

# Some wise old sage once said: You can never go back home again

The writer is a resident of Holly Lake Ranch, a Korean War veteran and a columnist for TRADERS GUIDE OF TEXAS. © 2006.

**By M.L. "Jimmy" Myers**  
**H**OLLY LAKE RANCH—Who says we can't go back home?

The !@#\$%^&\* I can't. Ah, if only we could relive the good old days: nostalgia, yesteryear, way back when, the way we were etc., etc., etc.

If we could only revisit the people, places and things just as we remembered them, would not that be great? No.

Please take it from me, you do not want to go there.

Still, most of us are curious, this writer included.

### Can we go back after all?

That's why we have reunions, why we go back to the old home place, to the old neighborhood, to the old high school, back to where we marched

down Main Street with the band or where we fought a war in a foreign land.

The question is whether it is better to leave things in our minds just the way we remember them or go back to where we know things will be different, even though we're in denial.



Marvin Myers

It's an interesting question.

We may hear a song, smell a fragrance, see a picture, taste an unfamiliar food or reach out and slap someone and, bam, in an instant we are transported back in time, willingly or not. This subject was brought home to me, almost too vividly, this past weekend.

I had an opportunity to touch base with Marine buddies from wars past and present for a bit of jarhead camaraderie.

How much fun could that be? I thought.

### Niche market

The occasion was an annual gathering sponsored by a distributor of aftermarket U.S. Marine Corps specialties in Oklahoma City called, appropriately enough, Sgt. Grit's.

The occasion is called, I kid you not, the Annual GritTogether.

There really is a self-proclaimed Sgt. Grit, owner of the establishment, a.k.a. Sgt. Grit's.

Sgt. Grit even has a Web site, called [www.grunt.com](http://www.grunt.com).

By now you're thinking I'm making this up, right? Wrong.

If in any doubt, please by my guest and check them out.

Their catalog shows 134 pages of Marine Corps stuff, from toy marine soldiers to ladies' lingerie—for lady marines, I assume. (Look under the heading "Grit's Secret.")

For the macho types, you can even pick up a tattoo. (Temporary type guaranteed not to hurt those poggie-

bait Marines in the audience.)

The best part is that it is not necessary to have served in the Marine Corps, had a relative in the Marine Corps or even be able to whistle "Stars and Stripes Forever" in order to purchase from Sgt. Grit.

A current valid credit card will suffice nicely, and you will not have to recite the Marine Corps' "11 General Orders for Sentries."

### Model of efficiency

The Annual GritTogether starts promptly at 10 o'clock and winds through the company's offices and warehouse, where you can pick up an order pad, record stock numbers and grab your necessities in less than 10 minutes out back near the hotdog stand.

Sgt. Grit and company are nothing if not efficient.

Yours truly didn't need to hear a bugle sound "Chow Call" by being the first in line, just like in the old days.

After lunch I decided to mill

around and talk to some of the old salts in attendance. Maybe I would see some of my old Marine buddies with whom I served in the 1st Marine Division in Korea.

I mean one actually does have thoughts at a time like this, doesn't one?

Hey, what the heck. It could happen, couldn't it? (Not likely.)

### True Grit in Vietnam

For starters, how many names would be recallable and how would I recognize them anyway after 55 years?

On the inside cover of the Sgt. Grit catalog is a picture of Sgt. Grit with background information detailing his period of service in 'Nam.

For a moment I had the urge to approach Sgt. Grit and share war stories until I realized that I was on my way to Korea with the Marine 5th Replacement Draft when he was born in 1950. That might have made for a disconnect.

See **ONE MORE CHORUS**, page 15

**Wanted**

Does anyone have any old bowling balls? I need them for an art project! Call Deborah at 903-769-9542.

Enthusiast seeking cheap 1/64 scale die-cast toy cars and related items, like Hot Wheels, Matchbox and other makes, can buy singles or larger sets, but I'm on a budget. I collect and don't sell for profit. E-mail [charshub@aol.com](mailto:charshub@aol.com).

I buy rifles, pistols and shotguns. 903-363-4587.

Looking for a dumping trailer, at least 14-foot. 903-981-3654 or [kilgore3000@peoplepc.com](mailto:kilgore3000@peoplepc.com).

Looking for chest of drawers. 903-363-2195.

Looking for Chevrolet 348 or 409 complete motors or parts. Call MJ after 6 p.m. or leave a message at 903-769-9542.

**Wanted**

Looking for front end parts, rotors, tie rod ends, ball joints, etc. for a 1995 Ford F-350 4WD pickup. Also looking for a repair manual for a Ford YT 16-hp riding lawn mower. Noonday and Lake Palestine. 903-521-6027, ask for Bradley, or 903-509-3389. Leave message.

Looking for pre-1964 Model 70 Winchester bolt-action rifle in any caliber. 903-363-4587.

Looking for rough-out picture frames. Need several 16-by-24s and assorted sizes. Very reasonable. 903-854-4055.

Looking for used lawn furniture, metal furniture, swings, whatever, very reasonable. 903-854-4055.

Motor home or 5th-wheel trailer and truck No. 1 shape, value around \$20,000, will trade vacations in exchange. 903-769-1219, ext. 3009.

**Wanted**

Need 2 oil barrels reasonable. 903-854-4055.

Need a used kitchen island to help a disabled person. Needs an opening for a dishwasher. Will pick up. 903-569-2364.

Senior citizen looks for small used truck, small engine, low to ground, reasonable down payment, payments \$100-\$150 a month. 903-854-4055.

Senior citizen needs farm door reasonably priced for mobile home, 34 by 76. 903-854-4055.

Senior citizen needs fill dirt and yard tools and a lawn mower at reasonable prices. 903-854-4055.

Senior citizen needs used yard furniture, yard swing, tables, yard chairs, plastic outdoor chairs or card tables. Reasonable price. 903-854-4055.

**Wanted**

Taking donations from anybody who wants to get rid of their old items including lawn mowers and golf carts, toys, bicycles, scrap iron, clothes, anything. 903-363-2195.

Want 10 to 20 acres north of I-20 between Van and Winona. Owner financing. 903-570-5704.

Want 20 ft. or longer gooseneck, cheap. 903-570-5704.

Want antique barley twist side table. Must be reasonably priced. Call Gary at 903-882-5851, leave message.

Want damaged yet repairable 1997-2000 or older BMW Z-3 with bad motor, wrecked, etc. I could not afford one any other way, but it is my dream car! Please call 903-834-6571, leave message for Tony.

**Wanted**

Want dominicker laying hens, original. 903-570-5704.

Want free go-karts, running or not. 903-363-2195.

Want gas power generator, 5,000 watt or larger. Good condition, 4x6 or 6x6 treated timbers, 2x6 and 2x8 lumber. 3/4 or 1/2 plywood. Heavy duty aluminum ladder. Must be reasonable. 903-595-2256.

Want Old Texas A&M College items. I want to purchase old senior boots and spurs, Sam Brownes and sabers, banners, pennants, rings, invitations and commencements, watch fobs, hats, uniforms and uniform brass, service stacks, rank insignia, yearbooks (The Olio, The Longhorn and The Aggielands), awards, McClellan saddles, outfit photographs and just about anything with the A&M College of Texas on it. 903-797-6894 or E-mail at [tamc93@yahoo.com](mailto:tamc93@yahoo.com).



**Tyler Market Center Trade Days**  
[www.tyler-market.com](http://www.tyler-market.com)

**Now open every 3rd and 4th weekends**  
 starting in June

**May 19, 20 and 21**  
 3rd Saturday Weekend  
 Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
 Set up Thursday

**300 pavilion spaces**  
 10x20 spaces with water and electric  
 40-foot parking behind your space  
**\$125 per weekend**

**400 open air spaces**  
 12x30 spaces with water and electric  
**\$40 per weekend**  
**\$1 off parking this weekend!**

**June 24 and 25**  
 4th Weekend  
 Saturday and Sunday only

**\$75 pavilion spaces**  
**\$25 open air spaces**

Saturday and Sunday **ONLY**  
 Setup on Friday **ONLY**

Tables \$5 per weekend  
 Tents quoted by size  
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**5 Pavilions with 300 vendors!**  
 Arts, crafts, gifts, clothing, antiques!

**Shop rain or shine!**

**903-595-2223**  
 10707 Hwy. 69 N.  
 Tyler, Texas

**Free vendor parking!** \$5 extra per day for electricity if you use AC

# Business and Service Directory

See Business & Service Directory on page 12

## Ad Form

See Business & Service Directory on page 12

**Only \$6 a week for 20 words.** Additional words are only 20¢ per word. Business and service ads must run for a minimum of 4 weeks. The deadline for business and service ads is every Friday at noon.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How many weeks do you want your ad to run? \_\_\_\_\_

Starting date \_\_\_\_\_

Your ad \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Enclose a check with your form, or fill in the credit-card information below.**

Card type:  American Express  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV number (security code on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Name on the card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *TRADERS GUIDE OF TEXAS*. Send form and payment to P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, TX 75755. You can also place an ad by calling Floydell at 903-636-4591, Sherry at 903-636-4457 or Linda at 903-570-5759.

# One more chorus of 'Semper Fi' and we'll go to lunch

Continued from page 14

After a couple of hours relearning Marine Corps slang and how to construct a simple sentence using only four-letter words, I decided my trip back to the future was more like "Mission Impossible."

So, not waiting to sing a few stanzas of "Semper Fedelis," I decided to split until next year's GritTogether.

Not that it wasn't fun; it was. I enjoyed every @#\$%^&\*()\_+ minute of it.

### C ration

The great mystery for me was that I came for camaraderie, not to actually *buy* anything, so you can imagine my chagrin to find myself short one C note by the time I left.

How could I have possibly spent \$100 at an event that was to be totally free?

Of course, I did purchase a couple of items designed for the not-as-lean, not-as-mean marine such as a cane (with the Marine Corps seal on the handle), a necklace for "da wife" (naturally with Marine Corps emblem), a money clip (don't ask what for) with Marine Corps emblem, a zippered scratch pad and business-card holder (and Marine Corps emblem), a couple of T-shirts and bumper stickers (with Marine Corps emblems, naturally).

Perhaps it's a good thing that I left when I did instead of searching for an ATM.

I suspected there might be a



Cpl. Jimmy has been to the candy store.

recruiting officer in the multitude taking applications for old salts interested in joining a recon mission somewhere near Matamoros on the Rio Grande border between Texas and

Mexico. (Sounds like good duty to me.)

The Marine Corps actually encourages senior citizens to "re-up."

Why else would they endorse slogans such as "Once a Marine, always a Marine" and "Unless you're dead, you're not a former (or ex) Marine."

Hey, man, I still qualify.

Where the !@#\$%^&\*()\_ is my !@#\$%^&\* M-1 rifle?

### One more thing

P.S.: There was this neat cover (baseball cap) I took a fancy to while at Camp Grit. It was really sharp and quite reasonable.

Of course, it had the Marine Corps emblem on it. You know what? They already have my credit card on file. You know what else? After da wife goes to bed I may just go online and order that !@#\$%^ thing.

I could always claim that old Doc Earl gave me a prescription to keep from me contracting sun cancer on my bald pate.

Doc would back me up. I mean he would, wouldn't he? Hey, that's legit.

Until next time, this is Cpl. M.L. "Jimmy" Myers, USMC, here at command central, signing off.

Over and out. Semper fi. Copy that in the affirmative, will you mate?

### Wanted

Want good storage building. Must be reasonably priced. all Gary at 903-882-5851, leave message.

Want M1 carbine, .30-caliber semiautomatic rifle. 903-363-4587.

Want old trailers, no matter condition, will haul off or buy top dollar. 903-360-0991.

Want radio tubes, military tubes, old microphones, mono and stereo amplifiers, large speakers, 33 LPs. 713-728-4343.

### Wanted

Want small utility or cargo trailer to pull behind a Jeep. 903-844-9448, 903-845-3222.

Want Switched on Schoolhouse Curriculum for homeschooling. Please call me if you would like to sell. Must work on Windows XP. 903-763-4790, 903-571-6753.

Want to buy "Smith County Justice" book by David Ellsworth. 903-871-2795.

Want to buy a good Vitamix juicer at reasonable price. Badly needed. 903-871-2795.

### Wanted

Want to buy hay, up to 100 rolls, 1- or 2-year-old hay, provided strings still intact, 25 miles from Liberty City or Kilgore. 903-984-8931.

Want to buy property in Wood, Rains, Smith or Hopkins county, will pay cash. 903-363-4587.

Will buy or haul off any type of trailers. 903-589-3105.

Need a used kitchen island to help a disabled person. Needs an opening for a dishwasher. Will pick up. 903-569-2364.

**Next deadline:**  
Sunday, 9 p.m.

To place your **FREE** ads, fill out, clip and mail to:

## Traders Guide of Texas

P.O. Box 1020 • Big Sandy, TX 75755

**Next deadline:**  
Sunday, 9 p.m.

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  Check box if you do **NOT** want your number published

Or call **1-866-WHY-PAY-4-ADS** (24-hour service) • Or E-mail **freeads@tradersguideoftexas.com**

**DEALERS** of cars, machinery and equipment, guns, musical instruments, used furniture and appliances, etc., as well as Realtors, pet breeders and other businesses, please observe the business-classified rates when advertising. To place business classified ads and display ads, call **(903) 636-4457** or **(903) 636-4591**. Thank you.

For business-ad rates and to place your business ads, call **(903) 636-4457** or **(903) 636-4591** during regular business hours.