



Lost Us or Moved?

Be sure to let us know or you will miss out on the good news! Hint: If you forget Kay or Dean's Email go to our web page and bookmark it! Drop Dean note or share your news & celebrations.

Dean: lewis2@earthlink.net

Kay: klmr@sbcglobal.net

Web: <http://www.hutchhighks61.com/>
(Checked it frequently as Dean is constantly reworking it)

Thanks for Newsletter articles, notes & photos: FB, Hutch News, net,



'No Class Related Sadness Reports in August'
...with one exception.

I did receive note from Renn LaCroix's brother Zane, that Renn had passed away in Tulsa OK in Nov. 2011. *Renn had contacted me to reach out to classmate he remembered from early HS days. I have no other information.*

Just for fun... Am trying to insert a route to share a bit of Nostalgia: *(hope it works)* ..[Nostalgia - Double Dog Dare.pps](#)

Cars... A website featuring the original factory brochures for nearly every American car you have ever owned. Pick the manufacturer, the year and the model. Enjoy!

Note also check out the miscellaneous section very interesting!
<http://www.lov2xlr8.no/broch1.html>



50th Anniversary 9-28-1963 ~ 8-28-2013 Wedding
Andy & Lois (Brown) Soderland
(Pics shared belatedly by dgr. ☺)



Full Story:
<http://www.hutchnews.com/Todaystop/A1-wiley-building--4>

Owners of Wiley pick contractor for project - It's Key Construction, based in Wichita; building revamp is expected to last about a year.

The building opened nearly 100 years ago, on Nov. 20, 1913 as: Rorabaugh-Wiley Department Store on the first four floors and the offices of doctors, dentists, lawyers, grain dealers and others on the upper floors. For decades it was a center of commerce.

Wiley's Department Store went out of business in 1985 and the decline began.

Soon we will see apartments & businesses again and a semi attached parking garage connected via Fox Theater access.

Roofing permit count tapers off

For the week of Oct. 21-25, the city of Hutchinson issued 101 permits. That marked the fewest permits issued in a week since Aug. 5-9 and also was the third time in the last four weeks that the number of permits declined since storm on July 27. The latest total value is \$1,273, 531, boosted by \$410,000 for reroofing of Hobby Lobby in mall.

<http://www.hutchnews.com/Localregional/A2--roofing-update--1>



Only update we have it Hospital was a NO SALE.
Auction was held on August 28th.

Golfers – Volunteers needed to sign up for NCAA Tourney May-2014

Preparations begin for Prairie Dunes to host NCAA Tourney

Not as many volunteers needed compared to Opens, but there are still 700 spots. See full story: <http://www.hutchnews.com/Ncaa/1030-NCAA-Golf>. 'It's like a small scale US Open'

The Prairie Dunes Website - www.prairiedunes.com - has a page for volunteers to sign up. The jobs being offered include security, marshal, player hospitality, parking, scoring, manning the driving range and even assisting with the television broadcast.

Don't Forget HHS Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donations are Tax Deductible!
Our Scholarship Fund Needs Our Participation!
HHS '61 Memorial Scholarship Fund
Send checks to: % Hutch Foundation PO Box 298
Hutchinson KS 67504-0298

Veteran's Day, November 11, 2013

**In Honor of all our Veterans –
For all our class vets as well as many
others who gave lives, and to all the
survivors. We Salute You All!**



I knew you would all want to see this story. It appeared on the front page of my local paper, the Orange County Register, yesterday. (Shared originally by, Tom Shepard: tom@mtsheppard.com and fwd to me by Charles Hyter: charleskhyter@yahoo.com, thanks guys! I found the online version: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/dunn-529885-war-years.html> See all below in the clear, thanks to Tom. (John did not know this was coming but I hope he will be okay w/it.)

True Life: The man on the POW bracelet

Published: Oct. 7, 2013 Updated Oct. 9, 2013 2:10 p.m.
By MICHELLE CAHILL / FOR THE REGISTER

He was just a soldier on a bracelet in a basket –
Army 1st Lt. John Dunn, who was taken prisoner in 1968.



I decided his Irish Dunn was a good match for my Irish Cahill.

John Dunn, shown here as Lt. Dunn in late '60s Vietnam, called this his "John Wayne pose." PHOTOS COURTESY JOHN DUNN. - See others pics at the end of article. -



The Vietnam War was the first time I heard of prisoners of war. Though I was an adult, I was too immature to grasp the magnitude of it, and war was far from my reality. Wearing a bracelet was one way I could offer support. But, truth be told, it was also cool – everyone was doing it.

The bracelet came with Lt. Dunn's biography, which said he was from Kansas, where his family still lived. Over the years, I corresponded several times with his mother, and his plight became real to me as I saw him as part of a family.

More than 40 years ago – in February 1973 – I watched television as Lt. Dunn's plane landed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. He was part of Operation Homecoming, which welcomed back 591 former war captives.

Each name was announced as the ex-POW stepped off the plane. It was an awesome sight.

I sent a final letter to his mother, received one back, then put it and the bracelet in a drawer with the rest of her letters.

Over the years, I came across these items occasionally, and I wondered what became of my bracelet soldier after he disembarked that airplane.

In 2011, I ran a computer search: "Can prisoner of war bracelets be returned?" Soon, I found the website for the POW Network (pownetwork.org).

The site explained how to return bracelets to those who had returned home.

I wondered: Would he like it back? Would he like to have his mother's letters? I packaged them and sent them with a note to the organization. A short time later, John Dunn popped up in my email.

"Thank you for the bracelet and letters you sent to the POW Network. My mother was quite a lady, and she took good care of me when I came home. She corresponded with many, like yourself, who wrote letters to me. Arriving in the U.S. was somewhat of a shock after all those lonely years in the jungle. It took me quite a while to adjust."

He attached a document he'd written previously for inclusion in a book. He said even though the book wasn't published, he thought I might be interested because it went into a bit more detail about his POW experience.

The document was stunningly descriptive, and what I didn't know about POWs earlier I learned from his manuscript.

Dunn wrote:

"I was an intelligence officer, but at that time, was advising 80 troops on a road-clearing operation. The VC (Viet Cong, paramilitary soldiers fighting against the South Vietnam government) had been reported in the area of the roadblock, but I dismissed these reports because the source was unreliable. Big mistake!

"We walked into a nicely executed ambush. Almost immediately, my assistant, intelligence analyst PFC Jim Ray, and I, were hit by shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade. Our sergeant was killed. Later in the firefight, I was wounded again and I had little use of either arm. Suddenly, the lead platoon jumped up and surrendered, and the VC continued to move in our direction. Jim had just expended his ammunition and had no opportunity to reload. The VC were almost upon us and he asked me what to do; I could only reply, 'It's all over.'"

Luckily for Dunn, "One of the VC soldiers saw the emblem on my uniform which indicated I was an intelligence officer. He took it off and kept it as a souvenir. I never saw it again and that event perhaps saved my life.

"The Viet Cong took us to one of their hospitals, and we were given good treatment considering the conditions they operated under, though my right arm remains partially paralyzed. ..."

"At the POW camp, the commander had a sophisticated approach in the treatment of POWs. Only initially, during interrogations, was I physically abused. Life most certainly was not easy and my diet was not sufficient to maintain health. Mentally, though, I adapted myself to the situation and built it up in my mind to the point where life was easier to accept.

"Overall, the experience was deadly boring, interspersed with moments of terror. I was moved among several camps and held in solitary for two years. The days and weeks went by slowly, but the years passed quickly. I had nothing to do but sit and think.

"I analyzed every aspect of my life. I came to know myself quite well. "In the summer of 1972, when it became apparent that the war might end, the VC called each of us in to review our biographical data. I was in a state of panic and wondered if I could recall the

~ " Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune, but great minds rise above them. " ~

details of the cover story I told four years previously so they wouldn't know I was an intelligence officer. Fortunately, I kept it simple so the details were enough to satisfy them.

"Like other POWs, I was extremely happy and very fortunate to be able to return home. The simplicity of freedom of movement, conversation and sight is something that I hope I never take for granted again.

"Although the five years I was in prison camps created a tremendous strain on my family who had no communication with me, I cannot help but feel that I am a better person because of it."

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Pfc. Ray, promoted to staff sergeant during captivity, did not come home.

His series of escape attempts infuriated his captors. He and Dunn became separated, and Ray was moved to another camp. His health deteriorated, and he was last seen alive but in very bad condition in fall 1969.

No American witnessed his death, but the conclusion of the Americans who were with him in camp at that time was that he had died. At the end of the war, the communists stated that Ray died in captivity. His remains were never located.

Dunn remained in the Army through 1988, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was an intelligence officer, stationed in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon, in San Francisco and in Munich.

Now retired, Dunn looks back on his Army experience: "My whole military career was filled with a variety of jobs that most people only read about in novels. From the war and POW experience to my career in the overt and clandestine activities of the intelligence world, I simply have had a fascinating life. I can't discuss most of it, but I wouldn't change a thing."

At a 2010 memorial service for Staff Sgt. Ray at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Dunn eulogized his friend:

"There is not a day that goes by that I don't have a thought about Jimmy Ray. His photograph has been on my wall or on my desk in every place I have lived since 1973, and I will carry his memory with me until the final days of my life."

On Veterans Day this year, I will take time to remember my bracelet soldier and other veterans, including those lost in war and those unaccounted for, like Staff Sgt. Jimmy Ray.



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TRUE LIFE: Got a first-person story that's shorter than 1,000 words, well-written and absolutely, positively true?

Send it to Andre Mouchard at amouchard@ocregister.com.

We don't pay, but we sometimes publish.

Michelle Cahill is retired from Disneyland and lives in south Orange County. **Contact the writer: Mcahill79@comline.com**



John's Class Picture

<<<<

John & Sheila today & others below

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~ " You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. " ~