GETTING READY FOR THE PARTY!

Ready for a big weekend in the barracks in 1944, were Pvt. Kenneth Durie (manning the mop) of Co. L, 274; Pvt. Jerry Searp (with the broom) of Co. L, 275; Pfc. Ira Lowrie (at the bucket) 370th Medics, and Pfc. Michael Veneziano, Co. L, 276.

Also getting ready for a big bash is Minneapolis, scene of the 1982 Trailblazer Reunion in September. Preparations—a lot more fun than these pre-inspection rites—are well under way and details about the gala soiree are given throughout this issue.

All slicked up!

Minneapolis and fascinating hotel await arrival of 70th Reunioners

A fascinating city and a fascinating hotel are ready to welcome the 1982 Trailblazer Reunion. City: Minneapolis with its 22 lakes. Hotel: The Sheraton-Ritz at the world-renowned Nicollet Mall.

"Reservations should be sent in as soon as possible," reminds Orville Ellis, Association president and Reunion chairman. September (the meeting will be the 16th to 19th) is a wonderful month in the Land of Lakes and hotels will be busy."

A reservation blank is printed on page 7. It should be sent in this exact form—Xeroxes accepted—so the hotel's computer can handle it.

The Reunion package is a bargain. For the fee of $80 per person, the following events are included:

Officers' reception, Thursday evening;

(Continued on next page)
Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

Dinner and program, Friday evening;
Lunch and program, Saturday noon;
Banquet and Dance, Saturday evening;
Ladies' tour, Friday;
Ladies' corsage, Saturday evening;
Coffee breaks, Friday and Saturday;
Hospitality room, all three days, and
Memorial Service, Sunday.

The fee has been based on an estimated attendance of 450 persons. If there is any "profit" it will go into the Association treasury. It will be possible to obtain a partial refund or reduced cost for people who can attend only one or two days.

Other costs, such as rooms, other meals, preventive libations, etc. are personal expenses. There is no charge for parking for guests at the Sheraton-Ritz and tickets will be validated at the hotel desk.

The hospitality room will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday; 1:30 to 4:30, Friday and 2:30 to 4:30, Saturday. "It will be well stocked with liquid refreshments and snacks," Brother Ellis assures, "and there will be people there to serve you."

"If you pre-register at the hotel, you'll get another great bargain. Rooms—single or double—will be only $56. Our cocktail receptions will be at the truly breath-taking indoor pool area, 'the Palm Terrace'.

"We're not making recommendations for people who are travelling in motor homes. They're experienced tourists and know their way around.

But those members who do not intend to stay at the Ritz should let me know ahead of time so we can plan for them at the hotel events.

"Matters to be brought up at the business meeting should be submitted to me well ahead of time so they can be given a place on the agenda."

The Sheraton-Ritz is at 315 Niccollet Ave. There is convenient bus service direct from the airport. There's a Sheraton Motor Inn way out on East 78th St. but Trailblazers should remember to come right into the heart of the city before they start shooting an azimuth to the hotel. The Mall is a fascinating place that will delight the ladies especially but that men will also find thoroughly enjoyable.

The average temperature for September is 62 degrees. The Park System has 4,100 acres of rolling woodlands in 153 parks and the surrounding area of the state is a favorite of tourists from all over the world.

There is a tour for visitors of the historic St. Anthony Falls where Minneapolis was founded and of the Federal lock and dam which mark the start of navigation on the Mississippi River. The world-famous Minnesota Symphony is in a spanking new home and the renowned Guthrie Theater is respected the world over. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts has expanded its museum to house its famous collection and the Hennepin County Historical Society has restored an elegant mansion to house items from pioneer days.

Minnesota is known for its warm Scandinavian hospitality. It extends its warmest welcome to the 70th Division Association.

Committee seeks nominations

The nominating committee of our Association invites members to submit names of possible candidates for office.

The committee will interview potential nominees at the convention in preparing a recommended slate of officers for the next two years. Election will be for president, vice president-east, vice president-west, secretary-treasurer and assistant secretary-treasurer.

If you have suggestions on good candidates for these positions, contact Ted Heck, chairman of the nominating committee. His address is P.O. Box 89, Ft. Washington, PA 19422. His home phone is (215) 825-7788.

Remember?

Ray C. Hudgens of G Co. (no regiment given) wants to buy any German WW2 material that you might have for sale. Drop him a line at 3607 Alta-mira, East Ridge, Tenn. 37412.

Trailblazers are in several American history books. Now they can be in a French volume, too.

Joseph Zeller (16, rue Jean-Jaures / 5,600 Forbach / France) is writing a history of the Moselle in the years of '39-45.

"Since your Division spent some time in our area, I would be most grateful if you could send me any documents and photos illustrating your part in the liberation of Forbach. If you'll send them to my cousin, Bernard Derr, 175 Pennsylvania Ave., Delaware, Ohio 43015, I'll have photocopies made and return the originals."
Reunions! Are they worth the time, effort and money?

Yes! Yes! Yes! say 70th Division veterans who have attended the comebacks since the Association was formed.

"Reunions are getting bigger and better all the time," says Edward Cloonan, Co. D, 275. "Possibly that's because we're all getting to the age when we can have a little more time to indulge in nostalgia and can afford to travel a little bit.

"Attending reunions has been a rewarding experience... and I mean rewarding."

Jim Kyle of Fenton, Missouri, Svc. Co., 275th, reminds us that "Someday they'll play 'Taps' for you and me, too. Don't wait till it's too late; show up at the Reunion and light up your buddies' lives. Come once and you'll never miss one again."

Says Ralph Larson of Topeka, Kansas, Co. I, 274th: "I've enjoyed the Reunions so much that I'm devoting a lot of time and effort to urge old friends to join the Association and to attend the Minneapolis meeting. In fact, just yesterday I talked by phone with a buddy I haven't seen or heard from in 30 years.

"I was the lone member of the company to attend the Reunion in 1978. In '80 we had 10 and in Lexington, several more. Watch us in Minneapolis!"

First one was hassle

They say that getting the first olive out of the bottle is the hardest job; after that they come easy. So with Jim Kyle's Reunion attendance, "The first one I heard about was, for my own company only, in Chicago in 1962. I had to work until 1:30 a.m. the night before. My wife Rosie had the kids ready and as soon as I got off work we took off. Arrived at Chicago about 8:30 next morning. We'd planned on getting a hotel room and a couple hours of sleep. But as soon as we walked into the lobby I saw some familiar faces and from there on there simply wasn't time for sleeping.

Reunions are favorite hobby

Another regular attender is Cecil King of Kansas City, 725th FA Bn. He worked in a paper mill for 23 years, then joined TWA airlines, from which he's been retired for 10 years.

"My wife and I like to travel a lot and so we've seen a lot of this large world. We all come to the 70th Reunions—the Al Weigles, Gene Ragans and us. On a trip down to Texas the six of us dropped in to say hello to Orrell Patrick in Corpus Christi. We're trying to persuade him to come to Minneapolis.

"We've been married 55 years and have one daughter who was born in Salem, Oregon, while I was in basic training. My sports are hunting and fishing. I've hunted bear and got my share and every season sees me out after ducks, geese, quail, etc. At 75 I'm a little slower on the trigger but I enjoy it.

"But Reunions are still my favorite. I'd sure be glad to hear from old buddies. My phone is (816) 741-0808. Give me a ring."

Note from Mexico

Another Larson, Edson G. of Mayville, North Dakota, adds his come-to-the-party all the way from Manzanilla, Mexico. He and his wife Margaret got bumped on a flight to Mexico City and so—while waiting—he jotted down a few observations.

"Once you go to a Reunion, you go again—it may be in the hope of seeing old friends again. But if you don't, you always make new friends. One thing we all tend to forget: We don't have unlimited time. So many have said 'I'll wait till the next one'. Soon there will be no next one.

"Reunions are unique because they are an experience we share. I encourage all members to attend. Once they do they will return next time."

Repeat customers, they say, are the best indicators of a good business success. So it's interesting to note that the great majority of veterans at Reunions are repeaters. "Come once," they say, "and you'll never be able to stay away again."

Gene Inzer of Vidor, Texas, our Vice-President/West, has successfully undergone surgery and is recuperating nicely. He'll see you at Minneapolis.

Don't want to give away any secrets. But that dynamite guy Tom S. Higley of Co. C, 275, will be promoting Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, as site of the '84 Trailblazer Reunion.

'/So say your buddies/'

'Great for nostalgia!'
'Don't miss 'em!'
'Time's running out!'
'There's just nothing like it!'

Col. Cheves had been gravely ill for a long period of time. Nonetheless, keeping and showing a strong attitude for life, getting well and his beloved 70th Division Association.

Bob was a past officer of the Association, a most active and enthusiastic supporter of the Association throughout and author of “Snow Ridges and Pill Boxes”, the history of his beloved 274th Infantry Regiment in World War II, and “L’Operation Nordwind”, a history of the Wingen-Sur-Moder, France campaign.

Bob’s greatest regret was his inability to complete authorship of his history of the 70th Infantry Division in World War II. He had spent years in research and writing for the history.

I have lost a good counsel and close friend. We all have lost a great man, good friend and Association supporter. His passing is a great loss in all respects, in each and every way.

I know that each of you join me in conveying condolences to his wife, Mary Grayce, and our abiding love in her time of sorrow.

An item of interest and note. NBC-TV’s “Real People” for the past two years has presented a salute to the American veteran, as a Memorial Day Special. This fall, they are planning a Veterans Day show and are soliciting story ideas, suggestions, etc. from servicemen (in writing only). Write to “Real People”, Box 2A, Hollywood, Calif. 90028. We could gain some national publicity. This writer has written “Real People” about working our September Reunion into the show.

REUNIONS: TIMES TO RECALL — Unfortunately, most veterans have never attended their unit reunions, thus have missed this experience in patriotism and friendship in “A Brotherhood That Binds the Brave.” However, many come back year after year, taking their annual va-
Hey! You guys don’t fool! When I took over this editor’s job I asked you to write me and tell what you’ve been doing since those fun-and-games days in the Vosges. And did you respond! Everything you’ve sent in will be printed; that’s a promise. But not necessarily in this issue—or the next. I’ve got enough stuff to run into 1983 at least. So be patient if you’ve sent in stuff. And if you haven’t, join the happy throng.

It must be cheaper to move than to pay rent these days. At least our members are changing addresses at last twice the national rate. If you’re planning on moving, please let me know by August 1 or November 1. It costs about 6¢ to mail the “Trailblazer” in bulk quantities. If our friendly postal hurriers and scurriers return it because of an address change, it costs two bits for that service plus another 20¢ to send your copy first class. You’ll bankrupt the Association that way.

Answering the final roll call on March 10 was William Floyd Riley, 68, Co. E, 276. He lived in Lineville, Alabama, his native city. Death came by a massive heart attack while he took a nap after lunch and was without pain.

In the last “TB” we asked you to send cards to Matthew Costello in Chicago, Co. I, 274 Medics. Unfortunately, before they could reach him, our brother-in-arms answered the last roll call. He died March 12, after a long illness. He got the Purple Heart as a combat medic.

Vacationing in Kansas this summer? Give a little business to ol’ buddy Henry S. Freeman. He runs a 25-unit Colonial Motel and restaurant at Fort Scott. He’ll be happy to see an old Trailblazer as he was in Co. K, 276.

Glad to hear from Jerry Boyea of Co. F, 2nd Bn, S-3, then regimental S-3 of the 274th. Jerry is in university and college construction management at West Virginia State College currently. He spent 30 years in the Army Reserve and remembers the 70th’s trip home on the SS Queen Mary. He lives in Charleston, West Virginia now.

In the transition of the mailing list from Frank Moran to me, there were some communications gaps. Consequently, several men who should have been listed as new members in December already, didn’t get mentioned in the March issue. I hope that they’ll accept appropriate apologies and that our new roster on pages 6-7 brings us up to date as of May 10 when this copy went to the typesetter.

We didn’t list changes of address in that section this time because the space was running out. But mostly because Elbert Feaster is getting out a new roster booklet soon.

I’m going to be top-downing it in our venerable convertible from Richmond to Cincy to Seattle to Portland to San Francisco to Salt Lake City to Washington, D.C., taking the whole month of June. Roster book in hand, I just may surprise you with a phone call as I pass through your town.

If you’re planning to fly to the Reunion, contact your travel agent right now. Tell him to shop around and find you the best fare. If you buy your ticket well in advance, there are all kinds of super-saver plans (including hopscoching) that are genuine bargains. Insist that your agent get you the best buy. But do it pretty darn quick!

Adkins’ widow seeks information

Did you serve with George L. Adkins, a medic with Co. D, 276, in the Rhineland, Ardennes, Forbach battles? His widow would be made happy if you’d drop her a note.

George was early in the Division after entering service at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He served as a medical corpsman until discharged at Camp Crowder late in ’45. He died December 31, 1974.

“Is there a record of where he served during the war?” asks her widow, Georgia. “Is there any information available from someone who was with him in Co. D or knew him?” What was the name of the ship he went on and came back? Is someone who knew him living in Oregon now?”

If you can help, drop a note to Mrs. Georgia Adkins, 1290 Ewald St., Salem, Oregon, 97305.
New Members

BOUXSIEN, John P. (Helen) 106 Arthur Clarendon Hills, Ill. 60514 883rd Bn FA

BRADY, Kenneth R. (Evelyn) 320 Desert Shore Dr., SP. 13-A Desert Shores, Calif. 92274 Co. F, 275

BRANDT, Walter R. (Morgary) 360 Everett Ave., No. 58 Palo Alto, Calif. 94301

BREZACEK, Milon F. (Libbie) 11161 Shirley St. Omaha, Neb. 68144 2nd Med Bn, 274

BURRE, Louis W. (Helan) 1756 Bay Island Dr. Point Pleasant, N.J. 08742 Cannon Co., 276

CONVERY, William J. 4750 Leetsdale Dr. Denver, Colo. 80222 3 Btty, 725th Bn FA

CROUCHER, Russell (Frances) 2117 Madero Rd. Sacramento, Calif. 95825 HQ Co., 2nd Bn, 274

CURREY, Eugene A. (Dottie) 334 W. Otterman St. Greensburg, Pa. 15601

DEARDORFF, Eric Robert (Janet) 4825 Glasgow Dr. Rockville, Maryland 20853 HQ Co., 3rd Bn, 275

DEMAS, James N. (Louise) 2807 Gen. Chenault, NE Albuquerque, N.M. 87112

EBERHARDT, Martin J. (Lois) Rustfield Village II, Apt. 9 Norway, Maine 04268 884th Bn FA

EVERETT, Glen R. (Norma) 1535 Highland Ave. Salem, Ohio 44460

FENSTERMACHER, Erman L. (Caroline) 9 Walnut Street Richlandtown, Pa. 18955 Co. F, 274

FENDRAN, Frank (Joyce) 2201 Coventry Dr. Parrma, Ohio 44134 883rd Bn FA

GREEN, Ruben J. (Ilseadora) 16 Garrett Lane Willingboro, N.J. 08046 Co. A, 276

GREENE, Calvin (Mary) P.O. Box 11 Douglas, Ariz. 85509 Co. A, 276

HAMILTON, Walter (Billie) 335 N. Cochise Ave. Willcox, Ariz. 85643

HATCH, Ira C. (Winona) Rt. 2, Mill Hill Road Northfield, Vermont 05663 HQ Co., 2nd Bn, 274

HAUGEN, Peter III (Valma) 733 N.E. Memorial Drive Grants Pass, Oregon 97526 Co. A, 275

HAYDEN, John G. Jr. (Constance) 4510 N. 11 Ave. Phoenix, Ariz. 85013 Co. B, 276

HICKERSON, Frank S. (Marjorie) 5327 Montgomery NE Apt. 95 Albuquerque, N.M. 87109 276

HOFFMAN, Jack 3944 Lemon Ave. Long Beach, Calif. 90807

HORNING, Robert S. 565 Packard Apt. 4 Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104 Co. C, 275


KELLY, Joseph (Marlene) 5622 Grant St. Omaha, Neb. 68104 Co. A, 276

KOehler, Robert A. Jr. (Kay) 338 Spencer Place Paramus, N.J. 07652 Co. M, 275

KROGEL, Donald G. (Dolores) 264 White Tail Lane Roseburg, Oregon 97470 Co. M, 276

LANDEN, Dr. Andrew F. (Leona) 1020 W. 2nd Ave. Escodido, Calif. 92025 270th FA

LE DOUX, Bryan (Rita) Box 1119 Opleousas, La. 70570 Co. A, 276

LEVITT, Carlos C. (Evelyn) 28956 Sheridan Garden City, Mich. 48135 Co. M, 276

Historian of 70th goes into history

A fine 70th Division historian has passed into history himself.

Bob Cheves (officially Wallace Robert, Col. AUS, ret.) lost his courageous battle against cancer and died April 5. Until his death he had been working diligently on a history of the Trailblazers. It is hoped that his work can be completed by some other 70th veteran.

Bob graduated from Clemson when it was a military school. He was with the original 70th cadre at Adair. A brilliant tactician, he was intensely concerned about his men and his battle plans always gave them the best chance for survival. He was a major, commander of 2nd Bn, 274, at Wingen-sur-Moder, where the battalion earned a unit citation for gallantry. He was then placed in charge of the entire bitter operation, commanding the whole regiment and supporting troops. He blunted a severe Nazi threat in February of '45.

He recalled, "I was offered an Army career and was with the 15th Army which Patton commanded at his death. I was slated for the Pentagon with Bradley's 12th Army Group staff but decided to leave the service. Changed my mind again and ended up Assistant G-1, 8th Army, in Yokohama, Japan. Finally in November of '47 I returned to civilian life."

He and his wife Mary Grayce lived in Miami where he had a construction business. He was buried in Savannah where the old Cheves Plantation still exists on the outskirts near Fort McAllister which Sherman captured in 1864. The old family home on his maternal side is a handsome landmark in Charleston.

A tough fighter to the very end, he insisted that his wife not mention his malignancy even to close friends. A longtime and very active member and past-president of the Association, he will be particularly missed at the Minneapolis Reunion.

Old foes / old friends

The bond that ties together all soldiers, no matter which uniform they wore in combat, has been demonstrated time and again as members of the German 6th Mountain Division North and 70th Division veterans, who were foes in the winter campaigns, have joined on many occasions on either sides of the Atlantic.

Nineteen eighty-two will be no exception.

Wilhelm "Willie" Gottenstrote rerforms us that preparations are under way for his, wife Hanni and other members of the Edelweiss Division to come to our Minneapolis reunion. Willie's stay will be short as he must hurry home and prepare for his division's convention two weeks later. He is chairman.
NOW we know who Mary Ellen was!

"That's my vehicle," exclaimed Russell Nordgren when he saw this picture in the last "Trailblazer.

"We were part of the Second Platoon, 70th Recon Troop and stencilled the name on the vehicle at Marseilles, probably on Bugle Hill. Delbert Sitz of Vernon, Texas was the driver. His wife's name, Mary, went on the side of this M-8. My wife—who passed away over 20 years ago—was named Pearl. But 'Mary Pearl' didn't sound very euphonious to me. My mother's name was Ellen and so we named the M-8, 'Mary Ellen.'

"I was 69 last November and sometimes memory can be tricky. I think I recognize some of the GIs in the photo. Second from the left is Dale Iliff and Del Sitz is standing in the driver's position. I am not in the picture.

"During the war years I lived in Minneapolis. I retired some time ago and live in Lafayette, Indiana."

Dale and his wife Virginia retired last Fall. He had worked for Wonder Bread and Hostess Cakes and now does income taxes with H&R Block. They attended the Lexington reunion and are looking forward to Minneapolis.

"He eventually was transferred into the 3rd Division. They asked for volunteers to guard homes that they thought would be taken over by Russians during the night. They never came but I almost shot my lieutenant when he came during the night. I served in a whole lot of German towns, mostly guarding POW's with Polish soldiers. Was discharged in March of '47 and worked for the Post Office, Navy and Air Force, until put on disability because of old injuries. Two sons served in the Army in the 70's. I also have a daughter.

"I'd like to swap 70th photos. My address is P.O. Box 14099, Spokane, Washington 99214."

"I can't recall why I was on it except that it was in Germany in '45. I am sitting on the left front of the Mary Ellen. Next to me was a man from New York and next to him was Wes Donovan."

"I recall the cold—snow and always cold—never knowing where we were. Somewhere I lost part of the sight of my right eye and later got a bad infection in my right leg. (And it's troubled him for 36 years.)

"During the push into Germany while three of my friends stood ready, I went into a basement expecting to find German soldiers. Instead I found an old civilian crazy with fear."

Remember?

"Taps," the column that records the death of 70th Division comrades, is compiled solely from information sent in by family or friends. All members are urged to report such deaths to the editor, even though they may have occurred much earlier. If possible, obituaries, as published in a newspaper, should be included.