

Esperanza

EE Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

While parts of Mexico celebrated the victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, in Esperanza Estates on Cinco de Mayo we celebrated Mexican food and beverages. There was plenty of both, plus colorful attire and lively music at EE's annual Cinco de Mayo potluck. Following a long-standing tradition, activities included the Piñata Game. Several partic-

ipants tested their skill against the star-shaped piñata, and Bruce Moulton finally cracked it open in a shower of candy. Did you know that the piñata is thought to have originated in China?

See more Cinco de Mayo photos on page 6...



Photo of the Month

Congratulations to John Isgrigg, May winner for this beautifully captured portrait of spring in Southern Arizona.



In June, we will publish all the winning photos from Sept. 2011 through May 2012, ask EE residents to vote for their favorite, and then announce the Photo of the Year in the September issue of the Periodico.

Thanks to all who have entered and won, and good luck in the big contest!

From the Board: Palm Tree Trimming

once again, notices need to be given about the palm trees. It is not too early to start giving this notice to all with tall palms. We have had fires in untrimmed palms more than once, and such a fire poses a serious danger of igniting homes by falling on rooftops. Trimming these palms is a critical issue due to the fact they are lightning magnets, and every year in Green Valley there are fires caused by lightning in untrimmed palms. If one of these fell on a roof in here, it could burn out the entire 4 or 5 houses in the row. There is a real possibility of jeopardy to life and property.

The trimming should not take place until the month of June, but absolutely needs to be done by July 15 to avoid the worst of the monsoon lightning storms. The HOA absolutely requires this to be done as a safety issue, and if owners refuse, or neglect it, then the HOA will be forced to do it and will assess the Homeowner at cost plus a 50% surcharge. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated and it is in the best interest of both you and your neighbors to arrange for the necessary trimming.

The HOA uses a company called Monstrosity Tree Service because they do a good job at a competitive price; however, owners can use anyone they please. Monstrosity's phone is 520 230-7131, and they will make arrangements to do the job while owners are not in residence. They will generally give the owners the same rate they charge the HOA, which is a discount from their normal charge.

Board Meetings

June 18 1:00 p.m. Sunset Ramada

No board meetings in July & August

September 17

Board member list & meeting minutes available at http://esperanzaestates.net

Esperanza Estates Homeowners Association P.O. Box 181 Green Valley, AZ 85622-0181

Esperanza Estates Holds Transcontinental Board Meeting

A lways innovative, the EE Board used Skype conferencing to allow two winter-resident Board members and two winter residents to participate remotely in the May Board meeting. President Eric Ellingson joined the meeting from his summer home in New Hampshire, Director Stacie Meyer and Bill Berdine called in from Kentucky and Ken Adler called in from Colorado.

The remote attendees could hear and be heard and actively participate in the meeting. "I really felt connected to what was happening at the meeting," Stacie said. Ken, a frequent meeting attendee when he is in EE, enjoyed having the ability to attend from afar. "I look forward to calling in again," he said.

Reactions from on-site attendees was very positive, and they had no problem hearing the remote callers. Vice President Tom Cooke who conducted the meeting said: "This was yet another good use of our Ramada's Wi-Fi. In EE, we try to stay on the cutting edge."

A Skype call is fairly easy to set up when only two computers are involved. But in order to join multiple video callers, it was necessary to use the conference feature. Initially, the job was a little more complicated than expected. But thanks to many hours put in by our webmaster, Craig Surprise, and the willingness of the callers to do test calls in advance, it was a success.

Telephone conference board meetings became possible after Arizona's HOA laws changed last July to allow board members participating in meetings by telephone conference to be counted as present for quorum purposes. EE's ability to set up these calls makes it easier for winter residents to serve on the Board, increasing our talent pool.

Green Valley Council Report

By Joe McCalpin

The recent activity at GVC features two distinct efforts. The first effort addresses the reduction in revenue from the updating and distribution of the AT&T phone books. As we are certain you are aware, the day of the printed telephone book is slowly fading into the world of cellular telephones and the internet, as are newspapers and books. The emphasis on cellular phones is more pronounced here in Green Valley since somewhere between a third and a half of our residents use cell phones rather than a land line for each of their two residences. This phenomenon greatly reduces the need to be listed in local phonebooks. The result is a loss of GVC's main source of income. For this reason, GVC through the Board of Representatives (BOR), has voted to offer local companies an institutional membership. This decision was not made without controversy and some vigorous debate. Much of the controversy had to do with mistaken notions of what the institutional membership meant; the institutional member has one vote. The HOA member has a proportional representation based on the size of the HOA. Besides, it is better to have a face representing the company and to hear directly what that company is trying to communicate. Think of the fun if GVC had a representative from the Rosemont Mine present at the meetings.

GVC is, in this writer's opinion, critical to the residents of Green Valley. We can address our concerns, particularly those with the County, as a group of seventy-some HOA's rather than individuals making crank calls to the Supervisor's office. The Supervisor for our district attends or is represented at all of GVC's BOR meetings. When he is told, "We are Green Valley and we vote," he listens. At the March meeting the Pima County Administrator addressed the BOR on several issues, particularly those concerning our streets. Without GVC, these things wouldn't happen. Since we are not incorporated we must have representation to our government institutions: like it or not, GVC is it.

The second issue is our streets. Work has started on Abrego and in the overall plan, repairs will be made on Camino del Sol. GVC, through its First Vice-President, is conducting a complete survey of all of the County's streets in Green Valley to ascertain the condition and priority of our streets. The EE's Representative is actively participating in this evaluation. The report will also recommend an approach to fixing our streets. The report will be delivered to Administrator Huckleberry in June.

GVC's position is to work within the framework of our governmental institutions. GVC brings government officials to Green Valley so they can see and hear us. For all of us to be effective in bringing our concerns to our government, we need to have those in the government see us as concerned and involved citizens who are organized, then maybe they will listen.

I just returned from a GVC Board meeting. At this meeting Supervisor Carroll described the County's financial condition. There is a 66 million dollar surplus, some of which he suggested returning to the voters. In the Q&A session, I suggested that this money be used to improve the quality of our streets. He responded that some \$10 million is to be used for street repair. I suggested that this was a drop in the bucket considering the magnitude of the problem. After the meeting I asked him for a commitment to improve the quality of our streets. He said that he personally committed to me that he would work on that issue. I said that I wanted a public commitment; he said that he would do so.

Mr. Carroll claims that there is a 3:2 division with three Supervisors on the Board of Supervisors whose priorities do not involve street improvement. This division appears to be along political party lines. This division absolutely cannot be used as an excuse for lack of progress on this issue. Rather than complaining about the situation we should look for ways to break this impasse.



Independence Day Party Wed., July 4th · 4:30 Sunset Ramada \$6.00 per person

Includes grilled sausages with onions and peppers, potato salad, and baked beans. Wine, beer, sodas, water and mixers will be provided. \$6.00 per person and \$3.00 for a second sausage.



Coffee and Donuts at the Ramada...

Last one of the season: June 20, 8:30 a.m. This event is free for residents to gather, have some time to chat and enjoy a cup of java and a donut. No agenda, no meeting, no axe to grind--just some social time with one another.

Enhancement Team

By Barb McCalpin

Like most activities in Esperanza, the Enhancement Committee will be in a low-key mode over the summer. We may work on several smaller projects as time, weather and energy level permits. Several members will be investigating possible fund-raising activities for next year.

There are several projects that did not get completed this year, including upgrading the kitchen electrical capacity, adding much needed storage capacity, and improving the sound level at the ramada. These are all worthwhile improvements that will be challenges for next year.

Last week Ray, of Ray's Solar Solutions, made some adjustments to the solar screens at the ramada. He replaced a broken hook (used to raise or lower a screen). If you raise or lower a screen, make sure that the rod that you twist is held perpendicular to the screen and not canted off to the side (which causes the plastic hook to break). We use the screens as much for wind protection as for relief from the sun. The wind causes the guy wires to loosen over time. Ray also tightened all of the wires so that they are taut again. All of this maintenance was made at no charge. In addition to installing a quality product, Ray has provided outstanding service to our HOA. The solar screens have made a big difference in the comfort level at the ramada.

Have a good summer!

Two WWII Vets Share Their Experiences

By Mary Hess

Two life paths converged recently in Esperanza Estates when Charlie Elliott (pictured right in the photo) met Don Helms for the first time. They came together to reminisce about their recent Honor Flight excursions to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and were amazed to discover how much they have in common.

"Did you cry a lot?" Don asked Charlie.

"Sure did," answered his new-found brother in arms.



Honor Flight [www.honorflight.org] exists to fulfill the dreams of veterans of WWII to visit their memorial in the nation's capitol. They travel free of charge, accompanied by guardians and staff who minister to them in all areas of need. Flag waving ground crews greet them at every stop along the way, with painstaking attention to details.

A highlight for both men was the surprise delivery of a bundle of letters written to them personally by friends, family and complete strangers. Also included in Don's packet were letters he had written home during the war in Europe, which had been saved by relatives. "I couldn't believe they kept them all these years," he said.

"Here's how it went." Don chuckled. "Read a letter, grab a Kleenex, wipe my nose, read another letter, grab another Kleenex, wipe my nose again."

"It's hard to put it into words," Charlie added. "We couldn't have been treated better." Charlie just returned from his trip a week ago, and Don traveled last fall.

Both men served in the infantry in Europe. They discovered a common link in having been assigned to the 99th Division, but at different times. Living in foxholes was difficult, the two agreed, but there were also unspeakable horrors of war. "It may sound crazy, but once you realized you might be killed, you were able to do what you needed to do to survive," Don explained.

Many Honor Flight heroes find they are able to let go of memories that have been repressed, a welcome release. "That was my experience," he added. Charlie nodded in unspoken agreement.

Seeing the memorial was undeniably moving, but both men testify to the larger impact of sincere expressions and gestures of support.

"Kids would walk up and say 'Thank-you for what you did,' and ask if they could take our pictures," Charlie said.

"People remember and respect what we did, and knowing that means more than anything else. I never shook so many hands in my whole life," Don added.

Continued on page 6

WWII Vets

Continued

Based on recent statistics, 900 WWII veterans die each day, and the organization works aggressively to expand Honor Flight programs. Organizers encourage the vets to socialize with each other. "It's not often that we get to be with people who shared this experience anymore, and it meant a lot to us to spend time with the others on this trip," Charlie said.

Their itinerary included stops at the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, Iwo Jima statue, Arlington Cemetery and the changing of the guard ceremony, the Naval Academy and Fort McHenry where the national anthem was penned.

This article is written as homage to Don and Charlie and countless others who stayed the course and marched together.

Meet Stretch, A Canine Hero

Esperanza residents Sue Thompson and Helen Rey walk their dogs together every morning. Recently, their stroll along lower Napa provided a little more excitement than usual. Sue's dog, Stretch, spied a huge, rogue javelina, known to neighbors as "Otis," about 30 feet away. The 25-pound dog started barking, wrapped his leash around a light pole, and



ultimately pulled out of his harness. At the corner of Regalo, the javelina stopped and turned, Stretch stopped, and Sue shouted for him to come back, her heart pounding the whole time. Helen reminded her about the air horn she carries for just such emergencies, and Sue sounded it. Otis ran into an alley and Stretch trotted back to his "mom," proud as could be. "He acted like King Kong the rest of the day," Sue reports.

Walkers, remember that javelinas can be dangerous, especially when cornered. Stretch put his life on the line to protect his human, but advises other dogs not to try this.

Cínco de Mayo



















Esperanza Estates Art Club

E's Arizona Centennial art projects sparked great enthusiasm for creating more public art around our neighborhood. From that, the Esperanza Estates Arts Club was born. Since we expect to hear a lot about this new club in the coming months, the Periodico staff talked with Kevin Welsh, the club's Chairperson (pictured at right), to learn about the club's structure and potential projects.

The club now has 27 members, and their talents represent a variety of areas. Kevin is Chairperson, Stacie

Meyer is Secretary and Marian Mundale and Karyn Grob are co-Treasurers. Kathy Sawin holds the title of Artist in Residence. The club meets on the first Monday of every month at the Ramada.

Club members will generate ideas for projects and have already come up with a number of exciting and creative possibilities. Two of the major ones are to create a desert tortoise made from tile-covered chimenea parts and a miniature pueblo village using concrete blocks.

Before a project can be started, however, it must be approved by the club members, be presented to the HOA board, and have the money to cover all costs of the project. "We want to proceed in a very organized way," Kevin said.

Each project will have a Project Leader. "The Project Leader is the person with the vision for that project," Kevin explained. Project Leaders are responsible for all aspects of their project. They will recruit their team, finalize the project design, location, budget and time line, present the project to the HOA board, and oversee completion of the project.

Self-funding their projects is important to the club. Funds will come primarily from the \$10 annual dues paid by club members, fundraising activities and donations from residents.

Some potential fundraising ideas include creating items to sell during EE activities and conducting art/craft-related classes for a nominal fee.

The club also hopes to generate funds from the affinity checking account it set up with Compass Bank. Whenever a club supporter opens a checking account with the bank, the club will receive a \$50 royalty payment. When club supporters use their debit cards from the bank, the club can earn 0.25% of the purchase amount.

EE residents can help support the club's projects by donating leftover cement, grout or colorful tiles from their home projects. These items will be used on almost every project, and the club can use as much as possible.

If you want to apply your artistic talents for the benefit of our neighborhood, this may be just the club for you. For more information or to join, contact Kevin Welsh at 231-838-6851. You can also email Kevin at welsh.kj@gmail.com if you would like to receive monthly updates on the club's activities and meetings.

We can't wait to see what this club has in store for us!



Close Encounters with Prickly Pear and Cholla

By Kris Bean, Guest Contributor

Teddy bears and bunny ears — such cuddly names for the not so cuddly opuntia cacti that are part of the desert habitat. If you've reached out to pet one of these fuzzy desert flora, you've come away with a handful of glochidia, which easily latch on to the curious by the hundreds. Removing them can be challenging, but here are some recommendations.

Gentle washing with an antibacterial soap is the first step recommended in any process. No rubbing, please, as this may further embed the little prickles. Removing a few glochidia with tweezers and the aid of a magnifying glass has been found to be the most effective method for small areas of the body—a fingertip or palm of the hand.



When glochidia cover a large area or are too fine too be seen and removed, using household glue is the next step. Household glue—the white liquid stuff—Elmer's Multipurpose Glue. Heavens no!!! DO NOT USE SUPER GLUE OR EPOXY. Pour a small amount of glue on the affected area and gently spread it in a thin layer. Be careful not to push the spines in further. Lay a piece of gauze smoothly over the glue. Allow to dry for at least 30 minutes. Then peel it off. This removes the majority of the cactus spines in one application. As an added benefit, any body hair glued in the process will also be removed. Imagine any other spa treatment for only \$1.25.

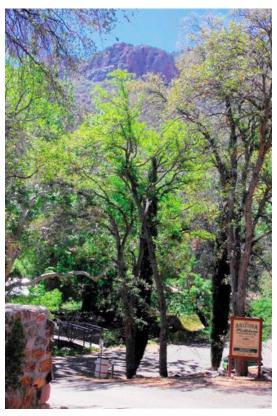
If some annoying prickles remain in the skin, small, shiny, pink bumps often appear on the skin within 24-72 hours. Some may contain pus. Careful examination often reveals a tiny black dot in the center. At this point soaking in an Epsom salts bath may be appropriate. Add two cups of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to a tub of warm-not hot-water before soaking for 30 minutes. If you have been diagnosed with hypertension, heart or kidney problems or diabetes, check with your doctor before using the Epsom salts bath.

Still feeling those little prickles? Re-apply the white glue/gauze after your softening soak. It should hurt less this time as most of your body hair was yanked off after the initial application.

Do not hesitate to see a doctor for the removal of hooked or deeply embedded spines—especially in the foot. If severe pain, redness, swelling, pus or fever are present, seek medical attention. And just how long ago was that last tetanus booster? More than five years ago? Check with your doctor about recommended booster shot intervals.

A search of the internet also unearthed several interesting methods without research support. Applying packing or duct tape to the area and then ripping may further embed the little darlings because of the pressure needed in applying. Wax hair removers proved less effective than the white glue/gauze method. No research support was found for applying and removing wet bread or the overnight application of securely taped split dried fruits. But if you're awakened nightly by persistent glochidia, go ahead and tape a prune to your arm and give it a whirl.

Day Trip to Ramsey Canyon and the Arizona Folklore Preserve



Ramsey Canyon is a great place to enjoy both Arizona's natural beauty and its music. You can enjoy it any time of the year, but especially in the summer.

Ramsey Canyon Preserve, located in the Huachuca Mountains near Sierra Vista and owned by the Nature Conservancy, is renowned for its scenic beauty and the diversity of its plant and animal life. Over 170 species of birds are found in the preserve. Boasting up to 14 species of hummingbirds, it is known as the Hummingbird Capitol of the U.S. The best months for birding at the preserve are April through September.

Guided nature walks are offered on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m. from March 1 to the end of October.

Parking is limited to 23 spaces, which are available on a first come, first served basis.

Admission: \$5 per person (good for 7 days); \$3 per person for Nature Conservancy members; and no charge for anyone under 16. Admission is free the first Saturday of every month.

Directions: Follow Highway 92 South from Sierra Vista for 6 miles and turn right on Ramsey Canyon Road. The preserve is at the road, four miles west of the highway.

For further information, go to www.nature.org and search for Ramsey Canyon.

The Arizona Folklore Preserve, located in Ramsey Canyon, was founded by Official State Balladeer Dolan Ellis in partnership with the University of Arizona South. The preserve presents performances by Ellis and guest artists featuring the songs, legends, poetry and myths of the Southwest.

Performances are at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and doors open at 1:00 p.m. Early arrival and reservations are recommended (520-378-6165 or on their website). Parking is limited. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for children 17 and under.

Directions: The preserve is located 6 miles south of Fry Blvd., Sierra Vista, on Highway 92 South. Turn right on Ramsey Canyon Road, continue 3.5 miles, then turn left on Folklore Trail.

Go to arizonafolklore.com for further information and the current schedule of performances.





In Memoriam

Bonníe Rose 774 Calle del Ensalmo April 23, 2012

Howard Cook Long-time winter resident 1011 Calle del Regalo May 12, 2012

Plants of the Month: Two Imposters

TA Te're branching out to identify a tree you may have seen blooming in several spots around EE this month. The Desert Willow (Chilopsis linearis) isn't really a willow although its long, narrow leaves may remind you of one. Drought tolerant, the Desert Willow can be found growing naturally along dry washes. This lovely tree is easily recognized by its long, narrow, papery pods throughout the year and its tubular, orchid-like flowers in spring and summer. Because it is strong and flexible, the wood of the Desert Willow was used by Native Americans to make hunting bows. The Pima also used it to construct houses and thatch roofs and to make baskets.





Our second plant is the **Red Yucca** (Hesperaloe parviflora), which is seen almost everywhere around town. One of the most reliable plants for desert gardens, Red Yucca is long blooming, low maintenance, drought tolerate, cold hardy and attractive to hummingbirds. It's no wonder the EE Gardeners chose it for the blue pots at the EE monument on Esperanza Boulevard. But don't be deceived by it's common name. It isn't really a yucca, but a member of the agave family. And, it's flowers aren't really red; they are more of a rose-coral color.



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Please print or clip and save this page for your reference. This list is also available on the EE websiste: www.esperanzaestates.net

Road Trips

By Cynthia Surprise

A re our winter residents enticed by the lure of the open road on their commute between Green Valley and their summer residence (some call it "home")? Do they view every exit off the highway as a chance to explore another part of America in the spirit of Kerouac and Steinbeck? Or has the thrill of the drive worn off and they just want to get there?

Always curious, and hoping to pick up a tip or two from seasoned road trippers, I recently asked a few EE residents about their experiences. Here's what I learned.

Ken and Patty Adler drive 16 hours to reach their home near Boulder, Colorado, and could do the trip with one overnight stop. But they are generally in no rush, so they meander along the back roads, taking as many as four days to complete the drive. "We get there when we get there," is Ken's philosophy.

Gary and Jackie Rautio's commute to Minnesota takes a maximum of five days. They vary their route, and enjoy stopping to visit family along the way. Gary does the bulk of the driving. Jackie picks motels that serve a continental breakfast to get an early start. Jackie suggests making motel reservations on the internet since you often get a lower rate. She has actually made reservations while sitting in the motel parking lot. The Rautios recall only one bad experience on the road. One night, a motel accidentally gave another guest a key to their room. Although the motel took that key back, when the Rautios checked their next credit card statement, they discovered the motel had billed them for the other man's room in addition to their own.

Stein and Coleen Simonsen's 950 mile commute to Idaho takes two days. They do a speed run because "the fishing is waiting." This means using the fastest route, no unnecessary stops, and occasionally sleeping in the car for a few hours and then pressing on. After some expensive camera equipment was stolen from their car one night, they avoid stopping in Las Vegas.

For Bill Berdine and Stacie Meyer the trip to their old Kentucky home takes three days. Unlike Steinbeck's "Travels with Charlie," Bill and Stacie's travels with Theo means taking the interstate, rest stops every three hours, and no sightseeing along the way. Books on tape help Bill and Stacie pass the time. Theo prefers looking out the window. Picnic lunches save them time.

Roger and Sandi Oster can make their 1,650-mile commute to Minnesota in two days. They travel mostly on two-lane roads and the route is designed to avoid the traffic congestion in Kansas City. Roger isn't particularly interested in sightseeing, but Sandi hopes to visit Salt River Canyon and the Wizard of Oz Museum some day. Roger does the driving, and Sandi works on crossword puzzles and listens to the radio and talking books. Sandi suggests writing the frequencies of your favorite radio stations on the map or in a notebook for easy access. The Osters have been making their commute since 2003, and their only bad experience was driving through fog near Wichita.

Jim and Barb Copeland took three days to get to Minnesota. They never did any sightseeing, but Barb would knit while Jim drove. Neither of them found the drive very comfortable, and they worried about the weather after experiencing hard rain, snow, and even a bad sand storm. Now they fly instead of drive. The downside is that they can't load up the car and have to ship everything they can't carry with them.

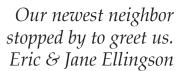
My own approximately 3,000-mile trek between EE and Massachusetts offers a variety of routes, all of which require at least five days of travel. We try a new route each time, always including some travel on two-lane scenic roads. Following parts of old Route 66 was a navigational challenge since many are not shown on regular road maps, but the sights along the way made up for it.

Postcards from Home...

Dear Friends in Esperanza Estates, Here's what we found when we returned to our summer place.



Spring had arrived – it was green! Bob & Linda Winterland







Weeds, weed, weeds.
Bill Berdine & Stacie Meyer

What's that white stuff?
Ken & Patty Adler



Tradesperson Recommendations

Bob Harrison has purchased and remodeled four homes in Esperanza Estates over the last several years. His long career in the construction business has given him extensive experience dealing with subcontractors, and he would like to share some local recommendations with EE homeowners. Bob highly recommends the following contractors based on their experience, professionalism, cost and quality of work.

Popcorn ceiling removal & dry wall repair: Mike Galvez, Sr: 668-1895 Electrical: Canyon Electric, licensed, Grant Chesebrough, 625-1939

Plumbing: Tony Goetz, 398-4258, 289-0532

Skylights: Skylites Plus, skylights, repairs, doors & hardware, John Stichter, 625-5091 Heating & air-condition: Vic's HVAC, Victor Corrales, 908-8818 (30 years experience)

Pest control & termites: Preferred Pest Control, Kevin Hamilton, 399-1525

Roof coating materials: Tucson Rubberized Coatings, (6000 series, 10 yr.) 293-3444

Home inspections: B-4 You Buy: Tony Goetz, 289-0532, 398-4258

Roof repairs: Territorial Roofing, (flat roof specialists) Dave Davis, 625-5825

Garage doors: Desert Garage Door: 646-1395. Painting: Michael Galvez, Jr: 331-0896

Paint supplies: Dunn Edwards Paints, 887-7100 Carpet installation: Carlos Durazo, 409-1171

EE Residents: If you have recommendations for various services, please let us know by emailing Denise Roessle (droessle@mac.com). We will start publishing them again in the September issue.

Welcome New Owners

Beverly Hebib 716 Placita Nueva

Charles & Donna Watt 812 Calle Del Regalo

John & Karen McMasters 754 Calle Del Ensalmo

Harry & Mary Fuhrman 1041 Calle Del Regalo

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(before)



(after)



(inside looking out)

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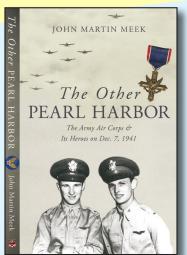
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