

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam**  
**...keeping the memories alive**

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Phan Rang AB News No. 102

**“Stories worth telling”**

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**Heavy Weapons Section Harassed** *(Article provided by Thomas Parsons, Seventh Air Force News, June 4, 1969)*

**PHAN RANG** — Harassment and interdiction is the name of the game; preparedness is the byword. Keep the enemy's head down and his feet moving, but be ready to use your firepower when he stops and attacks.

This is the mission of the Heavy Weapons Section of the 35<sup>th</sup> Security Police Squadron, Phan Rang AB.

Every night, all night, security police Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) and mortar positions disrupt the enemy's movements firing weapons into the darkness in which he hides.

Planning each night's tactics is the responsibility of Army Ranger-trained SSgt. Lawrence S. Kirk, Tye, Tex., noncommissioned officer-in-charge (NCOIC) of the section.

"The night begins for me when I coordinate the firing tactics of our APCs and mortar pits with Central Security Control," Sergeant Kirk said. "This includes checking the positions of friendly ambush patrols and posts outside the perimeter," he continued, our firing into 'No Man's Land' won't interfere with their plans."

His men soon arrive at the small compound to receive their assignments and the ammunition they will use later, doublecheck the firing schedule and take care of the details vital to a successful night's work.

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When all is ready the APCs begin roaming the perimeter and the mortar crews take their positions.

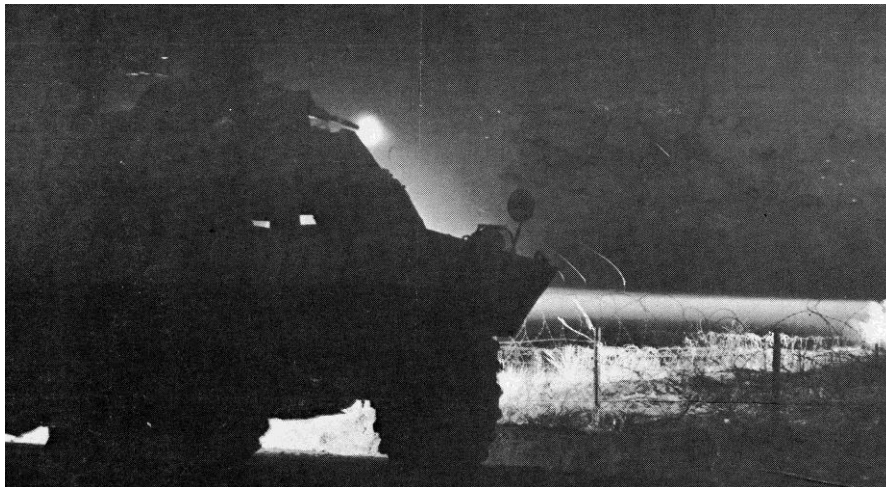
Sgt. Leon B. Fuller, Houston, is NCOIC of one of the APCs... "During our nightly rounds we stop at designated spots along the concertina-wire perimeter, check the schedule and proposed, target direction and wait for final clearance to fire," he said.

A machine gun thunders, sending its fire into the darkness, sometimes accompanied by a recoilless rifle or anti-tank rocket. "All this is not only to harass any enemy soldiers lurking in the darkness, but also to keep us prepared and practiced at using all our weapons," Sergeant Fuller explained.

Meanwhile, the four mortar pits around the base keep similarly active. "We throw our high explosive, ordnance where the enemy might be moving," commented Sgt. Paul A. Plant, Quincy, Mass., NCOIC of one of the mortar pits. "Our targets are often areas which 'Charlie' has been known to use or might use to launch an attack," stated Plant.

"Our prearranged schedule might call for illumination rounds fired over the perimeter or a pounding of the trails snaking through the bushes," he said.

An attack might come, or a tower guard or sentry dog handler might detect something suspicious. Given the word, the units bring out their large supplies of ammunition used only for combat situations and prepare to force the enemy back into the darkness.



**Fire Away**

Aided by a jeep-mounted spotlight, an armored personnel carrier (APC) crew fires its .50 caliber machine gun towards an enemy hiding place.

(USAF PHOTO BY A1C  
WILLIAM DIEBOLD)

**“If you haven’t been to a Phan Rang Happy Valley reunion it is  
time to start thinking about it.”**

...Jim Kucipeck

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Angel Flight Sends Cookies**

*(Sun-News, Las Cruces, N.M. Friday, June 17, 1966. Other stories about the Angel flight are in Phan Rang News 37 and 96)*

Air Force men of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at the Phan Rang air base in Viet Nam are in love with a special band of Angels.

Living up to promises to provide "The 'necessities' of a combat tour such as fruit cake and home-baked cookies," the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps Angel Flight at New Mexico State University have sent a seven-cubic foot box of home-baked cookies. The men are eating it up.

### **From Las Cruces**

The cookies, baked in all sizes, shapes and flavors, made the long journey intact from campus ovens in Las Cruces, to the sun-baked tents at Phan Rang. In less than an hour after the cookies arrived, Col. George S. Weart, Wing vice-commander, distributed them on the flightline to pilots, maintenance men, and support personnel.

The promise, which the Angels made as their primary service project for 1966 began with formal adoption of the 366th Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, before it was deployed to Viet Nam.

### **Adopted Sons**

While at Holloman, Jeanie Sturlz, Angel Flight commander proclaimed that since the Angels at NMSU feel a particular closeness to the fighting men of the 366th, as adopted sons of our state. . .we do resolve to support the men of the fighting squadrons of the 366th TFW and to create a special place in our hearts and minds for these defenders of our opportunity to receive an education in tile State of New Mexico.”

The Terms of the adoption also include sending warm letters of encouragement and aid and assistance in civic action projects undertaken by the wing.

**“I was very concerned when I first decided to go to the 2nd reunion for fear that it might bring up or trigger something...What actually happened was the opposite...I was completely at ease and disappointed when it is over.” ...Bob Tucker**



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**A Letter Home**

Dear Mom & Dad,

Just getting settled in here and getting accustomed to the smells and the heat of Vietnam.

I hope you had a safe trip back home after seeing me off at the aerial port. I had a nice long commercial like plane that made a fueling stop in Anchorage and Yokota AB in Japan before landing at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. At Cam Ranh I had to spend the night and caught a flight to Phan Rang the next morning.

Phan Rang really is a nice place. Flying into the base you fly over rice paddies which lead out to the coast, but mountains surround the base on the other sides. We have a nice chow hall, BX, clubs and snack bars just like the base I came from. Right now we have an open air theater, but there are rumors that we will be getting a new indoor one. I even have an air conditioned office if you can believe that!

Sooner or later it looks like I will be getting an open-reel tape deck as copying tapes and building up a nice music library seems to be a good way to pass the time here.

Please give Bill and Mary my address.

Love, Me

**Air Mail**

**FINE LINED TABLET**

**5 Sheets and an Envelope weigh less than 1/2 ounce**

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20

**"...if you have reservations about attending the reunion put them aside."**

...Jim Kucipeck

**HISTORICAL AUSSIE ICON AT PHAN RANG**



No 2 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) personnel boldly expressed their Australian identity while at Phan Rang Air Base.

Not only were the Aussies well known for their consumption, and occasional sharing, of a great Aussie beer (VB) - they also built a replica of Australia's famous Sydney Harbour Bridge to remind them of home.

To Australians, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was like the Statue of Liberty, especially for those who immigrated with their families to Australia from far away countries, sailing under the bridge to start a new life down under.

Anyone travelling up and down the road leading to the 14th Aerial Port from 19 August 1969 onwards could not but notice an unusual structure, which crossed the storm water channel between No.2 Squadron's Headquarters building and its maintenance hangar, where ground crew





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worked on the Canberra Mk 20 bomber 24-7, achieving an extraordinary high maintenance rate throughout the four years the Squadron was based at Phan Rang.

The object was a miniature replica of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, lovingly constructed in their spare time by No. 2 Squadron workshops’ crew – Corporal Bert Grossel and Leading Aircraftsmen Bob Cogan, Mal Cryer and Steve Gainsford.

Back in Australia the original Bridge had a well-known history, dating back to its official opening on 19 March 1932, when the Premier (Governor) of the Australian State of New South Wales (Jack Lang) was supposed to open the bridge by cutting a ribbon at its southern end.

However, just as Lang was about to apply his ceremonial scissors, a man in military uniform, Francis de Groot, rode up on a horse, slashing the ribbon with his sword and opening the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the name of the people of New South Wales, before the official ceremony began. He was promptly arrested.

De Groot was a member of a right-wing paramilitary group called the New Guard, which was opposed to Lang's leftist policies and resentful of the fact that a member of the British royal family had not been asked to open the bridge.



Not to be outdone, No. 2 Squadron decided to repeat the tradition when visiting RAAF Deputy Chief, Air Vice-Marshal W.E. (Bill) Townsend, was invited to open the Phan Rang bridge.

Air Defence Guard (ADG) boss Flying Officer Ken Lawson had a captured enemy sword, so that part was OK, but when it came to the horse, the only one readily available was the mascot of the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron (Red Horse) – a Montagnard pony.

Borrowing the pony for this occasion, Ken duly disrupted the Phan Rang opening ceremony, cutting the ribbon before the distinguished guest. However, because Ken was too large and the pony too small, the pony was only led across the bridge rather than ridden.

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**“Looking forward to the reunion come on brothers get  
registered NOW!”**

...Hank Milnark

## **Forward Air Controllers**



**The OV-10 Bronco, newest FAC aircraft in the U. S. Air Force arsenal.**

The forward air controller (FAC) in Vietnam has proven to be one of the most effective weapons against Viet Cong activity. FACs have been cited numerous times as being the single most effective element in spotting the enemy and winning a battle.

FACs use the O-1 Bird Dog, the O-2B Super Skymaster, the OV-10 Bronco and other aircraft over the Republic of Vietnam to seek out the enemy wherever he may be hiding. Once the enemy is located, FACs request approval from proper authorities for tactical air strikes on the target area.



**The O-1 Bird Dog has been used in Vietnam since the beginning of the war.**



**The twin-boom Super Skymaster makes it mark with a smoke rocket.**

The FAC flies low and slow over his target, marks it with smoke grenades and smoke rockets, and calls in strike aircraft or artillery support. He remains near the target, working with the tactical pilots so bombs and other weapons hit the target with maximum precision.

After the attack, the FAC flies in to check battle damage and to determine if the target is successfully destroyed or if more firepower is needed.

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After the attack, the FAC flies in to check battle damage and to determine if the target is successfully destroyed or if more firepower is needed.



**The F-100 "Misty" forward air controller is fast and accurate.**

A FAC is assigned to operate from a particular area. He flies over the same area time after time to become intimately familiar with every foot of the terrain. His trained eyes then can detect any unusual or suspicious movement.

Most FACs have been fighter pilots; their knowledge in fighter tactics make them invaluable when they request support to attack a target and direct aircraft in their strikes.

All new forward air controllers reporting to the Republic of Vietnam attend a special FAC school at Phan Rang air base before reporting to their posts. FACs and their aircraft are located throughout Vietnam at all major air bases and many small air fields.

*(This article is from a Seventh Air Force booklet, provided by Thomas Parsons.)*

**"I will be going to OKC this year and anxious to see my new friends again and hopefully make some more."**

...Joe Schwarzer





### **Christmas In Vietnam**

(To the tune of Jingle Bells)

Dashing through the mud, in a jeep that should be junk  
Over the roads we go, half of us are drunk.  
Wheels on dirt roads bounce, making arses sore,  
Lord I'd sooner go to hell than finish out this war.

#### **CHORUS:**

Jingle bells, Mortar shells, VC in the grass,  
We'll get no merry Christmas cheer until this year has passed.  
Jingle bells, Mortar shells, VC in the grass,  
Take your Merry Christmas cheer and shove it up your arse.

Christmas time is here, as everybody knows,  
People think it's dear, Aussies think it blows.  
All at home are gay, children are at play,  
While the boys stuck out here so bloody far away.

#### **CHORUS:**

Jingle bells, Mortar shells, VC in the grass,  
We'll get no merry Christmas cheer until this year has passed.  
Jingle bells, Mortar shells, VC in the grass,  
Take your Merry Christmas cheer and shove it up your arse.

The moral of our song, it's plain as it can be,  
Please, no more midnight carols sing, and screw your Christmas Tree.

There's one more thing to say, before we have to leave,  
Vietnam is not the place to be on Christmas Eve.

(Note: I know that the thought of Christmas right now probably isn't very appealing, but since the Phan Rang News isn't date specific I've added it. Ideally I should save and include in an

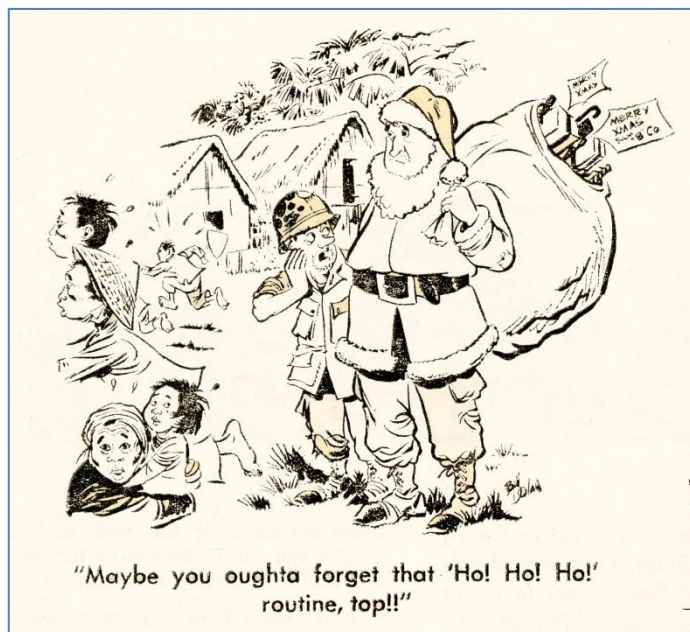
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edition that is sent out during the holidays, but I'm not that organized to save something until that time.)

**Christmas 1968 Funnies from the Stars & Stripes (Provided by Thomas Parsons)**



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**"I never would have thought that I would go to a gathering of old people, a lot of them I never met before, and like it so much that I would shed tears when we had to part and look forward to the next time we gathered."**

...Doug Severt

A retired guy sits around the house all day so one day his wife says, "Joel, you could do something useful, like vacuum the house once a week". The guy gives it a moment's thought and says; "Sure why not. Show me to the vacuum."

Half an hour later, the guy comes into the kitchen to get some coffee. His wife says, "I didn't hear the vacuum working, I thought you were using it"? Exasperated, Joe answers, "The stupid thing is broken, it won't start. We need to buy a new one". "Really", she says, "show me - it worked fine the last time". So he did ([Click Here](#))...





So far we’ve had 38 people make reservations for the 2016 reunion. There have been a lot of new people join our group and they were saying that they plan on making the reunion, which is great, but they need to make reservation at the hotel if they plan on staying there. The reason for that is to make sure that we have sufficient number of rooms in our block so that everyone gets the reunion rate. **Just remember if for some reason life prevents you from attending the reunion, you can always cancel the reservation without any penalty.**

Here’s some basic information about our reunion for those that haven’t had the pleasure of attending one before: The dates for the 2016 reunion are **6 through 9 October**. Most people arrive on Thursday afternoon 6 Oct. Over the years we’ve seen more and more people arriving earlier and we usually have get-togethers with each other and I know that many are already planning on an early arrival. On Friday, 7 Oct. we traditionally have a group tours (See the **Tours** section). On Saturday, 8 Oct. usually is a free day where you can explore the local area and in the evening we have our gala banquet. The hospitality suite is open all of the time, except during the tour and banquet. Most people check out Sunday morning, 9 October.

Expenses that you might expect for your stay would be the hotel, banquet, transportation, and a small reunion fee. I hope this brief overview will give you some idea as to what to expect.

**Tours:** Friday 7 October is tour day. Right now we are planning on two tours. The first one is to **Tinker AFB**. We are still negotiating with them but right now the plan is to visit a Boeing E-6 Mercury aircraft flown by the United States Navy and they promise much more. The Mercury is an airborne command post and communications relay based on the Boeing 707-320 aircraft with a mission to communicate between the National Command Authority (NCA) and U.S. strategic and non-strategic forces. Two squadrons, the "Ironmen" of VQ-3 and the "Shadows" of VQ-4 deploy more than 20 aircrews from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma to meet these requirements. This tour is subject to expansion and specific times for the tour have not been set. **There are a limited number of seats for this tour so a lottery type selection will be made**

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**from the list of reunion registrants that have made their hotel reservations by the end of March. Specific rules for this selection will be forthcoming.** There is also the possibility that if we have enough interest, we could also have a Tinker tour on Thursday 6 October.



The second tour is to the **Oklahoma State Capital** and the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**. This tour will have to start early in the morning with an arrival at the capital by 9:00 am. No worry though as it is only a couple of miles from our hotel. Upon arrival at the capital we are expected to be greeted by Mary Fallin, our Governor. Governor Fallin is very pro military, but

because we are planning this months in advance anything could happen that might prevent her from showing up. The state capital features Greco-Roman architecture. The structure is composed of 650 rooms and 11 acres of floor space with murals, restored stained glass, tribal flag plaza and changing art exhibits. For the most part this will be a docent guided tour with additional time to explore on your own as the legislature will not be in sessions, so there will be less restrictions as to where you can go. Believe me, this is a beautiful building! We are planning on departing at 11:00 am for our second stop at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum with lunch at the museum and then tour the museum. The National Cowboy Western & Heritage Museum is America’s premier institution of Western history, art and culture. Founded in 1955, the museum in Oklahoma City collects preserves and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts while sponsoring dynamic educational programs to stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of our American West. More than 10 million visitors from around the world have sought out this unique museum to gain better understanding of the West: a region and a history that permeates our national culture.



The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum features a superb collection of classic and contemporary Western art, including works by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, as well as sculptor James Earle Fraser’s magnificent work, The End of the Trail. The exhibition wing houses a turn-of-the-century town and interactive history galleries that focus on the American cowboy, rodeos, Native American culture, Victorian firearms, frontier military and Western

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performers. Outside, beautifully landscaped gardens flank the Children’s Cowboy Corral, and interactive children’s space.

From fine art, pop culture and firearms to Native American objects, historical cowboy gear, shopping and dining, the Museum tells America’s story as it unfolds across the West. Like the National Museum of the Air Force you could probably spend a few days to view and appreciate all of the exhibits.

There will be reduced admissions (\$8.00) to the museum between 6 and 10 October by any of our reunion attendees that presents their name tag at the admissions counter. The normal admission rate is \$12.50 for adult and \$9.75 for seniors which most of us would qualify for. The group rate admission rate is \$5.50.



**Attractions:**

- **OKC Museum of Art\***: The Oklahoma City Museum of Art presents three to four Museum-organized exhibitions and national/international traveling exhibitions in its first floor gallery annually. These exhibitions feature a wide variety of subjects, styles, and media, ranging from the art of ancient Egypt to French impressionism to emerging contemporary artists. Additionally, rotating exhibitions of the Museum’s permanent collection are regularly presented throughout the second and third floors, which are segmented into twelve galleries and feature both temporary and permanent displays, such as Illuminations: Rediscovering the Art of Dale Chihuly.

- **OKC National Memorial Museum\***: The Oklahoma City National Memorial is a memorial in the United States that honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were affected by the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995. This memorial is approximately 4 blocks from our hotel if you prefer to walk.



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- **Red Earth Museum\***: A museum dedicated to showcasing Native American arts. In 1987, a group of influential community and tribal leaders founded the Red Earth American Indian Cultural Festival to showcase Native American dance and art which is one of the most respected organizations of its type in the United States. The Red Earth Art Center hosts a respected permanent collection of more than 1,400 items of Native American fine art, pottery, basketry, textiles, and beadwork. Exhibits feature widely acclaimed traveling exhibitions, as well as such prized permanent exhibits as the Deupree Cradleboard Collection. This museum is approximately two blocks from our hotel if you prefer to walk.

- **Myriad Botanical Gardens\***: The Myriad Botanical Gardens is a 17-acre botanical garden and interactive urban park located in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on the southwest corner of Reno and Robinson. The Gardens is home to multiple tiers of densely landscaped areas that surround a sunken lake. Its primary feature is the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory - a 224-foot (68 m) living plant museum featuring towering palm trees, tropical plants and flowers, waterfalls, and exotic animals. (**Note: This is a must see and even though the bus takes you right there, it is only a block away from our hotel and across the street from the Devon tower.**)

- **Bricktown Riverwalk Park\***: Bricktown is an entertainment district just east of downtown and a very short walk from your hotel. It was formerly a major warehouse district. The major attractions of the district are the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, the navigable Bricktown Canal, and the 16-screen Harkins movie theatre, Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill is located in Bricktown as well as many more and it is also the corporate headquarters of Sonic Drive-In. Cruise the mile-long Bricktown Canal on a Bricktown Water Taxi (Just like in San Antonio). This 40-minute trip is the perfect way to tour through Bricktown, from the eastern edge of downtown all the way to the northern edge of the Oklahoma River. All taxis are staffed by ambassadors that narrate points of interest along the way and give a feel for the unique history and culture of the area. Once you've taken the trip and familiarize yourself with the area you then can venture off on your own. You definitely want to walk among the giant statues in the Centennial Land Run Monument maybe visit and shop at the Bass Pro shop and from there take a short walk to the Boat House District along the Oklahoma River.

- **Centennial Land Run Monument\***: This monument features 45 heroic (life and one-half size) figures of land run participants, frozen in motion as they race to claim new homesteads. The first major pieces, a buckboard and two draft horses, were placed in April 2003. This piece of art is one of the largest freestanding bronze sculptures in the world. It spans a distance of 365 feet in length by 36 feet in width and over 16 feet in height. The Land Run Monument begins with a soldier and cannon, firing the shot to start the run. Twenty-four horses and riders,

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including a sun-bonneted woman riding sidesaddle, strain for position. A buckboard, two covered wagons, a buggy and a sulky represent some of the many vehicles used in the race. A dog races after a wagon, and a surprised rabbit watches from one side. **(Note: you must see this and take pictures!)**

**- Bass Pro Shops\*:** Bass Pro Shops has become America's leading outdoor retailer with stores across America and Canada. We also have a **Cabelas** (World's Foremost Outfitter) store in OKC, but it is located in North Oklahoma City. Bass Pro Shops store offers an incredible array of fishing and boating equipment. We're also the premier shopping destination for hunting, camping, and outdoor cooking gear as well as outdoor footwear and nature-themed gifts. Bass Pro Shops is more than a retail mecca for sportsmen, though. Since the beginning, Johnny Morris has been dedicated to inspiring people, especially youth and families, to love, enjoy and conserve the great outdoors. That commitment, demonstrated over the course of several decades, is a big reason why Bass Pro Shops is known as the outdoor industry's corporate conservation leader. Bass Pro Shops conservation efforts include partnering with and supporting the efforts of many organizations that work to conserve and manage the nation's natural resources. The company's key conservation initiatives include fish and wildlife habitat improvements, conservation and outdoor skills education, improving water quality and quality of our lakes and springs, and conservation advocacy.

**- Boat House District\*:** The Boathouse District along the Oklahoma River offers some of Oklahoma City's more popular ways to spend time outdoors, enjoy views of the downtown skyline and get active. Located within walking distance of the hotels and restaurants of downtown and the Bricktown Entertainment District, the Boathouse District is the focal point to OKCRIVERSPORT'S rowing, kayaking, running, cycling and fitness programs. Olympic athletes train here.

**- Regatta Park Landing\*:** Home to the Chesapeake, Devon and OSU Boathouses. I love to watch the rowers along the river and at night it's lit up.

**- Riversport\*:** This is a new 11-acre-whitewater rafting and kayaking center. This state-of-the-art aquatic adventure facility is geared for both family fun and elite athlete training. Lower flow channels offer great family rafting and kayaking experiences, and the higher flow channels allow Olympic whitewater athletes the chance to train in Oklahoma City.

**- American Banjo Museum\*:** A national treasure in downtown Oklahoma City, the American Banjo Museum is a world-class facility dedicated to preserving and promoting the music and heritage of America's native musical instrument – the banjo. The American Banjo

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Museum houses the largest collection of banjos on public display in the world with interpretive displays that present the history of the banjo from its humble African roots through its heyday during the Roaring 20's to its present day voice in Bluegrass, Folk, Jazz and World Music. As the nation's only museum dedicated to America's instrument, the American Banjo Museum seeks to preserve the banjo's legacy and promote an appreciation of its history and heyday.

- **The Outlet Shoppes of Oklahoma:** This large outlet mall is over 348,000 square feet in size and is located only minutes from downtown Oklahoma City. There is a free shuttle that would take you from the hotel to the mall and I guess return you to the hotel. I believe the hotel concierge handles this, so if you want to do this you need to tell them and they arrange for a pickup.

- **Oklahoma State Capital:** Described in the tour section above.

- **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum:** Described in the tour section above.

- **45th Infantry Division Museum:** See one of the nation's largest collections of Military Firearms, see over 200 original Bill Mauldin Cartoons, See World War II Artifacts and much more. For more information on this venue and any others mentioned, just Google the name. This museum is another highly recommended site, but time does not permit a stop there during our tour. Unfortunately there isn't any free transportation to the museum, but admission to the museum is free.

**(All attractions marked with an asterisk are accessible free by using the free to ride Downtown Discovery Embark bus which stops in front of our hotel and goes to all the places marked with an asterisk\*.)**

**Getting Around:** The Metro Transit system bus (Embark) main bus terminal is probably a little over a block to the main terminal from our hotel. The system will take you anywhere you want to go in the metro. There is another bus that I referred to that just takes you to the attractions in the downtown area and that is free. I will try to familiarize myself more with the transit system so that I can more intelligently inform you. I will have a PDF document of their map attached to a future email.

**Downtown Dinning:**

- **Vast** - Nearly 50 stories above downtown near the top of the Devon Tower. Vast offers artfully crafted continental cuisine and a view that stretches for miles. Since chief Kurt



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Fleischfresser took the reins at the city’s loftiest restaurant, Vast as begun to hit all the high notes for fine dining menu, service and atmosphere.

- **Museum Cafe** the restaurant attached to Oklahoma City’s Museum of Art and offers food meant to live to the venue’s devotion to beauty and creativity. The menu hits all the high notes with steaks, chops and fresh seafood that draws harmony from global influences.

- **Toby Keith’s “I Love This Bar & Grill”** located in Bricktown next to the canal. No you don’t need cowboy boots and hat to get in.

- **KD’s Kevin Durant’s Southern Cuisine** located right next to Toby Keiths. Kevin Durant of course is our star basketball player for the OKC Thunder. Features southern and soul food.

- **The Mantel Wine Bar & Bistro:** 201 E Sheridan Ave. in Bricktown. They offer award winning fine dining in the heart of the Historic Bricktown Entertainment District in Oklahoma City. The Mantel Wine Bar & Grill has been recognized by Cornell University as one of the country's best "Gourmet" restaurants! Enjoy a wonderful culinary encounter and a casually elegant dining experience. The Mantel is also available for all special occasions, catered events, or holiday celebrations.

- **Kitchen No. 324:** 324 N. Robinson, downtown. Kitchen No. 324 is an American Rustic café, craft bakery and coffee curator, serving breakfast, brunch, and lunch. Everything we serve is handcrafted each day starting at 4am. We proudly use local, organic and sustainably farmed products when possible. Inspired by kitchens from all across America, we hope to bring warm and inviting food, using classic preparation techniques and exciting new flavors and ingredients. So, with authentic hospitality, we welcome you to our Kitchen.

- **Red PrimeSteak:** 504N. Broadway Ave. Red PrimeSteak is a modern fine-dining restaurant situated beyond the traditional steakhouse experience. Superb spice rubs, crackling crusts and other vibrant flavors create a steak that is unique and deeply delicious. Our chefs proudly source steaks from Halperns' Steak and Seafood. Accompanying our grilled meats are delicious side items with unique takes on classic steakhouse fare.

- **Pearl’s Crabtown:** Located in Bricktown. Real good for seafood!

- **Jazmo’z Bourbon Street Cafe:** In Bricktown on the canal (Riverwalk). Jazmo'z Bourbon Street Café brings you the flare and fashion of good old N'awlins style, with fine meals and nightly live music. Jazmo'z has an excellent bar with all the popular liquors, wines, domestic and imported beers. Come and enjoy our spicy Cajun and Creole cooking and authentic New Orleans atmosphere. We like this place.

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**“Stories worth telling”**

**- Bolero Spanish Grill & Tapas Bar:** In Bricktown near the Harkins Theater. For a unique dining experience, look no further than Bolero Spanish Grill & Tapas Bar. Located in the heart of Bricktown in Oklahoma City, this restaurant overlooks the Bricktown Canal. Bolero specializes in Spanish tapas - small plates of food that are satisfying yet won't hinder conversation. A variety of wines, beer and cocktails are offered for the perfect pairing with your dish. In addition to serving tapas, Bolero serves salads, such as the ensalada Bolero. Or, try one of the soups; onion soup with manchego cheese gratin and chicken and rice soup with avocado are both great options. Bolero Spanish Grill & Tapas Bar offers a flavorful selection of tapas with a range of foods featured, from vegetables to seafood. Order the fried goat cheese drizzled with honey, scallops with capers and Roma tomatoes, braised crimini mushrooms or calamari with salsa verde to start. Then, move on to something a little heavier and try the Andalusian meatballs, pork tamales, rock shrimp with manchego gratin or grilled lamb with sherry wine reduction. Don't miss the paella Bolero for two, complete with saffron rice, calamari, mussels, white fish, manila clams and chorizo. Dessert at Bolero Spanish Grill & Tapas Bar is a special treat. Sweet options such as dulce de leche with honey-fried plantains, caramel flan, mocha brulee, gelato or flourless chocolate genoise cake covered with chocolate ganache will all satisfy your tastebuds.

**- The Melting Pot:** In Bricktown real close to our hotel. Whether you're celebrating a birthday, anniversary, a long overdue date night, or celebrating with a group, The Melting Pot Restaurant is perfect for any occasion. Tailor your visit with a four-course dining experience including cheese fondue, salad, entree and dessert. Or, come by for fondue cheese paired with that perfect glass of wine from our extensive selection. That's not to say, we haven't had more than a few stop by to satisfy that chocolate craving after a movie.

**- Bricktown Brewery:** You guessed it...it's in Bricktown. What started in 1992 as a micro-brewery restaurant in an old Bricktown candy factory has transformed into Oklahoma's favorite restaurant and brew pub. The Bricktown Brewery is brewing more beer and good times than ever before by handcrafting the beer in downtown Oklahoma City and delivering it fresh to six satellite locations. We are a traditional American brew-pub, offering some of the best handcrafted beers available and surprisingly good food.

**- Texadelphia Social Grill:** 200 South Oklahoma Ave right in the heart of Bricktown. It's what we've been doing since 1981. We start with the highest quality, fresh ingredients. We make each and every cheesesteak to order and top it with a signature sauce of your choice. All of our cheesesteaks, burgers, salads and deli-sandwiches are served with complimentary tortilla chips and fresh salsa. And there's plenty on the menu to choose from, starting off with their Signature Cheesesteaks. Signature Cheesesteaks include, of course, the South Philly (named

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after where it all started, with Pats Steaks and Gino's Steaks in South Philadelphia), with beef or chicken, grilled onions, mushrooms, bell peppers, and Philly cheese whiz. The Texican, which includes your choice of beef or chicken, grille onions, mozzarella cheese, and piles of hot jalapenos. Or The Left Coast, a chicken cheesesteak with grilled onions, mozzarella cheese, fresh guacamole, lettuce and tomatoes. There is a choice of five other Signature Cheesesteaks to choose from. You can also build your own with any of the ingredients they have on hand or indulge in a Texadelphia Wrap. If your hungry for a burger, try one of their No Competition Burgers. Also on the menu are Panini and deli sandwiches, with all the traditional ingredients you would expect to find. There's plenty more on the menu, and finding something you like won't be a problem. Bring your tablet if your going to set and eat for a few minutes, there's free WiFi available. I've never been to this place, in fact before I looked it up, I never even knew what kind of food they had.

- **Zio's Italian Kitchen:** This is also in Bricktown along the canal on the second level right across the canal from The Biting Sow. They do serve Italian food, but probably not Italian enough for the Ruggerios.

- **Tapwerks Ale House & Cafe:** 121 E. Sheridan Ave. right in the heart of Bricktown. Lots of beer, but I couldn't find "33" on the menu.

- **Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy:** This is also in Bricktown and a very short walk from our hotel. Guess what, they serve Mexican food! The menu probably is the same as the Abuelo's in your hometown.

- **Yucatan Taco Stand Tequila Bar and Grill:**

- **Earl's Rib Palace:** On the second level in Bricktown along the canal. It's close to The Marble Slab. Good for ribs and BBQ. We like it.

- **Chelino's Mexican:** Another place that sells Mexican food. This is a homegrown place and the food is pretty good but usually pretty crowded, but I guess that's an indication that the food is good. Chelino's is on the first and second level on the canal right across from Zio's Italian Kitchen.

- **Hooters:** You know what this is! It's located in Bricktown along the canal.

- **Mojo's AKA The Biting Sow:** I think this is a biker bar. It's located in Bricktown along the canal. Plan on wearing your leathers.

- **IHOP:** In Bricktown.



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- **Starbucks:** In Bricktown along the canal near the Harkins Theater, in our hotel and many other places downtown.
  
- **Sonic-Drive-in:** In Bricktown...not really a Drive-in...it's a Sit-it.
  
- **McDonald's:** In Bricktown.
  
- **Garden Grille & Bar:** Located in Bricktown in the Hilton Garden Inn.
  
- **Cafe do Brasil:** 440 NW 11th St. They offer a highly acclaimed regional Brazilian cuisine that combines flavor, uniqueness, and comfort. They also offer an array of specialty drinks, a great selection of wines, and of course a large variety of calpirinhas! You do know what calpirinhas are, don't you?
  
- **Flint:** FLINT is an upscale casual restaurant and lounge featuring contemporary American cuisine. We take a direct and simple approach to cooking, using the best available ingredients. 15 N. Robinson Ave. downtown.
  
- **Park Avenue Grill:** Located in the Skirvin Hilton Luxury Hotel that is very close to our hotel...like maybe under two block. The Skirvin is a beautifully restored very old building. I think it is beautiful! The Park Avenue Grill probably is too rich for my blood.
  
- **Park Harvey Sushi & Sports Lounge:** 299 N. Harvey Ave. downtown. With its talented and skilled sushi chefs, Park Harvey Sushi offers a bit of a surprise with its lounge. Enjoy a football game while eating some sushi and dine on a California roll and other classic sushi variations, all at reasonable prices.
  
- **Red Piano Lounge:** End your day on the right note at the Red Piano, the hot spot to play it cool. Located in the Skirvin Hilton Luxury Hotel (about a block north from our hotel), Order a drink from the bar or enjoy a wide selection of wines by the glass and premium beers. Grab a bite from our dining menu and feel the beat in the heart of the city. Live Entertainment Tuesday through Saturday.
  
- **Ice House OKC:** Downtown at 125 Ron Norick Blvd. This place is a good place for fresh burgers and fries.
  
- **Blu's BBQ and Burgers:** 612 North Robinson Avenue, downtown located directly across from the national memorial. They specialize in a fast, high quality, full flavored bbq and with a fun family atmosphere that will keep you, the customers, coming back. They take pride in

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extraordinary meats that are smoked to perfection & charbroiled burgers that are made from quality beef.

**- 1889 Land Run Cafe:** Located downtown in the Sheraton Hotel (our hotel). We will all enjoy breakfast here.

**Here’s more information about the Sheraton Oklahoma Downtown Hotel**

- **Guestroom rates do not include the current city/state occupancy tax**
- **Room rates are \$129 single and double, triple rate \$159 and quad rate \$189**
- **Included are two full breakfast buffets, a \$32 value**
- **Check in time: 3:00 pm; Checkout time: 12:00 pm**
- **Individual cancellations without liability: 5 days prior to arrival**
- **24-hour Sheraton Fitness by Core Performance (NBA certified)**
- **Free WiFi in all guest rooms and lobby**

[\*\*Click here to make your hotel reservation.\*\*](#)

**Please make your hotel reservations now!**



**Phan Rang AB Challenge Coins**

**Order your challenge coin now. Price includes postage.**

MAIL ORDER PRICE* LIST		Total Amount to remit
Each	Price	
1	\$6.56	<b>\$6.56</b>
2	\$7.00	<b>\$14.00</b>
3	\$7.22	<b>\$21.66</b>

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4	\$7.44	<b>\$29.76</b>
5	\$7.66	<b>\$38.30</b>
6	\$7.88	<b>\$47.28</b>
7 or more call for cost.		

Send Check or money order for the exact amount to **Jack Anderson, 826 72<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Auburn, WA 98092.** Please make check payable to **Happy Valley Reunion.** Because of the high cost of manufacturing these coins we are going to need your money up front and will have to amass sufficient funds to have coins made. Your understanding is appreciated and we will do everything to insure prompt delivery after the coins are manufactured.

*\* Price includes a \$.50 profit for the Phan Rang AB Reunion fund.*

**Buy 10 or more coins for only \$4.44 Ea.**

Coins must be paid for now with pickup at the Phan Rang AB Reunion in Oklahoma City in October or at point of origin after manufacturing in Oklahoma City.

This newsletter was compiled and published by [Douglas Severt](#).