



Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

Volume 28 Issue III

Inside this issue:

Deadwood Hosts	
Sua Sponte Staff	— 1
Board and Officers	
President's Report	— 2
75th RRA Unit Director	— 3
Al Stewart	
Featured Article	— 4
Dave Travis, 196th	
2019 Reunion Info	— 5
Sua Sponte Staff	
Reunion Photos	— 6
Association Members	
Company Finances	— 9
Lynn "Cowboy" Walker	
Concessions	— 11
David "Chief" Moncada	

Deadlines: Sua Sponte is published every four months in April, August and December. Absolute deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is 45 days prior to the month mentioned above.

Submissions:
Please send to Stephen Johnson,
Editor. Address page 2 inset

DEADWOOD REVIEW

THANK YOU RON & VICKIE OLSEN



The Association Reunion held at Deadwood, SD this year is over, but the good times linger. Photographs are in a two-page section within this newsletter. Deadwood came alive when we got together, whether at

the VFW devouring burgers or ending at the banquet at our host hotel and not to mention all the other sites in or around unique Deadwood. Ft. Benning will be the site of our 2019 reunion. See you all there!

Company G (Ranger)

75th Infantry Association

Frank Svensson, Secretary

6964 Berkshire Ave

Alta Loma, CA

91701

Email: fsvensson8557@hotmail.com

Sua Sponte

Stephen "Tower" Johnson, Editor

10433 Juneberry Rd. NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

E-mail:

TowerG75th@yahoo.com

Officers

Bill "Egghead" Martin, President

Max Donovan, Vice President

Lynn "Cowboy" Walker, Treasurer

Frank Svensson, Secretary

Ed Carey, Historian

Tom "Dolly" Robison, Corporate Counsel

Al Stewart, 75th Regiment Representative

Board of Directors

Vacant, Board Chairman

Steve Deever, Board Member

Chuck Ford, Board Member

Tom Nash, Board Member

Carl Velleri Board Member

Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published triannually by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Stephen "Tower" Johnson.

Change of Address: Any Address Changes should be sent to: Sharon Robison, 5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512, Box 12, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 or email: tomsharonrobison@msn.com

Membership Information: All former members of the 196th LRRPs, E/51st LRP, and G/75th Rangers are eligible to receive Sua Sponte. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting the Association at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.

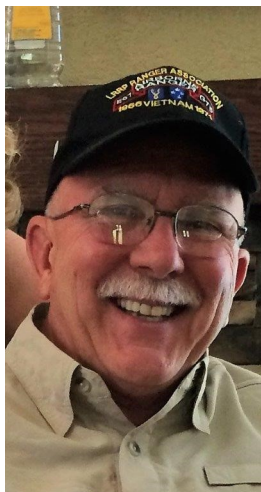
Newsletter Submittals and Deadlines: see page 1

Greetings

I was recently reacquainted with a woman I had met last spring. Annette had approached me at the VA clinic and expressed her thanks for us playing for the veterans. She cares for her 95 years old father who is a WWII veteran and periodically brings him to the clinic for his treatment.

Her father lives in an assisted living community in a nearby town. Annette, who is a retired science teacher, shared with me that she is working with a doctoral student whose thesis is on the effects of music therapy on seniors. Specifically, those in their later years who live in assisted living facilities. I asked her if she was familiar with rhythm therapy. She answered that she was not and asked me about it. I explained that the key feature of rhythm sessions is that the client/patient is an active participant. This participatory nature engages the seniors both mentally and physically. Also, any number of percussion type instruments can be used with this method. I advised her of some web sites she could access to learn more about it.

At our most recent encounter she came to talk about the success they had with percussion sessions with the facility's population. They used the instruments by themselves and also to play along with music. They had some funds to buy drums and shakers but not enough to meet their needs. So, they made some instruments with bells on sticks and used pots, pans and oatmeal cylinders. I told her that without knowing the name they had used a method known as "found sounds". In some countries of South America that I lived in, at Carnival, bands of people would march in the streets using convenient things as percussion instruments. Barrels and cans made drums and brake drums hit with a pipe offered a counter treble sound. Shells stung on twine were shakers and gourds with rocks made for a unique



rattle.

Annette was effusive about the information I had provided and the effect they had seen with inhabitants of the home where her father lives. Also, other facilities in the region learned of their program and with Annette's help they have introduced similar activities to their seniors.

So, why have I shared this story with you? Well, it's not to inform you of rhythm therapy although you might find it helpful. Sometimes we fellows are not too enthusiastic about sharing things with others. I hope you can see that by sharing with Annette knowledge I had, it not only introduced her to useful information, but allowed her in turn to share that with others, informing them with a means to improve and maintain health in a fun and engaging exercise.

I believe we all have unique knowledge and experience from which others may benefit. All we need do is to share it. So, don't be so taciturn or hesitant to offer some help when you see the opportunity. It could be you have just the knowledge that can be very helpful. You may never know how far that shared knowledge will be spread or the lasting effect it may have. It is often just a small thing that can have a profound result!

As we enter the Holiday season let us give thanks for our blessings and help each other when we can.

Our organization exists for all our membership, so please let us know of any issues or ideas that you think need to be addressed or can be helpful. You can email me at lrrp75thin@aol.com. Please include Ranger in the subject line.

RLTW!



G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



The E/51st LRP G-75th Ranger Association conducted our annual reunion, September 6-8, 2018 in historic Deadwood, South Dakota. Just over 30 of our members were in attendance along with wives, children, grandkids and even a few parents. Our hosts were Ron Olsen and his bride and they did an outstanding job of working out the details and itinerary for our event. If you have never been to the Black Hills of South Dakota, you need to add it to your bucket list. It is a beautiful part of our country and has some of the most interesting Wild West history you will find anywhere. I can't write about the Black Hills of South Dakota (and Wyoming) without sounding like a member of the area Convention and Visitors Bureau. A magnificent place to visit and centered as a great base of operations is Deadwood. It's a fun place to visit

with lots of local history and has easy public transportation. Bars, shops museums, casinos and restaurants, Deadwood can keep you occupied for days. Within a couple of easy drives are Mt Rushmore, Devil's Tower (Wyoming), the Buffalo Grasslands at Custer State Park, the Needles Parkway, the Lead (pronounced LEED) goldmine, Spearfish Canyon, and the Badlands. Deadwood uses Wild Bill Hickok as their most famous citizen. Shot in the back at Saloon #10, the

town uses his name and his famous poker hand of aces and eights as a calling card for many attractions. The truth is that Wild Bill (James Butler Hickok) had only been in Deadwood for 20 days before being killed. His resting place in the Mt. Mariah Cemetery in Deadwood is shared with Calamity Jane and other notable characters of the era. It is a great place to visit, but I recommend taking the tour bus. The guides provide great historical information and a steep climb to the cemetery is brutal. A tour bus is a better choice.

Our reunion had a group visit to Mount Rushmore. A beautiful monument with a museum, restaurant and well maintained grounds. We went in the evening, which I recommend. The Na-



tional Parks Service puts on a show full of Patriotic flair. A historical video, and explanation of how Frances Scott Key was moved to write the "Star Spangled Banner" and last but most importantly for our group, an invitation to the Veterans in the audience to lower and fold our Flag and a standing ovation by the crowd in appreciation for all the Veterans. It was a moving and emotional event and the National Parks Staff did an outstanding job in conducting the service. While the event is in progress, just after dark, the Monument is lit from a distance and it is a beautiful site to see.

We also held a Memorial service to honor our fallen at the Black Hills National Cemetery. An American Legion Honor Guard and the Patriot Riders attended this event. We were all touched and honored by those who attended on behalf of our service.



Next July, we will join the Ranger Regiment Association for our unit reunion at Fort Benning, Georgia. The RRA group is providing a full week of events for this Ranger Rendezvous and with the local Ranger support; it will be a great time.

The official dates for our reunion is July 10-12, checkout the 13th 2019 but with the events planned by the RRA, I recommend staying for the entire week (July 8-12, 2019).

Our hotel of operations is the Hyatt Place Columbus North, 2974 N Lake Parkway in Columbus. To make reservations specifically for our group, call Tosha Cook at 706 507-5003. Tosha is aware of our unit and is keeping our group separate from the RRA so it is important to contact her directly for reservations. If she doesn't answer, leave her a message and she will return your call. It is important that we keep our E/51st-G/75th group separate for hotel booking purposes. Book early as the rooms will fill up quickly as there will be a large attendance for this combined event with the Ranger Regiment Association.

I close with a toast to our unit that I read many years ago; "Here's to us and those like us; damned few left."

“LRRPS’ FIRST HOME”

We came from humble beginnings. No, it wasn't "a tumbledown shack by a railroad track;" it wasn't a tenement, a log cabin, or a project. The 196th LRRP was born and lived out its infancy in a single GP medium tent in the unit area of F Troop, 17th Cav. How we came to be attached to F Troop is a mystery to me, but my best guess is that they stood alone without levels of bureaucracy like the Infantry battalions had. I suppose they could have attached us to HHC, but I'm glad they didn't. F Troop was a lot more fun.

F Troop of course had their hooches. They had a motor pool, some metal buildings to house their combat vehicles, a brick building that the engineers had built for their use as a classroom, and a raised platform with a large white-painted flat surface rising from it that was a movie screen. The only movies (actually TV shows) that I ever saw on it were reruns of two series hand-picked to give us that homey, comfortable feeling - Gunsmoke and Combat. The one true highlight of the movie screen was an interruption of an episode of Combat when one of the F Troop guys jumped up on one side of the platform and ran screaming across it to jump from the other side. Close behind him was my old partner from B/4-31, Stan Kovich, lumbering along with a raised knife, a big knife. I never asked Stan what that was about. I didn't really care. Stan was my bud, my "live together-die together" OP/LP partner from the line unit. When you share a long, long night hunkered down in the thickest crap you can find, surrounded by who-knows-how-many VC and you never expect to see daylight again, that man is your guy.

At the far edge of F Troop's area, they put up our tent, the GP medium that we would live in until the 196th moved north to Chu Lai. The sides were rolled up during the day, and we filled it up with folding cots and foot lockers. Of course, we all bought those downtown mattresses to live in the lap of luxury don't'cha know. At the far end were a couple of sandbag bunkers. Whether or not we could all have crammed ourselves into them if needed remains to be seen. We never tried them out. What we did use them for was to sit on, lean on at night and smoke, joke, and try to sing. It was painfully apparent to me that I would rather hear a dog howling while scratching his fleas than to listen to me try to sing. I am the only Travis totally devoid of any musical talent or ability. Connor could always do a great Beach Boys 'Don't Worry Baby' and Tony Mazzucchi always got in 'Hang On Sloopy.' The highlight of the bunker assemblies was the night Darrall Masuda walked into the tent and ten minutes later came out saying, "Hey you guys, look what I killed." He was holding up the carcass of about a six-foot cobra. He didn't have his weapon, so he grabbed the first thing he saw, which was an entrenching tool, and waved one hand in front of the snake. When it struck

at him, he bashed its head in with the entrenching tool in his other hand. What do they teach these guys in Hawaii anyway?

I have four vivid memories of our F Troop hosts.

One was when they were returning from patrolling and as they pulled a jeep into its metal shed, the gunner accidentally fired a burst from the mounted M-60 and blew holes in the wall.

Then there was the tragic time they returned from the field and were stowing the crew-served weapons in a conex container. It was crowded when one gunner who didn't know how to attach hand grenades to his web gear blew one up, wounding several of the cav troops. One of the two bits of knowledge that I took away from that incident was that our M-26 hand grenades were not designed to kill.

The two other items I remember about F Troop took place the night before I left Viet Nam and the day I left.

As I turned in for my last night at Chu Lai, there was an alert. We were at that time across the highway from Chu Lai base at LZ Bayonet. Someone had detected intruders in the hills over bayonet. F Troop went for their vehicles and deployed us LRRPs ahead of the vehicles to advance on the suspected area. THEN THE DAMN FOOLS TURNED ON THEIR HEADLIGHTS! So, there I was on the last day of my tour, a rifle with 11 rounds of ammo, and I'm lit up like a bear in a shooting gallery.

Finally, it was time for me to sign out and go home. I had completely forgotten that I had subscribed to a Dow Jones newspaper called the National Inquirer. This was not the rag called the National Enquirer. It talked a lot about stocks and investing. I couldn't have bought stocks if they were priced at a quarter a share, but it was interesting reading. I had not seen an Inquirer since joining the LRRP, and frankly was not even conscious of having the subscription anymore. That is, until I walked into F Troop's orderly room to sign out and there sat the first sergeant studiously perusing my paper.

Thanks for the memories, F Troop. And thanks to the guys who shared it. You made it real.

2019 HYATT PLACE IS OUR HOTEL



For our Association, The Hyatt Place is where we are booking. Located at 2974 N Lake Parkway, Columbus, GA. The hotel is holding 50 rooms for the 75thRRA and 20 plus rooms for our Association. The rate is \$93.00 plus tax and fees. To make reservations specifically for our group, call Tosha Cook at 706 507-5003.

Looking out its front doors is a sports bar across the street. To the left is the Texas Roadhouse and to the right is a great Mexican restaurant. A liquor warehouse adjacent to the Mexican restaurant and an IHOP to the left of the sports bar. Several fast food places all within a very short walk. If you started up your car and drove over to anyone of these places you would probably get there later than those walking. Hyatt provides a free-hot breakfast for us!

Gil's Auto is a short walk away; it houses a large showroom of hotrods and classic cars. I spent about two one-hour trips in the showroom last year. No doubt Max will be there and so will lots of other car buffs.

There are three other hotel within grenade distance of one another; The Hampton, Holiday Express, and Western which is the host hotel for the 75th Ranger Regiment hospitality room and Herb's free will offering Early Sunrise Service Tent with all profits going toward the Ranger Family Fun.

Memorial Service

Frank Svensson, with the help of Stephen Crabtree, will have a spot at the Ranger Memorial for our Association's memorial service. A date will be forthcoming as the itinerary firms up.

Wednesday RHOF Induction

The Ranger Hall of fame induction is always a huge event and is open to us all. This is an important Benning must.

Wednesday BBQ

A No-Host-BBQ will be held on post at a large, air conditioned hangar as before. The cost of the BBQ is inexpensive as is the beer and soft-drinks. Seeing all the active rangers and family members and greater Ranger community make this is very popular thing to do for us.

Board and General Membership Meeting

Al Stewart our Unit Director-Liaison will meet with the other Unit Directors prior to most everyone's insertion and will have for us a date when we will hold our meetings. He already has established our hotel and we thank him for that!

Banquet

Our banquet will be held Friday early evening. Originally it was slated for Thursday, but by moving it to a Friday it allows for the current serving Rangers and their guests a chance to break bread with us. Having the greater Ranger community at the banquet is very important.

Reunion Dates

Tentative dates are Wednesday through Friday with checkouts Saturday for our Association. July 10-July 12 with checkouts on Saturday the 13th. Myself and Al will be there Monday on the 8th and checkout the 13th. You can always stay the whole week if you want.

More events and their dates will be forthcoming as the 75th RRA irons out their tentative itinerary until it becomes set. The finished itinerary will be available on our website and in April's issue.

In order to get a room, book it. You can always cancel.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY



2018 Deadwood Reunion



DODSONS



CORKY



RON AND VICKIE OLSEN'S
FAMILY

MEMORIAL DAY IS EVERY DAY



TRIVIA QUESTION: WHO ARE THE OWNERS OF THESE TWO PLATES?
ANY MORE OUT THERE LIKE THEM?



Lynn Walker, CPA, Financials

	Jan 1 - Nov 27, 18
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	2,710.00
Total Direct Public Support	2,710.00
Other Types of Income	
Concessions	2,175.00
Reunion Auction Proceeds	8,351.00
Total Other Types of Income	10,526.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues	2,660.00
Total Program Income	2,660.00
Total Income	15,896.00
Gross Profit	15,896.00
Expense	
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	20.00
Total Business Expenses	20.00
Operations	
Concession Expenses	886.77
Postage, Mailing Service	235.19
Printing and Copying	1,676.16
Total Operations	2,798.12
Travel and Meetings	
Reunion Concession Expenses	1,085.26
Reunion Expenses	3,283.00
Total Travel and Meetings	4,368.26
Total Expense	7,186.38
Net Ordinary Income	8,709.62
Net Income	8,709.62

	Nov 27, 18
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	31,877.69
Total Checking/Savings	31,877.69
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	11,021.21
Total Current Assets	42,898.90
TOTAL ASSETS	42,898.90
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
National Ranger Memorial Founda	100.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	100.00
Total Current Liabilities	100.00
Total Liabilities	100.00
Equity	
Equity Prior Year	7,246.18
Opening Balance Equity	26,843.10
Net Income	8,709.62
Total Equity	42,798.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	42,898.90

LAFFS AND GIGGLES

BY DAVE TRAVIS

Before the Army institutionalized and standardized the

Ranger units, requiring that standards be met and qualifications earned, there were LRRPs. I think the only thing we all had in common was that we all volunteered. My best guess is that most of the guys' backgrounds were pretty much the same, but I guarantee that nobody else got there the same way that I did.

My strange journey began with a series of quirks that were triggered by my being a pretty smart guy. (No, really!). I joined the Army right after I turned 18, left home the day BEFORE Thanksgiving (see, smart), and went to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to become a soldier. When they marched us - well, walked us - to a big building to take the Army Classification Battery, I had a really good day. I qualified for everything in the Army and MENSA as well. When the PFC who was assigning enlistees to Advanced Individual Training on completion of Basic saw my scores, he was impressed. I remember him saying, "You'll be going to OCS." I didn't know that OCS was Officer Candidate School, and I was afraid to ask him, after all he was a PFC. Nobody got assigned to OCS. You had to compete to get in, not just score well on the ACB. You had to be a minimum of 18 and 1/2 years old and have two years of college. I had just turned 18, was a high school dropout, and was so immature that if they waived the minimums; they still wouldn't have let me in. Consequently, I slid through the reception Station without a designated AIT. Talk about going to a gunfight with a pocketknife.

They honored my enlistment request for Jump School, another really smart move on my part. I found out when I got to Fort Benning that I had signed up to jump out of airplanes. Who knew? But I made it by watching another 120-pound kid and telling myself every day that if he could make it, I could make it. After graduation, he laughingly confessed that he had been doing the same thing with me. The nerve! I spent my enlistment primarily as a detail man with no MOS because I wasn't trained for anything. I lost the second year of my hitch being screwed over at an ordnance depot in France after I was injured in a jump and put off status. I broke my coccyx. I left in a huff after three years, but I knew I didn't really want to go. The Army was the best thing that ever happened to me.

When LBJ came on TV and told the Gulf of Tonkin story, I knew I was going back. I signed up with an enlistment option for Intelligence School, but after they swore me in, they told me they were only kidding. As prior service, I had no options. They sent me to the 101st at Fort Campbell. One thing they did was to give me an MOS. They called me a Textile and Leather Repairman and assigned me to a shop patching deuce and a half covers and stuff, but I did learn OJT to operate a sewing ma-

chine. I got orders for the 173rd in 1966 and went to Bien

Hoa. They put me in parachute maintenance and gave me a tent with a couple of sewing machines and other equipment. The problem was that nobody was jumping, so there was no parachute maintenance to be done. Along with some seat covers for officers' jeeps and stuff, I made 1,500 jungle hammocks and 500 collapsible canteen covers. The whole deal blew up over an eighth of an inch. Our company commander had bought a stereo and had me make a cover for it out of that nice shiny material that parachute covers are made of. He came roaring into the tent and chewed my butt in stentorian voice because the seam on one corner was the aforementioned eighth of an inch wider than the other corner.

I was pissed! To start with, I hadn't re upped to run a sewing machine. I wanted to fight and there was plenty of fight to be had. I asked for transfer to an Infantry unit but they turned me down flat. I went to the Brigade Sergeant Major and asked to leave. He told me there was going to be a combat jump, and if I would stay he would make sure I was on the manifest so I could get the star on my wings. No thanks. I told him there was nothing he could offer me to stay with that sissy-ass captain who only cared about his mismatched seams. Making a Solomonic decision, he told me I would get my transfer to an Infantry unit, but not in the 173rd. He called personnel and got me orders for the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Before I left Bien Hoa, I used my sewing skills one last time to switch my 173rd patches to the right shoulder. I looked good in 196th replacement. 1LT Maxwell visited us in Replacement, looking for volunteers for the LRRP Detachment that was about to be formed. I think it was the 173rd combat patch and the fact that I was a SP4 instead of a private like most of the incoming guys that made him ask me to volunteer. I explained that I had not been trained for the Infantry and had no experience, but he said that I would have a little time in a line unit before getting the call for the LRRP. I went to B/4-31 for a few weeks and finally got my LRRP orders. When I went, I brought along my team leader, Paul Grondines, and my partner from B Company, Stan Kovich. I believe Mike McMahan may have been another guy from B Company as well.

You've seen those cartoons in the comic strip Family Circus where Billy goes from point A to point B and a dotted line traces his manic meandering through the neighborhood to get there? That's kinda how it was on my journey from 18-year-old enlistee to the LRRP, but I got there.

See, I told you I was smart!

RANGER/LRRP BLANKET



ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

A couple left



\$35 shipped



Email "Chief" Moncada
Meganmoncada1@comcast.net

"Hot" new item:
Blanket that is better
than a poncho liner.

\$50 includes
shipping!

Sua Sponte
5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512
Box 12
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BEMIDJI, MN
PERMIT NO. 71



"of their own accord"

Triannual Newsletter of
The 196th LRRPs, E51st
LRPs, and G-75th Rangers

www.lrrpranger.org



WHO IS TEXTING?

PRE FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY MT. RUSHMORE