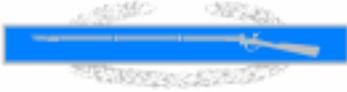




**508th Airborne Chapter  
 82nd Airborne Division Assn.  
 4072 E. 22nd St. PMB #187  
 Tucson, AZ 85711-5334**



**Jack Damron & Warren "Ike" Eichelberger  
 320<sup>th</sup> Reunion Picnic - 25 September 1999**

**320<sup>th</sup> Reunion Banquet - 25 September 1999**



# The Red Devil Digest



The 508th Airborne Chapter - Fury From The Sky

## 320th Reunion A Huge Success

### 320th Abn FA Bn Reunion



On September 23- 25, approximately 117 troopers, wives, family members, and guests from the 320th Abn FA Bn and the 508th Airborne Chapter participated in a great reunion organized by Joe Montoya, Chairman, 320th Abn FA Association and his

staff. The reunion was held at the Quality Inn Downtown, Clarksville, TN, just a hop, skip, and a jump from Fort Campbell, KY.

Thursday and Friday was set aside for registration, a general meeting, pool side luncheon, time to get reacquainted with old friends and a visit to Fort Campbell. The reunion brought out a host of troopers from Medical Company, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn and a "mini-reunion" of many former members of the Regimental Football Team as well as our Redleg troopers. All in all, it was a fine representation from both the 320th Association and the 508th Abn Chapter.

Saturday was a busy day for all with a picnic at noon and formal dinner at the Western KY and TN Chapter (101st Abn Div) Club House.

Congratulations are in order for **Carolyn Gordon** and **Jewell McWilliams** as recipients of the famed artillery Molly Pitcher Award. Our own (and the 320th's) **Rodger Jacobson** was presented the 1999 82nd Airborne Division Association's 1999 Plaque for Membership Excellence which was awarded to the Chapter at the August National Convention in Omaha, NE. Rodger richly deserves to be the keeper of this award for his outstanding contributions in finding and recruiting members of the 508th throughout the years.



Leona and Rodger Jacobson displaying Membership Excellence Award

As mentioned above, the Chapter was ably represented at the reunion. If the Secretary failed to list everyone or meet with everyone at the reunion, apologies are hereby rendered. Chapter members in attendance were: **Jean & Jane Ashcraft** (HQ3/55-56), **Bobbie & Shirley Bush** (HQ3/55-56), **Willard & Beverly Cagle** (HQ3/55-56), **Oliver & LaDonna Coombs** (D/53-55), **John A. Christopher** (HQ3/55-56), **CSM (R) Warren S. Eichelberger** (MED/55-56), **Alexander & Ikuko Elliott** (SPT/55-56), **William & Rita Fernandez** (SPT/54-56), **Richard & Elizabeth George** (H&H/54-55),

**Charles & Glenda Gordon** (G/51-54), **Jimmie & Wanda Huey** (SVC320/54-56), **Tony & Mary LaJustice** (MED/55-56), **James Lammle** (MED/55-56), **Frank & Barbara Mahmet** (E/54-56), **Jerry & Elizabeth Payne** (H&H/54-56), **William Perry** (C/51), **Rudy & Annie Reza**, (C/54-56), **Dan & Norma Belle Rowsey** (MED/55-56), **Bob & Marylyn Rukamp** (MED/55-56), **Richard Sanborn** (H&H/54-55), **Leroy & Lorena Schweitzer** (H&H/53-55), **Kenneth & Betsy Warzyn** (D/54-56), **Ronnie Wilson** (HQ3/55-56) and **Arthur & Patricia York** (HQ3/55-56). Those chapter members in attendance who hold dual membership in both the 320<sup>th</sup> AFA Association and the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter were: **Jack & Donna Bock** (HQ320/55-56), **Jack & Ruth Damron** (HQ1/54-57), **Walt & Joan Ducharme** (HQ320/55-56), **Rodger & Leone Jacobson** (HQ320/55-56), **Joe & Sue Montoya** (HQ320/55-56), and **Bruce Tyler** (A320/55-56).

Also in attendance from the ARCT, but as yet not chapter members were: **Chuck Albin** (598/55-56), **Jack & Juanita Greene** (MED/55-56), **Ernest McCray** (D/54-55), **Edward & Betty Pruitt** (H&H/53-55), **Kenneth Rummel** (MED/55-56), **Edward & Emily Ann Slocum** (HQ3/55-56), and **Joe & Phyllis Strenko** (MED/55-56). We hope you enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones and will consider becoming a chapter member and keeping up with the latest news of the 508<sup>th</sup> Red Devils.

Again, kudos to Joe Montoya and the many who helped to put together an excellent reunion. The name tags were exceptionally innovative and the best I have ever seen at a reunion. Looking forward to many more 320<sup>th</sup> functions!

Ed's note: A personal greeting to CSM (R) Warren S. Eichelberger (MED/55-56). "Ike and I served together in the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> ABG, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Fort Campbell, KY in the late 50's. Ike kept reminding me "He taught me every thing I know." Good seeing you again Ike!

## Chairman's Message



December closes out this millennium (as if we didn't know) and the ninth year of the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapters existence. We have marched a long way in the past nine years. We are successfully attaining one of our goals, to continue the history and traditions of the 508<sup>th</sup> Red Devils so that it may be passed on to those who follow.

The chapter officers, Frank, Rodger, Jack and myself wish to thank all of you who have been more than generous in your support of our chapter by your notes of encouragement, appreciation and your unselfish donations. It makes it all worth while. **All join in wishing all of you a peaceful, joyous and enjoyable holiday season!**

**Volunteer Anyone?** Troops, your chapter needs you. I know, never volunteer but somebody has to keep the chapter going and improve as the years go by. Two areas where the chapter needs support is in setting up regional "mini" reunions and recruitment of new members. We are doing a pretty good job of finding and adding names to the data base but need help in talking our former troopers into joining the chapter.

Lets talk about mini reunions first. Several people have expressed disappointment in not having a mini reunion in Springfield, MA this year. It's not possible for your chapter officers to be everywhere and do it all. It doesn't take much for someone in the local community to make arrangements for a mini. Your chapter will help with advertisement in the newsletter, send out announcements to all troopers in the general area who are not members and furnish advice on how to set up a mini - its not that difficult if you live in the area. Think about it. If you are interested, please contact me or Jack Damron. Jack set up the Punta Gorda, FL mini alone since no one else resided locally. It can be done.

Next, we would like to see some troopers step forward and become the company/battery

representative for their unit. **Jack Wheeler**, HQ2/51-55, pretty well does with his "Prop Blast Newsletter" which he sends out every other month. As a company rep, you will be responsible for contacting and recruiting new chapter members from your unit and possibly set up a mini reunion for your unit - that's up to you. The chapter will furnish each rep with a roster of all the units names, addresses, etc. on the data base. We now have 1680 names on the active data base. In the past month we added 23 more names from Medical Company for a total of 62 Medical Company troopers on the data base. Of the 62 listed, 14 are current members of the chapter. We need a company rep to help recruit the other 48. Contacting prospective members also opens up the door to finding more former unit members to add to the data base. It's a never ending task. Please consider becoming a company rep and help us find old friends and continue the growth of the chapter.

## THANKS!

Some very generous donations to support the chapter newsletter and web site have been made by members at the start of the year 2000 recruiting activities. These donations are gratefully acknowledged and will assist the chapter in continuing to publish the newsletter six times annually and continue its work on the web site. A big thanks to: **John F. Brown** (E/51-54), **John A. Christopher** (HQ3/55-56), **MG (R) William H. Duncan** (A/52-53), **DuWayne L. Erdmann** (598/51-54), **Augie Fernandes** (L/51-54), **Frank T. Haddy** (D/43-46), **Daniel Hogan** (598/52-53), **Arthur R. Nagle** (E/51-52), **Lee Perttu** (E/54-56), **Roy Shaw** (HQ2/51-53), **Keith R. Stevens** (B/54-55), **Robert Thompson** (HQ3/46), and **Stan Victor** (M/51-54)

Effective with the Jan. - Feb. 2000, your newsletter will feature a Booster column which will indicate the names of all chapter members who contributed funds to support the activities of the chapter.

The Booster column will indicate names starting with the start of recruiting year (Aug.) and run till the end of July, when it will start again for the year 2001.

## Lest We Forget



**Marshall B. Truslow** (I/51-53), Annandale, Va., passed away on 9 October 1999 after a lengthy illness. No further details are available at this time.

**Joseph Petty** (H/51-54), Columbia, SC, passed away on 18 September 1999. He was in Jump School Class 45 which graduated on 8 June 1951. Joe was originally from the Worcester, Ma area. After his 508<sup>th</sup> Service, he returned there and attended Boston College. He became a news and sports broadcaster announcing Holy Cross College football games. He later moved to Georgia and then South Carolina where he settled and announced the University of South Carolina football games.

## Memory Lane

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 508<sup>th</sup> Infantry - December 1989

The 1/508th was a unit of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade base in the Panama Canal Zone. The government and armed forces of Manuel Noriega had been giving the US Forces and citizens a bad time there for many months. The US finally had enough and dispatched a large number of it's forces from all branches of the military, Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines. Unconventional forces, to include Seals, Special Forces, Air Commandos, Rangers and the 504<sup>th</sup> from 82d Abn Div, who jumped into the area, were also committed. The 508<sup>th</sup>, already based in Panama, was the first unit to initiate contact with the Panamanian forces. Though most of the other units received the accolades and headlines, it was the Red Devils who led the way.

**PLEASE PAY 2000 DUES NOW**

## In Memoriam



On 3 October 1999 SGT Jason N. Pringle, Hq. & Hq. Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Battalion Combat Team was killed in a parachute assault into Kosovo when his parachute failed to open. Operation Rapid Guardian was an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise. SGT Pringle was a 91B Medical Specialist (Combat Medic) attached to Company A, 1/508 which comprised the 135 man rapid response team.

A memorial service was conducted at the Caserma Erdle post theater, Vicenza, Italy on 5 October 1999.



SGT Sean McCartney plays "Amazing Grace" in tribute to SGT Jason N. Pringle

SGT Pringle entered the Army on 25 June 1993. During his six years of service he was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer's Development Ribbon and the Army Service Ribbon. He was also awarded the Ranger Tab, the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the German Armed Forces Parachutist Badge (Bronze).

SGT Pringle is survived by his mother and stepfather, Valerie and James Thomas of Palm Bay, FL, his father Edward Pringle, and a brother Eddie Pringle.

## 508<sup>th</sup> Painting

An oil painting by Jim Dietz, a famous military artist, will be unveiled on 23 November 1999 at Caserma Erdle, Vicenza, Italy, home of the 1/508th Infantry ABCT. The painting depicts the actions of 1SGT Leonard Funk leading a small band of Company C troopers in clearing the LZ of German infantry and artillery on 18 September 1944 during Operation Market Garden. For his actions, 1SGT Funk was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Jim Dietz will be among the distinguished guests along with WW II Red Devil veterans (and following 1SGT Funk in the painting) Dr. John Hardie and Mr. James Smith.

Active duty and veterans may order a Military Edition (508<sup>th</sup> signed and numbered copies) print now for the pre-release price of \$60.00. This print will be a great display item and investment at a bargain price. Mr. Dietz's prints normally sell for over \$150.00, and double in price when sold out. Don't miss out on the limited edition of the 508<sup>th</sup> numbered and signed copies. Image size is 15" X 30".

The Public Edition (252 signed and numbered copies) will be available after publication for \$82.00. Send check or money order to:

The Red Devil Association  
 (ATTN: Bn S-2)  
 1-508 Infantry (ABCT)  
 Unit 31401, Box 53  
 APO AE 09630



## Vice Chairman

Meet our new Vice Chairman, Frank Seif. Frank is a Wisconsin native and enlisted in the Army with guaranteed Airborne training in October 52. A former guardsman from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, Frank took his heavy weapons basic training with the 101<sup>st</sup> at Camp Breckenridge, KY prior to Jump School at Fort Benning, GA. He received his wings in April 53 and was assigned to Co. M, 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT at Sand Hill, Fort Benning. He later became the company supply sergeant and moved to Fort Campbell, KY with the regiment in early 1954.

Frank met his wife in Atlanta in 1953, was married in June 1954 and their first child was born at Fort Campbell in 1955. He transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division prior to the Red Devils departure for Japan and was discharged in September 1955. Frank returned to Wisconsin where he joined the Army Reserve, entered the University of Wisconsin and graduated with a BBA in 1959. He became a CPA in 1960 and continued with graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin.

He held a variety of positions in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida and Arizona, most of them as chief financial officer and two as president. Frank is currently the CFO of a privately held retail chain headquartered in Tucson and is about two years from retirement. He and his wife have three children and four grandchildren. He is an avid golfer with a 7 handicap. He is also a registered Republican and a McCain supporter for President.

## New Chapter Members

**C**ongratulations and welcome to the following new members of the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter: **Willard C. Cagle** (HQ3/55-56), Duluth, MN; **CSM (R) Warren S. Eichelberger** (MED/55-56), Greencastle, PA; **William B. Foulk** (MED/55-56), Arcadia, CA; **SGM (R) William L. Hudson** (H&H/51-56), Phoenix City, AL; **Tony LaJustice** (MED/53-56), Norwood, PA; **James J. Lamble** (MED/55-56),

Eagle, ID; **George M. O'Connor** (H/51-53), Port St. Lucie, FL; **Dennis C. Radford** (B51-52), Englewood, FL; **Dan Rowsey** (MED/55-56), Huntington, WV; **Bob Rukamp** (MED/55-56), Abrams, WI; **Warren (Jack) J. Simpson** (MED/55-56), Billings, MT; and **Allen D. Taylor** (SPT/ 51-54), Millwood, WV.

## New All American (Life) Members

**Peter Pisani** (HQ1/51-52), Seaford, NY; **Keith Stevens** (B/54-55), Warsaw, IN; **Stanley F. Victor** (M/51-54), Manchester, TN; and **Herb Wilcutt** (B/51-54), Birmingham, AL.



Ed's note: Since we have quite a few Medics this go around, I thought I would add this little memento from Camp Chick.

## News From National



### *Officers For 2000*

President Byron B. Beekman (Gen Ridgway) (Elected)

Vice President CSM Curtis Walker (325AIR) (Elected)

Secretary Duke Armendariz (Benavidez-Patterson) (Elected)

Treasurer Joseph W. Tolley (Fayetteville) (Elected)  
Elected Directors:

Chester L. Cassidy (Wolverine) (Elected)

Joseph D. Morell (Fayetteville) (Elected)

Harold A. Schroeder (North Jersey) (Re-elected)

Gordon Sumner (Washington, DC) (Elected)

Jim Terwilliger (John Towle/Cleveland) (Re-elected)

Russell A. Wolfe (Lehigh Valley) (Re-elected)

Department of Defense Liaison SGM Jerome B. Harper will continue his duties at the Office of the ACoFS, G1/AG, 82d Abn Div, Ft. Bragg, NC 28310-5100, (901) 432-0619

*Forget something? Pay your dues now*

### **2000 Convention Reminder**

The General Ridgway Chapter will host the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention during the week of 14-19 August 2000. (Convention officially starts on 16 August with the Early Birds Hospitality Suite). Registration fee is \$70.00 and room rate at the Drawbridge Inn, Fort Mitchell, KY is \$77.00 plus 10.4% sales tax (up to 4 per room) (\$85.01 total). The address is 2477 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017-3599. In KY call 1-800-352-9866, outside of KY, call 1-800-354-9793. Members must mention the 82d Airborne Division Association and make your reservations prior to 21 July 2000.

### **Vanity License Plates**

New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Connecticut have them. Members are proud to display these plates and membership is increasing because of them. The plates have been a big success for membership, public and community relations.

### **Association Visa Card**

Members are encouraged to obtain one and utilize it. The Association receives a royalty for each time one is used. Members can apply for a card from MBNA America, P.O. Box 464, Wilmington, DE 19885-9440 or call 1-800-847-7378. *Be sure to use priority code IGRG when you call.*

### **3-504 in Kosovo**

The Blue Devils deployed to Kosovo in September for a six month peace-keeping mission, replacing the Two Panther PIR (2-505) who returned home in the same month. Our best wishes to the Blue Devils and welcome home to the Two Panthers for a great tour in the typical All American tradition. The Blue Devils will spend Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays away from home and family members, therefore, the membership should be encouraged to mail "goodies" for our troopers. Letters or packages should be addressed to "Any Airborne Trooper(s)", C/O Commander 3-504 PIR, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340. Packages should

weigh no more than 70 lbs and the width and length no more than 108 inches. We should support our active duty troopers whom without a doubt will welcome any "goodies."

### **License Plates**

Speaking of license plates, the chapter has quite a few members who are proud of being Red Devils and have special vanity plates indicating their unit affiliation. We will try and print one in each newsletter (space available) so if you have a special plate, send a picture of it to the chapter secretary. This plate from Tennessee belongs to Jerry Payne (H&H/54-56), 1004 Keylon St., Manchester, TN 37355. Way to go, Jerry!



### **Membership letters**

**Rocky Lane**, 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Company A writes:

Hello Bob, Hope all is well with you. I really enjoy the newsletters. The years are flying by us. It seems like yesterday we all were at Fort Bragg and then onto Jump School and then to good old Sand Hill with the Regiment. Nothing but good times with the Red Devils. We were sharp and could strut our stuff.

**Harry Mergard** (A3/62-65) sent a copy of a book cover entitled "U.S. Army Uniforms of the Cold War 1948 - 1973" and writes:  
I'm the one on the left. I was a SPC 4 assigned to Company A, 3d Battalion (Airborne), 508<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. The photo was taken by an Army photographer at Rio Hato, Panama in November 1964. Rio Hato is about seventy miles north of Panama City on the Pacific coast.  
See picture on page 7.

**U.S. ARMY UNIFORMS OF  
THE  
COLD WAR  
1948-1973**



**SHELBY STANTON**

The book was written by Shelby Stanton, a disabled Vietnam veteran, and published by Stackpole Books. The leaf carries the following data: Front cover: *Paratroopers of the U.S. Army Caribbean's 3d Battalion (Airborne) of the 508<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment guard Fort Kobbe in the Panama Canal Zone during the 1960s. Note the color contrast between the spring and summer greens of the camouflage helmet covers, Olive Drab shade 7 of the cotton-duck individual equipment and rifle straps, and Olive Green shade 107 of the utility uniforms. Their unsubdued insignia includes standard gold-on-black U.S. Army distinguished insignia and white name tapes.*

## Patches

We have received several letters and calls about the lack of an airborne tab over the Third Army patch and also some questions about the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division patch both of which are printed on the cover page. First, lets address the Third Army patch. As best that can be determined, the Regiment initially wore the 82d Airborne Division shoulder

patch. They were directed to remove that patch and wear the Third Army patch, which they did. Later, and for a brief period of time, the airborne tab was added and then the 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT shoulder patch was approved on 15 October 1951 and worn by the regiment until July 1956. Note the picture to the left. You will see that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in Panama also wore the 508<sup>th</sup> shoulder patch. In any case, the airborne tab will be attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army shoulder patch in the next edition of the newsletter.

The 101<sup>st</sup> shoulder patch was worn by the 508<sup>th</sup> Regimental troops from July 1956 to March 1957. The Regiment was commanded by COL James Hatch and was the "Schools Command" for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Many of you may remember that the 187 and 508 ARCT's provided the cadre for the division upon its activation in 1956. To fill up the division, airborne recruiters were sent to all of the basic training posts to recruit directly out of basic. The volunteers were sent to Fort Campbell and assigned directly to a unit. They were then sent to Jump School ran by the division. Upon completion of Jump School, they then underwent their Infantry Advanced Individual Training conduct by 508<sup>th</sup> personnel of the "Schools Command." As I recall, those individuals who did not complete Jump School were sent to another post to complete their Advance Individual Training.

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## Status of Dues

As of November 6, sixty two (62) annual members out of two hundred and twenty one (221) have paid their 2000 dues prior to November 15. I'm sure a few more will be processed and make it to National before the Early Bird deadline of 15 November. Thanks to those of you who made the Early Bird status and helped the chapter get an extra \$ rebate. Every little bit helps defray newsletter expenses.

As you can see we have a long way to go, so those of you who have yet to remit your dues for the year 2000, please do so ASAP.

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### Airborne Events

- Feb. 24 - 28    **Mid Winter Conference**  
Laughlin, NV  
Contact Mark Baird (520) 869-2283
  
- April 12 - 15    **Airborne Awards Festival**  
Atlanta, GA  
Contact Don Lassen (770) 478-5301
  
- May 19 - 22    **Retired Airborne Riggers Reunion**  
Fort Bragg, NC  
Contact Roy L. Warren  
(910) 823-9991  
E-mail:  
[superchief@worldnet.att.net](mailto:superchief@worldnet.att.net)
  
- June 8 - 11    **South Texas Chapter, 82d Abn**  
Corpus Christi, TX  
Contact William J. Stevens  
(361) 853-5359
  
- Aug. 16 - 20    **54<sup>th</sup> Annual 82d Assn Convention**  
Fort Mitchell, KY  
Contact Gerry Swigart  
(937) 898-2084

### Chapter Officers

**Chairman/Treasurer**

Robert T. Murray  
4072 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. PMB #187  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
Tel. (520) 81-8657

**Vice Chairman**

Frank Seif  
2442 N. Sahuara Ave.  
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E-mail:  
[fseif@bookmans.com](mailto:fseif@bookmans.com)

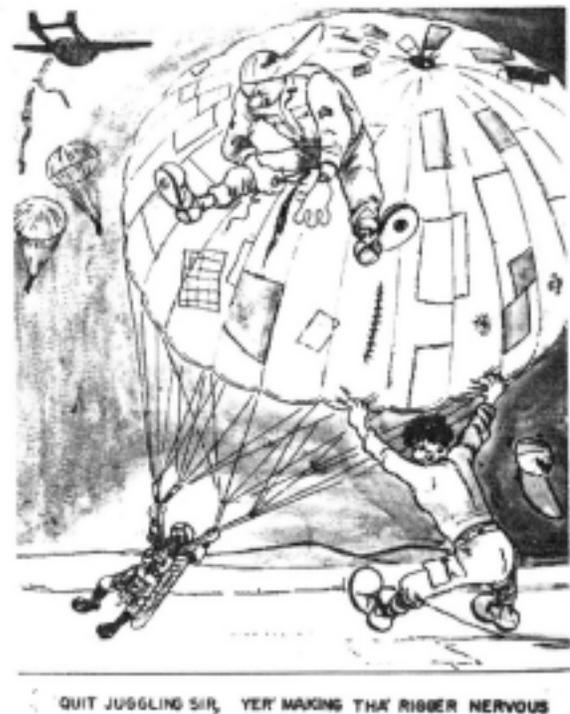
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman**

Rodger Jacobson  
Box 14  
Hazel Green, WI  
Tel. (608) 854-2317

**Secretary**

Jack K. Damron  
26164 Waterfowl Lane  
Punta Gorda, FL 33983  
Tel. (941) 629-7653

E-mail:  
[reddevil@peganet.com](mailto:reddevil@peganet.com)



### Moving? Let us know!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

New Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary \_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent \_\_\_\_\_