



The Crow Flight



Twelfth newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group (M), 7th AF, WWII, issued March 10, 2000

NEXT REUNION, LAS VEGAS SEPT 24TH – 27TH, 2000

The three squadrons, 47th, 48th, and 396th voted as a unit to have the reunion in Vegas with Keith Ingstad of the 396th as the coordinator. Keith is in Vegas quite a lot to visit with his son and grand-children, and he trained in Las Vegas in gunnery school in 1942, so he knows the area well since there was nothing there except a couple of very small casinos downtown. If you have any ideas for the reunion, please call Keith at (760) 322-4782 or write him at 401 El Cielo Rd., #150, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

The name of our hotel is the Golden Nugget, and it is beautiful.... all white marble, mirrors, brass, and a very expensive gorgeous carpeting. The rooms are the biggest and nicest we've ever had at a very attractive price of \$59.00, one of the best rates we've ever had.

The contract is not as good as we have had in the past. They wanted \$1,000 deposit now, but we got that lowered to \$500. They will not honor our rate before and after our three nights, so make sure to figure out just what nights you might want to stay before and/or after and make arrangements for them when you call... and expect to pay more for them; The special rate will apply only to the nights of Sept. 24, 25, and 26. Also, we cannot have our own booze and goodies in our hospitality room. Everything has to be ordered through the hotel, so that will cost more. Of course the hotel doesn't want you in the hospitality room ordering their expensive stuff; you know that they want you--down in the casinos. And why else would we be in Las Vegas?

Because of the hotel's very unattractive penalty clause, reservations must be made by 60 days in advance, which would be July 24, 2000. We'll have all the final details in the next newsletter.

Early thoughts on tours, etc. include Lake Mead, Hoover Dam, Red Rock Canyon, Valley of Fire, Nellis Air Base, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas Strip, and an airship ride over the city.'`



Top row L to R Pilot Tart, Co-pilot Mitchell, and B/N Schack. Bottom row L to R Engineer-Gunner Bush, Radio-Gunner Marshal, and Tail-Gunner Martin, picture courtesy of Bob Schack. Where in the wide world did these guys get color film in 1945? Bob has a great collection of pictures. You can contact him at 2573 5th Ave. N, Sartell, MN 56377 (320) 252-1151, if you would like to obtain any of them. Please see more of his collection on Page 5.

REUNION CALENDAR

820th, Framingham, MA May 18-24, 2000
47th, 48th, 396th, Las Vegas, NV Sept. 24-27, 2000
820th, Hot Springs, AR Spring, 2001
47th, 48th, 396th, Portsmouth, NH 27-30 (?), 2001

IN THIS ISSUE

Stuff from Gutts, masthead	Page 2
Profiles, Barger and Hill	3
Profile questionnaire... the more good stuff we get from you, the more we can get back to you in the newsletter	4
Bob Schack's color pictures	5
Gray, Maksymovich, Don Haskell, Misc ..	6
48th's John Helmer reports	7
48th continued, Arnold Sayer's notes on The 2001 Reunion, misc.	8



e-mail received 12-29-99

Can you imagine working for the following company? It has a little over 500 employees with the following statistics:

- 29 have been accused of spousal abuse.
- 6 have been arrested for fraud.
- 19 have been accused of writing bad checks
- 117 have bankrupted at least two businesses.
- 3 have been arrested for assault.
- 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit.
- 14 have been arrested for drug-related charges.
- 8 have arrested for shoplifting.
- 21 are current defendants in lawsuits.
- In 1998 alone, 84 were stopped for drunk driving.

Can you guess which organization this is?

It's the 535 members of the United States Congress. The same group that perpetually cranks out hundreds upon hundreds of new laws designed to keep the rest of us in line.

MONEY.... and speaking of the dirty stuff, it's now time for everyone to pony up \$15 for the 2000 dues (in case you haven't already done so). Our balance as of January 31, 2000, is \$ 2,057.15 plus our reunion deposit of \$166.67 gives us total assets right now of \$2,223.82. The good guys since last report are Leroy Julian, Allen Cobb, George Tolbert,



Ole Gutts himself with his gold-plated putter, which brings up the story of two generous guys. Gus Anderson (820th) gave this putter to Gutts and also provided the picture. Bill Scavo of the 396th has a hobby of designing and building putters and donated a few of them as door prizes at the Ontario Reunion. Gus won one. And not playing golf himself (he's too old!), he gave it to his good friend, Gutts.

Dorothy Grobe, Ben Louis Grobe, Glenn Penner James Land, Edmond Rowe, Thomas Zachok, Robert Gollnitz, Ray Kuttenkuler, Buford Hill, James Bain, Lynn Sweetland, Joe Roop, Urban Gutting, Stephen Gutting, Suzanne St. Germain, Reginald Gauthier, Frank Lynn, Nedry Buris, Leroy Julian, Dale Storms, Ricardo Rondinelli, Everett Ross, Marion Kenway, John Anderson, Robert McDermott, Kemary Crowder, Buzz Sitterley, and Kem Sitterley.

Typical Navy – (another e-mail from Gutts)... A young officer is working late one evening. As he comes out of his office he sees an admiral standing by the classified document shredder with a paper in his hand, the admiral asks, "Do you know how to run this thing?" The young officer seeing a chance to make an impression, says, "Yes sir!" as he takes the paper from the admiral and feeds it into the machine. "Now," says the admiral, "I just need one copy!"



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group, 7th Air Force, World War II. The more or less unelected folks for the 47th are: Head guy, **George Tolbert**, RR#3, Box 445, BRISTOW, OK 74010 (918) 367-5988, e-mail geospace@aol.com -- Money guy **Urban A. "Gutts" Gutting**, 7047 Autumn Chase Dr., SAN ANTONIO, TX 78238-2118 (210) 647-1651, e-mail urban@stic.net -- Info guy **Maurice "Smitty" Smith**, 2575 South Willow, FRESNO, CA 93725, (209) 264-7361-- Roster guy, **Donald Haskell**, 2831 Springfield Dr., ROCKLIN, CA 95765-5060, (209) 732-1553, e-mail dhaskell@softcom.net -- WEB site <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/> -- 41st WEB site <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/BombGroup41/> Nerd guy and editor, **Kem Sitterley**, 20449 Blue Mountain Dr., WALNUT, CA 91789-1001, (909) 595-6821, or (909) 595-4451 (fax possible at this number but you gotta call first so I can push a button), e-mail kusitterley@cs.com, 48th correspondents are **John Helmer**, 2122 S. W. Vista Av., PORTLAND, OR 97201. (503) 222-4614, and **Jess (Ray) Ramaker**, 17217 N. E. 7th Pl, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-4134 (425) 747-2306 e-mail ramajess@msn.com.





Vincent Barger, 1943.
Vince and his wife,
Mildred, live at 1520
Marshall St., Tulsa, OK
74127 (918) 584-1881.
They have two sons, Nick
and Tom. After the war,
Vince went into pilot
training in grade at
Mission, Texas, and then

served as a photo lab officer. He then got his degree in chemistry from the University of Tulsa which set up his lifetime careers of supervisor of chemistry laboratories and as a petroleum chemistry consultant.

Vince's spare time has been taken up with umpiring Little League Baseball, Science Fair Judging, hunting, fishing, collecting stamps, traveling in Europe, computers, and stock market trader.

Old buddies that he has kept track of include Ken Farner, George Tolbert, Bill York (396th), Allen Cobb, Bill Dobebe, and Marvin Watts.

Vince has a VCR tape of 8 mm movies taken on the Marshalls and the Gilberts, some of the raids on Moloelap, including some of Bob Hope, Tony Romano, and Frances Langford.



Buford O. Hill..... called B. O.

B. O. and Violet live at 106 Ridgeview, Hot Springs, AR 70901 (501) 624-4964. Their children include Donald Ray (deceased), Marcia Nell (54), and Mark Stephen (50). They are blessed with 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

B.O. stayed in the Air Force until 1952 and then worked as an electronics technician with the Army and the FAA up to 1965, when he changed jobs to a car salesman, where he remained until he retired in 1983



The Bargers from L to R. Laurie (Nick's wife) Tom, Vincent and Mildred



Send us your information below for use in "The Crow Flight"

47th and 48th Alumni – 50-some years later

NAME _____ CALLING NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____ SPOUSE: _____

CHILDREN _____

GRANDCHILDREN (number) _____

OCCUPATION _____

LIFE SINCE 47TH AND 48TH _____

OLD PHOTO

PERHAPS IN THE UNIFORM YOU WORE
IN THE SERVICE ...

PERHAPS WITH A HOT ISLAND BABE!!!

NEW PHOTO

PERHAPS WITH WIFE, KIDS AND
GRANDKIDS ...

PERHAPS WITH YOUR GIRL FRIEND??

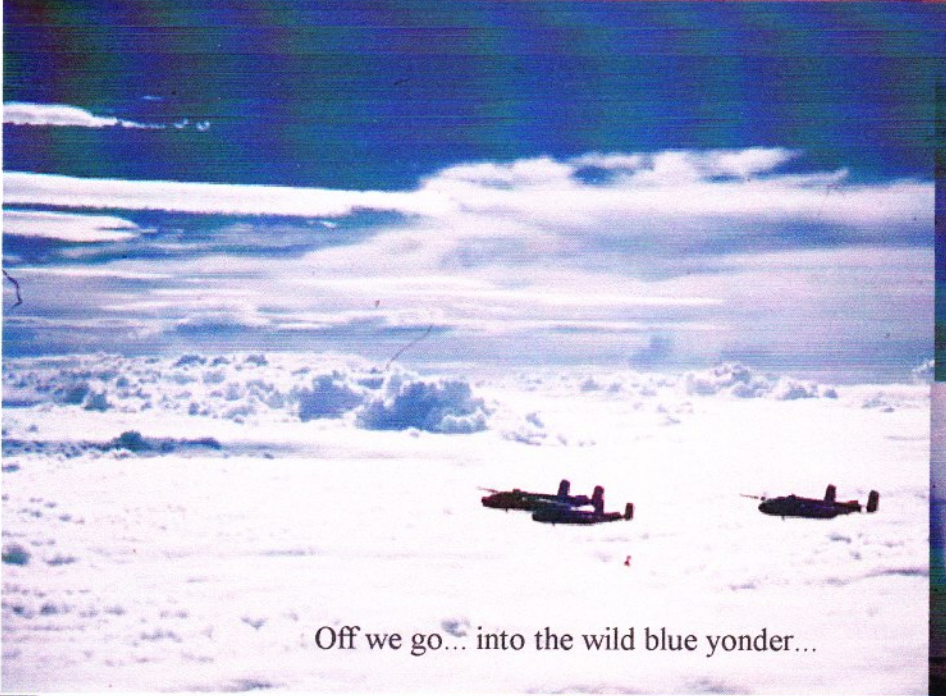
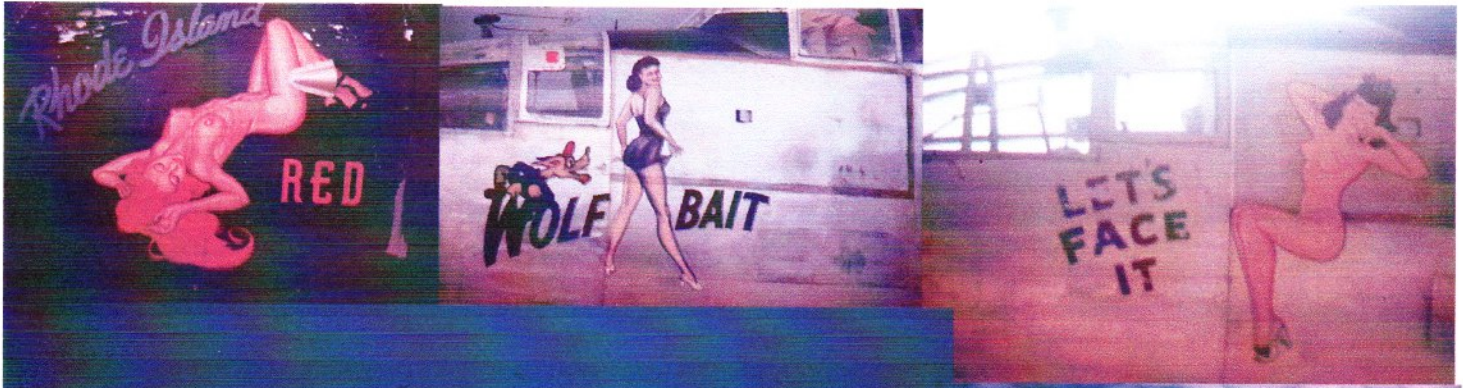
CONTACT WITH 47TH AND 48TH PEOPLE: _____

ANYTHING ELSE OF INTEREST "THE CROW FLIGHT" READERS? _____

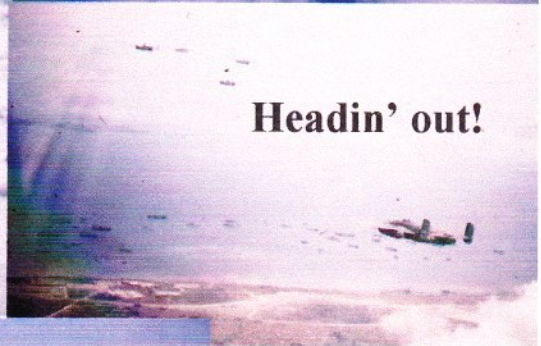
WHAT'S NEXT? _____

USE A SEPARATED PIECE OF PAPER IF NECESSARY!

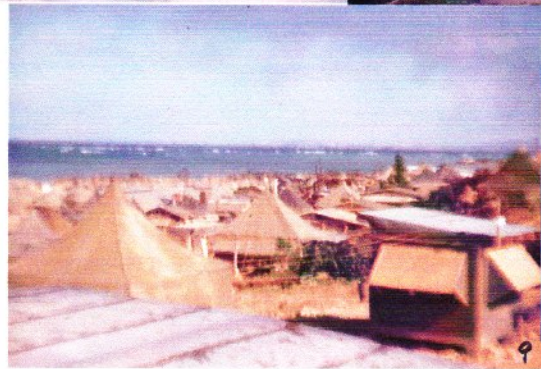
Send to: The Crow Flight, % Kem Sitterley, 20449 Blue Mountain Drive, Walnut, CA 91789



Off we go... into the wild blue yonder...



On right in back heap big outhouse—24 holes. Could the shaver be Schack?



47th bivouac area looking northwest over East China Sea, Machinato Airport, Okinawa



Naha Harbor – after typhoon with ships piled up at entrance



....looking southwest over East China Sea



Lucian Ailor Gray was born July 3, 1920 in Nespalem, WA. and he died June 25, 1999 in Lakewood, WA. Lucian flew 45 missions as a pilot and a flight commander in a B-25 he named, the "Vicious Virgin." He was wounded twice in combat, once in a crash landing at sea 30 miles west of Tarawa. He was survived by his wife,

LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RET) LUCIAN AILOR GRAY

Thelma, and many children and grandchildren, all to whom we send our condolences. And we also thank Thelma for sending us this information. (Editor's Note: Thelma we're sorry we can't make the picture come out any better. God Bless... and Good Luck!)



Stephen Maksymovich passed away in February of 1999, as we are advised by Stephen Jr. Steve is survived by his wife, Jean, and two sons Stephen, Jr. and William. Jean and Steve had two grandchildren. We send all of them our condolences and we thank Stephen Jr. for sending this information

Johnny Widener – had a heart attack last April, followed by triple bypass surgery. Ironically, he had no history of heart, blood pressure problems, high cholesterol, so it was quite a shock, but he is doing very well, his wife Mary reports. This is an old note, and we don't have the slightest idea how it got misplaced, but we do apologize and we all hope the best for Johnny, one of our "old crows!"

Slide show of the reunion – per Don Haskell – and here are some excerpts from a recent e-mail from Don... "I took many pictures at the Ontario Reunion with my new digital camera. They include pictures taken at March Field Museum, Chino Air Field Museum, J. Paul Getty Museum, and the Marriott Hotel.... I have created a slide show on a CD disk with 80+ pictures. None of the pictures show names, so you will have to identify the people. I will be glad to mail anyone this CD disk for \$4.00 which just covers my cost for the CD disk, mailer and mailing."

A few of these pics were in the last newsletter. If you have access to a computer, this is a wonderful buy! Don sent me one for use in the newsletter, so I can really recommend it

very highly. You can reach Don at 2831 Springfield Dr., Rocklin, CA 95765-5060 (916) 315-0953. Send e-mail to Don at dhaskell@starstream.net

I also urge you to look at Don's Web Site. It it a truly remarkable place to browse. Don spends much time keeping it updated'. For instance, he's had all the reunion shots on it since very shortly after the reunion. Hot Links to everywhere! TRY IT!! YOU'LL LIKE IT!!!! <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/BombGroup41/>

ROCKWELL NEWS – was distributed for free in the Hospitality Room at the Ontario Reunion. I don't have the slightest idea how they got there, but it was a special issue devoted to B-25's and beautifully done. It was Volume 18, Number 14, dated August 16, 1990. If you would like one, you might write Corporate Ombudsman, Rockwell International, Dept. 868, Div. 001, Mail Code C50, 2230 East Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245 – or call (800) 223-CORP.

Arnold Sayer – coordinator of our 2001 reunion in Portsmouth, NH, e-mails notes.... "...very nice small city with a lot to see. It is the home of the Portsmouth Navy Yard, which is in Kittery, Maine across the river. It was one of the earliest sea ports and ship building areas of the early colonial period. The original town was called Strawberry Banke and it has been completely reconstructed from original buildings. There are many old shops and a few local craftsmen who continue doing things using the colonial tools and techniques.

Additionally I am looking at arranging a bus tour through the White Mountains and another to do the Freedom Trail in Boston. The Pease AFB golf course is still operating. Another possibility would be a trip up to Lake Winnepesaukee for an afternoon Lake Cruise on the MV Mt. Washington. They make a couple of cruises each day of about 3 hours duration. The lake is about 32 miles long. Time permitting, the White Mountain Tour could include the tramway ride to the top of Canon Mountain."

If you would like to contact Arnold with any ideas or suggestions, please mail to P. O. Box 547, New Longon, NH 043257-0547 and phone number is (603) 763-2057. E-mail ACSAYER@aol.com



Members and Friends of the 48th Bomb Squadron:

We had a great reunion at Ontario, CA. I want to express appreciation to Esther and Felix Galyean, Dick Monzingo, and Helen and Paul Hopson for representing the 48th on the reunion committee. The tours, the hotel, the banquet were all managed to give everyone a good time. Special thanks to Kem Sitterley for heading the committee.

There were children and grand children of 48th members, wonderful to have them with us. It brought down the average age a bit.

In my personal experience, I had the privilege of renewing my acquaintanceship with Luther Hart, a member of our squadron and my C. O. of our Motor Maintenance unit at Johnson Air Base in Japan. I also renewed my friendship with Bruce Hanson from the 396th. He and I were cadets at basic and advanced. I think these surprises of seeing long-lost buddies makes reunions exciting.

In some of my recent reports, I mentioned that I received \$20.00 from someone, but I lost the name. Here is the person who sent it– Moe Warren!

If there is any other oversight on my part, please let me know, 2122 S. W. Vista Avenue, Portland, OR 97201, at home (503) 222 -4164 or at work, (503) 223-4976.



John G. Anderson, 80, of Palisade, MN, died Sat. Dec. 27, 1997. John was Lefty's Crew Chief. He was a retired mechanic for Northwest Airlines. John is survived by his wife, Dorothy, daughters Cheryle and Margie and sons Norman, Robert, Douglas, Roger and Johnny. John had

16 grand children and 13 great-grand children. We send our condolences to all.

In the same note about John Anderson was an advisory that Willie Banks had passed away.

I have received a note from De Nae Birdsley. Her husband, Sid, passed away Dec. 22, 1999. Both Sid

and De Nae were at the last reunion. We are grateful that we were able to spend some moments with them. Our sympathy goes out to De Nae and her family.

Three of us 48th fellows enjoy the same vocation, tree farming – John Geidel, Dave Crane and I, small world!

Remember, I still have some 48th Bomb Squadron Key Fobs available at \$6.00 Also Kem Sitterley still has some videos left from the reunion; they are available for \$12... write to Kem at the 20449 Blue Mountain Dr., Walnut, CA 91789 (909) 595-6821.

Hope to see you all at the Sept. reunion in Vegas.

If you know of any 48th member who is not getting the newsletter, we want to have them on the roster.

MONEY! -- Our bank balance as of Feb. 14, 2000 was \$867.59, so we are solvent.

Our last newsletter, No. 11, cost us \$288.10 for the 48th Squadron. It goes to 120 addresses and that breaks down to \$2.40 per address.

Editor's Note– The 48th and the 47th have a common "Friends and Family," roster of 60 names, a kids roster of 16 names and a business roster of 17. The business roster goes to different museums, personnel of hotels with which we are doing business, etc. We also print extras because it is sometimes amazing how many people call and want another copy, or you want to mail a copy to a newly-found member. The 47th and 48th are then billed in ratio of the number of names on their respective member rosters of each mailing, so that they each pick up their proportionate share of the extra rosters. Depending on the make-up of a newsletter, the four biggest cost factors are color ink, black ink, toner for the copier, and postage.

That includes all out-of-pocket costs only such as paper, color, mailing, etc. There are no labor costs or depreciation or telephone bills included. The costs per letter of course vary mostly on how much (overleaf)



color ink is used and how many pages are involved. To the total costs, of course, the primary factor is quantity. The 47th voted to increase their dues from \$10 to \$15 per year, and we are proposing the same for the 48th. Many of our members feel so strong about their association with the 48th Bomb Squadron that they have sent checks up to \$100.00.

Here are the people I have received monies from since my last report:

- Joe and Grace Chamide
- Mildred Chilson
- David Crane
- Edward Tracey
- Chauncey Kershaw
- James McCoy
- Helen and Paul Hopson
- H. E. Fitzpatrick
- Luther Hart
- Ed Krikorian
- Ana Smith
- Jess Ramaker

I have received contributions from the following people for year 2000:

- Joe and Vera Carrion
- Tom Carson
- Ray and Arlene Huschle
- Carl and June Moritz
- John Geidel
- John Helmer



**820th REUNION – May 18, 21, 2000
Sheraton Framingham Hotel
Framingham, Massachusetts**

Reservations should be made by April 14, (800) 325-3535. \$95.00 per night including all taxes. The hotel

will honor this rate for 2 days before and/or after the reunion dates.

Friday, May 19, Spirit of Boston narrated tour of historic Boston Harbor, including New Englander buffet luncheon and entertainment. Cost \$41.00.

Saturday, May 20, Guided tour of historic Lexington and Concord, includes lunch at Hansom AFB Officers Club. Cost \$27.50.

Please make checks payable to and mail to Paul E.

Brooks, 121 Bluebell Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628. Food service includes buffet breakfast and banquet dinner @ \$50.00 each – Boston Harbor tours @ \$41.00 each and Lexington-Concord tour @ \$27.50 each.

For more information, please call or write your editor, Kem Sitterley, 20449 Blue Mountain Dr., Walnut, CA 91789-1001 or call (909) 595-6821, and I'll copy and mail you four pages of the 820th's last newsletter, which is totally devoted to the details of this reunion. If you need still more info, write or call the coordinators, Clare or Morgan Molloy, 10 Whalen Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748 (508) 435-4416.

Remember that all of the squadrons have always had the policy that anyone from any of their sister squadrons or from group personnel is very welcome.



Donald H. Riddle dies...

Sad news from the 396th newsletter – Don was a navigator on the crew with Baglietto as the pilot. They were in that last group of thirteen crews that went through Columbia, Greenville, the famous five-day train ride to Muroc, Hamilton Field, Seattle, and then joining the 41st Bomb Group at Wheeler Field, Oahu, in December of 1944, where they were divided up amongst the four squadrons.

After the service, he went back to Princeton to get his doctorate in law. He taught at Princeton and other colleges before joining John Jay College of Criminal Justice as dean of the faculty in 1965. He became president of the college the next year and stayed until 1975, when he accepted the post of chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Your editor was stationed with Don for something like 18 months. We spent many hours together, playing bridge, smoking our pipes, and participating in the many bull sessions that abounded in those years. He was a great guy to hang out with and he was an outstanding bridge player. His great success in life surely comes as no surprise to those of us who knew him. The 47th and the 48th join the 396th in extending our condolences to Don's daughter, Susan Riddle, 1432 Riverside Drive, Trenton, NJ Phone (609) 695-3948.