this is to say . . .

A lesson learned

By – Linda Polston

Local residents Joan Weinel, Maurice Hesse, Louis Tiemann and I traveled toward a learning experience with the 23rd Air Force last week.

Maj. Gen. Robert B. Patterson, commander of the 23rd, hosted a civic leader tour for some 11 Scott Air Force Base area civilians, along with about 17 others who joined up on the way from North Dakota, New Mexico and Florida. We visited Keesler AFB, Miss., and Pope AFB, N.C.

The purpose of such tours is to familiarize folks who live around military installations with the different aspects of each unit, their purpose, their readiness.

They teach – during a short, fast-paced tour – and we learn.

On the last leg of last week's lesson (July 1), we were witness to the horrible C-130 aircraft accident at Fort Bragg, N.C. We were among the more than 3,000 spectators who watched in shocking horror as five young lives were snatched away during a demonstration of a parachute extraction of an M-551 Sheridan tank from the Hercules aircraft.

Still we learned. This is to share that knowledge.

It is no game.

The dedicated people in our Armed Forces give all for their country and its people.

"It isn't the first time tragedy has struck those who raise their right hands to defend you and our country," General Patterson later told us. "And it won't be the last."

They raise their right hand.

Some are still in their teens when they offer their first commitment to the rigid discipline required of those who have determined to make ready to defend their country.

They live.

Life becomes a continuous battle. A battle during a time of peace to be prepared if that precious peace should be threatened.

They learn.

Every imaginable civilian occupation is needed in the Armed Forces, and more.

They learn in classrooms from books, they learn to apply the knowledge through experience.

They train.

Training means practice, practice and more practice.

Readiness is what they practice.

Ready to confront any situation at any given time.

They perform.

Performance of duty with a complete willingness to follow direction regardless of personal risk.

They act and they react.

Regardless of the action called for, we can rest assured they are taught to act responsibly and admirably.

Their reaction, while under duress, out in total control, provides comfort for the country dependent on these exceptional people.

They save.

While the purpose of any military is combat readiness, they save lives.

Who is on hand to help when natural disaster strikes? At our own doorstep, Scott Air Force Base is the directing center for many such lifesaving efforts. Emergency means military help is on the way.

They die.

Many have given limb or life for their country in battle.

Last week five, between the ages of 23 and 32, gave their all. Their very lives. Not in combat. But, in practice.

Practice of maneuvers that allow this country the comfort of readiness to drop people and supplies anywhere within a matter of hours to defend the freedom we hold so dear.

Practice of maneuvers that are accomplished on a daily basis, thousands of times to ensure such comfort.

The lesson learned.

Those who raise their right hands to uphold the constitution and defend the United States pledge daily commitment including their very lives to their jobs.

Some, while enjoying the freedom they offer, will never experience firsthand such complete dedication.

Yet, those directly impacted by the tragedy, know to appreciate even more the military effort on our behalf.

We should be forever grateful to our own Scott Air Force Base, not only for the tremendous impact on our economy, but for giving us the opportunity to witness true love of country and dedication to its people.

In My Opinion

An unwholesome parallel

By Irwin Yare

The drama being played out once again in Washington seems to have a certain similar reflection of one of some 14 years ago. That one, as we all remember, ended with the resignation of a once-popular president.

Today's drama again revolves around a popular president.

But that is not the similarity meant here. The earlier Washington hearing that was presented "gavel to gavel," as the saying goes, had its origin with what was first characterized as a "third rate burglary".

The burglary was instituted because the then president, Richard Nixon, believed that his defeat would deliver the nation to a far too liberal Democratic president.

The current hearings are parallel in that the principal players being called to the witness stand believe in their self-adopted mission to save the henisphere from a Red threat. This week we are being offered a somewhat reptititious accounting of just went on and wrong in the operation.

The operation was in two major levels; relacing the current Nicaraguan government with one of the administration's selection and putting the United States in line to aid a more level-headed government in Iran.

Both these aims have some merit in principal, but beyond that it seems the United States government engaged in highly suspicious activities. This week's witness at the hearings is the central player in carrying out the program.

The Lt. Col. Oliver North testimony being televised throughout the day reminds some listeners of the Watergate testimony of years ago.

The joint Congressional committee is digging deep in its efforts to get to the truth.

Under close questioning the Marine witness has made revealing statements, emphasizing that his orders to conduct the arms sales came "from the top".

But the Watergate parallel seems to be that the current administration believes it reasonable and proper to use almost any means to thwart those it opposes. The Watergate witnesses were steadfast in their testimony that a defeat of President Nixon would be a disaster to the United States. As it turned out the re-election of the president resulted in a major disruption of the national government.

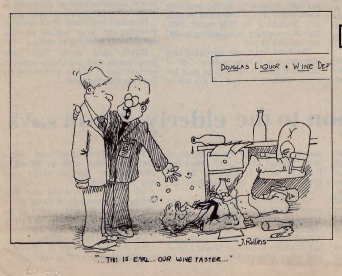
Today the similarity is apparent. The high government officials apparently seem to believe their activities are the right ones and their actions are excused by declaiming a vow of patriotism and allegiance to the president.

The testimony of Oliver North is replete with code names, recitations of altering and shredding documents and punctuated with eloquent statements about patriotism.

The Marine has peppered his testimony with references to "higher authority", "mental findings" and "plausible deniability". Those are some of the terms attributed to the president and his men in arriving at plans to supply Iran with weapons and the Contras with funds.

Congressional denial of those two actions seemed to have been pushed aside.

North brings a aura of patriotism and military bearing, but it is hard to accept his naive answers in light of the immense profits stacked up by unofficial representatives of the government.



Cards of thanks

We wish to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those relatives, friends and neighbors who were so kind and consoling to us at the death of our dearly beloved stepmother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt Lucille M. Keller.

Especially do we wish to thank Rev. Walter P. Gerth for his kind words of condolence, the organist, the pall bearers, friends who called at the funeral home, those who sent the beautiful floral tributes and memorials, friends who sent in food and helped at the house and all those who assisted in any way.

The family of Lucille M. Keller

Photo by Joan Weinel

Crash

An Air Force C-130 crashes during a routine low-level demonstration July 1. The Hercules aircraft was attempting a parachute extraction of an M-551 Sheridan tank at an altitude of 10 to 15 feet. The plane hit the dirt runway, skidded past a crowded reviewing stand and burst into flames after striking some parked vehicles and trees at the edge of the runway. Four of its six crewmembers and a soldier on the ground were killed.

Letters to the editor

Awesome crash

This last week I had both the opportunity and privilige to visit Keesler AFB, Pope AFB, Fort Bragg army base, as part of a civic leader tour with the 23rd Air Force Military Airlift Command of Scott Air Force Base.

I also witnessec the tragic crash of a C-130 on maneuvers, resulting in the death of four Air Force and one army personnel and the injuring of two additional Air Force personnel.

Our trip was one of the most enlighening experiences I have ever had. We traveled at a fast pace and were briefed and shown many facets of military procedures. We met with other civic leaders from other parts of the United States and were able to exchange ideas and viewpoints. It is the type of experience that makes you come back with a tremendous patriotic feeling. Our young men and women in the Armed Forces are something to be proud of and to stand behind.

The most awesome was the crash of the C-130. The maneuver that was being conducted was the off-loading of a tank as the C-130 flew five feet above the ground. It is a precise maneuver accomplished by very experienced personne. It was explained to me that the teams of six people who fly these planes and offload this equipment must practice every day in order to accomplish this task. I also noticed the "Ranger" patches on the uniforms of the Army personnel.

The group of Air Force personnel are the ones that take part in the fight against terrorist activity, the landing at Grenada the rescue of hostages, helping people during earthquakes, etc. The "war" that goes on in "peace time," the helping of people in tragic circumstances. The ones that die during "peace time" so that the rest of us in the United States may live in peace.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families of those people killed in this air crash. Our "thanks" is not a strong enough word to express our feelings to these families and to the other people in the Armed Forces who keep our lives secure during our explosive "peace time."

The 23rd Air Force (MAC) of Scott is the group that will be leaving for Hurburt Air Force Base, Fla. We are very sorry to see them leave our area, but our thoughts and prayers go with them and we wish them safe-keeping in their future endeavors.

If, as a civic leader, you are ever invited to participate in one of these tours, accept the invitation. It is not free, but you will feel it is money well spent and you will have first-hand knowledge of how your tax money is being spent. Believe me, it is in good hands.

Joan M. Weinel,
President
O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce

'Failure in journalism'

To he O'Fallon Progress:

My name, of course, is Cliff W. "Bee" Sergir and you know why I am writing this letter, don't you?

This is not just a clarification but a statement. A warning to all who turn their back to public responsibility. As in the case of Mark Von Brock and the editorial staff of the O'Fallon Progress, including its publisher Linda Polston. Your article of last week entitled "The Devil and Cliff Begin" reflects no just your lack of professionalism but your lack of public responsibility as a so called newspaper.

(Continued on Page 8)

Obituaries

Oscar Bugger

Oscar L. Bugger, 73, of O'Fallon died Thursday, July 2, 1987, at Memorial Convalesent Center, Belleville.

Bugger was owner and operator of Bugger Truck Service from 1934 to 1959 and was a partner in Marxer-Bugge Real Estate in Fairview Heights.

He was a member of St. Clare Church in O'Fallon; O'Fallon Sportsman's Club; charter member of Knights of Columbus Council No. 1239 in O'Fallon; and O'Fallon Senior Citizens.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Anna, nee Johne Bugger, and one brother, Omar Bugger.

Survivors include his wife, Emma, nee Hehrich Bugger; two sons and daughters-in-law, Clarence "Bud" and Mary Ann Bugger of Quincy, Bill and Judi Bugger of O'Fallon; one daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Bob Glazebrook of O'Fallon; an aunt, Emma Midgely of Lebanon; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 4, at St. Clare Church with Fr. Donald Eichenseer and Fr. William McGhee officiating.

Burial was in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Shiloh.

For those who wish, Masses may be made to St. Clare Church.

Schildkrecht Funeral Home of O'Fallon was in charge of funeral arrangements.

Charles Monaghan

Charles W. Monaghan, 75, of Fairview Heights died Friday, July 3, 1987, at Centreville Hospital, Centreville.

He was a 38-year retired employee of Monsanto Chemical Co. in Sauget; a member of O.C.A.W. Union Local 12 and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fairview Heights.

Preceding him in death were his wife, the former Lorene Ethel Clore; his parents, Harley Edward and Mary Etta, nee Hatch, Monaghan.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Bette Joyce and Duane Williams of Cahokia; two grandchildren, Linda and Vicke Brown of Arkansas; and David Williams of Arkansas; two great grandchildren, Lisa and Carl Brown of Arkansas; our dear brother-in-law, uncle, great uncle and cousin.

Funeral services will be held today (Thursday) at 11 a.m. at the Kassly Colonial Chapel, Fairview Heights, with the Rev. Alan E. Nathan officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Memorial Gardens in Belleville.

Angela Toomer

Angela Machelle Toomer, 8, of Scott AFB died Wednesday, July 1, 1987, at the U.S.A.F. Medical Center at Scott.

She was a student at Mascoutah Elementary School and a member of Brownie Troop No. 301 in Mascoutah.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, James Register and Vermont and Irene, nee Johnson, Toomer.

Surviving are her parents, Willie F. and Eva, nee Register, Toomer; two brothers, Carlos B. Toomer of Scott and Jerry Leiord of Chicago; and a grandmother, Rosetta Register Munford of Valdosta, Ga.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 6, at the City Rodhs Methodist Church, Corinth, Miss., with the Rev. Jumper officiating.

Burial was in Corinth National Cemetery.

(Continued on Page 14)

O'Fallon Progress

(USPS 4004000)

Published every Thurday at O'Fallon, Il. 62269 By O'Fallon Progress, Inc. 112 East State Street, Entered as Second Class Postage - Paid at O'Fallon, Illinois

Established 1865 — Dedicated To Community Betterment

Subscription – $12 Year In St. Clair County, $18 Year Outside The County

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— First Amendment, Bill of Rights, Dec. 15, 1791

Business Scene

Ready and waiting

The staff of the new Minit-lube business at 0611 Lincoln Trail in Fairview Heights was ready and waiting for customers after its opening last week. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies took place at 11 a.m. Wednesday. From left are Lee Lawrence, market manager; Zackary Conklin Jr., assistant manager; and Rob Moffatt, manager.

Ganger named to Dean's list

Mark Ganger, 507 Rebecca Drive, O'Fallon, has been named to the Dean's List at DeVry Institute of Technology in Kansas City Mo.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must have between a 3.0 and 3.49 grade point average (out of a possible 4.0) for the last term of study. Ganger, a student in the Electronics Engineering Technology program has a 3.3 GPA.

Take-along diplomas donated to graduates

While most graduation memories land in dusty drawers, the O'Fallon Township High School Class of '87 was given a permanent and readily available memento by Landmark Bank of St. Clair County. Graduating seniors recently received two diplomas. The additional copy is a wallet size laminated reproduction of the graduate's personal diploma.

"The students of O'Fallon High School are an outstanding group," Tom Gooding, president of Landmark Bank of St. Clair County, said. "This is our recognition of a banner year at O'Fallon for both the school and our bank."

"Our experience with District 203 this past year has been excellent. During 1986-1987, Landmark has donated a total of $3,000 to the schoo. This represents a thousand dollars for every million dollars that we grew during our first year as corporate citizens of O'Fallon. The diplomas are a personal token of appreciation to an outstanding O'Falon class," Gooding said.

The miniature diplomas are exact reproductions of District 203's diplonas, cown to dates, names, and signatures. According to Gooding, Landmark also presented diplomas to graduates of Lebanon High Schoo.

Zitta appointed vice president of Landmark

Daniel A. Zitta has been named vice president of Landmark Bank of Fairview Heights according to B.J. Holt, bank president.

Zitta will be active in commercial lending and administration. He joined Landmark Bank in October, 1986 as assistant vice president of Landmark Bancshares of Illinois Inc.

Zita, a certified public accountant, received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Eastern Illinois University, where he was on the Dean's List. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public accountants.

Daniel A. Zitta

Exchange team members sought

The O'Fallon Rotary Club is seeking applicants to become part of a Group Study Exchange team that will travel to India in January and February, 1988.

The Rotary Foundation will sponsor a team of five young businessmen, ages 25-35, plus a Rotarian team leader. The team will travel abroad five to six weeks in the northwest portion of India.

Team members will be sponsored by a Rotary Club in District 651, which contains the 45 Rotary Clubs of Southern Illinois. The exchange will be with Rotary District 310 of India, which will be sending a team to Southern Illinois as part of the exchange.

Those interested in the program should contact Rotary District Governor Neil Elson at P.O. Box 688, Olney, IL 62450, or the secretary of their local club for an application blank.

Want Ads ARE A REAL BARGAIN

Jaycees boost band

Don Kruep, O'Fallon Jaycees vice president, and Sid LeGrand, president, present a check for $500 to Robert Sitzes, president of the OFallon Township High School Band Boosters. The OTHS Marching Panthers band has been invited to perform in the 1988 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., and the money will be used to defray its expenses for the trip Kruep said.

Fulford to build Local 520 building

Fulford Construction Inc. of O'Fallon, has been awardec the contract to build the Employers and Operating Engineers Local 520 Health and Welfare and Pension Funds Building, to be ocated in Executive Woods on Illinois 159 (N. Illinois St.) Belleville.

John Lanman, Director of Fulford's Commercial Division, said that construction of the building is to begin July 20 and is expected to be comleted by Nov. 1.

EVR and Associates of Belleville is the architect.

The building, when complete, will be one story (over a ful basement) anc will have 4,200 square feet of floor space.

Autographs

Georgia Dallas, O'Falon author, will autograph her new rovel, "This Bead of Gold," on Saturcay, July 11, from 2 to 4 p.m., at Waldenbooks, St. Clair Square, Fairview Heights.

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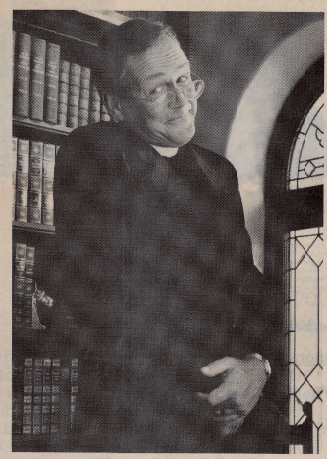

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