



# MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H

4



7

18



391



### HAPPY HOLIDAYS



The Officers, Board of Directors and Hannah and I wish each of you the best for the Holidays and the coming year of 1985.

1985 President Harold Rutka

#### Greetings:

I wish to thank the membership for their vote of confidence in electing me your president for the coming year.

Our Nashville reunion is now history, and it was the biggest and best that we have ever had. It was a pleasure to meet so many members, who have never attended a reunion before, we hope that they continue to attend the future reunions.

The plans for the coming year include a trip back to Mendlesham, and rejoining the 8th AFHS at Wichita, Kansas October 17 - 20, 1985. The officers will make a decision on when and what company will make our arrangements for Mendlesham. You will be notified as soon as the plans are finished.

The 1986 reunion is also under consideration — 12 places were named during our business meeting — you all will be alerted to the time and place. You can then begin to make long range plans, to make it our biggest ever reunion.

Genevieve and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year.

Harold C. Rutka

#### Gerry's Jottings

This will be my final "jottings" to the Mendlesham Memories, and to the membership of the 34th Bomb Group. My term as president expired at the last reunion. The leadership is now in the very capable hands of Harold C. Rutka, with James F. Martin flying co-pilot, or Vice President. These fine men have some great programs in the mill for the benefit of the 34th Bomb Group Association and its members.

I want to thank all the people that worked so diligently to make the Nashville reunion the success it was. By these long hours of toils and labors, we cultivated a bumper crop of attendees to the reunion and took care of them after arrival. This 'crop' is an established record for attendance and a goal to aim for in future reunions. As reunion planner, I personally am very proud of the turnout. I thank each of you for your efforts put forth to be there.

Those members that didn't, or couldn't attend are missing a lot of good fellowship and fun. All members should strive to attend at least one of these gatherings. Just to hash over old times with old buddies and to attend the business meeting to find out who and what makes your organization "tick." Your better idea can only be heard from you there. Also, of course, the reunion is very seldom, if ever, held in the same city giving everyone a chance to see a different landscape and other points of interest.

All who attended the Saturday night banquet will recall — we were a tad crowded by being placed into a smaller area than we had contracted for. This hotel sponsored "Goof-up" has been adjusted by

negotiations between the 34th Bomb Group's Reunion Committee and the hotel. I will add here and now — to the satisfaction of the 34th Bomb Group's Reunion Committee. This adjustment also included a written apology from the general manager of the hotel.

The year I worked with you as your president was just grand, and I have no idea of going out to pasture now. I have promised both Harold and Jim that I will be available for help if needed, for the benefit of the 34th Bomb Group Association.

To all members — we have had a good 34th Bomb Group year. We will strive to make 1985 a better one.

Be good to one another, because the 34th people deserve the best.  
**Happy Holidays...**

Gerald Pine

#### LETTERS FROM...

##### Pete Gray

The reunion at Nashville was really a humdinger — wasn't it? Don't know when I've seen so many people having a good time unless it was on the trip back to England last year! And — since only the 34th was involved this time - we didn't have a lot of "furriners" getting in our way!

Everything went a whole lot smoother - except for a few small incidents — that at any reunion I've been to before. You could see that the "planning commission" had done a good job! The Eighth Air Force could take lessons from the 34th on how to organize and operate a reunion!

So — to Gerald Pine and Wanda, Harold Rutka and Genevieve, Ray and Hannah and all the others who did so much to make it success, we want you to know how much we appreciate your efforts. It was the most successful reunion yet!

Also, since this was the first reunion we've had in one of the Southern states (Florida and Texas don't qualify for this) it was the first opportunity many have had to see this part of the country close up! It's mighty pretty country!

I arrived a day or so early, and of course, the first person I saw was Ray Summa! (If we had to pay Ray a salary equal to what he does for the 34th, it would have to be the size of the National Budget!) Ray and Hannah were talking to Randall Martin, the Yankee from that undeveloped area north of New York City known as Boss-ton, MS. But then, Ray and Hannah are nice people, they'll talk to anybody!

Everett Rose came all the way from Washington State which must be 2,000 miles away. Bruce Sothern came down from Minnesota and Francis Schmidt from the wilds of Montana! In fact, I think there were some from almost every state in the Union. Roy Tavasti came in from California as did several others! Harold Rutka (MN), Grady Deatherage (VA) and Wayne Howarter (KN) were there also. All were in Shelby Alexander's crew in "Belchin Bessie". Alexander couldn't make it but he would have been proud of what some of his crew have done. Grady Deatherage was our first President after we formed some years ago. Harold Rutka is our current President and Wayne Howarter is on the Board of Directors. That's pretty good for one flight crew! Of the

ground crew of "Belchin" Bessie" Romeo Therrin came down from New Hampshire and he and Francis Schmidt got together for the first time since 1944! Forty years ago!

I was in the Hospitality Room when I first saw Romeo. He came in looking like he was lost, but when he saw me over by the bar, his face lit up with a grin as wide as a watermelon rind! I wasn't sure whether he was glad to see me or the whiskey on the table! Ray, sometime when you get a chance, get Romeo to tell you what he and I did on D-Day, June 6, 1944! I spent a lot of time in the Hospitality Room, there was always someone coming in that I hadn't seen in years and years! And, as is to be expected, most seemed to have been infected with what is known as the "B" syndrome — Bald heads, Bifocals, Bridgework, Pot Bellies, and Bunions! But that's what happens to you when you accumulate a lot of mileage — as most of us have! Not age, just mileage! Another familiar face was that of Marvin Ryals of the 18th Squadron (Tech Supply). He was originally from Georgia but had left the country several years ago when he moved to Florida! In talking with him, found out that he and I were together down at Biggs Field, El Paso, TX. We left there in early 1943 for Blythe, CA and the 34th B.G. along with Irving Levy, later a Crew Chief in the 18th. Ryals hadn't changed too much — he now wears glasses though. Which shows you what good clean living will do for you.

Was trying to explain the merits of that to Randall Martin later that day down in the Hospitality Room when someone who looked very familiar came in. It was Dr. William Alston, the Flight Surgeon in the 7th Sqd. We went over and talked to him for quite a while — Martin remembered him as well as I did. He's now living in Tulsa, OK and is semi-retired. He looked as fit as someone half his age, and when I asked him how he managed that, he stepped back a little and said, "It's easy, all you have to do is this, some 25 times a day!" Then he shifted his weight to one leg, and then, without any effort, he swung his other leg up over his head until it almost hit the ceiling! We stood there with our mouths open. He lowered the leg down, but almost immediately swung it back up! "All it takes is practice," he said. His wife told us he was double-jointed and could do all kinds of things like that! I told her that if I ever tried something like that, I'd break at least half the bones in my body! It sure was nice talking to him again, after all those years!

Roy Jones of the 391st was there, along with George Ritchie and Walt McCallister of the 7th Sqd. All three were shot down over Germany in the Fall of 1944 and remained POW's until the war ended! Ritchie was our "Auctioneer" on Friday night and succeeded in raising over \$2,000 for the 34th! That's the second time I've seen him do this and I'm always amazed at him, he never seems to run out of steam! McCallister gave a most interesting talk at the Saturday night banquet on his experience while a POW in Nazi Germany. Before he started however, he asked how many in the audience had been POW's and over 50 hands went up. Most of us were amazed at that, we had no idea there were that many! Two old buddies were once again united, Jennings Beckham and Frank Sivert. Their association with the 34th, goes back to before the days at Blythe! Clyde Sudderth ("Sud") and Kivett Ivey, both from North Carolina, also came. "Sud" was taken sick on Friday and had to go to the hospital, but by Sunday had recovered sufficiently to make the trip home. Talked to him on the phone later in the week and he said he was doing fine and everything was OK! Sudderth, Francis Schmidt, Kal Schonhalter, Romeo Therrin and myself, all slept in the same "ut" during our stay in Mendlesham!

Spent a few minutes with Bill McDannold, a 7th Sqd. pilot, and Dwight Kelley, who was in his crew. They made their last six missions in Ol' Buddy, the plane that Charles E. Smith (Michigan) and I worked on. The final one was on September 17, 1944 and this was September 15, 1984, almost forty years later to the day. McDannold was surprised to learn that "Ol' Buddy" survived the war, which ended some nine months after he returned home. Also, after he had finished his tour in England, and was preparing to return to the States, they asked him how did he want to go, by boat or to fly. He told then he'd stuck his neck out 35 times and figured that was enough. So rather than press his luck too far, he'd go home by boat. I would have done the same thing!

Now that's just **some** of the things that went on out in Nashville, during the 34th's first reunion! As I told Gerry Pine, I had a wonderful

time! Met with some old friends, drank a little whiskey, told a lot of lies, and thoroughly enjoyed myself! And I think everyone else did too!

I want to apologize to all of you who came to Nashville expecting to get some good ol' Southern cooking. What you got wasn't Southern cooking, not by any stretch of the imagination! You've got to go to some places other than these "tourist towns" to find that! I found just such a place on my way home and I wished that some of the members of the 34th could have been there with me!

Just a few miles east of Knoxville, on Interstate 81, is the small town of White Pine, TN. At the turn-off there, you'll see a large **new** motel which is where I spent the night. The young lady at the desk said I could get something to eat at the Truck Stop across the way, but she thought I might do better at a smaller restaurant down the road. And she was right! It was a smaller restaurant, but it was clean and neat as a pin. I took a seat in an empty booth and this pretty young girl brought me a cup of steaming hot coffee, and handed me a menu. "Honey," she said, "I'll be with you in jes one li' ol' minnit!" Right then I knew I had come to the right place! I chose the "boiled dinner" and that too was a good choice. Boiled fresh cabbage, hidden under a slice of good ol' country ham! Boiled "new" potatoes, swimming in real butter and fresh cooked butter-beans, cooked real Southern style! How come we never got anything like that in Nashville? For dessert, there was some delicious banana pudding along with another cup of that good coffee. Now that was **real** Southern cooking, a meal fit for a king! When she gave me the check, I asked her what time they were open for breakfast in the morning. "We open at six o'clock", she said, "and you all be sure to come by, we're having hot biscuits, country ham with red-eye gravy and eggs anyway you want 'em!" I promised her that I would be there. And I was, there was no way you could have kept me away! Incidentally, my check for supper that night was \$3.95, and breakfast the next morning was \$1.95!

You all take care now,

*"Pete" Gray*

#### **Bob and Rose Marie Baer**

Dear Ray:

I must tell you how much I enjoyed the reunion program. It was super. I finally got my wife Rose Marie to come and she really enjoyed the activities and dinners, we liked the cook-out dinner Friday nite and enjoyed the Auction USA.

I thought the 34th B.G. cancellation stamp was a brilliant idea, my wife wrote letters like mad. I know Harry and Willie Perry would have enjoyed the reunion, but due to illness in the family, they could not make it. Rose Marie and I thought Walt McCallister was very interesting and the gala dinner, the meal itself was excellent. Although the seating was tight, I think that Janet and Dale Cannon, had the right attitude, in that a little cozyness was nice in that you got to meet and know your dining partners, around you, better.

My only disappointment, was that when we arrived at the hotel around 1400 on Friday afternoon, and we did not get our room until about 1645, after driving about 5-6 hours, I was ready for a change and come down to the Hospitality Room to meet the troops and get slightly enebriated. Aside from the inconvenience, I think the First 34th B.G. Reunion was fantastic. I told my dining partner, that in 1975 at the 8th AF Reunion in Dayton, OH the 34th had 12 people and here 8 years later we had over 300. Thanks to the hard work that you and Hannah have put into the 34th!

#### **Harold and Lilly Carothers**

We really enjoyed the 34th B.G.'s First Reunion, you and the Club Officers and Directors made it a real success.

#### **Oral Walker**

I was quite impressed with the job you and the Board did putting the reunion together.

#### **Frank and Alda Sivret**

Alda and I had a mighty great time at the reunion. Can't wait for the



next one. Here is the check we won at the drawing, the ass'n can use it more than we can.

#### **Leo Danielian**

The reason I had not joined the 34th B.G. Ass'n was that I was not sure that I wanted to. However, the reunion convinced me that I should.

I really enjoyed the camaraderie, the hotel was first class, the food they served us was not too hot, the golf course a cow pasture — Grand Ol Opry was super. All in all my wife and I had a great time. The highlight was meeting Harold Parrish, Leon Salverson, and Henry Jurgens and you, all of the 18th Sqd. We plan to attend the next reunion.

#### **George and June Ritchie**

Well, Nashville was a success. I hope you know that with out you, it never would have come off. Believe me the people were shocked that the turnout was so large. Good work. I want you to know that June and I appreciate all your efforts. The Golf games were a success. We even ended in the black. A ball park figure: Golfers playing Thursday 17. Golfers playing Friday 47. I would like to thank all those who played and those members who shared their cars and equipment to insure that everyone had a good time. Personally I feel the golf, the Auction USA added greatly to the enjoyment of the reunion.

We may change the format and make golf 9 holes or a real contest -let AUCTION USA become a silent Auction, change it someway to make it exciting but I feel it is a natural money maker and entertainer.

June and I will attempt to make the '85 reunion, with moving and getting a new hip, I can't firm anything. **(You all saw George limping because of a bad hip, he is planning to have it taken care of. I am sure the operation will be a success and you will soon be back directing the 34th B.G. Golf Games, at future Reunions. Thanks for all you did at the reunion. You and Dana directing the golf game and you doing the auctioneering and with your crew helping you. Thanks from all of us) R.S.)**

#### **Charles Barclay**

The reunion of the 34th B.G. in Nashville was one of the most enjoyable events that I have ever attended. Seeing 7 other members of our crew after 40 years was something to remember. (Allen Israelsen Crew)

#### **Michael Zapach**

As you know I was in the 18th and was on Copeland's crew. I went over to B24's originally and made 29 missions on it and one on a B17, when they changed over. We had made 18 missions on our plane, "The Uninvited", and went on rest leave. A replacement crew took it on its 19th mission and never returned. I had a great time at the reunion in Nashville (my wife and I) and it made my trip, when I met my Co-pilot (Leroy Robinson), I was the nose gunner on the crew.

#### **Rose and Eli Baldea**

We do have a great bunch in the 34th and we were very fortunate to have one of our crew, George Carroll, join us for the first time since the war, he too was a P.O.W. and did not know what happened to the others. We have been in touch for many years but could not get him to come to our reunion. Met Pat and Helen McKeon from New Hampshire, who wasn't part of the crew but a close friend from another crew. The only thing as a form of objection from the two newcomers was not enough time to get together and really talk. Well we who come to all the doings, find it difficult to start from the beginning, as we did when we first came to the reunions, well we had covered so much ground that we forgot how it was at the beginning.

#### **James and Katherine Alexander**

Hannah, just a thank you for all the hard work you did during the reunion, it is people like you and Ray that makes things so succesful. We had a very good time and hope we will be able to make another.

#### **Bill and Viv Creer**

Happy the 34th had a good turn out in Nashville and they enjoyed

themselves. Hope we can make Wichita.

#### **Al and Agnes Israelsen**

It was a great reunion for us as you can see. It seems remarkable that so many of us were healthy enough to get there and even more remarkable that our 8 wives, all of us married in the late forties and early fifties, were there too. The group represents about 300 years of marriage and we swapped stories at Nashville, it sounded like 300 years of happy marriage too. **(Al sent me the pictures taken at Nashville with all of the crew and their wives. the were #1 crew in the 34th going across and this year they took #1 attendance with 8 present).**

#### **Randall and Shirley Martin**

Had a real good time at the reunion. Here is a letter to "Pete" "Pete" yo old reprobate. I wasted a whole day in Nashville looking for some of that Virginia Gentlemen bourbon you so highly recommended. And this was prime time when I could have been stomping my feet at Opryland or playing golf with Bob Desjardins and George Webster. To go on with the story, I went into every liquor store in Nashville at about 11:30 at night, I ran into an old retired gentleman (about 65) from the hills of Tennessee who was moonlighting as a clerk in a local gin mill and asked him where to find some of this famous Virginia Gentlemen bourbon. He said, "Son, you don't buy that in a liquor store, try a paint store tomorrow. The Rebels down here try to peddle it off to you innocent unsuspecting Yankees, along with grits, collard greens and country ham, but don't let them con you, we natives use it as paint thinner." Now "Pete", what do you say?

By the way, on my last trip to Newfoundland, I picked up a local rum called Screech. After three drinks of this, I did drown a 400 pound codfish by holding it under water.

#### **Henry and Audrey Tobiason**

Just a note to tell you how much we enjoyed the Nashville Reunion, we thought it was great and also we enjoyed Nashville. We stayed over on Sunday and took on Opryland, which I thought was better than the Grand Ol Opry Matinee on Saturday afternoon. So much fine young talent.

#### **George and Margaret Kline**

Dear Ray;

First my wife and I wish to express our sincere thanks to you and our other faithful friends for a very successful reunion. The hotel the committee selected was a very good one. It was a beautiful place, and the staff very friendly and efficient. The hotel was first class and the committee got us very reasonable rates. Our cookout, and its location was very memorable with the Capitol background providing the picturesque backdrop. The food was also very good. The banquet was very enjoyable, despite the sardine condition.

We found it very easy to make friends though I didn't remember any of the fellows. That shows what a great group we have. We did take some good pictures before my new Nikon Camera developed over heating problems. Heat marks occurred on some of the pictures and loss of pictures also. This happened during the cookout and I missed getting some pictures with the Capitol in the background. I did get some of the table set up just before dark.

We all owe expressed thanks to the ladies who worked hard to assist the committee. I never did get to ask "Pete" Gray which "White Lightning" was the best. They were serving up some good ones to prove claims. I wrote to John Wooten telling him, we made the winning bid on the Fruit Tray. You were right and it was very good. Again, thanks to the Guys and Dolls for everything.

#### **Ray and Hannah Summa**

After seeing what the others wrote I will make this short (Hannah says I probably will bore you all again).

Thanks to all who came to the reunion and to those who were on the committee, it was a wonderful reunion. I am sure all of you enjoyed the first 34th B.G. Reunion and seeing old friends again. As one man put

it, rehashing old times and telling stories we have told to friends so many times, that we, ourselves begin to believe them. I hope I was able to talk to everyone there. So many I could not keep track of. If I do not mention your name in the newsletter, I am sorry for there were so many of you and if I did, this newsletter would not get written on time.

Most of the committee arrived in Nashville on Tuesday to get set up for the reunion. The ladies of the committee worked Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday on the tickets for the event. The Grand Ol Opry tickets had to be put with the others and this took time.

Time out was taken of an evening, when we all went out to dinner to some of the dining places in Nashville. As several of the people arrived on Wednesday it was decided to open the Hospitality Room and the Registration Booth early Thursday morning to register those playing golf.

Hannah and I opened the PX early on Thurs. morning and sold quite a few 34th B.G. caps to the Golfers, as the day promised to be hot with a lot of sunshine. The registration Committee was so busy they had to take turns to go eat. Hannah went to breakfast with "Pete" Gray and I think he was embarrassed because someone thought that as he was with Hannah, that he was me.

One fellow, John S. Smith came up and introduced himself. I remembered him, for he and his crew had flown my plane. I also had signed his diary just before he came home. I introduced him to Hannah and before long he was helping her in the PX. Hannah says thanks John, for the help. You are quite a salesman.

One man came into the room, that I thought was very familiar, yes it was Jennings Beckham, Line Chief 7th Sqd. When he took his glasses off, I saw he had not changed too much in the face. When the others from the 7th Sqd knew Beckham was there, they crowded around to say hello and rehash old times. Beckham was my Crew Chief in the 7th, when I first hit Blythe. I went to the 18th as crew chief when we went over seas.

I say thanks to all who brought a bottle to the Hospitality Room. Did you all get a drink from "Pete's" Lacquer Thinner?

The Golfers soon came back from the Golf Course and by their looks it must have been very hot, for most were looking for a drink and to sit awhile and talk.

We had planned to take the Dinner Cruise but it was all filled up, so a group of over 50 went to Painters Alley just a few blocks from the Hotel, to the Kings Table. The food was good and the price was high. It was not too bad until 8:00 when a \$5.00 Entertainment charge was added to your bill. Ask Charlie and Carrie Smith about this. Smitty, I bet your sister-in-law never lets you live it down. Charlie's brother Denver and his wife Betty had joined the Group for dinner.

Friday morning the Golfers left early to play golf, this was to be another busy day. The PX and the Registration Booth had to be kept opened as our members were still arriving. It was also the day for the 34th B.G. BOD meeting.

Articles of business was discussed and things were discussed to bring up at the business meeting of the members of the Group on Sat. morning. Such as, the trip back to Mendlesham in 1985 and where to hold the 1985 reunion of the 34th B.G. It was to be recommended that we take another trip, back to Mendlesham in 1985, and to hold the 1985 reunion of the 34th B.G. at Wichita KS, with the 8th to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the B17. This was to be held Oct. 17th-20th 1985.

It was decided to get the approval of the membership, to buy a copier for the Unit Contact. Not to be used for publishing the "Mendlesham Memories" but to be used for copying letters to those who seek information about the 34th B.G.

It also was to be a fun day for the ladies of the 34th B.G. Several took the Boat Trip on the River and others went shopping or took Tours of the City of Nashville.

It was also to be a fun night for the Group. A Farm Barbeque was to be held in the outside street and the setting was to be an old farm without buildings, even including an old outhouse to complete the picture.

The line for the food was pretty long and reminded the men of those days in service when they stood in line for chow. Just before we all were served, the weather clouded up and the thunder rolled. Was it to

rain on our Barbeque? It was also the night of the AUCTION USA. The food was good and just before we were all served the AUCTION USA began. Our Silver Throated auctioneer, George Ritchie, has started the bidding on the many things which the people had brought to Auction off, to raise money for the Treasury of the Group.

It seemed just before the Auction started "Pete" Gray was called up to the mike and Randall Martin gave him a license plate. It said on the plate "General Lee Surrendered, I didn't." This brought laughter to the crowd, for they remembered what "Pete" had written in the last newsletter about Randall. Randall was able to get even with "Pete" for the remarks Pete had made. See the picture in this newsletter.

We had kept watch on the clouds overhead and had gotten with the men in charge of the cookout to see where we could move to if the rain began. Finally it was decided that if the rain came we were to grab all the packages and head for the Lunch Room opposite the Reservation Desk in the Lobby of the Hotel.

About 1/2 way thru the Auction the wind came up and the rain came down. Everyone grabbed a package and headed for the Lunch Room. It took about an hour to get set up and to continue the Auction in doors.

Many things were brought and sold at the Auction, some brought quite a bit and others went lower. One sack of hand polished apples brought a fabulous price. It had been brought from W. VA by Don Baumgardner from the 7th Sqd. I wish I had space to tell about all that was brought to the Auction. There was food, can goods, art work, pictures, wood working articles, and many more things.

Sam Baglio brought a thundermug antique he had taken from one of the Hotels in London during the war and he offered to start the bidding at \$50.00 or he would take it home and make a flower pot out of it, and he hated flower pots. It was soon sold. Robert Simpson brought a framed picture of the B17 and B24 with our Sqds and Group emblems and it was auctioneered off. It brought a good price. John Blair from Camdemton MO brought several cedar articles from his cedar work shop at Camdemton, MO. Several bottles of liquor was auctioned off. Some very beautiful hand made wreaths were also auctioned off. All in all the AUCTION USA was a success.

I do not know how George kept from loosing his voice. Thanks George, and to all of you who helped. June and Ritchie Rose, Walt and Ruby McAllister, Wally Braucks, June and Dana Schrupp, Hannah, and all the others who pitched in and helped run the Auction USA.

When the money was counted after the Auction, it was found we had made over \$2000.00. Hannah and I immediately placed the money in a safety box at the Hotel.

Next day was to be a busy one, with registering, PX, and also the general business meeting of the membership.

First on the agenda was a talk by a representative of the Tamarac Tours, who wanted to take the 34th B.G. back for a tour of Mendlesham and England. The talk was good and very informative. Nothing was decided except to go back in 1985, date to be announced later. If you should receive a brochure about this be sure it has the 34th B.G. emblem on it to assure you that the Travel Agency represents the 34th B.G.

Old business was discussed and new business was brought forward. Election of some offices of the 34th was held, Harold Rutka was the new President, James Martin to be the new V.P., Walt McAllister, Randall Martin, and Mike Lopez were new BOD members. It was also voted to buy the Unit Contact, a copier for his work.

Wallace Braucks gave a talk on how to obtain the medals and other benefits we earned when we were in service, for more information on this write to Wallace Braucks 6923 Aliceton, Affton, MO 63123. Wally will be happy to furnish you with the information. Wally helps the DAV at the Hospital in St. Louis.

It was decided to table the Life time membership and to raise the dues to \$7.50 for next year, as we lost money this year. Of the over 1200 whom we have found, only 575 paid their 1984 dues. It was also decided by the general membership to cut the amount of newsletters sent out. All of the group will receive the Dec. issue but March will be sent only to those who are paid up for 1984. If you miss your Newsletter, you will know the reason.

It was also decided to follow the suggestion of the BOD, to have the next reunion with the 8th AF at Wichita, KS October 17-20 1985. But in 1986, the 34th would go alone and have a reunion of its own,



somewhere where we had not been before. The BOD is open for suggestions as to the location and for the help to make the 1986 34th B.G. Reunion another successful one.

Just before the meeting started, it was reported to me that Clyde Suddereth, had been taken to the hospital. He soon recovered and was able to leave the hospital on Sunday, to go home and the last report he is feeling good.

Saturday afternoon was the Grand Ol Opry, we were to board the buses in plenty of time to arrive at the Opry House before the start of the performances. The buses were running late and the dispatcher was taking his time loading the buses until our V.P., Harold Rutka, had a quiet talk with him and then the buses were loaded quite a bit more rapidly. You can be sure that after the show the buses were loaded more rapidly and the tickets were taken by the driver not the dispatcher. The afternoon performance of the Grand Ol Opry was real good, Skeeter Davis was the main performer and several backup performers gave a good performance.

We arrived back to the hotel and got ready for the 34th B.G. Banquet. As we got off the elevator on the 2nd floor and started to the banquet rooms which we had a contract for. We were stopped by the State Police. It seemed as if the caterer for the Arthritic Golf Tournament set it up, so the banquet was late in getting started. There did not seem to be room for all our 350 people in the small room and some were seated just outside the door. As Jack Odom said "We paid extra for this table". He and his wife were seated at the door of the room. We were sorry this occurred but we had no way of knowing that we were to be done the way we were. We had all been to the Opry, when the decision was made. None of the managers of the hotel could be found and at this time it was too late to do anything about it. I will say this, next day the committee took the management to task and we are a little better off financially than we were before. This doesn't make up for the inconvenience we suffered through. I now have an apology here on my desk from the manager of the Hyatt Regency about the whole affair. Courtesy of the letter which Gerry Pine had written to him. After the dinner, George Ritchie presented the trophies and prizes to the winners of the golf tournament. This was followed by an introduction of the new and old officers of the 34th B.G.

Next came the talk by Walt McAllister who had been shot down with his crew and made a Prisoner Of War until the end of the war. He told many incidents, which happened while he was a P.O.W. and how the POW's were treated. It seemed as if a Red Cross package was to come to each person every week. Most of the time only one package per room was distributed. In one of the rooms was an American Pilot who spoke fluent Russian and he was acting as an interpreter for the Russian POW's. One day he came into his room with several small steaks. Of course this caused quite a bit of commotion, each commander of the room was to look out for his room alone. The pilot cooked the steaks with everyone looking on because many had not seen or smelled meat frying for a long time. The men in the Russian's room ate the steaks and enjoyed them. Everyone was wondering where they came from. The story got around that, the Commandment of the camp was going thru the Russian POW billet with his big dog and when the Commandment went into a room, the dog had disappeared and was never seen again. Good steaks? He also told about the thin soup with the white things in it. The bread partly made of sawdust. Many things happened that we of the ground crew did not even think could happen. Moving wounded men who were really unable to walk and with no Dr. to bandage their wounds. It was a good talk Walt, and many of us learned things from it. Someday in our new 34th B.G. book we hope to have you write a chapter about your experiences as a pilot and as a POW.

Sunday morning soon rolled around, it was breakfast and then homeward bound for most of the members. I visited with everyone at the breakfast and said goodbye to as many as I could, hoping to see them next year either on the trip back to Mendlesham or at the next reunion at Wichita, KS.

If you want to thank anyone for the good time you had at the reunion. The ones to thank are Gerald and Wanda Pine, Harold and Gen Rutka, Bob and Esther Wright, Hannah and Ray Summa. This was your Reunion Committee along with June and George Ritchie and Dana and June Schrupp, your Golf Committee.

Gen. Creer sent me a list of those who were at the reunion of the 8th

AF at LA. He and Viv wishes the best to all of you and were glad that a good time was had by all at the Nashville Reunion. He hopes to join us on the trip back to England and the reunion at Wichita, KS in 1985.

I do not say much about the names under TAPS but this time there is two I which I would like to say something about. One is Joe Liswski, of Guy Gipson's crew. Joe and the crew flew my plane many missions, and I got to know Joe pretty well when they were my regular crew and I am sure the men of the crew, both ground and air crew will be sad that he has passed on. He passed on from a heart attack September 5th 1984.

Another is William Wyatt Breedlove. Bill was one of the flight chiefs of the 18th Sqd. He was my flight chief. When I first knew Bill he was just a kid, Master Sergeant, wore a go to hell mustache to make him look older. Bill had planned for a year to meet his old friends from the 34th at Nashville. It was not to be, Bill passed on about 2 weeks before the reunion. He will be missed by those who knew him. Bill's wife Evelyn lives at RR 5, Booneville, MS 38829.

There is a good book out by IAN HAWKINS, about the Munster Raid called MUNSTER, as it was. Ian has done himself proud on this one. Ian lives at Paxton, Stowmarket and helps take care of the 390th Museum. He has been looking out after the 34th B.G. also and in the collection of the 390th Museum, he has placed several articles of the 34th B.G. Order blank is in the newsletter. The 34th does get a little from the sales of the book, if you order thru the 34th B.G. order the book thru the publishing co., Robinson Typographics, address listed on the blank. Send the money to them and they will reimburse us.

Lafe Henderson, who is at the VAMC Hospital at Dayton, OH would like to hear from his crew or anyone who knew him in the 34th. Howard Marm's sister, Mrs. Helen Nusbaum of 235 Kendall, Topeka, KS 66606 asks anyone who knew her brother Howard, to write to him in care of her, for he is in a nursing home close by and she hopes the letters will help Howard get well.

In the last newsletter, you saw where, Edwin S. Smith had passed away. He was Group Historian after he went down in the NO. Sea. Henry Jurgens has been trying to find him for several years and finally thru the VA & VFW that Edwin had passed away, several years ago. Thanks Henry. Doug Underwood was in the hospital, just after our Nashville Reunion and did not make the LA Reunion. Doug called and he is now home and feeling much better.

The artist, who drew the pictures of the B17 and B24, which were on sale at the reunion was the son of Robert E. Simpson, one of our 34th B.G. men. Bob's son also does the pictures in color and he has a list of pictures that he sells. Anyone who is interested, write to R. Simpson Aerographic, 1300 Fairlawn Dr., Sumter, SC 29154. The pictures are very good. I took the liberty of sending two over to England, one for the Legion Hall and the other for the 390th Museum. Ian Hawkins will have them framed. Those pictures were created for the 34th B.G. Reunion but can be bought. . . . A limited edition was made.

Several of you have paid your 1985 dues in advance. But only \$5.00 so be sure and include an extra \$2.50 in your letter to me, to make up the difference. **As you know I have had this Unit Contact, Job Treasurer and Editor of the Mendlesham Memories for 6 years now and I think the 34th B.G. Ass'n has grown considerably. We are getting a lot of new and younger members in now and I think it is time, we share these of the load that Hannah and I have been carrying. I know there are a lot of you out there who could do the job as good as I am doing, maybe better. Carrying all the load is getting to much for Hannah and I. I have asked the BOD of the Ass'n to find me help. Someone to take over as Editor of the newsletter and see it thru from start till it is sent out to the members. I will supply those who take over with the data they need and let them supply some of it as need be. I have to start a newsletter the minute one goes out in order to get the next one out. It is sent out 4 times a year. Do I have any volunteers? Don't be bashful. It is an experience. I will retain the Unit Contact and Treasurer Job unless someone else wants those.**

The escape and evasion is looking for anyone who was an escapee or evaded the enemy when they went down. Do you qualify, if you want the information write to Scotty Davis, 215 Dennis Lane, St. Clairville, OH 43590. Harold Rutka asks that the lady who left the sheet of stamps and the one who left the envelopes contact him and he will

*Ray L. Summa*

## NEW MEMBERS

Greinman Clifford 7  
430 Claridon Dr.  
Marion Ohio 43302

Tandy Lee 7  
41750 Merriam  
Auberry Ca. 93602

Stevens Jack  
1570 E Main St Lot 48  
Lancaster Ohio 43130

Thaete E.H. III 7  
1809 E Catalina St  
Santa Ana Ca. 92701

Friedman Joel 7  
217 N Roseborough Ave  
Ventnor N.J. 08046

Szaras Adolph Jr 18  
3531 No Seine Dr  
Cheektowaga N.Y. 14227

Riley James W 391  
3531 Thunderbird Lane  
Lake Havasu Az. 86403

Peters Harry C. 18  
11887 Beckett Fall Rd.  
Florissant Mo. 63033

Opferman William Jr. (A)  
810 Atlantic Ave  
Trenton N.J. 08629

Davis Charles C.  
925 Bentley Ave  
Niles Mi 44446

Mueller Paul 4  
4017 W Chicago St  
Rapid City S.D. 57701

Braum Fredrick 4  
116 Cedar Lane  
Closter N.J. 07624

Florie Davis 4  
4331 Canterbury Dr  
La Mesa Ca. 92041

Barta Allen J 4  
242 N Franklin  
Red Cloud Neb. 68970

Inman Lloyd  
140 Kismet Pl  
Kelo Wa. 98616

Mills J.O  
512 Brinkley  
Dumas Tx. 79029

Pedigo William 18  
611 Viking Dr  
Bridgeport Tx. 76026

Jonas, Frank 4  
32800 Hwy 20 Space 11  
Ft Bragg Ca. 95437

Repoff Fred 4  
298 Scranton St  
Aurora Co. 80011

Zelick Fred 4 (MRS) D  
Box 141  
Burns Oregon 97720

Green Gerald  
1505 Powers St  
Lewiston Idaho 83501

Reid Roy L.  
7020 E. 53rd  
Tulsa Okla. 74145

Christensen H.A. 391  
8652 Eastern Ave S.E.  
Myron Center Mi. 49315

Murphy Jerome 391  
3148 Sun Valley Ave  
Walnut Creek Ca. 94596

Yates Melton G. 4  
9516 Glenbrook Dr  
Charlotte N.C. 28212

Barclay Charles 4  
Rt 1 Box 150 A  
Clinton KY 42031

Campbell Thomas J 4  
Brick School Rd.  
Warren CT. 06754

Ashley Davis L 4  
General Delivery  
Hillsborough N.C. 27278

Hensen Harold L 18  
90 Ash Lane  
Ojai Ca. 93023

Russo Michael A 18 (A)  
513 Central Park Ave  
Scarsdale N.Y. 10583

Muller Alan (A)  
P.O. Box 301  
Maple Lake Mn. 55358  
Bryant Arnold 4th  
25 Monroe Dr  
Manchester N.H. 03106

Marm Howard  
c/o Mrs Helen Nusbaum  
235 Kendall  
Topeka Ks. 66606

## Attendees at the 8th AF Reunion in L.A. California

Berguland  
Butler  
Creer  
Grimes  
Jacobaouski  
Schwartz  
Olsen  
Sholl  
Wessel  
Browne

Fred - Hazel  
Henry - Bonnie  
William - Viv  
Bryant - Myrtis  
Michael-- Marg.  
Robert - Laura  
W.W.  
Paul - Wife  
Jerome - Wife  
Wm J.

## ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Seasman Jones- should be Seamans Jones  
Davis Charles is very much alive at 925  
N Bently Ave Niles Mi. 44446  
Howard Philip R 10844 Harborside Dr Largo Fla. 33543 5459  
Corum Malcolm 8159 Horizon Dr Co Spgs Co. 80918 3848  
Berguland Fred 9735 Portland Ave Bloomington Mn. 54420  
Luscher Raymond 4267 Clyde Park SW Wyoming MI. 49509  
Mahaffey Robert F 4119 W 204th St Fairview Park Ohio 44126  
Stanton "Buzz" 64 Garden Center Apt 198 Groomfield Co. 80020  
Donlon William 41 Brinkwood Rd Brookville Md. 20833  
Trapani Joseph 17851 Matial Dr San Diego Ca. 92127  
Gombert Dirk 4105 Stargrass Dr Co Spgs Co 80907  
Handy Gregory Mrs. 42-39 78th St Elmhurst Queen.N.Y.  
Edwards Joseph 830 Kiowa Dr Lake Kiowa Tx 76240 9510  
Furlo Vince P.O. Box 310 Carrollton MI. 48734 0310  
Richart George 2353 Lanyon Dr Longmont Co. 80501 3658  
Breaux Leonard 13311 Lobelia San Antonio Tx. 78232  
Logan Harold 5295 Bannergate Dr Alpharetta Ga. 30201  
Couse Conway 4 Grand Blvd Binghampton N.Y. 13905  
Billman 630 Brighton Rd Tonawanda N.Y. 14150  
Prillman P.O. Box 3110 Martinsville Va. 24115  
Mongeon, Omar. 3003 W Broadway Tucson Ax. 85745  
Priddy Robert T. 600 National Life Bldg Wichita Falls Tx 76301  
Bouliane Jean 5918 San Felipe #12 Houston Tx 77057  
Cohen Cecil Just Margaretsville N.Y. 12455  
Polquin Joseph RR 1 Box 1105 Estes Lake Hob.Home P  
Sanford Maine 04783  
Mislak Frank 35 Akard St Ludlow Ma. 01056  
Vaughn Robert E 2107 Wayenwood Dr Picayune Ms. 39466  
Simpson F Jr East 71st Ct Tulsa Okla 74133  
Carothers, Harold P.O. Box 2165 Pace Fla. 32570 Add 18th Sqd.  
Schrupp, Dana 1615 So Black #  
Garrison Marvin 8557 White Cedar Dr Miamisburg Ohio 45342  
Schroeder Robert Add Rt 1 Box 123  
Buss Paul Add Rt 6  
Davis Glen 2639 Broadway Salem Ill 62881  
Lambert Henry change Box # to 3135  
Reed James R Z.C. to 77802

## PERSONS REGISTERED FOR THE 34TH B.G. REUNION (As of September 1, 1984)

Adams  
Alexander  
Alston  
Ames  
Anderson  
Anderson  
Anderson  
Applegate  
Atwater  
Austin  
Babcock  
Baer  
Baglio  
Baker  
Baldea  
Barclay  
Baughman  
Baumgardner  
Beckham  
Bialas  
Bice -  
Billman  
Blackham  
Blair  
Blair  
Boreen  
Boysun

Bailey-Ruth Ann- Marcia  
James - Katherine  
Dr. William - Albertine  
Vern - Millie  
Andy - Julie  
Keith - Eleanor  
Paul - Beryl  
Ralph - Mary  
Gene  
Paul - Frances  
Bud - Lucille  
Bob - Rose  
Samuel - Lydia  
Link - Yvonne  
Eli - Rose  
Charles - Roberta  
Cleo - Freddie  
Don - Vera  
Jennings Blake  
Steve - Emily  
Robert - Zelma  
Charles - Isabelle  
Jack - Dottie  
John - Mary  
Jim  
Lloyd - Bobbie  
John - Florence

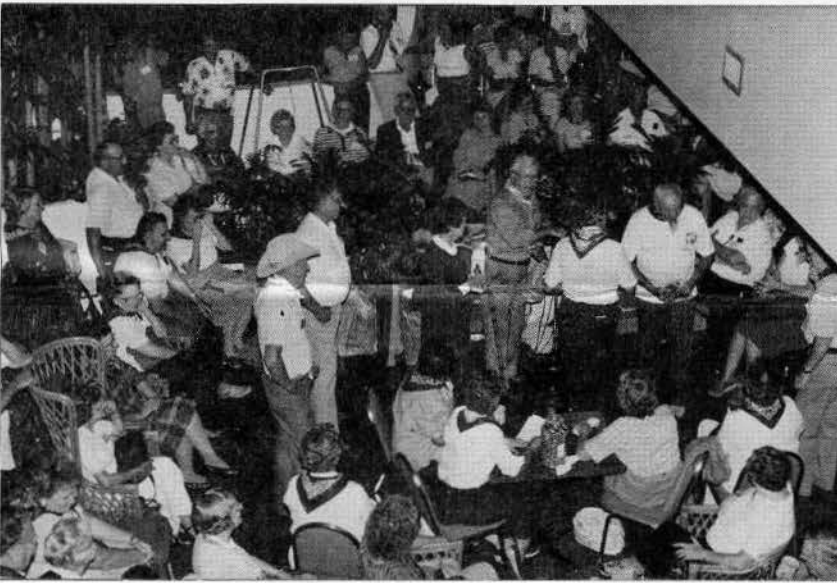




R. Summa, ??, Paul and Francis Austin



Golf Game; Dana and June Schrupp, Ben & Helen DeHann, George Ritchie



AUCTION USA; George Ritchie in the center



June Ritchie, ???



Shirley and Randall Martin, Shirley and George Webster



Registration; Wanda Pine, Esther Wright, Gen and Harold Ritchie



Dana Schrupp, Betty and Robert E. Simpson



Golfers; Jack Odom, Earl Maciel, Clyde Sudderth, Clarence Peterman, Allen McSpadden, Mable McSpadden



Gerry Pine, Mary Lou Rogers



Hannah Summa



Robert Wright

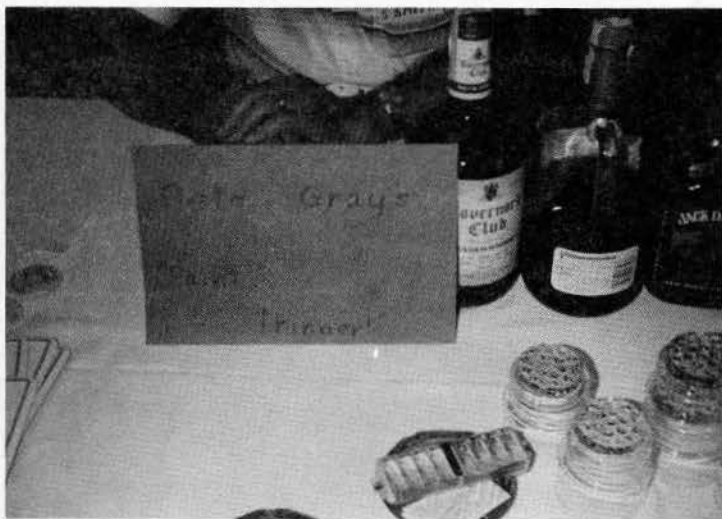


Levern Howarton, Dex and Buelah Jordan



Bob Wright's Crew; Gerry Pine, James Alexander, R. Wright, Bob Hutchison





**Pete Gray's Lacquer Thinner**



**Golf Awards; George Ritchie, Ray Summa**



**Speaker, Walt McAllister**



**Pete Gray, Randall Martin**



**Kal and Evelyn Schonthal**



**3 of the BOD; Everett Rose, Pete Gray, Harold Rutka**



Peggy Rose, June Schrupp, Muggs Sothern



Crew #1 and Wives: Phyllis and Bill Vanskirk, R.O., Jean and Bill Abraham, Lee and Sam Baglio, Zelma and Bob Bice, Theresa and Seamans Jones, Martha and Russell Reed, Roberta and Charles Barclay, Agnes and Al Israelsen



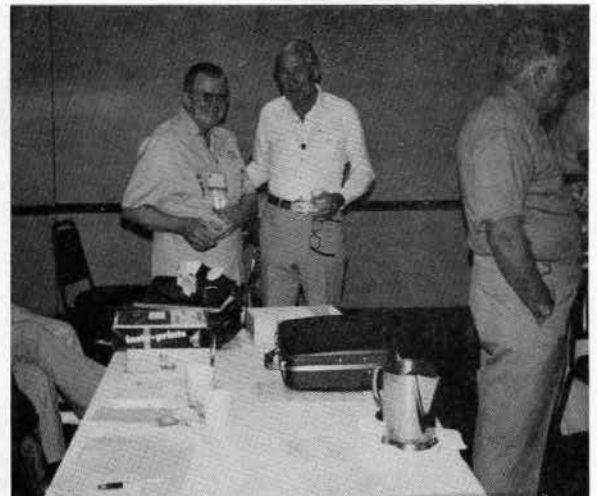
Kal Schonthal, Bruce Sothern, Francis Schmidt, Pete Gray, Steve Bialas, Wayne Howarter



Al Israelsen's #1 Crew; Front, Russell Reed, Nav., Seamans Jones, Bomb., Charles Kleinfel, 2nd Nav., Bill Dreher, Co. Pilot, Al Israelsen, Pilot. Back, Wm. Abraham, David Ashley, Wm. VanBuskirk, R.O., Charles Barclay, Sam Barclay, Clarence Markham.



Hospitality Room; Pat McKeon, Harold Madigon, Eli Baldea, Ray Summa



Hospitality Room; Doug Underwood, Walt McAllister, Pat McKeon



Braeger	Bob	Lambert	Henry - Mary
Brauks	Wallace - Doris	Lawler	Edward
Brown	Ray - Harriet	LeMaster	Fred - Helen
Brown	Bob - June Yancey	Lester	Raymond - Mary Ruth
Brydge	Glenn - Daisy - Ray	Lewis	Ken - Martha
	Mag Bates	Loiselle	James - Bernice
Bush	Ralph - Marge	Lonerger	Ed - "B"
Buss	Paul - Mary - Walter	Lopez	Mike - Mrs. Mike
	Anita - Melissa	Lopez	Leonel - Adrianna
Campbell	Bob - Liz	Lundeen	Ralph
Cannon	Dale - Janet	Maciel	Earl - Helen
Carothers	Harold - Lily	Madion	Harold
Crook	Lonnice - Dorabel	Marks	Joe - Kay
Danielian	Leo - Melene	Martin	Randall - Shirley
Davis	Glenn - LaGathia	McAllister	Walter - Ruby
Deal	Marquis	McDannold	Bill
Deatherage	Grady - Edith	McSpadden	Allen - Mabel
De Haan	Ben - Helen	Murphy	Jerome
Desjardins	Robert - Jeannette	Mink	Clayton - Helen
Dwyer	Harold - Darlene	Meehan	James (Bernie) - Marge
Davis	Robert - Zoe	Moats	Ray - Bea
Elliott	Lloyd - Carol	Morgan	Charles - Dorothy
Fechko	Richard - Dorothy	Morrell	Joseph
Ferlich	William - Ruth	Nichols	Carl
Forister	Carroll - Sylvia	Odum	Jack - Beatrice
Friedel	James - Margaiel	Martin	James
Galloway	Bob - Beth	Perry	Harry - Willie
Gibbs	Claude - Audrey	Peterman	Clarence (pete)
Gibson	James - Gerald Augustus	Pine	Gerald - Wanda
Gradin	Bob - Ginny	Pratt	Bob - Arline
Gray	Pete	Prillaman	Arnold - Georgia
Griffith	John-Mildred-WM Wenzel	Province	Harold - Jan
Grinrod	Ray	Reed	"Jim" Russell - Martha
Habiger	Anthony-Joan-John-Lelia	Reed	John - Margaret
	Doris Snyder	Ritchie	George - June
Hale	Robert - Dora Pontius	Robinson	Leroy - Doris
Hann	John - Rose	Rogers	Rog - Margo
Hansen	Milton - Kay	Rohrbaugh	George - Lillian
Hartman	Merle	Rose	Everett - Peggy
Hawkins	Jeff - Libby	Russell	Merle - Rosalie
Hohnstreiter	John - Billie	Rutka	Harold - Genevieve
Holmes	Gerald	Ryals	Marvin - Helon
Hood	Jack	Ryan	Dick
Howarter	Wayne - LaVerne	Schmidt	Francis - Edith
Humphreys	Ken - Renee	Schmitt	George - Marilyn
Hutchison	Bob - Marika	Schonhaler	Kal - Evelyn
Inman	Lloyd - Marla	Schroeder	Robert - Jennie
Israelsen	Al - Agnes	Schrupp	Dana - June
Isaacs	Seymour - Claudia	Share	Jack - Marian
Ivey	Kivett - Lucille	Shes	Donald - Bonnie
Jackson	Kenneth	Simons	Fred
Jalving	Marvin	Simpson	Robert - Betty
Jones	Roy	Sims	Paul - Frances
Jones	Seamans - Thresa	Sivret	Frank - Alda
Jordan	Dex - Beulah	Slade	Jim - Marion
Jurgens	Henry - Ruth	Smith	Charles - Carrie
Kaiser	Raymond - Alice	Smith	John
Kantorak	John	Smith	A.J.
Kline	George - Margaret	Smith	Oren - E. Lois
Klusmeyer	Emmett - Loretta	Sothorn	Bruce - Muggs
Koenig	Al - Marcy	Sproul	Cran - Bea
Krystof	Joe - Fran	Steiner	Alfred



34th Bomb. Group

34th Bomb Group Assn.  
c/o Ray L. Summa  
2910 Bittersweet Lane  
Anderson, IN 46011

From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

Pilot, 4th Squadron, Crew #12, April - Aug 1944

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Anderson, Indiana  
Permit No. 1547

Strong  
Stutts  
Sudderth  
Summa  
Stivender  
Swan  
Tavasti  
Therrien  
Thompson  
Thurner  
Tobiason  
Trauernicht  
Tymczyszyn  
Underwood  
VanBuskirk  
Vaughn  
Walker  
Wallace  
Weaver  
Webster  
Willis  
Windsor  
Wolstencroft  
Wright  
Wright  
Zapach  
Abraham,  
Abraham  
Beauchamp  
Carroll  
Cook.  
DiNenno  
Franklin  
Frazier  
Gay  
Garrison  
Johanson  
Jones  
Kelley  
McKeon

Earl  
Charles  
Clyde - Betty  
Ray - Hannah  
Jim - Stella  
Ray - Grace  
Roy  
Romeo - Mary  
Roy - Valerie  
Charlie - Toots  
Henry - Audrey  
Carl  
Edmond  
Doug  
William - Phyllis  
Robert - Helen  
Oral - Marjorie  
Karl - Judy  
Charley - Betty  
George - Shirley  
Clyde - Terry  
Dick  
Samuel  
Doc - Dodie  
Robert - Esther  
Michael - Mary Ann  
William  
William -Jeanne  
Tom - Ginny  
George  
Patrick  
Al  
Wesley - Phyllis  
Roy  
Robert - Phyllis  
Marvin  
Alf - Maye  
Eddie -Ianthia  
Dwight  
Pat - Helen

Mills  
Salverson  
Stanberry  
Humphrey  
Sherman

J.O. - Chris  
L.E.  
Ralph - Hilda.  
Clyde - Anette  
Larry - Dot

Nashville Banner, Saturday, September 15, 1984



Members of the oldest U.S. Air Force bomb group of World War II gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Friday for their first reunion. Three members of the 34th Bomb Group, Ray Summa, George Ritchie and Bob Wright (left to right), whoop it up at an auction during the celebration.

## TAPS

Lisowski, Joseph N.J. 18  
Milford, Robert K.C. MO  
Breedlove, William Wyatt 18th Sqd  
Flight Chief, Booneville, MS  
Zelick, Fred Burns, Oregon  
Fred Mueller's Crew  
Ballard, James L Nev. 7th Sqd.  
Erickson, Roger 7th Sqd., Wisconsin  
Hughes, John  
Iverson, Edward 391 Littleton, NJ  
Russo, Vincent A Brooklyn, NY  
Kleinfall, Charles, Israelsen's Crew

We are also greived by the sudden death of Dorothy Blackham, wife of Jack, 8809 McFall Drive, El Paso, TX 79925