

THE PACER

An American story

CHAPTER 13

By DAVID PARAMORE

When I awoke on March 1, 1969, I gathered up everything I would be traveling with and put it into the small zip-up bag I bought at the PX.

The only things I would take home with me from Vietnam were the jungle fatigues, my jungle boots and socks that I was wearing at the time, as well as the travel paperwork and my shaving kit -- that and the T53 Chinese rifle.

After breakfast at Mess Hall, I reported to the orderly room and saw the same desk sergeant from the day before. I asked about my transportation to Cam Ranh Bay and was told a truck convoy would be pulling out at 10 a.m.

I was to hook up with them, and they would get me there before nightfall. As it was already around eight a.m., I needed to go to the armory to retrieve my rifle -- the only physical war

souvenir I would be taking home.

I was told the same private that had driven me to the Supply tent yesterday could also take me to the Armory.

Once I got the permission paperwork that was to get me and the rifle on board the airplane and through customs, we drove over to the Armory. I presented the paperwork to the sergeant in charge and was met with my second disappointment in as many days.

After about 15 minutes I was told that not only was there no T53 back there with my name on it, but there was not one anywhere in the armory. The Armory sergeant told me in no uncertain terms that some "REMF" had probably stolen it and was now back home telling war stories about how he had taken it off a VC he killed with his bare hands.

The sergeant had spent his time in the field during his

first tour in Vietnam and was currently more than halfway through his second. I told him I had some good unused paperwork that should be worth something.

He just handed it back to me and said he was sorry and that at least I was going home in one piece and not in a body bag. Good point sergeant...good point!

Chapter 14

I was aboard a deuce-and-a-half loaded with spent shell casings when they rolled out of An Khe on the way to Cam Ranh Bay the morning of March 1, 1969. The young PFC driving the truck was from a small town in Tennessee and had a large thermos full of coffee.

He told me he had been in Vietnam about five weeks and had married his childhood sweetheart just a couple of days before he left for Vietnam. It was the same story I had heard from several guys I had met during

my year in country.

We drank his coffee, smoked, talked about home and the war and stopped occasionally to eat or refuel. PFC Thomas was pleasant company and always found coffee to refill his thermos.

We rolled into the base at Cam Ranh the Army shared with the Navy and the Air Force just after 7 p.m. PFC Thomas pointed me in the right direction to catch a ride over to the transit barracks, shook my hand and wished me a safe and pleasant trip home.

I told him to keep his head down, adding that it would be his turn before he knew it. I managed to scrounge a ride over to the processing out center in the Army sector, which was manned day and night, dropped off my paperwork and was given directions to the barracks, mess hall and the enlisted men's club, which was where I headed.

The enlisted men's club at Cam Ranh Bay was almost like a stateside bar and grill. The facilities were first class for an Army post. The food was good, and the beer was cold.

Several of the men (and a few women) there were clearly regulars that were stationed in Cam Ranh. However, the vast majority of the patrons there that

night were flying out the next day and going home!

I listened to the jukebox, ate my dinner, had a couple of beers and went back to the transit barracks, took a shower and went to bed.

I awoke on the morning of March 2, 1969 and went to the mess hall for coffee and breakfast, realizing a funny thing. As I had traveled progressively closer to leaving Vietnam, in time and distance, the food had gotten progressively better!

I loitered over a second cup of coffee, as I knew I had almost the whole day to do just a few minutes of processing out and getting assigned a flight time for the next morning to leave Vietnam for good.

When I did eventually get to the processing center and presented my paperwork, I was asked if I had a firearm to declare. I told the Spec 4 at the desk all I had was the paperwork, relating to him the sad story of my T53 being stolen in my unit's rear area.

To my surprise, I was told that I would need to turn over the paperwork and sign a statement that the rifle had been stolen and relay to him all of the particulars around its disappearance. Having my rifle stolen turned out

to be the most time-consuming part of my processing.

After creating the needed report and receiving the paperwork on the rifle, he gave me a boarding slip for a 10 a.m. flight the next morning. I spent my last full day in Vietnam walking in the sand on the South China Sea beach that was a part of the compound. I had one more meal in the mess hall, a single beer at the club, took a hot shower and turned in.

(To be continued)

Editor's Note: *The Pacer, An American Story* was written by local author David Paramore as a fundraiser for Point of Grace (POG) Christian School. The Pacer is available for purchase on Amazon as a paperback or Kindle e-book download, with all proceeds going to support the expansion of POG. Kindle Unlimited members can download the book for free and support the POG expansion by way of Amazon paying a "royalty" on each download. Visit www.thepacerstory.com for more information.



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LEGALS

(continued from page 10)

THE SALE IS BEING HELD TO SATISFY A LANDLORD'S LIEN. EVERYTHING SOLD IS PURCHASED "AS IS" "WHERE IS" FOR CASH. THE STORAGE PLACE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY PUBLIC SALE THAT IS BEING ADVERTISED. ALSO, THE STORAGE PLACE HAS THE RIGHT TO "NO SALE" A UNIT IF DEEMED NECESSARY. THE UNITS BEING SOLD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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13-ROSA SIMMONS
14-ALLEN REAMS
17/22/LOT-DAVIS
20/21-SHARON WILLIAMS
28-REBECCA WILBUR
46-MICHAEL REED
48-LAMETRIS MCBRIDE
56-LORRAINE WORSLEY
57-SHAINE BAILEY
58-LISA FOLSOM
59/60-AWINNA LUSBY
62-JAMES BOYINGTON
64-KRISTIE HORNSBY
65/70- BRIAN CRUSE
68-MATTHEW MCLEOD
74-MICHAEL LEE
77/78-DONALD DAVIS
79-NICHOLAS ALBRITTON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

to CONCHITA LEE KEEN Unless payment is made on 2013 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT VIN: 2GNFLPE36D6365719 for tow & storage charges on 06-25-2021. Vehicle will be auctioned on the 18th day of AUGUST 2021 @ 10 a.m. at Thomas Chevrolet 2128 S. Byron Butler Pkwy, Perry, FL (850) 584-6221 per F.S. 713.78

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to RE-DONNA TODD LAND Unless payment is made on 2007 KIA SPECTRA EX/ LX VIN: KNAFE122X75446294 for tow & storage charges on 07-13-2021. Vehicle will be auctioned on the 18th day of AUGUST 2021 @ 10 a.m. at Thomas Chevrolet 2128 S. Byron Butler Pkwy, Perry, FL (850) 584-6221 per F.S. 713.78

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION.

Case No. 2021-316-CP

In Re: The Estate of: NELSON EDDIE EZELL, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of NELSON EDDIE EZELL, deceased, whose date of death was November 08, 2020; File Number 2021-316-CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The name and address of the personal representative and her attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice has been served, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or

demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: July 14, 2021.

SALLY ROBERTS
Attorney for Personal Representative
Florida Bar #102816
P.O. Drawer 2026
Perry, Florida 32348
Phone: (850) 838-7272
HELEN L. EZELL,
Personal Representative for the

Estate of NELSON EDDIE EZELL, deceased

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. 2021-300-CP

PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of MARGARET JANE FREED, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of MARGARET JANE FREED, deceased, whose date of death was April 14, 2021; File Number 2021-300-CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida

32348. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's Attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice has been served, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: July 21, 2021.

G. CLINE MOORE
ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.A.

G. CLINE MOORE
Attorney for Personal Representative

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Perry, Florida 32347

Telephone: (850) 584-3300
Email: kende@fairpoint.net

JESSE FREED
Personal Representative

2230 Golf Course Road
Perry, Florida, 32348



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