



The Tiger Rag



Bob Jensen

1976 MINI - REUNION AT OJAI

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The mini-reunion of 1976 was almost a week of glorious weather and great fun and games and even greater stories as 67 of us gathered around the oaks of Ojai from July 1 through 5 of 1976.

The most distant traveler was Felix Smith who stopped off, en route between jobs, or at least the hope of a job judging by the number of cables he was exchanging between Ojai and Ceylon. He had arrived from Bora Bora via Honolulu. Felix received an unlimited amount of advice on composition of the cables he was answering from Ceylon. However, the success of Felix and his advisors remained in doubt a month after the reunion when Dick Rossi was advised of a cable from Ceylon telling Felix that the planning at that end was extremely complicated because of no word from Felix. Rossi planted the information in many centers where he thought Felix might have surfaced but we will be forced to wait until the next bulletin to let you know how he came out since total silence was the response to Rossi's search party.

Glenn and Shirley Carroll with Billy and Peggy McDonald led the Ojai invasion, arriving nearly a week before the official date of July 1, which gave them ample time to polish up their golf games. It helped Shirley, but Glenn was saying little that we understood. However, Billy was in great form as was Peggy. Best evidence of this was McDonald after the 18th each day, standing in the patio while the faithful filled his hand with bills. If his heart attack and open heart surgery after the 1975 reunion had slowed him down at all, he showed no signs of it, either on the links or in the evening social activities. Jules and Peggy Watson arrived by plane, almost at the Inn. Jules put it down in nearby Santa Paula and to prove it, he took Bob Conrath over the next day to show him how it was done. Conrath may now give up his boat for a plane.

The first night was a rousing success and then things got better. Roy Farrell took over the emcee position and finally got Ricketts in high blower. Ricketts' stories, of which he is truly a master, cleared the dining room of most of the Inn's other guests except one hardy soul who tried to match Rick. Suffice to say, he was shot down in flames. Rick continued the story-telling on the patio the next night and drew an even larger audience.

Everything was in full swing on the second day, the daytime activities of which were featured by the sharp, sterling golf of Prescott, McDonald and Farrell, the outcome of which was in some doubt except for the easily overheard conversation of Farrell who must have lost part of the state of Texas judging from the vehemence of his words. Prescott, despite a heart problem followed by a bout with throat cancer, was belting the ball better than ever, looked great and while he wasn't quite as conversational as in the past, when the occasion called for it, his repartee was as effective as ever. Great silence surrounded the feats of Tex Hill, Bus Keeton and Watsch. Meanwhile, there was a lot of action around the swim pool area, which involved more looking that swimming. P. J. Greene showed up with his hair-do--the envy of all the ladies.

The evening after Ricketts won the gold medal in the story-telling event, Kista Olsen and Maizie Hill led the group with all the songs from Battle Hymn of the Republic to Tiptoe Through the Tulips. This also cleared out the dining room and filled the patio with most of the group entertaining themselves with more of Rickett's stories, Farrell's masterful platform guidance and hymn-

singing such as was never heard in any church, led by Maizie and Kista and all of their students.

The dinner scene of July 2, the second day of the 1976 bash, was captured by a surprise birthday celebration, arranged by Maizie Hill and Meta Keeton, who spent the afternoon in Maizie's room cooking a cake for Anne-Marie Prescott. The result, after several vodkas, was a magnificent production followed by a speech by Anne-Marie whose witticisms rivalled Rickett's tall tales. This was followed by a very loud "Happy Birthday" song, which inspired Mesdames Hill and Olsen into the group-singing exercises.

The next day was more golf, swimming and drinking, followed by an evening of dancing and more drinking, in which Red Holmes proved another Fred Astaire on the floor. The evening also included a series of taped table and floor interviews by a number of commentators of the group, the last of whom, Bob Conrath, blew the fuse with an unprintable response to a question of his views on the world and everything in it. Rode has the tape, which he will have to play in a closet.

Sunday was golf and swimming, preceded by a brunch which Hank and Janie McKinney cooked up at their nearby ranch and lasted well past dinner-time. For the 1977 event, the McKinneys are looking for a bigger ranch. Everything came to a standstill after Monday, when a few of the faithful, including Iron Man McDonald, were still looking for more golf contributions. (Note to any debtors: we understand he has opened a new account with an Ojai bank.)

ATTENDANCE

Mr. & Mrs. Glen Carroll	Dr. L. J. Richards
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Chew	Mr. & Mrs. Freeman Ricketts
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Conrath	Clark Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Farrell	Mr. & Mrs. Don Rodewald
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gomes	Mr. & Mrs. Dick Rossi and Tony
P. J. Greene	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Shilling and family
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Haven	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Shrawder
Mr. & Mrs. Tex Hill	Sue Shrewsbury
Red Holmes	Felix Smith
Mr. & Mrs. M. R. Hubler	Bob Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Jeukoff	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Bus Keeton	Mary Smith
Leonard Kimball	Mr. & Mrs. Oakley Smith
Bob King	C. P. Tung
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lee	Mr. & Mrs. John Uebele
Mr. & Mrs. Billy McDonald	Mr. & Mrs. Jules Watson
Mr. & Mrs. Hank McKinney	Mr. & Mrs. Don Walker
Al Oldenburg	John Williams
Kista Olson	Rosie Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Prescott	

FIRST ALERT -- THE 1977 REUNION

As worked out by the group in 1975, the next Reunion will be held at Ojai in 1977. With the Fourth of July falling on Monday, President Tex Hill announced that the meeting will be a long (lost?) weekend, starting as usual on Thursday and breaking up on Monday. The dates will be June 30th through July 4th. There will be further word on this in January.