

### PRESIDENT'S REUNION ODYSSEY

What an Odyssey the Las Vegas Reunion 2001 was! For me and Lil it involved coordinating Bob's work schedule so that he could drive us there. Also, that schedule forced us to cancel a planned trip to the Seattle AVG Flying Tiger Reunion. We found that we could not do both. Bob picked us up on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three full days of driving later we arrived in Las Vegas. The Terrible's Hotel and Casino proved to be much nicer than expected. We had from the Friday until the following Wednesday to explore and greet early-bird arrivals. The opening of the hospitality rooms with the traditional Wine and Cheese Reception was well done by Pat Schier, whose parents, Joanne and Bill arranged the food, among other things.

The Chinese banquet had its difficulties from the beginning. There was the short notice, and working from a distance. There were disgruntled people. I can only say that it offered the opportunity to get together with old friends.

The Saturday night banquet, the whole reason for changing our Reunion to Las Vegas, went off well under the circumstances. There were over 850 people in attendance, others had to be turned away. There were impressive addresses given by Jim Glerum, and Rod Smith. Then came the CIA presentation of the Citation to all CAT/AAM employees. With all due respect, I think that the speech by Wade Rousselot on behalf of his Father was outstanding. And I think the evening-long antics of my two-year-old grandson were in the same category!

The following day, Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we began our 3-day return trek, arriving just two hours before Storm Alison deluged Houston. Fortunately being 30 miles west of the City, we were left high and dry!!! A happy ending to a long hard trip. Lil and I decided it was worth it to see and visit with old friends.

## THE CAT BULLETIN

The only News Magazine in the world devoted entirely to news concerning ex-CAT, ex-SAT and ex-AAM employees and friends.

Published by

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Registered in the State of Hawaii  
as an Unincorporated Association.

Published quarterly.

Membership dues \$20 per year,  
\$25 for overseas, payable in May of each year.

## IN MEMORIAM

COL. ED RECTOR, an Associate member since 1979, died on April 26 at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C. after a heart attack. ED, a member of the famed American Volunteer Group, attended many CAT reunions and also hosted a great party for us during the Washington, D. C. reunion a number of years ago. Because of his service in MAAG in the early 1950's he counted many CATers among his close friends. One of his closest, Joe Rosbert wrote this about him:

My life-long friendship with Ed Rector began in the Fall of 1939. I had just graduated from Villanova College with a BS in Chemical Engineering when I signed up to go to flight school in Pensacola. There I found myself in Cadet class 129-C with a dashing young fellow, Ed Rector, from western North Carolina. One thing I remember about that period; he played on the Cadet football team. That was an early sign of his daring; a serious injury could put him out of flight school.

When we received our Naval Aviator's wings in the Spring of 1940, we became separated when we were sent to the Fleet; Ed to the East Coast and I to the West Coast. By chance we met up again in the Fall of 1941 in the jungles in the middle of Burma. We both had signed up as fighter pilots in the American Volunteer Group. With the disbandment of the group in July, 1942, we became separated again. Ed joined the USAAC and distinguished himself as a fighter pilot, and both a Squadron Commander and 23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group Commander.

After the War, Ed decided to make a career in the newly organized USAF and soon became a Colonel. Our friendship entered a new stage when CAT moved to Taiwan, and Ed was assigned to the Air Section of MAAG. Many a great party was had at his house in Taipei and our house in Yang Ming Shan. Then, Ed took on an assignment in Washington, D. C., doing an admirable job in various parts of the world in Air Force Intelligence. Our paths crossed often on the Island of Majorca, where we spent 13 years on a project there.

When we moved to the mountain area of western north Carolina, we attended our first reunion of the Rector family! Southern Gentleman, he was, resulted in our being made honorary members of the Rector Family! After that we enjoyed, with Ed, participation in all future Family get-togethers.

## IN MEMORIAM (cont'd)

Ed's house in Arlington, Virginia, right across the Potomac River from Washington, D. C. was, for many years, a social center for a multitude of his friends from around the world. It is impossible here to cover the life of such a great person as Ed. He was a Fighter Pilot, a fighter Ace, Squadron and Group Commander, Air Force Colonel, a career military man, an outstanding American War Hero, a Southern Gentleman, an unforgettable friend. He remains with us forever. Hasta la vista! Old Buddy!

CAPTAIN ALFRED GIBSON 1920-2001. Because of Gibby's unfailing courtesy and modesty, and his lighthearted approach to life, tidbits of his adventures past surprise all but his close friends. With Hugh Marsh, he sailed a 40-foot Catamaran from Okinawa to Japan's Sagami Bay, a sea voyage well over a thousand miles. At age 18 he acquired a single-engine pilot's license and eventually found a way to WWII England to ferry planes throughout the British Isles. After Pearl Harbor, the U. S. Army Air Corps transported him into India to be trained on C-47s which had been supplied to China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC) for the purpose of moving war supplies between Himalayan mountain peaks to Kunming which was the back door to China after Japan seized its seaports. Several years ago, about the time that Chennault's Flying Tigers were similarly honored, the Secretary of the Air Force determined that CNAC had actually been part of the U.S. Army Air Corps and awarded Gibby an Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross, along with an honorable discharge from the USAF. after that war, Gibby, with John Schoomaker, established a Burmese airline in Rangoon. After national politics forced them out of the country, Gibby joined the son of Asia's famous Tiger Balm in Singapore to develop an airline which focused on distributing newspapers throughout Southeast Asia. By this time Gibby had married a gorgeous redhead named Jackie. Together they threw a lavish party for the flight crew of CAT's Korean Trade Mission when it transited Singapore.

Gibby joined CAT in 1960. Before his assignment to flight duty he was administrative assistant to Captain Doug Smith who was then Chief Pilot of the northern operation. Eight years later he resigned and flew international routes with Japan Airlines. Early this year Gibby came through bypass surgery with flying colors, so we all thought, but while he dressed to come home he suffered a stroke from which he didn't recover. The apparent victory followed closely by the unexpected disaster was heartbreaking for Jackie. Our sympathy goes out to her.

Felix Smith

## BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARY

The Business Meeting was held on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> in the hospitality room at the Terrible Hotel and Casino. President Joe Rosbert presided.

First order of business was election of officers. By a unanimous vote the present officers were re-elected to serve for another year.

The Treasurer reported that there was approximately \$9,000 in the two CAT accounts and this amount should carry us through the next two years of bulletins and a new directory in the next couple of months. There will also be an email directory in this next issue.

After a short discussion a vote was taken on the location of the next reunion and San Antonio, Texas will be it. Bob and Chris Rosbert will be in charge. It will take place the third weekend in October 2002.

Erik Carlson gave a review of what has been done in the archives at McDermott since our last reunion and outlined plans for the coming year.

Don Massa explained what is being done to obtain funds from various foundations in substantial amounts to allow Frank Boring to obtain as many oral histories as possible from the aging first generation and also to bring the

archives at UTD up to the point of digital and website status. In the meantime, he advised that inasmuch as there will be months of work ahead in obtaining these funds, we, the members, need to help out with donations as much as we are able. He then introduced Chris Lehman from Washington, D. C. who is in a position to make contact with many of the foundations and other

sources from which our fund might come. He cautioned also that it would take time and that donations from the membership are needed in order to get as many oral histories as possible. Donations are to be sent to Erik Carlson at the McDermott Library with checks made out to UTD-CAT fund.

Bruce Bigony and Frank Boring spoke of the work they are doing on the oral histories. Frank recently worked for several weeks at McDermott and was able to catalog all of the CAT material that has been sent there. This is only the beginning as there is a great deal to be done before everything is completely identified and labeled.

Peggy Lee gave a beautiful jacket which she has purchased at one of our silent auctions some years ago for auction. Pat Walker conducted a very professional auction and Larry Sall was the winner for the amount of \$275 which went to the UTD-CAT fund.

Meeting was adjourned and was followed by a wonderful rough draft video documentary of CAT which Frank stated was only a beginning for what the CAT documentary will be. Some \$1,500 was donated by members at the meeting for the UTD-CAT fund.

**DUES NOTICE TO MEMBERS  
PAYING DUES ANNUALLY**

**2001-2002 DUES WAS DUE IN MAY. FOR  
THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT YET  
PAID YOUR \$20, THIS WILL BE YOUR  
LAST BULLETIN.**

**NOTICE RE THE CIA BRONZE MEDAL**

At the reunion it was announced that all employees of CAT or Air America were eligible to receive a bronze medal from the CIA honoring their service with one or both of these organizations. Some members present at the reunion received theirs there. However, if other CAT personnel wish to receive this medal, they should email or write to...

Dan Gamelin  
3117 Via Primo  
Carlsbad, CA 92008-1383  
Phone 760-729-1952  
Email [dgamelin@telocity.com](mailto:dgamelin@telocity.com)

Postage and handling \$1.50.

For CAT employees who are not members of the Association, you will need to check with Sue Hacker to confirm your employment as Dan has only the names of CAT Association members.

**NEW MEMBERS**

ANDREWS, TERRY VELA  
4206 E. Wilma  
Tampa, FL 33617  
813-914-9310

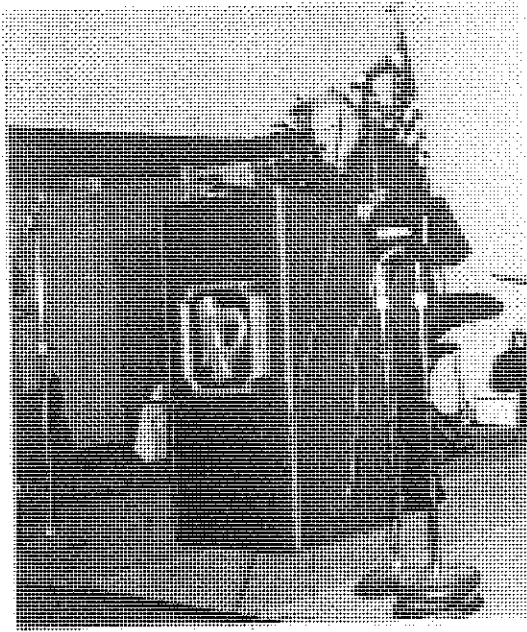
CARLSON, ERIK  
Director, History of Aviation Collection  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Dallas, TX 75083-0543  
972-883-2578

ECKE, JIM  
Box 1739  
Amagansett, NY 40069

GRUNDY, HUGH (Frankie)  
Valley Hill Road  
Springfield, KY 40069

(Cont'd on back page)

# CITATION AWARDS CEREMONY



Joe Rosbert giving a speech



Rod Smith & Hugh Grunty



Don Krotts, Joe & Lil Rosbert



Rod Smith, Ann & Wade Rousselot

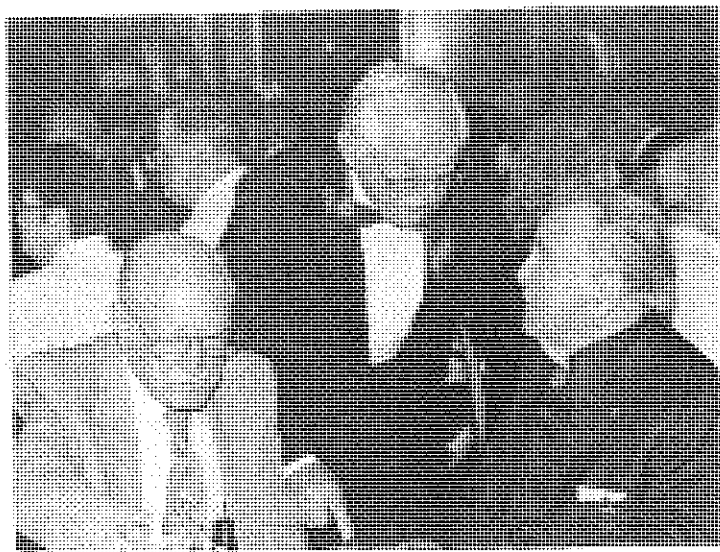


Pat Chennault & [unclear]





Ann Rousselot between Ann & Lew Burridge



Dick Rossi, Don Knotts & Joe Rosbert



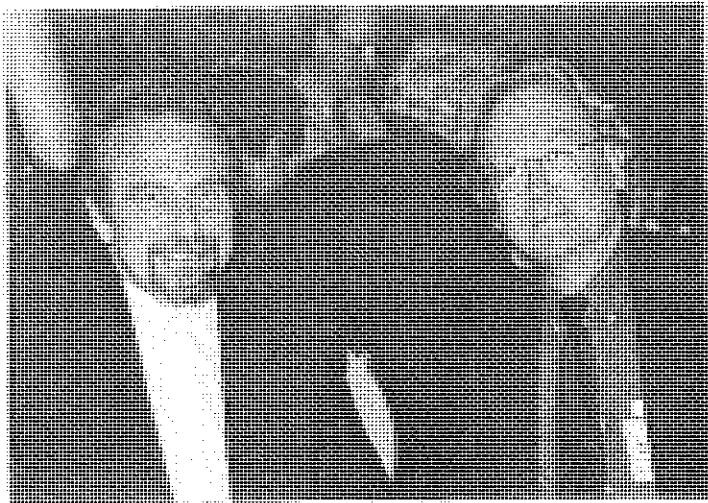
Bill Shaver, Rod Smith, Jim Clorum



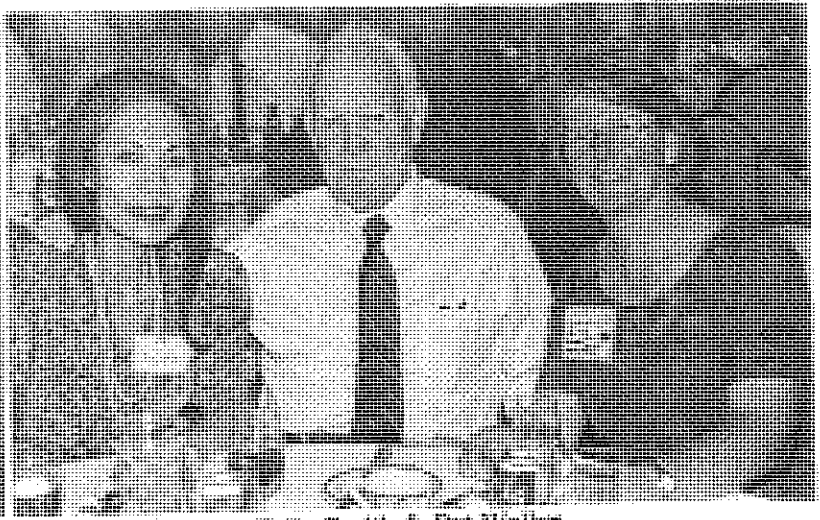
Dorothy Wong & Ella Bowen Cummings



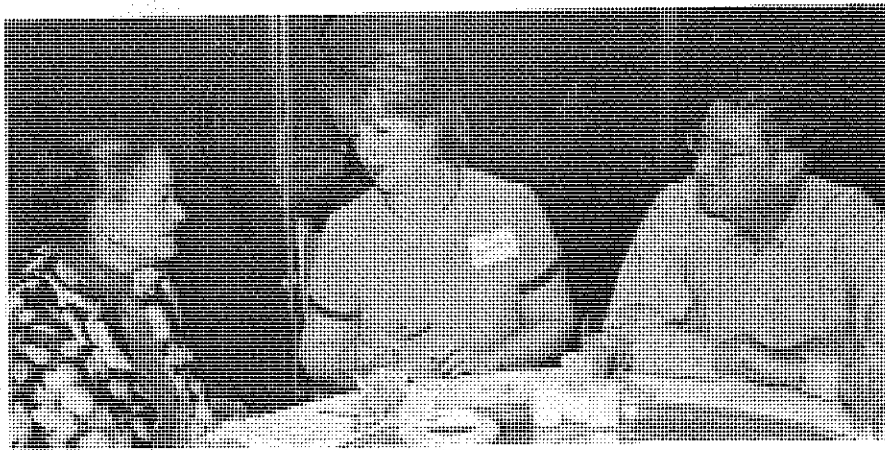
Joanne Shaver & Nalla Lampard



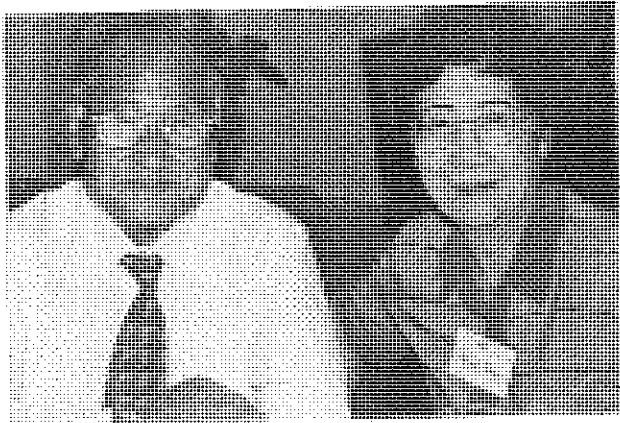
Don Massa & Frank Boring



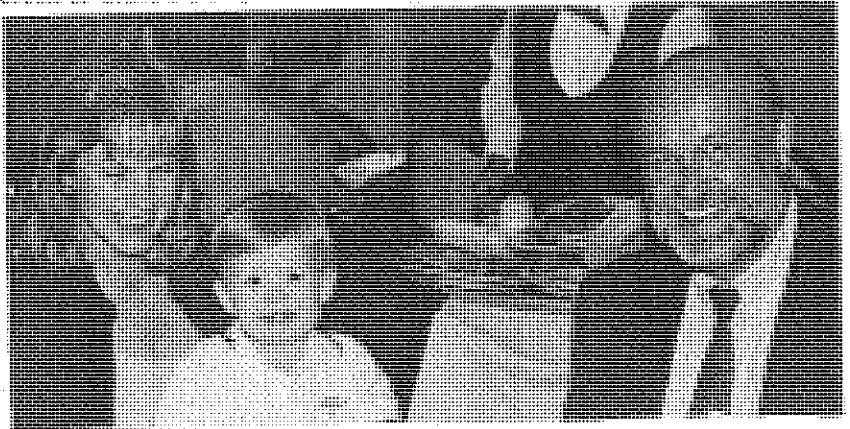
Junko & Felix Smith & Pat Walker



Ann Burridge, Maureen & Chris Lehman



C. K. & Teresa Tseng



Chris, C. J. & Bob Rosbert



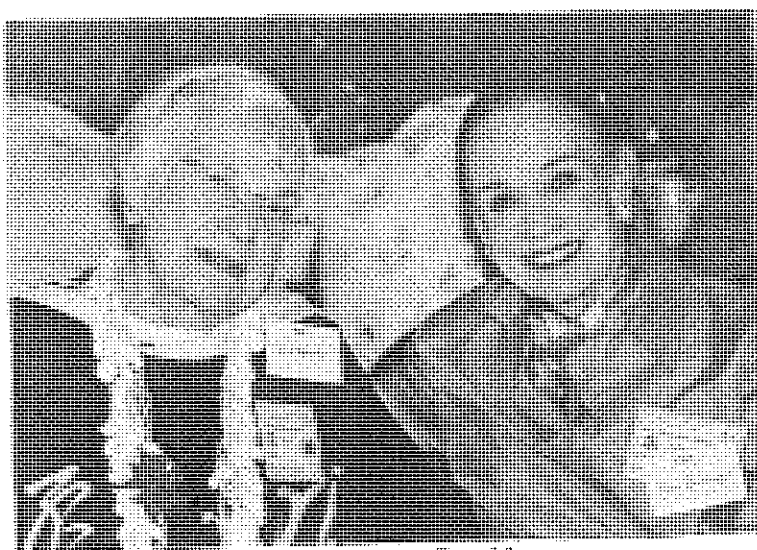
Ann Hedrick, Martha Cox & Pat Walker



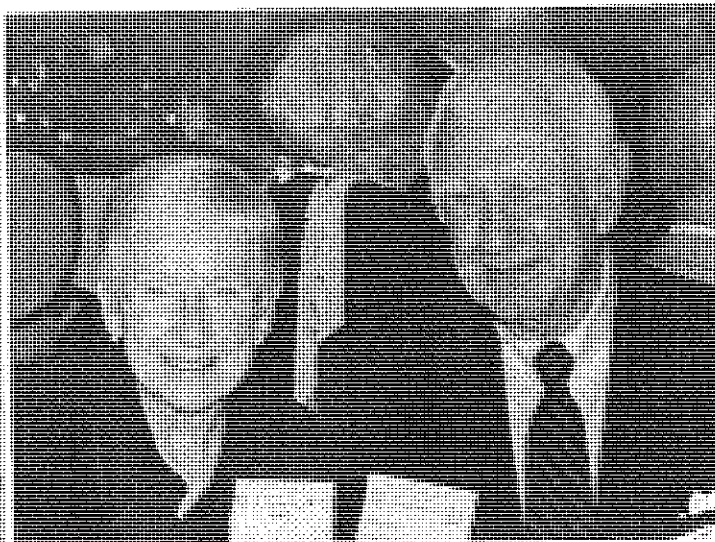
SCENE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING



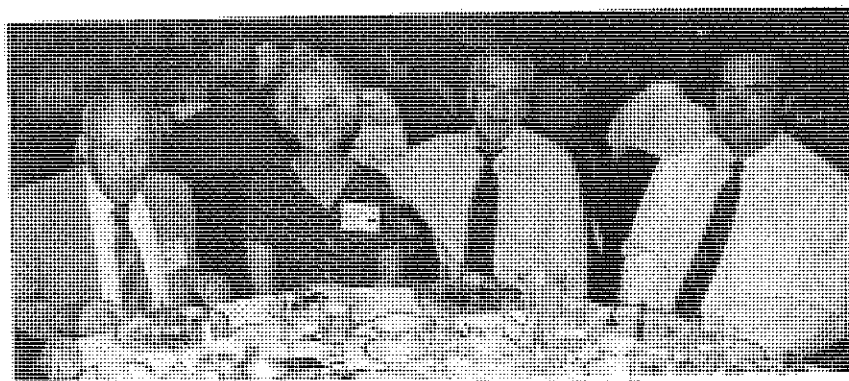




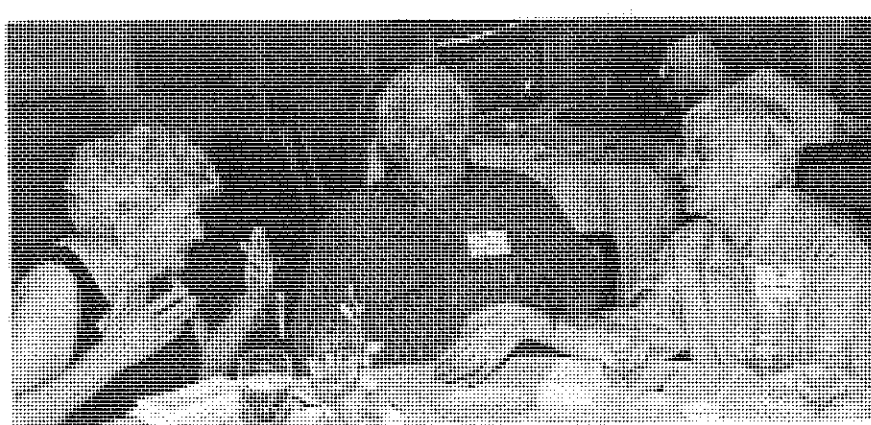
Sue Hacker & Ann Burridge



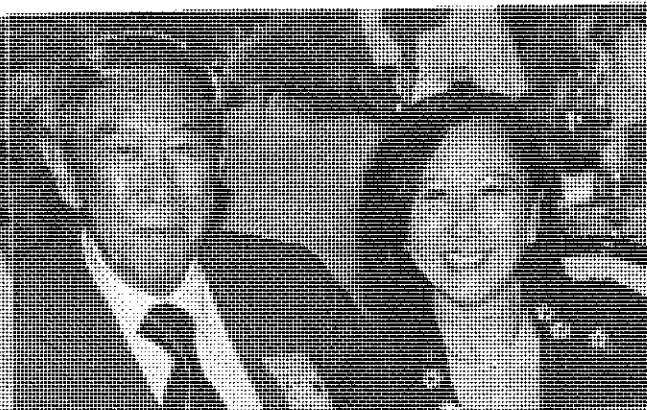
Frankie & Hugh Grundy



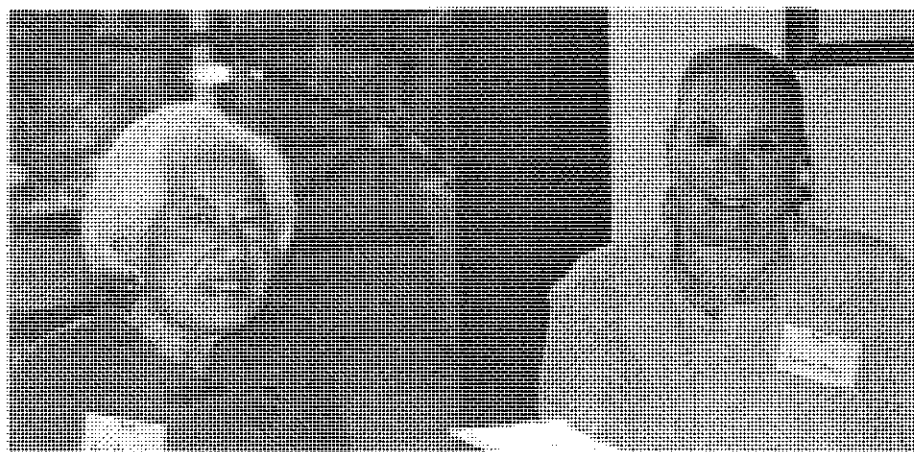
Ted Matsis, Valerie & John Fogg & Bob Stevens



Ada & Doug Smith & Sue Hacker



Don Wong & Nora Sun



Lil Finnerty & Bu...



Betty Dew, Helen & Jim McElroy



C. J. & Mom Chris Rosbert



Peggy Lee & Bruno Braga



Dorothy Wong, Sue Hacker & Edna Cummings



Felix Smith, Bruce Elgorty & Pat Walker

# CAT REUNION LAS VEGAS 2001

Allain, Hank	Joiner, Billee	Rousselot, Wade
Anderson, Liz Walker	Keck, Jim	Sall, Larry
Andrews, Tom	Kaletka, Dick	Salley, Adys
Berry, Burma	Lampard, Naila	Schier, Pat Shaver
Bigony, Bruce	Lampard, Seyem	Seigrist, Connie
Bignoy, Weldon	Lampard, Zachary	Seigrist, Jeff
Bledsoe, Anna	Lazarus, Jinny	Senffner, John
Boring, Frank	Lee, Peggy Chennault	Senffner, Pam Fink
Braga, Bruno	Lehman, Chris	Shaver, Bill
Breinig, Nina Joiner	Lehman, Maureen	Shaver, Joanne
Burridge, Ann	Lively, Bill	Sims, Eddie
Burridge, Lew	Massa, Carol Burridge	Smith, Ada
Carlson, Erik	Massa, Don	Smith, Doug
Chennault, Pat	Matsis, Ted	Smith, Felix
Condon, Eloise	McDavid, Ginny	Smith, Junko
Conrath, Martha	McElroy, Helen	Smith, Rod
Cummings, Etta	McElroy, James A.	Stafford, Gil
Da Costa, Sylvia	McElroy, Jim	Stevens, Bob
Da Costa, Tony	McElroy, Jane	Tseng, C. K.
Davenport, Madeline	McElroy, Mike	Tseng, Teresa
Dew, Betty	Micklautz, Micky	Van Ingen, Glen
Fink, Annamaria	Morales, Diane	Walker, Pat
Fink, Jerry	Morrison, Eileen	Walton, Jesse
Fink, Liza	Morrison, George	Watson, Tom
Finnerty, Lil	Mullins, Jane	Wei, Richard
Fogg, John	Murray, Bob	Wong, Don
Fogg, Valerie	Penniman, Jeanne	Wong, Dorothy
Forney, Jack	Penniman, Tom	Wright, Mittie
Forney, Judy	Platt, Wendy Liles	Wueste, Allan
Gaddie, David	Platt, Fred	Wueste, Lillian
Glerum,, James	Plympton, Leon	
Groundy, Frankie	Porter, Judy	
Grundy, Hugh	Owen, Bobbie	
Hacker, Sue Buol	Owen, David	
Hammer, Gene	Price, Doug	
Harris, Dawne	Reimer, Ward	
Harris, Mike	Richie, Grace Yu	
Herd Lindsey	Rinker, Don	
Hicks, Neese	Robertson, Renee	
Ho, Annie	Rosbert, Bob	
Hobbs, Bill	Rosbert, Chris	
Hotujec, Leigh Coleman	Rosbert, Joe	
Humphrey, Courtney Dew	Rosbert, Lil	
Humphrey, Janet Dew	Rossi, Dick	
Jensen, James	Rossi, Lydia	
Johnson, Albert	Rossi, Tony	
Johnson, Brian	Rousselot, Ann	

NEW MEMBERS (cont'd)

ROUSSELOT, WADE  
Grey Oaks Ranch  
Route 2, Box 268  
Wagoner, OK 74467

WEI, RICHARD  
1901 S. Azusa Avenue  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
O - 626-913-3040  
H - 626-581-8066

REINSTATED

SEALE, MICHAEL  
Box 848  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-667-2880

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

IRENE BUSSART  
ETTA CUMMINGS  
Many thanks!

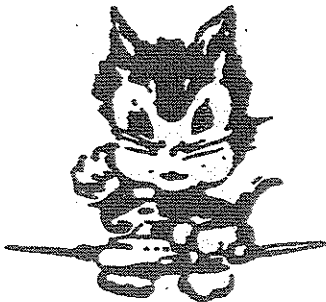


Lydia & Tony Rossi, Frank Boring & Bob Stevens



Hospitality Room scene

CAT ASSOCIATION  
151 West South Street  
Boulder Creek, CA 95006



CAROL MASSA  
P. O.. Box 769  
North Scituate, MA 02060-0769



FIRST CLASS MAIL

020600X0769