



The Crow Flight



Nineteenth newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group (M) 7th AF, WWII, issued November, 2001

WWII VETS ENGAGE TERRORISTS ---AND WIN!!

MANCHESTER, NH: Fifty strong we were on the evening of 30 September 2001, marching the halls of the Holiday Center Hotel under the leadership of two most unlikely looking warriors dressed in very feminine finery.

Events leading to this saga unfolded as we gathered for our banquet in one of those typically drab meeting rooms with a thin divider separating us from the other half of the room. The Junior Navy ROTC Color Guard had just presented the Flag and all were reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, when the attack began. It was in the form of acoustic torture: **LOUD**, incessant (read constant, non-stop) drum beats accompanied by a cacophony of weird sounding musical instruments, all emanating from the room beyond that thin divider.

The formidable (in many nice ways---more on that later) TERRY EYER, wife of DOC, 396th, launched the first sortie, informing the antagonists of the impossible situation they were creating for us and asking that they tone it down. The perpetrators informed Terry they were celebrating a Lebanese twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, had paid for the room until midnight, and had no intention of changing their ways. At that point, I am told, Terry primed her 14 forward firing 50-caliber epithet repartee and let them have it their own Arabic language. I am not at liberty to interpret and print the phraseology of her retort.

CAROLYN COLVIN, my special friend, repeated the assault with the same results and was informed, "Another crazy woman has already been here."

Both warriors (for a pleasant image, visualize them dressed as the scantily clad TV warrior woman, Xena) shifted their counter-attack to the harbinger of the terrorists, the Catering Manager, also of Arabic lineage. That unfortunate was at first defiant and adamant in his insistence that nothing

could be done---we were assigned that room and that was it.

Terry, now strapped into an H model, had a 75mm round loaded, primed the 50 calibers, and let the manager have it all where it hurts, using his native language with idioms he apparently clearly understood. Fire and brimstone emanating from her eyes, smoke from her nostrils, and neck veins bulging, is how Carolyn described Terry's demeanor.

Realizing he was hopelessly outgunned, the manager wisely capitulated by ordering his staff to move us all from the drab torture chamber into the nicely decorated and quiet hotel Patio Café where we finished our savory meal in tranquility. Your writer considered this as victory---achieved by our intrepid warriors. Terry, however, not as easily placated, wrote a scathing letter to the New Hampshire Gazette and to the President of the Holiday Inn Corp., eliciting from the Asst. to the President a phoned apology in the name of the President and the hotel for the happenings described.

MORE WINNERS!!

It's Terry Eyer again. In addition to winning the "banquet battle" and hence our admiration, Terry also wins our thanks for her generosity. Terry designed, crafted and donated an exquisite turquoise and silver ladies necklace to be awarded by drawing at the banquet. I told you Terry is a formidable lady in many nice ways.

THE NECKLACE WINNER

And the winner was!!! MARY WILKENING, wife of VIRG, 396th. Congratulations, Mary! (Sorry, a picture is not available. Cont. p.4)



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47TH & 48TH Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group, (M) 7th AF WWII.

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DUES NEWS: CALENDAR YEAR DUES FOR THE 47TH OR THE 48TH SQUADRON IS \$15. MORE IS ACCEPTED. \$5 EXTRA WILL PURCHASE A RESPECTIVE SQ. ROSTER. MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: URBAN A. GUTTING FOR THE 47TH JOHN HELMER FOR THE 48TH (ADDRESSES ↑↑)

***REQUEST A FORM *** - TO FILL OUT & RETURN FOR PUBLICATION OF YOUR LIFE HIGHLIGHTS SINCE DEACTIVATION. WE REALLY!! ARE INTERESTED. CONTACT "GUTTS."

\$\$ 47TH FINANCIAL NEWS \$\$

DUES PAYERS - The GOOD GUYS and GALS since last report are: THOM & MARY ZACHOK - JOE & FRANCES GARDNER - FRANK & MARIAN CIAROCHI - NORM & LENORE GERIL, 820TH - STEVE & ROSE BONFIILI - JAMES & LILIAN LAND - FRANK & EVELYN LISAK - JEAN TRUEX, IN

MEMORY OF HOWARD, 47TH - WARREN & TERRY EYER, 396TH.

ALL CROW FLIGHT 2001 DUES

PAYERS: Gus Anderson 820th, John Anderson, James Bain, Jack Bell, Steve Bonfili, Nedry Burris, Frank Ciarochi, Kemary Crowder (Sitterley), Wilmer Dietrick, Eldon Ford (Twice), Doc Eyer, 396th, Joe Gardner, Reginald Gauthier, Norman Geril 820th, Robert Gollnitz, Dorothy Grobe, Earl Grunewald, Stephen Gutting, Urban Gutting, George Harrison, Donald Haskell, Leroy Julian, Paul Kenway, Joe Kiseleski, Ray Kuttenkuler, James Land, Francis Lisak, Herbert Locke, Bill MacMinn 396th, John Mahan, James McGrath, Ricardo Rondinelli, John Sacco, Arnold Sayer, Robert Schack, Norman Simcoe, Buzz Sitterley, Kemble Sitterley, Suzanne St. Germain (Gutting), Dale Storms, Lynn Sweetland, George Tolbert, Jean Truex, Thom Zachok. Thanks to all.

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The 47th's Bank Balance as of 10-31-01 was \$2638.53. Subtracting anticipated printing and mailing expenses for this newsletter will make our 2001 year-end balance about \$2300. That would be an increase of around \$300 over the year 2000 ending balance.

We do need an operating fund to pay for printing and mailing the newsletter and rosters and for Reunion hotel and tour company deposits, the latter becoming increasingly more common and larger. We are, however, a not-for-profit association so, in view of the 2001 surplus, it is proposed to reduce the annual dues effective 01-01-2002 to \$12 and \$3 for a mailed roster. Remember, for Reunion attendees, we will continue to provide a roster for each individual or couple in their reunion information packet.

A MODEST PROPOSAL - That a donation (\$100?) be made by & in the name of THE 47TH BOMBARDMENT SQ. (M) 7TH AF WWII - "THE CROW FLIGHT." Is there a Pentagon Memorial Fund? E or snail mail your comments, please.

**MILDRED & BILL CHILSON
(SUBTITLE -WARM SMILES)**

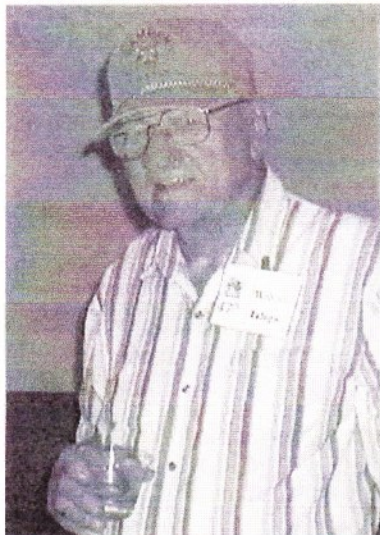


48TH

YOU AIN'T GET'N MY DRINK



**BILL TELEGA 47TH
ENJOYS A NIP
BILL REALLY WANTED THE
AF RUG & WE'RE SORRY
YOU DIDN'T WIN IT, BILL**

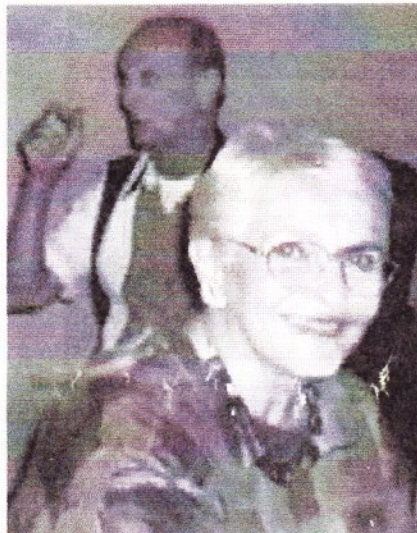


**TELEGAS HAVE BEEN TO
ALL REUNIONS EXCEPT LV
BEGINNING '96. SO WE'LL
EXPECT THEM AT BILOXI.**

**NORMM GERIL (THE LONE OOP)
820TH - GRAB THAT SMILE ON
KEM SITTERLEY- DAUGHTER
KEMARY - ONE SWEET LADY**



**THERESE (TERRY) EYER
DOESN'T LOOK WARRIOR-
LIKE DOES SHE?**



**WARREN (DOC) EYER
396TH - KNOWS HOW TO
SOOTHE TERRY-CK. THE GRIN!
YOU KNOW IT'S REAL**



**DOC IS A DELIGHT - HAD NICE
TALKS WITH HIM & LOOK FOR-
WARD TO SEEING HIM & TERRY
AGAIN IN BILOXI**

**ARLENE & DALE STORMS
47TH -REALLY NICE FOLKS
1ST REUN. SINCE '96-HOPE
TO SEE THEM AT MORE**



**ARNOLD SAYER 47TH
REUNION COORDINATOR
GREAT JOB, ARNOLD! TESTS
QUALITY OF BOOZE HE
STOCKED IN HOSPIT. RM.**



**ARNOLD CAN STILL WALLOP
THAT DRIVER. HE, LOU &
GUTTS TEED IT UP AT DEER-
FIELD, A NICE MUNI COURSE,
ON FRI. FOR HITTING THE
FEWEST BALLS INTO THE
CREEK, ARNOLD AWARDED
GUTTS ONE OF THOSE FREE
PENCIL STUBBS STAMPED
"DEERFIELD." LOU MADE THE
PUTT OF THE DAY, A CURLING
30 FOOTER, BUT GOT NOTH-
ING FOR IT. ARNOLD SEEMED
UNIMPRESSED--'MAKE 'EM
ALL THE TIME,' SAID ARNOLD.**

THE THROW RUG WINNER - Another coveted item offered for drawing at the banquet was a double-weaved 48" X 70" 'Throw Rug,' white with sky-blue woven pictures of our modern Air Force planes surrounding the Air Force Seal. At center bottom is the good ol' B-25 in all its glory, the only non-jet, as sort of a symbol of what spawned the modern jets. Fair rug views can be seen behind Joe & Frank, Jr. on P. 7.

Congratulation for winning this item goes to!!!
MARILYN RONDINELLI, wife of Rick, 47th.

When told there was a 47th guy who wanted to buy the rug, Rick's reply was, "Only over my dead body will it be sold." So Rick must have liked it.

THE OTHER WINNERS - That would be everyone who attended the Manchester, NH Reunion. First of all, they came in defiance of the terrorist attacks and the aftermath of uncertainty. By doing so, they once again demonstrated the grit of the generation that endured and prevailed against terrorism of another era.

We were blessed with beautiful weather throughout, except for a light sprinkle on our Fri. golf outing. The Holiday Inn, a fine hotel, provided good food and comfortable, spacious rooms. The staff was very courteous except for the banquet lapse cited on p.1 and, heh, heh, very cooperative after proper stimulation.

The Hospitality Room was a winner, accommodating all comfortably, a wet bar & refrigerator of course, and a room-wide window providing a panoramic view that was especially spectacular at night. Arnold stocked the bar with his favorite (just kidding, Arnold) beverages and snacks were available. Friday evening large trays of Mexican "scoop" food and fresh fruit were available.

The tours were spectacular: more on that later.

ARNOLD AND DORIS SAYER set up a great reunion, expending a lot of effort and time, for which we all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Thank you, **ARNOLD & DORIS!** (Do you think they had anything to do with setting up that unique dining conga line just to provide some added spice? Nah!)

A related comment from **ELLIE TELEGA**:
"...First time to dine in at 2 restaurants in one night. So much fun and good food..."

ONE MOMENTO HERE - Every reunion and banquet attendee received a Reunion Memento consisting of a laminate 8.5" X 11" printing of the U.S. Flag on one side and a Memento message on the reverse side. (Pictures on p. 6) Everyone seemed very pleased to receive this. One slight problem: "Memento" on the message side was spelled "Momento," a good Spanish word meaning 'one moment.' So mea culpa, and I hope your grandkids have a chuckle. My pappy once said, "The only people who do not make mistakes are the ones who do nothing, so go out there and make some mistakes." I take solace in the fact that not one of the fifty or so in attendance caught (or mentioned) the error. Also had some fun showing the erroneous Memento to about a dozen pretty intelligent and astute friends, none of whom, even after told there was a glaring error, could find it.

SQUADRON MEETING - Kem Sitterley and I (**Gutts**), while on our Mon. post reunion tour to Portsmouth with Kemary & Carolyn, held an unofficial but binding 47th Sq business meeting, on accounta no one showed up for the scheduled 1900 hours meeting on Sat. at the Hospitality Room. George Tolbert was ill (he recovered) and I suppose most others were still dinning (or napping) after a latish return from the Mountain tour. Kem Sitterley will write the last page of this newsletter and he will tell about our private Portsmouth tour and cover our meeting agenda. The 47th's motto might be, "Hang Loose?"

"AS THIS CROW FLEW" - Is the title of a book written by the 47th's own **JIM MC GRATH**, and covers Jim's four years in the Army Air Corps during WWII. The book is in the process of being published by **1ST BOOKS LIBRARY**, Bloomington, Indiana. Information on the book can be obtained on the Internet at **WWW. 1ST BOOKS.COM** - Category: **Military/War**, Author: **James McGrath**. His Fla. Address after Nov 23 is: 840 The Esplanade-Unit 1 #203, Venice, FL 34285. Phone 941-484-7074.

**GEORGE KELLY, 48TH
OUTLINING PLANS FOR 2002
REUNION AT BILOXI**



**TED - JANICE - ELLIE - BILL
TELEGA 47TH - ROCK SOLID
& GENEROUS FAMILY
SMART TOO - NOTE LOCALE**



**BETTY-WILMER DEITRICK
47TH - LINDA (DAUT) RODNEY
FOWLER-A LOVING FAMILY**



**JOHN HELMER - GEORGE &
HELEN KELLY, 48TH
SOMETHING'S COOKING**



VIEW FROM CANNON MT.



**FRANK SR. & JR. LISAK 47TH
VERY SOLID CITIZENS - A
MOVING STORY- ASK SR.
ABOUT IT AT BILOXI - LISAKS
ALWAYS SHOW UP AT
REUNIONS**



**DORIS SAYER - DOROTHY
GROBE - SAYERS HOSTED
DOROTHY FOR A WEEK PRIOR
TO REUNION
THAT'S FRIENDSHIP**



**48TH CREW-MILDRED &
BILL CHILSON-BEV & JOHN
HELMER-RAY & ARLENE
HUSCHLE**



**LOU BEISSER - ARNOLD SAYER
URB GUTTING - SLUGGING IT
OUT AT THE NINETEENTH TEE**



**THOM & MARY ZACHOK
47TH. ONE OF ONLY 4 TO
ATTEND ALL REUNIONS
BEGINNING '96 - COME JOIN
THEM AT BILOXI**



**47TH HEAD GUY GEORGE
TOLBERT (LOOKS LIKE A SLY
OL' FOX DOSEN'T HE?) -
CAROLYN COLVIN - ONE OF
OUR BATTLIN' BEAUTS**



**COULDN'T RESIST THIS PIC
OF KEM SITTERLEY 47TH &
DAUGHTER KEMARY**



**MARILYN-RICK RONDINELLI
47TH - LUCKY RUG WINNERS**



OOH, AAH AND WOW! - Arnold set up two great tours, The White Mountain with Tram Ride and the Boston with Harbor Boat Tour. The White Mountain: while not yet at their fullest color glory, NH's mountains did provide spectacular viewing, especially from the top of Cannon Mt., reached via the Tram Ride. The Boston tour featured a visit to the Old North Church, where Paul Revere swung his lantern(s), one if by sea, two if by land. (Right?) as well as a boat ride around Boston Harbor.

Pattie, our guide for both tours, was a real delight, keeping us entertained as well as informed as we rolled through the vibrantly colored countryside and historic Boston. Pattie assured us at the beginning that we would be doing a lot of ooh, aah & wowing and she was right.

George Tolbert had a personal WOW when he surprised Pattie with an impromptu "dipsy-do" dance dip atop Cannon Mtn. See George in action on p 9.

Pattie received another surprise on the Boston tour. She collected lunch orders by having us either "cluck-cluck" for chicken or purse lips for fish. With my (Gutts) lips pursed as Pattie approached I seized the moment and offered her a kiss, which she accepted! That was a definite WOW for me as Pattie is a very attractive lady who once made her living as a go-go dancer. My pappy once said, "When opportunity..."

820TH BOMB SQ. REUNION - The next reunion will be held by the 820th Sq at the Sand Dunes Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on Th., May 2 to Sun. May 5, 2002. It's a golfer's haven and offers great beaches and many other attractions. All are welcomed and if interested get registration information from: **Norman Geril**, President, 820th Bomb Sq. Assoc, 130 Colonial Drive, Southbury, CT 06488-1205, Tel 1-203-262-1860, E-mail <ngeril@snet.net>.

47TH HEAD GUY GEORGE TOLBERT - **SUBJECT: NOSTALGIA** - Many thanks to Kem, Urb and Don for their efforts to keep members, relatives and friends informed of happenings of common interest to all. A tough and sometimes thankless job well done.

It's rather startling to realize that it has been almost sixty years since we were assigned to the 47th Bomb Sq., young know-it-all men. Experiences were many and varied, some funny, some sad. Yet most of us enjoy talking and sharing stories about the early missions. Remembering the wet soggy mattresses under the mosquito netting, the Atabrine tablets and lister bags filled with heavily chlorinated water. And the outhouses that were filled with seawater and the lime could do little about the stench. And don't forget the raisinjack, the Spam, dehydrated eggs, French toast that was almost always on the morning menu. The months of boredom, wanting to get into combat, get missions in, and get home. But where else could one get an eight-month expense paid vacation in the wonderful Hawaiian Islands. Oh, also the hotly contested volleyball games, to the winner a case of some off brand hot beer.

There are so many fond memories of the good old days, more enjoyable to live in the past than the present or to contemplate the future. Come on guys, all of you have had some interesting experiences. Jot them down and forward them to Urb so that he can spread the word.

OK Urb, here it is, now get off my back. I'm on my way for a little CW dancing. Keep up the good work. gt

A WWII TRAINING CREED - You will start out with a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. Strive to fill the bag of experience before emptying the bag of luck.

➤ another priceless gem from Urbangu's e-mail archives entitled, "This and That.".....

the phone rings in heaven. St. Peter answers, "Hello? Yes... yes... yes.. Just a moment.

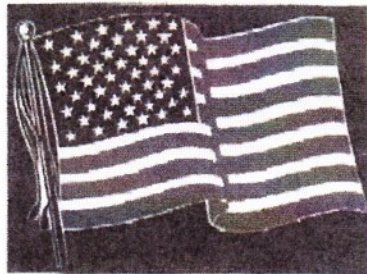
God. It's the Pope, he wants to discuss women in the clergy again."

God, tired of the Pope and his problems, says, "Look, there are millions of people praying right now, and I'm trying the make plans... tell him I'm just not available."

"Of course," St. Peter replies. Removing his hand from the phone, he says to the Pope,

"She's just not available right now..."

THE MEMENTO



BACKSIDE

A MEMENTO

FOR ATTENDANCE



41st Bombardment Group Reunion



MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REUNION

SEPT. 27 TO OCT. 1

2001

GOD BLESS AMERICA

NAVY JUNIOR ROTC COLOR GUARD



FRANK LISAK, JR SHOWING CLOSE-UP SLIDES HE TOOK OF PENTAGON DAMAGE



MOM

MIKE - JEANETTE PHILLIPS - EVELYN - FRANCIS LISAK 47TH GREAT FAMILY-SEVENCHILDREN



JOE GARDNER, 47TH GLAD YOU MADE IT, JOE!



ROBERT GARDNER A SON TO BE PROUD OF



BOBBIE- BILL MAC MINN 396TH GREAT FOLKS TO BE WITH



BUD - BETTY EVANS 396TH WARM - FRIENDLY FOLKS



COULD THIS BE DOROTHY?



AND MARY?



HE'S NOT 47, 48 OR 396TH - HE IS A PRESIDENT - GUESS WHO



CLUE - LOOK CLOSE



BEREAVEMENTS - Genevieve Herman informed us through a note to George Tolbert that her husband, **Gil**, 47th passed away on January 1, 2001. They had been married for 58 years, and among the many fond memories of their life together, Genevieve mentioned the great times they had at 47th Bomb Sq. reunions some years ago in Florida and Las Vegas. We extend our belated but sincere condolences to Genevieve and family.

Lola Wampler informed that her husband, **Austin**, 47th Bomb Sq., died on July 1, 2001. They had celebrated 53 years of married life together. Our heartfelt sympathy to Lola and family.

A phone call from son, **Ron** told that his dad, **Norman K. Simcoe**, 47th Bomb Sq. died on October 24, 2001. As a USAF retiree, he was buried with full military honors. Ron said Norm often spoke with fondness of his WWII companions. Our sincere condolences are extended to Norm's spouse, **Gretchen**, son **Ron** and all the Simcoe family.

RECOVERING - John and Toni Mahan, 47th were registered and paid up for the Reunion when a trip to the hospital for John cancelled the trip to NH. There were more health troubles to come for John, but glad to report that as of this date he is recovering nicely.

Jim and Betty McGrath were also required to cancel Reunion plans when Betty experienced a relapse while recovering from a recent hospital stay. Happy to report that Betty has since shown steady improvement and is near full recovery as of this writing.

RECOVERED - Last newsletter reported **Bob Brandt**, 48th recovering from open-heart surgery. JO said he is again his old cantankerous self (she didn't really-I just made that up). Bob did make full recovery and his welcomed e-mails are again flowing.

NOTE FROM EVELYN LISAK

All hail to 47th
 "pteco dact ipt yls"
 Long may they Fly!
 Bringing
 their Spirit
 their "Gutts" (Hey, I like that!)
 and their History

Frank Lisak's accompanying letter stated, in brief, that they enjoyed a memorable trip, combining the Reunion with visits to a son and granddaughters in N.Y. They talk about some part of it each morning, said Frank.

No one knew they were coming, so when all five (**Frank Sr-Evelyn-Frank Jr- Daut. Jeanette & Mike Phillips**) showed up it was the highlight pleasant surprise of the Reunion.

REPORT FROM ARLINGTON, VA

Charles & Marian Treakle, 47th were all set to make the reunion but the airline made schedule changes they could not physically handle. Marian stated in a post reunion note that, "life is very different in this area from the way we knew it." E.g., they attempted to visit Arlington Cemetery, where they have a little boy buried, as well as her parents, but, in spite of having a military I.D., were denied access. "The Pentagon is an awesome sight. It is scary..."

Writer's comment: Not being close to "ground zero," it is difficult for most of us to fully apprehend the many small and large consequences of the terrorist attacks being experienced by those living in or near Wash., D.C. and N.Y. I will make a prediction though---and pray with me it is fulfilled---that, under the leadership of our President and his very able administration, America and those who stand with us will by next spring, or sooner, have broken the backs of the terrorist organizations, thus affording everyone opportunity to resume normal activity, albeit with vigilance--- but without fear.

I am reminded of a great American poem written by Herman Melville after the death of Abraham Lincoln, the second founder of the country: "There is sobbing of the strong, And a pall upon the land; But the People in their weeping Bare the iron hand; Beware the People weeping When they bare the iron hand." (A quote from Andrew Sullivan in the London Times - sent by Elaine Dorough, (Jim) 48th)

Marian Treakle said in a later note, "Our hearts were so very touched when we received the "old glory" memento from you, at the behest of the squadron. When I saw that flag tears filled my eyes - such a kind & thoughtful gesture to be forever cherished. I immediately placed it in the front window of our home. Thank you for sending it to us."

Writer's comment: A Reunion Memento was sent in behalf of the 47th Bomb Sq. to the Mahans & McGraths, (See L. column) as well as the Treakles.

They were with us in spirit.



Those of us that were able to attend the reunion in Manchester, New Hampshire had a good time. Our total attendance at the banquet for all squadrons was only 51.

The 48th members were Bill and Mildred Chilson, Raymond and Arlene Huschle, George and Helen Kelly and Beverly and John

Helmer.

Beverly and I arrived one day early. We rented a car and spent the day visiting small villages to the west. We saw the towns with the town square, with the Churches and with meeting Halls surrounding the square. The second day we traveled east to the coast and checked out Portsmouth and the coastline with Doc and Therese Eyer.

We were a few days early for the full spectacle of fall foliage, but our two bus trips to the White Mountains and to Boston were enjoyable.

On our return trip we got to the airport two hours early and was told our plane was cancelled.. United put three of us in a cab to Boston so we could make our plane change in Chicago. It was 1 1/2 hour cab trip to Boston. We make the plane with 5 minutes to spare and made connections at Chicago to Portland. All our flights were filled with passengers.

Since our last report I have received monies from the following: Robert Morse, George Waller, George Kelly, Charlotte Wetherbee, Roberrt Brandt, Fitz Fitzpatrick, Ray Huschle, Fred Emmert, Lefty Pflingst, Wallace B. Johnson, Chauncey Kershaw and Warren Noe.

One of the special times at the reunion was a breakfast with Charlotte Wetherbee and her daughter Lois, widow and father of Tom..

As of Oct 31, 2001 our bank account is \$2,329.20.

PS – ON TO BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI FOR OUR 2002 REUNION WITH THE 48TH'S OWN GEORGE and HELEN KELLY PRESIDING.... BE THERE!!!!

... and I quote here excerpts from notes I have received...

FROM GEORGE WALKER... Dated Sept 4, 1000 ...I received the Crow Flight last week and was surprised to read the letter from Herb Hoover. Herb died June 2nd, two weeks after he wrote you. Herb and I were tent mates from the time we left Fresno until we returned home from Saipan. We kept in touch and got together occasionally. He had been in bad health for the last couple of years. My wife's health prevents us from traveling any distance, so we won't make the reunion....

FROM HIRAM FITZPATRICK.... Dated August 30, 2001... You have not heard from me for some time as I have had Doreen in a foster home and have been involved in selling my present home and buying another.

Just yesterday I signed the final papers on the purchase and am readying for the move next week. We will be too involved to make the Manchester reunion, regrettably.

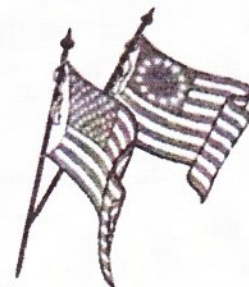
...It sounds like you and Beverly are doing it up right... taking extra time to enjoy the area while you are there. We had planned to spend a few days with my daughter in Morristown, New Jersey. Doreen's home before the war.

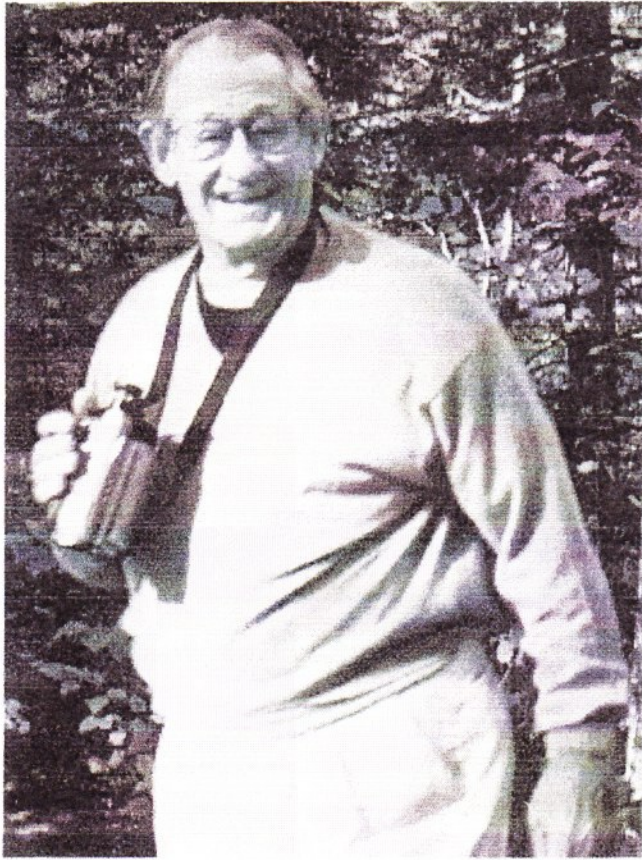
I'm sorry to hear about Bill McCoy's passing. I did not know him that well, but enjoyed meeting him some time ago at lunch....

FROM WALLACE JOHNSON Dated Sept, 4, 2001... Can not make the reunion... enclosed is my check for \$20.00.

I stay in touch with David Crane and Kershaw, my two tent mates on Okinawa

Have you any knowledge of J. E. T. O'Halla – 48th pilot?





The 47th's fearless leader... always going over big with the ladies... George Tolbert doing the dipsy-doo with Tour Guide Pattie while Dorothy Grobe looks on approvingly!

“Urb” or “Gutts” This is the guy who does everything for the 47th ...edits our newsletter ...handles our money...takes our movie pictures and on and on... So many “thank yous” go to Gutts!



The 396th's Doc and Terry Eyer in the foreground and the 48th's Arlene and Raymond Huschle in the second seat. Terry was the heroine of the reunion when we got blasted out of our banquet room. It seems that there was a Lebanese couple who were celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Terry happens to be fluent in their language and tried to talk them into cutting down the noise. They were not cooperative, so she cussed them out in Lebanese and rumor has it that she is following through with written complaints to the Holiday Inn Nat'l office.



Marilyn and Rick Rondinelli... Picture taken in one of the museums on the White Mountains Tour.



This was a sad trip in a way for me because it was the first one without Polly, the light of my life for 57 years. In another way I was so lucky because my daughter, Kemory came with me.

As most of you know, I fly free because my son, Buzz, is a captain with USAirways... The downside of this is that you're flying space available, which, of course, makes it exciting. You never know for sure just what flight you might be on until the airplane pushes back. You never know for sure what routing you might be on. You must be forever vigilant that your baggage stays with you, and on and on.

We did fairly well on this trip. We flew to Charlotte to spend a few days with Buzz and family and then on to Manchester. The LA to Charlotte flight was full! You read where their business if way down...yeah... it is but the flights are still full because they just aren't flying as many. USAirways used to fly five per day Los Angeles to Charlotte and now it's down to two or three. They used to show about fifteen flights per day from Charlotte to Manchester. They're way down... we had to fly to New York La Guardia and then a puddle jumper on to Manchester. We were able to see "Ground Zero on the southern tip of Manhattan Island, but we were about a mile or so away. There was still a lot of smoke and this was about two weeks after 9/11!!

Our hotel room at the Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn was surely one of the nicest we've ever had at any reunion. The hospitality room was great and provided an excellent panoramic view of beautiful downtown Manchester.

The tours were wonderful and have been described in these pages earlier. What wasn't described earlier was the beautiful tour guide named Pattie. She was the very attractive and very brilliant life-of-the-party type person with whom everyone fell in love. You can sort of get the idea from the picture on page 10 where she is dancing with the 47th's George Tolbert. They are doing the dipsy doo on the tram ride up to Cannon Mountain. Pattie was just full of various stories about the history of the area and made the tours so very much more enjoyable for everyone.

BREAKFAST WITH CHARLOTTE AND LOIS!.....

Wetherbee that is! And what a really special treat time it was for the Helmers and the Sitterleys. Tom Wetherbee, 48th, who passed away several years ago and who was one of my best buddies in the service, and his wife, Charlotte, and his daughter, Lois, drove to Manchester to be with us for breakfast, and what a delightful time it was!



From left to right your writer Kem Sitterley, Charlotte Wetherbee, John and Beverly Helmer in the hospitality room



Lois Wetherbee on the right going over some photos with John Helmer



25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY PARTY OF A

LEBANESE COUPLE – I was late getting down to Happy Hour before our banquet time arriving about 6:40 PM. The noise was absolutely deafening. There was an underlying drum beat with some sort of weird over beat that was the most unbelievable cacophony imaginable. You literally had to scream into the ear of whoever it was you were talking to.. to make yourself heard.

The next thing I knew we were being instructed to pick up our salad plates, drinks, napkins, silverware, whatever, for we were being moved into their regular coffee shop. This didn't make for happy soldiers... but at least we could hear ourselves think... we were scattered around in various groups of probably no less than three and no more than nine.

I heard later that Terry Eyer (wife of Doc, 396th) had gone over and asked the people in a very nice way to please cut down on the noise and was rudely treated. Terry, I heard, was fluent in five different Arabic languages and was able to tell it to them in their own tongue... now, I know Terry fairly well and I can't believe that she would cuss them out that way... but I hope she did.

Another of our valiant ladies, Carolyn Colvin (that's Gutts' SO (significant other)), also tried to talk them in a nice way and then again in a not-so-nice way with no luck whatsoever... they even were laughing that we had been forced to move...

Does this sort of remind one of the media showing pictures of the Pakistanis having big parties right after 9/11?... the Muslims kicking out the greatest generation????

Terry wrote several letters to various people, and a copy of one of these letters follows on page 13. I heard that she was being begged not to make waves... not to call the police, etc.... I even heard that some people were thinking of calling the police and making a citizens's arrest charging noise pollution ...disturbing the peace, etc.

I sort of felt sorry for the hotel guy; you might argue that he made the best of a bad situation... and on the other you would think that he should have known about this in advance and made other plans.

SORTUVA BUSINESS MEETING – One of the evenings in the hospitality room with some folks being two to four sheets into the wind... some business was discussed: It was sort of unanimously agreed... 1) Doris and Arnold Sayer did a fine job of running the reunion and we all express our gratitude to them; 2) George Kelly gave a great presentation about his hosting the 2002 reunion in Biloxi, MS...casinos... great rates at the hotel... tours to New Orleans including the French Quarter ...etc. and 3) a motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously that our 2003 reunion would be in BRANSON, MO., and that Lou Beisser, 396th would be the

head coordinator.... and Lou accepted this great honor graciously.

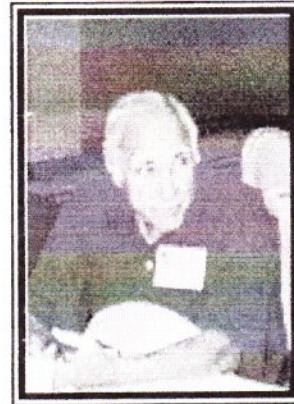
THE REALLY OFFICIAL MEETING – On Monday, Gutts and Carolyn and Kemary and I rented a car and went for a ride over to the coast and Portsmouth and Molly Malone's (the greatest restaurant in the world and if you don't believe it, just read their advertising). And part of the day's conversation went like this:

Kem: Inasmuch as we are all more or less from the 47th I make a motion that we are a legally constituted quorum for all of the squadrons at the reunion just past here in Manchester (or are we in Portsmouth now?)

Everyone else: Yah Yay-y-y-yyy; motion carried unanimously !!

Kemary: I make a motion that we convey our appreciation and congratulations to Doris and Arnold Sayer for a job well done...brilliantly executed blah- blah!!!

Others... Yayyy-yy-y-y motion carried unanimously!!!



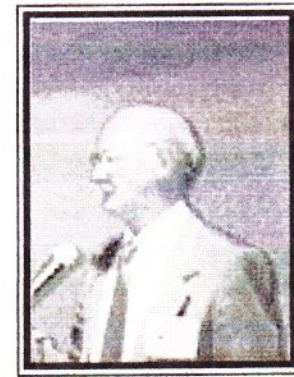
George Kelly, 48th

Carolyn : I make a motion to accept George Kelly (48th) as the coordinator of our reunion in 2002 to be held in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Others: Yayy-yyy-y-y!! Carried unanimously !!!

Gutts: I make a motion that we accept Lou Beisser's (396th) offer to be the coordinator of our reunion to be held in Branson, Missouri, in 2003!

All others: Yay-h-oh-!!!! Carried unanimously!!!!



Lou Beisser, 396th

Gutts: I make a motion that we adjourn!!

All others: Yayy-y-y!! Unanimously Carried...

♪ ...skip to my Lou, my darlin' ♪

Gutts: Lesh adjourn and have one more drink and go out and shoot landingish!!!!



Terry wrote this letter because she was so very upset about the rudeness and discourtesy shown us by the Lebanese people mentioned on page 12. I asked her at the reunion if she would mail me a copy and allow me to include it in our newsletter. This letter was sent to the Holiday Inn, the local paper and many other entities:

IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM

Every year the 41st Bombardment Group, that fought in the Pacific during World War II get together for a Reunion. They are all accompanied by their respective families, some can hardly walk but nevertheless they are present. This year's Reunion had such a sad ending and left such a bitter taste in our mouths.... It was held at the Holiday Inn in Manchester, NH. After the happening of the 11th of September, we all felt we had to be together, more than ever.

The last evening is the Big Dinner Party, and it was to take place at the Hotel in Room "D". On Sunday the 30th of September 2001 at 5:30 pm we were all gathered for cocktails and at 6:30 pm we took out places at our tables.

The Honor Guard of the Junior ROTC came in bearing the colors.

We then started to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag, when all of a sudden came a horrible noise from the adjacent rooms.... We could not hear ourselves, the water in the glasses was trembling and everyone had a surprised look, while holding our hearts feeling terrible uneasy.

The horrible sound was none but "Arabic Music" or so it's called.

We were wondering if it was a hoax, but NO, that was real.

By coincidence, or sad turn of events, in the Room adjacent a group of Lebanese was celebrating te 25th Anniversary of a Couple.... They were asked to lower the volume of their music, but categorically refused (not even politely).

Over 300 people were gathered in that room. I honestly do not know how many of them realized the terrible blunder.... But some of them did and in no half terms said that they were "FREE" to do whatever they wished.

I was stopped from calling the local TV Station and the Local Newspaper.

I was asked not to make a scandal out of the matter.

The acting-manager had no solution to our problem, finally he offered to move our party to the Coffee-Shop. So here we were all holding our plates, silver, glasses, salad, bread & butter, moving and trying to find a place to put it all, dispersed here and there. I do believe that this is ironical, but nothing to laugh about.

The worse came later, when one of the bearded men, from the Lebanese party, came outside to observe his victory. I approached him and said: "You see, you made US move!"

He looked at me with real hate and said: "GOOD".

This is what is called FREEDOM in our BELOVED USA, sad reality.

Thérèse Eyer
3733, Calle Guaymas
Tucson, AZ 85716

(Editor's note.... Terry is the lovely wife of "Doc" Eyer, 396th)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 SHALL BE REMEMBERED FOREVER !!!!

On November 19, 1863 Abraham Lincoln made his Gettysburg address at the dedication of a cemetery for those that gave their lives. But somehow it seems to fit the September 11th act of terror, it goes something like this:

Elevenscore and fifteen years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. **This includes Al Qaeda and the Taliban.**

“Now we are engaged in an unprecedented War on Terrorism, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. **This will be a long war and we must stand firm.** We are met on a great battle-field of that war. **New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.** We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for the more that **6,000 people** who here gave their lives so that this nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.

“But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate; we cannot consecrate; we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men and women, living and dead, who struggled here, have. **The people in the buildings and on the airplanes, the fire fighters, the policemen, and other rescue workers** consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget **what happened here.** It is for us the living rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work we **must do to see that it never happens again anywhere in the world.** They who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they have the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. Let us never forget that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” **GOD BLESS AMERICA ..** Your Editor W. A. R. Walters (**Crow Flight Editor's note ...this text, very slightly modified, is taken from my local American Legion newsletter**).



FOR MEN ONLY!! LADIES SHOULD NOT READ SUCH AWFUL STUFF!!!!

If you don't have a computer don't buy one. They are a real pain! A very high percentage them are either trashed in a month or so or sit unused... or kill their user from frustration.

And, if you decide that you just have a computer, surely, never get onto the internet.. Because of the raunchy, unpatriotic, dirty stuff that comes in your e-mail Only to help make my point and save you from such sin and iniquity, I quote a couple: (of course you understand I cannot say the source).

THE PHOTOGRAPHER –

The Smiths were unable to conceive children, and decided to use a surrogate father to start their family. On the day the proxy father was to arrive Mr. Smith kissed his wife and said, "I'm off. The man should be here soon.

Half an hour later, just by chance, a door-to-door baby photographer rang the doorbell, hoping to make a sale.

"Good morning madam, I've come to.... " "Oh, no need to explain. I've been expecting you," Mrs. Smith cut in.

"Really?" The photographer asked. "Well, good" I've made a specialty of babies."

"That's what my husband and I had hoped. Please come in and have a seat"

After a moment she asked, blushing, "Well, where to we start?"

"Leave everything to me. I usually try two in the bathtub, one on the couch and perhaps a couple on the bed. Sometimes the living room floor is fun too, you can really spread out!"

"Bathtub, living room floor? No wonder it didn't work for Harry and me."

"Well, madam, none of us can guarantee a good one every time. But if we try several different positions and I shoot from six or seven angles. I'm sure you'll be pleased with the results."

"My that's a lot of.." gasped Mrs. Smith

"Madam, in my line of work, a man must take his time. I'd love to be in and out in five minutes, but you'd be disappointed with that, I'm sure."

"Don't I know it." Mrs. Smith said quietly. The photographer opened his briefcase and pulled out a portfolio of

the baby pictures. "This was done on the top of a bus."

"Oh, my God!" Mrs. Smith exclaimed, tugging at her handkerchief. "And these twins turned out exceptionally well – when you consider their mother was so difficult to work with."

"She was difficult?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"Yes, I'm afraid so. I finally had to take here to the park to get the job done right. People were crowding around four and five deep, pushing to get a good look."

"Four and five deep?" Asked Mrs. Smith, eyes widened in amazement.

"Yes," the photographer said. "For more than three hours, too. The mother was constantly squealing and yelling – I could hardly concentrate. Then darkness approached and I began to rush my shots. Finally, when the squirrels began nibbling on my equipment, I just packed it all in."

Mrs. Smith leaned forward. "You mean they actually chewed on your, um... equipment?"

"That's right. Well madam, if you're ready, I'll set up my tripod so that we can get to work."

"Tripod?"

"Oh yes, I have to use a tripod to rest my Canon on. It's much too big for me to hold very long...Madam? Madam?..."

NOT A BAD IDEA.... Killing Osama Bin Laden will only create a martyr. Holding him prisoner will inspire his comrades to take hostages to demand his release.

Instead, after he is captured: Fly him to an undisclosed hospital and have surgeons quickly perform a complete sex change operation;. Then we return "her" to Afghanistan to live under the Taliban....!

Letter to wife... You must realize that you are 54 years old, and I have certain needs which you are not longer able to satisfy. I am otherwise happy with you.. And hope you will not be offended to learn that by the time you receive this letter, I will be at the Grand Hotel with my 18-year old teaching assistant. I'll be home before midnight... Your husband

Fax to husband... You, too, are 54 years old and by the time you receive this letter I will be at the Breakwater Hotel with the 18-year old pool boy. Since you are a mathematician you will appreciate that 18 goes into 54 more times than 54 goes into 18... Therefore ... don't wait up... Your wife...



Merry Christmas!!!! Happy New Year!!!! Season's Greetings !



Normally we would have our Happy Holiday salutations on the front page, but this issue sort of grew from early October to now. We nonetheless extend our very sincere wishes for all of you to have a great Holiday season!

REUNION CALENDAR

820th – May 2-5, 2002 at Myrtle Beach, SC,
Contact Norm Geril, (203) 262-1860,
e-mail ngeril@snet.net.

47th, 48th, and 396th, fall 2002, Biloxi, MS,
call George Kelly, (228) 432-0529 e-
mail, e-mail address later

47th, 48th, and 396th, fall 2003, Branson, MO,
call Lou Beisser, (863) 385-9475, e-
mail theowls@strato.net

ALVIN GAZDA – Sorry that I was not able to notify you sooner that I would not attend the reunion.... I am having slight physical problems and cannot attend... I had the joint in my left hip replaced in January and a cataract removed from each eye earlier this year...

CRUISE – Just a little preliminary report at this time. We plan a more complete report in the next issue... suffice it to say at this time that everyone had a great time... below, standing are Gus Anderson, 820th and Pat Sternberg and sitting at this gorgeous dining room table from left to right are Urb Gutting 47th, Carolyn Colvin and Dick Sternberg, 396th. Maybe the picture was taken by Enid Anderson.



Here's Enid. She spent a lot of time out playing with the bears, whales, pterodactyls, etc. Everyone had a grand time with their Alaska Experience.

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