

SPECIAL REPORT
POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

This should have been datelined Houston. However, once I left Houston and became an Arkansas Traveller, there was no time for writing about what went on at Houston. Of course my visit with Billy Bingham was just fantastic and worth every minute of my time there.

You can see who got to the Houston Anschluss from the enclosed list. Quite an impressive list. We arrived in such large numbers that it taxed the committees arrangements no end.

They had geared up for 60 to 70. Saturday night dinner was 134 with the ex Mayor of Houston "Hiz" Honor Louie Welch extending greetings to us from the city of Houston and the Chamber of Commerce.

I'm a little ahead of myself because all the fine group were greeting each other on Friday with the usual fond handshakes and more and more embraces. Kisses from the ladies as we all get to know each others wives better and better over the years of reunions.

Small groups gathered and dined in various places around the Hotel and Houston. Yours truly wound up with Albert Cecil, John Jones and Amon Carter at a most unusual private club for dining and dancing. Disco, so that the dancing part was out for me.

*Saturday, we all had great fun at pool side for a group picture. Certainly a very different type of group picture which the committee is working on to send to the attendees.

Then on the buses for luncheon. Down in the old part of Houston to a Mexican restaurant. What a fun time!

We were occupying practically the entire restaurant but enjoyed a delightful meal. Very little of the food was spicy hot, but boy when it was hot it was hot. A margarita started the meal and we even had desert which kept us going for the rest of the day.

Back into the buses and a round about way back to the hotel seeing the many different sections of Houston.

Houston is a vast city with NO zoning laws and seems to be thriving on this unorthodox approach. Fastest growing large city in U.S.A. # 7 in the country.

Back to the hotel, which is not far from the Houston Astrodome, and meeting time.

John Jones had a fine meeting and we all enjoyed two great presentations from Ted Ellsworth and Charlie Brocker on which offered the best package for 1980.

Well by an overwhelming majority Ted Ellsworth won out for Dubuque, Iowa in 1980, and, if, Charlie will still have us it could well be Orlando, Florida for 1982.

In the meantime look for an upcoming 2nd trip back to Poland and ex Oflag 64 with our great hostess Wanda Rudzinski of Dana Travel Service to be scheduled in May of 1979. Wanda gave us an idea of what could be done in preliminary announcement at our meeting.

More information will be mailed to all as soon as we receive the details from Wanda.

Sunday Morning Service and Brunch was packed again with very few leaving to return home until early afternoon.

All in all it was a great time and John Jones, and the Houston Anschluss committee did a great job; Roy Chappell, Amon Carter, Albert Cecil and Ted Roggen.

Just received word that Ted Roggen's car caught on fire. While attempting to get the fire out to save other cars he fell and broke his hand. Sorry Ted. Hope you can get back to getting the pictures shipped out anyway.

So on to Dubuque in '80.

* Boy we may be older as a group but it doesn't seem to slow down the flow of liquid consumption which I might add was all handled in excellent lady like and gentlemanly fashion during the entire week end.

Naturally Friday night was spent by many in the hospitality room.

As many of you know Albert Cecil is not a very big fellow but he is smaller now because of all the supplies he had to keep coming up with, in the Hospitality Room. He'll make it though and we'll look forward to seeing him in Dubuque or before.

P.S. We missed seeing some of our regulars that come to mind like Vern and Jean Hubbell, and the Iowa gang; Ellen and Wright Bryan; The Ciprianis; Billy Bingham; Tony Lumpkin; The Brooks Klebers; the Leroy Ihries; the Vandens and Tony is under the weather and could use some encouraging notes and thoughts from those who know him.

Mail to Mr Tony Lumpkin
803 Woodlawn Street
Mexico, Missouri 65265

PSS. Thought some of you might be interested in the Combat Medical Memorial. Contact them directley.

Your Editor,

John Slack

*** Just wanted to mention that in addition to the mention made in the meeting regarding those who wrote letters and noted that they couldn't make it we received two mail groups at the Hotel Shamrock which were not made available until I got back. One was Wilbur Sharpe and the other from Ellen and Wright Bryon. Thanks much for your thoughts and sorry we didn't get the Mailgrams on time.