



THE HARD CHARGER

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - NOVEMBER 2015

Greetings, Hard Chargers! Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Plans for our 2016 Reunion at Fort Sill are coming together. There are a few issues that we have to work through with our Active Duty partners regarding access to the post as well as some issues with lodging accommodations. Our tentative plan is to hold the Reunion from the 7th to the 10th of June.

The Hospitality Suite will be opened on Tuesday, the 7th, and the General Membership Meeting will take place on the the next day, followed by the Memorial Service. On Wednesday evening, all reunion attendees are invited to a pool party at Ted And Marilyn Janosko's home. We are most grateful to the Janosko's for the gracious offer.

Several activities were considered by the Board for a group outing on Thursday. The consensus was for a trip to Duncan, OK, to see the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Vice-President Dan Mitchell is researching locations for lunch.

On Friday, June 10th, most of the day will be free time, during which you can, if you wish, visit locations such as the Tommy Frank Museum in nearby Hobart, OK, which was considered for a group visit but which did not get the vote. The Annual Banquet and World Famous auction will be held that evening. Don't forget to bring your auction items for the fund raiser!

Saturday will be departure day, giving everyone the weekend in which to travel safely home. As was previously announced, 2017 will be quite a departure from our pattern of western and southern meetings, as we will gather at Lake George in New York State for the 99th anniversary year of the establishment of our regiment.

Happy Trails to you all!

Dan Gillotti

DON'T FORGET TO



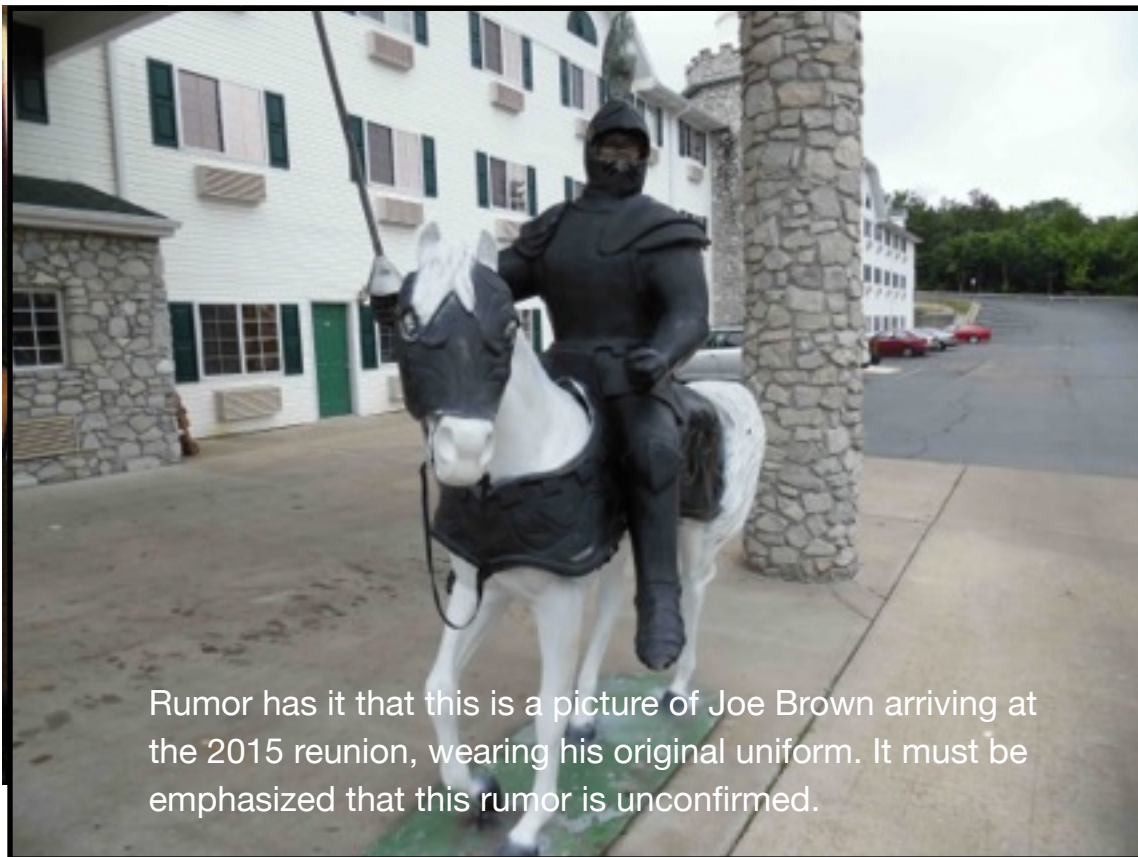
CHECK THE WEB SITE

BE MATCHLESS - DON'T BE PATCHLESS!

A brand new item is now available, and you can get it before the 2016 reunion! Large 30th Artillery Association patches, in two versions, can be purchased now (or you can get them through the QM store at the Reunion).



These large patches, which measure 9 inches by 12 inches, can be used to dignify jackets, sweatshirts, any variety of other forms of clothing, blankets, wall hangings, and are even suitable for framing! You can get yours now by contacting John Hoetker at nywfia@aol.com. The cost is \$25 per patch, plus \$8 shipping and handling, which considering their quality, is a very reasonable charge. Be sure to indicate which one you want. As they used to say on the old radio commercials, "Be the first on your block to have one (or more) of these collectible items!"



use or copy this form to pay your dues

For those members who enroll as active members on a yearly basis, please complete this form and send it in with check as indicated. You can also take this opportunity to enroll as a lifetime member and end the annoyance of having to do this every year!

First name _____ MI _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ W/M _____ Email _____

\$15.00 check enclosed for 2016 dues ()

or \$99.00 check enclosed for lifetime membership ()

Contribution (\$) enclosed to assist with Association expenses

Mail form and check to: Jim Harris, 30th FAR Association Membership
212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

On to Fort Sill in '16 continued

When we return to Fort Sill next June, we may well find some differences between this visit and those of the recent past. Events in the world as well as in Army procedures will effect our reunion activities.

A biggie will be negotiating post security. Procedures have tightened since 2014, and easy access to the post for those without military ID will require some pre-work. Our Active Duty comrades are looking into this problem, and hopefully an arrangement can be made so that this heretofore routine process does not become a bottleneck.

There have also be modifications in the Army's TDY procedures, and the Holiday Inn Express that has been our "base" for a decade now may or may not be available, as artillery school students and others now are the favored occupants for the available rooms. Again, our people on the spot are looking into this potential issue.

At any rate, because of these and other things yet to be confirmed, the usual enrollment page is still in a state of flux, and the costs, lodging contact info, and the other aspects of formal reunion sign up are not available as of this printing. But that will be resolved shortly and the information published, in a special issue if need be.

The Editor



The Ladies of Reunion 22 in Branson, MO
June, 2015

The Chisholm Trail

Current planning for the next reunion includes a group activity, a visit to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, OK, a town approximately 35 miles SE of Lawton. This facility houses a collection of Western art, exhibits and other memorabilia commemorating the heyday of the great cattle drives that followed the end of the Civil War. For example, the theater has a program where the visitor can experience the “sights, sounds, and smells” of a cattle drive. Nothing like first hand exposure!

During the Civil War, because of Union control of the railroads and Texas' place in the Confederacy, it was virtually impossible to sell the seemingly inexhaustible supply of Texas Longhorns, a tough, resilient breed of descendants of cattle brought to the New World by the Spanish. Even before the War, attempts to move them to Eastern markets were stymied by Missouri's opposition to their import because of disease issues - they carried ticks and such to which native Missouri shorthorns were not immune. A more westerly route was needed, particularly one which did not pass through areas with strong established governments. In 1866, an entrepreneur with an unsavory reputation named Jesse Chisholm began moving small numbers of Longhorns north through the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) to railroad connections in central Kansas, which was west of an arbitrary line in Kansas barring cattle drives. Another businessman of vision, Joseph McCoy, built a hotel, stockyard, office and bank in the small town of Abilene the following year. He advertised its availability, and in August, 1867, the first drive reached Abilene.

The trail would eventually be called the Chisholm Trail. Technically, the Trail began at the Oklahoma - Texas border, because a multitude of “feeder” routes led to the primary path to Abilene. Chisholm himself was not a cattle drover but more of a trader, guide and interpreter for the various tribes along the way.

The usual cattle drive contained anywhere from 2 to 3 thousand head of cattle with a ten to twelve contingent of cowboys, a cook, and a horse wrangler. It took on average about two months to negotiate the route, dealing with the hostile territory (both for geographical reasons as well as the Native Americans en route), but one

advantage was that allowing for grazing, the animals could gain another 80 to 100 pounds by the time Abilene was reached.

In spite of the problems, the profit was worth the effort. Prices increased tenfold over those attained locally or by shipment to closer markets, such as New Orleans. McCoy's stockyard and transshipment point in Abilene was responsible for 3 million of the almost 10 million cattle shipped east at the conclusion of the drives.

Other towns either sprang up or benefitted from the cattle trade - Wichita, Dodge City, and Ellsworth among them. They all also acquired reputations as very rough places, unknowingly becoming the locations for literally hundreds of movies and TV shows, the latter especially in the 1950's. (I never missed *Maverick* myself.) But after approximately twenty years of activity, Kansas once more imposed laws barring Texas cattle, and once again it was because of the diseases they carried. Rail lines had also reached into Texas and made the drives increasingly unnecessary. By the mid-1880's, the use of the Chisholm Trail had ceased.

There is much more to the story of the Trail than this brief summary can present, and our upcoming visit to the Heritage Center should prove to be a most fascinating and worthwhile adventure!

The Chisholm
Trail,
Vietnamese
Style!

photo courtesy
of Bob Sayre



YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS

ALVIN!

It is funny how a simple thing, like running across an old 45 record from one's childhood, can bring back a memory of one's service with the 30th. That is exactly what happened to me when I found an old "Alvin and the Chipmunks" record in some of the stuff from my parents' house.

Our first night in B Battery, 2BN, 30th FA, we were given a place to sleep and since we arrived after the mess hall closed (sorry - the "Dining Facility" had closed) I was told how to get to Joe's Pizza off post. The guy telling us how to get to Joe's also asked us to ask Joe if he had any pizza crust for him. Returning from Joe's, full of ham, egg and cheese pizza and Coca Cola Italian style, I also had a small bag of pizza crumbs which I gave to the soldier who had asked for them. I got ready for bed and laid down for the night. There were four of us in the room, and except for Clifford Scott, who came in new with me, I cannot remember the names of the other two. What I can remember is that just before falling asleep, one of the guys put a bowl of water and a bowl of dry food mixed with pizza crumbs on the floor. Being new, I did not ask for a couple of weeks what he was feeding. One Saturday I finally asked and got the story.

It seems that one of the soldiers who had gone home had somehow gotten a pair of North American chipmunks as pets. Shortly before the original owner departed, *Chipper* and *Chipette* escaped and moved into the couch that was in the room. The departing soldier before he returned to "The World" asked the other guy to please keep feeding them. He did so every night, or had one of us do it.

To make this story shorter, I lived in that room for six months. During that time, food and water went out every night and there were empty bowls every morning. During that six months, I saw one or both of the chipmunks only a few times, normally in the middle of the night for only a second or two. I can only remember hearing one of them once. We did see evidence that Chipper and Chipette had added to their number sometime in the winter of 1975 when we saw some smaller chipmunks feeding at the bowls.

What became of the chipmunks? I can only tell that the couch, along with the "Munk" family, was sold to a soldier who lived in government housing when the 2/30th was being deactivated. It is my hope that the woods around Vicenza are full of chipmunks!

REST IN PEACE

We must remember an old Army friend of ours. The Army Class A uniform, "Dress Greens," is no longer an authorized military uniform. Dress Greens, born on 1 May 1954, died on 1 October 2015, and left us after 61 years.



That's your Quartermaster's two bits and they are worth everything you paid for them!

Charles "Comma" Causey - OUT!

Have You Ever Wondered?

The ever-inquiring mind of our senior VP, John Hoetker, consumed as it is with questions of cosmic proportions, has given us the following queries:

Why did every bandoleer of .556 ball ammo come with a black safety pin?

Why was there a small buttoned pocket inside the left cargo pocket of the jungle fatigue trousers?

Why did the insoles of the jungle boots come with the warning "DO NOT BOIL?"

He claims not to be concerned about why he had to refer to himself in the third person, as in "Sir, CPL Hoetker reports." He believes he knows the answer to that one...

In Memoriam
John H. (Jack) Love



Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Reminder

Eighteen months ago at the previous Reunion at Fort Sill, the Association pledged to partner with a number of other organizations, both military and commercial, to assist the country in remembering the sacrifices and the dedication of the men and women who fought in Vietnam, and to sponsor, collaborate with and co-host events that would carry out this objective. As was outlined at the 2014 gathering, guidance and direction is available on line through the Commemorative Partners web site on such tips as talking points, speech templates, available materials for use, and publicity media.

Even if not actively involved, you can find what other CP's are doing in your area by visiting www.vietnamwar50th.com/events. Once the map appears, identify your region and find events near you by clicking on a blue pin. If you click "More Detail," you can find the listed point of contact, mention that you are a partner, and get involved. To locate any CP in your area, regardless of whether they are hosting a future event, visit the following:

http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/partner_map/

Over 1,700 events were completed in 2014, and already in 2015 the total has exceeded 1,400, with 379 planned and yet to be executed. Do not overlook this effort to remind our current citizens of just what it meant to be part of the generation that stood up for freedom in Vietnam!



THE CO'S PHOTOS

In 1966, the 30th had four different commanding officers. Major John R. Sayre was the third CO of the Battalion during that first year in Vietnam. A number of his pictures have recently been forwarded by his son, Robert. Here are several of Major Sayre's Vietnam photos.



Left - Major Sayre in 1966. Later promoted to LTC, Sayre died in 1992.

Below - Construction of the living quarters at the Qui Nhon base camp,



Above - Transportation in the "Boonies."

Right - The best we could do for the Holidays!



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Next Issue - February 2016

Deadline for submissions - 5 February

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