

Comment from The President (Cont.)

touring on the afternoon of September 9th following the dedication of the bronzed C-46 at the Academy and lunch at the Academy Officers Club. It is looking favorable at this time. If the C-17 fails to arrive, alternate plans have been made for visiting several places of interest in the Colorado Springs area before returning to Denver.

Planning is now under way for the placement of a HPA Website on the Internet to better provide the public with information on the Hump operation. The site will include a historical briefing on the history of the Hump, individual members' stories, links to other CBI organizations with websites, and if practicable, copies of our newsletters as well. This would provide the general public with much greater access to our Association and a greater recognition for the Hump operation. We have reserved the domain name CBIHPA.com for the website. We hope to have it on-line within the next 90 days.

One last note. There has been a very good response from our efforts to convert all our members to Life Memberships. Please keep those checks coming in. However, please be sure before the check is mailed that you are not already a Life Member. Quite a few checks from members paying for Life Memberships who are already Life Members have had to be returned. If you are not sure of your membership status please call us before mailing the check. We will be happy to advise you of your status. With that we'll say we are looking forward to seeing everyone in Denver in September. If you plan to attend, please try to get your pre-registrations in prior to August 1st. If you later fall out your preregistration will be returned to you.

Comments from The Chairman

By Jack Goodrich

It has been with great pleasure that I have noticed an increasing interest in the exploits of the hump pilots. Several times during the past year I have been stopped while loading groceries into the back of our station wagon, and asked about the HPA emblem on the rear window. Even a two or three sentence answer usually evokes a, "Wow, that must have been great" response.

Last December I was asked to talk to the Optimist Club in our area about some of our experiences in the CBI. I sure wished that Bill Kelso had developed his idea of a standard twenty minute long presentation a year or so earlier. I had to open by assuring them that a hump pilot was not a camel driver. After describing who we were, what we did, and why we were there, I found that the allotted twenty minutes went quickly. When a number of their group stayed after the meeting to ask questions, I was very pleased. It's amazing how many people know so little about us.

Now, with the mounting of the one sixth scale bronze model of a C-46 in the study garden of the Air Force Academy, we seem to be receiving the recognition that we have looked forward to for so many years. Be sure to mark your calendars and join in the dedication of this memorial on Thursday of our next reunion in Denver, Colorado.

And, speaking of memorials, we have been promised by Dayton Memorials in Dayton, Ohio, that, whenever Spring arrives at Wright - Patterson Air Force Museum, our granite monument will be restored to its original condition. On the first warm day it will be power washed to remove all collected dirt and grime. After it has thoroughly dried, our emblem, blood chit, and all descriptive writing will be repainted in their original colors. Following a few sunny days to cure the paint, it will be sealed with a preservative. We are negotiating to have this process repeated on approximately twenty year intervals. A directed lump sum will be established with an institution that we feel will endure. The accumulating interest will be used to provide necessary maintenance.

Sometime, around June of this year, your board of directors will vote on their preference of a site for our 2005 reunion. If you have a particular site in mind, call a board member in your area and let him know.

Aviation Truisms

The last thing every pilot does before leaving the aircraft after making a gear up landing is to put the gear selection lever in the "down" position.

It's better to be down here wishing you were up there, than up there wishing you were down here.