



# The Crow Flight



Fifteenth newsletter of the 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadrons, 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M), 7<sup>th</sup> AF, WWII, issued December 1, 2000

## Lotsa fun for everyone at Las Vegas Reunion!!

Many thanks to Keith Ingstad and Walt Winner, 396<sup>th</sup>, for all their hard work to make it so!!!!



**A meeting on the 2002 Reunion** – On the left the guy in the red shirt is George Kelley, 48<sup>th</sup>, and y'all can see that with his delightful Southern accent and charm he is just sort of captivating everyone. George is proposing Biloxi, Mississippi as the site of our 2002 Reunion and also offering to be the coordinator. Clockwise from George is Lou Beisser, Chairman of the Board of the 396<sup>th</sup>, George Tolbert, head guy of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Bill Zingery, preeminent newsletter publisher for the 396<sup>th</sup>, Bettye Nedbalek, 396<sup>th</sup>, John Reich, 396<sup>th</sup>, John Helmer the 48<sup>th</sup>'s money guy, Urban A. "Gutts" Gutting (the guy with all that white hair), and the 47<sup>th</sup>'s money guy, and Skip Thrune, 820<sup>th</sup>, the guy with all that black hair! Also in the meeting not in sight are Bill MacMinn and Nathan Mitchell of the 396<sup>th</sup>, and Kem Sitterley of the 47<sup>th</sup>. Everyone seems really sold on going to Biloxi in 2001 but the 396<sup>th</sup> could not commit... they have this convoluted bureaucracy, you know, with a board of directors and by-laws and everything. Lou Beisser commented to expect them to take six months to make a decision. Gutts sort of summed it up for the 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> when he told them that we would wait for their decision and then go with them wherever and whenever it might be. The 396<sup>th</sup> is thinking of different sites in South Carolina and Florida. In the group meeting there was a show of hands on different cities and most of them got a favorable reaction including one for Branson, Missouri.... and so the rest of us wait with love and patience and striving for understanding. Everyone that I talked with including folks from all four squadrons preferred Biloxi. As I understand it, the 396<sup>th</sup> did commit to joining with the 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> for the 2001 Reunion in Manchester, NH.

**Happy Holidays to everyone and have a Great 2001 !**





e-mail from Gutts received 6/8/1999

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things in order, she called her pastor and asked him over to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. “There’s one more thing,” she said excitedly.

“What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply.

“This is very important,” the woman continued. I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.”

The pastor stood looking at the woman not knowing quite what to say.

“That surprises you doesn’t it?” the woman asked.

“Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request.” said the pastor.

She explained. “In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone inevitably would lean over and say, “Keep your fork.” It was my favorite part because I knew something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, “What’s with the fork?? Then I want you to tell them: “Keep your fork... the best is yet to come.”

The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her! But he also knew the woman had a better grasp of heaven that he did. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral people were walking by the woman’s casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and her favorite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question, “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled. During his message the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

...so the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you oh so gently that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us. Show your friends how much you care.

...and another e-mail dated 11/11/00 quoting a newspaper article of the same date....

Dear Ann Landers:

I recently attended the 13th reunion of the USS New Jersey. My father is a veteran, and this was his first reunion. My mother and I went with him to make things easier. It was a wonderful experience, seeing all those smiling faces and warm handshakes of those renewing old acquaintances.

Ann, we are losing our World War II vets at the alarming rate of more than 1,000 a day. Baby boomers who have veteran parents should offer to go with them to their military reunions. If they don’t know where these reunions are, they can get information through the specific military branch or over the internet.

My parents would not have been comfortable attending alone and navigating their way through an unfamiliar city. My presence made it easier for them, and it was a rewarding experience for me, as well. Hearing all those stories and listening to the laughter put a smile on my face that lasted a week. I hope other children will do this before it is too late. – Teri in New Springfield, Ohio.



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadrons, 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, 7<sup>th</sup> AF, WW II. The more or less unelected folks for the 47<sup>th</sup> are: Head guy, **Geo. Tolbert**, 28455 W. Hwy. 66, BRISTOW, OK 74010 (918) 367-5988, e-mail [geosplace@aol.com](mailto:geosplace@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](mailto:urban@stic.net) -- Info guy **Maurice “Smitty” Smith**, 803 Vesta Del Rio, SANTA MARIA CA 93458 (805) 348-3868 – Roster guy, **Donald Haskell**, 2831 Springfield Dr., ROCKLIN, CA 95765-5060, (916) 732-1553, e-mail [dhaskell@softcom.net](mailto:dhaskell@softcom.net) -- WEB site <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/> -- 41<sup>st</sup> 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 this number, call first so I can push a button), cell phone (909) 437-1881 - e-mail [kusitterley@cs.com](mailto:kusitterley@cs.com)



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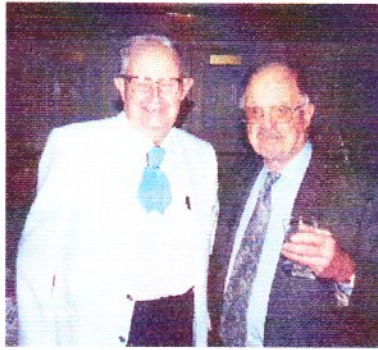
Harold Kasten, 47<sup>th</sup>, showing off his new t-shirt to Carolyn Colvin, 47<sup>th</sup>, who appears to think that it is very amusing!



Gutts is having fun with his new girl friend who he just "picked up." He always was the champion "picker-upper!"



Annie Bell, 47<sup>th</sup>, telling Harold Kasten, 47<sup>th</sup>, about the fish that got away?... Annie and husband Jack are first time reunion goers and were very welcome.



Harold, always having fun, sharing stories with Dick Sternberg, 396<sup>th</sup>. This Harold really gets around...he's in at least three of our pictures... quite a guy with the ladies, too, I might add.



Left. Keith Ingstad and Walt Winner, 396<sup>th</sup>, also havin' fun at the lingerie shop...how come they haven't picked up pretty girls? Maybe their wives were simply too close...see below!



Left. George Tolbert, 47<sup>th</sup>'s head guy and Jack Bell, 47<sup>th</sup>, who, along with wife Annie, above, are first-time reunion goers.. And it's so nice to have them! We know that it is a bit tough to get to one of these things the first time..we really appreciate it!



Bill Zingery, newsletter publisher par excellence for the 396<sup>th</sup>, and Betty Nedbalek..



Everyone's havin' fun....from left, Urban A. "Gutts" Gutting 47<sup>th</sup>, Carolyn Colvin, Laverne and Keith Ingstad, 396<sup>th</sup>, Joyce Haddock, and Walt Winner, 396<sup>th</sup>.





**47<sup>TH</sup> REUNION ATTENDEES** included George Tolbert, Carolyn Colvin, Urban A. “Gutts or Urb” Gutting, the Lisak family including Francis J., Evelyn, son and his wife Mark and Kay, and daughter Janette Phillips, Thom and Mary Zachok, Annie and Jack Bell (first timers), Johnnie and Mary Widener, Harold Kasten, Polly and Kem Sitterley and their daughter, Kemary Crowder.

**ELLIE TELEGA**, wife of William Telega, recently was named Mrs. Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (LAVFW) for the state of Georgia 1999-2000 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention. Ellie is always so giving of herself in many different causes...she’s been a member of the same church for 63 years... collecting money... donating money and household items to various charities...recycling everything from newspapers to plastic...collecting day-old food at a local supermarket deli and delivering it to the needy... taking kids to the doctor so a parent doesn’t have to take the day off.. One fellow member of the LAFVW commented, “Telega is only 5 feet tall but she is said to have the spirit of Goliath and is a constant inspiration to the lives of the people she touches.” What a wonderful tribute to Ellie and we all forward our congratulations!

**FREDA CHAMBERLAIN** has moved from Bowling Green, OH. Her new address is 1013 Tulip Ct., PEMBERVILLE, OH 43450-9448.

**JOHN McCANN** passed away July 25, 2000, according to a note received from his daughter, Ms. Mary A. Matchett, 5300 W. Deerbrook Dr., MUNCIE, IN 47304.

**JOHN CHICKERING** ... “died Sept. 2 – 00 after 7 years on dialysis and many other health problems. Sending a clipping that was in our daily newspaper. Sincerely, his wife Mary.” a quote from a note from Mary, 256 Carter Ave., Ottumwa, IA 523501-1204. And we quote from the clipping... “...born Nov. 1, 1922...married Mary M. Leonard on Feb. 14, 1947...served in the Army during World War II.... employee of John Deere Ottumwa works for 32 years.... survived by his wife, one daughter, Susan Kueneman, two sons, Bill and Allen, five grandchildren and a sister, Ruth Eveland .... in lieu of flowers, memorials have been established to the Willard Street United Methodist, Ottumwa Regional Health Center Foundation for the

Dialysis Unit or Hospice Inc.”

**JOSEPH POLAHUNICH** dies....a quote from a letter from his sister.... “my brother.... died of heart attack on 4-25-00. Brother Joe and I were very close and we would always read “The Crow Flight” together – and he would tell me stories about him and his crew. Thank you. Mary A. Gruszechi, 6013 Stoll St., NETCONG, NJ 07857.

**A PRICELESS LETTER FROM A DAUGHTER** – submitted anonymously... “Dear Mom and Dad, I want to write you this letter to tell you some things that may never be said otherwise. I want to thank you for the magic you put in my life with Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the fairies. I want to thank you for the joy I get from the natural basic things in life – plants, flowers, rocks, music. I want to thank you for the memories I have of a glorious childhood – the magic, the joy, the happiness, the animals, my brothers and sisters...”

**THE ESSENTIAL DAVID LETTERMAN** – from the LOS ANGELES TIMES, 11/24/00....“Top Things the Founding Fathers Would Say if They Were Alive Today

- 10. Remember that electoral college thing we made up when we were drunk? They’re still using it!
- 9. Maybe that ruthless monarchy thing in England wasn’t such a bad idea after all...
- 8. Good to see Florida is still using the same old voting machines.
- 7. That’s odd – in my day we also had a senator named Strom Thurmond.
- 6. So that’s the Washington Monument? Yeah, in his dreams.
- 5. Giuliani has really wrecked Times Square.
- 2. He did what in the oval office?”

**GUTTS 47<sup>TH</sup> TREASURY REPORT** (no room on page 2) shows a balance of \$1,664.75 plus a \$500 deposit to the hotel for the Manchester Reunion. Actually the 48<sup>th</sup> and the 396<sup>th</sup> each owe us \$166.67...but who’s counting...it’ll all wash out when we settle up after the next reunion.

**PHOTO CREDITS** – Really, I’m mixed up. I dunno whose went where, but I received pictures from Gus Anderson (820<sup>th</sup>), John Helmer (48<sup>th</sup>), Urb Gutting (47<sup>th</sup>) and Kemary Crowder, daughter of Kem Sitterley (47<sup>th</sup>), and I thank them all so very much. I think they’re great! Some were used from each. **THANKS TO YOU ALL!!!!**





The Lisaks, 47<sup>th</sup>, from left, son Mark and wife Kay, Evelyn, Francis J., and daughter Janette Phillips



No, the jolly guy is not Santa Claus, it's Lefty Pfingst, the same famous Lefty of Lefty's Wolfpack, aka CO of the 48<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq....clockwise from Lefty is Gene Olsen, Chauncey & Virginia Kershaw, Georgia Plett, daughter of Dick Monzingo, Dick, Kemary Crowder, Helen hidden behind husband George Kelley, Bus Knight, and Jim Dooleyall of the 48<sup>th</sup>, except Kemary, daughter of Kem and Polly Sitterley, 47<sup>th</sup>.



...an all 47<sup>th</sup> table...with the omnipresent Harold Kasten in the foreground and clockwise from Harold, Thom and Mary Zachok, Annie and Jack Bell (first timers), George Tolbert, Johnnie and Mary Widener (hidden behind Gutts' head), Carolyn Colvin, and Urban A. "Gutts" Gutting



All 48<sup>th</sup> ...from left clockwise, Fitz and Doreen Fitzpatrick, Beverly and John Helmer, and Ed and Patti Kirkorian



The vision in purple velvet loveliness is Polly Sitterley and counter clockwise from Polly is Kem Sitterley (47<sup>th</sup>), Frankie (mostly hidden) and Murray Bywater (41<sup>st</sup>) Bomb Group, Keith and LaVerne Ingstad (396<sup>th</sup>), Joyce Haddock, Walt Winner (396<sup>th</sup>), Mary Wilkening, and the empty chair belongs to Virgil Wilkening, 396<sup>th</sup>, who gave a very nice invocation.



820<sup>th</sup> folks from Left, Mr. And Mrs.Craig Norton, Enid and Gus Anderson... note...Gus always carries his halo with him!



Lefty Pfingst, normally quite jolly...see above... having a serious conversation with Helen Kelley, wife of George, both of the 48<sup>th</sup>. In the background I recognize Thom (back view) and Mary Zachok, 47<sup>th</sup>.





In late September, 2000, our joint reunion in Las Vegas with the 47<sup>th</sup> and 396<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadrons was a success. We had 20 attendees from the 48<sup>th</sup>. George and Helen Kelley were there for their first reunion. It is interesting to watch first time reunion members compare notes, trying to place events and thinking about how I knew you.

The 48<sup>th</sup> folks attending were Dick Monzingo and daughter, Fred and Leoda Deutsch, James Dooley, Virginia and Chauncey Kershaw, Fitz and Doreen Fitzpatrick, Lefty Pfingst, Art Fisher and Brigitte Wher, Gene Olsen, Bus Knight, Ed and Patti Krikorian, George and Helen Kelley, and John and Beverly Helmer

I am thinking that we will have a big turnout for our next reunion, perhaps many first timers and people who could not attend the many western reunions. Our next reunion will be in Manchester, New Hampshire, hosted by the 47<sup>th</sup> Squadron's Arnold Sayer.

I would like very much for one or two of our members who live in the east to volunteer to be the 48<sup>th</sup>'s representative to attend any meetings that Arnold Sayer may want to set up. If there is a 48th Squadron member living in New England or goes to visit friends or relatives there and could also attend a meeting or two that Arnold might set up, it surely would be appreciated. Let me know. If we cannot get any of our members, I have asked Kem Sitterley to represent our interests.

Since our last newsletter, I have received dues, donations from the following members: Dick Monzingo, Fred Deutsch, Lefty Pfingst, Ana Smith, Ed Krikorian, F. E. Campbell, Dick Dunn, David Crane, and Marian Calbreath, a total of \$237.00. Our bank balance is \$1,842.14 as of Nov. 15, 2000.

I had a note from Alvin Gazda saying he had a hip operation on Aug 15<sup>th</sup> and would not be able to attend the Las Vegas Reunion, but expects to go to New Hampshire.

I visited Bill McCoy in the hospital. He is recovering from a hip replacement. He is going to have the other hip replaced in six months and is expecting a complete recovery so he can make the Manchester Reunion. Bill and I were on the same training crew at Greenville and Muroc bases.

Carl and June Moritz were all signed up to come to the Vegas Reunion but had to cancel at the last minute

Dick Dunn also planned to come and canceled at the last minute.

A note from Marie Galyean says that she and Felix could

not be at Vegas because of a conflict with a family reunion in Arkansas. They did work on the planning committee for the Vegas Reunion along with Dick Monzingo.

Another note from Charlotte Burton reads, "My husband, Charles T. Burton passed away almost 2 years ago. I thought I had informed you; if not, please excuse me! He always enjoyed the "Crow Flight." The whole squadron sends their condolences to Charlotte.

I still have nine 48<sup>th</sup> key fobs available. ... excellent Christmas gifts to a child or grandchild... send \$6.00 each to cover the fob and shipping costs.

Signed... John Helmer

**REUNION 2001** – I am happy to report that the 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, and 396<sup>th</sup> have all agreed to have their reunion at the Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn in beautiful downtown Manchester. The room rate is set at \$92 plus 8% state tax... this is a bit high because of their "fall foliage" traffic, according to the 47<sup>th</sup>'s Arnold Sayer, the coordinator of the reunion. The 48<sup>th</sup> is hoping for a volunteer that lives reasonably nearby. The 396<sup>th</sup>'s representative is Bill MacMinn.

According to Arnold's e-mail one of the tours being considered is a White Mountains fall foliage trip which would include Franconia Notch State Park, the site of the "Great Stone Face." Another one is to the seacoast at Portsmouth to explore Strawberry Banke, the site of the original settlement established in the early 1600's.

Bill Zingery's e-mail talks about getting a B-25 and/or a bamboo bomber to be available for rides and/or inspection.

Zing also quotes some comments from Morgan Molloy, who coordinated the 820<sup>th</sup>'s recent reunion in Framingham, MA:

"The 3-hour Spirit of Boston narrated harbor tour views many historic sights. A luncheon buffet with N. E. lobster and live entertainment was a big hit with everyone even though it rained steadily. Group rates were \$31.00 per person plus \$10.00 for bus transportation."

"...A guided bus tour of historic Lexington and Concord culminating in a lunch at the Officers' Club at Hanscom AFB nearby. The bus cost was \$10.00, lunch \$15.00 and tour guide, \$2.00 per person..."

"... others include the Boston Duck Tours, trolley tours, Kennedy Museum.(focus on WWII and the presidency)..."

There are other things to consider... please remember that all of the tours at the present time are tentative.





Opening the festivities was the honor guard from Nellis AFB. Keith Ingstad, shown in the background, coordinated the whole reunion and emceed the banquet, working very many hours and doing a great job.



L to R, LaVerne Ingstad, wife of Keith, 396<sup>th</sup>; Frankie Bywater, wife of Murray, CO 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp.; and Skip Thrune, 820<sup>th</sup>. Murray was the main speaker of the evening, giving a very enjoyable half hour slide show on the history of the 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp. Skip also gave a short talk on the State of the Squadron, 820<sup>th</sup>.

And to the right...and closing out the evening's program with the singing of the Army Air Corps Song are, L to R, Marjean Baglietto (396<sup>th</sup>), Pat Sternberg (396<sup>th</sup>), and Beverly Helmer, (48<sup>th</sup>)



Virgil Wilkening, 396<sup>th</sup>; gave a wonderful invocation



George Tolbert on the State of the Squadron, 47<sup>th</sup>



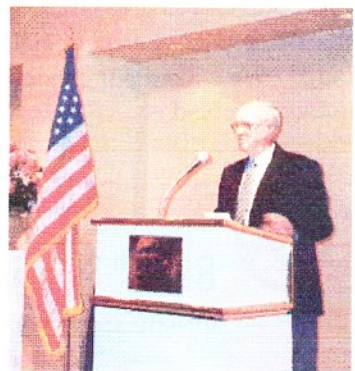
John Helmer on the State of the Squadron, 48<sup>th</sup>



Bill Zingery, 396<sup>th</sup>, introducing Lou Beisser, 396<sup>th</sup>, "Here comes de Judge."



De Judge, Lou Beisser, 396<sup>th</sup>, holding forth here on the state of his squadron.



Kem Sitterley, giving the "In Memoriam talk, which was mostly a recitation of the poem by Archibald MacLeish, "The Young Dead Soldiers."







**MORE REUNION 2001** – I ran out of space on page 6 in discussing this, and I want to add that Arnold Sayer drove around the Manchester, NH area and made a beautiful tape of the area and where the tours might go, etc. If you would like one of these tapes, George Tolbert, Gutts Gutting, Kem Sitterley, or Arnold has a copy and would be happy to forward one to you if you would contact one of us.



### 396<sup>th</sup> News

mostly stuff from their newsletter

Attending the Vegas Reunion were Marjean and John “Bags” Baglietto, Lou and Corinne Beisser, Geo. And Mike and Jill Bower, Warren “Doc” and Terry Eyer, LaVerne and Keith Ingstad, Bill and Bobbie MacMinn, Bernice and Nathan Mitchell, Judy Mitchell Perdue, Harold and Betty Newlander, John Reich, Jack Schermer, Frank Schwabert, Pat and Dick Sternberg, Sheryl and Dick Taylor, Mary and Virgil Wilkening, Walt Winner and Joyce Haddock, and Wilbur Zingery and Bettye Nedbalek, Cassidy, and Riggs.

Silver Taps since last report – James B. Dunkel (a good friend of your editor and an outstanding bridge player), Albert Stage, Irving R. Mason, Thomas D. Thompson, Malcolm Enman, Ferris E. Hoover, C. J. Brent, and Gus Stange. We extend our condolences to the 396<sup>th</sup> and to the families involved.



### 820<sup>th</sup> News

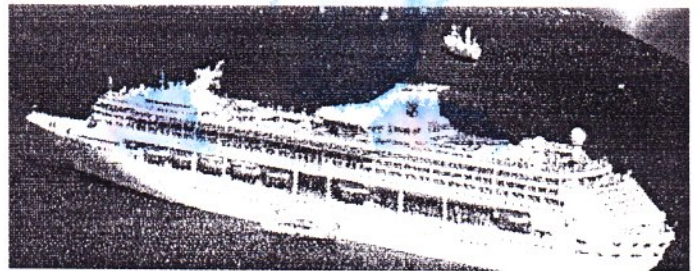
mostly stuff from their newsletter

Those attending the reunion in Vegas are Gus and Enid Anderson, Geane and Barbara Lohse, Rene and Skip Thruene, and Mr. and Mrs. Craig Norton.

... and from 820th’s newsletter we quote, “the next 820’s reunion will be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Thursday, April 5 through Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001. ...The Oaklawn Thoroughbred Horse Racing season will be in session. We will have special table seating in the elegant Oaklawn Club with our own table, waiter and order individually from the menu.

Television sets are on each table; you can watch the races through the grandstand window or on the TV.... You will be surprised at the bargain price for this event...” MORE LATER!

The 820<sup>th</sup> recently lost Tom Smith, one of their founding fathers, forever treasurer, and dearly beloved by all. Other losses suffered by the 820<sup>th</sup> recently are Stuart E. Jencks, Earl “Red” Skelton, Joseph Gaboriau, Frank Massarone, Albert M. Dunbar, Joseph Petruso and Pearl Champagne, wife of Warren. We extend our most heartfelt sympathy to the 820<sup>th</sup> and to the families involved.



“Vision of the Seas” Built in 1998, 75,000 tons, 2,000 passengers, 765 crew... a real thing of beauty!

**CRUISE, ANYONE?** – Many people have asked, “Why don’t we have a cruise?” so I decided to pitch one and see what happens. I have talked this over with a few people that have said they would be very interested.

We have probably been on at least a dozen ships and the one above is the very most stunningly elegant of any. You are just constantly awestruck with the beauty of the naval architecture and the design of just everything aboard.

I propose a departure date of Sun., August 26, 2001, returning the following Sun. We’ll see Hubbard Glacier in Glacier Bay, Skagway, Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan and Misty Fjords. At Skagway you can take a 3-hour roller coaster train ride up into the mountains, etc.

The cost would have four components. 1) the cruise plus port tax would be about \$1,000 to \$1,800 depending on how luxurious accommodations you might want; 2) getting to Vancouver and back, 3) tours, and 4) the omnipresent miscellaneous...shopping, etc. I may be able to extend our airline discount to all...lemme know. With enough interest I will check with the interline folks!