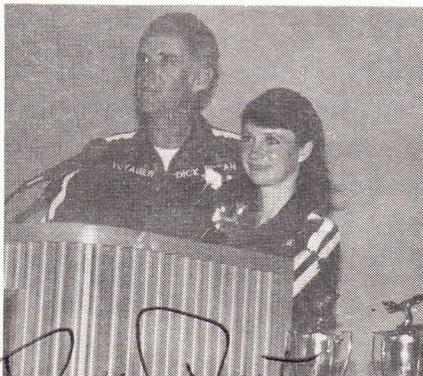


THE TIGER RAG

FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 1990



Dick Stanton

1989 AVG - CNAC REUNION

Nancy Allison Wright

OJAI, CALIFORNIA

OJAI REPORT FOR 1989

The 1989 AVG/CNAC reunion is now in the memory book. It was thirty two years since the first reunion at Ojai in 1957, and it was the first reunion there since the major remodeling and enlargement of the past couple years.

Much has been added, and much was still the same. The old buildings dating from 1957 are mostly still there, but upgraded and redecorated, and, of course, they all now have air-conditioning. This was not the case in 1957. During the years from 1957 to 1985, several new sets of buildings had been added, increasing the number of rooms, but the public areas all stayed very much the same.

New owners took over, and a major revamping has taken place. Four new buildings have been added. One is especially for banquets, receptions and meetings, it is a great improvement over the previous rooms for those purposes. No more pillars! The other three buildings are mostly guest rooms plus a new lobby, check-in desk, conference rooms and hotel offices.

There are now two new swimming pools and an exercise room, in the same general area where the old pool was. It looks very sharp.

Unfortunately, a couple of our very faithful members, Joe Gasdick and John Uebele had to cancel due to cancer problems. Mel Kempf postponed surgery, as did Don Rodewald, so as to be able to be there. Mel drove in from Oklahoma and Rode flew in from Colorado. Jeff Weiner also made it again with his oxygen bottle in tow. This time Rode and Mel were both in wheelchairs. These men sure display a fine spirit in their efforts to get to these reunions.

Carl Brown set a new record by showing up with eighteen more members of his family! This is really turning out the

clan! Ed McClure attended his first reunion, As you can see they come from far and near.

Ernie Allison's daughter, Nancy Allison Wright, joined the reunion and put on our entertainment at the CNAC banquet. She had a fine presentation about the early CNAC days, with film from the pre-WWII days in China.

We welcomed the crew of the Voyager, Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager. They were two fine people and, of course, were hounded for autographs which they patiently obliged. They were the Awardees of the Flying Tiger Pilot trophy. They accomplished one of the most outstanding aviation achievements. To really appreciate what they did and the odds they battled, it is necessary to read their book.

Our program was similar to past reunions at Ojai. On the first night we had a BBQ and steak fry at Tiger Glen, with music from the fortys. "Doc" Richards, recovering from major surgery this spring, was out on the dance floor as usual, and "Red" Hanks was his first partner.

Our second evening was a CNAC dinner, at which Nancy Allison Wright provided the entertainment, after they got "Doc" Rich away from the mike.

The last evening, July 4th, was the traditional AVG awards dinner, where Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager received the trophy and enthralled us with an account of their flight.

We were pleasantly surprised to see Lt. Col. Jerry Saltness, CO of the 4th Battalion, 229th Attack Helicopter Regiment, arrive with one of his pilots, Wayne Carlson. They had just flown in from Germany on, believe it or not, the the Flying Tiger Line. Jerry talked to the group and told them what it means to his officers and

Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager received the trophy and enthralled us with an account of their flight.

soldiers to be called Flying Tigers, and how proud they are of the name. They hope to see a group of Flying Tigers, AVG, in Germany in October. It will be the first anniversary of their graduation at Fort Hood, and they promise us a week of hospitality we will not soon forget. Illesheim here we come! (Ed. note: This was written before October, so now the German trip is behind us. It was reported in a separate Bulletin. It was really terrific!)



GEN. HSU, COL. MAO AND GEN. CHIAO

We sadly report that we lost some more members since the reunion. John and Pam Uebele both died from the cancer that caused them to cancel out from attending the reunion. Jeff Weiner joined us, but passed away later. We will all miss them a great deal.

Joe and Betty Gasdick had to cancel from the Ojai reunion, due to Joe taking treatments for cancer. He recovered with a good remission and they joined the gang in Germany in October. Unfortunately, on his return, there was additional cancer of the bone, and Joe passed away after some very painful weeks.

Wayne Ricks, who made both the Ojai and German outings also passed away.

In our program we announced the death of Wayne Snyder. Happily it was a false report, and Wayne is alive and well.

Rode went back into the hospital in Long Beach after the reunion and is still there. He has had a series of surgeries, and hopefully the last one on the 22nd of February. After so many false starts we hope to see him leave there soon. He has been through a tough session.

"Doc" Richards had serious surgery before the Ojai reunion, but was recovered enough to join the group. He is doing fine now.

John Hennessey also had heavy surgery and is in serious condition. Some cards and letters would help him through this period.

Mel Kempf is also on the mend and doing some traveling. He just made a trip to Arizona, but he still has a long way to go on the road to recovery.



SPECIAL NOTE

Betty Gasdick has requested that anyone wishing to honor Joe's memory make a contribution in his name to the SAN DIEGO AERO-SPACE MUSEUM.

Checks should be made out, and mailed directly to the Museum.

San Diego Aero-Space Museum
2001 Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101

Make a notation on your check for AVG Memorial Fund in memory of Joe Gasdick.



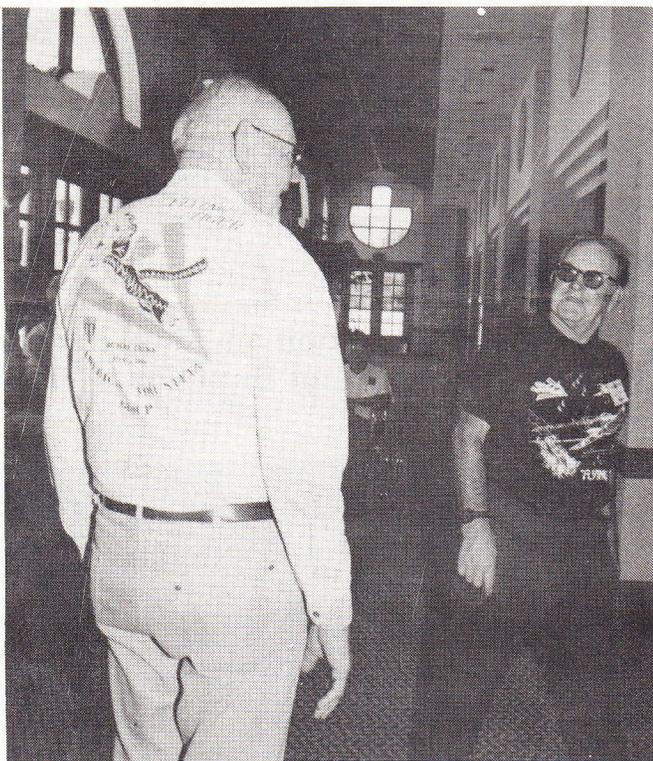
At our San Diego reunion in 1987, we were sent a message of congratulations from President Ronald Reagan. However, it arrived too late for the reunion, so it was not seen or heard at that time. It is reproduced here.



REAGAN'S MESSAGE - 1987

"It gives me great pride and pleasure to greet all those gathered for a reunion of the American Volunteer Group, known to history as the Flying Tigers.

Each of you has gone his separate way in the world, but, as this reunion proves once again, your service and sacrifice together forged a bond of brotherhood that time and distance cannot break. Together you showed that when liberty is threatened, actions speak louder than words. While the rest of the world debated, bickered, and struggled to respond, you rose to the challenge, went to China as volunteers, and banded together to



TEX HILL AND BOB LOCKE



McCLURE, STILES, BENT AND RAINE



BOB AND PEGGY LEE WITH JERRY SALTNESS

become freedom's Air Force. Far from home, fighting aerial guerrilla warfare under the most difficult and primitive conditions, you achieved one of the greatest fighter records in history — and made the sharkface the most famous symbol in military aviation. Your heroism, skill, and resourcefulness in defense of freedom will never be forgotten, and the debt free people the world over owe to you will remain far more than we can ever repay.

As you gather in reunion on the fourth of July weekend, 1987, and observe the 45th anniversary of your last farewell, I take a moment with you to honor your brothers who can no longer answer roll call. God bless You, and God bless America"

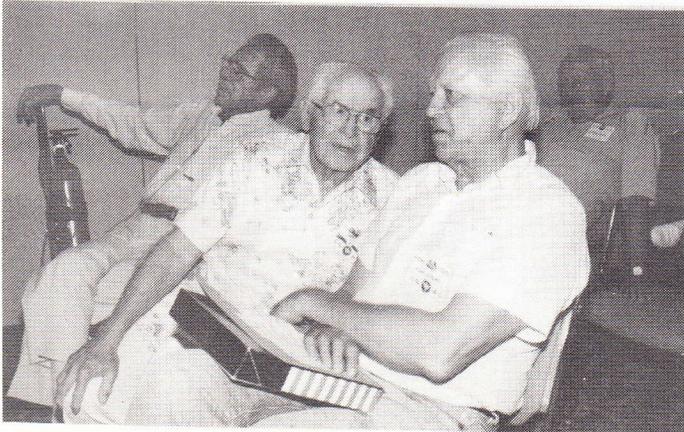
Ronald Reagan



DICK ROSSI, DICK RUTAN AND JEANA YEAGER



MAHER, OLDENBURG, DALBY PEGGY DALBY, CYNTHIA & CAREY BOWLES, MARY SMITH



JEFF WEINER, "DOC" RICH AND CARL BROWN



BERNADINE CROOKSHANKS, R.T. SMITH, AND JESSE CROOKSHANKS



KEN JERNSTEDT, P.J. GREENE AND PARKER DUPOUY



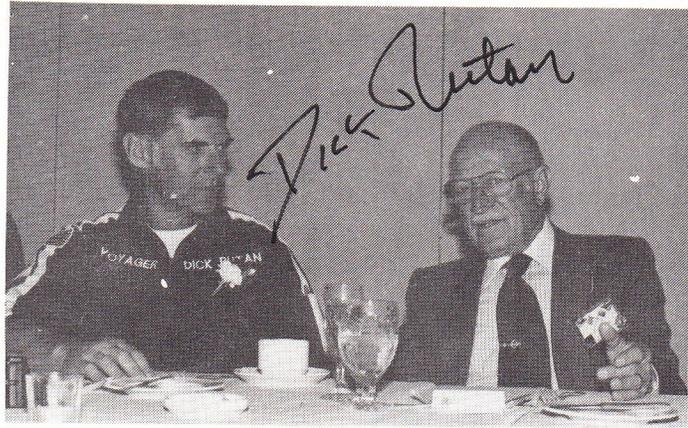
AL CORMIER AND JIM DALBY



MARYLN COONON, MARY POSHEFKO, EDITH STILES AND ROZ BENT



BILL AND ELEANOR SCHAPER



DICK RUTAN AND DICK ROSSI



GERRY AND ANGELA SHRAWDER



CHRISTY AND RED HANKS



MARY LEE MAHER, COL. MAO, LUCILLE ROBERTS AND MARGE RENGU



GWYNN AND BOB LOCKE



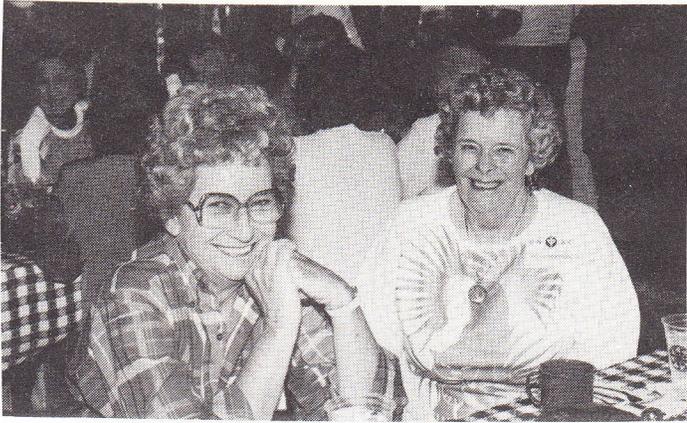
LYDIA, TONY AND DICK ROSSI



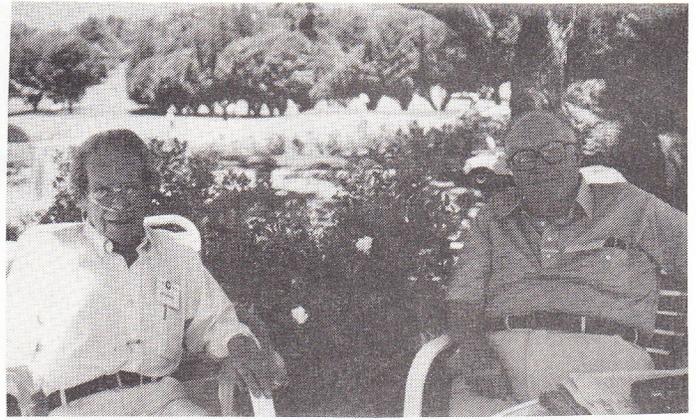
GENERAL HSU AND TEX HILL



JIM AND PEGGY DALBY



PEGGY WEINER AND PEGGY WATSON



JEFF WEINER AND WAYNE RICKS



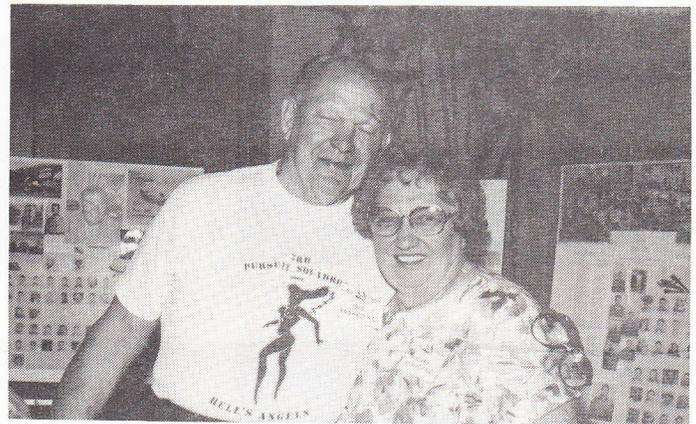
FRED AND LOUISE PITTENGER



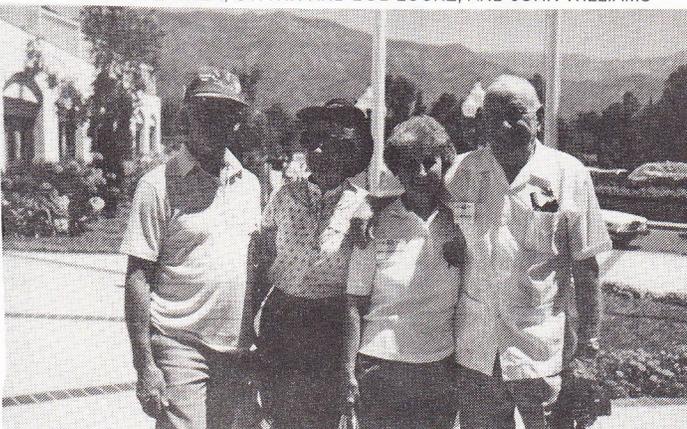
JOE HARDIN, CHRISTY, AL GEORGE AND RED HANKS



MARIAN LAYHER, GWYNN AND BOB LOCKE, AND JOHN WILLIAMS



JOE AND MARY POSHEFKO



IRV AND JEAN STOLET, ROMA AND J.J. HARRINGTON



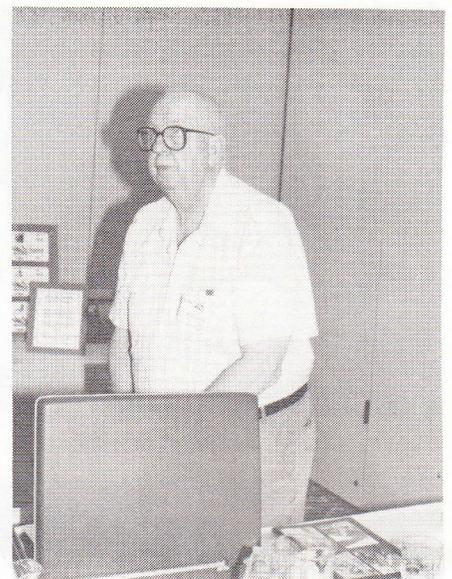
MARGE RENGO, CYNTHIA AND CAREY BOWLES



BILL MAHER



BOB NEALE



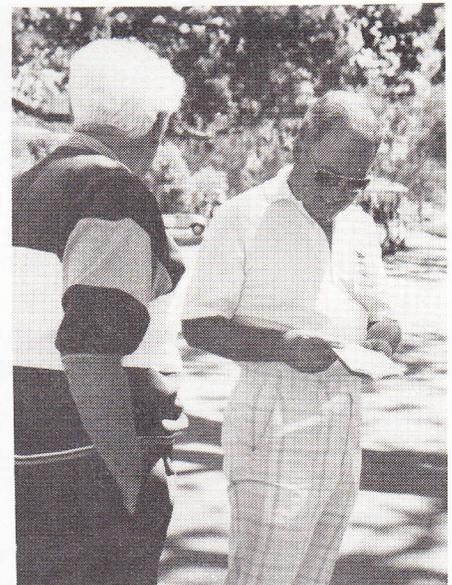
BOB SMITH



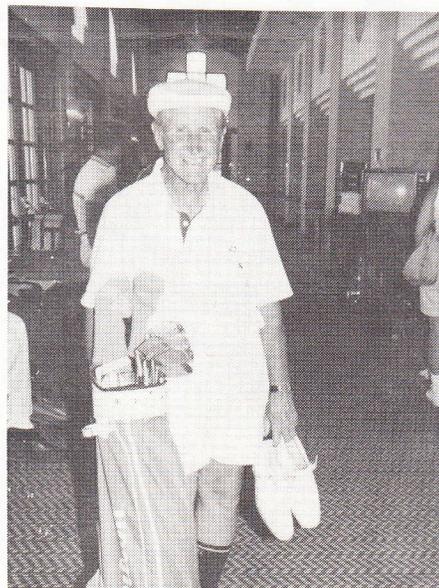
PAUL & DOTTIE CLOUTHIER



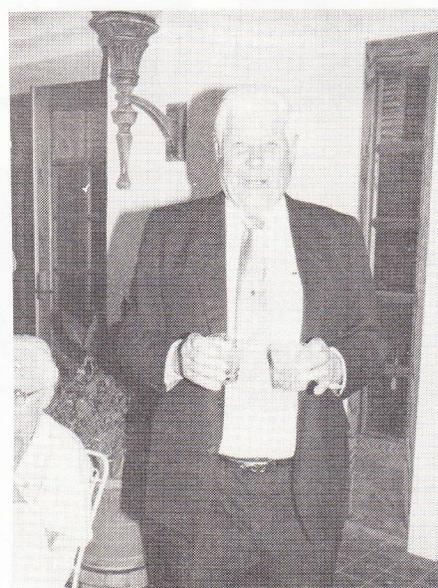
DOTTIE & "RICH" RICHARDSON & MEL KEMPH



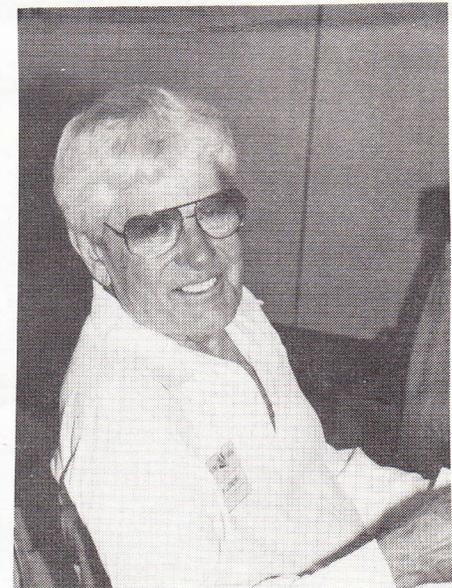
AL OLDENBURG AND CHUCK OLDER



DICK STUELKE



AL KAELIN



P.J. GREENE

REUNION ATTENDEES

AVG/CNAC

Carl & Anne Brown with
Julia Brown
Roger Brown
Stewart Brown
Kice Brown
Linda Brown
Gail Brown
Nikki Brown
Ryan Brown
John Brown
Jessica & Wayne Greene
Anne & John Hogan
Susan Hogan
Jeff Hogan
Geoff & Jennifer Taff

Robert Bartling
Ruth King
"Doc" Richards
Dick, Lydia & Tony Rossi

AVG

Roz & Twisty Bent
Paul & Dorothy Clouthier
Jesse & Bernadine Crookshanks
Parker Dupouy
J.J. and Roma Harrington
"Tex" & Mazie Hill
Ed Janski
Ken & Gen Jernstedt
Al & Corky Kaelin
Bus & Metha Keeton
Mel & Evelyn Kempf
Steve & Ann Kustay
Bob & Marian Layher
Bob & Gwyn Locke
Ed McClure
Charlie Mott
Chuch & Kitty Older
Lottie Paull
Jean Peret
P. J. Perry
Alys Hoffman Phreaner
Lou & Sherry Hoffman

Ed Rector
Wayne Ricks
"Rich" & Dorothy Richardson
Don Rodewald
Judy & Hank Wagner
Ed Rector
Janice & Rocky Rockwell
Bill & Eleanor Schaper
Bob Smith (R.M.)
R. T. Smith
Ed & Edith Stiles
Irv & Jean Stolet
Jeff & Kathy Stolet
John Williams

CNAC

Carey & Cynthia Bowles
Glenn & Shirley Carroll
Bob & Martha Conrath
Jim & Peggy Dalby
Reg & Mary Farrar & Family
Al George
Ray & Joanne Gilliland
Oliver & Rosemary Glenn
Les & Marianne Hafferkamp
Barton & Shirley Hahn
Joe & Anne Hardin
Ken Healy
Art Kininmonth
Bill & Mary Lee Maher
Monty & Stella Mantoux
Fred & Louise Pittenger
Bob Schofield
Bob & Audrene Sherwood
Gerald & Angela Shrawder
Felix Smith
Gordon Smith
Dick Stueleke
Sam Terry
Jules & Peggy Watson
Frank & Kaye Watson
Nancy Allison Wright
Tom & Zena Saile

FRIENDS FROM ROCAF

M/Gen Hsu Hua-Chaing
M/Gen & Mrs. Chiao Wu-o
Col. Joseph C.P. Mao

NEW FLYING TIGERS

Lt. Col Jerry Saltness
CW3 Wayne Carlson

GUESTS

Col. Ward & Mary Boyce
Dr. & Mrs. J. Elder Bryan
Joe Cole
Al Cormier
Marilyn Coonan
Michael & Mary Denachuck
Dorthea Dunsmore
Colleen Ferguson
Dan & Sally Ford
Roberta Freeman
Vic & Tassia Joukoff
Dierdre Kimball
Helen Michaels
Nellie Mitchell
Opal Williams
John Zot

AB Communications Group

Steve Berry
Jim Datri
Joy Fahnley
Bill Loeffler
Jeffry Loeffler
Wayne Loeffler
Aniko Nemeth
Paul Rosen



JEFF STOLET ENTERTAINS



RUTH KING, PEGGY LEE, BOB COLE AND RODE

AL CORMIER

Ever since our first reunion at Ojai in 1957, we have had help from Al Cormier in putting up the decorations, flags, and numerous other jobs. Al worked for Bob Prescott for many years at the Flying Tiger Line. Al would come up early and put up the decor. Then he would come up after the reunion and store everything til the next reunion, but he never saw one of our reunions.

This time we invited him to come to and stay for the whole reunion so he could see what they are like (and what we are like). He did come, and true to form he saw to it that all the men received a Flying Tiger hat and pocket watch, and that all the ladies had a corsage for the banquet.

He is still able to carry on with all he has been doing despite the fact that he lost one of his legs to diabetes last year.

Thanks, Al!

COLLEEN FERGUSON

For many reunions, when Colleen Ferguson worked for the Flying Tiger Line she had the job of doing the photography for us. After leaving the Flying Tiger Line, she has come on her own time and expense to our reunions and continued to be our photographer. The photos in this bulletin are by Colleen. She has supported our group in many ways and we are indebted to her.

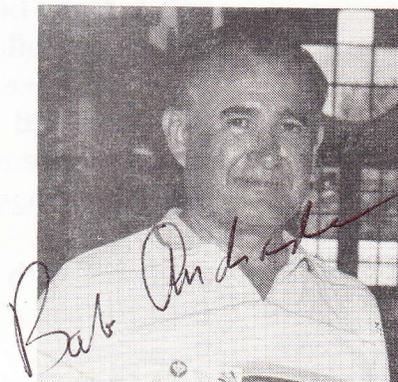
BOB ANDRADE

We also want to acknowledge the continuing help of Bob Andrade for the many things he has done for the group, including the printing of this Tiger Rag.

Front Cover Pictures:

Top: Older, Saltness, Rossi, Larsen and Ricks

Bottom: Rector, Rutan & Yeager, Nancy Wright



BOB ANDRADE AND PARKER DUPOUY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1989

I am honored and delighted to extend greetings to all those gathered for the reunion of the Flying Tigers-American Volunteer Group.

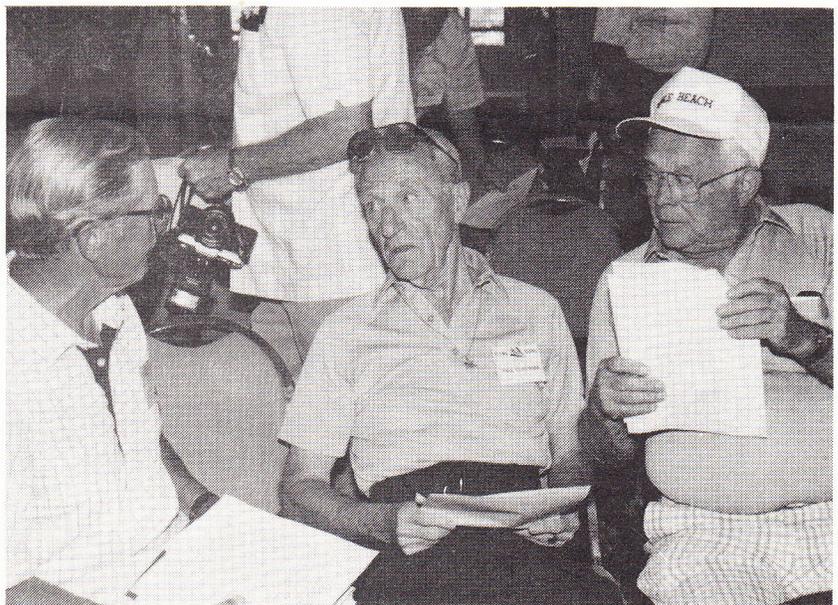
I take particular pride -- while admitting to a little personal prejudice -- that the majority of you were, and are, Naval Aviators. But, no matter which branch you served in, each of you epitomizes that sense of adventure and devotion to freedom that makes up the American spirit. When the cry of an oppressed people was heard, the men of the Flying Tigers responded with a tenacity symbolized in the gleaming shark's teeth found on the nose of your aircraft. Your example of courage and sacrifice will endure forever in our Nation's history and in the hearts and minds of all freedom-loving people.

Barbara joins me in offering our very best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable reunion. God bless you, and God bless America.

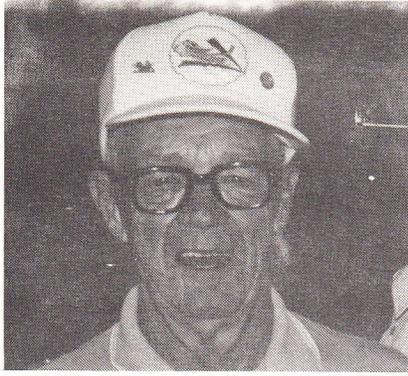
George Bush



DOC FARRAR, BOB SHERWOOD
RED HANKS, DOC RICH



AL KAWN, PAUL CLOUTHIER, TWISTY BENT



TOP: P.J. PERRY
BOTTOM: BOB RENGO

TOP: JEANNA YEAGER
BOTTOM: "DOC" RICHARDS

TOP: AL OLDENBURG
BOTTOM: JOHN WILLIAMS

DICK ROSSI
3038 EAST MISSION ROAD
FALLBROK, CA 92028

