



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1985

First the SAD NEWS in a longer than usual Newsletter.

LEST WE FORGET

The very sudden death of ALLAN MACDONALD on 4th October while at work was a great shock. Allan joined our Association only last year and he and his wife had attended our functions since then. He impressed as a robust and happy man, and we will miss his cheery presence. Our sympathy has been expressed to Ruth and her family in their loss and we know that Aub Roberts will particularly miss him.

Allan and Aub served Central Bureau together from 1943 onwards as wireless maintenance mechanics and were based in various areas of the Philippines working on transmitters and receivers.

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JEAN BURNSIDE, wife of BOB, died on 6th October after a long fight with diabetes. Jean had many spells in hospital and was in a nursing home for further care while Bob himself underwent surgery in Concord Repatriation Hospital. Bob was recuperating at home and was able to visit Jean in the nursing home until she lapsed into her final coma and quietly died. To Bob and his two sons we extend our deep sympathy. Edgar Kelson and Stan Winn represented Bob's CB colleagues at Jean's funeral.

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STAN (PAPPY) CLARK died in hospital on the 11th October, after a sudden deterioration in his condition the day before. Pappy had been diagnosed as having lung cancer and there had been hope of a remission.

To the long time members of CB, Pappy was a special and remarkable person. He was a radio man all his working life and before WW2 he had been with 3DB in Melbourne where he was well known to Percy Pledger. Some time after the war, he moved to Sydney and at his retirement was Managing Director of the Macquarie Broadcasting Network.

In the A.I.F. he served in the Middle East, Greece, Crete, and Syria first as an operator, and later was seconded to intelligence duties. Around May 1942, soon after arrival back in Australia, he joined CB. With Pappy's arrival, the Army Air work started to blossom and from then on he led his team with undoubted skill.

He rose to the rank of Major and was respected by all the Services for his great knowledge, his natural sympathy and quick wit even at the roughest times. Those who knew him in all circumstances will continue to be grateful for this.

A note from Dr. Abe Sinkov, Arizona, says of Pappy, "He was full of life and fun with a host of amusing stories some of which I still cherish. All this apart from his competence which was outstanding, not only in our work, but also in the radio communication field where he certainly made his mark".

Though Pappy moved to the Gold Coast in retirement, he continued in membership with us and was always interested in our news. He had also joined with Alf Bobin's W.U. group in Queensland and had been able to attend one of their functions last year which he thoroughly enjoyed. To his wife Anni, his son Peter and his grandchildren we extend our sympathy.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

From the sad news to the GLAD NEWS.

Another happy get together was enjoyed by all who attended the Gibson home on 10th November. The weather was perfect; Sue and Gordon, as always, warmly hospitable and welcoming; and their son Dean did his usual terrific job with the barbecue, catering ably for all tastes. Sue also provided some delicious deserts which all appreciated.

Norma Keeling took some photographs which will be available to anyone interested.

Michael Casey, our President, asked for a minute's silence in tribute to Pappy Clark, Allan MacDonald and Jean Burnside.

Michael is not standing for President next year and asks us to think about nominations.

Those present were: Aub & Gwen Roberts, Ruth MacDonald, Athol & Peg Whyburn (first time for Peg), Norma Keeling and daughter Jackie down from the Mountains, Noel & Betty Langby, Reg & Molly Murphy, Charles & Margaret McCafferty, Les & Beryl Morley, Len & Margaret Carriqq, Alan & Pamela Langdon, Allan & Meg Osborne, Joy Linnane, Sid & Norma Carey, Joyce Grace, Frank Scully (first time), Dennis & Peggy Moore, Olive Morgan (first time), Mike & Joyce Casey, Gordon & Sue Gibson.

We were particularly pleased to have Ruth MacDonald with us and she has expressed a wish to remain as an Associate member.

Apologies were received from: Arthur Sims (Brisbane), Alf Davis, John Shoebridge, Jim Williams, Bruce & Shirley Bentwitch, Frank Hughes, Bill & Florence Estep, Madeline & Ron Chidzey, Noni & Lachlan McNaught, Stan & Marion Winn, Vic Lederer (Canberra), Austin Goldberg, Eve Scott (Brisbane), Marjory Henderson (Evans Head), and Bob Burnside.

BRIAN BOMBELL has now retired and in this Newsletter, we wish to acknowledge our debt to him and our grateful thanks that he has printed our notices and newsletters as a free service for so many years. Thank you, Brian, and we will be interested to hear how a workaholic enjoys retirement!

We had a letter from EVE SCOTT, Brisbane, and she would like to hear from any member visiting up that way.

An interesting letter, as usual, from ALF BOBIN, Gympie. He had been talking to RITA BALIN (TAYLOR) who he said "was one of the CB early birds who went to French Street, Pimlico in mid 1942". He hopes to see Rita and Eve next time he visits Brisbane.

Alf tracked down another Kana mate, JIM MOORE, who was holidaying about 30 minutes away from Gympie. He also reported that KEN PRICE has moved from Adelaide to Runcorn, an outer suburb of Brisbane.

When Alf and his wife come to Sydney next Anzac Day, we may find out the secret of his success in finding former CB colleagues!

MARJORY HENDERSON (nee PIGGOTT) of Evans Head had an interesting visit to 21 Henry Street. Marjory's husband, George, has been ill in Royal Brisbane Hospital and found the sister in charge of his ward lived in Henry Street and knew the present owners of 21, Mr. and Mrs. Luck. The house is called "Nyrambra". George was allowed out of hospital for a while and they went across to Henry Street.

Marjory writes, "It was just the same, beautiful trees etc, and it was strange walking down the side of the house and in at the front door. We had left it in 1945 and here we were, 8 children and 18 grandchildren later, walking into a place that has not changed much at all. Mr. Luck is renovating and what a job. The old garage down the back has been painted, the cypher room turned into a garage also, the hall much the same, but lacking some coloured glass due to a big storm. Mr. Luck was interested in meeting us and said they had recently had people there from South Australia and America. I suggested he get a Visitors' Book in case any more turned up.

They have turned the house into 4 apartments. The house originally stood in 15 acres of garden but most of this has been built on."

George is now home from hospital and after another X-ray his chest is clear and he has not been so well for years. That is good news for George and Marjory.

They obviously keep busy with community work at Evans Head and on environmental issues, and the family has been instrumental in the handing over of the headland to the aboriginal people for protection. George and Marjory would love to see any CB members if they are passing through Evans Head, and they have "plenty of beds".

Thank you Marjory for news of 21 Henry Street, and for the offer of hospitality.

As we write to you, our Secretary GORDON GIBSON is tidying his desk before his retirement on 12th December after a demanding career in the teaching profession and lately as a Deputy Principal in the Secondary School Department of the Correspondence School in N.S.W. All that responsibility and our Secretary too! We wish him a happy retirement.

We have some new members: TED CORRELL, PHIL DYNES, FRANK SCULLY. Welcome to your Association.

About three days after his return from a great overseas trip, TED BROWN, Melbourne, was operated on for cancer. He has made a full recovery and expects to make his usual visit with ALAN & PAMELA LANGON in January, and also to see PETER TANKARD and the WINNS.

VIC LEDERER, Canberra, has been in hospital a couple of times since we saw him on Anzac Day, and BOB BURNSIDE is not very well just now. We wish them both good health.

Via MAX HURLEY, recently returned from the U.S.A., we are asked if anyone knows the whereabouts of WILLIAM ROBINSON of Sydney. Curtis H. Nelson, a former CB colleague, would like to find him, so if you know the present whereabouts of William Robinson, let's know and we can try and get the two of them in contact again.

The MAX and NANCY HURLEY Story is told on a separate page. Max writes that they had an excellent trip, nothing went wrong the whole way. They did the usual tourist things and saw some beautiful scenery.

As you know, our American SIS colleagues hold reunions over there in various parts of their big country. Norman Boehner of LA, who does a tremendous job finding ex SIS personnel etc., had the great idea of a re-enactment of the wedding of Max and his WAC bride Nancy Lou who were married in San Miguel in 1945. And so they went to the SIS reunion in October and you can read all about it in this Newsletter. It must have been a very happy occasion for all who were there.

ELLIE BENNETTS (nee SMITH), Corryong, read in the New Idea that the Hurleys were off to America. Copies were sold out up here, so nothing daunted we obtained one direct from Southdown Press. Later we received copies of the American press report of the ceremony from Max and also Norman Boehner.

(That para is inserted to show you how a publicity officer gathers news for you, so keep those letters and bits of information coming in, for the interest of us all.)

We apologise for the quality of the photographs in the attached, but they are copies of copies of copies.

Max and Nancy hope to come up to our next Reunion in Sydney - so we look forward to seeing them on April 25, with pictures of their trip and great occasion, and news of the U.S. personnel.

For your diaries: The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on 10TH FEBRUARY, 1986. Further details to follow in January.

Season's Greetings to all, and our best wishes for improved health to those who are feeling a bit below par.

Madeline Chidzey
Publicity Officer.

"NEW IDEA" - Australia



Nancy and Max renew their VOWS

IT was 1945 and Nancy was a WAC from Gary, Indiana. Max was a sergeant with the AIF.

They served in the same army unit in the South Pacific, fell in love, and married in true army style, with General MacArthur's own military band providing the music.

Forty years later Nancy and Max Hurley of Casterton, Victoria, are as much in love as ever. In fact, they are planning to repeat their wedding vows at a reunion of their wartime unit in the U.S. in October.

"We're going to perform the ceremony in front of the same guests, and with the same minister who married us, the same organist and the same bridesmaid," says Nancy.

The trip will be the first she has made to the U.S. in 40 years.

Nancy has fond memories of working for the Signal Interpretation Service with the handsome Australian who became her husband.

"We met in New Guinea in 1945 and were married that August at San Miguel in the town of Tarlac, near Manila," she says.

Wearing her off-duty dress as a wedding gown, Nancy was driven to the chapel in a decorated cart pulled by a little brown pony.

"We picked flowers on the way to make our bouquets," she recalls.

The bamboo and brush chapel was crowded with friends and a silk parachute canopied the altar. Now Nancy and Max are ready to repeat the ceremony, complete with a ruby ring to mark their 40th anniversary.

"NEW IDEA" - Australia

Promises, promises . . .

Australian couple renew four-decade-old vows

By KITTY DUMAS
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

It was the rainy season in the Philippines when Nancy Waterworth married Maxwell Hurley 40 years ago.

She still remembers the sticky, stifling heat, which melted the icing on her wedding cake.

And she remembers the thatched roof of the chapel where she said her vows, the sound of someone singing "Oh Promise Me" and the rhythms of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's military band.

The Gary, Ind., native was 24 years old and a member of the U.S. Women's Army Corps when she married Hurley, an Australian sergeant. They had served together in New Guinea and the Philippines as part of the Signal Interpretation Service, which intercepted and decoded Japanese messages.

After their marriage, she moved with him to Melbourne, Australia, and never returned to this country — until this week.

Yesterday in Louisville, as part of a reunion of SIS members, she and her husband renewed their marriage vows.

The minister who performed the first ceremony, the Rev. Ira D. Hudgins, and the organist who played the wedding march, Mary Blakemore Johnston, were there to do the honors a second time. Both live in Virginia now.

About 12 of the 380 guests at the first wedding also attended yesterday's ceremony at Holiday Inn Downtown, 120 W. Broadway.

The couple wasn't a bit nervous before the ceremony, when they sat in their hotel room talking about their lives together.

"We've done it before," Hurley said, laughing, two hours before the wedding.

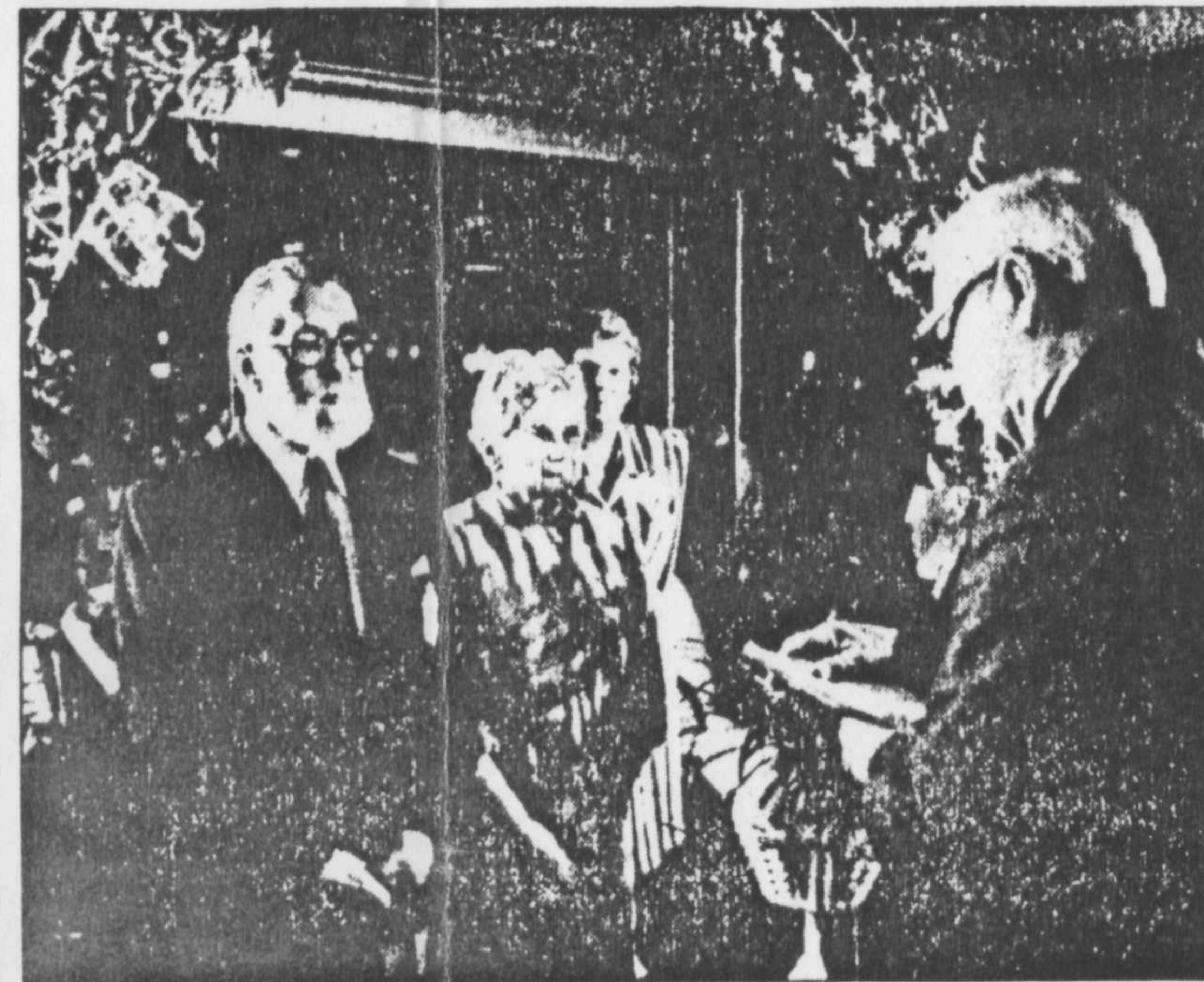
"But that was 40 years ago," Mrs. Hurley reminded him.

"Was it? Seems like yesterday, don't it?"

Mrs. Hurley said their similar views and their partnership philosophy enabled them to stay together.

"I think we're very fortunate. A lot of people didn't expect us to stay together, because we were from different countries. We were taking a chance."

She said that life in Australia was difficult at first and much slower than life in America, but she quickly got used to it. She was a little homesick, she said, but after four years at Indiana Univer-



sity and three years as a WAC, she was used to being away from home.

She had few family members in this country, she said, and although she and her husband planned a visit to America several times, they never got around to it.

She taught kindergarten for 18 years, and Hurley worked as sales manager of a printing company. Then, about 20 years ago, they left the city and moved to the country.

"We called ourselves the middle-aged dropouts," Mrs. Hurley said.

They now live on their son-in-law's sheep ranch in Casterton, Victoria.

"We don't dress up much on the farm," Mrs. Hurley said as they pondered what they would wear for the ceremony.

"I'll be shocked to look at myself," Hurley said.

Hurley wore a navy-blue suit instead of his uniform this time, and Mrs. Hurley wore a dress of pastel stripes.

The sound of sniffles and the appearance of handkerchiefs and tissues followed the exchange of vows and the giving of the ring.

"I never had a wedding ring,"

she said before the ceremony. Hurley gave her a silver band with four rubies in it, one for each decade of their marriage.

About 82 former SIS members from 24 states and the District of Columbia came to Louisville for the reunion. It was organized by Grace DeJarnette, 1205 Castlewood Ave., one of three Kentuckians attending.

The wedding ceremony was planned by Norman M. Boehner, who found the Hurleys and persuaded them to come to Louisville and renew their vows. Boehner tries to find people who served in the SIS and involve them in the annual reunions.

Among yesterday's guests was Margaret "Peg" Watkins of Honolulu, who lived in the same tent as Mrs. Hurley and Mrs. DeJarnette.

She joined the WAC in 1943 because, she said, "it looked as though we were losing the war."

"They had started drafting fathers, and I said if they're drafting fathers, then I should go. I don't have any children."

"Those were some of the most wonderful and some of the most grievous times of my life."

The war was "a thing of such magnitude, you can't imagine," she said. "There've been wars since then, but this was a world war."

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