



# The Crow Flight



Thirtieth Newsletter of the 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> & 396<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons, 41<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M), 7<sup>th</sup> AF, WWII, Issued November 2004

**Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid-in-sideways, totally worn out, shouting ... "holy shit.... what a ride!"**

While far from being "totally worn out," both Doc and Terry have been through some serious health problems recently. Yet, to the reunion they came, demonstrating a "damn the torpedoes---full steam ahead" philosophy as applied to living.

"Doc" and Terry Eyer arriving at the Portland airport.



**UNANIMOUS DECISION: EVERYONE AGREED THAT JOHN AND BEVERLY HELMER DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB IN ORGANIZING AND MANAGING THE PORTLAND REUNION.**



From the beginning they were there---to greet and shuttle some folks from the airport, and to greet arrivals with warm welcomes at the reunion check-in table: and, at the end they were there---with fond farewells and help to the airport. In between, John and Beverly were in constant motion, seeing to it that all went smoothly and that all of us had a memorable experience. Some exhibited evidence at the Chinese Gardens Tour on Monday: Pic L: **Aides Ching & Chang & General Chong**. Pic R-C/W: **Marilyn Rondinelli, Ruth Sleasman, Bill & Ellie Telega, Bobbie MacMinn, Keith Ingstad, Walt Winner, Virginia & Chauncey Kershaw**. John escorted the tour troops to the Gardens on the Light Rail with pre-purchased tickets. Pic Below is Light Rail departure from the Mallory Hotel.



Center, Kem (Gen. Chong) & his cousin, Madam Lois. R Front: Nettie Crane, Virginia Kershaw & Beverly; Behind Nettie are Bev Williams, Ruth Sleasman & Kim Boyer. Far L is Kay & Jim Land, then Everett Ross & Lola Wampler, Bruce Hanson, Norm Geril & George T. Background clandestine characters in dark glasses are Rick & Mary. The hat is John Baglietto.

Wheelchair stalwarts are Marjean (The hat half, by John), Thom Z (behind Kem) & Terry Eyer (not in picture).



Summation ---beautiful weather + beautiful + happy people! After the Garden, John escorted those who wanted to go on an excursion to the Portland underground shopping district. John is in the center behind Lois.

**MONDAY EVENING RECEPTION:** We gathered in the Crystal Ballroom (Also our Wed. Banquet room) with cash bar libations and complementary hors d'oeuvvers available, for an hour or so of socializing and business discussions. John Helmer briefed us on upcoming activities. This writer relayed messages from several of our troops who wanted to attend but for health reasons could not; also relayed information from our **2005 Hot Springs Reunion Coordinator, Joe Roop**. Joe wasn't able to attend Portland due to conflicting dates with his grandson's wedding. **Read Joe's updates on P 5. Norm Geril, 820<sup>th</sup> spoke on the proposal of uniting all four squadrons for the 2006 reunion. Tucson, AZ and Las Vegas were sites nominated for consideration.**

A special mention is due **Barry Naylor**, who attended the reception and the banquet in honor and memory of his father, **Ed Naylor, 47<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Sq.** Thank you for coming, Barry.

**Pic L -R – Fred & Lee Deutsch – Mitch Mitchell – Harold Kasten – Kay & Jim Land - Barry**



**THE EVERGREEN TOUR:** Featured a visit to what may be one of the largest aircraft display museums under one roof in existence. Magnificent! As promised, there was Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" and the USAF'S most exotic ever built spy plane, the SR-71 Blackbird. Cannot think of any WWII plane that was not exhibited including, of course, our B-25. Below is about half of our attending group.



**Bobbie MacMinn – Carolyn – Doc & Terry – Laverne & Keith Ingstad – Lola Wampler & Everett Ross – "Baggy" & Marjean – Dick Sternberg – Fred & Lee Deutsch – Walt Winner**



**Under the Nose of the SR-71**

Included perks in the Evergreen tour were visits to two wineries with a gourmet box lunch at the first. Here is **Rick Rondinelli**, under tutelage of the vin-mistress, scoping the grape leaves to determine readiness for picking based on percentage of moisture in the leaves. **Bill Telega**, (center in pic below) a horticulturist of some years standing, also had some input and



questions re grape growing. Bill also knows a thing or two about retailing of the grape, as the owner and operator for many (?) years of "Bill's Place," the favorite tavern and meeting place in St. Mary's, Georgia. By the way, Bill will have celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> of '04. We extend belated, but sincere congratulations, Bill, not just for your longevity, but mostly for your just being Bill.



**Bill & Bobbie – Walt Winner – Laverne & Keith Ingstad,** with their box lunch debris. Bill looks a bit grim; maybe still hungry? Indigestion? Too much wine tasting?



## "HEEEEEERE'S JOHNNY!"



We had a wonderful reunion in Portland. There were 67 people at the banquet. All of the tours were well attended, 35 on the Classical Garden Tour, 40 on the Evergreen Tour and 33 on the Columbia River Tour. The weather was warm and comfortable. We hit it right, heavy rains the week before and rains right after the reunion.

One disappointment was not having Jaccob Deshazen as our planned main speaker. Jake was on B-25 No. 16 to take off on the Doolittle Tokyo raid. A few weeks before the reunion, Jake's daughter, visiting from Chicago, called to say that her dad's health had deteriorated and he would not be able to attend our banquet. We missed Jake and wish him well. John

**OTHER NOTABLES MISSED:** Lou & Corinne Beisser, 396th took advantage of being in the Northwest to combine an Alaska Cruise with the Reunion. All went well until Corinne developed a mysterious but rather severe leg infection and was hospitalized 4-5 days. Lou denied the possibility of his amorous "love bites" as cause, so the Drs. concluded it might have been a spider bite. Talked with Corinne and Lou today (11-23); no details here, but it was a lengthy---though successful---recovery.

Francis Lisak, 47th and definitely daughter Kathaleen Pridemore and who knows who else (many times we don't know until they arrive) of the Lisak clan, had plans to attend, but his Dr. ruled out travel at that time. Report (11-23) from spouse Evelyn is that Francis is well on the mend now. Francis was out working at his bartender job, so that's positive news.

Walt Winner, 396<sup>th</sup> & Joyce Haddock were both signed up but Joyce experienced some medical difficulties & had to cancel. Walt looked a bit forlorn without you, Joyce, and you were missed; well remembered are the good times we all had at the Las Vegas Reunion. Hope to see you both at Hot Springs.

And All the Others who would have liked to be with us but could not; certainly, our mutual good thought passed in transit.

### WARREN "DOC" EYER'S COMMENTS:



What a reception Terry and I had on our Portland arrival. Urb and John Helmer drove us from the airport to a royal greeting led by Beverly Helmer at the delightful Hotel Mallory. Good Quarters, Good Food, Good Weather and best of all Good Friends and Comrades. I've never seen a more impressive air museum; Evergreen has done a wonderful job.

Terry says she felt it was one of the most enjoyable reunions she's attended. The Helmers are to be thanked for the job they did.

### RICK & MARILYN RONDINELLI, 47TH WROTE:

I thought the Portland Reunion was very, very good---congratulation to the Helmers for a job well done. But, we are all getting older and one wonders how many more reunions would make sense. Marilyn and I intend to make the 2005 Reunion in Hot Springs, but have our doubts about the ones after 2005. Will we be in good enough health to attend? This is a real question that must be considered down the road.

However, you are doing a great job with "The Crow Flight"---don't stop now!!! Best regards, Rick & Marilyn.

**FRED & LEE DEUTSCH, 48<sup>TH</sup> WROTE:** This reunion was a very pleasant experience mainly due to the hard work of Beverly & John with your help. We didn't realize Oregon was so beautiful and the salmon so good. My best, Fred. P.S. Hope to see you in Hot Springs.

**BRUCE HANSON, 396<sup>TH</sup> SAYS:** I was very impressed with the organization by John & Beverly—down to even having tickets for us on the metro. I wrote and thanked them for all they had done for us.

I enjoyed meeting all the old gang again—I can't say enough for the whole reunion. It was wonderful. Thanks again for "The Crow Flight.."      Bruce Hanson

### FROM JANE ANDERSON, WIDOW OF R.R. "DICK ANDERSON, 47<sup>TH</sup>:

Dear Urb, Just a note to wish you and all the group a wonderful reunion.

My husband died in 1989 at age 65. Hence, I have not been in on any reunion, but I love hearing all the plans, etc. of you fly boys. How Dick would have loved to participate!

The only person with whom whose name I'm familiar is Kem Sitterley. Your name also rings a bell.

Dick was a navigator-bombardier on a B-25 stationed in the Pacific. I did not meet him 'til after he was back to civilian life. I lost my job as a flight attendant for Braniff International Airways when I chose to get married.

Over the years we visited several members of Dick's crew (no longer living). [His crew was R. Yaple, C. Love, D. Martin, G. McKee, R. Bronson].

I think Dick was a member of the 47<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, the Crow Flight. My very best to each of you wonderful men, Sincerely, Jane Anderson P.S. Sept. 22 would have been my 53 Wedding Anniversary

Here is sage advice from KEMBLE URBAN SITTERLEY, our 47<sup>th</sup> Sq. eminent pundit on the subject of coping: **ONE OLE GUY'S WAY OF COPING!!!** How many of our folks do not come to our reunions simply because they are worried they will overdo and/or think they don't feel well enough?...yeah, you know, no offense, but a high majority of us are in our eighties, and some of us are getting a tad wobbly.

I did not go to our Biloxi reunion, merely because I didn't "feel up to it." That heart attack in 1990 still seems to dictate too much of what I do. I did go to Branson and really enjoyed the reunion part but later sort of regretted that I over-did...I wanted to and did everything that was on the agenda and on the three day ride from Branson to San Diego I was really sick.

**Then came the decision about going to Portland:** We (daughter Kemary & I) decided to go but set up the following rules: 1) every other day is a day of rest for the ole guy 2) we would limit the total time of the trip to seven days including travel. This meant, of course, we had to fly. Kemmy and I prefer to drive; we enjoy the scenery and historic sites, but these would have to be sacrificed.

**IT REALLY WORKED!!!** Travel of any kind has always been very stressful for me [Is this a common trait of navigators; perhaps a fear of getting lost?]. Saturday we left the house for LAX about noon and were comfy in our Mallory hotel room about nine in the evening. Sunday was a day of rest; all we did was drive our rental car to my cousin Lois's rest home and take her to lunch. Mon. was a light day with the Chinese Garden tour, which was truly a beautiful and peaceful experience. [Psst, Kem--you missed the 5 pm Reception & 6 pm Sqdn. Meeting.] Tuesday's schedule was a tempting invite to the Evergreen Museum with the Spruce Goose, SR-71 Blackbird, etc. But it was my day of rest and that was what we did. Wed. was the true highlight of the week for us. It was the Columbia River Gorge tour. This included breathtaking Multnomah Falls. Cascade Locks and the Bonneville dam. Our tour guide commented that the Multnomah Falls was the third most photographed falls in the world. We sort of had another tour guide, in that Beverly Helmer sat just across the aisle from us on the bus. Multnomah Falls has a lookout point near the bottom and most of us got to that point where the view was indescribably magnificent. There was a bridge across the falls about a third of the way to the top...and guess who was the only one in our group to get up there?? That Beverly was. She was waving

down to us and we were waving back. I was so envious to think she could make that climb! I just barely made it to the point. Wednesday was the final day of the reunion, and our banquet in the evening was just wonderful. Thursday was our day of rest. There were still a few people around. It was get-away for most. We said goodbye to many...took Carolyn and Gutts to the airport...and got to say a very special good-bye and thank you to Beverly and John Helmer who had done such an outstanding job of planning and managing the reunion. So, just remember...every other day...a day of rest...for the ole guy... **MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE THAT REUNION AFTERALL!!!!!!**

**SOME STALWARTS WHO DO:** Thom Zachok, despite some physical adversities & sometimes wheelchair bound has, with the help of spouse Mary, made about all the reunions and all the activities. Bill Telega, with a bit of help from spouse Ellie and daughter Tessie, has trekked to all the reunions through the tender age of 89. At Biloxi in 2002, Bill was seen hefting a large suitcase in each hand from the rear parking lot, a fair distance, to the hotel. Of course, Bill then was only 87. Chauncey Kershaw hobbles a bit, but with the help of Virginia and a cane walker, doesn't miss a thing. There are no doubt others who attend with silent dauntlessness.

**EVERETT ROSS, 47<sup>TH</sup> WROTE:** I know I speak for Lola as well as myself when I say we thoroughly enjoyed the whole reunion program. What a terrific job John and Beverly Helmer did, especially on the tours.

We had an Air Show here at Peachtree City, FL on Oct 9-10 and a B-25J was flown in from Barstow, MD. Of course, I had to inspect it. I found that in its early life, it had been assigned to the 396<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq. Tail #430734. Mr. Larry Kelly supplied the plane and in his display he had photos of all the squadrons in the 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group. He also had some narration. The photos of the 47<sup>th</sup> were about the Flying Torpedoes. He was as excited as I to make the connection to the 41<sup>st</sup> B.G. He had me sign my name and squadron on one of the bombs (fiberglass) in the bomb bay. Anyway---he will send me a CD ROM of all the photos and information he has. Larry Kelly's web site is [www.ragwingsandradials.com](http://www.ragwingsandradials.com).

**FROM THE DESK OF DALE STORMS, 47<sup>TH</sup>:** Thank you for all your work. I enjoy the "memories" and reading about the guys. Best of everything to you and family, Dale

**FROM JOHN WELFARE 47<sup>TH</sup>:** Attached please find dues for the association. One day I hope to join you for a convention. Kindest regards, John Welfare

[Umm--how about Hot Springs, John?]

**JOE ROOP, 47<sup>TH</sup> REPORTS ON 2005 HOT SPRINGS, AR REUNION:** Please remember that at this early date these are tentative plans, but it looks like Joe has laid out a very enticing schedule. The selected dates are from Sat. 9-24-2005 thru Tues. 9-27-2005. One notable advantage here is that Sat. and Wed. travel are normally lower airfare price days. Briefly, the schedule planned is:  
**9-24 Sat.** – Arrival day – Hosp. Rm. open at noon.  
**9-25 Sun.** – Morning Open - Afternoon "Get-Together," in Hospitality Room, Sq. Meetings & Open Time – Evening "Bath House Show" within short walking distance of the Austin Hotel.

**9-26 Mon.** – Morning Open – Afternoon Garvan Gardens Tour – Evening Belle of Hot Springs Dinner/Dance on Lake Hamilton.

NOTE: Joe plans to hire a bus to transport us from the hotel to the Garden Tour, then to the Belle Dinner/Dance and return to the hotel.

**9-27 Tues.** – Morning Mule-drawn Trolley Ride thru Hot Springs and area – Afternoon Open - Evening Banquet at our Austin Hotel.

**9-28 Wed.** – Departure – Check out time 11 AM

I think all will agree that Joe has proposed a "relaxed" schedule while at the same time one that promises us a very good time. There will be more detailed information forthcoming in the next couple "The Crow Flight" issues. The important thing for us to do NOW, is to mark our schedule calendars, "HOT SPRINGS REUNION 24 THRU 27 SEPTEMBER 2005".

Computer guys can search "Hot Springs, AR," and from there garner a lot of info on the area and the Austin Hotel. You'll find the Austin offers a full range of amenities, including Hot Spring baths & massages. Aaahhh! That brings back fond memories of the Japanese "hotsie" baths.

At the end of Nov., Joe and spouse Lola, while off on an extended celebration vacation tour of Mexico's Copper Canyon will have attained their 60<sup>th</sup> year of married bliss. Congratulations, Joe and Lola!

**THERE IS ONE MORE IMPORTANT THING WE ASK YOU TO DO:** PLEASE CHECK YOUR ANSWER BELOW. - THEN CUT OUT & PASTE TO A 23 CENT POSTCARD & MAIL TO: JOE ROOP, 15 ALDAYA LN, HOT SPRINGS, AR 71909. I (WE): PLAN TO \_\_\_\_; UNDECIDED NOW \_\_\_\_; CAN NOT\_\_\_\_; ATTEND THE 2005 HOT SPRINGS REUNION. NAME\_\_\_\_\_ SQ.\_\_\_\_ NO. OF PERSONS\_\_\_\_\_

YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT A COMMITMENT---BUT IT IS VITAL INFORMATION FOR EFFECTIVE PLANNING  
PLEASE SEND THIS ASAP

If you prefer to use an envelope you may want to also drop in a dues check; in that case, mail it to your respective Sq. dues collector & we will forward the survey to Joe.

**WHILE ON REUNION BUSINESS:**  
**820<sup>TH</sup> Bombardment Squadron Reunion**  
**2005 Reunion - May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Mt. Rushmore, SD**

Host – **Jack & Garnet Audiss** are developing plans for touring national historic sights, a visit to the Air Force Museum at Ellsworth AFB and dining at popular restaurants. For further information contact **Norman Geril** at 130 Colonial Drive, Southbury CT 06488, 203-262-1860 or email [n geril@earthlink.net](mailto:n geril@earthlink.net).

**TERRY EYER'S NOTEPADS:** TCF #29 P7 features Terry's uniquely designed note paper. Typical of her thoughtful generosity, Terry had these bound into pads of twenty with a hardback containing a memorabilia label, "7<sup>th</sup> air Force, 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, Portland Reunion 2004." Each attendee's folder contained one of Terry's notepads and there were many more stacked for taking in the Hospitality Room. Ish confiscated eight of them for association business use. Thanks again a bunch, Terry!

**DIANE LASSITTER**, daughter of **MIA Merritt Miller**, 48<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Sq., had sent me a VCR she purchased from the National Archives that was filmed in Jan. 1944 with footage of the early "atoll living style" and low-level G model raids. The film was shown in the Hosp. Rm., and, as I told Diane, the vote of approval and appreciation was unanimous.

Another VCR or two was shown after the banquet. Unfortunately, I did not see them.

One disruption was a request from the front desk to meet with a hotel rep re payment of the reunion hotel bill. The rep presented a bill in roughly the amount of \$2000 on a tab like you would get in the restaurant. He explained that "I was to ignore this item for \$350-it was in error-blah, blah." My amused response was, "No way will I sign this. I'll meet with John Helmer and his Mallory contact in the morning." The AM Mallory rep was a delightful young lady who had the detailed billing, and with John's concurrence we signed off, with a saving of about \$75. So, we do, to the best of our ability, look out for your reunion investment.

Guts, Gracious hosting in a fine city and great state has given us a top notch reunion for '04. Many thanks to John and Beverly Helmer for their masterful hosting and planning for a great get-together. Urb did a fine job on keeping us up to date on all the details. Really missed Lou and Corinne Beisser, we wish them a speedy recovery. My time in Portland with my son Mark did not exactly match the days of the reunion, but we were able to catch most of it. Looking forward to the next one! **MARK & NATHAN "MITCH" MITCHELL, 396<sup>th</sup>**.



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

Materials for publication & requests for the "Bio" form should be sent to Urban A. Gutting, postal, tel. & e-mail addresses below.

**47<sup>TH</sup> UNOFFICIAL OFFICIALS:**

**Head Guy:** GEORGE L. TOLBERT 28455 W. Hwy. 66, Bristow, OK 74010 (918) 367-5988, e-mail [geospace@aol.com](mailto:geospace@aol.com)

**Chief Nerd & Honorary News-letter Editor-In-Chief Guy:**

KEMBLE URBAN SITTERLEY, 20449 Blue Mountain Dr., Walnut, CA 91789-1001 (909) 595-4451

**Money, Roster & WORKING Nerd Newsletter Publisher Guy:** URBAN A. GUTTING 7047 Autumn Chase, San Antonio TX 78238-2118 Tel. (210) 647-1651 e-mail [urbangu@satx.rr.com](mailto:urbangu@satx.rr.com)

**Info Guy:** MAURICE SMITH, 803 Vesta Del Rio, Santa Maria, CA 93458 Phone (805) 348-3868.

**DON HASKELL'S MEMORIAL WEBSITES:**

Don's: <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/>  
41st Gp. <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/bombgroup41/>

**48<sup>TH</sup> CORRESPONDENTS:**

JOHN HELMER 2122 SW Vista Ave, Portland, OR 97201, (503) 222-4614

JESS (RAY) RAAMAKER 17217 N.E. 7<sup>th</sup> Pl., Bellevue, WA 98008-4134 (425) 747-2306 e-mail [ramajess@msn.com](mailto:ramajess@msn.com)

**396<sup>TH</sup> CONTACT:** WARREN L. EYER 3733 Calle Guaymas, Tucson, AZ 85716. Tel: (520) 881-7229 E-mail [docter@worldnet.com](mailto:docter@worldnet.com)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Contact YOUR SQ. REPRESENTATIVE OR The Crow Flight Publisher, Urban A. Gutting, addresses above

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

**\$\$ FINANCIAL REPORTS \$\$**

**47<sup>TH</sup> BOMB. SQ.** Good Guys and Gals dues contributors since last report are: Francis & Evelyn Lisak - Frank Lisak, Jr. - Mike & Jeannette Lisak-Phillips - Kathaleen Pridemore (Lisak Daut.) - Bill & Ellie Telega - Tessie Telega - Ted & Janice Telega - Kem Sitterley - Buzz Sitterley - Kemary Crowder (Kem's Daut.) - Jim & Betty McGrath - John & Madeleine Waters - Bobbie Holliday (Memory of Richard) - Robert & Vivienne Schack - Rick & Marilyn Rondinelli - Jack & Annie Bell. Prior 2004 dues contributors are: J. Anderson, Bonfilli, Ford, Gauthier, Gollnitz, Grobe, Gutting Family., Hamilton, Julian, Kasten, Kenway, Land, Locke, Naylor Family, Ramstack, Ross, Salts, Storms, Sweetland, Tolbert, Treakle, Welfare, Zachok. Thank y'all. Bank balance as of 11-21-'04 is \$2609.47.

**48<sup>TH</sup> BOMB. SQ.** - John Helmer reports dues and gifts from the following people. Thank you very much: Ed Tracy-Ray Huschle-Hazel McCoy-Arthur Rochlin-Gene Olsen-Richard Dunn-Bob Ayers-Chauncey

**Kershaw - Wallace Johnson.** For a total of \$238.00. None of our 48<sup>th</sup> savings were spent on the reunion in Portland. Our bank balance as of 11-02-'04 is \$2545.61. Our 48<sup>th</sup> portion of the cost of the TCF #29 was \$96.85.

**396<sup>TH</sup> BOMB. SQ.** - "Doc" Eyer reports: The 396<sup>th</sup> has a Nov.1, bank balance of \$1032.75 and the following paid dues since the last report: **Harold Newlander - Paul Bull - Lou Cochran - Walt Winner - Roland Kerker -- Leo Cavendar - Bill MacMinn - Bruce Hanson - Fred Higginbotham.** Remember, 2005 dues are due after next Jan. Stay in touch. Hopefully, a new roster will be out in a couple months and will be in the mail to those of you who have requested one. Keep the faith. Doc

**DON HASKELL'S MEMORIAL WEBSITE:**

**Mr. Gutting:** My sister and I have arranged for our father's web site to continue in existence indefinitely. [Also see masthead left.]

<http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/bombgroup41/>  
We would like to change the contact name and email address on that site to an active member of your group who is interested in acting as the site contact.

We are also willing to make passwords available to persons with an interest in keeping the site up-to-date.

I am contacting you because my sister thought she remembered an email from you expressing some interest in this. Please be kind enough to advise if you are aware of any such persons. Respectfully, Wm. Michael Haskell [Ed.: Underline emphasis above mine.] Yes, I did express interest as cited; however, that was before taking over writing of this newsletter, maintenance of the 47<sup>th</sup> rosters & handling of the Reunion finances---that, in addition to my original job as the 47<sup>th</sup> Money Guy (dues collector). For me, no mas!

"Doc" Eyer, John Helmer and I handle all our Reunion Association business. In the past, we've asked for help, e.g., when Doc & Terry were coping with serious health problems, but, to no avail. Doc, being the warrior he is, has managed somehow to prevail on his own.

**Don's Memorial Web Site has served as a vital link connecting kith and kin.** Numbers of people seeking information re our squadron's members have made contact with the site, but there is now no one to respond. **"Respond," that, simply, is what you would do--should you accept this assignment.** Maintenance of the rosters is another prospective step. **Surely, someone out there (of the 360 or so on TCF mail roster) with a computer can handle this.** If that someone is YOU, please contact me. (Gutting: addresses in Masthead left).

OBITUARIES

BETTY DEITRICK wrote to inform that her husband, WILMER L. DETRICK, 47<sup>TH</sup> passed away on June 25 of this year after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. "He was proud of his service with the 47<sup>th</sup> and was so happy to be able to attend the Reunion several years ago when it was held here in the East."

A 396th SILVER TAPS NOTIFICATION from Curtis E. Oaks III, son of CURTIS EUGENE OAKES JR., LT. COL. USAF (Ret), that his father, 81, passes away Aug. 1, 2004 at his home in Riverside, CA.

He was the beloved husband of Eva C. (Skip) Oakes, father of Nancy, Cheryl, Pamela and Curtis (III), grandfather of 8, great grandfather of 9.

Curtis was born Dec. 15, 1922 in Columbus GA, and enlisted in the US Army Air Corp in June 1941 and served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force as a Radioman and Gunner. He earned his pilots wings in 1944 and flew B-17s with the 306 Bomb Group, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force over Germany, and later served in the Korean War as a Squadron Commander with the 5<sup>th</sup> Communications Group.

After returning to Riverside, CA he worked at Security Pacific National Bank – first in the Trust Department and then as an Appraisal Officer, retiring after 10 years. Curtis was active in the March Field Museum, a longtime member of the Daedalians and Shriners, and was a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason.

AFTER A LENGTHY ILLNESS, JOSEPHINE (JO) BRANDT, BELOVED WIFE OF BOB (PAPPY), 48<sup>TH</sup> passed away on 9 Sept. 2004. Bob: "now I know that she is with GOD for she has that peaceful look on her beautiful face."



Frank S Eby



James (Mac) I McIntosh Jr.



Peter (Pete) T Greven

**396<sup>TH</sup> SILVER TAPS FOR THREE OF LOU BEISSER'S CREW MEMBERS THAT PASSED AWAY DURING THE YEAR 2004.**

SQUADRON NOTES

From JOHN BEDALL, 48<sup>TH</sup>. Several members asked where the video titled "In the Company of Heroes - The War in the Pacific" might be obtained. I have found them available from the CAF Arizona Wing PX for a donation of \$15 post paid.

Forward requests to: Commemorative Air Force, Arizona Wing PX, 2017 N. Greenfield Rd., Mesa, AZ 85215.

DORIS SAYER---she of "Rosie" & spouse of ARNOLD, 47<sup>TH</sup> fame—had some heart valve repair work done on 11 Nov '04. Her very nicely written thank-you note of 20 Nov. also serves well as a progress report: Dear Urb and Carolyn, You have no idea what a morale boost these lovely flowers gave me. I wasn't allowed to have flowers in ICU, so when I saw them, I knew that I had mastered an obstacle.

I was finally released from the hospital yesterday without having to go to rehab for a week. This is due to the fact that Arnold will be here 24/7, as well as other family support...

We and I know all the reading audience, wish you a speedy and total recovery, Doris.

MARIAN TREACLE, SPOUSE OF CHAZZ, 47<sup>TH</sup>: 5-5-'04 - Please find enclosed our check for the squadron dues for Chazz and Marian Treacle. He goes by Chazz now instead of Charlie, as he did during the war years. There's quite a story behind the name switch which occurred after the war, & the name he was known by when we met in college. I'll send the story in another communiqué. We have not yet visited the memorial, which only opened last week, but plan to in the near future. We will avoid the 80 to 100,000 on May 29<sup>th</sup>!

8-26-04. Hi Gutts ! So sorry I won't be joining you and the other guys and gals at the reunion. Had definitely planned on it, too. Family situation. My best wishes to all attendees. The group reunion is the best way, especially since so many can't make the trips anymore. Hope to join you all next year! [Ed: In keeping with a sans political policy, I've deleted a passage of a now passé issue. We are in lock-step though, Skip.] **Skip & Rene Thrune, 820th**

11-8-04. Urban: I have just mailed a donation (small) to the Admiral Nimitz Foundation at Fredericksburg, TX to help finance your (our) National Museum of the Pacific War. The solicitation for donations was made by a survivor of the "Battle off Samar (Navy)" A book "The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors" by Jas Hornfischer about the naval battle sounds real interesting.

The reason I'm writing to you is the enclosed clipping from my newspaper about a book that also sounds interesting. I'm thinking you may know all about Paul Irvin "Happy" Gunn, since it appears he was a B-25 hot shot? [I hate to plead ignorance---but must. Help from you readers?]

Portland, Oregon holds a lot of memories for me---but too far away. I'm waiting to hear about the reunion. Yours truly, **John Hyde, 47th**

P.S. I'm an "Old" Crow -- Tucson original.

P.P.S. Some day I hope to write my 47<sup>th</sup> autobiography---I went to B-25 Inglewood Maintenance School, etc. [Please do, John---now is a good time.]

**BILL MILLER, 396<sup>TH</sup>** sent me the information below with a request to take it to Portland, which I did; however, the old cranium must have been jammed to capacity because I forgot it was among the papers I brought. Hopefully, presentation here will bring it to the attention of some of you 396<sup>th</sup> guys who can help Bill out.

Gus--need your help. I had hoped to have Doc Eyér Händle this--but I don't have his address. I just spent 5 great days at the Cleveland Air Show as guest of the DAV and the present owner/pilot of Don Seiler's PANCHITO. Don's kid brother, Robert has in manuscript form a planned book which was partially written before his death. To identify the fellows on the enclosed photos is a job I am asking you to perform at the reunion.

Call for a 'briefing' of all former 396th and get the names of the guys on the photos--Tarnauskas should be a big help as he is apparently on one or more of the photos. And most important find out if anyone there knows if Don's Bombardier, Jud Driver is dead or alive. If he is gone--then I will be the sole survivor of Don's crew on Okinawa. (If Jud is alive can you get an address?)

I know you'll be busy at reunion--but this task is for the family of a former comrade. Mail back to me at your convenience.. and thanks. Hope the reunion is a success. (Maybe I can make next year's in AL.) "Keep both engines runnin".

TOP TURRET ON THE ORIGINAL PANCHITO. bill miller



Pic L: One identity, some guesses.

Back row: 2<sup>nd</sup> from L - Ben Tarnauskas (looks like); 2<sup>nd</sup> from R Don Seiler. Middle row: 3<sup>rd</sup> from L Jud Driver (looks like); Far R MacAdoo Kirsh (looks like).

Bill [Tarnauskas(?)] can you identify the others?

Contact: Bill Miller

2020 Rosewood Dr.  
Cornwall, PA 17016  
Phone: 717-270-6698



AT KADENA BASE OKINAWA.

10 MISSIONS ON PANCHITO.

DO ANY OF THIS GROUND CREW LOOK FAMILIAR?



A  
Tom RIEDER - Don's Boyhood Chum,  
MOTOR PENINSULA  
(OKINAWA). YOU PROBABLY MET HIM WHEN  
HE FLEW ON PANCHITO AFTER ONE OF YOUR  
MISSIONS.

↑ DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?

MOTOR PENINSULA

OKINAWA

**A LETTER FROM BARRY NAYLOR**, son of **Ed Naylor, 47<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Sq.**: In your note you asked me to write about my impressions and experiences at the Portland reunion---well, here goes! My over-riding feeling was that there was not enough time to get fully acquainted with anyone as much as I wished to. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and talking to those individuals that I did.

Of those in attendance I had only known James R. Land, a member of Hewitt A. Henry's crew; had met John and Beverly Helmer at Dad's memorial---and yourself from our notes and phone conversations. There were three individuals that were not in attendance due to prior commitment that I would have enjoyed meeting: Robert W. Gollnitz (Dad's Radio Operator/Gunner), Nedry Burris and Joe Roop (both pilots in the sq. with Dad). Howsoever, those individuals of the 47<sup>th</sup> that I did meet, and those of the other squadrons, shared memories and memorabilia which I enjoyed.

I had brought Dad's scrapbook, period documents, annotated flight logbook and some other pertinent items (primarily copies of USAF Impact journal). I was really impressed by Harold Kasten's collection---only wish that I had had more time to thoroughly (page by page) look at it. I did however, spot one or two photographs of Dad's plane among his files. Regarding his collection, TCF #29 mentioned that he was seeking an appropriate home---I gave Harold a copy of "Aviation History" magazine in which they profiled a museum/archive that solicits/accepts just such materials. The article gives full information: telephone numbers, contact individuals.

Coming down the elevator from the Hospitality Room on Monday evening I met Jim and Kay Land and until we broke into Sq. meetings spent my time talking with Jim and Harold Kasten. Gen. Bywater in his book "Target Kyushu" states that the 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Squadrons were quartered at Kipapa Field. Dad had given me his opinions of this location---a red, brick-like dust covered everyone and everything. The field was located amidst Oahu's pineapple-growing region. I asked both Jim and Harold and they concurred about the dust. Dad told me about one incident which occurred during their Kipapa stay. During either takeoff or landing, one of the ships cut loose with its 75---sending a round ground hugging through the pineapple workers. Fortunately, nothing but pineapples was injured. But, Dad said that some eyebrows (and flack) were raised! I told Jim of this incident and he was not surprise---it apparently occurred more than once. Throughout the years, Dad would pull out his records and flight logbook and then

recount to Gary and I a story associated with these brief notations. I wish now that I had had the foresight to ask Dad to write them down (he did on some occasions), or speak into a portable tape recorder.

While stationed at Portland, Dad on one occasion was flying co-pilot with Herb Gartin. He gave a personal slant upon an incident that I read about in Marin Caidin's book on the P-38: a P-38 pilot slow-rolled through a formation of B-25s. I showed Dad the passage and he laughed, saying that P-38 was very good, he slow-rolled right through *their* flight formation.

I thought that the Wednesday banquet was a success. I enjoyed looking at the artifacts that were on display. The entire program was good, the food excellent, and the conversation/anecdotes informative and sometimes amusing.

I am sure that Dad would have enjoyed himself very much at this reunion; he really enjoyed talking with old friends and comrades. I remember one time in the mid/late 1960s---he did not come home for dinner---and was very late that evening: he had met someone he knew from the service---and they both lost track of time. It was an honor and privilege to attend in his stead.

I am beginning research into the records of the Pacific campaign through which the 41st Group fought; the published official records (Army, AAF, Navy & Marine) point to primary documents and sources. I am endeavoring to acquire these as time and, more importantly, monetary resources allow (microfilm reels from government archives currently list at \$30 per reel). I have put together a five-page itemized list of document and categories I wish to purchase---those include mission intelligence/target information (each has a specific ID), after-action reports, etc. I know it is possible to acquire all this---merely requires time and money (I have the time & modest means). I intend to do this as a tribute to Dad and as a legacy for his Grandchildren.

As I uncover information, I will apprise you and TCF. I have the records of the Group, the 4 Sqds., and the Operational History of the 47<sup>th</sup> from 1941 thru Aug. 1944. As the weather is turning nastier and the nights longer---sitting at my microfilm reader and listening to the stereo has a certain appeal.

I just finished organizing family photos albums & some 1000+ colored slides of Dad's hunting & fishing resorts (primarily the last one at Takla).

Guess my love of history and my career in medical research will help in my chase of personnel history. Will keep in touch---looking forward to the next issue of TCF. Sincerely, Barry

**REUNION RECOUNT BY BEVERLY HELMER:** John and I want to thank all of you who were able to attend our Portland, Oregon 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force, WWII Reunion. Thank you for coming and for spreading so much fun and joy and good conversation with those you were with from Saturday through Thursday. You all contributed to the great times that we had on our trips or in the hotel lobby or the restaurant or in our 7<sup>th</sup> floor reception room. Right to our final Crystal Room Banquet, you looked elegant and festive and happy to be here in Portland, Oregon.

On our first outing, Monday morning, John and the Light-Rail took you to Portland's authentic Suzhou-style Chinese Garden. It is just as you would have seen it during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in China. The Chinese came to Portland about 1860-1870 to build the railways and to work in the mines in Eastern Oregon. Today our Chinese communities are vital and strong in the Northwest and important contributors where they live and work.

Our lunch time was in the huge food court on the lower level of the Pioneer Place Shopping Mall, where fifty different

places offered



**Ellie, Bill & Tessie Telega – Jim Land-Doris Sayer (“Rosie” Creator.)**

your choice of American and or Ethnic food. The evening reception in the Crystal Ballroom gave us time for treats and

for greeting one another as a group. Squadron meetings followed, and then groups departed for suggested dinner places or stayed at our own Mallory Hotel dining room and the tasty Pacific Ocean Salmon.

Tuesday. Each morning a complimentary breakfast was served in the hotel dining room, or a larger breakfast, if you wished. At 9am our Raz Tour bus departed for the Evergreen Aviation Museum, an hour away in McMinnville, OR.

As we entered, the volunteer tour guides asked if they could shake the hands of all these men who had given so much for the freedom we have today. A very touching moment. The glass Evergreen building with its tinted windows is a stand-out museum from a distance--larger and larger as we drove toward it, by the grassy areas to the front door parking. Inside, we were treated royally by the guides who talked and explained for 1½ hours, the different planes. Hanging above was the stretch of the wooden wings of the Spruce Goose, wing-span longer than one of our football fields.

Later at Joan's Winery and B & B, we had a delicious pre-ordered chicken or vegetarian box lunch. Joan offered constant wine tasting as we ate. Her dark, beautiful horses and stables greeted us as we drove in. Joan's explanation of grape-vine-trimming was in great detail and was indicative of the hard work she must always do to have such a marketable product. The good weather and view spread

down below us with the Coast Foothills far ahead of us. After another winery with more wine tasting and balconies and an outdoor-sloped-amphitheater, we returned to our hotel.

**“Baggy”  
Baelietto  
Terry Ever  
Paul Hopson  
Norm Geril  
Arnold Saver  
“Doc” Eyer.**

In our Hospitality Rm. we had snacks and photos



and people's videos and much, much talking. Dinner time scattered people to many excellent recommended restaurants, including our own Mallory Hotel dining room.

Wednesday. About 8:30am, our Tour Bus left for the Columbia Gorge and drove on the Old Scenic Columbia River Hwy started in 1913 and completed in 1915. This Highway was dedicated at the The Vista House, a beautiful octagonal building built in 1916. On a small road, we walked around this building (now under renovation) and had spectacular views of the vastness and depth and power of the Gorge and the steep hillsides and The Columbia River itself.

**Dave Crane-Tour Guide  
Chauncey & Virginia Kershaw  
Nettie Crane**

This Gorge has excellent winds for world-class wind-surfing 40



miles further east at the town of Hood River. When these winds come down the Gorge to the Portland area, we get some of our bitterest winter weather.

Our next stop was at the Multnomah Falls, the second-highest year-round waterfall in the United States. It is two-tiered and drops 620 feet. The waterfall is visually complimented by the Benson Bridge, built in 1914 by Italian stone-masons, and Multnomah Falls Lodge built in 1925.

Inside the lodge were a Gift Shop, Restaurant, and U.S. Forest Service Information Center. From the bus, we saw several of the ten or more waterfalls that plunge the steep hillside we were following. At Cascade Locks, we had a delicious buffet lunch at a restaurant chosen by our guide for the quality and tastiness of the Pacific Salmon that the chef cooks. The fish and food choices were delicious and we had a view of the rocky narrowing of the Gorge from where we sat. River tugs were pushing empty barges up the Columbia to collect wheat from Eastern Oregon. On the outside deck in the bright sunshine we could watch this

fascinating water journey. Then we drove to Bonneville Locks and Dam built in 1937; its second power house was down built in 1981. On our Oregon side of the Dam, we watched the fish being counted as they climbed the ladders to spawn further up river. Over by the fish hatchery we watched the fish being "milked" for their eggs and the eggs used to breed more hatchery fish to be released later. We watched the huge, huge sturgeon in a near-by pond. On the four lane river-level Hwy built after WWII, we returned to our hotel by 4pm, with Social Hour at 5:30 and our Reunion Banquet at 6:30pm.



Our banquet started with Boy Scout Troop #33 presenting the Colors. They are especially trained and skilled at this. A blessing and prayer were given by John and dinner was served in our beautiful

Crystal Ballroom. Seating at the round tables gave good opportunity for conversations. The women were dressed beautifully. They had already been presented with corsages as they entered the lobby, so they were picture perfect. And the men were handsome--every one.

**Handsome Harold Kasten & Beautiful Daut. Elaine Stumbaugh. Perfect Examples of "Elegant & Festive & Happy"**

John's 92 year old friend, Allan DeLay played the Star Spangled Banner on his regular saw. He also played "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America." Alan has played with our own Oregon Symphony Orchestra. He was a professional photographer and now spends time defending his high-diving swim championships internationally. Our grandson, Jordan Director, played the piano for our singing all four verses of the Army Air Corps Song.



three women recipients were thrilled with their unexpected treasures. Other door prizes had an Oregon and North-western theme to them. Speaker Marty Horis told us of his intense study of the Doolittle Raid and of his quest to find any plane that had crashed on its return trip over China.



Marjean - "Rosie" - John Baglietto

Gregg Menton and his girl friend were at the head table, dressed in the actual Air Force uniforms worn during WWII. Gregg explained and showed us some of the prized pieces from his own extensive collection of Air Force WWII items that were on display on a long table. At the end, one or more reunion member offered him some of their own prize pieces from war time duty. [Ed: I recall that John "Baggy"



Baglietto donated his B-25 75 mm cannon shell casing.] The banquet ended with every member invited to speak and tell an incident or a memory from their own WWII experience---some were humorous, meaningful and touching.



Rick & Marilyn  
Mary &  
Thom  
George &  
Bev  
Doris &  
Arnold

Each one of you added that special jewel and sparkle to every room and every event during our whole reunion. It could never have been the same without you coming. Now, we wish you Godspeed where ever you go. It was a good, good time! Straight from our hearts to yours. Beverly and John Helmer



Bill & Ellie - Kay & Jim - Barry Naylor - Everett - Lola

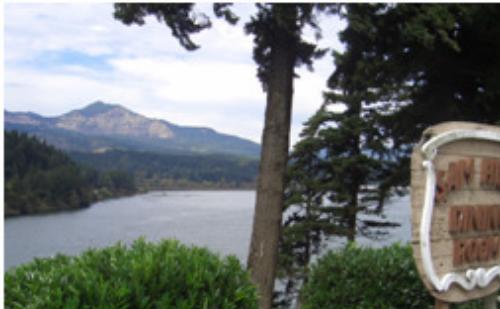
After dinner, our door prizes had two special contributions: Doris Sayer's handmade doll "Rosie the Riveter;" and two precious-stone necklaces hand crafted by Terry Eyer. The

**Ed.: Thanks, Beverly, for your beautifully described, heartfelt account of our Reunion. Also, heartfelt thanks from all of us to you and John for all your dedicated work in planning and in making this such a memorable reunion. Now, close your eyes, Beverly and John, concentrate, and you will hear the chorus of "Aye!"**



R—Kem - Carolyn  
Colvin - Bobbie & Bill  
MacMinn & Laverne &  
Keith Ingstad

L-- Columbia River Gorge  
Near Gazers are Lee &  
Fred Deutsch



Gorge View from the  
Sam Hill Dining Room



Where, in Pic Below L  
Mary - Rick Rondinelli  
Norm Geril - Thom  
Zachok are Enjoying  
Their Salmon Featured  
Buffet



Beautiful Picture  
of the Chinese  
Gardens  
Submitted by  
Everett Ross



Check-in Day in Lobby  
Bev - George - Mary  
Doorman Larry



It would give me a lot  
of trouble, if you'd put  
this on your tree and  
leave it up all year...



HAPPY NEW  
YEAR, ETC.

ALPHA TO  
OMEGA

