

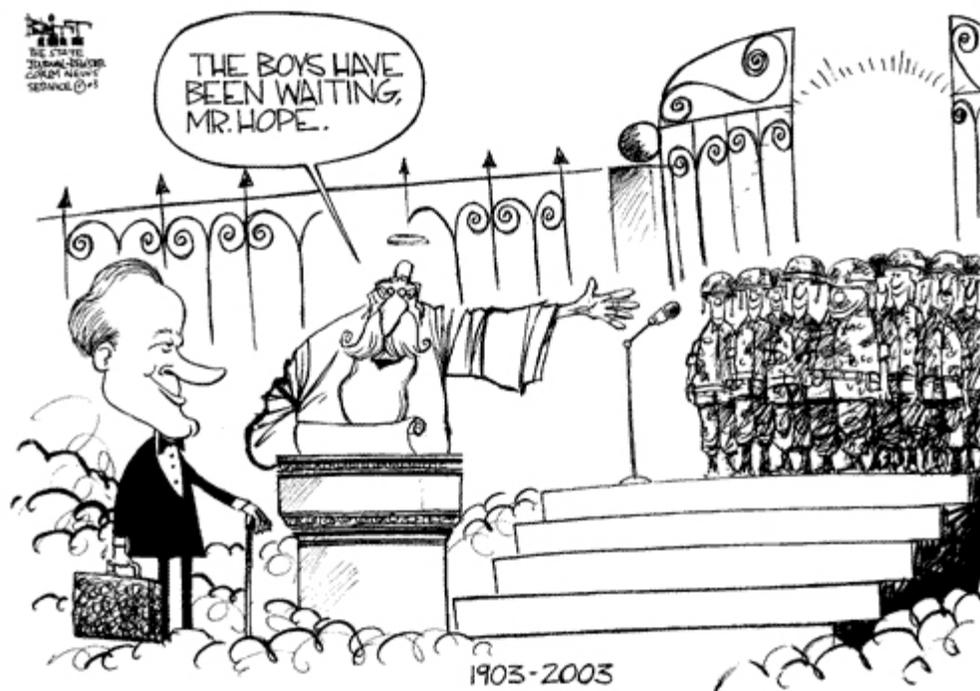


The Crow Flight



Twenty-fifth Newsletter of the 47th & 48th & 396th Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bomb. Group (M), 7th AF, WWII, Issued August 2003

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF BOB HOPE AND ALL 41ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP MEMBERS NOW SERVING WITH HIM



BOB HOPE 1903-2003



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47TH, 48TH & 396TH Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bomb. Group, (M) 7th AF, WWII

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Mail to Urban A. Gutting, address above

DUES NEWS: CALENDAR YEAR DUES FOR THE 47TH IS \$12. THE 48TH & 396TH SQUADRON DUES ARE \$15. MORE IS ACCEPTED. \$3 EXTRA WILL PURCHASE A RESPECTIVE SQUADRON ROSTER. MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: JOHN HELMER FOR THE 48TH; DOC EYER FOR THE 396TH & URBAN A. GUTTING FOR THE 47TH ADDRESSES ABOVE.

REQUEST A FORM - TO FILL OUT & RETURN FOR PUBLICATION OF HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR SERVICE & LIFE SINCE DEACTIVATION. WE REALLY!! ARE INTERESTED. 47TH OR 48TH OR 397TH CONTACT URBAN A. GUTTING, AT ADDRESS ABOVE.

\$\$ FINANCIAL REPORTS \$\$

47TH BOMB. SQ. - The Good Guys and Galls since last report are: Robert & Vivienne Schack – Herb & Fritzie Locke – Robert & Nancy Worsnop – Ray & Mary Kuttenkuler – Lynn & Betty Sweetland – Arnold & Doris Sayer – Norm & Lenore Geril (820th) – Thom & Mary Zachok – H. Charles & Marian Treacle – Gene & Diane Lassitter (Special Gift in Memory of Merritt Miller, 48th) – Harry Courser

Accounts balance as of 8-31-'03 was \$2510.79.

48TH BOMB. SQ. – John Helmer reports dues and gifts since the last newsletter: Robert Brandt – Marian Calbreth – Fred Deutsch – Hazel McCoy – Tom

Carson, a total of \$220.50. Our bank balance at this time is \$2540.04.

396TH BOMB. SQ. – “Doc” Eyer reports dues received from: Roland T. Kerker – E.J. Tracy (48th) – Bill McMinn – Lou Beisser – Bruce Hanson – “Doc” Eyer – Bob Loeb – Anthony Micros – Jerrell Allee – John Baglietto – Bob Baird – Leo Calvender – Paul Bull – Louis Cochran – C.B. Williams – Harold Newlander – Benedict Tamauskas – Walt Winner – Richard Gigger – Richard Heckel –

396th Bank Balance is \$809.37

(Note: Print & Mail costs for TCF #24 & 25 not reflected in above Bank Balances.)

Thanks to all the generous folks from all squadrons that have sent in dues and gifts.

AH! THE “BULK” MAIL (NON) SERVICE! We'll keep this short and quick. Disaster! Received last six returned #24 newsletters 47 days after they were mailed on 10 June '03. “Bulk” won't be used again. Wonder how many people did not even receive their copy! If you did not receive #24 please let me know.

The Crow Flight #24 CORRECTIONS: Page 4: One typo and one mental lapse. Correct spelling of Diane's last name is LASSITTER. Anywhere you find Lou Beisser's phone #: Correct is (480) 807-2012, not 21. Plead innocent on this one; that's what was given to me. Registration Form: Yakov Smirnoff Show cost is \$25.50. The computer rounded it off & I didn't catch that. We'll meet in the bar and play “Horse” double-or-nothing. “*Optional – But must be booked by 7-15-03,“ should have been 8-15-03. Later found out even that date does not apply. If anyone still wants to sign up for the Yakov Smirnoff show you may do so at the reunion on Monday 15 Sept. '03.

Audrey Hepburn's Beauty Tips: (Read at her funeral.)

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.

For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.

For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.

For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.



The 48th Bombardment Squadron

John Helmer Reports

On to Branson, see you there. Beverly and I are flying to Springfield, Mo. on Sat. Sept. 13th. We will stay overnight there and plan to visit Wilson Creek National Battlefield. The first Union General, Nathaniel Lyon, was killed in action in this battle Aug. 10, 1861. We will visit Fantastic Caverns, the largest limestone caves in Mo., and The American National Fish And Wildlife Museum. We will arrive in Branson Sun. afternoon.

We had a wonderful trip to Japan. My interpreter, Mr. Kawata, entertained us for one week. Mr. Kawata made arrangements to visit Johnson Air Force Base, now a Japan Self Defense Air Force Base. I found the big hanger building that my engineering outfit was based in. This base was the Air Academy of training pilots for World War II. There was a museum that gave a lot of attention to the kamikaze pilots. They had pictures of the parties held the night before their final flight. The pictures showed them toasting one another among many flowers. There were letters the pilots had written their mothers before their last flight.

They had a Baka Bomb on display. This was a glider that our engineering outfit had moved to a pedestal at the main entrance. The Baca glider was carried under a mother aircraft and was propelled by a short burst of a rocket tube in its tail.

Our two week forest tour was interesting. The minimum pay scale starts at \$14 - \$15 an hour, so you can see that everything in Japan is expensive. Labor costs are so high that they can't cut their own forests. They buy logs from all over the world.

We visited one forest that was planted 250 years ago and is in the hands of the 17th generation. This can happen because inheritance passes to the oldest son. This forest has been selectively harvested for the last 100 years. We visited wooden buildings and temples that were built in the year 700.

Beverly and I attended the memorial service here in Portland for **Homer Slessman**, 48th Bomb. Sq. in July. The family had many pictures of Homer's life with the 48th Bomb. Sq. It was interesting to learn that Homer met his wife Ruth at Waikiki in Honolulu. Ruth was a nurse on a hospital ship visiting Pearl Harbor.

+++++

48TH SQ. NOTES & LETTERS: Jack Whitley's daughter, Jackie Whitley Stewart, sent John a change of address as part of a warm and lengthy letter. Some excerpts: "We had such a nice time with all of you at Ontario. I have never been anywhere with a nicer or more fun group of people... "If you have space in *The Crow Flight* maybe you could print Daddy's email address. He got online last year and really enjoys it. I think he would like having his email shared." So here it is: JQWHITLEY@msn.com Jack had a knee replacement back then; Jackie said, "recovery has been really good." This typist will be checking with Jack because I'm going for a double knee replacement after the Branson Reunion.

George Knight: "As we were members of the original group to fly to Hawaii for training and then to Apamama to attack the atolls, at low level, I came back to Oahu after 50 missions to train others...my radio operator is all of my crew I know is alive." **George & RO John Beddall** and spouses, **Jo & Hazy**, have signed up for the Branson Reunion.



JOHN BEDDALL, 48TH Bomb. Sq. then (1944) and now; same smile. Well, we've got to be honest here; not quite now. Pic at R was taken 9-10-92. John said his jacket had been stolen and the one he's wearing

belonged to their navigator, **Joe Csizmadia**. John and his wife **Hazy** and pilot "**Bus**" **Knight** and his wife **Jo** visited Joe Csizmadia in Oklahoma City during the last few weeks of Joe's life. Sad time, said John. Rounding out the crew was co-pilot **Harry Braynt** and they completed 50 missions both low and medium level.

So, it seems the 48th official "Fist" emblem was popular with the "Old Timer" Marshall/Gilbert era people. Anyone know when the "Wolf," "Crow," "Angel / Bomb" (?) and "Ally Oop" patches came into being?

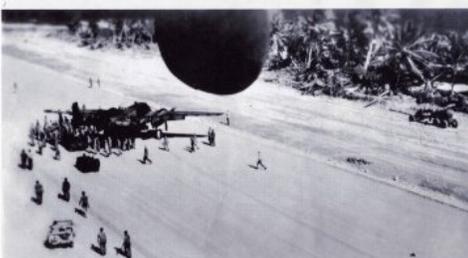


John and Hazy have two children, Jack and Judy, in turn responsible for 6 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. As for great-great-grandchildren, John says: "Working on it--I bet." John spent his civilian career as a traveling shoe salesman and is, I quote, "still working at it." But not too hard, I hope. John and Hazy did take time off, as reported by "Bus" Knight on p.6 of TCF #24, to visit the island of Majuro last year. John did not say anything about that trip in his "Bio" report but hoping he will fill us in on his trip another time. John also keeps busy as a volunteer at Commemorative Air Force. They are restoring a B-25 J acquired in 1983 and hope to have it flying in another year. John said, "I'm staying alive so I can fly in it. They tell me I better be in good health." As to what's next? John replied: "WWIII but I won't be there." Drop John a note at 8700 E. University #1935, Mesa, AZ 85207-6800.

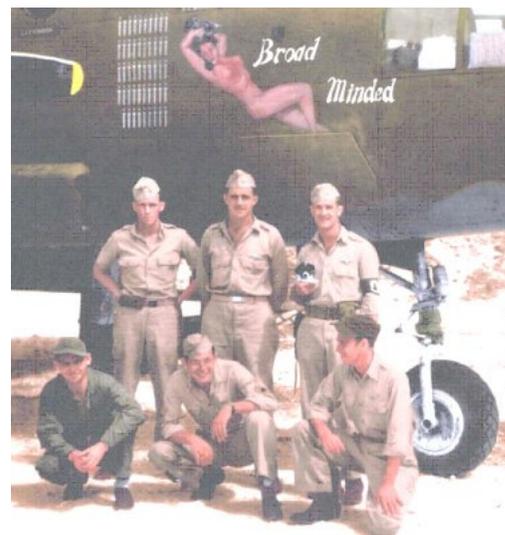
GEORGE W. "BUS" KNIGHT, 48TH Bomb Sq. and spouse **JO** reside at 1817 Rusty Lane, Lincoln, NE 68596. They have four children: Kathy, George, Jim (Dec.) and Sam. George separated as a Capt.; never flew before and never after, he said. Post WWII occupations were Coach, Banker and Antique Store. George was one of the very old



"Old Timers," fling first the A-29 then on to his 50 B-25 missions in the Central Pacific. His one hour fifteen minute flight on one engine to Majuro Atoll in "The Converter" is recounted in detail on p. 6 of



TCF #24. The picture lower right on p.1 TCF #23 (and left) is now fully explained: That is "The Converter" making the first landing on Majuro after the SEABEES had performed their usual "overnight" runway building miracle.



Pictured right is their 2nd plane "Broad Minded" inherited when they switched to medium altitude bombing. L – R standing are: CP Harry Bryant – P George Knight – N/B/C Joe Csizmodia. Kneeling: Eng. Peter B. Downs – RO/Waist Gunner John R. Beddall – Unknown Name. John said a pilot waiting for his plane replacement.

SQ. NOTES AND NEWS:

Had a nice phone conversation with **Lola Wampler**, widow of **Austin**, 47th Bomb Sq. Those who attended the Biloxi Reunion (Especially **Everett Ross**, 47th) will remember the lovely lady Lola. She and her deceased husband, Austin founded a lumber and building supply business in the Austin, TX area (back in the 60's I believe) which continues to thrive under the direction of Lola and her two sons. Uniquely, their company has been involved in two movie versions of "The Alamo:" John Wayne's and a soon to be released version by Walt Disney Enterprises. Although Lola cannot make it to Branson, she did indicate positive intent to be at Portland in '04. Expect Everett will be there also.

FROM DONNA HASKELL DAUGHTON:

Hello to the 47th Bomb. Squad. and all the Crow Flight supporters.

I wanted to thank you for the beautiful memorial article you wrote on behalf of my dad, Donald Haskell.

My dad was a wonderful man who loved his family very much. He leaves his wife, Dorothy, after 56 years of marriage. He was her caretaker for the last ten years as she suffers from Alzheimer's. Dad was diagnosed with lung cancer in July of 2002 and died on August 19, 2002. He took great pride in the 47th Squad. and his work on his web site and he would have been very happy that it has helped others know more about their families.

Thank you so much for wanting to continue his work by updating the roster. We plan on keeping his site always available as part of a memorial to him.

Sincerely, Donna Haskell Daulton

VIRGIL WILKENING, 396TH BOMB SQ. wrote a while back that he had been diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Virg has a strong faith in God that is sustaining his spirit. He does ask for your prayers and he would like to hear from his WWII buddies, especially you 396th gents. On July 7, Virg responded to an email I sent re small-cell research: Hi Urb & a big thanks. Yes, this is what I had but now it is another type. I just saw my oncologist at today's appointment. Although his

report was good it does not put me in the clear. However, I'm going to send him a print out of your email and ask if there is anything that can be done. Small-cell is what I had. Thanks Ol' Buddy, a Million!---GOD BLESS--- VIRG.

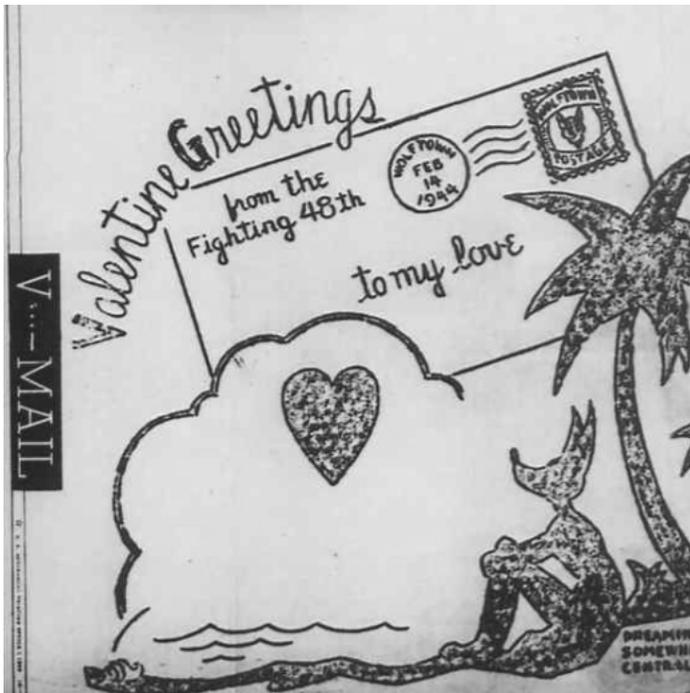
MADIE GRIFFITH informed that her husband **CLETUS C., 47th Bomb Sq.** died on 15 March 2002, just three months short of their 60th wedding anniversary. They had one son, Michael, nicknamed "Mickey." Our condolences to Madie and family.

This newsletter would not be complete without mention of BOB "PAPPY" BRANDT'S name. Bob had heart by-pass surgery in Aug 2001 and everything has progressed well. Here is his recent update: Hi, went to the doctor the other day, checked me over pretty good. Had lab work done and report came back "Clean and Clear." So guess I am still good until the next round of inspections or 1,000 mile check-up. Still not feeling 100% but lots better than a couple weeks ago. Having Cellulitis and Shingles at same time sure knocked me off my pins. Jo is feeling much better also. She must have had some sort of virus that kept her down for a few days. Bob

Speaking of heart by-passes, yours truly had an angiogram on 9 Aug. '03 that to the doctor's and my delight found all passages still open in my 14 year old 5-way by-pass veins. Owe it all to strenuous debauchery and three martinis each evening--an old Air Force tradition. Also figured the Good Lord wants to keep me around for a while---now need to figure out why.

FROM DIANE MILLER LASSITTER MOM'S 1940'S SCRAPBOOK.

**V...--MAILS FROM DIANE'S FATHER,
MERRITT MILLER, 48TH Bomb Sq.**



NORM GERIL & MICHAEL SICILIANO, 820TH BOMB. SQ. have arranged a **PROPOSED** May 28 thru May 31, 2004 820th Reunion in conjunction with dedication of the WWII Memorial ceremonies. Depending on attendance, prices could range from \$404 p/p Quad to \$665 single. That includes about everything except transportation to/from DC. If you think you may be interested, contact Norman Geril, 130 Colonial Dr., Southbury, CT 06488-1205, Phone 1-203-262-1860, e-mail – Ngeril@earthlink.net to let him know and obtain more information.

This will **not** affect plans for our 47th/48th/396th reunion at Portland, OR in Sept. 2004. That will remain a GO!

As related in the Nov. '02 (#22) *The Crow Flight* on p.4, Gus Anderson, 820th planned to introduce for discussion, at the 820th May '03 reunion, the possibility of 4 Sq. reunions sometime in the future. Gus & Enid were not able to attend that reunion and to my knowledge the subject was not discussed.

The Crow Flight #23---we could call it the "Paper Doll" issue---contained a request from **Jim Botsford**, eldest grandson of **H.B. "Bernie" Botsford 48th Bomb Sq.**, for information about his deceased grandfather.

Here is a message sent to Jim Botsford: **Hi, My name is ED DANKO. I was with the 48th at the same time as your Grandpa. We were not close friends but just friends as part of a group. What I remember most about your GP is that he always had a smile on his face. Your mail to Pappy was forwarded to me. His crew and others of his time were the original members of our sq. When they completed their quota of missions they were sent home. Your GP and I were their replacements. This is my history and I am sure it parallels your GP: Oahu Hickam Field, Kohuka Point, Johnson Island, Christmas Island, Eniwitok, Kwajalain, Canton, Palmyra, Majuro, Saipan & Guam, all non combat. COMBAT: 2 missions over Nauru then back to Oahu Wheeler Field, then to Okinawa. 15 missions from Okinawa. One was over Nagasaki a day or two before the dropping of the atom bomb. That is our compressed history. Ed D**



BRANSON REUNION UPDATES:

ATTENDANCE: In spite of the fact that airline access to Branson is a bit difficult, it looks like we will have a pretty respectable turnout. **45** stalwarts have signed up, and I'm still working on **DICK STERNBERG, 396th**. Dick had one of those artery stent jobs recently and he is reluctant to travel without his wife, **PAT** along to hold his hand. Pat's professorship duties preclude her making the trip. We are going to have some new faces at Branson; at least new to me since becoming involved in 1996. **JOHN & HAZY BEDDALL, GEORGE & JO KNIGHT, MARION CALBRETH, TOM CARSON, DAVE & NETTIE CRANE & PAUL & HELEN HOPSON, all 48th** fall into that category. **JOE & LOLA ROOP, 47th** said this will be their first reunion.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT.

The Welk Resort will provide on-sight facilities for **The Branson Veterans Task Force** to conduct interviews with our reunion attendees and to record memories about your service experiences and what they meant to you. This project is under the auspicious of the US Library of Congress' Folklife Center. There is no expense to you other than your time. All together less than two hours is required. Should you desire to participate you will be offered for a nominal price one or more of the recordings to take home. If you want to donate memorabilia in the form of pictures, dog tags, certificates, etc. you may do so.

Details as to times The Branson Veterans Task Force will be available are not as yet determined. Because our schedule is rather tight, I'm going to suggest that, if possible, they be available Sunday, 13 Sept. '03 both afternoon and evening to accommodate the many early arrivals. Hopefully, other time slots will also be available. Additional information available at www.loc.gov/folklife/vets

MEMENTOS: Personal to **ELDON FORD, 47th Bomb. Sq.:** We have taken to heart your suggestion to resurrect the 41st Bombardment Group placemat conceive by **Gus Anderson, 820th** for the 1998 San Antonio Reunion. Eldon said, "I thought they were really nice and I have received many nice comments from visitors to my home. They were very informa-

tive and pictures are hard to beat!" Thank you, Eldon, for sending your idea. Design and creation was completed by **Kem Sitterley, 47th** with beautiful art collaboration by Kem's since departed wife, **Polly**. Each Registrant will receive a placemat as a memento and extra copies will be available, with price to be determined; probably about \$5 including shipping (No handling charge!). This version will actually be a bit superior to the original as it will have a slightly thicker laminate.

****IMPORTANT**:** For Reservation changes call Welk Resort at 1-800-505-9355. After 9-4-'03 my (Gutting) tel. # will not be available but I will keep in touch with Welk for Sq.Registration info.



**396TH BOMB. SQ
"DOC" EYER
REPORTS**



Due to family illness I find it extremely difficult to carry on these minor duties of temporary Treasurer that I've undertaken to keep the 396th airborne. It is with great hope that at the coming reunion, Zingery's slot will be refilled. And to answer the many questions posed by many sending in their dues---I know nothing of Zing's reasons for resigning. Thanks to all of you who resumed 396th dues payment. The response was quite remarkable, indicating a continued interest in keeping the 396th flying. (See P. 2 for listing of dues payers.) "Doc"

Ed.: With Terry and "Doc's" permission, I can relate that that Terry recently spent over a month in the hospital for emergency treatment of aneurysms and a stroke induced while being operated on. Those of you who know Terry know the caliber of her fighting spirit (remember Manchester?) and it has been evident in her remarkable rehabilitation progress. With more than hopeful anticipation, Terry and Doc signed up for attendance at the Branson Reunion. Since then Terry has learned that another operation will be necessary to correct some blood seepage into the abdomen. So the Branson trip is in jeopardy, but don't count her out. Oh, yes, might also mention that "Doc" is successfully being treated for blindness in one eye.

The Crow Flight
47th, 48, & 396th Bomb. Sqds. WWII
 Urban (Gutts) Gutting
 7047 Autumn Chase
 San Antonio, TX78238

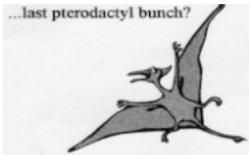


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REUNION CALENDAR

47th, 48, 396th Bomb. Sqns.
 At Branson, Mo. Sept 15 – 17,
 2003 Reunion Planners Lou & Corinne
 Beisser, 396th 480-807-2012
 E-mail: Theeowls@wmconnect.com

820th Bomb Sq. At Wash D.C. May
 28 thru 31. PROPOSAL ONLY. Contact Norm
 Geril 1-203-262-1860; E-mail
Ngeril@earthlinl.net

47th, 48th, 396th & 820th (?) Bomb.
Sqdns. At Portland, OR., probably
 Late Sept. 2004. John & Beverly Helmer,
 Reunion Planners.