



## Indispensable Man (NOT)

As our hair turns to silver, we become “long in the tooth” and a few other “things” that just come along with an ever increasing number of birthdays, the time comes when one should step aside but continue to cheer from the side lines. I have thoroughly enjoyed being the volunteer Catkiller historian for the past few years, especially in the growing and tending of the Catkiller History Index, in feeding stories and other information to our web master, and more particularly, in being part of the 2012 reunion in Seattle.

However, as I learned in Typing class in high school, “Now is the time for all (or at least a few) good men to come to the aid of their party (the Catkillers).” Be that what it may – now is the time for some “new blood” to renew the happenings and views of our Catkiller history and carry the banner on. And as GEN MacArthur stated in his well remembered and often quoted farewell speech – “Old Soldiers never die; they just fade away.” I am certainly not a MacArthur; but it is time for this old Catkiller to start fading away.

As I have certainly stirred up a few things during my “duty” as the Catkiller volunteer historian, may I offer the following for you to ponder as I move on:

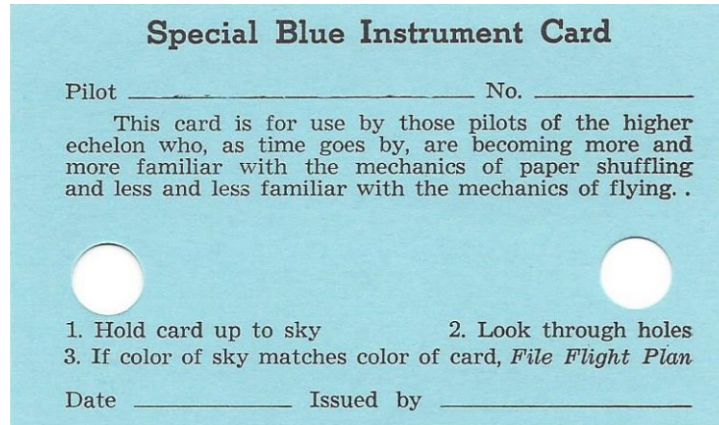
### "There Is No Indispensable Man"

Saxon N. White Kessinger ©1959

Sometime when you're feeling important;  
Sometime when your ego's in bloom  
Sometime when you take it for granted  
You're the best qualified in the room,  
Sometime when you feel that your going  
Would leave an unfillable hole,  
Just follow these simple instructions  
And see how they humble your soul;  
Take a bucket and fill it with water,  
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,  
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining  
Is a measure of how you will be missed.  
You can splash all you wish when you enter,  
You may stir up the water galore,  
But stop and you'll find that in no time  
It looks quite the same as before.  
The moral of this quaint example  
Is do just the best that you can,  
Be proud of yourself but remember,  
There's no indispensable man.

**Note: This was written in 1959 and I completed Flight School with Class 59-12.**

My “retirement” date is set for May 27, 2014 – my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, or earlier. Hopefully, my replacement will just step up as ready, willing and able to be on board and take the reins at the earliest possible date. I will always be available as long as I can in the wings as an older veteran supporter of our great 220<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company Catkiller legacy. As we all may still file at least imaginary flight plans in the future, I would like to share a “Special Blue Instrument Card” that I was given some 50 years ago as something that I might need as an older, wiser, and not as bold as I might have been in earlier days, pilot.



As we look forward to the 2015 All Birddog Reunion and the dedication of our Birddog Memorial on the lawn in front of our Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, may the skies always be blue, and if you must fly at night, the moon always be full for you!

Sincerely and respectfully,

Gene Wilson

Catkiller 5, June—October 1966

Catkiller 3, October 1966—June 67