



# MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H



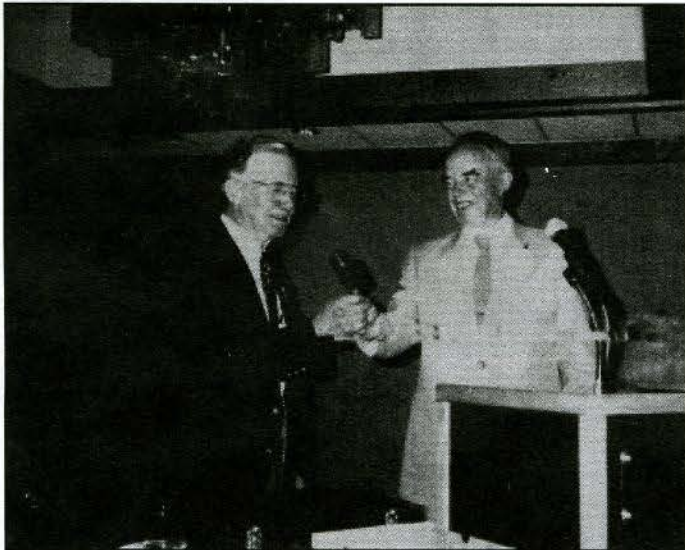
### OFFICERS

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 1st Vice Pres.: John Doronsky ..... (216) 942-4109  
 2nd Vice Pres.: Norman Mayer ..... (714) 842-1521  
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 Archivist: Wallace Brauks ..... (314) 849-3166  
 Past President: Raymond Palmer ..... (316) 686-1228  
 Editor: Eli Baldea ..... (219) 988-4607  
 Paul Shull (P.X.) ..... (816) 356-4630

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dale Finley (98) ..... (812) 793-2463  
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 James Stuthers (00) ..... (813) 493-3768  
 James Martin (Chaplain) ..... (915) 348-3086  
 Robert Wright (Reunion Comm.) ..... (219) 232-4287  
 Harold Rutka (Reunion Comm.) ..... (218) 724-1667  
 Bruce Sothern (Reunion Comm.) ..... (612) 789-2225

## PASSING OF THE GAVEL



Here we show the photograph of Past President, Raymond Palmer, passing the gavel to New President Allen O. Israelsen.

### OBSERVATIONS

Here we are, in the middle of September, as I begin writing this column, for the December issue of Mendlesham Memories, and we are contemplating our visit with all our friends in Omaha in a couple of weeks.

We are looking forward to this reunion as it may be my last as editor of the newsletter. As I have mentioned before, little by little my memory ability is slipping away from me. When Rose and I are driving to a destination which we haven't visited in some time I have to sit and think

of how to get there. Eventually it comes to me but, before we leave, I ask Rose to confirm that it is the correct route. It may not sound very serious but, believe me, having been a World War II navigator, it bothers me. Hopefully it won't get much worse.

That's all I'll write at this time. I will complete my column after we have returned from the reunion. Hopefully I'll have a lot of good stuff to write about.

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Yesterday, Sept. 29th, we returned home from the reunion at Omaha. As is normal, we old people arrived home very tired and glad to be back. I guess it's getting to the point where traveling may soon have to be added to our controlled activities.

Although our reservation was made with the Red Lion Hotel, we found when we got there that it is now a Double Tree Hotel, which evidently took over after we made our reservation. I must say that it is a grand hotel and the room was nice. However, after arriving in Omaha we learned that all businesses there are short-handed and that made service in all areas very slow. The wage rate is much higher than here at home but there just are not enough people available to fill the jobs.

In any case, it was nice to see most of our old friends and spend some time with them. We were disappointed that some we had expected to see there did not show up. My ex-pilot, Walt McAllister, is one we looked forward to seeing again but his wife, Ruby, was not feeling well so they didn't attend. We were happy to meet again with Gen. Bill Creer and his wife. Bill made a short speech at the Sunday night banquet and received a standing ovation from the crowd.

We also enjoyed seeing and talking with Wanda

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## OBSERVATIONS

Continued from page 1

Pine, Gerald's wife. As you might know, Gerry passed away recently and he had been one of our reunion committee and, I might say, did an outstanding job as their leader. Now Bob Wright and Harold Rutka will get another member of the group to fill in as the third member. They may already have one but, at this time, I have no idea who it might be.

This issue, as usual for December, includes many photographs sent to us by attendees at the reunion. We cannot include all which we have received but we try to show those which we think are most interesting to our general membership. I do want to thank all of you who have sent in articles for the newsletter and I do promise to return all photographs sent in.

Also in this issue we have included the minutes of both the board meeting and the general meeting so you will know what is going on with our bomb group, whether you are able to attend or not. I believe it is important for all our members to be kept current on the activities of our group.

I also wish to thank those of you who expressed concern about my health as a result of my mentioning my weight loss in a previous issue. Let me say that the problem is no more. I have stopped losing weight and, in fact, have gained a few pounds. I believe my problem was a bit of depression after I looked at myself in a mirror and wondered what an old man like me is still doing on this earth. That passed when I decided that, with Mendlesham Memories and other activities, I still have some values here. Again, thank you all for being so concerned.

Our March issue will go to press on January 23, 1998. Any material for that issue must have reached me by that date. We try to hold the deadline dates as late as possible but, with the amount of time for typesetting, proof reading, correcting and printing, it takes about five weeks to get out an issue. This means that, at the earliest, the March issue might be in the mail by late February. Please remember - "DEADLINE DATE IS JANUARY 23, 1998!"

Beyond that, both Rose and I want to wish all of you, regardless of religion, the happiest and healthiest holiday season ever. May the GOOD LORD be with you in all your endeavors and bestow upon you and yours all of the good things. Beyond that what else is there?

Thank you all who have written me with encouragement on my efforts. I do try to do a good job. At times I do find it hard to sit at my computer to complete something I have started but, with Rose's urging, I do go on and do the best I can. Thanks again!

"HAPPY HOLIDAYS!"

Eli Baldea  
Editor

## PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great reunion in Omaha, NE., even though the Red Lion Hotel had become the Double Tree Inn, which caused some confusion. It was a beautiful hotel and we were well taken care of. Of course, a lot of the credit for that goes to our great Reunion Committee and their wives. They worked especially hard to get extra tables set up to reduce splitting couples. This is a tough problem we probably will never completely resolve.

We were honored to have General Bill Creer and his wife, Vivienne, with us this year. He spoke to us regarding some of the events that occurred at Mendlesham and asked for all to bow our heads in a moment of silence for our fallen comrades. Vivienne told me that when WWII started they were in Panama and all the men were ordered to fly out immediately, leaving a group of frightened and crying women to fend for themselves. They came back to the States in a freighter with many German submarines in the area. Maybe she will write us an article for the Mendlesham Memories on other experiences as a military wife.

It has been a privilege and an honor to have served as your seventeenth President. It doesn't seem possible it has been that many years. We have met many old and new friends at these reunions and always look forward to them. In the position of President you really come to appreciate the excellent and dedicated people who work on the committees and boards. Without them giving of their time and skills our Association would cease to exist. Bula and I look forward to seeing you all in Boise, ID. in 1998.

Ray Palmer

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our 14th reunion (since the 34th B.G. Assoc. began holding its own reunions at Nashville in 1984) was held in Omaha the last weekend of September. Thanks to the hard working reunion committee members and wives, Harold & Genevieve Rutka, Robert & Esther Wright, with assistance by Wanda Pine. It was another very successful affair. It was an opportunity to get together again with friends from World War II and, for many of us, friends from reunions past. Thanks to Hal Province's continuous searches there were many first-timers there again this year. We were glad to see you and hope you can continue to come to future reunions. About 250 attended this year. The weather was great, the Doubletree Hotel

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### ***Don't Forget To Send Your Dues***

**Mail \$10.00 To: Harold Province  
111 Province Lane  
Carriere, MS 39426**

**Also, please send self-addressed,  
stamped envelope for return mail.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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took good care of us, and we had interesting trips to Boys Town and the Omaha Zoo. The annual fall festival "River Fest" was underway on the weekend we were there adding color of many bands and floats to the streets of downtown Omaha.

An announcement was made at the General Meeting of the project underway at the Turner Publishing Co. to publish a 34th B.G. (H) Volume II Book. Eli Baldea has teamed up with the company in preparing material for this second book - a companion to the first column published in 1988. It will contain over 120 stories collected by Eli over the years. Turner Publishing Co. has mailed a flyer to each of you inviting you to send in a biography, or revised biography, and to order a copy of the book if you wish. It doesn't cost anything to send in a biography (up to 150 words) but the charge for the book will be \$49.95. I urge you all to consider sending in your biography. The more biographies the better in adding to the story of the 34th Bomb Group.

Jack Clarkson informed me in early October that the 34th Bomb Group display case is now installed at the 8th A.F. Heritage Museum at Savannah, GA. The theme for the display is "The Story of the 34th Bomb Group". To complete the display he needs a write-up of a major event for the 34th, a story on the B-24, a story on the B-17 and 8"x10" photos. Jack's telephone number is (912) 352-7367. Material for the display should be addressed: The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA. 31402, Attn: Mary Beth Barnard.

The holiday season is just around the corner. Agnes and I wish you all happy holidays and a good 1998. We look forward to seeing you all at the 15th reunion in Boise, Idaho, September 10th to the 13th.

Al Israelsen,  
President

## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



Here goes an article which you won't read for about two months. I feel I speak for most of those who attended the Omaha Reunion when I say it was another great reunion. The hotel was nice, we had a very good Hospitality Room, and the tour was considerably better than the one at Raleigh (so I was told). There were several first-timers with whom we became acquainted and we are looking forward to seeing them and all of our old friends at Boise, Idaho next year. So start planning

for the Boise Reunion!

The Mighty 8th Heritage Museum has started a data base of 8th AF Veterans and they are looking for your input. There are over 1,000,000 men and women who served in the 8th AF in the last 55 years and the Museum wants to put your record in the data base for future generations to study. The following is a condensed form of the information they are adding to the data base:

Veteran's name .....  
Position (MOS/AFSC) ..... Rank .....  
Grp/Sqd..... SerNo.....  
DO Birth..... Place of B.....  
Name of Base..... AAF No.....  
DO Death..... Place of burial .....  
Scores ..... Record Source .....  
Fighters & Gunners..... (Self or Doc).....  
Awards.....  
Experiences.....

Please return completed form to:

8AFHM Archives, PO Box 1992

Savannah, GA 31402-1992

Feel free to expand the form as needed for your particular case. For our members who are Associate members (widows, sons, daughters, relatives, etc.): if you will fill in whatever data you have, I may be able to add some data from our records (serial number, rank, squadron, etc.). Send whatever data you have to me and I will add any missing data as are available from our records.

Jack Clarkson reported that the 34th was second in line for a display case at the museum (see minutes of the meeting). He recently called and said that the case was delivered and the staff at the museum is starting to work on the display!

The publisher of our 1986 book "34th Bomb Group (H) 1941-1945" is preparing to issue a follow-up volume. Some of you may have already received a brochure describing the proposed volume. Here is your chance to include your biography and pictures (then & now) in case you missed the first volume!

Eli needs room for pictures of the reunion so I'll halt. Jan and I send our best wishes for the approaching Holidays and wish the best for you and yours in 1998. May God abundantly bless!

## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

The reunion committee thanks everyone who attended the Omaha reunion. Our attendance was down from the Raleigh-Durham, NC. reunion. First timers, every timers and every now and then timers expressed their interest in continuing reunions on our own as these reunions are like a family get-together.

Our next reunion will be at the Double Tree Hotel in Boise, Idaho. We would like all of you who attended the 1996 reunion and expressed an interest in Boise to mark your calendars for 10 to 13 September, 1998. This site

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## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

Continued from page 3

was selected by those attending the 1996 annual meeting and the reunion committee worked out the details at Boise.

We will be looking for you all in Boise on the 10th of September, 1998. Our best wishes to all. Thanks again to all who attended the Omaha reunion.

Harold C. Rutka  
Bruce Sothern  
Robert Wright

## RETURN TO MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND IN 1998

The 34th Bombardment Group (H) has authorized a return trip to Mendlesham, England in 1998. The dates are June 4, 5, 6 and 7 - (Departure date June 3, 1998). We will be at the Holiday Inn in Cambridge or a similar hotel at another city, depending on how many attendees the 35th Bomb Group has. The 1996 trip had a number of attendees from other groups that traveled with us. There is the possibility that we could travel with another group. We will visit Mendlesham, the American Cemetery, the Duxford Museum and an air show on June 7th. We will visit RAF Hendon and then three nights at the Copthorn Tera Hotel in London. Price includes all taxes, tips, transfers and van, travel by deluxe motorcoach, all breakfasts and four dinners.

Tamarac Travel will handle our reservations. There will be no mailings to individuals. Contact Tamarac at 1-800-228-9690 or Harold Rutka at (218) 724-1667.

Harold C. Rutka  
England Coordinator

(Note: Reservation forms are included in the back of this issue.)

## 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSOC. COMMITTEES

(For the year Oct., 1997 to Sept., 1998)

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bruce Sothern, Chairman  
James F. Martin, Member  
Walter L. McAllister, Member

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Norman Mayer, Chairman  
Verbal Holcomb, Member  
Wayne Howarter, Member

### ANNUAL REUNION COMMITTEE

Harold Rutka, Chairman  
Bruce Sothern, Member  
Robert Wright, Member

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Harold Province, Chairman  
John (Jack) Farley, Member  
Robert E. Vaughn, Member  
Ambers Hanson, Member

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

### FIRST PLACE WINNER RAYMOND B. JANES GRANDSON OF JOHN R. JANES

From Raymond Janes - I am sending you the pictures of myself and my grandmother, Mrs. Gloria Janes. My name is Blake Janes and I am the grandson of John R. Janes, Sr. Thank you!



### SECOND PLACE WINNER JENNY CAPPS

(Note: Will the grandparents of Jenny please contact  
Eli Baldea.)

From Jenny Capps - I am pleased to accept your generous scholarship award. It will definitely help me further my education and it has given my grandfather pride as well. I thank you for believing in the potential of my generation to make an impact in the future. Education is the key to creating a brighter world of tolerance and respect, where ignorance will disappear forever. Thank you for recognizing my vision.





# Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Held Sept. 29, 1997

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the 34th Bomb Group was called to order by President Palmer at 10 a.m. on Sept. 26, 1997. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Palmer, Chaplain James Martin gave the invocation.

Pres. Palmer asked for a roll call. Those present were: Pres. Raymond Palmer, 1st Vice Pres. Allen Israelsen, 2nd Vice Pres. John Doronsky, Rec. Secr. John Feda, Treasurer and Corr. Secr. Harold Province, Archivist Wallace Brauks, Past Pres. Ambers Hanson, Editor Eli Baldea, Directors Harold Rutka, Claude Conklin, Dale Finley, Norman Mayer, Carl Freysinger and Jack Farley, the Reunion Committee of Harold Rutka and Bob Wright, Chaplain James Martin and James Anderson represented Paul Schull for the PX Committee.

A motion was made by Harold Rutka and seconded by Claude Conklin to accept the minutes of the 1996 board meeting as printed in the December 1996 issue of Mendlesham Memories. Motion carried.

Pres. Palmer called for the PX Financial Report. The report for the 34th Bomb Group Assn. PX as of August 31, 1997, prepared by Paul Shull was given by James Anderson as follows:

Beginning checkbook balance - Sept. 1, 1996		\$112.99
Beginning cash balance - Sept. 1, 1996		96.26
Income - merchandise sold at Raleigh	\$3,381.00	
PX sales by mail	1,367.00	
Total sales for year		\$4,748.00
Expenses - paid to 34th BG Treasurer	\$3,300.00	
PX merchandise purchased	1,303.00	
Postage	107.00	
Supplies	32.00	
Telephone	19.00	
Total paid out		\$4,761.00
August 31, 1997 checkbook balance		123.21
August 31, 1997 cash balance		68.17
Total PX balance		191.38

A detailed report was submitted to the President, the Recording Secretary and to the Treasurer of the 34th BG Association.

A motion was made by Jack Farley and seconded by James Martin to approve the PX report as given. Motion carried.

President Palmer called for the TREASURER'S REPORT. Treasurer Harold Province gave the following report:

34th Bomb Group Association Treasurer's Report as of Sept. 15, 1997:

GENERAL FUND:	1996	1997	Bank
In England	\$394.74	\$380.29	Lloyds
Checking Account	583.90	497.56	Hancock
Money Market Accounts	1,456.26	1,087.01	Hancock
CD's	1,703.48	2,733.05	Edw. Jones
LM Savings		1,116.36	Hancock
Sub-total	\$4,138.38	\$5,814.27	
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:			
Savings	\$3,510.73		
CD	19,748.93	\$24,619.66	Edw. Jones
Sub-total	\$23,259.66	\$24,619.66	
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$5,358.38	\$6,978.98	Edw. Jones
MEMORIAL FUND	\$1,055.89	\$1,055.89	Edw. Jones
GRAND TOTALS	\$33,812.31	\$38,468.80	

As CD's became due during the year they were reinvested where the interest rate was the best.

As of Sept. 12, 1997 the outstanding liabilities were:

Star Printing - printing of the Sept. Mendlesham Memories \$3,118.00

The Hermann Werks - PX materials 251.55

Report respectfully submitted by Harold Province, Treasurer

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## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD SEPT. 26, 1997**

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A motion was made by Harold Rutka and seconded by John Doronsky to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Pres. Palmer announced that the auditing committee of John Doronsky, Verbal Holcomb and Wayne Howarter would meet with Treasurer Province before the general meeting on Sunday to give the general membership an audited treasurer's report.

Eli Baldea asked, "What happens to the funds when we all pass away?" Jack Farley answered by reading the article in our constitution which provides for that eventually.

Pres. Palmer asked for the report of the REUNION COMMITTEE. Harold Rutka has been appointed the chairman for this next year. Gerald Pine passed away this past year so his replacement will be appointed by the President at our general meeting. This person will join Harold Rutka and Bob Wright on the Committee. Harold Rutka explained the agenda for this 1997 reunion. A discussion was held on rates for this reunion. A motion was made by John Doronsky and seconded by Claude Conklin to approve the report as given. The motion carried.

Pres. Palmer called on Harold Province for the SCHOLARSHIP report. There were nineteen applicants this year. The committee of Hal Province, Bob Vaughn and Hilton Vincens used telephone calls to select the winners. The \$1,000 winner was Raymond Janes of Slidell, LA. The \$500 winner was Jenny Capps of Casper, WY. A motion was made by Hal Province and seconded by Allen Israelsen to approve the report as given. Motion carried.

A discussion followed on how members of the 34th get to know about our reunions. It was reported that all individuals on our group's master list (paid and unpaid members) do get the June issue of Mendlesham Memories which includes the registration materials for our reunions. Last summer Harold Province sent notices of our reunion to the Omaha area newspapers.

Jack Farley reported on his efforts to trace back the by-laws to our original charter. When the 34th B.G. Association was organized in Texas in 1980 individuals kept their own records. The original charter and by-laws have been found. The 34th BG Association was incorporated under the laws of Texas on March 5, 1980. The re-write of the by-laws by Jack Farley in 1990 does not contain any conflicts with the original. A motion was made by Harold Rutka and seconded by Bruce Sothern to thank Jack Farley for his efforts and to accept the updated charter and by-laws as authentic. The motion carried.

President Palmer asked for a report from Eli Baldea, editor of Mendlesham Memories. Eli agreed to continue serving as editor as long as he is able and the members keep sending him material to use. Pres. Palmer asked for a round of applause for Eli for his splendid work.

President Palmer had prepared a book for board members to outline their duties. He also included a set of by-laws of the Association.

President Palmer asked for suggestions for the care of the last-man bottle of brandy which came into existence in 1992. A motion was made by Al Israelsen and seconded by Bruce Sothern to place the bottle in the 34th B.G. display at the A.F. Museum in Savannah. Motion was carried.

Jack Clarkson reported on the activity at the 8th A.F. Museum in Savannah. Fourteen bomb groups have their own display cabinets. The 34th B.G. is second on the waiting list. Individual crew plaques can be purchased and displayed. A wall of valor is available for individual names. He suggested that the 34th B.G. plan a reunion in Savannah in the near future.

Harold Rutka announced that our next reunion is scheduled for Boise, Idaho. The Doubletree Hotel will be the reunion site. He also reported that, if enough interest was expressed, another trip to England could be arranged in 1998. He offered to coordinate it if enough interest is shown.

A motion was made by Jack Farley and seconded by Claude Conklin that we check out a 1998 trip to England by soliciting all members by mail. The motion carried.

A further discussion of future reunion sites took place. Harold Rutka informed us that the penalty for breaking the contract with Des Moines for 1999 would be about \$19,000.

President Palmer adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Report by Recording Secretary John Feda

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPT. 28, 1997**

The annual meeting of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by President Raymond Palmer at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Palmer. Chaplain James Martin gave the invocation.

A motion was made by Harold Rutka and seconded by Bruce Sothern to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes of the 1996 meeting as printed in the December, 1996 issue of Mendlesham Memories. The motion was carried.

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPT. 28, 1997

Continued from page 6

## TREASURER'S REPORT: By Treasurer Harold Province

The 34th Bomb Group Association Treasurer's report as of September 15, 1997:

GENERAL FUND	1996	1997	BANK
In England	\$394.74	\$380.29	LLOYDS
Checking Account	583.90	497.56	Hancock
Money Market Accounts	1,456.26	1,087.01	Hancock
CD's	1,703.48	2,733.05	Edw. Jones
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MEMORIAL FUND	\$1,055.89	\$1,055.89	Edw. Jones
GRAND TOTAL	\$33,812.31	\$28,468.80	

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Star Printing, for the printing of Mendlesham Memories	\$3118.00
The Hermann Werks for PX materials	251.55

Report respectfully submitted by Harold Province, Treasurer

A motion was made by Harold Rutka and seconded by Bob Wright to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was carried.

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: by Harold Province

There were nineteen applicants. The first place winner of \$1,000.00 was Raymond B. Janes of Slidell, LA. The second place winner of \$500.00 was Jenny E. Capps of Casper, WY. A motion was made by Harold Rutka and seconded by James Martin to accept the report on the scholarships. The motion carried.

## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT: by Bob Wright & Harold Rutka.

Bob Wright reported 224 in attendance with 126 "no-shows" who had reserved spaces. There is \$16,665.89 in the reunion fund. However, the current bills are still to be paid. Harold Rutka reported that the next reunion will be Sept. 10-13, 1998, at the Boise Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho. The farewell breakfast will be the only event scheduled on Sunday, Sept. 13.

If enough interest is shown a trip to England will be scheduled by Tamarac Travel and coordinated by Harold Rutka for June of 1998. A motion was made by John Doronsky and seconded by Jack Farley to accept the Reunion Committee's report. The motion was carried.

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT: by Bruce Sothern and James Martin.

The slate of officers placed in nomination were:

President - Allen Israelson	Past President - Raymond Palmer
1st Vice President - John Doronsky	Editor - Eli Baldea
2nd Vice President - Norman Mayer	Chaplain - James Martin
Record. Sec. - John Feda	Board (1998) - Edward Lonergan
Treas/Corr. Sec. - Harold Province	Board (2000) - Kenneth Paxton
Archivist - Wallace Brauks	Board (2000) - James Stuthers

President Palmer called for any nominations from the floor. None were offered. A motion was made by Harold Rutka and seconded by Jack Farley to accept the slate of nominees and instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate presented. The motion was carried.

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPT. 28, 1997

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Editor Eli Baldea requested that all pictures from the banquet be sent out to him no later than Oct. 24, 1997.

President Palmer asked that all first-time attendees stand and be welcomed and recognized.

Mark Thompson of Turner Publishing explained their plans to publish an updated history of the 34th Bomb Group. It will contain the mission stories that have appeared in Mendlesham Memories. It will also include a resume of the past reunions. If you have not submitted your biography please do so in 150 words or less. The publication date will be late summer of 1998. The cost of the book will be \$49.95.

President Palmer reported that he would send the last-man bottle to Savannah with Jack Clarkson for display in the 8th A.F. Museum.

Jack Clarkson reported on the activity at the 8th A.F. Museum in Savannah. 5,000 members have used the Museum for their respective reunions. One million names are in the archives at Savannah that can be used to locate KIA individuals. Display cases for bomb groups cost about \$17,500 each. Crew Plaques cost about \$750.00. The membership of the 8th AFHS is currently about 17,000.

A motion was made by Hal Province and seconded by John Doronsky to have the Reunion Committee consider Atlanta, GA. for some future date. The motion passed.

General William Creer was introduced and spoke briefly about the role of the 34th in the gruesome war. He promised additional comments at the banquet.

President Palmer adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Reported by Recording Secretary John Feda

## 'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the group  
The big wheels and wing were grinding out poop.  
The bombers were parked on their hardstands with care  
Waiting for ammunition soon to be there.  
The fliers were nestled all snug in their beds  
While visions of milk runs danced in their heads.  
When out of the darkness there came quite a knock.  
We cursed the O.D. and looked at the clock  
Briefing will be in two hours he said,  
And if you're late you'll wish you were dead.  
Time marches on and the minutes fly by  
So, it's out of our beds to get ready to fly.  
We rushed to the mess hall as quick as a flash  
And ate powdered eggs with hideous hash.  
Then a long bumpy ride to the group briefing room  
Where the big wigs preside and dish out our doom.  
The target is told and the first six rows faint  
For 'lo and behold - Berlin it ain't.  
The brains had slipped up - oh my poor arching back,  
We're bombing a place that throws up no flak.  
So, it's back to the truck and off to the line.  
The road is now smooth and the weather is fine.  
The crew is at stations - and the checklist is run.  
The engines run smooth as we give her the gun,  
Then suddenly the pilot wails in despair,  
Look at the tower, they just shot a flare.  
We dash to the window with a heart full of dread.  
The pilot is right - and the darn thing is red.  
So, it's back to the sack and we sweat out our fate,  
For there's a practice formation at a quarter past eight.

(Author is unknown)

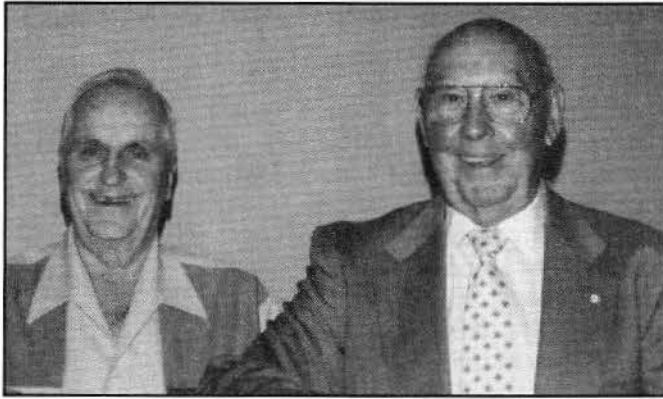
PS - the Christmas Day 1944 mission was scrubbed and several 486th BG members left to spend the day with the families of their English friends.



# REUNION ATTENDEES

Donald F. Allen	Alf Johanson
Maury & Lois Anderson	Dexter & Beulah Jordan
Paul & Beryl Anderson	Ed & B. Loneragan
Charles F. Attridge	Ralph Lundeen
Bud & Lucille Babcock	James & Bettie Martin
Eli & Rose Baldea	Norman Mayer (with guest Marci Campbell)
Roy & Mildred Ballantyne	William E. McDannold
Charles & Roberta Barclay	Melron & Betty McSpadden
Thomas & Madeline Belleau	Paul & Twyler Meeder
Don & Barbara Benscoter	Richard Merrell
Leonard & Helen Bess	George & Faye Miller
John & Marge Bloczynski	Fred & Ginny Muenta
Lloyd & Bobbie Boreen	Donald & Eleanor Navarre
Wallace & Doris Brauks	Robert & Spouse Nendel
Bill Browne (with guest Bette Rickbeil)	John & Margaret Northrup
Merlin & Patricia Bruning	Raymond & Bula Palmer
Ben & Mary Buckley	Russell & Vera Paulnock
Francis Bujalski	Ken & Kathleen Paxton
Bill & Margo Burnell	Wanda Pine (with guests Dennis Pine & Joan Koller)
Ralph & Marge Bush	Arnold & Georgia Prillaman
Jack & Dorothy Clarkson	Harold & Jan Province
James A. Clemins	Russell & Martha Reed
Junius & Virginia Cobb (with guest Betty Graves)	Floyd & Miriam Richmond (with guest Thelma Warfield)
Steve, Donnelle & Darlene Collins	Conrad & Patricia Ricker
Claude & Genevieve Conklin	Sid Rockmuller (with guest Hannah Schub)
Harry Crawford	Cleveland & Henrietta Romero
William E. & Vivienne Creer	Everett & Margo Rose
Fr. Douglas E. Culver	Herbert & Dorothy Roy
Louis & Vincent DeSantis	Harold & Genevieve Rutka
Lawton & Joan Dooley	Vern & Juanita Santas
John Doronsky (with guest Bev. Stearns)	Frederick & Clara Schoch
John & Bernadette Farley	Robert & Jennie Schroeder (with guest Ronda Rannstrom)
Dick & Kitt Fay	Jack & Marian Share
John & Betty Mae Feda	Don & Bonnie Shee
Herman & Nancy Fieber	Paul & Pauline Shull
Donald & Betty Fillman	Robert & Betty Simpson
Dale & Margie Finley	Ronald & Martha Simpson
Carrol & Sylvia Forister	Frank & Alda Sivret
Dale & Esther Frank	J.C. Smith
Carl & Imogene Freysinger	Bruce & Muggs Sothern
Claude & Audrey Gibbs	Carl & Peg Stemen
John & Helen Green	David & Ethel Stiver
Willis Griffis	Richard & Eileen Stouffer
Frank R. Griffith	D.L. & Evelyn Stufflebeam
Bryant & Myrtis Grimes	Walter & Lois Sturdivan
Tony & Joan Habiger	James & Kathryn Stuthers
Robert E. Ham	Henry & Audrey Tobiason
Joy B. Hanrihan	William & Phyllis Van Buskirk
Ambers & Jean Hanson	Frederick & Blanche Voss
Glenn & Vera Henry	John M. Vronz
Robert & Marion Hess	Oral Walker
Pop & Lula Mae Hetherington	Fred & Rachel Waltz
Verbal & Betty Holcomb	Harold & Evelyn Williams
Wayne & LaVerne Howater	Sam & Peggy Wolstencroft
Harry & Betty Hunter	Joseph & Marilyn Wong
Lloyd & Marla Inman	Robert & Esther Wright
Al & Agnes Israelsen	Tom & Louise Wright
Mike & Margie Jacobbausk	Charles Yockey
Eugene & Helen James	Benjamin & Edith Zeldes

## THE WORKERS



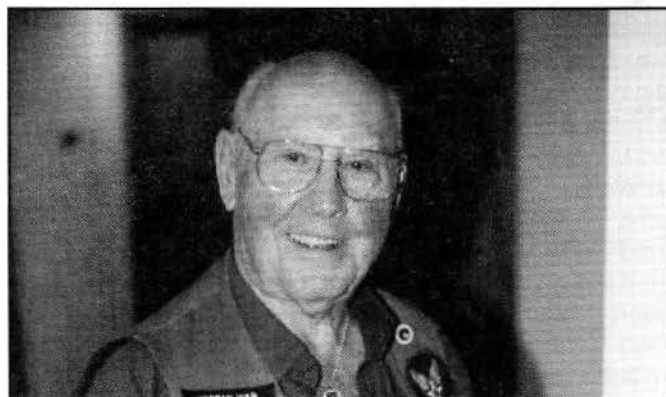
Harold Rutka & Bob Wright (Bartenders & Reunion Comm.)



Wanda Pine at the reception desk.

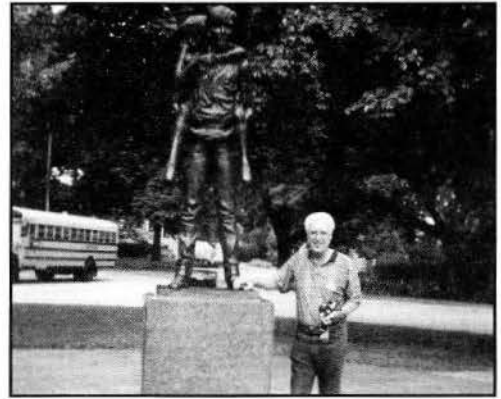


Esther Wright at the reception desk.



Bob Wright selling raffle tickets, (as usual).

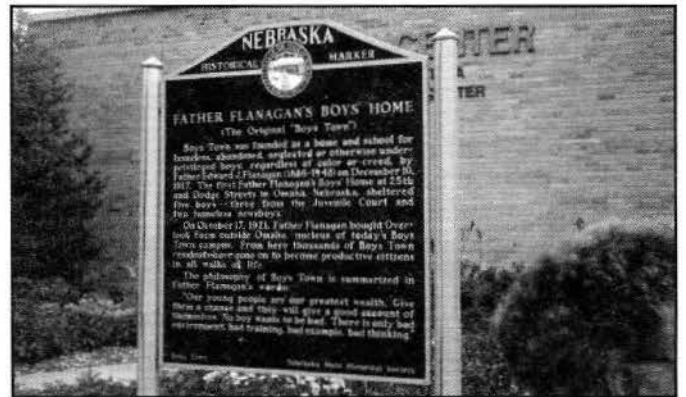
## THE "TOUR"



Norm Mayer



Saturday Parade



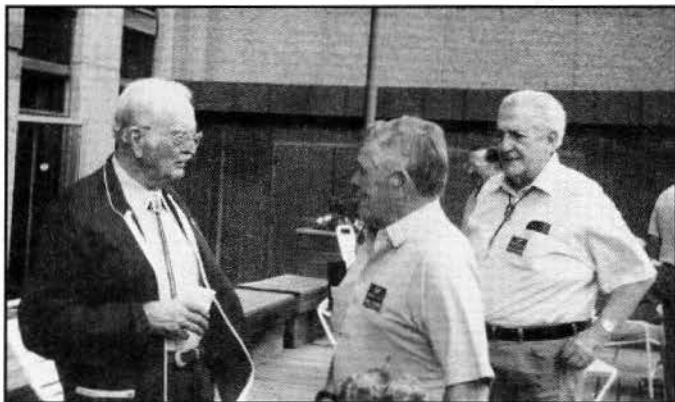
Plaque at Boys Town



Part of our group on one of the tour buses.



# "LEISURE TIME"



L. to R.: Bill Creer, Carl Stemen, Walley Brauks.



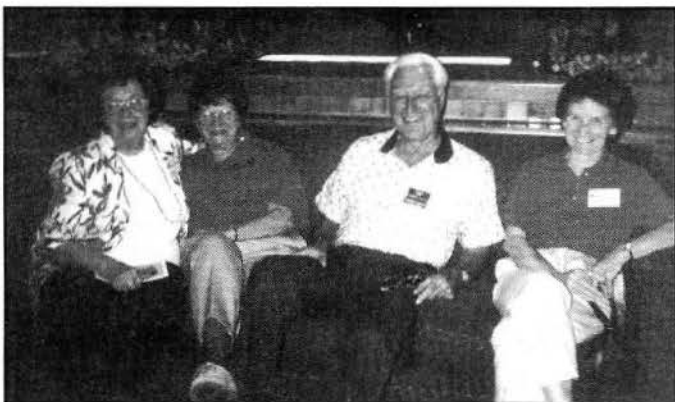
Leisure time on the balcony.



Vivienne & Bill Creer



Marci Campbell, Wanda Pine & Genevieve Rutka.



L. to R.: Rose Baldea, Virginia Cobb,  
Norm Mayer & Betty Graves



Genevieve Rutka with Tony & Joan Habiger and  
Bobby Boreen in the hospitality room.



Eli Baldea & Marian Share



Norman Mayer, Marci Campbell, Harry Crawford,  
Willis Griffis and Joy Hanrihan

# "GALA BANQUET"



Pres. Al Israelsen Addressing the group at the banquet.



Jan & Harold Province, Jim & Bettie Martin & Wallace Brauks



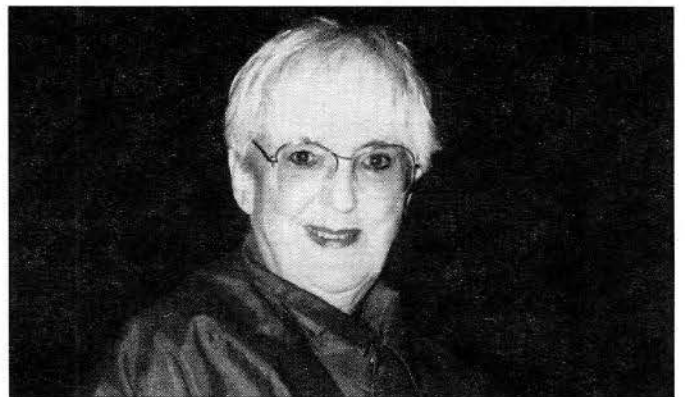
Al & Agnes Israelsen



Mel & Betty McSpadden & Charles Attridge



Jack & Bernie Farley



Doris Brauks



Bula Palmer with Rose and Eli Baldea.



Don Allen with John & Marge Bloczynski



# "GALA BANQUET"



Bill Browne & Bette Rickbell



Jack & Dorothy Clarkson



Francis Bujalski



Marilou & Robert Hess with Bev Stearns & John Doronsky



Claude Conklin & Genevieve Conklin



Joan & Ed Dooley with Don Allen



Junius Cobb, Willis Griffis, Harry Crawford & Marci Campbell



Betty Feda & John Feda

# "GALA BANQUET"



Sylvia & Carrol Forster



Glenn & Vera Henry



Nancy Fieber & Herman Fieber



Tony & Joan Habiger



Imogene Freysinger & Carl Freysinger



William McDonald - Bryant & Myrtis Grimes



Dale & Esther Frank



Beryl Anderson, Dolly and John Green



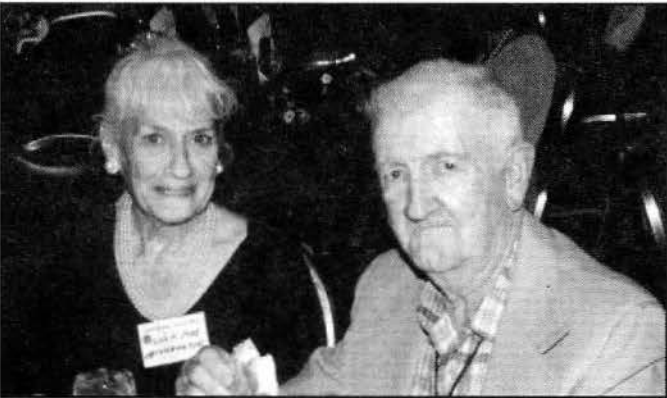
# "GALA BANQUET"



Jean & Ambers Hanson with Betty & Verbal Holcomb



Dexter & Beulah Jordan, J.C. Smith & Twyla & Paul Meeder



Bill & Lula Mae Hetherington



Betty Graves with Ralph (Pappy) Lundeen



Donald & Barbara Benscoter with Lois & Maury Anderson



Fred & Ginny Miente with Birgit & Ed Lonergan

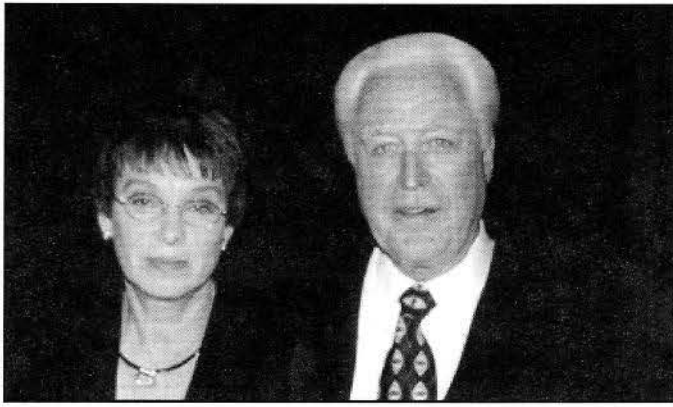


Dorothy & Bob Nendel



Lois Sturdivan with Melvon & Betty McSpadden

# "GALA BANQUET"



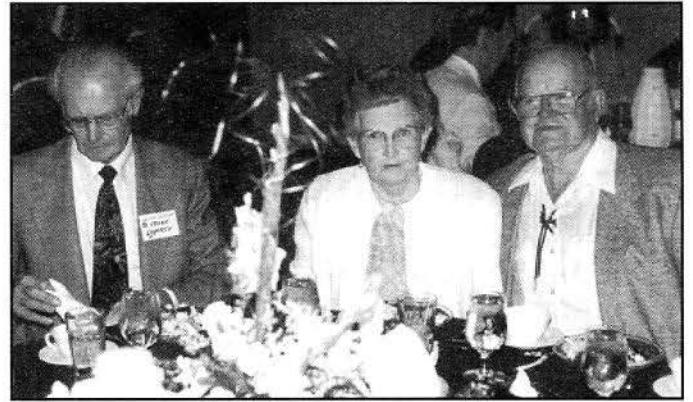
Marci Campbell & Norm Mayer



Harold & Gen Rutka



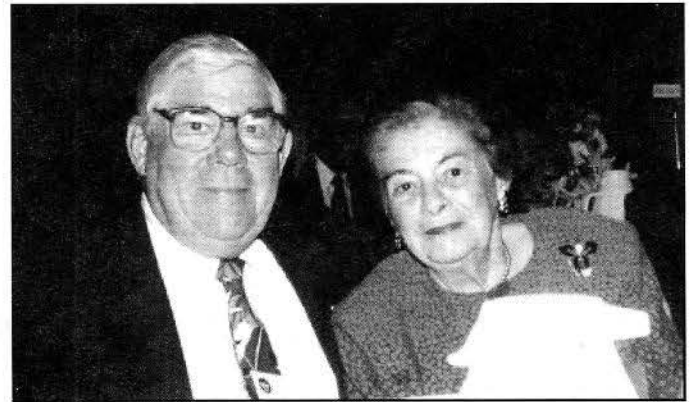
John & Margaret Northrup



Frank Griffith with Miriam & Floyd Richmond



Wanda Pine



Herb & Dotty Roy



Dennis & Joan Pine



Cleveland & Henrietta Romero

# "GALA BANQUET"



Martha & Russell Reed



Miriam & Jack Share



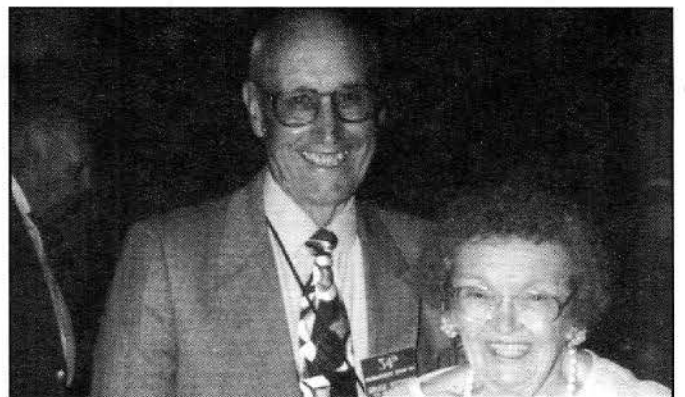
Pauline & Paul Shull



Don & Bonnie Shee



Lois & Walter Sturdivan



Bruce & Muggs Sothern



Carl & Peg Stemen



Blanche Voss & Fred Voss



# "GALA BANQUET"



Bill & Agnes Van Buskirk with Roberta & Charles Barclay



Ben & Edith Zeldes



Robert & Esther Wright



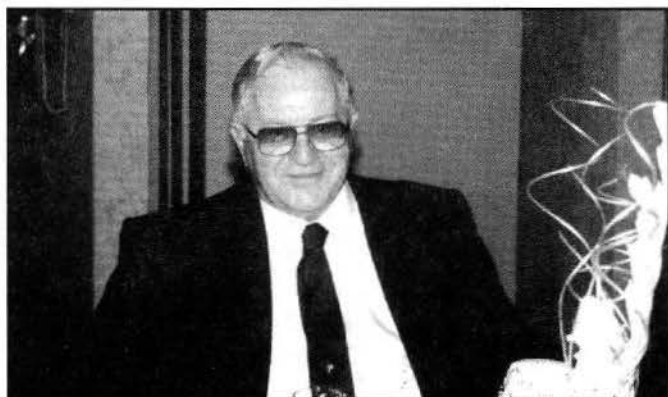
Dorothy & Bob Neville



Harold & Evelyn Williams



Ethel & Dave Stiver



Bob Yockey

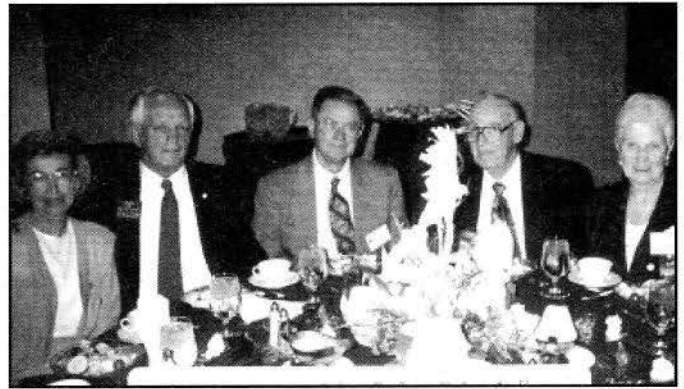


Ge. Bill Creer, Vivienne Creer, Ray Palmer

# "GALA BANQUET"



Miriam & Bennett Richmond



Betty Mae Feda, John Feda, Robert Ham,  
"First Timers" Don & Eleanor Navarre



Margie & Dale Finleuy with Frank Griffith



Phyllis Van Buskirk, Martha Reed, Roberta Barclay, Betty  
Simpson, Agnes Israelsen



Evelyn & Donald Stufflebeam



Ralph Lundeen ( Pappy), Betty Graves  
& Jenny & Junius Cobb



Clara & Fred Schoch



Bernie & Jack Farley, Marilyn & Joe Wong, Paul & Beryl  
Anderson, Dolly & John Green, Pauline & Paul Shull



## ROSE'S CORNER

To all our friends, Greetings!

This should reach you before Christmas and I hope that you are more prepared for the holiday than we are! It has been a very strange year here on the southern-most tip of Lake Michigan. Our trees, which are usually absolutely gorgeous, seem to be holding on to their green leaves, allowing a few red and some gold to show through. Last year we were the showcase of most regions in Indiana.

September has come and gone and we must thank the Reunion Committee for doing the best they could with what Omaha had to offer. We must admit that the Double Tree Hotel is a very impressive place and a very accommodating one. I wonder what foreign guests thought when opening their closet door and saw the iron and ironing board there. We had very good service with room cleaning but must complain about trying to get into our room with a card. This card had to fit into a slot and pushed down. Voila! Door is supposed to open. No! You must think there and figure out whether the card had to be turned over or upside down. This took about three minutes at which time the young Vietnamese worker walked over and showed us how to open the door. The same thing happened again and again. Give me a KEY!

We had a very pleasant tour around the Boys Town Village. The surprise was the very lovely location for the appropriate buildings built there. It all began with the Catholic priest, Father Flanagan. We were impressed by every convenience there, the fire department, medical department, schools and dwellings where each child must do his or her job of housekeeping. School is attended until they reach high school age at which time the child goes back home, hopefully happy and normal. We were told that 40% of the population are girls! Now, why is it called Boys Town? I don't know.

The best thing I want to say is, if you can use any other form of transportation than a school bus, do so! In meandering around Boys Town we had to get in and out of the bus about six different times and I must say that between the first and second steps, going into the bus was almost like trying to pull up into your B-24 or B-17. Get the picture? We were huffing and puffing and didn't dream that we could do it again at the next stop. Well, we did it and, you know what? It got easier with every stop we made, but we were all wishing our next stop would be our hotel! Exercise is good for us, we've been told, but not getting in and out of a school bus! Let's hope that

Boise doesn't have school buses for us next year!

Dear Friends; May the gifts of this season be peace in your world, a song in your heart and the ones that you love by your side. May God grant you and yours many years!

Love,  
Rose and Eli.



EDMOND A. BOUTY - Spalding, MI.

Mike Sass is supposed to come hunting with me next month. We have five deer seasons this year. We can get five deer but only one can be a buck. There is a deer problem in the Farm area.

\*\*\*\*\*

ARTHUR W. BUSSE - Anaheim, CA.

I had a telephone call today from George Day, my original B-17 aircraft commander. I was the navigator. George is, unfortunately, not in good health. He has the big "C". The family moved him back from Florida, which he loved, to his old New York area for better medical treatment. Friends and well-wishers can call George or Margaret Day at (518) 587-1777. They live at 4 Warden Lane, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866.

Joe Hanchar was our original co-pilot and I noted in one issue that he has passed on. God bless he and his family.

So far I'm in good health. Had a heart valve replaced in December but that is healed as it should be. No other problems, knock on wood. Sorry we can't make Omaha this year. Say hello to all and best wishes.

\*\*\*\*\*

JIM BRUEN - Lynn, MA.

Last April, on our way to Florida, Helen, her sister Dorothy and husband, Raymond Trimble, and I stopped to see the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum which is located outside of Savannah, GA. We found it to be well worth the stop. The simulated bombing mission was so realistic with its audio and visual effects, it was like living it all over again. The section about P.O.W.'s brought tears to our eyes. The planes were fantastic!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Continued on page 21



## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 20

JOHN M. SEARS - Diamond Head, MS.

Reedy Sears was my older brother. The information concerning his death that the family received was much as you indicated. It does appear that he was killed by German civilians after he landed. Of course we will never know for certain. He was buried near where he landed but they made an error in spelling his name and that complicated the identification process after the war. His body was returned in 1948 and buried near the family home (Williamson County, Franklin, Tenn.)

I've been retired from the navy for several years now and enjoy a game of golf at every opportunity. A couple of years back I met several of Reedy's high school classmates at a golf tournament. These men have enjoyed full lives, career, family, recreation, etc. It gave me a new appreciation for the sacrifices so many, like Reedy, have made.

\*\*\*\*\*

KENNETH L. JENNESS - Morgan, VT.

You found me. I am the Kenneth L. Jenness who enlisted in the Army Air Corps. on July 9, 1941 and was assigned to the 34th Bomb Group. I stayed with it for at least a year and went to Spokane, WA. with it. Then we started building bomb groups by splitting it in two. Then those two, after three months, split and we had four and, finally, some completed their training and went to Europe.

I'm now sort of retired, living on Lake Seymour, Morgan, VT. in the area we call the North East Kingdom. We located in the northeast part of Vermont near Newport. After retiring we traveled to Thailand, Burma, India, Nepal, Kenya and most of Europe. We've also seen most of the United States and spent two summers in Alaska.

\*\*\*\*\*

IAN HAWKINS - Bacton, Stowmarket, England

Many thanks for the newsletter. They were delivered to us at Mendlesham. Enclosed are copies of articles you might desire for future issues of "MM".

We're all attempting to gather our thoughts after the Princess Diana tragedy. She was undoubtedly driven to her untimely death by the media (which is self-regulating and which, in turn, is exactly the same as putting Dracula in charge of the "blood-bank").

Ed. Note: The articles mentioned are miscellaneous bits which will be used as fillers in future issues.

\*\*\*\*\*

WALTER A SHORE JR. - Jacotepec, Jalisco, Mexico

Just received the Sept. issue of "MM" and was so very sorry to hear of your quick weight loss. Do hope that, by this time, the doctors have been able to find the cause and that you are well on the recovery road.

We appreciate the good work you have done for the 34th for so many years and look forward to each issue. Do hope that you will be able to continue the good work.

I'm not doing too well with my angina so can really appreciate your health problem and know how it may

worry Rose. Do take care. We are thinking of you both

\*\*\*\*\*

ETHEL (JOHN) LEATH - Desert Hot Springs, CA.

We couldn't plan on a trip to Omaha this year. When we were ready to make plans John was in the hospital. They did the left side of his neck. It was 75% blocked. We didn't know how it would go and the doctor explained what could happen with carotid arteries. He was a good doctor and easy to talk to. John is doing well. This month he is to have ultra sound on both sides of his neck and they are keeping a close watch on him.

Also I have osteoporosis with one bone in my back broken or four crushed vertebrae. The doctor couldn't help me so with all the prayers I'm getting better. God is healing me - even the doctor agreed. We both are O.K. now, so I will close. Just thought you should know what was wrong since we didn't make it to the reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

PAUL & PAULINE SHULL - Raytown, MO.

Thanks to all of you who stopped by to shop or visit with us in the PX Room at Omaha. It was a great time and made all our efforts and work worthwhile. It was interesting to hear the many stories of members who use the 34th logo items and hear the response and interest it generates from the public.

Our reunion committee had again done another great job. It's heartwarming to meet again each year, and those no longer with us we do miss. Also we missed many who were sick or could not be with us for one reason or another. We look forward to next year.

And, last but not least, HEARTFELT THANKS to Paul and Beryl Anderson who worked so hard alongside us to help us set up, sell, inventory and "pack-up" - to Dale and Margie Findley for all that setting up and arranging merchandise - and to Lucille Babcock for all the counting of pens and patches, etc. We could never have done the job without you!

And - thanks again to each of you for shopping at the PX. Remember - all profits go to support the 34th Bomb Group Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM E. CREER - Las Vegas, Nev.

This is an attempt to express our appreciation and thanks for the outstanding services you fine folks have made to the benefit of the 34th membership over all

Continued on page 22

## DEADLINE

**Any material or items to be inserted in the March issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before January 23, 1998. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.**

**Eli Baldea, Editor**

## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 21

these many years. Without ya'll we never would have acquired the camaraderie and esprit I observed at the reunion.

Our trip home was reasonable unevenful. All seats on the plane were occupied. Our short connection time at that large Denver airport (30 minutes) was a hustle for folks in this age bracket.

Vivienne joins me sending our very best wishes to all of you. Carry on smartly.

\*\*\*\*\*

HANNAH SUMMA - Anderson, IN.

Where has this year gone? Time really flies when you get older. Anyway, it sounded like the reunion was a success.

Jan and Hal Province stopped by for lunch and we had a nice visit, but I know they were anxious to get back home.

Everybody have a blessed Christmas and health and happiness in the New Year. I miss you all.

\*\*\*\*\*

CARL STEMEN - Bremen, OH.

We're back home again from another fine reunion. Peg has the clothes all washed and put away. I have mowed the lawn and put the outside furniture away for another year.

\*\*\*\*\*

JACK SHARE - The Woodlands, TX.

Another great union has come to an end. It was good to see old friends again in Omaha. We missed those who couldn't attend for whatever reason. We're looking forward to Boise. It should be a good one.

We want to thank all of the dedicated people involved in the organization, especially our hard working editor and the reunion committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

JIM MARTIN - Santa Anna, TX.

We thought it was a good meeting in Omaha. While we were at the head table Dexter Jordan used my camera and I am enclosing a picture of our past and new presidents.

\*\*\*\*\*

WILLIAM ORTON - Cascade, ID.

As usual, the Mendlesham Memories was a pleasure to read and I want to thank you for doing such a fine job.

I sure had some dumb luck happen to me which caused me to miss the Omaha reunion. I took the wife down to Boise to visit a doctor on the 22nd of September and, while waiting for her in the exam room, I got very dizzy and lost my equilibrium and couldn't walk out of the place. The nurse rushed me to the Emergency Room in a wheel chair, and they started taking tests. And the doctors have been taking tests every since and, so far, haven't pinned down the cause, but I feel good today.

I ended up having to cancel my flight to Omaha, the hotel reservations and all. I heard from Robert Wright M.M. Page 22

and he said I really missed a good reunion. I am looking forward to next year at Boise.

\*\*\*\*\*

HENRY TOBIASON - Remer, MN.

Just a short note to say that we really enjoyed the Omaha reunion. Since we missed the one last year it made this one even better. Our hats go off to the Reunion Committee - they do a great job. There may be a few glitches now and then but we always feel that it is nothing to get excited about.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN BLOCZNSKI - Marshfield, WI.

Again a big thank you for all the good people who made the Omaha Reunion such a big success. We enjoyed it very much. It was so nice to see all our old friends again. The sad note this year was the people who are no longer with us or able to attend the reunion. We should all thank the Good Lord that so many of us can still be there. Until next year God bless you all and we are looking forward to seeing you all there.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN DORONSKY - Willoughby, OH.

It was great seeing you and all my other comrades once again. The bus tour was very interesting also. The banquet dinner and speakers were well prepared and organized.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone in Boise.

\*\*\*\*\*

LLOYD INMAN - Kelso, WA.

Thanks for all your work for us old 34th Bomb Group members. I'm sure the "Mendlesham Memories" is the main thing that keeps this group of people together.

\*\*\*\*\*

DALE & ETHEL STIVER - Youngstown, OH.

We enjoyed the reunion and hope to be able to attend many in the future.

\*\*\*\*\*

WALTER STURDIVAN - Stockton, CA.

Another wonderful reunion at Omaha. A great big "thank you" to our reunion committee for a fine group effort the 34th is famous for. We missed Gerald Pine and it didn't seem right without him but it was good to see Wanda there along with Dennis and Joan Pine. What a pleasure it was to meet them and make them welcome to Gerald's great 34th Bomb Group reunion. We hope they can make it to Boise next year.

Please express our thanks to whoever printed our new roster. Without a doubt there is a lot of work involved and they are to be commended. It is not a thankless endeavor. The membership appreciates it very much.

I wish to thank Paul and Pauline Shull for the tremendous help in the P.X. where I was able to sell several of my book, "THE RED-TAILED DEVILS FROM MENDLESHAM". I still have the book available for those interested. Just write me and send \$10.00. I will send it, postpaid. My other book, "SHAKE HANDS WITH A SOLDIER" is also available for \$15.00, postpaid.

Continued on page 23



## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 22

PAUL ANDERSON - Everett, WA.

I thought it was a good reunion. Too bad the attendance wasn't a little higher. The hotel rooms were nice, and the staff seemed eager to please. The room for the PX was nice and large, but maybe a little out of the normal traffic flow.

After the farewell breakfast on Monday, Beryl and I rented a car and drove to Ames, Iowa to visit my brother and friends. Later we went to Ottumwa to visit my sister, Beryl's cousins and other friends. Then we returned the car to Omaha and caught a plane home. We had a nice trip visiting our old stamping grounds. Beryl and I both graduated from Ottumwa high many years ago. We hope to see you all next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

DON STUFFLEBEAM - Lewistown, IL.

My wife and I did enjoy the Omaha reunion. Our crew tail gunner (F.B. Richmond) was there. I didn't get a chance to talk to you but I want to express my appreciation for the fine job you have done as editor.

\*\*\*\*\*

MAURICE ANDERSON - Plymouth, MN.

We certainly enjoyed our time at the reunion in Omaha and are looking forward to 1998 in Boise.

\*\*\*\*\*

VERN AMES - Tonawanda, NY.

Thanks to the crew at the Omaha reunion Millie received a great get-well card signed by so many friends. She is taking it easy and coming along since coming home from the hospital. We missed being with you this year and are looking forward to Boise next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN R. WOOTEN - Adelanto, CA.

Lenora and I look forward to the arrival of Mendlesham Memories. We can not lay them down until we have read them from cover to cover. All you people do a wonderful job with your work. We wish to thank all of you for a job well done.

\*\*\*\*\*

ELAINE BRAVEMAN - Harrisburg, PA.

For those who do not already know, my beloved husband, Milton Braveman, passed away on Sept. 20th at age 73.

Ever since our first reunion in England in 1985, Milt was hooked on the bomb group. We made such wonderful friends. My family is especially grateful to Scott Schuetz, the son of late Bob Schuetz, who was the engineer on Milt's crew. Bob had spent much time speaking to Scott about his war experience. Scott and his lovely wife, Deb, visited us frequently. He was so knowledgeable, it seemed as though he was a crewmember. Milt loved speaking with him. My family was especially touched when Scott and Deb visited after Milt's funeral.

Our son, three daughters, our sons-in-law and I were at Milt's bedside when he took his last breath. He died as he had lived, with great dignity.

\*\*\*\*\*

WILLIAM N. (PETE) GRAY - Virginia Beach, VA.

I am enclosing something I though might interest you. It's a bill for a 9 day stay in a local hospital back in mid-September. (the bill was \$26,112.65) Fortunately I have enough insurance to cover it. Also, this is just the hospital's bill, the others (doctors, etc.) are yet to come.

On the 3rd night I was awakened at about 2:00 a.m. and very abruptly given some oxygen. I was sleeping very deeply and couldn't figure what was going on. They had a piece of apparatus wired to my chest that monitored my heart and it had registered a drop in the heartbeat from about 75 per minute to about 36 a minute. Sometime during the following day it returned to normal but the same thing happened the following night. And so, after a few tests by some specialists, they concluded that a "pace-maker" was in order.

So they installed one and I came home 2 days later. I had to wait several weeks before I could take a shower but, otherwise, things are back to normal now.

\*\*\*\*\*

WANDA PINE - Waunakee, WI.

I hope everyone enjoyed the reunion in Omaha. I did and am so glad I went. Everyone is like family to me.

\*\*\*\*\*

FRANK FORDE - Girard, OH.

Sad to inform you that Darrell W. Bulis, who was the engineer on the Byron Sheesley crew, passed away on the 15th of September. This information was reported to me by his wife, Florence. After the war he went back into the Service and retired twenty-five years later. Darrell always had a lot of stories to tell and took great pleasure in telling them. He will be sadly missed by all and we send deep regrets to Florence and his family.

\*\*\*\*\*

SYLVIA (CARROLL) FORISTER - Kirkwood, MO.

Carroll and I have had rotten colds this last week - and us with lots of company arriving in a few days.

Enclosed is a copy of a clipping from England sent to me by my sister, Joyce, of Southampton. I thought it was nice and others might want to hear about it. (The clipping was about the opening by the Queen of the new American Air Museum at Duxford, near Cambridge. It was quite interesting but a little too lengthy to copy. The title is "Debt We Owe To America's Finest")

\*\*\*\*\*

## MOVING ?????

If you are moving, or have moved, get your change of address in so that you won't miss the next issue of Mendlesham Memories. Mailing labels are printed about Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, and Nov. 1 for the March, June, September and December issues. Send your change of address to:

HAL PROVINCE  
111 PROVINCE LANE  
CARRIERE, MS. 39426

before the labels are printed to ensure the correct arrival



# CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(AS OF JULY 31, 1997)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE
BOURGAULT	ROBERT T.	29 PROVIDENCE AVE.	BERLIN,	NH.	03570
BUENGER	ROBERT L.	7549 RED BUD LANE	SACRAMENTO,	CA.	95828
CARLSON	EDWARD	5348 SUGAR PINE LOOP	ROSEVILLE,	CA.	95747
CLEMENS	JOHN D.	1361 MONTE TESORO DR.	COTTONWOOD,	AZ.	86326
CROWLEY	EDWARD J.	1103 IRONWOOD CT. A-195	BELLEVUE,	NE.	68005
FISHER	JOHNNY	20630 WRENCREST LANE	HOUSTON,	TX.	77073
FREIDEL	JOHN N.	1045 WALTERS ST. A-115	LAKE CHARLES,	LA.	70607
FRUIT	ALPHONSE	75 GLENDALE AVENUE	WOONSOCKET,	RI.	02895
GARDNER	MARVIN I.	103 MINEOLA CT.	AUSTIN,	TX.	78734
HIGGINS	FRED E. JR.	70 GREEN VALLEY CIR.NE.	FORT PAYNE,	AL.	35967
JOHNSON	WILLIAM R.	3139-B STONY POINT RD.	RICHMOND,	VA.	23235
KRUGER	ROBERT R.	6541 PARKWOOD DRIVE	FRANKLIN,	WI.	53132
McINTIRE	JAMES E.	2521 W. MARION AVE.1011	PUNTA GORDA,	FL.	33950
McSPADDEN	MELVIN	1800 SKYLINE WAY.A204	ANACORTES,	WA.	98221
NIATAS	STEPHEN	1401 NORTHUMBERLAND WAY	SO. BRUNSWICK,	NJ.	08852
PETERSON	RALPH	6708 CASCADE LAKE CT.	GRAND RAPIDS,	MI.46	49546
RICHARDSON	LUTHER	2727 W. FLETCHER AVE.APT.P24	TAMPA,	FL.	33618
SHEPLEY	ROBERT G.	300 BANBURY ROAD	WINSTON-SALEM	NC.	27104
STEINER	HAROLD A.	911 CHANNEL DRIVE	HONMOUTH BCH.	NJ.	07750
WOOLFORD	WILLIAM J.	17681 SE EMERALD DR.	MILWAUKEE,	OR.	97267

## NEWLY FOUND

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE
BIRKO	EDWARD J.	A	3895 DARBYSHIRE DR.	HILLIARD,	OH.	43026
DOLD	CHARLES	7	24341 SARGEANT RD.	RAMONA,	CA.	92065
NELSON	KEITH R.		SEE TAPS LIST			

## TAPS

(As of 7-31-97)



LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE	DIED
BISKEY	JOHN	2200 GLASS ROAD	VIVKSURG,	MS.	39180	??-??-97
BRAUN	FREDERICK C.	P. O. BOX 79	OAKDALE,	PA.	15071	?????
BRAVEMAN	MILTON	1507 LINGLESTOWN ROAD	HARRISBURG	PA.	17110	09-20-97
BULIS	DARRELL W.	108 ORCHARD DRIVE	EARLY,	TX.	76802	09-15-97
KENNEY	WILLIAM J.	105-00 SHOREFRONT PKY.	ROCKAWAY BEACH,	NY.	11694	??????
NELSON	KEITH R.	645 LARCHWOOD	MIDVALE,	UT.	840437	25-25-96
PETERS	RICHARD J.	P. O. BOX 242	JOHNSTOWN,	NY.	12095	09-14-97
WELLS	DAVID S.	1117 CHRISTY STREET	BOSSIER CITY,	LA.	71111	04-30-97

## DONATIONS TO THE RAY SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### DONORS

Bernie & Jack Farley  
Robert & Esther Wright  
Bernie & Jack Farley  
Marilyn & Joseph Wong  
Becky Bowling  
Carey Van Beneden  
Cheri Neidhardt  
Chris Wiersch  
Cindy Gross  
Dora McKimmy  
Doreen Nevulis  
Wendy Ruffner  
LeRoy & Lois McCandless

### IN MEMORIUM

Gerry Pine  
Gerry Pine  
Ray Summa  
Ray Summa  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
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Joanne Weiss  
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Ronda Simmons  
Terie Adams  
Tom McDonnell  
MR & Donna Mattmuler

### IN MEMORIUM

Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey  
Bob Lampey

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE
CULVER	DOUGLASS	391	1804 N.PROSPECT A1004	MILWAUKEE,	WI.	53202
PARSONS	HARRISON	391	405 FOREST HILLS DR.	SHELBY,	IA.	28150



# *Then and Now*

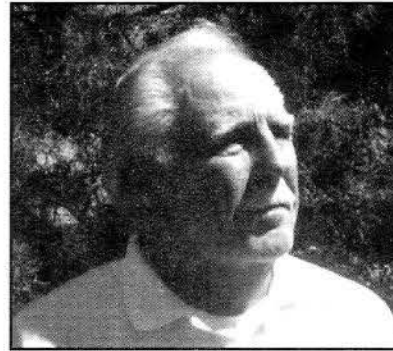
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## **DIRK GOMBERT**



**1944**

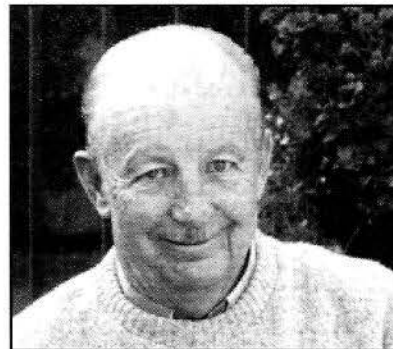


**1997**

## **DENTON ARMSTRONG**



**1945**

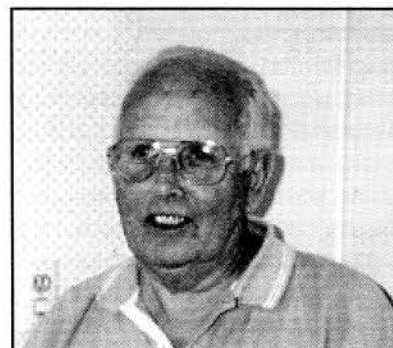


**1996**

## **LLOYD BOREEN**



**1944**



**1997**

## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From Ken Hunphreys we have the following:

I have received a letter from England as follows:

Your name was passed on to me by one of my colleagues. He informs me that you will be able to put us in touch with the 34th B.G. Assn. in the United States. We are keen to track down photographs of the Middy and to record recollections of people who used the line.

We want memories of former USAF airmen who used the Middy. Any help in locating photographs would be appreciated. We have been able to build up an extensive collection of photographs ranging from official railway company views, those of enthusiasts and snapshots of railway employees from family albums. A war-time scene would be a valuable addition to the collection.

Anyone with the information or photographs we would like to have may send them to:

Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Company  
62 Orford Street  
Ipswich, England IP1 3PE

From Ken we have the following:

I met recently with the members of the subject railroad museum and said that I would contact the 34th B.G. Assn. in pursuit of some photos. Please include a request in your next available issue. I'm sorry I can't make it to the reunion this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum we have the following:

Four members of a World War II Eighth Air Force B-17 bomber crew (none from the 34th) have been awarded Distinguished Flying Crosses for their heroic actions during a combat mission over Nazi Germany more than 52 years ago. They were Robert M. Wertz of Alexandria, LA., Melvin A. Durst of Woodland, CA., Edward J. Giering of Clinton, CT. and Kenneth Jensen of Poulsbo, WA.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also we have:

Since the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum opened in May, 1996, artifacts, exhibits and shows have been added at a steady pace. That pace has quickened in the past three months.

"It's amazing what's been added since we were here just three months ago", said Jim and Jay Oberman of Normal, IL. Robert Brown, a Vietnam veteran from Sumter, SC. echoed the Oberman's feelings. "This theater was not even built when I was here in November, 1996", said Brown, referring to the new Mighty Eighth Theater. "There were only two or three unit exhibit cases in the Honoring The Eighth Gallery and now there are 14 individual unit exhibit cases".

Also from them we have:

Our Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is constantly improving and expanding its exhibits in response to your

input and suggestions. The museum staff and Board of Directors recognize that future improvements will never end. More than 350,000 individuals served in the Eighth Air Force during World War II. Our losses of more than 26,000 airmen killed in action and more than 28,000 POW's were larger than any other unit of the war. The help of our remaining English veterans and friends is now required to preserve what we have created and make possible further development of the museum and our out-reach educational programs. Following are the ways you can help perpetuate our national treasures and preserve our heritage.

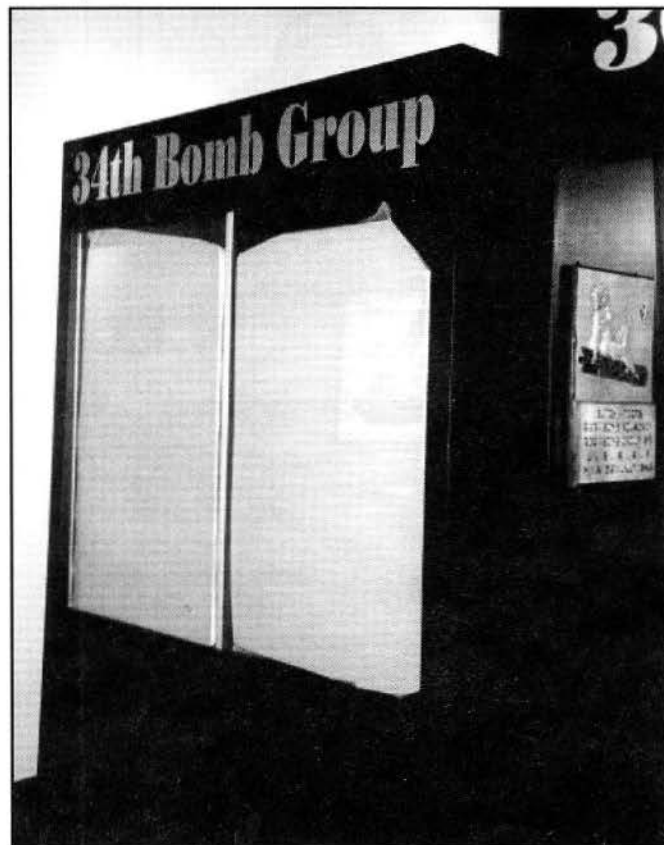
1. Become a Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum member
2. Give to the endowment program
3. Consider and implement a tax-free giving program - Your museum staff can offer aid and advice on how to do this.
4. Contribute your memorabilia
5. Establish your own memorial at the Heritage Memorial Garden.
6. Come and visit your Heritage Museum.

\*\*\*\*\*

From Jack Clarkson we have the following:

Our display cabinet is finally installed (while I was in Omaha). Nothing is displayed as yet due to lack of input. The museum curator says the 34th cabinet will be displayed as follows:

1. We need the theme (the story of the 34th).
  2. Any exceptional event
  3. 8"x10" photos
  4. We do not need jackets, clothing, jewelry, etc.
- A photo of our cabinet is shown below.





## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 26

Also we have received a copy of the following letter from Ian Hawkins in England:

Dear Mr. Hawkins;

I understand that you are the unit contact for the 34th Bomb Group and may be able to assist me in tracing my father. He was stationed near Stowmarket, probably at Mendlesham according to my uncle, and would have been there during early 1944 onwards (I was born March 24, 1945). His name is Ellis Peters and we believe he was a PRIVATE FIRST CLASS or some class of NCO, but no more than in the USAAF. My mother was a Stowmarket girl named Doreen Allard.

If anyone in your group knew him or his fate I would be very pleased to hear from them. My name is John Brooks (formerly Allard) and my address is 27 Lawrence Grove, Henleaze, Bristol England, BS9 4EL.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SPECIALS

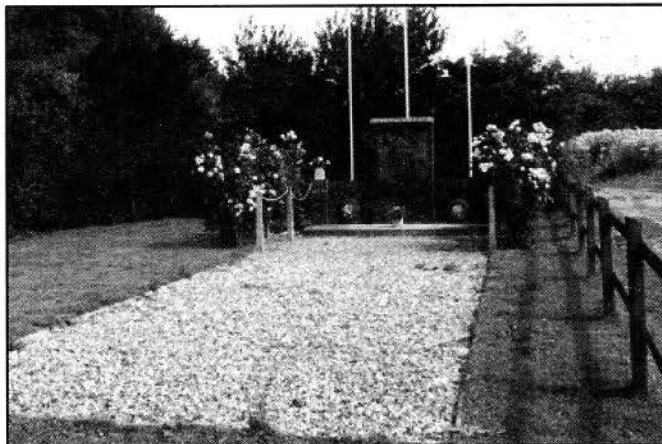
From Malcolm "Ted" Blomquist we have an interesting letter and photographs as follows:

I am enclosing some photographs that may be of interest to the 34th B.G. membership. But first let me tell you the story behind them. In November of 1995 my wife, June, and I were fortunate to be able to take a cruise to the Panama Canal. On our first day out we were assigned to a table which included two young business people and a man and wife from Birmingham, England. After an evening of conversation I learned that John Troman was a young boy of about 6 or 7 years of age at the time of the London Blitz where he was. He was, of course, evacuated to the Midlands as were many children during those dreadful days. He and his wife, Zena, were delighted to meet us and John was a buff about the 8th A.F. and the RAF. He had an in-depth knowledge of the aircraft and the men who flew them. Needless to say, it made the cruise a delightful trip for me.

After the cruise we corresponded over a year, sharing memories and retelling stories that John wanted to hear about WW2. Much to my surprise John and Zena made a motor trip to Mendlesham late in 1996 and took some splendid photographs which are enclosed. The monument site was so very well tended and looked so well taken care of by our English cousins. Also the picture of the Fleece Pub brought back many memories. John told me the walls are filled with memorabilia from our days there.



The Fleece Pub, Mendlesham



34th B.G. Memorial - Mendlesham



34th B.G. Memorial - Mendlesham



Main Street of Mendlesham, 1996



Address Correction Requested

HDD

163

18



7

4



34th Bomb. Group

Eli Baldeo  
2576 Brookwood Drive  
Crown Point, Indiana 46307  
(219) 988-4607

From the collection of:  
Al Israelsen  
Pilot, First Crew No. 1, 4th Sq. Feb - Nov 1944



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Crown Point, IN  
Permit No. 417

# Happy Holidays

## SPECIALS

FROM WANDA PINE & FAMILY TO THE 34TH BOMB GROUP:

Accept these words as our thanks and appreciation for all you have done since my husband, Gerry Pine, passed away: It isn't easy for me to be here, These words are difficult to say, For my husband belongs by my side, But he recently passed away. A good husband, father and friend, I miss him, as you surely do, And these words won't begin to express The depths of my gratitude. I offer thanks and appreciation To all you good women and men For support and words of comfort - A very special thanks to Harold and Gen. And it's more than cards and flowers I want to thank you all for - It's the friendship that lasted a lifetime And cherished since the 2nd World War. You're known as the 34th Bomb Group - Americans ever bound by war, Remembering Valor to Victory Today with one less soldier than before. Gerry Pine would have loved to be here - For his affinity with you was the source Of his commitment to the 34th Bomb Group - Grand-daddy of the 8th Army Air Force.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have also received a letter from Boys Town as follows:  
Dear friends;

All of us here at Boys Town are very grateful for the gift of \$165.00. Thank you for spending some time with us.

M.M. Page 28

The boys and girls enjoy seeing visitors touring their campus and it makes them feel good that they live in a special place that people want to visit. We hope you had enough time to see the entire village and see what a fascinating place it is. Boys Town is "home" to hundreds of abandoned, abused and neglected young people from across our nation. We are happy that you had a chance to see, firsthand, the good that has been done and continues to be done in a community that was created exclusively for children in need of a fresh start in life.

The welcome mat is always out at Boys Town, so please come back to see us again. God Bless You.

Sincerely,

Fr. Val J. Peter

Executive Director

(Note: The gift mentioned was the entrance charge of \$1.00 per visitor.)

\*\*\*\*\*

We also have recently received a photograph of Jan Province and Hannah Summa at Anderson, Ind. on Sept. 30, 1997 which we thought you might like to see.

