would suit just as well. Any takers on working on the details for this one, contact me as soon as possible and I will work with you in any way possible to make this happen.