

CARL AHEE

Principal at Wiesbaden High School in the early 50s.
This bio was edited by Penny Olson Uselton, class of 1955

This is a pre-war, World War II, and post-war rendition of "What I Have Been doing for the Last 50 Years....or so."

I was born near Unionville, Iowa on June 19, 1915 and five years later moved to California with my family. I graduated from Turlock High School, Modesto Junior College and the University of Southern California (1939). My graduate work at Hastings Law School was shortened to two years by a "Greetings" letter.

In May of 1941 I joined the Navy flight training program; and completed "E" Base at Alameda, California. I was commissioned and winged in Corpus Christi, Texas in June of 1942. I received operational training in PBM's at Norfolk and Banana River while attached to TTSA.

My next assignment was in August of 1942 and back in Norfolk, Virginia. I was made a plank officer in the first 3-digit PBM squadron flying a VP 201. Within days, I married Lorraine Guinn. Recently we celebrated our Golden Anniversary on September 12 of 2002. Nearly all of my fleet duty was served in VP 201's and most of my operational flight time was in the well publicized Bermuda Triangle. No cargo ship was sunk in areas where VP 201's provided primary coverage. I have vivid memories that include making night anti-submarine reconnaissance at 75' to 100' altitudes using the 80,000,000 candlepower Leigh light covering massive 120 ship convoys.



In late November and mid-December of 1943, I made four flights from Bermuda to escort a top secret convoy; cruising at flank speed; and carrying President Franklin D. Roosevelt to, and from, North Africa for the Tehran/Cairo "Big Three" conferences. In September and October of 1944, I made several weather flights from Key West to locate, plot and define hurricane areas...once flying into a hurricane's eye. The calmness and strange light within the eye is unforgettable.

Upon separation from the Navy in 1946, Lorraine and I returned to California. I enrolled in USC as a G.I. student. During the next ten years, I earned three teaching credentials, three administration credentials, two master's degrees and a doctorate. Professional assignments included teaching at Turlock High School; being a principal at Wiesbaden and Heidelberg American High Schools Overseas; Principal at Torrance High School; and Director of the Torrance Adult School. I also enjoyed short term teaching assignments at USC and Long Beach State. I retired after a 32 year career in education in June of 1978. (*Dr. Ahee was in Who's Who as one of the top educators of our country. The late Priscilla Noddin told Penny Olson this.*)

We have three children. They are Mary Guinn, Karl Peter and Henry. The boys were adopted while we were living in Wiesbaden. We now have nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

I keep busy in the Rotary, golfing, swimming; 6:00 AM daily workouts, bridge; and with Lorraine we involve ourselves in church and community activities. Each year we typically drive 5 to 6,000 miles to view the beauty and bounty of the U.S. In 1991 I chaired the Mariner/Marlin Association Reunion that was held jointly with the ANA Symposiums in San Diego. (Of the 1,500 members, 512 were in attendance for that year.)

One of my special memories was when my dad went with the senior class from Wiesbaden down the Rhine River for me. I unfortunately was too busy closing the school to attend. I do not recall a Wiesbaden song; but I do remember a great cheer. How could we forget? (We won the cheerleading award in Frankfurt with this!)

Vas Ist Das?

Vas Ist Das?

Das Ist Wiesbaden!

Das Ist Vas!