



The Crow Flight



Forty-first Newsletter of the 47th, 48th, 396th & 820th Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bombardment Group (M), 7th AF, WWII, Issued December 2007

WWII AA FORCES 41ST BOMBARTMENT GROUP (B-25s) ABQ REUNION ATTENDEES



Harold Newlander – Louie Beisser – Craig Norton – Rick Rondinelli – George Tolbert - Emery Tuttle
Felix Dreyfus – Norm Geril – Tom McGuire – Jack Audiss – Guest Speaker Major Paul Mancinelli,
USAF – Bill MacMinn – H.P. “Moose” Moody – Morgan Molloy – Jess Ramaker – Urb “Gutts” Gutting
Walt Winner – Bill Childs – John “Skip” Thrune – Paul Brooks. Other Reunion attendees but absent
the Banquet: Bruce Hanson – Nick Luciani - Pancho & Wayma Rowe

AND THE FORCE BEHIND THE FORCES

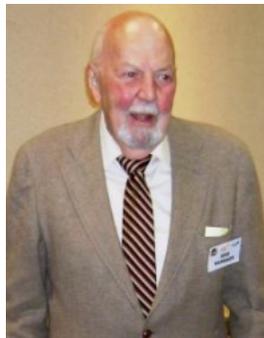


Jeanette Moody – Marjorie Bleicher - Clare Molloy — Corinne Beisser -Hedy Brooks – Delia Dreyfus
Rene Thrune – Betty Lou Newlander - Bev Williams - Carolyn Colvin – Jean Childs
Betty Anne Norton - Marilyn Rondinelli – Where is Bobbie MacMinn?

OUR HERITAGE:



Jack Audiss – Rolf Grandstaff & Daughter Erika –Charley Orr – Tom Moody – Diane (Dreyfus) Puttre – Mary Bleicher – Keith Lujan (W. Winner’s Grandson) – Carol Eve (Luciani) Moyer. Delight on R is Rolf’s Spouse, Katrina Robeck. Perched on a Chair, She is Protectively Braced from a Fall by a Hand of Mysterious Origin. Katrina Disobeyed Orders to Join the Group Pic, Hence the Necessity to Paste Her



Craig Norton; Louie Beisser; Maj. Paul Mancinelli; Rick Rondinelli. Jess Ramaker is the 48ths “Wolf Pack of One.” R is Happy Hour in Hosp. Room. Below: Nice Pic of Daughter Diane Puttre & Felix Dreyfus; it Atones for Felix Being Hidden in p1 Group Pic.



Egad! This “rib” is tough!

Regret We Don’t Have a Better Pic. Here is Our Intrepid “Where No Progeny Had Gone Before” Reunion Coordinator, Charley Orr and Family. L of Spouse Wendy is (only partially visible) Daughter Jennifer. Hand Only Showing Belongs to Son Jesse (His Wife, Marta, is not in the picture). Beautiful Raven Hair is Tali, Girlfriend of Wendy’s father, John McMaster (far R). Son John is next to Tali. The Handsome Uniformed Gentleman is Major Paul Mancinelli, one of the US Air Force’s Finest and Whom We Were Most Privileged to Have as Our Banquet Guest Speaker. Pic L is George Tolbert & Jack & Jack R. Audiss at Our Improvised Hospitality Room Banquet Happy Hour.

CHARLEY ORR ABO REPORT:

The Albuquerque reunion began upon my receipt of a draft notice from Norm Geril in the spring of the year. I initially thought it wouldn't be too tough a challenge since I had some time and quite a good deal of help and guidance from Norm and Urb. I got right after the early work of identifying a location. The use of the local chamber of commerce was very fruitful. After signing up with them I began receiving a large number of proposals...some ridiculous, others very interesting. After submitting all the proposals for review by Norm, Urb, Doc and Rolf, I narrowed down the search to just a few to visit. A couple of the interesting ones had quality issues; others had restrictions or issues that eliminated them. The Vagabond was finally decided on based on features and economy.



I tended to stray from my task through the summer due to work requirements, but Urb and Norm were diligent in keeping me on target. Norm picked up the entire ball as regards the tours. His efforts there relieved me of that issue for which I am most grateful. Urb's efforts in getting the promotion out to the group through the Crow Flight made my job pretty much a go-fer type activity. As the reunion date approached and the speaker was confirmed and the details were nailed down, there wasn't much to do until right up to reunion time.

Once the reunion began, my ability to reflect on what was going on became subject to a minute-by-minute timeframe. Being budget conscious required multiple trips for resupply of hospitality room items in order to keep from overstocking. Compared to the Tucson reunion, the beer consumption in Albuquerque was about tenfold. Who knows what brought that on? At least there were positive remarks as to the quality of the beer.

The reunion became more and more enjoyable as I got to know the attendees better. I was a rookie at the Tucson reunion, so I didn't know folks very well. I became fast friends there with Norm Geril and Tom McGuire. It was great to spend time with them again, except this year my time was limited. We did enjoy some nice dinners together and I was blessed to be their guest.

I can't comment on the tours since I wasn't able to participate in them. I understand they were pretty nice. I did conclude that the tour guide was quite a character, and there was a glitch in the size of the tour bus, but otherwise things went off ok.

The event as a whole went fairly smoothly, with bumps that were pretty much smoothed over without too much angst. The biggest disappointment to me was the quality of the food at the banquet. The kindest description I could give it would be "industrial". If Lupe, the staff member in charge of the operation weren't so precious, I would have been very angry. All in all, Lupe provided superb service, literally catering to all our needs.

The speaker for the banquet, Major Mancinelli, was excellent. He gave great insight into the nature of special operations combat in the Middle East environment, and was very reassuring in his professionalism. I'm sure we all are comforted to know that his type is protecting us today.

The attendance of so many children and grandchildren of 41st members was really nice. One of the most remarkable people I met was Jack Audiss, Jr. He absolutely must write an autobiography. Who could imagine what an amazing life he has had based on his unassuming personality. He could get rich selling his story to the movie folks.

By the time the reunion ended, I was ready, but I was sad, too. I will never forget the wonderful Americans who comprise the 41st Bomb Group family. I look forward to next year's reunion in Charleston, under the most capable hands of Rolf Grandstaff. I hope even more people are able to make it there in 2008. I know that it will be wonderful with a team effort. It is certainly a much less onerous task when you have the excellent support and help of Urb and Norm, for whom I will always be thankful.

Here's to the 41st!!!!

Charley Orr

URB GUTTING COMMENTS: Beginning a hearty "Thank you" with a hearty apology may not be proper, but here it is. With Charley's sign-off above, it finally hit me like a low punch that I have been misspelling Charley's name as "Charlie" throughout the reunion process. I've confessed and said three "Hail Mary's," so on with the show.

That aside, may I express our profound thanks to CHARLEY for his bravely flying into uncharted airspace as the 41st Bombardment Group's first progeny reunion coordinator, and for the superb job he did.

I agree with Charley's assessments 100%. As with all reunions, there were a few minor glitches, but I've been assured by everyone who expressed an opinion that it was, indeed, a great experience.

Charley's chief legacy will, however, lie in the precedent he has set, as you will better understand as you read and hear more about Rolf Grandstaff and Katrina and Charleston, S.C.

CORINNE BEISSER DESCRIBES THE TOURS:

After a hearty breakfast at the Vagabond Hotel we set off in our bus with a tour guide to Santa Fe (the oldest capitol in the U.S.) All homes in Santa Fe must be brown, according to their law. Of course there are 47 shades of brown. Along the Sandia Mountains, we went through the



historic mining Town of Madrid, settled by hippies and where the movie "Wild Hogs" was filmed.

After following part of the Santa Fe Trail, we visited the Bronze Monument of "Trails End."



We went to The Fenn Gallery and Outdoor Garden.

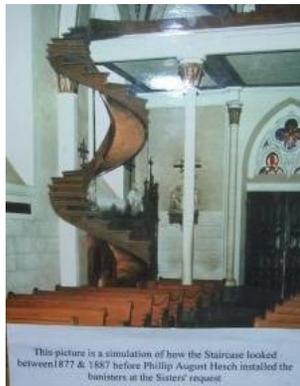


Stud & Jack or Vice Versa?

This One is Mine! Says Bill. Oh Yeah!! ET CETERA, Said Bobbie



Some went to the famous Loretto Spiral staircase built by an itinerant carpenter from wood not found in the area. Some went to the Vangelas Cocktail Lounge--founded by the father of the "Face of WWII", to see Life Magazine's photos of the "Face" on the wall behind the bar. He fought in the South Pacific in WW II and was the founder & owner of the tavern. His kin continue to serve the public. Some of



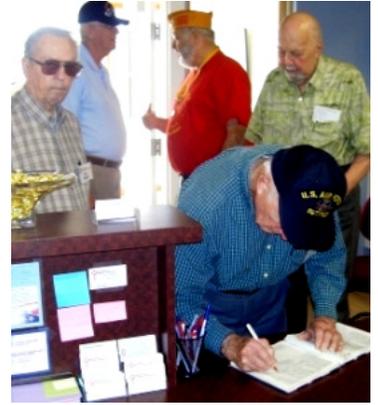
This picture is a simulation of how the Staircase looked between 1877 & 1887 before Phillip August Hensch installed the banisters at the Sisters' request



our group sampled the brew, heard no comments about it. Some shopped at the City Square where the Indian artists are regulated for quality. Hedi Brooks tripped on a crack in the sidewalk. Her

face was bruised but no broken bones. On Saturday our tour guide, following part of old Route 66, took us to the New Mexico Veterans Museum.

Craig Norton signs the reenlistment papers. Bill Childs looks skeptical, while Jess Ramaker studies papers' details.



Fire One!



Up, Up and Away!



We also visited the Anderson Abrussro Albuquerque International Balloon Museum. Others went to the Albuquerque Museum showing displays of 400 year of Albuquerque history and some went shopping on the Old Town Square.



We are Serenaded in the Square While Awaiting Our Bus

A group was going to take the tram in the Sandia Mountains, but it was shut down

because of high winds, for the first time in years.

Ed.: Thank you, Corinne for recounting your observations of our tours. It enhances the memory of those who attended and also provides a virtual visit for those who were unable to be with us.

M/Sgt. Brosig Harmon Jr. USAF (RET), a member of the 48th Bomb Sq., 41st Bomb Group (M) during WW II, died on March 7, 2007 and was buried with military honors at Greenlawn Memorial Park, S.C.



Brosig "Buzz" Harmon Jr.

COLUMBIA — Master Sgt. Brosig (Buzz) Harmon, U.S. Air Force, (Ret.), 87, passed away on Wednesday at his residence after an extended illness. He was the son of the late Brosig Harmon, Sr. and Christine Ledingham Harmon. Mr. Harmon retired from the S.C. Air National Guard after 33 years as a flight engineer. He served in the Pacific during World War II and also the Korean War.

Mr. Harmon was a long time member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and the last surviving charter member of the S.C. Gem and Mineral Club of Columbia. Through efforts initiated by Buzz Harmon, the Amethyst was signed into law as the S.C. State Stone in June of 1969.

He was well known for his candor and honesty. He loved traveling in his motor home with Dot in all the U.S. States, seeking Gems and Minerals into a vast collection which he enjoys sharing with others. He was always active in his neighborhood; having the greenest lawn and first vegetables of the season, which he enjoyed sharing with others.

Surviving are his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Dorothy King Harmon of the home; his daughters, Penny Harmon DuBois of Columbia, SC and Marsha Lee Harmon of Franklin, North Carolina; his grandsons, Michael DuBois and Dana DuBois, and a great-grandson, Jared DuBois all of Lacey, WA; one brother, Lewis D. Harmon of Stevensville, Montana and a host of loving nieces and nephews and his little dog, "Sunshine."

The family would like to thank the staff at Lower Richland Dialysis, Reliant Hospice and Carolina Ambulance for their tender care.



The Eternal Goodness

I know not what the future hath
of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak
To bear an untried gain,
The braided reed He will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

And so, beside the silent sea,
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm from Him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fringed palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

J. G. White

RICHARD PIERCE

GIGGER, 396th Bomb Sq., was pilot on the crew of Bruce Hanson, Dick Sternberg, Mike Micros, Irving Mason (Dec) and Doug Jenkins (Dec).

A resident of East Dennis, MA, he died Oct. 2, 2007 at age 87. He is survived by his beloved wife, Margaret (Easterbrooks) Gigger.

Mr. Gigger was born in Fitchburg and grew up in Providence, R.I. He received his BS and masters degrees from the University of Rhode Island and his doctorate from Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.

Following his services in World War II, Mr. Gigger worked for Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceutical in Ardsley, N.Y. as director of Co. chemical information and retired from there in 1974. After moving to Cape Cod he served on the Dennis Planning Board and was a member of St. David's Episcopal Church in South Yarmouth.

He is also survived by a son, Richard Pierce Gigger Jr and his wife, Sylvia; a sister, Mildred Bailey; a granddaughter, Christy Mutters and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a grandson, Louis Pierce Gigger.

- Sept. 4, 2007 – It is with great sadness that I am enclosing the notice of the passing of my father, JACK L. SHERMER, who was an alumnus of the 396th. Dad had not been doing well for about a year, and just very quietly slipped away. Fortunately, both my brother and I were at his side.

One of the things I regret is that I never took the time to write down, or to have Dad write or record stories from his time in the service. So, if there is anyone who served with or remembers Dad, please ask them to contact me or send me any story they might have.

I know he enjoyed receiving "The Crow Flight" as he saved all of them. Thank all of you for your service to this great country and for all that you do. Sincerely,
Teri A. Haywood, PO Box 381, Muldrow, OK 74948



Jack Lee Shermer

March 9, 1920 – Aug. 10, 2007

Graveside services for Jack Lee Shermer, 87, of Muldrow, were held at 10 a.m. Monday at the Muldrow Memory Gardens with Rev. Connie Gibson officiating, under the direction of Agent Funeral Home of Muldrow.

Mr. Shermer was born March 9, 1920, in Muldrow, to Marion Monroe Shermer and Eulalah Valentine (Waters) Shermer. He died Friday, Aug. 10, 2007, in Roland.

Mr. Shermer was an electrician and served in the 7th Air Force during World War II in the Pacific Theater as a top turret gunner on a B-25. After returning to the states he was an instructor in the gunnery training school at Keesler Army Air Field in Mississippi and of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include one daughter, Terri Ann Haywood of Muldrow; one son, Craig Lee Shermer of Chattanooga, Tenn.; five grandchil-

dren, Justin Haywood of Sallisaw, Cyle Haywood of Columbus, Kan., Monica Cauble of Manchester, Tenn., Charity Hoover of Dalton, Ga. and Michael Shermer of Cleveland, Tenn.; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; one half brother, Billy Clyde Shermer of Wilmington, N.C.; one nephew, Lee Scott Patterson of Roland; special friend, Mildred Thompson of Russellville, Ark.; and several other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the mother of his children, Dorothy Shermer Sims, one sister, Laura Sagely and one brother, Marion "Buddy" Shermer.

Memorials can be made to, Friends of the Muldrow Public Library, 711 W. Shawntel Smith Blvd., Muldrow, Ok. 74948.

To send an electronic condolence to the family, visit www.agentfuneralhome.com.

- August 21, 2007. Note was written to and forwarded by George Tolbert.

You have no idea how much I love and enjoy receiving "The Crow Flight" newsletter.

I lost FRANK [CIAROCHI, 47th Bomb Sq.] back in 2004. To say that I miss him would be a gross understatement. We met as teenagers and were married 61 years at the time he passed on, so he was my whole life. I do miss him more than words can express. A day doesn't pass that I don't think of him.

I want to thank you for mailing me "The Crow Flight." It's great to read about some of the grand people I met at the reunions we attended. I never felt like a stranger, we were always so happy to be together again after months of separation. Maybe a time will come when I'm up to traveling and I can come with one of my daughters, maybe the whole family (If I could manage to get them to all take the same time off from their jobs and families).

Anyway, I want to thank you again for "The Crow Flight" newsletter. I'm enclosing a small check to have you cover dues and use the balance as a gift toward future expenses for whatever publishing needed.

God Bless You

Marian M. Ciarochi

P.S. Looking forward to the next newsletter.

Ed.: Marian certainly left no doubt that she enjoys our newsletter; we return profound thanks to Marian for expressing her appreciation.

- November 13, 2007.

It is with sadness that I report the death of my father, WENDELL W. BYERS, 48th Bomb Sq. He went to his eternal rest on November of last year (2006). He had been in a long-term care center for the year and a half of his life with Alzheimer's. Renal failure is what finally took him. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty in 1999.

Both of my parents thoroughly enjoyed the reunions of Dad's service until they were no longer able to travel.

I continued to read "The Crow Flight" to him until just a couple of weeks prior to his death. On his better days, he would always show me pictures from "The Crow Flight" and would then retell his war stories.

He is still missed by his two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren as well as myself.

Sincerely, Jo Ann Doan

WOUNDED WARRIOR'S PROGRESS:

Spouse Dick Sternberg said Pat is back home where she is continuing her stroke recovery therapy with determination. Pat now has a motorized chair and gets around quite well except for a few learning bumps here and there. Dick said he would hold off repairs and will do his best to stand clear until Pat becomes a safe driver.

- SEYMOUR SKLOOT, 820th Bomb Squadron.

Thank you for sending us the "The Crow Flight." Seymour would have greatly enjoyed this issue. However, it is with great sadness that I must tell you that my husband passed away April 26th of this year. He had lung cancer.

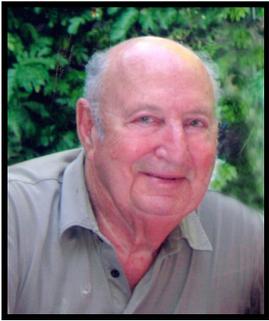
Seymour was a member of the 820th Bomb Squadron. We always wanted to get to the reunions and we did make it twice; both times we enjoyed ourselves very much.

My address now is 600 West 239th Street, Bronx, New York 104653.

Many thanks again for "The Crow Flight."

Vivienne Skloot

- **KEITH KARL INGSTAD, 396th Bomb Sq.,
Died August 26, 2007.**



Keith Ingstad was born in Jamestown, North Dakota on November 12, 1921, the son of Edward and Floy Rathman Ingstad. As a child, his first big accomplishment was to win the All City Marble Championship. His first love

was basket ball and he was a legendary player in Jamestown known for his spectacular hook shots. He was All State and as Team Captain at Jamestown in High School, led the school to their first State Championship in 1939. He went on to be an All Conference Champion at Jamestown College.

He was a dual rated Navigator-Bombardier in B-25 Billy Mitchell medium bombers in the United States Army Air Force during World War 2. He served two years in the Pacific Theater and was honorably discharged as Captain after nearly five years of service to his country. He graduated from Jamestown High School and Jamestown College with a Bachelor of Science degree.

He married his childhood sweetheart, LaVerne Baas, from Jamestown, on January 27, 1946 in Seattle, Washington. He was a life time member of Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Elks Club, and American Legion. He started the Jamestown College Jimmie boosters and was a member of Jamestown City Council for 12 years, spearheading legendary community expansion projects like The World's Largest Buffalo.

He was a charismatic leader and successful businessman, who started his first business, a small toy store in Jamestown called "Tiny Town" while he was still a student at Jamestown College. From there, he channeled his immense energy into a variety of businesses that included toy stores and men's and women's clothing stores in Jamestown, Bismarck, Aberdeen, Detroit Lakes, and Fargo, as well as a boutique in Palm Springs, California. His passions included various side ventures like a go-cart track, fireworks stands and tandem bike rentals. And never one to shy away from hard work and a new challenge, he bought an island on a Minnesota Lake called "Xanadu" and operated it as a resort for nearly twenty five years. He was dedicated to his family and loved

games and laughter. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church in Jamestown.

He is survived by his wife LaVerne, four sons and a daughter: Shadoe (Terry) and his wife Beverly, Beverly Hills, California; Tim and Jodi Rae, Valley City, North Dakota; Nancy and Michael Cinnamond, Rancho Palos Verdes, California; David and Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota; Richard, Dallas, Texas; and ten grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers: Robert and Donald; and four sisters: Madge, Edna, Luella, and Irene.

Burial was at the Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, North Dakota.

Here is the URL for an excellent tribute to Keith, put together by his son, Terry:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=j4FpUpPeqBM>

Here is the URL for another great tribute to all WWII veterans:

http://www.managedmusic.com/php/BYGIndex.php?page=Listen_To_BYG_Introduction#

Also, Rolf Grandstaff has posted it to our 41st Bomb Gp. site (See Masthead P 10 for 41st URL).

Ed.: I was privileged to share some very pleasant sight-seeing time with Keith & LaVerne along with Walt Winner and Joyce Haddock at the Las Vegas Reunion, coordinated by Keith and Walt in 2000.

Here is a nostalgic note sent by Keith April 29, '07: Urb, Just a mention as to how much we appreciate your e-mails so keep them coming. Also, the last newsletter fantastic. Sure wish Walt and I could have made it. If they go back to Tucson this year we will come if even in wheel chairs. Keep up the great works. Sincerely, Keith Ingstad of the 396th.

WOUNDED WARRIOR REPORT:

From Skip Thrune: GUS ANDERSON was, among other things, a photographer in the 820th. He and wife Enid attended every reunion. [Gus set up the 820th hosted group reunion in 1998 at San Antonio, TX]. He brought with him that smile which warmed the room and made everyone feel happy in his presence.

Gus and Enid missed the ABQ Reunion. I spoke with Enid today [12-17-07] and learned of his rapidly declining health. Enid asked me to inform everyone that Gus extends his very best wishes for a good Christmas to all 41st members and families. He is sad that he wasn't able to be with us one more time.

• **JOSEPH JAY GARDNER.**



Member of the 47th Bombardment Sq., was P on the crew of CP Mike Datko (Dec.), BN John Edenfield (Dec.), RG Steve Bonfili (See TCF #39 P 2), EG Donald Elwood (Unk) and AG E. Stinson (Unk). Joe died at age 87 and had been afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

His Obituary: "Bay Harbor pioneer had service in his heart." Mr. Gardner was a Bay Harbor Islands, FL pioneer who was mayor from 1979 to 1982 and served 44 years on the Town Council.

He and his wife, Frances Nelson Gardner, lived 58 years in the island community, which issued its first building permit two years before they settled there in 1949, on their wedding night.

An amateur actor and avid tennis and softball player, Gardner made his living selling insurance. But local government had been his avocation since 1951, when he won his first race. He certainly wasn't in for the money; a four-year council seat pays \$1 a year.

An early Bay Harbor volunteer fireman, past president of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and a one-time Cub Scout leader who served on the Boys Club board, Gardner "had a servants heart," said son Carl Gardner of Port St. Lucie.

Among his contributions: restoring the missing right arm of a U.S. soldier's statue at his alma mater, the original Miami Beach High, now Feinberg-Fisher Elementary.

The concrete statue lost its limb and M-1 rifle to vandals. Gardner, an Army Air Forces veteran who saw active duty over Japan during World War II, co-chaired a drive to rehabilitate the statue in 1994.

Gardner was born Joseph Weinberg in New York. After his parents divorced, his stepfather, Carl Gardner, adopted him. They moved to Miami Beach when their only child was a teen. On his high school football team, the tall and lanky Joe was known as "Spider Legs." He joined the army in 1942 and returned to Miami Beach in 1945.

Joe opened a furniture and appliance store in North Shore and he also announced Miami Beach Flamingos baseball games. He met Frances in 1949, and they were married six months later at Temple Israel.

Son Glen Gardner, of Pittsburgh, "was the first child born on the island," Frances said. Two sons and a daughter followed.

Daughter Susan Gardner Stocker, a South Florida Sun-Sentinel photojournalist, said she owes her career to her dad, from whom she got her first camera. He was delighted to have a girl after three boys and they were very close.

"The other night when my rabbi was here, he said that you whisper into the ear of a dying person, 'I forgive you for anything you've done to me,' and you ask them to forgive you. I told him I really have nothing to forgive him for; he was *that* great a dad."

In addition to his wife, daughter and sons Glen and Carl, Joe Gardner is survived by son Robert Gardner of Ashville, N.C. and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service was conducted at Temple Israel after the body was cremated. The family suggests donations to the Douglas Gardens hospice program.



Joe had hosted the 47th Bomb. Sq. Reunion in 1994 at Orlando, FL. Pic L is at the 2001 Manchester, N.H. Reunion, hosted by Arnold Sayer. Joe's son, Robert, also attended.

THE MIAMI HERALD, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

BAY HARBOR ISLANDS TOWN HALL RENAMED TO HONOR EX-MAYOR

Bay Harbor Islands Town Hall has been renamed the Mayor Joseph J. Gardner Government Center, in memory of Gardner, who recently passed away. Gardner, a resident of Bay Harbor Islands for 58 years, served on the

Town Council for 44 years and was mayor from 1979 through 1982. Morris Broad, son of the late Shepard Broad, founder of Bay Harbor Islands, will be responsible for all expenses resulting from the name change, the town said in a press release. A special proclamation was given to Gardner's wife Fran by Mayor Peter Lynch.

WOUNDED WARRIOR ELMER LITRELL, 820th, had recently been admitted to a VA hospital after a fall and a series of near falls, reports spouse Polly. Evaluation revealed dehydration and low potassium but, more seriously, there is a possibility his cancer has metastasized.

In response to a proposal to put Elmer into a nursing home, Polly responded, "No way, I will take care of him at home as long as I can." Fortunately, assistance in the form of wheelchair, etc. devices as well as home care assistance is being provided.

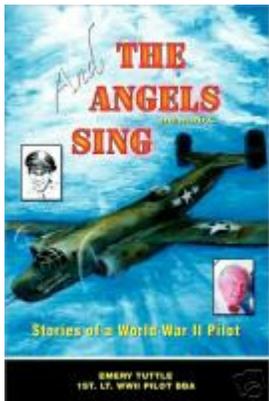
Polly asked that you keep them in your prayers.

Elmer was the tail gunner on the crew piloted by Skip Thrune. They have been in close touch all through the years since.

NOTE FROM EMERY, 820th: The reunion in Albuquerque was fantastic with some exceptions. Doc Eyer's nieces weren't there...that was a real bummer. And the pushy tour guide should be demoted. Channel 4 was a real jerk. Nuff said.

But I am getting help in promoting my book "And The Angels Sing" from all over the United States. My daughter Claudia in Arkansas leads the way, promoting it on eBay. And you guys and gals out there getting "The Crow's Flight" buy my book and tell your friends about it. I thought it was just for my kids and friends, but I am getting great raves. Hal "Moose" Moody sent me this letter. My wife and I have read it and like it so well, send us two more to give to a couple of our friends.

But back to ABQ...being a guy who sees the good side of things the reunion was great...let's have another in Charleston.



You can get my signed copy of "And The Angels Sing" mailed to you by sending \$24.75 if you live outside Texas...and \$26.56 if you are a Texan to: E. Tuttle Book, 147 Esquire Estates Rd, Mabank, Texas 75156. E-mail is skypilotem@embarqmail.com Or, the book can be purchased on-line at:

iUniverse - Online Book Store -

New Books, Back-In-Print Books

You can check me out on:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=180173062315>

Or try this and you can read the first chapter of my new book and see a picture of "The Frosting Thief."

<http://www.iuniverse.com/lookinside/LookInside.jsp?isbn=0595430422&page=6>

A REUNION CRITIQUE NOTE:

We did enjoy the ABQ reunion and related activities very much. Many thanks to the younger generation for taking on reunion responsibilities. This has enabled us to have some get-togethers that otherwise would have not taken place. Kudos to them.

What a surprise to receive a refund check! Thank you.

We did take on the 820th 2000 reunion and know all the work that is involved. We had to deal with a hard nosed activities person who came in on things at the very end after we thought that everything was set. Experience has taught us to get EVERYTHING in writing no matter how small.

Sincerely, Morgan and Clare Molloy

20 APRIL 2007. DEAR "DOC":

Enclosed is my check for payment of dues and copy of 396th Bomb Sq. roster. Enjoyed the last issue of The Crow Flight. Just wish I could recognize more names. Believe I am the surviving member of my crew...know that **Roy Gates and Ferris Hoover**, pilot and copilot, have passed on.

Because of health reasons, "we don't get around much anymore." Reunions sound like fun but guess we'll never get to attend one.

[This is a good time to alert Bob & Arlie that our 2008 Reunion will be held "just down the road a piece" from their new home...and to slip in a subliminal suggestion to their daughters.]

Arlie had a defibrillator emplaced last October, but a scheduled two day stay in the hospital turned into 12 days after the surgeon nicked her left lung while inserting one of the wires into her heart. Took awhile to drain the fluids from her chest and heal the lung. Meanwhile our two daughters persuaded us to give up our condo in Chesapeake and move into an apartment in Norfolk. We're now much closer to their homes and consequently we see more of them when they drop in to check up on us, etc.

Am sending a copy of this missive to Urban Gutting so that he will have the change of address for The Crow Flight mailing [Done]. Thanks to both of you and the others on the masthead for keeping us up to date on what's happening to those of us 41st vets still around. Sincerely, B & A

ROBERT J. & ARLIE M. BAIRD, 6311 Granby St. Apt 307, Norfolk, VA 23505; 757-548-9239

SIMI-WOUNDED WARRIOR GEORGE TOLBERT, 47TH, he of total left knee replacement mid-October, has taken full advantage of the TLC of his squeeze, Bev. I know this by first hand observation because we had a brief but very nice visit with them on our way to Branson just a few days after George's operation.

As of this writing, George isn't quite ready to resume hoedowning, but he's getting close. Bev prefers ballroom dance, so George likely will consent to waltzing into condition for the "kick-'er in the shin and knock-'er down stuff."

NOTE FROM DALE STORMS, 47TH:

Glad you all enjoyed Albuquerque and Santa Fe. These are two of our favorite spots. We will give thought to Charleston next year. The 41st, was a pretty special "bunch", and it is rewarding to know that progeny considers it worthy of time and consideration to keep the memory alive. Dale



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47TH, 48TH, 396TH & 820TH
B-25 Billy Mitchell Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bomb. Group, (M)
7th AF, WWII

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& requests for your “Bio” form to your Sq. Rep. or to Urban
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Contact Your Sq. Representative or “The Crow
Flight” Editor & Publisher, Urban A. Gutting, addresses above.

DUES NEWS: 2007 CALENDAR YEAR DUES FOR THE 47TH & 48TH IS
\$5, INCLUDING A ROSTER; 396TH DUES IS \$15 + \$3 FOR A ROSTER
AND THE 820TH DUES IS \$10.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE & SEND TO: EMERY TUTTLE 820TH,
LOU BEISSER 396TH, JOHN HELMER 48TH & URBAN A.
GUTTING 47TH. ADDRESSES ABOVE.

\$\$ FINANCIAL REPORTS \$\$

47TH BOMB. SQ. Good Guys and Gals dues and gift
Contributors SLR (since last report) are: Frankie Bywater
(Memory of Murray) – Steve & Rose Bonfili – Jim &
Betty McGrath – Paul Kenway – Bill & Ellie Telega –
James C. Bowles III (Memory of James C. Jr.) – Betty
McDermott (Memory of Bob) – Marian M. Ciarochi
(Memory of Frank) – George Tolbert & Bev – John &
Madeleine Waters – Frances Gardner (Memory of
Joseph). The 47th bank balance is \$2521.80.

48TH BOMB. SQ. – John Helmer reports dues and gifts
received SLR from Dorothy K. Harmon (Memory of
Brosig A. Jr.) – Fred Emmert. Our bank balance is
\$1973.41.

396TH BOMB. SQ. – Lou Beisser reports a bank balance of
\$1,110.96. The following were heard from SLR with dues:
Bruce Hanson - Other names not available at this time.

820th BOMB. SQ. – Bank balance is \$2107.60. Dues
payers SLR are: Marion R. Cassells (Memory of Jerome)
– Other names not available at this time.

396TH BOMB SQ. MEMBERS:

Please note the change in the masthead that now lists
LOU BEISSER, Esquire Emeritus as your Squadron
Treasurer, along with his address for remittance of your
dues.

396th members owe “DOC” EYER a huge debt of
gratitude for his important role and toils in keeping the
396th Sq. in “combat readiness status.” That, in turn,
preserved the numbers strength needed to continue our
reunion camaraderie; so, a salute to “Doc” from all of
us. And, who of us could ever forget the “Three Nieces &
Great Guru Tucson Gathering!!”?

GENEROSITY:

A number of attendees declined their ABQ Reunion
refunds. Their respective Sq. Treasuries will be credited
for the allocated expenses of this TCF.

COMMING ATTRACTIONS:

1) “Bios” from JIM MCGRATH AND HAROLD
NEWLANDER. [Jim, your pics will be in the mail soon.
Harold, didn't get any pics from you, but there is still
time.] Harold wrote that, “The reunion committee was
well organized and operated very well. On the downside,
the hospitality room was too small and the banquet
service staff appeared to be disorganized.”

Counterpoints: Perhaps, not surprisingly, the tough
“rib” stuff biased Hal's staff opinion. Re the Hospitality
Room, will concede it was squeezed just a bit for the
Group Meeting, but thought it was otherwise quite
adequate. Using the HR as the Banquet Happy Hour site
was a compromise due to a last minute banquet
bartender cancellation by the hotel. It was crowded for
that. On the plus side, that saved us a \$50 bar set-up fee
and Happy Hour drinks were “on the house.”

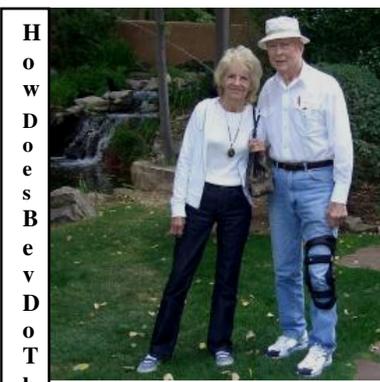
2) CRAIG NORTON sent a nice pic of how he has
displayed the beautiful Intarsia U.S. flag created by Doc
Eyer. It was presented as a prize at Tucson and won by
Craig's spouse, Betty Anne.

3) KEM SITTERLEY sent a copy of his AAF Navigation
School graduation flier with some interesting pics.

ONE MORE REUNION NOTE:

WALT WINNER, 396TH: “I and my grandson enjoyed the
reunion; that handsome dude enjoyed the attention too.”
Walt's only complaint was the “rock-hard” steak [Never
know it, Walt, but it was supposed to be prime rib] & he
wondered if other's were tough [Si, Oui & Yes]. “The
hotel manager took me to the airport so I told him the
complaint, and he was perturbed and said he was going
to check it out when he returned to the hotel. It's no big
deal, as I should have complained to the waiter at the
time.”

Thanks again for your hard work on the newsletter and
reunion, and stay healthy.” Walt



Striking Likeness...But Need a Floppy Hat... & Get Rid of the Purse, etc.



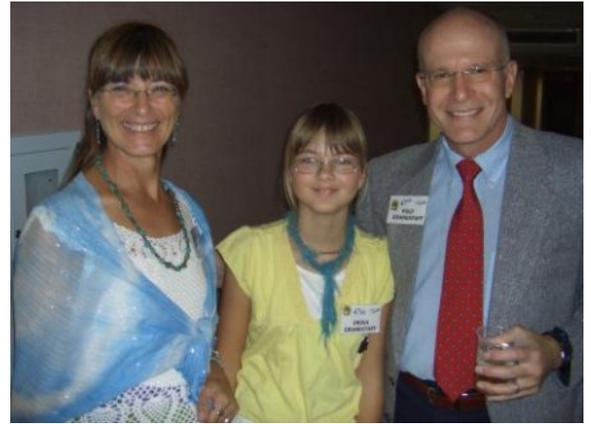
Only Pic We Have of Pancho Rowe, Center Facing. Spouse Wayma is in Top R Pic Talking to...Who Else...Skip. Reading Bruce's Mind..."Enough of This Bull S..."



Above R, Good Pic of Bruce, Tom, Charley, Norm & Jess And Wrong Again. Here is another Pic of Pancho R/C in Animated Conversation



MORE REUNION NEWS: Our Sunday noon 41st Group meeting went very well. Charley laid in a supply of extra nice snacks to accompany an enhanced supply of Shiner Family 12 Pack beer as well as the hard stuff. Norm Geril kicked off the meeting with remarks regarding his recruitment of Charley for the Coordinator's job. Then Charley recapped his successful endeavors, as well as the inevitable trials and tribulations, in setting up our great ABQ Reunion. As remarked on P3, Charley's chief legacy is the precedent he has set as the first progeny to host and coordinate our reunion.



**KATRINA – ERIKA – ROLF
WE ARE IN GOOD HANDS FOR '08**

After Charley's remarks, it was my pleasure to introduce Rolf Grandstaff, as...what we hope will become a tradition

...the next progeny to carry on as our 41st Bomb Group Reunion Coordinator. Rolf is son of John, 47th Bomb Sq., and our 41st Bomb Group website manager. Rolf outlined two sites for 2008: Baltimore, MD and Charleston, S.C. By vote, Charleston it is. When asked about the 3 hr + drive for them from Garner, N.C. (Near Raleigh), Katrina said, "No problem. I love Charleston and welcome any opportunity to visit there."

Rolf has already cranked up #1 engine. Hotel bids have been received. The dates selected are THURSDAY (Arrival) thru MONDAY (Departure), 18-22 SEPTEMBER, 2008. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALANDER NOW. Instruct kids & grandkids: no weddings, birthday celebrations, etc. during that time. The next *The Crow Flight*, probably in March or April '08, will provide details.



LUCKY LOU'S SPOUSE, AND LUCKY US TOUR REPORTER CORINNE BEISSER



GOOD CONVERSATION



WHAT THE HELL DID NORM DO NOW?

