

# NEWSLETTER



Aztec Calendar

**AZUSA HIGH SCHOOL AZTECS**  
**Kiowa Class of 1961**

**February-March-April 2010**

## General Information

Welcome to issue #16 of our newsletter. Again, thanks to everyone who provided alumni information and updates so that we would have something to write about. Keep those stories and information coming so we can continue to send out the newsletter on a timely basis. Be sure to email photos too.

If you have anything you'd like to include in the next newsletter, please email the info to me at [cheryl.tango@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tango@gmail.com) or mail to Cheryl Dillard, PO Box 2413, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. You may also phone me at 503-781-2658. You can view all newsletters, bios, event information and photos at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com>

**If you have changed your mailing address, phone number or email address, PLEASE let us know** so we can update our list. **Janice Quick Ashborn** is the "point man" where all your contact information should be sent. Her email is [okayjan@hotmail.com](mailto:okayjan@hotmail.com) and her mailing address is 8670 Robles Dr., San Diego, CA 92119.

## Kiowa Spotlight

In this issue **Sharon Hunt-Carden's** biography highlights her life in the military. **Mike Rawlings'** posthumous biography is also featured in this newsletter. Mike was writing it when he succumbed to cancer. His brother finished it for him.

## Happenings

The next Kiowa Class of 1961 Golf Tournament weekend will take place Friday, May 21 through Monday, May 24 in Palm Desert, California. The Golf Tournament will be held Sunday May 23 at Shadow Ridge Resort and the family get-together will be on Sunday following the tournament. The reception and family get-together will be within walking distance to Shadow Ridge and approximately two miles from downtown Palm Desert.

The cost is \$110.00 and covers golf, food, drink and fun. **Please mail your checks to:**

**Bob O'Connor, 36342 Mirar Vista Dr, Mission Viejo, CA 92692.** You can contact Bob at 949-364-0792.

## From Azusa High

Homecoming weekend is October 15 & 16 this year. The alumni football game will take place on Friday, October 15.. There will a dance in the gym immediately following the game. October 16 activities will be announced later.

To view photos of the 2008 October All Class Reunion, click on the following link:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/azusahighreunion2008/sets/>

For info on Azusa High School events and activities visit: <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/events.html>

## Changes

If you change your address, phone number, email or even your name, please contact Janice Ashborn at [okayjan@hotmail.com](mailto:okayjan@hotmail.com). She will let me know and I shall put the changes here.

Here are new email addresses for the following alumni:

**Tony Rubio:** [tonyru1943@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyru1943@yahoo.com)

**Joyce Bright Lynn:** [jbeadlady@aol.com](mailto:jbeadlady@aol.com)

**Richard Bond Castillo:** [rick-castillo@hotmail.com](mailto:rick-castillo@hotmail.com)

## News Updates

A new blog has been created where classmates can share information, post comments and ideas. Though the blog is more interactive than our website, it doesn't replace it. Instead the blog will replace the detailed emails that we send you. At the blog you can easily retrieve archived posts on a subject rather than searching for an email that you may have deleted. You can link to our website from the blog and also access the blog from the navigation bar of the website. Check out the blog at <http://azusahigh1961.wordpress.com/> and be sure to post a comment while you're there.

**Joanne Srack Mead** had cataract surgery and is now driving without glasses. Joanne will be volunteering at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab Utah May 29-June 4. This is the largest no-kill shelter in the United States.

**Joyce Bright Lynn** recently retired and is ready to get back in touch with her Azusa High classmates.

In April **Chuck Hardin** and four of his friends sailed a Santa Cruz 70 racing sailboat from Cabo to Long Beach.

**Dick Bessire** is on a magazine cover [http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/photos\\_and\\_video.html](http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/photos_and_video.html)

On June 19 **Connie Heaslet Mace** and her husband, Tom, will celebrate their 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Joel Dethlefs** has several interests including his greatest hobby, wine. Currently he's in the process of building his first computer, so he's going to need the wine.

**Kay Winburn Seale** and her husband, Richard, celebrated their upcoming 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a trip to China, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Read her travel story at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/bios.html>

**John Carwile** has a new great grandson and is "proud as a peacock". Also, he's having a ball running around on his three-wheel bike that he put together himself—complete with a motor on it. I wonder if he takes custom orders.



*John Carwile's Three Wheeler*



*Kay & Richard Seale at the Great Wall of China*

Many of you have taken fun vacations that our alumni would enjoy reading about. If you would like your travel story and photos to be included in our next newsletter, please email them to me at [cheryl.tango@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tango@gmail.com).

## Illnesses, etc...

During the past few months several of our classmates have struggled through various health problems. Some are still in the process of healing and appreciate our continuing positive thoughts and prayers.

If someone knows of an alumnus who is very ill, please let me know.

## In Memoriam

The past year has been a difficult one because we have lost some of our former classmates. Gone, but not forgotten, they will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

In February **Richard Romero** passed away while under the loving care of Hospice volunteers.

On March 10, after an unsuccessful battle with an insidious infection, **Barbara Hawley** Hartley passed away peacefully at OHSU Medical Center in Portland, Oregon with her loving family at her side.

In December **Carolyn "Corky" Warfield** Justice was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma and by March 21 she was gone. Corky was a valuable asset to our class. She was an active member of our reunion committee and used her sleuthing skills to find many of our missing alumni.

You, dear readers, have to be the ones to let me know about anyone who passes.

At the present time we are aware of the following alumni who are no longer with us:

Loree Hodge	Gary Bielke	Ken Navarro
Theresa Asbury Bence	Kenneth MacDermott	Ray Nakama
Gary Pollard	Kenneth White	Geraldine Diaz Kinsey
Keith Hunt	Kenn Crafton	Harry Kimura
Mary Arbuckle	DonRay Logan	Les Frieberg
Billy Estrada	Joe Contreras	Joseph Mora Jr.
Henry Pedroza	Ronald Dunkle	Regina Johnson Nash
Mike Walters	Mary Ann Connor	Darwyn Freed
Laurie Wittich Taft	Oren Putnam	Dennis Prober
Christine Kekos Smithhart	Melvina Andrieux	Carol Turner Seiverson
Neal Sparks	Paulette Waltz McMurtrey	Doug Morris
William McKenzie	Frank Moreno	Karol Ruffing White
Mike Rawlings	Richard Romero	Barbara Hawley Hartley
Carolyn Warfield Justice		

Thanks to all of you for supporting our newsletter by sending in your personal stories, bios, completed questionnaires, information about class of '61 events and news of your retirement, vacations, activities, health, etc. If it weren't for you, there would be no newsletter, so thanks again and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Please email news and photos to [cheryl.tango@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tango@gmail.com) and address changes to [okayjan@hotmail.com](mailto:okayjan@hotmail.com)

*Cheryl Dillard (Burlingame)*

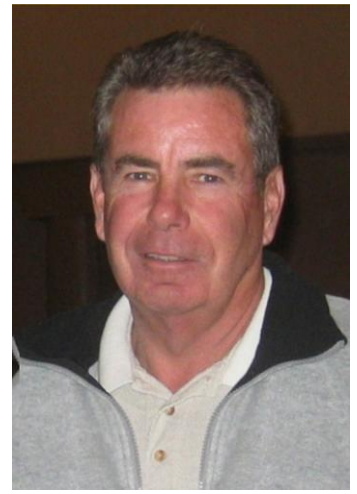
**You can view all of our newsletters at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/newsletters.html>**

## Spotlight on Mike Rawlings

On January 24, 2010 our fellow classmate and friend, Mike Rawlings, passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. While he was undergoing treatment I asked him to write his bio for our newsletter. I thought it might be good if he could focus on something other than what he was going through. He didn't get the chance to finish it. Here, in Mike's own words, is the story of his life after Azusa High School.

### Education, Military Service and Work

At graduation I was working part-time at my father's gas station in Duarte. In the fall I started my first semester at Citrus College. It turned out that I wasn't ready for college. I didn't start my second semester until several years later. I continued working at the gas station until September of '62 when I decided to get something done with my life. I don't know how smart it was, but what I did was to join the Army.



*Mike Rawlings*

I chose aviation as a military vocation and after basic training I was told I had missed my basic aviation maintenance school because my basic lasted longer than scheduled. I was assigned to the first "Chinook" helicopter company in Fort Benning Georgia. Unfortunately the Army had not yet received its first Chinook. It would be months before I received my mechanical training and became a crew chief on one of the brand new Chinooks. Over the next couple of years the unit grew into the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division which had hundreds of helicopters of all types. As a crew chief my duties were to perform 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> echelon maintenance and oversee the passengers and loads when flying. My last flight in the Chinook was in August of '65 just before the division was renamed the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav., and shipped out to Vietnam. I remember the XO calling me into his office and advising me that I would have to extend my enlistment if I wanted to go to Vietnam with the rest of the company. I thought about it for a few seconds, very few, and quickly declined.

After separation from the Army I started working at a rock and sand company in Upland. I soon found out that rock and sand wasn't for me either. I then enrolled in Citrus College again, with electronics as my major. I made ends meet with part-time jobs and moving back home with my parents. Two years later I was an electronics technician working on a hand grenade fuse testing machine in a small company in Monrovia. You guessed it—six months later I decided that electronics wasn't for me. One day while working, I saw a CHP officer make a traffic stop right outside my window. It was a beautiful November morning and I wished I could be outside. That very day, Friday, I went to the Department of Employment on my lunch break and asked if they had any information on careers in law enforcement. They directed me to a flyer for "Sheriff's Department" testing on Saturday mornings.



*Mike – LA Co. Deputy Sheriff*

The next morning I was at the Hall of Administration taking the test. Less than three months later I received a phone call asking when I was ready to start. A month later I was in uniform working as an untrained bailiff in a courtroom in downtown Los Angeles. Everything was cool until I had to start the Sheriff's Academy. I've got to tell you that the academy was no fun. Basic training in the Army was easier. Twenty-six weeks of hell, and I knew right away that this wasn't for me. I had to get through it though, because I couldn't admit that I couldn't do it. I got through it all right, but just about the time I applied for the Sheriff's Department I met Patricia Hills whom would become my bride about a week after graduating from the academy. Oops! Now I had to think about making a living for a family, not just myself. Leaving the Sheriff's Department would have to wait. I'd have to find something else I could do and make the same money. This is where they tricked me up. The county started giving Sheriff's deputies pretty good raises, making it all the more difficult to leave. I finally got my chance 29 years later. As a retiree I couldn't make the same money as I did working, but after 29 years of service at age 55 the pension paid good enough to retire.

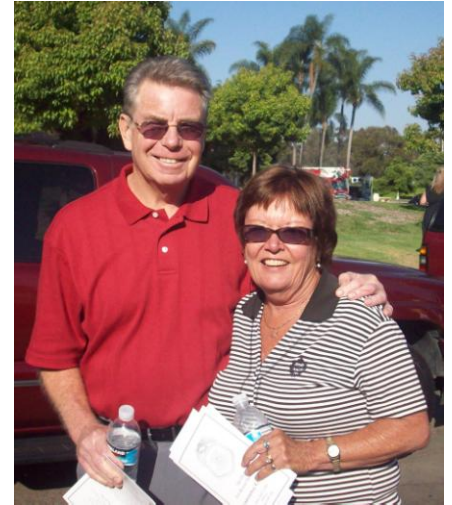
### Personal Life

In the fall of 1968 I met and fell in love with Pat, my first wife. She's still my wife and I call her my first wife to keep her on her best behavior. When I met her she was working at the Monrovia Telephone Company and was a coworker of our editor, Cheryl Dillard.

**Note: After Mike passed his brother continued writing bio where Mike left off. The following words were written by his brother:**

*After their wedding, Pat and Mike settled in their apartment in Arcadia. Mike continued in his career as a deputy sheriff and soon they welcomed their first son, Steve in 1970. Shortly after Steve was born, Mike and Pat bought a home in Covina, which is still their home. The Rawlings family soon was blessed with the birth of a second son, Larry in 1972 and in 1975 a third son, David, joined the family. Pat soon learned what it was to live with a house of “men. Even Buck, the family dog was a boy. They tried to tell Pat that Buck was a girl so she wouldn’t feel alone—but she figured out the truth.*

*Family time was very important to Mike. He made sure that his “off time” from the sheriff department was spent with Pat and the Boys.*



*Mike and Pat Rawlings*



*Mike and his three sons*

*They took family vacations every year and spent many times camping, boating, and enjoying being together. Mike was such a proud “dad” as the boys grew and started their own careers and families. Mike welcomed his new daughters into the Rawlings Family as each of his sons brought home their bride-to-be. And when the grandchildren started arriving, Mike was one of the proudest “grandpas” ever. His six grandchildren, Clint, Sydney, Isabella, Sabrina, Paul and Helena, brought such joy to him. He looked forward to when they could all be together, which was often. Vacations as a family were still very important and the Rawlings spent much time camping at San Clemente State Beach and Lake Tahoe.*



*Mike and Pat – Motor Home Camping*



*Mike and Pat Rawlings - Mexico*

*After Mike retired from the Sheriff’s Department, he and Pat began to travel in their motor home. They joined the West Covina Roamin’ Elks and then it was seldom that you could find them home. They loved being with their Elk friends.*

*Family and friends were a very important part of Mike’s life. He looked forward to spending time with friends from high school and the Sheriff’s Department. He always enjoyed time with his family and extended family. He wasn’t one to make a lot of changes in his life—29 years with the Sheriff’s Department, 39 years in the same home, and 40 years with the same “first” wife.*

*Mike was a very special man, a very loving man, a very loyal man. We are going to miss you, Mike, but you will not be forgotten. We love you!*

**Message from Pat, Mike's wife:**

Mike had been diagnosed with kidney cancer in October 2004. They removed his right kidney and thought we were good to go. One year later they found evidence that it had metastasized. We both chose to try to put it in the back of our heads and just keep having fun. And fun we had.

Mike was really sick from May 2009 until his passing. He fought hard to get all he could out of life. As sick as he was, we did make the Christmas campout in December with our friends, the traditional Family Thanksgiving campout at San Clemente and also the traditional family Christmas party. It seems like through the last eight months, God would give us a window here or there where we could still enjoy our family and friends.

Azusa Class of 1961 was very special to Mike. He loved all the get-togethers and reunions that you had. I have to admit, I enjoyed them just as much as he did. You have an extraordinary class.

I feel very blessed to have had such a wonderful husband. He was a fantastic father, grandfather, and best friend. We had many great times with our families, six grandchildren and very special friends.

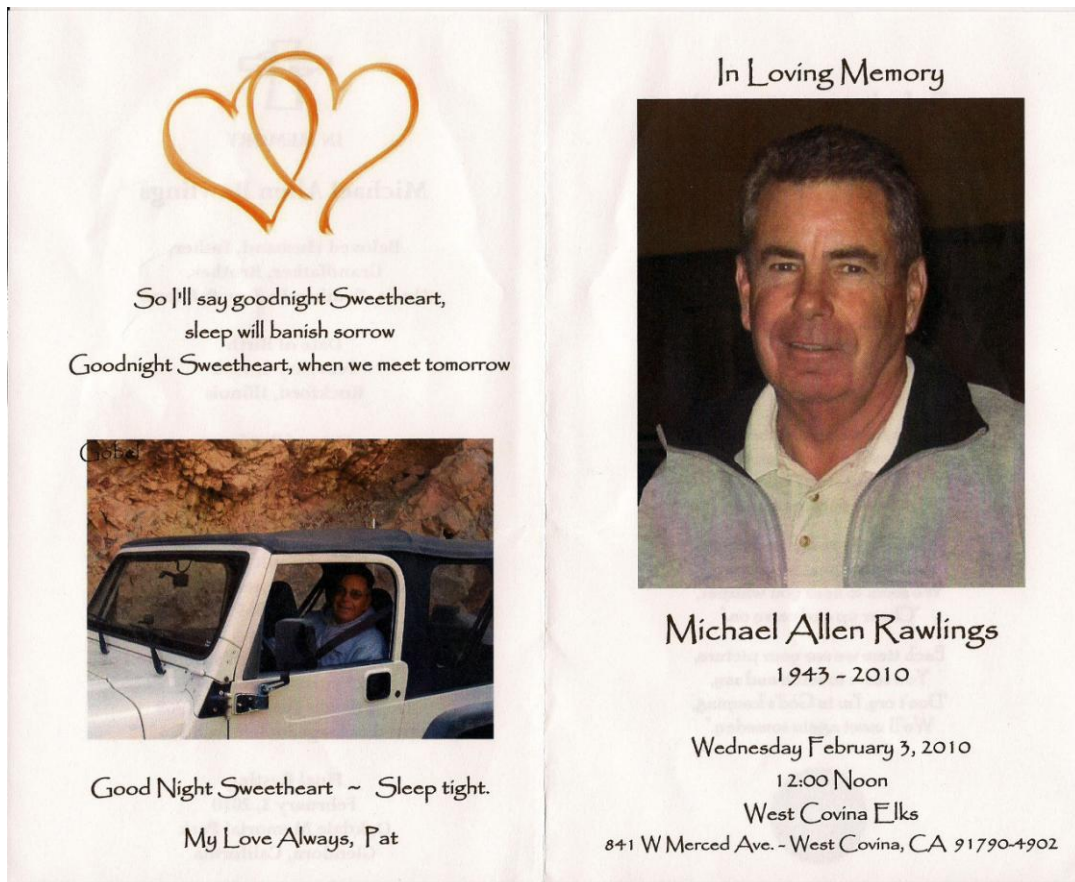
One of the prayers at Mike's service was:

"I will lend you a father for some time while he is living. I have chosen you to be his family. I am not offering that he will stay with you forever. I am only lending him to you. Someday, I will call him home. Do not be sad or cry. Be compensated by the love and wonderful memories."

Mike passed away January 24, 2010 surrounded with the love of his family.

I want to thank the Class of '61 for all the wonderful cards, e-mails and prayers. Your support meant so much for Mike and me. I know so many of you attended his service. I apologize that I didn't get to give each of you a personal greeting, but I thank you for being there for me and my family.

Love and Thanks to All  
Pat



## Spotlight on Sharon J. Hunt-Carden

### Life after Azusa High School

As most of you know, I married Bob Carlson right out of high school. He was a bit of a “Bad Boy”, with his purple car and oh so handsome. You might have read about how it ended on the front page of the Azusa Herald. He killed our refrigerator and stove with a 22 rifle. There was ketchup and mayo all over the place. So now what is a girl to do now? “I know, I’ll join the Navy.” So I was off to Bainbridge, Maryland for boot camp. That was when I met Pat Hospie, aka Hospie Co. 19. She was an elegant black gal from New York and I was a white “bumpkin” from some town called Azusa. How was I to know in 1962 there was a lot of prejudice. But she sure did! Against all odds we became the best of friends and still are to this day.



*Sharon – US Army*



*Pat Hospie and Sharon in chow line – US Navy*

A bit of history, in 1962 we were called WAVES, Women’s Auxiliary Voluntary Emergency Services. Then we were WINS, Women in the Naval Service. Now, I believe we are simply called Sailors. My first duty station was Naval Air Station, Lemoore, California. In 1962 there wasn’t a lot of respect for women in the military, so it was a bit hard. There was a saying the guys used, “Join the Navy and ride the WAVES.” Even with that I was proud to be a part of the military. President Kennedy’s death sent shock waves through our barracks. That was when I really felt the camaraderie of the military. I met and married my 2<sup>nd</sup> husband. We became officially pregnant on my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Even though I had a miscarriage, the military automatically discharged me. Now they have maternity uniforms. How times have changed.

In 1980 I enlisted in the Naval Reserves for extra money to buy a Corvette. For three years I realized how much I missed being in uniform and part of the military. I also observed what the recruiters were doing. Since The Good Lord decided I would never be a mother, recruiting for me was my maternal calling. In 1983 I perused a position in recruiting. The Recruiter in charge let me know “no way” because women didn’t succeed in recruiting. But I was determined. So I hopped into my Corvette and went to San Diego to meet with the Admiral to plead my case. On July 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 40 I left a good paying job with Lockheed to go back on active duty as a recruiter. Against all odds, I was the top recruiter for three years.

At the age of 43 I was convinced recruiting for the Army National Guard was the best for my advancement...”so “I’m in the Army Now”. Little did I know that I would have to carry an M16 and be in “The Field” trying to find my way out of the woods with a compass. They gave me a back pack that weighed at least 50 pounds. I didn’t know a canteen cup from a coffee cup. So I was off to Utah in October, Indiana in March, and back to Indiana in October the next year. Didn’t they know I was a Southern California girl? A lot of people asked why I switched to the Army. Well, I was tired of wearing black in the winter and white in the summer and my favorite color is green. A girl needs a new outfit now and then! All my recruits were special, but the most memorable were my three girls... identical triplets, Lordes, Lorena And Lupe. Only the last name is on military uniforms. Therefore it was Rodriguez, Rodriguez and Rodriguez.



*Sharon & the Rodriguez triplets*

But the girls and the drill sergeant made it through boot camp.



*Sharon J. Carden - Sergeant First Class*

My last take on women in the military... My boot camp Company Commander had a saying, "First you are a lady, then you are a WAVE" and I never forgot that. As a recruiter I wanted to portray not only the military side but the female side. Most times I wore a skirt, heels and had my nails polished. I was challenged with regulations concerning my military appearance and polished nails, but won my case. When I gave my husband this picture for his desk, his Major had a fit and fell in it! He called Eddie on the carpet stating it was inappropriate because I was still in the military. Get a life, Major, and enjoy it!

In the early '90s I was transferred to Ventura, California and hung up my combat boots in 1997. It was there I became a sailor again with my first sailboat, "Great Day". Being on the docks was a great getaway from everyday life. Sailing to the nearby Anacapa Islands was awesome. Being anchored for days at a time was serenity at its best. While at sea the dolphins would play in the wake of the boat and sometimes there was a whale or two. But the sea can be angry at times. There were a few times I questioned my love for sailing. But the whole aura of the sea, the docks and serenity resulted in living aboard Evening Star, a 45ft Morgan.

In 1994 I found my soul mate and we married the next year. Eddie and I were stationed together in Ventura. He is the best thing that has ever happened to me and the nicest person I have ever met. Since I married a younger man, he is still working. He is a security manager at Tri State Racing and Gaming Resort. His daughter, Sarah, is a college student in Sacramento. His oldest daughter, Amy, lives in Riverside with her husband and three children... so far! Amy's husband, Liam, was a professor at Azusa Pacific for a couple of years and now is teaching at Cal Poly Pomona. He also is a Navy Reserve officer and recently returned from Afghanistan.

After my retirement we moved to Carson City, Nevada. California was too expensive and crowded. Nevada didn't work so we found ourselves in Myrtle, South Carolina for six years. From there it was West "By God" Virginia. How in the world did we end up here? Another soldier we served with in Ventura retired here. Judy is a wonderful friend. We took care of her dogs while she was in Afghanistan. As we visited her over the next few years we realized that "West By God" was a great place to retire, so here we are! It's a beautiful state with mountains, rivers and the four seasons. Life is good. We both have pretty good health considering we are "in the process"—the aging process that is, except I leave out the word aging. I've had a few surgeries here and there and broke most of my ribs falling off a stool. Caution: Do not have one foot on a stool and the other in the kitchen sink while painting the inside of your cabinets! Last May I had my right hip replaced and in November I had the left one done. Now I am the Bionic Woman from Azusa and set off all the bells and whistles at the airport.

We have a little trailer getaway on the Potomac River in Little Orleans, Maryland. It sits on 40 acres of private property among trees and trails. It's not unusual to see hoards of wild turkeys, deer and other wild life. There is no TV reception or cell phone service because it is so secluded. In the summer we tube or canoe down the river and may even take up fishing. It's a serene life we share with Lucy, our beagle I got at a yard sale and Molly our cat. Who could ask for anything more?

You can read this bio and all previous alumni bios at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/bios.html>



DO YOU KNOW WHERE ANY OF THESE ALUMNI ARE?

PLEASE INCLUDE ADDRESSES, EMAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS

THANK YOU FOR ANY ASSISTANCE. **THERE HAVE BEEN MORE ADDED SINCE LAST ISSUE!**

EMAIL TO okayjan@hotmail.com or MAIL to Janice Ashborn, 8670 Robles Dr, San Diego, CA 92119

Cesaria	Accardo			Bob	Klassen	
Josephine	Acero			Mary	Kluter	
Delores	Alonzo			Alice	Konopasek	Pipping
Anne	Alvarez			Jane	Kunkle	
Julianna	Ardelean	Parker		Robert	LaFata	
Roberta	Armstrong			Dorothy	Lake	
Kathy	Arnold	Houlthouser		Robert	Lee	
Bertha	Ascencio			Patricia	Lenschmidt	
Larry	Bailey			Leslie	Long	
Charlette	Barnes			Elvira	Lopez	
Linda	Beavers	Ponce		Paul	Malenfant	
Jeanne	Becker			Janice	Mann	
William	Behounek			Olivia	Mardis	
Ladd	Biggs	Merwin		George	Marquez	
Jeanne	Boese			Josephine	Martinez	
Joanne	Boss	Turner		Sandra	McFadden	
Carol	Brown			Dennis	Miller	
Larry	Brown			Judith	Morski	
Diane	Burns			Bobby	Nakatani	
Harriet	Bush			Sharon	Nolen	
James	Butcher			Deanne	Noriega	
Gary	Campbell			David	Nunez	
Tom	Campbell			Melody	O'Brien	
Joan	Carson	Woodward		Janet	Parker	
Susan	Chambers			Judith	Peterson	
Lucy	Chavira			Jerome	Pollock	
Marie	Chavira			John	Powell	
Ray	Chavira			Bert	Putsey	
Kenneth	Clement			James	Railey	
Herbert	Cross			Herbert	Reynolds	
Robert	Cummins			Pauline	Rheault	
Richard	Davolos			Phil	Rix	
Judy	Deanes	Greene		Albert	Rocha	
Lorraine	Defosses			Elizabeth	Romero	
Eleanore	Dominguez	Manqueros		Richard	Romero	
Rubin	Dominguez			Walter	Roy	
Charlotte	Dotson	Ryan		Norma	Rust	
Joann	Duke			Jessie	Santellan	Romero
Sheila	Dunlap			Janet	Schnute	
Ruth	Eckes			Mary	Sever	
James	Engel			Craig	Shepard	
Nancy	Ewing			Janice	Silvera	
Carrie	Farrell	Harner		Judith	Smith	
Roberta	Fike			Delores	Soto	
Virginia	Flewell			Sharon	Stroika	

