



MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H



OBSERVATIONS

Here we go again. Now that the reunions are over, we can get back to living our normal lives again. But first, let me give you my little report on the reunion in Wichita.

The 34th were basically all housed at the Wichita Royale Hotel and, although we were the farthest from the center of action, I believe we had the best accommodations. The hotel personnel seemed to go all out to see that we were well cared for. We had our own large meeting room with ample space for everyone. Unfortunately, being an 8th AFHS sponsored affair, and some lack of planning, the room was only used properly for our business meeting and our unit dinner. More often than not, if you wanted to mix with others of the group, you went to Harold Rutka's room and always found someone there with Harold's generous supply of liquid libations, etc.

The scheduled events were reasonably planned for. I wasn't particularly happy with our visit to "Cowtown," a replica of an early days village. First, it was dark by the time we got there so we didn't get to see much. Secondly, the meal was outdoor buffet style with long lines and only folding chairs out on the lawn to sit on to eat. A few people found tables inside some of the buildings to eat on, but most of us had to balance our food on our knees in the dark. Thirdly, the sky threatened to open up and drench us at any minute.

The visit to McConnell AF Base also was marred by the weather. A B-1 Bomber was scheduled to be landed there and I really was looking forward to seeing it. It was cancelled. The Air Force Flying Thunderbirds were scheduled to do their air routine for us, but that too was cancelled because of the weather. We got to see a few tankers and other aircraft on the airstrip but, all in all, I felt it was a wasted day. THE BEST LAID PLANS

Rose and I tried to meet as many of our people as possible, both so you could get to know who is putting out the newsletter and so we could get to know you. It was most gratifying getting critiques and comments on my efforts so far. As I have said before, if I can't make this newsletter as you want it to be, I don't want to do it. We are and have been open to all suggestions and look forward to hearing from you.

In this issue we are beginning a new column titled "Rose's Corner," a name suggested by Hannah Summa. This column is for the ladies and we want to hear from all of you ladies out there on items of interest to all women. Come on, girls. Write!!!

Finally, may we take this opportunity to wish all of you and yours a most happy and healthy holiday season. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Eli Baldea
Editor

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings:

Genevieve and I wish to thank all the members of the 34th Bomb Group for the help they have given us during the year of my presidency. Without your attendance at the June '85 reunion in Mendlesham, and at the Wichita reunion in October, this past year would not have been the success that it was. The ladies of the British Legion and the Friends of the Eighth helped to make the Mendlesham tour a memorable experience.

Jim (James) F. Martin, your new president, and Al (Alfred) DiNenno, your new vice-president will lead us to a banner year in 1986. Please extend the same, wonderful cooperation to them that you did to me. The 1986 Reunion Committee, under the able direction of Gerald Pine, is already hard at work, and they will have an excellent program for us at Colorado Springs.

The 8th AF business meeting was exactly what the doctor ordered for the organization. The membership finally seems to have gained the attention of the 8th AF Board of Directors, that we as members do have voices and that we will be heard. The Minnesota Chapter presented a plan for nominations and elections, that if implemented, will give every member a vote to decide who will be elected to the Board of Directors. The votes would be tallied by a private organization, and the results published prior to our annual reunion. Motions from the floor passed with about a 99% favorable vote.

The 8th AF Advisory Committee has been formed to pass on suggestions to the Board of Directors of ideas to improve the Society. I will be the representative from the 34th Bomb Group, and I will be waiting to hear your ideas on what should be done and what should be presented.

Thanks again for the wonderful year, and let us make 1986 an even better year. I hope to see at least 500 of you next year in Colorado Springs. Remember to keep those stories going in to Eli, so that he can keep the paper filled with your interesting stories.

Merry Christmas and A Happy, Healthy, New Year,
Harold Rutka



Hannah and I wish you many happy days for the coming Holiday Season.

Another year has come and gone and the 34th B.G. has grown and will continue to grow with the help of each one of you.

The Wichita Reunion was a success and quite a few of you were there. I think, looking over the list, we had as many new ones present as we had the ones who regularly come. It was good to see you all once again. Sorry we were not able to get a good list of those who were present. We had a registration book sent around on Friday nite at the banquet but it did not get around all the way, so we do not really have an account of all who came. Several of the men came to visit us but did not register. At the next reunion of the 34th, we will have a registration book and you can sign it as you come in. That way we hope to get all the names of those who do come. This way we can recognize those who come, especially those who are there for the first time; at the Saturday nite banquet of the 34th B.G.

It was wonderful meeting all of you at the reunion, sorry I was not able to talk to each of you as much as I wanted to but I assure you I knew you were there.

To me the highlight of the reunion was meeting and talking to my old C.O. of the 18th Sqd., Frank Crabtree. Frank, all the men from the 18th were glad to see you once again, and hope you will come to the next reunion in '86.

Another highlight was meeting an old friend. Remember many of us were ground crew, especially the 18th slept in tents on the flight line. In each tent were 4 men. I was one of the men in one of the tents. At the present time two of the 4 in my tent have passed on. At Wichita, I met the other one, another crew chief from the 18th, Norris Seaton. Norris lives in Oklahoma and came to the reunion for a couple of days, he was one of the unlucky ones who was not able to get tickets but he stayed any way and on Saturday I met him at the air base and we had a long talk about our families and our stay with the 34th B.G. from Blythe to Mendlesham to home. Norris is in business at Oklahoma City and is busy all the time. We had not seen each other in 40 years. I might add I did recognize him after he first spoke to me on Friday night.

Many of you are wondering about Henry and Ruth Jurgens, who had to leave the reunion due to Ruth's illness. Hannah and I called her when we arrived home. Ruth is much better now and says hello to all of you.

I do think the 8th AF banquet on Saturday night was one of the best I have attended. The meal was good and the speaker was very good. I think his talk was a lot shorter than the man who introduced him.

Note the membership application and the color, many of you said you did not see the one last year. I think you will this time. Your dues are due as soon as you receive the newsletter, so why not sit down and write a check for your dues. Send it to me - **RAY L. SUMMA, 2910 BITTERSWEET LANE, ANDERSON, IN 46011**, not to Eli as he has enough to do without collecting dues. The dues are still \$7.50 a year. Maybe next year we will have worked out a LIFE MEMBERSHIP, so you will not have to send it in each year.

I will not say too much about the Reunion of the 34th next year at Colorado Springs as Eli will have an article about it. It was decided to have it at Colorado Springs, Colorado on September 11-14, 1986. We will dedicate our memorial at the Academy while there. The plans are already in the making and the reunion chairman, Gerry Pine, has been to Colorado Springs with some of the others to set up the reunion. This should be a real good reunion so why not make your plans now to attend. Write, call or talk to the members of your crew and get them to come.

You men of the ground crews write to your buddies and get them to come. This reunion is for all of the men and women of the 34th Bomb Group, so get busy and spread the word.

The best to all of you,
Ray L. Summa

OUR NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO

MEMBERS OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION:

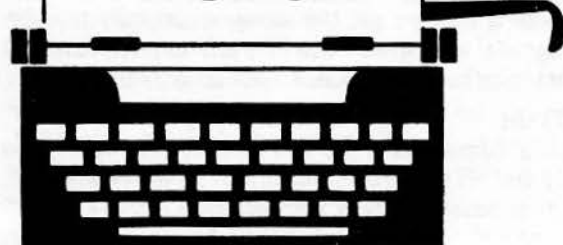
Thank you for the confidence you have expressed in selecting me to serve as your President for the coming year. My theme for the coming year will be "Personal Involvement." The increase in membership during the past few years has been tremendous, but much remains to be done. The only way to reach those who have not heard of the organization and to encourage those who have not attended a reunion is through the personal involvement of all of you.

In 1986 the 34th will again go on our own and have our reunion separate from the 8th as we did in Nashville. Although our numbers continue to grow, there are still holes in our formation. Those of you who know the address of someone who is not a member, send it to Ray Summa in order that he can send them a newsletter. To those of you who have friends and acquaintances who do not attend reunions, I urge you to contact them and arrange to meet them in Colorado Springs in September of 1986.

The 34th was successful in combat because of leadership, dedication, personal commitment and because we looked after our own. Let us again display that same commitment to make the 1986 reunion in Colorado Springs a time for all to remember.

James F. Martin

Notes From Our Friends



JACK BLACKHAM

Maybe the members would like to know that a veteran of the 34th Bomb Gp. was in the AT-6 when it made its fly-over at the monument of the 34th in England in June. It was me.

In 1983, my wife and daughter and I made a trip to England to re-dedicate the new monument to the 34th. I was in the crowd when Eddie Edwards made his fly-over in the AT-6. Later he invited us to his home and we became friends. Over the time span we have corresponded. So, in June of this year when my brother and his wife and I went to England, we stayed four days in Ipswich. We met with Eddie and he became our tour guide around the Ipswich area. On the morning of the monument ceremonies he asked if I wanted to fly with him. Of course I did, and what a thrill.

ED LONERGAN

Will be unable to attend the reunion in Wichita. My wife is going to Australia to see our daughter and 2 grandchildren (a new baby girl, June 14) and will be returning to St. Louis on Oct. 19th. You can understand why I will be absent. Will try hard for 1986.

If anyone shows up from Byron Sheesley's crew, 7th Sqdn., give them my best and advise that I'm alive and well. Retired from the cement business Aug. 1st after 37 years and I'm enjoying it to the utmost. Best wishes to all of my friends in the 34th.

JOHN BOYSUN

I was relieved after reading Bill Hart's comments as to what happened to his crew. Harold Bushey, the flight engineer, and I went thru basic training gunnery and flight engineer schools together. I heard from other crews that two chutes were seen but I never knew what really happened until I read Bill Hart's comments. After 41 years I know what happened to my friend and buddy, Harold Bushey. Thanks, Bill.

IAN HAWKINS

Thank you very much, indeed, for the truly beautiful United States flag and accompanying certificate. It will be flown over the Memorial Museum and is of special significance because it was sent to us by veterans of the 34th Bomb Group, the oldest bomb group in the 8th Air Force.

It was a great pleasure for us to see you all in June. The 34th were very lucky with the weather because it's been the hottest summer on record in Britain.

Mary and I had a 3 week holiday in California and Seattle (July 11-30). We had a marvelous holiday (our first for 8 years) and we have never known such kindness as we experienced in your great country. Thank you again. Best wishes from all at your Memorial Museum.

DOUG RODDY

Great to receive the news again. Think you and Ray are doing great!

BOB KORF

It was really great to hear the news about the 34th BG again. I had been looking for Johnny Soler for at least five years with no results. There are some guys that you think will get killed but Johnny Soler was not one of them. He was my best friend all through flight school and combat. It shook me up to find out that he had been killed.

As far as health goes, if I felt any better I couldn't stand it! (Although any of us could drop dead any minute). Thanks again. I probably will not attend the reunion in Wichita, but will attend the 34th Bomb Group **only** reunion.

JOE EDWARDS

This is a letter of thanks for your accepting the responsibility for producing and distributing "Mendlesham Memories" - M & M - they don't melt in your hand but they do melt the tear ducts occasionally.

MARY (HANK) LAMBERT

Just a note to tell you that Hank has had a stroke, it happened Sept. 29th. His address is Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Ward 5A, Andrews A.F.B., MD 20331.

He is doing much better than the doctors thought he would. Fortunately his brain and speech are O.K. - speech somewhat difficult but you can understand him and he is better every day. He is doing very well with his leg, but not much action with his arm or eye yet. Really too soon to tell if they will come back. His attitude is great. He works very hard at the therapy. He isn't discouraged yet.

DEXTER JORDAN

It was great to see so many of the old gang again. Beulah and I think this was one of the best yet for the Eighth. Most of our group were together away from the big crowd. This helped us find each other. We also enjoyed the banquet so much more because there was plenty of room to move around. Was a little disappointed to miss the air show, but the weather cooperated great for the rest of the time.

WARREN KILEY

The trip to England was great and it was a pleasure to meet other people of the 34th. We are lucky to have a chap like Ray as a contact man. I couldn't make the Wichita reunion but I was there in spirit. I plan to make the one next year (the good Lord willing).

W.N. "PETE" GRAY

We sure had a fine get-together, didn't we? Missed some of the old familiar faces but quite a few new ones showed up. Almost didn't make it out there myself - had some surgery (two operations if you will) less than 3 weeks before the reunion! Was hoping to drive there but the doctor said **no** - too many bumps in the road, and, he said, I could go only if I flew or walked. I flew.

Continued to page 4

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.)

Saw Earl Vannater again for the first time in over 40 years. He looked real good except for his hair, or, rather, the lack of it. Everything at the reunion seemed to be well planned and all went very smoothly, especially the 34th end. Couldn't help noticing the difference in the business meeting of the 8th AFHS and that of the 34th. The 8th bunch seemed to be very unhappy about a lot of things. There seemed to be a difference of opinion on quite a few subjects while the 34th meeting was just the opposite. Everybody was content with the way things were going and complete harmony prevailed. Which shows you what a group of unselfish, dedicated people can do.

The hotel accommodations were excellent and the food, although different from what I'm used to, was extremely good. Had trouble with only one thing while there. Got locked in the stairway while trying to get to the bar. The bar was on the sixth floor and my room was on the eighth. Was stuck in there for over an hour before some kind soul finally came by and let me out. And where do you think I came out? In the bank office across from the hotel. Haven't yet figured out how that happened! Didn't tell Randy Martin about this - he would have sworn I had been imbibing too much, but I was on my way to the bar, not coming back from it!

HOWARD MARM'S sister HELEN NUSBAUM

Howard is still in a nursing home but will talk some about his Air Force days. He seems pleased to get the newsletters and we discuss them. Please continue to use my mailing address and I will see that he gets the mail. It sounds as if your reunions are great!

ROLLAND "Rolly" WHITED

"Queenie" was the plane flown by my crew from D-Day to about the latter part of November, as I remember. We flew 26 missions in the B24 "Queenie" and then we switched to the B-17 (also named "Queenie") and we flew 8 more.

I was in the 391st Sqdn. while my brother, Dick, was in the 7th under Maj. Roy Tavasti. Our crew was away at what we called the "Flack Shack" when Dick's plane went down. He is buried in the U.S. Military cemetery Neuville-en-Condroz.

My thoughts were with you as you met in Wichita for the '85 reunion. I wished I might have been there. Trust you had a great time. Thanks again for sending the group newsletter and the 34th Roster.

JIM BOULDIN

Since joining the Assn. I have talked with Lloyd Borren, Charles Attridge, and Harold Henson - All of us from the 18th Sqdn. - Maj. Crabtree, C.O. We flew 13 missions in B-24, then went into B-17 for the remainder of tour.

Just a couple of nights ago, I spoke with Vernon Ames, a pilot out of the 7th Sqdn. We had a lot of our training together at Biggs Field, El Paso. Believe you met him at the Mendlesham reunion. My Regards.

CHARLES B. O'HARA

This is only the second time since Sioux Falls in 1945 that I've had contact with anyone from the 34th. A couple of years after the war, I met William "Slim" Reynolds in New Jersey.

In 1980, while on a trip in the U.K., I drove to Mendlesham. The impressions and emotions expressed in the "Mendlesham Memories" on your reunion there were in many ways similar to my own.

DOROTHY S. LOTTMAN

Friends sent me the notice that you are trying to locate members of the 34th Bomb Group for a reunion. I was married to Homer G. Cozzens at that time. After the war, we moved to Farmington NM, where he established a construction business.

Coz developed cancer and passed away Dec. 10, 1970. I wanted to pass on this information to you and wish you all a good reunion.

SAM BAGLIO

Just a short note to tell you how much we both enjoyed having had the opportunity to associate with the gang. It was fun and we enjoyed every minute of it.

Here's hoping that we get the same opportunity to enjoy more of the same at future reunions. The efforts you fellows put into these get-togethers, I'm sure, do not go unnoticed.

BILL STROTT JR.

My father at present is in the V.A. Hospital. His eyesight is failing rapidly and his will to continue is also on the downgrade. Since my mother passed away in '83, his desire to carry on with his life just isn't there. We have closed his apartment permanently and have changed his mailing address to ours. (See address changes) Should he start to improve, the VA will put him into a nursing home, but we don't know when that will be. I read the Mendlesham Memories to him and he enjoys the remembrances.



Randy Martin in front of church at Mendlesham.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

As WWII was drawing to a close, millions of Dutch people were facing death by starvation. A daring plan, conceived by the British, was put into effect to feed those starving brave friends. The plan was called "Operation Manna" by the R.A.F. and "Operation Chowhound" by the 8th Air Force. Our unit participated in these vital food drops. There is now an organization formed of all those who, in any way, participated in the operations. If you were ground crew, air crew, headquarters personnel, or in any other way, even remotely, connected with "Chowhound" please write:

INTERNATIONAL MANNA/CHOWHOUND BROTHERHOOD

Bob Cooperman, U.S. Chapter Representative

17 Alden Avenue

Syosset, NY 11791

You will then be listed as a member of the group and news will reach you about the various chapters of the Brotherhood.

Continued to Page 5

The purpose of the group is to perpetuate the memories and history of this little publicized event. The Dutch people do not want to forget what was done for them during those dark days of WWII.

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I am doing some research for the National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior, which deals with attrition rates, etc. of B-24s, mainly those of the 34th B.G. The following questions answered could be of much help to me in my report:

1. When did the 34th B.G. arrive at and finally depart Salinas, CA?
2. How many B-24s were in the group?
3. Do you recall ever making practice bombing runs at a range on San Miguel Island off the Southern California coast?
4. How many B-24s were lost from the 34th while in training at Salinas?

If you can answer any of these questions please contact:

Mr. R.W. Koch
2444 Charlemagne Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90815

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FROM THE GRAPEVINE:

Ray Grinrod had a triple by-pass operation.

Fred Tawa came out of the hospital in June after a five month stay.

Richard Peters suffered a heart attack.

Bill Creer was in the hospital with an attack of angina - out now and joined us at the Wichita reunion.

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From Dave Dynan:

I've got some exciting news for the members of the 34th Bomb Group. The National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, N.Y. is purchasing a B-17G in flying condition (an ex-forest fire bomber from Arizona), and plan to restore it to military configuration and keep it flying. It will be the only airworthy example east of the Mississippi. Arrival time is not set yet, but should be sometime in November. Anyone interested in helping out in any way with this project, or just interested in the museum should contact:

The National Warplane Museum
Box 5
Geneseo, New York 14454

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I am in the process of putting together a "Museum" in memory of the men of the 8th USAF, who sacrificed so much in the name of "Freedom." I would be honored to have any items of your Bomb Group in the museum. If you have any photos, sqdn. patches, or any items related to the 34th that you'd care to send, mail to:

Mr. J. Fleming
40, Munro Ave.
Kilmarnock
Ayrshire
Scotland
Kai:2NT

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Let's all give a pat on the back to our own Ed "Ollie" Olsen, who took it upon himself to help someone out. It seems that Don Coates, from another bomb group, was at the reunion in a wheelchair. Ollie assisted Don into the bus for the trip to the air base, then loaded his wheelchair on the bus, and when they arrived at the base, cornered an active duty bird Colonel who lent Don an electric golf cart for the day. Ollie then took charge of Don all thru the show at the base. Good show, Ollie!!

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The church at Mendlesham, England, is searching for names of all 34th Bomb Group personnel who died while in service at Mendlesham. They hope to make a commemorative plaque honoring them there. Please submit all names to Ray Summa at 2910 Bittersweet Lane, Anderson, IN 46011.



Ben LeBailly and Curtis E. LeMay at Seattle in July, 1985.

A Visit to Maddingly

*I stood there amid the crosses
And everywhere I looked
I saw more white crosses
Thousands had been booked.....*

*I stood there in the shadow
Of a wall carved full of names
I read the lists there printed
And know not why I came.....*

*It is little I can say or do
To aid this noble scene
I can only pay respects, you know
To those resting on the green.....*

*Then I look back in history
Less than half a hundred years
The names I read on cross and wall
Rekindle doubts and fears.....*

*I have found no earthly reason
For crosses row on row
Except for human blunders
And you harvest what you sow.....*

G. Pine



Ralph and Marge Bush



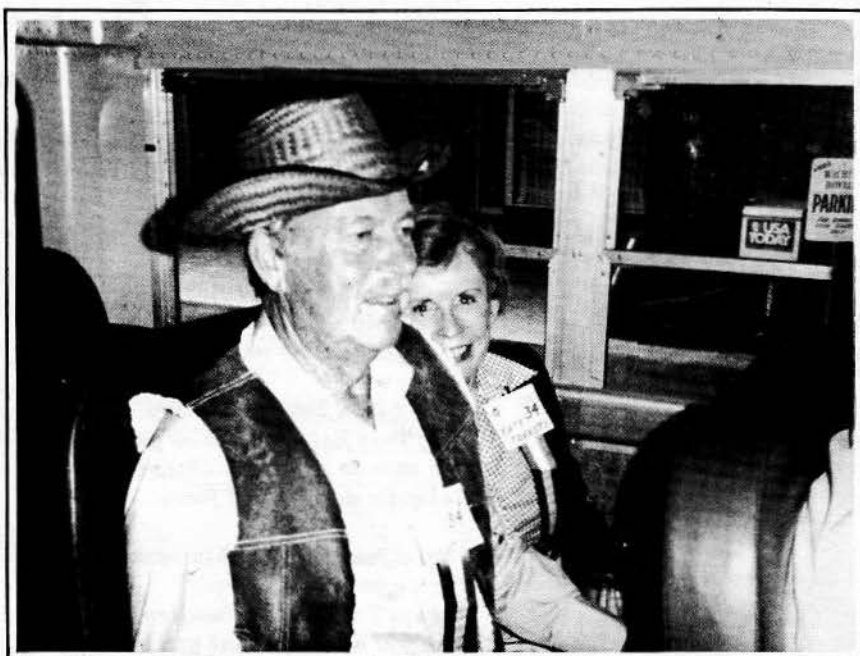
Rose and Eli Baldea



Board of Director's Meeting: Clockwise - Ray Summa, Everett Rose, Dana Schrupp, Bruce Sothern, Jim Martin, Ralph Bush, Miguel Lopez, Gerry Pine, Randy Martin, Ed Lawler, Harold Rutka, Bob Wright.



Hanna



Roy and Kate Tavasti on bus to Cowntown

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Kaye T



Rose and Eli Baldea



"Hal" Province



Ray and Hannah Summa eating



erett Rose, Dana Schrupp, Bruce Pine, Randy Martin, Ed Lawler,



Hannah Summa modeling



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Kaye Timoney and Ed Lawler

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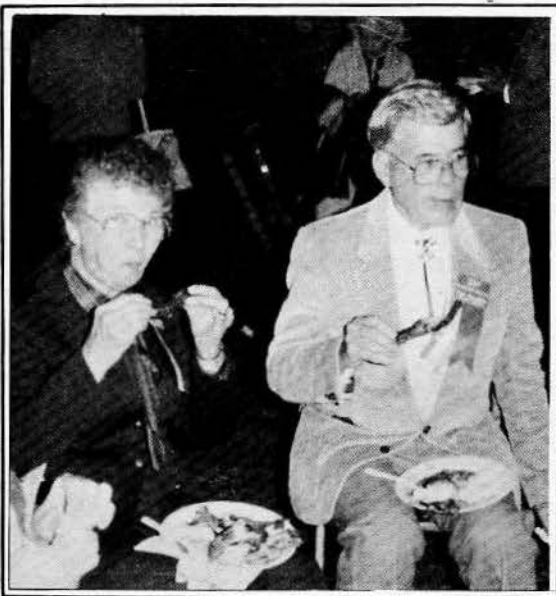
ovince



odeling



Ed Lawler



Ray and Hannah Summa eating at Cowtown



Wally and Jane Felker



Bob and Ginny Gradin

R E U N I O N



June Ritchie, Eli Baldea and George Ritchie



Lee Baglio, Maye and Alf Johanson



Verbal and Betty Halcomb



"Pete" Gray and Randy Martin



Four Presidents: Jim Martin, Harold Rutka, Gerry Pine, Bob Wright.



Doug Underwood and Viv and Bill Creer



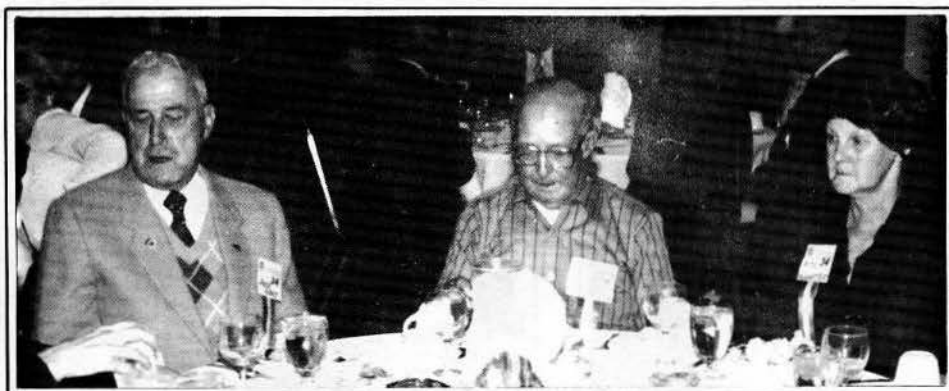
Bob and Esther Wright



Harold and Genevieve Rutka



Our new president - Jim Martin



"Pete" Gray, Earl and Rita Vannater



Claudia Isaacs, Wally Felker, Phil Howard



Sam and Lee Baglio



Gerry and Wanda Pine

ADDRESS CHANGES

Applegate, Ralph, 301 No. Ocean Blvd., #1111 Denniston, Pompano Beach, FL. 33062-5114
 Atwater, Vernon, 1540 Mineola St., #K Williams, Colorado Springs, CO. 80915-1902
 Baglio, Sam, 100 Stevens Lane, Exeter, PA. 18643
 Bialas, Steve, P. O. Box 644, Fullerton, NE. 68638
 Bujalski, Frank, 2911 Bixwell Dr., Suite 206, Hamden, CT. 06518
 Buss, Paul, Rt. 2, Olney, IL. 62450
 Campbell, Thomas, 3421 - 80th St., Jackson Hgts., NY. 11372
 Cessna, Clyde, 3610 So. 56th St., Lincoln, NE. 68506
 Culver, Douglas E. Rev., Rt. 1, Box 119D, Washburn, WI. 54891
 Derenge, Michael, 88 Berkshire Rd., Baltimore, MD. 21221-6917
 Felker, Walter J., 4329 N. Lake Orlando Pky., Orlando, FL. 32808
 Forister, Carroll, 515 So. Geyer Rd., Kirkwood, MO. 63122
 Forsman, Don, 3107 Boulder, Odessa, TX. 79762
 Gardner, Merlin, 2435 Laura, Wichita, KS. 67216
 Garland, Neal, 1038 Hunters Creek Road, DeSoto, TX. 75115
 Giardini, Al., 141 Cedar Hollow Rd., Ft. Mills, SC. 29715
 Gorski, Clarence, 10901 North Star Way SW, Tacoma WA. 98498
 Green, Howard L., P. O. Box 9241, Ft. Worth, TX. 76107-0241
 Howard, Philip, 10844 Harborside Dr., Largo, FL. 33543-5459
 Kelley, Dwight, 3825 So. Seneca, Lot 26, Wichita, KS. 67217
 Korf, Robert, 3165 Newcomb St., San Bernardino, CA. 92404
 Lister, Rt. 5, Box 434, Dade City, FL. 33525
 Nelson, Henry, P.O. Box 1335, Estes Park, CO. 80517-1335
 Owens, John, 2423 Old Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY. 14304-4549
 Palmer, Kenneth, 4 Roberts Road, Simsbury, CT. 06070
 Palmer, Raymond, 337 So. Brookside, Wichita, KS. 67218
 Palmitter, Randall, 5839 Lyman Rd., Battle Creek, MI. 49017
 Palutti, Anthony (Mrs.), 1393 Fern Ave., Schnectady, NY. 12306
 Polvika, John, 221 E. 7th St., Anchorage, Alaska, 99501
 Rice, Ernest, P.O. Box 150772, Nashville, TN. 37215
 Rockwell, Richard, 61 East 2nd Ave., W. Liberty, IA. 52776
 Rogers, Buck (Mrs.), 4218 W. Main St., Mims, FL. 32754
 Rogers, Evan, 821 Via Lentera, Tucson, AZ. 85718
 Romero, Cleveland, 1008 Carmel Ave., Lafayette, LA. 70501
 Rossi, Patrick, 2325 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY. 14225-2822
 Schrupp, Dana, 1615 South Black #83, Bozeman, MT. 59715
 Squyres, Eddie (Mrs.), 2822 Durant, Midland, TX. 79705-4813
 Steiner, Robert, 3112 Q Street N.E., Washington, DC. 20007-3027
 Strott, William J. Sr., 4785 Giese Dr., Pittsburgh, PA. 15227-1401
 Tetkoski, Theodore, 11 Reid Ave., Monessen, PA. 15062
 Trapani, Joseph, 17421 Matinal Dr., San Diego, CA. 92127
 Trauernicht, Carl Jr., 68 Clermont Lane, St. Louis, MO. 63124
 Underwood, Douglass L., 1252 C. Bassett Dr., Montgomery, AL. 36116
 Whited, Rolland, 430 Evergreen Court, Danville, CA. 94526
 Wilson, Trevett A., 2942 Ember Dr., Ember Inn, Decatur, GA. 30034
 Young, James C., 2018 Glynn Ave., Williamsport, PA. 17701-4319
 Cannock, Tom, 1117 E. 28th St., San Barnardino, CA. 92404



ROSE'S CORNER

I'm flattered by the suggestion to have a column named for me. I don't want anyone to feel as tho' the Baldeas have a monopoly on this newsletter, so please send in your items and we will print them. I would like to start this "corner" by asking "Do you remember when?" - - -

We civilians were asked to turn off all lights, pull the shades or drapes across the windows and keep them that way for an hour. Can't remember what date this was but I do recall that it was very dark outside and this was a weird feeling! We, as young gals, didn't have our "honeys" with us so we felt that this was a very wasted hour!

Do you recall how many hours we stood in lines, hoping that they had enough nylon or silk stockings (with the seams) to sell so that we could buy two pairs, which was the limited amount you could buy?

Send in your recollections. War-time recipes will also be most welcome. Maybe we can put out a cookbook! Come on - we want to hear from you!

Rose Baldea

From Hannah Summa:

Hi, all you gals out there.

Rose Baldea came up with this idea for the ladies to have a column in the newsletter - so here goes.

The reunion in Wichita was great. We had several newcomers this year and we missed our regulars. So ask your hubby to take you next year. It's getting to be like a family reunion.

Ray and I along with Millie and Vern Ames took a side trip to Dodge City after the reunion. Matt Dillon and Miss Kitty weren't there but we enjoyed what we saw. Did they really live and do things that way in the old days? How did they survive without all the gadgets we have now? As always, Ray and I put on a few pounds going to these reunions, so we're on soup and salads for awhile.

Must make this short - don't want to run over into Eli's column. So come on gals - let's not let Rose down and maybe Eli will let us keep this corner.



B-17 on display at McConnell AFB.

NEW MEMBERS

Aldridge, Fredrick P.
1834 Sedgfield Dr.
Cayce, SC 29033

Clune, Patrick J.
9312 Alahambra
Prairie Village, KS 66207

Colley, Walter
801 Norman St.
Arcadia, CA 91006

Coates, Earl J. (A)
5474 Harpers Farm Rd.
Columbia, MD 21004

Demko, John
19 Windaway Road
Bethel, CT 06801

Frengella, Patrick (A)
250 El Dorado Blvd. C119
Webster, TX 77598

Guinn, Byrd Jr.
P.O. Box 505
Maud, TX 74854

Hagler, Kenneth
P.O. Box 464
Garden City, KS 67876

Hajko, Charles V.
42 Electric St.
Worcester, MA 01610

Hardy, Miles
6112 Clover Lane
Richmond, VA 23228

Jones, David P.
5707 Ridgetop Dr.
Gainesville, GA 30501

Krug, Stephen
260 E. Wetmore
Tucson, AZ 75705

Lambert, George F.
6979 Palm Ct. #125 H
Riverside, CA 92506

Dehle, Henry G.
6899 S. Bemis St.
Littleton, CO 80120

Gombos, William
2936 E. Bluebell Ave.
Berea, CA 92621

Noaeill, Kenneth J.
2113 No. Bridge
Albert Lea, MN 56007

O'Hara, Charles
133C Shady Lane Dr.
Tarpon Springs, FL 33689

Pacholski, Robert M.
6551 Edgewater Dr.
Erie, MI 48133

Paxton, Kenneth E.
6402 E. 11th Street
Wichita, KS 67206

Pelly, John
6140 Glennox Lane
Dallas, TX 73214

Pries, Norman F.
119 Dirkson Ave.
West Seneca, NY 14224

Ruzzi, Ermino V.
28 Galton Lane
Willingboro, NJ 08046

Saxen, Robert
511 So. Main
Holstein, IA 51025

Shaw, Avon D. 391
3515 - 92nd St.
Lubbock, TX 79423

Souders, Walter
Rt. 2 Box 195
Fairfield Bay, AR 72088

Tambor, Stanley
3353 Chestnut
Toledo, OH 43608

Tunnell, Fred J.
6314 Crestmont
Dallas, TX 73214

Young, John N.
1714 Hercules St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Perez, Juan
760 E. Court
Dixon, CA 95620

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE WAR



By ELI BALDEA

FROM: JOE EDWARDS:

Bob Lemmen and I had spent an excessive amount of time at the club. Bob had a bike and insisted that he ride me back on the crossbar. After a shaky start we got it started towards our quarters. By using violent evasive action techniques we managed to keep going until we came abeam of the Laundry Shack. Here the driver and passenger became involved in a struggle for control of the bike. The result was two tight 360's and two navigators sprawled in the mud. I walked the rest of the way and have never tried to ride a "drunk" bicycle again.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

From: "PETE" GRAY:

"It's not what you do - it's what you get caught doing!"

It was this kind of attitude that was prevalent down on the flight line where the ground crews had to use many ingenious and unorthodox methods in their efforts to keep the planes flying. Parts were sometimes hard to come by and, as a result, the well-known practice of a "midnight requisition" was often employed. For those of you not familiar with that type of operation, the following is a good example:

By the middle of January, 1945, "Ol' Buddy," a B-17 attached to the 7th Sqdn. of the 34th B.G. had completed 49 missions, but it appeared that making number 50 would be a problem. It seems the starter on its No. 2 engine was out and, for some reason, supply had no replacements on hand. Now, if the engine don't start, the plane don't fly.

But I wasn't about to let that airplane sit on the ground and miss the next day's mission because of that. Somewhere on the base there had to be another starter - if I could just find it. Later that night, when most of the mechanics were down at the mess hall for midnight chow, I got my bicycle and rode across the field to one of the other squadrons. I was looking for an airplane with **real** troubles; one that I knew wouldn't be flying for several days at least. Perhaps one having a missing wing or minus its landing gear. And I found just what I was looking for - one that had two engines off it and some damaged fuel cells!

Now I don't know what squadron it belonged to, but at times like these, you don't get concerned with trivial details like that. It didn't take but a few minutes to remove one of the starters from an engine on the ground in front of the plane. My biggest problem, outside of **not** getting caught, was how to get it back to my plane on the other side of the field. Fortunately I happened to have about 10 feet of rope in one of my pockets which I carried around just for situations like this. I tied the starter, which weighed some 30 lbs., onto the frame of the bicycle where it would swing down between my legs.

As I started down the taxi strip, the bicycle began some erratic movements. It seems every time I pushed down on the pedals, the bicycle would get off balance and the starter would start swinging from side to side. It was all I could do to keep it going in the right direction!

Page 12

By the time I got back to the 7th squadron, I was almost beat. Charlie Smith (Pontiac, Mich.) helped me put it on the engine. We tried it out several times and it worked each time! So we called the plane back in commission and it made its 50th mission the next day. However, for several days afterwards I stayed clear of Capt. Cole, the Engineering Officer, so I wouldn't have to answer any questions about where the starter came from.

Many years later, at the 8th Air Force H.S. convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1982, I was in a bar having a few drinks with some former members of the 34th and I mentioned the story of this "borrowed" starter. One of the group, from the 391st squadron, mentioned that someone had once stolen a starter from him and when I asked him if he had trouble getting another, he replied, "Naw, I just waited until it got dark and went across the field and got me one from some plane in the 7th Squadron!!



Pushing the bus at Stowmarket to get it started.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL MEETING Oct. 18, 1985 Wichita, KS

1. Colorado Springs, CO was chosen as the reunion city for the 34th B.G. in 1986. - Gerald Pine, Chairman.
2. New directors elected - Ed Lawler and Vernon Ames.
3. Suggestions made to have lifetime memberships. Will be instituted in 1986.
4. Recommendation to honor 1st Unit Contact man, Jim Carposis; 1st President, Grady Deatherage; and other key people who have made the organization successful.
5. In addition to the Unit Contact, the immediate past president will be a representative to the 8AFHS Advisory Board.

REUNION 1986

Here we go again! Gerry Pine wasted no time in getting the ball rolling for next year when the 34th B.G. will have their own reunion (separate from the 8th AFHS).

We will be housed at the Clarion Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO from Sept. 11th thru the 14th. It's somewhat earlier than our normal reunion dates but we had to make do with the time span available. Many other organizations had already reserved space there. However, Gerry tells me that Tom C. King and Dana Schrupp are working toward planning a memorable affair. Don't forget, we have a plaque to dedicate at the Air Force Academy. There are many possible activities which Tom and Dana will coordinate for our stay there.

Let's all start planning now to attend. The 34th B.G. always has the best reunions when we go it alone. Reservation forms will be included in the next issue of Mendlesham Memories.



The Air Force Thunderbirds at McConnell Air Force Base.

TAPS

Noble "Doc" Wright, 4th Sqdn., Montgomery, AL
William Beals, Jr., Stanwood, Michigan

LATE REGISTRANTS AT THE WICHITA REUNION

Baughman, Cleo & Freddie
Bess, Leonard & Mrs.
Bialas, Steve & Emily
Forrister, Carroll & Sylvia
Franklin, Wesley
Gross, Robert
Isaacs, Seymour & Claudia
Kelley, Dwight
King, Tom & Tess
Lundeen, Ralph
Lynch, Jack
Palmer, Raymond
Paxton, Ken & Mrs.
Ritchie, George & June
Romero, Cleveland & Henrietta
Saxen, Robert
Seaton, Norris
Shee, Donald
Springer, Robert
Trauernicht, Carl Jr.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Gray

*Mr. Gray barks at Mr. Martin
And Mr. Martin growls at Mr. Gray
You can brag about Virginia
But New England is hard to sway...*

*And we of Massachusetts
Have our tradition and our lore
The likes of which Virginia
Has never seen before...*

*Mr. Gray reminds Mr. Martin
That he missed his beck 'n call
Because he should have settled
Where the spoken language is y'all...*

*If you could have just forgotten
The land of bean and Rye
So states Mr. Gray
You could be as smart as I...*

*Mr. Martin countered with
A determined look and glance
Where I settled, Mr. Gray
Was by choice, not by chance...*

*I absorbed all this bickering
Which I know will never end
You can wager your last dollar
They'll remain the best of friends...*

G. Pine

From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

Pilot, 4th Sq., Crew No. 12, April - Aug 1944

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34th Bomb Group Assn.

A REMEMBRANCE

from the dairy of George Ritchie

June 8, 1944

Things are really happening now. It is "whole hog" for Jerry now, or none. He played one of his "trump cards" on our ace last nite. What a mess!!

The boys were returning from a mission and were circling the field when Jerry struck. It was just after dark and the alarm was given, "All personnel take cover." I was in the sack, asleep and before I completely awoke, I was outside, fully dressed, watching Jerry shoot down one of our boys.

He had followed them home and opened up right in the traffic pattern. It was an awful sight; the boys in perfect formation with their running lights on being shot down over their home base.

Eastman got it first. He didn't have a chance - headed straight for the ground, burning. He crashed on the field and exploded. Flames and smoke poured forth and lit up the whole area.

Jerry came back and strafed the barracks area of the 391st Sqdn. We stood in the open field like fools and watched. The fires on the field grew - a call came in for all hands to report to the line to save equipment. I piled on a jeep with about 20 other men. We arrived to see the personal equipment building going up in flames. What a fire!! We had the task of unloading equipment from non-burning parts of the building. Smoke and flames were everywhere. The fire department had their hands full. We attempted to get most of the non-burnt equipment out. On the other side of the building there was a burning B-24.

Across the field another ship was burning. No one got out. Lt. Mead, a boy I went to school with, lay dead. Guess the others burnt with the ship. As we worked Jerry came back again. This time he was after another plane with the bombardier named Humphreys. At 1400 feet he started burning - 20MM shells cut them from tail to bomb bay. Two gunners, ball and tail, were killed on the first pass. After the second pass fires started in the hydraulic system and the electrical system went out. They had to leave her. Humphreys, the bombardier bailed along with the co-pilot. No word as yet on the navigator, pilot, or the rest of the crew. We watched the ship head down and it came at us. We scattered. It hit short in a farmer's field just off the runway. What an explosion! It lit the sky for minutes.

We went back to our work. There were chutes to be recovered and the boys broke out the windows and passed them outside. "The Chief; (Lt. G. Holmes) was inside doing a good job of directing the recovery. The burning B-24 on the other side of the building was still burning, cooking the ammo, but smoke and water were the main hardships we encountered.

Afterwards, stories were all over. Jerry paratroopers were reported - everyone was on edge. However we went to bed hoping we would be called to fly. We wanted to give them a return call and pay a debt. Four B-24s in less than a half hour from our group. Bandits (Jerry Fighters) were following our group back from France.