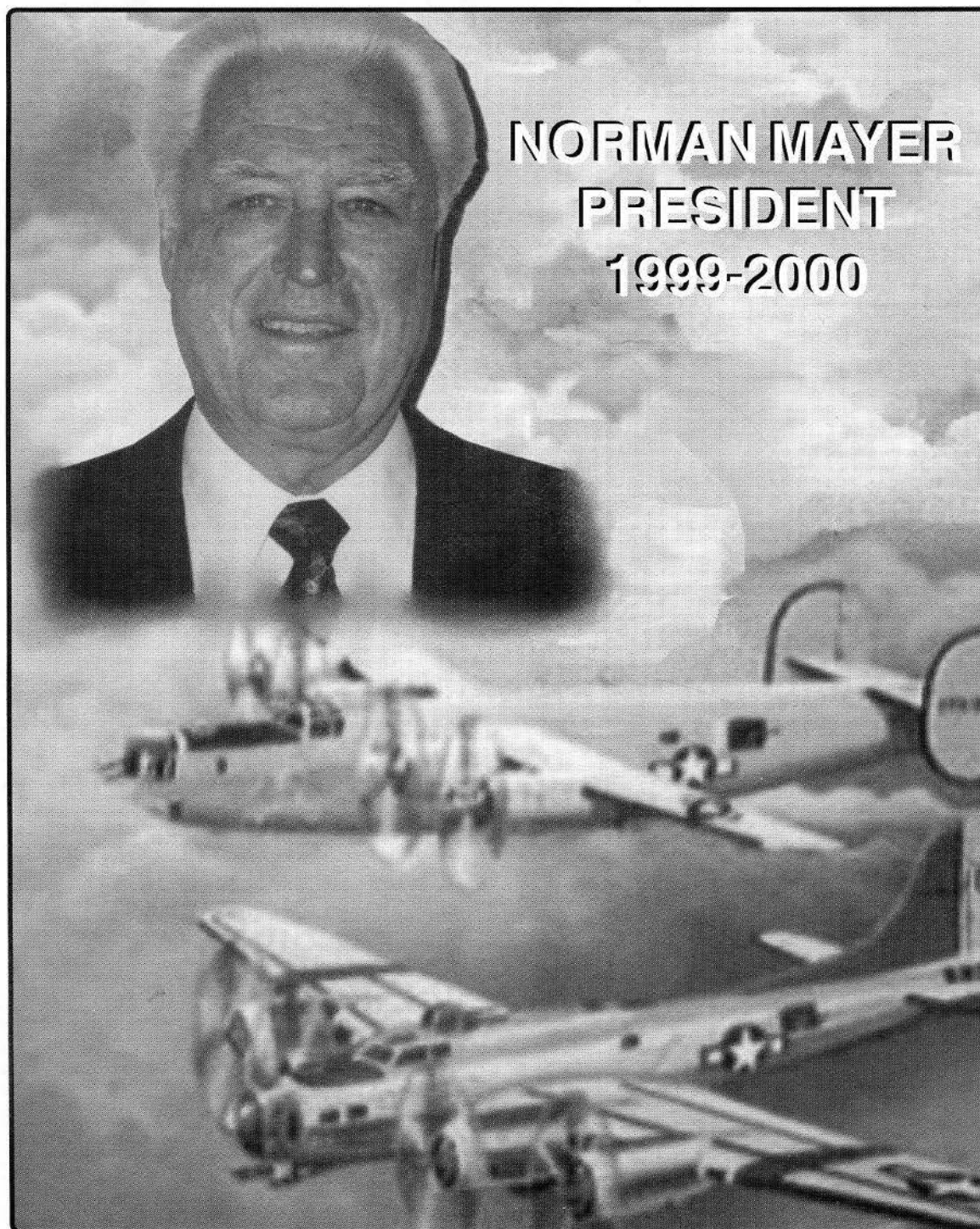




ENDLESHAM EMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



NORMAN MAYER
PRESIDENT
1999-2000



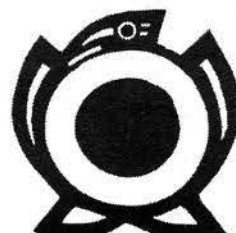
4TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of

The 34th Bomb Group Association, Inc.

e-mail www.excel-tech.com/34th/

This newsletter is published four times a Year (March, June, September, December). All material for publication is welcome and should be sent to:

Jack Share, editor
Mendlesham Memories
22 So. Avonlea Cir.
The Woodlands, TX 77382-1067
(409) 273-3561
e-mail jkshare@lcc.net

OFFICERS

President-----Norman Mayer
6212 Pacemont Dr.
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
(714) 842-1521

1st Vice President-----Claude Gibbs
PO Box 245
Catawissa, MO 63015
(636) 285-3770

2nd Vice President-----Wayne Howarter
RR 1
Welda, KS 66091

Recording Secretary-----John Feda
607 South First St.
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 532-5334

Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary-----Harold Province
153 North Hill Dr.
Carriere, MS 39426
(601) 798-2059
e-mail provi@datastar.net

Archivist-----Wallace Brauks
6923 Aliceton
Afton, MO 63123
(314) 849-3166

Past President-----John Doronsky
5586 Erickson Lane
Willoughby, OH 44094
(440) 942-4109

Chaplain-----James Martin
P.O. Box 104 Trickman Rt
Santa Anna, TX 76878
(915) 348-3086
e-mail jfmartin@web-access.net

PX-----Kenneth Paxton
6402 E. 11th St.
Wichita, KS 67206
(316) 685-4376

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Stuthers (00) 1225 Oak Tree Lane
Nokomis, FL 34275
(941) 484-8485

Paul Shull (00) 8901 E. 52nd St. Terrace
Raytown, MO 64133
(816) 356-4630

Claude Conklin (01) 1001 9th Ave.
Belle Plaine, IA 52208
(319) 444-2503

Everett Rose (01) PO Box 472
Ocean Park, WA

Carroll Forister (02) 515 So Geyser Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 822-1056

Franklin Sivret (02) 18 Melvin Ave.
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508) 753-1772

REUNION COMMITTEE

Harold Rutka (Chariman) 11 E. Artavia St.
Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 724-1667

Robert Wright 411 Parkavash Ave.
South Bend, IN 46617
(219) 232-4287

Bruce Southern 3354 Ulysses St. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(612) 789-2225

Other web sites of interest:

<http://members.tripod.com/VALORtoVICTORY>
www.mighty8thmuseum.com
www.air-museum.org/b17.html

DEADLINE

All Material and items for the March issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before January 20th, 2000 That is the date our final copy goes to the printer.

share—

a thought.

Another successful reunion has come and gone and most of us are now back in our respective homes - safely, I hope. As expected, due to a number of reasons - attrition, illness, hurricane Floyd - turnout was a bit lower, 213 last year - 187 this year. But that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those present and I might say a good time was had by all.

Highlights were the presence of five first timers and an ever-increasing number of offspring who were either escorting their parents or chose to join them in something of great importance. If the historical significance of the 34th bomb group is to be preserved, it will have to come from future generations. Could the baby boomers and Gen Xer's be the answer? We encourage them to come to our reunions, take part in the proceedings, and see the camaraderie and respect that exists. You cannot help but be impressed.

There was some serious discussion at the board of director's meeting regarding this very subject. It was thought that perhaps we should consider changing our by-laws to include other people interested in preserving the memories and incidents of the 34th bomb groups participation in the Great War, which was so much a part of your parents/grandparents lives. Something must be done - soon. We are running out of manpower.

As I write this column, soon after returning from the reunion, I would be remiss if I didn't pay my regards and thanks, again, to the reunion committee for another fine job, to Ken and Kathleen Paxton for their PX and also to the outgoing President, John Doronsky, his officers and board of directors for seeing us through another successful year. Also, congratulations to our newly elected President, Norman Mayer, and his staff who will carry on the tradition of the 34th bomb group into the next century.

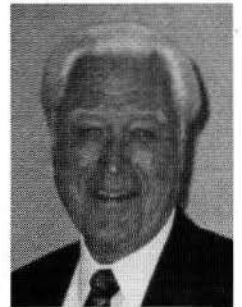


Jack Share, Editor

Lest We Forget

	Total Deaths	Wounded	POW-MIA
WWI	116,516	204,002	
WWII	408,399	670,846	78,773
KOREA	52,246	103,284	15,177
VIETNAM	58,135	153,303	2,267
GULF WAR	202	467	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Being your president for the 2000 will give me a great deal of pride and honor. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I'll do my best.

This may be a first - a president from the West coast - Huntington Beach, CA. I'll be number 20 in the 2000 (34th Bomb Group); so, just call me 20 -20!

Our reunion in Des Moines was a huge success. Although the attendance was slightly down, those who came had an enjoyable experience. Please try to join us in Buffalo, NY next year.

Our Friday seven-hour bus tour of Des Moines was rewarding and informative. The Capital building was the highlight of the day. Our hotel, The Savery, was in the downtown area. I was very impressed with the city's modernization of the surrounding area. Saturday night, at the banquet, the guest speaker was Preston Daniels, Mayor of Des Moines. He may be Iowa's next governor. Although, he was unable to stay for the entire evening, he did manage to squeeze us into a busy schedule for a brief speech. We thanked him for his time.

There are so many people to thank for putting the reunion together. I'll not write all their names as they have been thanked many times in the MM. All I can say is, "Thank you for a great job, one and all".

Before I close, it has come to my attention that a World War II Memorial in Washington, DC is in the works. The national chairman is Bob Dole. I will fax a copy of my brochure to Jack Share, our Editor, to publish in the next Mendlesham Memories. Sounds like a good idea to me. For more information regarding the memorial, the website is <http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>.

Till the next issue,
Norman Mayer 20-20

Moving???

If you are moving, send your new address to:

Hal Province
153 North Hill Dr.
Carriere, MS 39426

Mailing lists are given to printer on the first day of February, May, August and November for the March, June, September and December issues



TREASURER'S REPORT

Season's Greetings to all the 34th bomb group association members and their families who may be reading this! I guess I should have wished this to you who attended the reunion but that was a little early! Those who attended will know what a great reunion we had at Des Moines. I'm truly sorry that all couldn't have been there. We had a great time! And to those on the East Coast, who were rained out, I hope you have been able to dry out a little!

I've had inquiries about what happens when a member dies - what happens to Mendlesham Memories? I've been carrying on the practice that Ray Summa instituted and see no reason to change. For those members who pay annual dues, we continue to send MM through the end of the year for which dues have been paid. If I receive notice of a death late in the year, we send the next issue that lists the member's death in TAPS even though the dues are past.

We welcome any widows who wish to be Associate Members and will continue to send MM as long as dues are paid. All Associate Members receive MM and are encouraged to attend the reunions, as all members are.

When a LIFE MEMBER dies, we merely add the widow's name to the roster and continue sending MM.

I send a Welcome to Carol Guertin, Associate Life Member, Robert White, former 1st Sgt. of the 7th squadron, and Aubrey Smith, 18th squadron and his son. They were FIRST TIMERS at the Des Moines reunion and we hope to see them at our reunion in Buffalo, NY next September.

Best wishes to all! May year 2000 hold all of the prosperity and health that you can stand!

Hal

PX REPORT

Our new book "Prescription For Nutritional Healing" was popular at our reunion but unfortunately I left our inventory on the book at home and had only a borrowed copy to show. This book combines traditional doctor procedures with alternative supplemental care. Many people, including many doctors, feel this is a very effective approach and keeps our body in much better condition to recover from serious illnesses and surgery and will prevent a lot of unnecessary sickness.

We really enjoyed the reunion (as always).

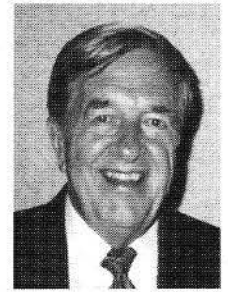
Ken Paxton

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Des Moines reunion was a success. I'm sorry that we had so many comrades missing due to illness and passing. I missed Ray Palmer, Jack Farley, and Eli Baldea. I personally feel that we should improve the hospitality room for the convenience of those who visit. Make sure we have a "rest room" available, more chairs for us to sit on, and snacks available on tables. I was busy with my presidential obligations which kept me from entertaining in the hospitality room.

I'm looking forward to our next reunion in Buffalo and hope we continue to keep our attendance at the same level or better.

John Doronsky, Past President



REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

Des Moines, Ia. 14-19 September, 1999

Our 15th annual 34th bomb group (H) reunion is now history, and from comments heard it was successful. The hotel personnel were very cooperative and this helped to make our reunion enjoyable. The "Apple a Day" at the registration desk helped to keep us all healthy!!! The number of attendees was down a bit but that is to be expected in our age group. The hotel personnel even came up with a better PX room than we had expected - bigger and with a view of the streets and lots of seating area.

Bob White, one of our "first timers", joined us at the young age of 92!! And he intends to be at the Buffalo reunion next year. He answered one of the notices that had been posted in Veteran's magazines. He said that he probably wouldn't know anyone, but found an old friend and made many new ones.

Our reunion in Buffalo will be held at the Adam's Mark hotel. It has been completely remodeled. They will provide free shuttle service from the airport and train depot, and back. Our usual Friday tour will include a visit to Niagara Falls. Please mark your calendars and join us next September 6 - 10, year 2000 in Buffalo, New York.

The officers and board of directors want to continue having our own reunions so the reunion committee will be looking into Savannah, Georgia for year 2001.

The reunion committee,
Harold Rutka
Robert Wright
Bruce Sothern

The Munster Raid: Before and After

Once in awhile, you find a book which stands above the rest. "The Munster Raid: Before and After" by Ian Hawkins is one of those books. This updated and expanded 543 pages, hardbound book gives a detailed account of the famous Munster mission. This mission was flown during "Black Week" of October, 1943 when the 8th Air Force lost over 100 heavy bombers in a week! It was after the loses of this week that the High Command seriously questioned the advisability of massive daylight bombing. Their decision to continue on led to the eventual defeat of the Luftwaffe's effectiveness in the air. The mission to Munster was known to be one of the worst in terms of enemy defenses, loses of American airmen, and destruction of a German industrial city. Profuse with photos from the mission preparation to the present time. Hawkins' book is precisely written with emphasis on the people who were there.

The book (543 pages, 120 photographs, 9 maps), price \$32.00, is published by and can be ordered from:

FNP MILITARY DIVISION
6527 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611

Good Grades & Long Hair

A young boy had just received his driver's license. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring home good grades, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about the use of the car."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"



The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair..." To which his father replied, "Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, SEPT. 1999

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by President John Doronsky at 3:00 P.M. on Sept. 16, 1999 in the Savery Hotel at Des Moines, IA. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Doronsky. Chaplain James Martin gave the invocation.

Pres. Doronsky asked for a roll call. Present were: Pres. John Doronsky, 1st VP Norman Mayer, Treas. and Cor. Sect. Harold Province, Rec. Sect. John Feda, Archivist Wallace Brauks, Past-Pres. Allen Israelsen, Editor Jack Share, PX Manger Kenneth Paxton, Chaplain James Martin, Board Members Carl Freysinger, James Stuthers, Paul Shull, Claude Conklin, Claude Gibbs, and Reunion Committee members Harold Rutka, Robert Wright and Bruce Sothern. Absent were: 2nd VP Edward Lonergan (deceased), Eli Baldea and Jack Farley.

Motion by Sothern, second by Stuthers to accept the 1998 Board meeting minutes as printed in the Mendlesham Memories of December 1998. Motion carried.

PX Report by Kenneth Paxton.

Sept. 1998	Cash on hand	\$239.09
	Receipts- Merchandise sold	712.75
	Postage collected	64.00
	Total :	\$1015.84
	Disbursements: Miscellaneous	21.53
	Telephone	13.67
	Checks to Province	742.80
	Total:	\$778.00
August 1999	Balance on hand	\$237.84
	Accounts receivable	none
	Accounts payable	\$675.17

Motion by Rutka, second by Shull to approve the PX Report as given. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Harold Province.

The 1998 and 1999 finances of the 34th Bomb Group and its various funds are represented in the following tables:

	1998	1999
General Fund in England	\$ 380.29	\$ 380.29 Lloyds Bank
Checking account	1,099.75	82.35 Hancock Bank
Money Market	1,405.00	1,157.99 Hancock Bank
Certificate of Deposit	3,031.51	742.58
Sub-total:	\$ 5,916.55	\$ 2,363.21

Life Membership Fund	\$ 25,504.66	\$ 25,759.66
Scholarship Fund	7,267.70	12,832.70
Memorial Fund	1,055.89	1,055.89
General Funds		2,363.21
Grand Total:	\$ 39,744.80	\$ 42,011.46

Money Market Funds at Edw. Jones	\$ 10,390.83
CD Account at Edw. Jones	30,390.00
General Funds at Lloyds and Hancock	1,620.63
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 42,011.46

Permission was given at Omaha by the BOD to utilize the Life Membership money whenever the General Fund was depleted. In the past I have had to withdraw money from the Money Market Fund at Edw. Jones to pay our bill for the Mendlesham Memories. I haven't received a bill for the September MM as yet but will have to withdraw money from the Edw. Jones to pay for that bill. Outstanding debts estimated are: 1) the Mailing House for approximately \$3,000 and 2) I have not submitted my expenses since the Boise Reunion which may be less than \$350. Jack Share and Kenneth Paxton may also have some expenses which have not been submitted.

Respectfully submitted by Harold E. Province, Treasurer.

A detailed listing of all the receipts and disbursements will be reviewed by the audit committee, which will then report to the general membership on Sept. 18.

Motion by Sothern, second by Wright to approve the Treasurer's Report as given. Motion carried.

Pres. Doronsky appointed an audit committee of Freysinger, Hanson and Stuthers.

Reunion Committee Report by Harold Rutka.

He reviewed the arrangements for the 1999 Reunion in Des Moines. There are 188 registrations at present. Arrangements have been made for the 2000 Reunion to be held in Buffalo, NY, on Sept. 6-10 at the Adam's Mark Hotel for a room rate of \$82. The committee is working on satisfactory arrangements for the reunion for 2001 to be held in Savannah, GA.

Motion by Conklin, second by Israelsen to approve the Reunion Committee Report as given. Motion carried.

Scholarship Committee Report by Ambers Hanson.

Twenty-one applications were received from very outstanding students. Three scholarships were awarded. First: \$1000 to Alexander Wissmer-Gross of New Hyde Park, NY; Second: \$750 to April Langhammer of Kansas City, MO; and Third: \$500 to Meredith Cord of Roswell, GA. The grandfathers were called to inform their grandchildren that they had received these scholarships.

Motion by Mayer, second by Freysinger to approve the report as given. Motion carried.

The Mendlesham Memories Report was given by Editor Jack Share. Editor Share was commended for his excellent work this past year. He expressed a willingness to continue and requested material from all the members. Motion by Conklin, second by Stuthers to have Jack Share continue as editor. Motion Carried.

It was reported that Associate Member Rev. Gary Ferrell had done considerable research on the missions flown by the 34th in the official government records. He has all the B-24 missions on his computer and will soon have all the B-17 missions as well. He offered to search all the missions for an individual pilot and his crew. Motion by Rutka, second by Martin to reimburse Rev. Ferrell \$350 for his research expenses. Motion carried.

For new business Rutka reported on the annual trip to England and the effort to recognize the Mendlesham ladies who tend to the upkeep of the 34th Memorial. Motion by Paxton, second by Sothern to authorize an expenditure for the appreciation meal for the ladies and their spouses. Motion carried.

Pres. Doronsky read two letters requesting support from the 34th. One was from the Air Force Academy Alumni and the other was from a Senator requesting assistance in the restoration of McCook Air Base. Motion by Sothern, second by Israelsen to table both requests. Motion carried.

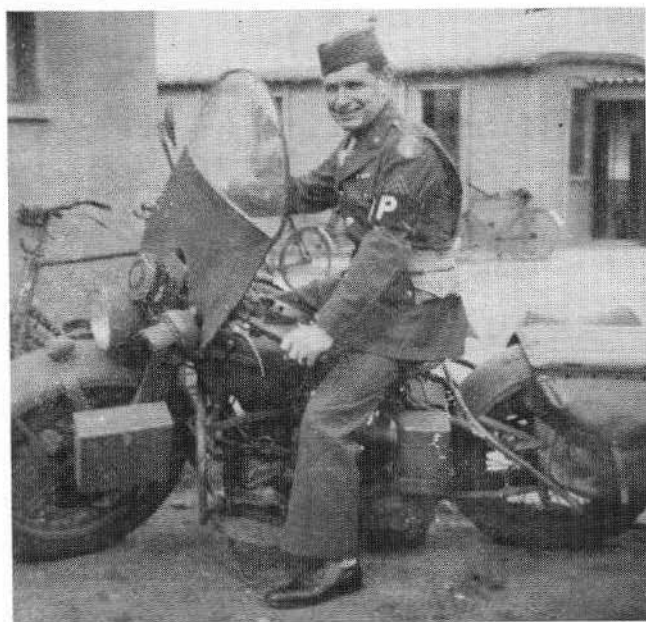
Nomination Committee chair Bruce Sothern outlined the offices to be filled for 1999-2000. He requested suggestions before the General Membership meeting.

Items discussed with no official action taken included: new items in the PX, associate memberships, long-range plans for the continuance of the 34th BG Association, mailing lists, Chowhound trip to Holland, and e-mail addresses.

Motion by Conklin, second by Wright to adjourn at 4:55. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary John J. Feda

John J. Feda



Do you remember Sgt. Whooley? He was the Sgt. of the Guard at Mendlesham and helped many of us out when we needed some assistance.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES - SEPT. 18, 1999

The annual meeting of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by Pres. John Doronsky at 9:00 A.M. on Sept. 18, 1999, at the Savery Hotel in Des Moines, IA. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Doronsky. Rev. Gary Ferrell gave the invocation.

Motion by Rutka, second by Sothern to accept the minutes of the 1998 meeting as printed in the Mendlesham Memories in December of 1998. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report by Harold Province. (Refer to the minutes of the BOD meeting held Sept. 16, 1999, for the complete report.) Motion by Rutka, second by Clemens to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Scholarship report by Ambers Hanson. (Refer to the minutes of the BOD meeting held Sept. 16, 1999, for the complete report.) Motion by Martin, second by McAllister to approve the Scholarship report. Motion carried.

PX report by Kenneth Paxton. (Refer to the minutes of the BOD meeting held Sept. 16, 1999, for the full report.) Motion by Sothern, second by Rose to approve the PX report. Motion carried.

Reunion committee report by Harold Rutka. He reported 188 registrations for the 1999 reunion. The reunion for 2000 will be in Buffalo, NY, at the Adam's Mark Hotel on Sept. 6-10 with a room rate of \$82. Plans are being made for the 2001 reunion to be held in Savannah, GA. Rutka described the hospitality our groups have received when they have returned to England. He recommended that members should consider going if they haven't gone back for a visit to Mendlesham. Motion by Conklin, second by Martin to approve the Reunion committee report. Motion carried.

Nomination committee report by Bruce Sothern. The committee members were Bruce Sothern, Walt McAllister and James Martin. They presented the slate for 1999-2000 election.

President	Norman Mayer
1st Vice President	Claude Gibbs
2nd Vice President	Wayne Howarter
Past President	John Doronsky
Board member (01)	Everett Rose
Board member (02)	Franklin Sivret
Board Member (02)	Carroll Forister

Pres. Doronsky called for nominations from the floor. None were made.

Motion by Conklin, second by Rutka to close the nominations and instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as proposed by the nominating committee. Motion carried.

Current officers to continue for 1999-2000 are: Treas. Cor. Sect. Harold Province, Rec. Sect. John Feda, Archivist Wallace Brauks, Chaplain James Martin, PX manager Kenneth Paxton, Editor Jack Share, Directors James Stuthers (00), Paul Shull (00), and Claude Conklin (01).

Audit committee report by James Stuthers. The committee examined the Treasurer's report and the PX report and found them both to be in order. Motion by Howarter, second by Conklin to approve the Audit committee report. Motion carried.

Items discussed with no official action taken included: constitution changes needed to incorporate associate members, appreciation to Rose Baldea, telephone service, 34th BG website and scheduling future reunions in connection with the 8th AF reunions after holding our reunions separate for fifteen years.

Editor Share requested that all reunion pictures to be used for the December issue of Mendlesham Memories be sent to him by Oct. 20, 1999.

Motion by Sothern, second by Rutka to adjourn at 10:00 A.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary John J. Feda

John J. Feda



RETURN TO ENGLAND TOUR

31ST MAY - 8TH JUNE, 2000

There will be another trip to England, May 31 - June 8, 2000. This tour has been sanctioned by the board of directors at this year's reunion in Des Moines. The tour will be with the 100th bomb group and will start at "Dunston Hall" as we did two years ago.

The "Hanger Dance" at Molesworth is an experience that has to be seen, as it is hard to explain. Walking through the hanger door, the 1000 plus persons, dressed in their uniforms, and ours, of the '40's. We were preceded by a piper and everyone stood up and applauded our group - there were not many dry eyes among us.

The time we have to visit Mendlesham, the 34th memorial, the ladies who care for the flowers and the many 34th friends that we have depends on how many members of the 34th bomb group sign up for the tour. On our 1998 trip to England we had seventeen members on the tour and we were able to visit our Memorial, tour the area and attend church services on Sunday morning. Also, we visited Duxford and the new American Air Museum and the American Cemetery in Cambridge along with three nights in London.

Information on this tour can be obtained from:

TAMARAC TRAVEL

5853 NORTH UNIVERSITY DRIVE

TAMARAC, FLORIDA 33321-4633

Tel: (954) 724-8200 or 1-800-228-9690

Fax: (954) 724-8811

Or:

Harold C. Rutka

Tel: (218) 724-1667

Return to England Tour Coordinator,
Harold C. Rutka

Really Honey

An elderly couple were experiencing declining memories, so they decided to take a power memory class, where they teach you to remember things by association.

Later, the man was talking to a neighbor about how much the class helped him.

"Who was the instructor?" asked the neighbor.

"Oh, let's see," pondered the man.

"Umm...what's that flower, you know, that smells real nice, but it has those thorns...?"

"A rose?" offered the neighbor.

"Right," said the man. He turned toward the house and shouted, "Hey, Rose, what's the name of the guy we took that memory class from?"

DUES

**DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1st, 2000
FOR THOSE WHO PAY ANNUALLY.**

BETTER YET, CONSIDER A LIFE
MEMBERSHIP FOR \$85.00
AND QUIT WORRYING ABOUT
ANNUAL PAYMENTS

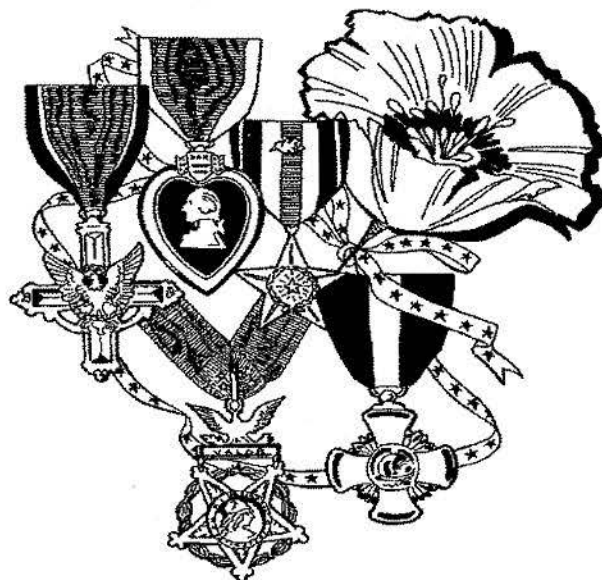
SEND YOUR DUES TO:

**HAL PROVINCE
153 NORTH HILL DR.
CARRIERE, MS 39426**

IF YOU WANT A MEMBERSHIP CARD PLEASE SEND
A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

Those widows whose husbands paid annually, will continue receiving the *MENDLESHAM MEMORIES* Newsletter for the remainder of the year. They can continue their membership in the 34th BGA by paying the annual fee thereafter.

Those widows whose husbands were Life Members will continue to receive the *MENDLESHAM MEMORIES* Newsletter and will still be considered members of the 34th BGA.



REUNION ATTENDEES

Donald Allen
 Paul & Beryl Anderson
 Bud & Lucille Babcock
 Charles & Roberta Barclay
 Carwin & Marlene Baxter
 Thomas & Madeline Belleau
 John & Marge Bloczynski
 & guests, Roseanne Hefko & Charles Deming
 Wallace & Doris Brauks
 Ben & Mary Buckley
 Bill & Margo Burnell
 Ralph & Majorie Bush
 James Clemens
 Claude & Genevieve Conklin
 Charles & Lorraine Conway
 & guest Lucille Worst
 John & Esther Demko
 Lawton & Joan Dooley
 John Doronsky & Bev Stearns
 John & Betty Feda
 Gary Ferrell
 Herman & Nancy Fieber
 Don & Betty Fillman
 A.J.Z. & Ernestine Firestone
 Carroll & Sylvia Forister
 & daughter Vivienne Kueneke
 Bob & Jean Fox
 Dale & Esther Frank
 Carl & Imogene Freysinger
 Claude & Audrey Gibbs
 Hugh & Virginia Goerner
 Willis Griffis
 Carolyn Guertin
 Tony & Joan Habiger
 William & Jessie Alder
 Herbert & Doris Hall
 Milton Hanson & Sandra Kripps
 Ambers & Jean Hanson
 Charles & Eileen Herget
 Raymond Hinchee
 Glenn & Vera Henry
 Robert & Marilou Hess
 Edwin & Rita Hiltner
 Betty & Verbal Holcomb
 Jack & Bonnie Hood
 Wayne & Laverne Howarter
 Al & Agnes Israelsen
 & guests Ella Jakel & Nancy Bombich
 Eugene & Helen James
 Wyatt & Lavonne Jones
 Dexter & Beulah Jordan

Dwight Kelley
 Betty & Todd Lampey
 Birgit Lonergan
 & sons Dan & Jim Lonergan
 Ralph Lundeen
 Walter & Ruby McAllister
 James Martin
 Norman Mayer & Marci Campbell
 Paul & Twyla Meeder
 George & Faye Miller
 Fred & Ginny Munte
 George Neubauer
 William Orton
 Ken & Kathleen Paxton
 Wanda Pine
 & guests Dennis & Joan Pine
 Robert & Ginny Pacholski
 Phillip Podulka
 Jan & Hal Province
 Floyd & Miriam Richmon
 & guest Thelma Warfield
 Conrad & Patricia Ricker
 Evan Rogers
 Cleveland & Henrietta Romero
 Everett & Margo Rose
 Herbert & Dotty Roy
 Harold & Genevieve Rutka
 L.E. & Jeanne Salvesson
 Jack & Marian Share
 Donald & Bonnie Shee
 Paul & Pauline Shull
 Ronald & Martha Simpson
 Frank & Alda Sivret
 Aubrey Smith
 & guest Christopher Smith
 James & Jane Smith
 Bruce Sothern
 James & Kay Stuthers
 Dan & Evelyn Stufflebeam
 Walter & Lois Sturdivant
 Henry & Audrey Tobiason
 James & Natalie Troup
 Frederick & Blanche Voss
 John M. Vronz
 Oral & Jim Walker
 Fred & Rachel Waltz
 Robert I. White
 Sam & Arlene Wolstencroft
 Benson & Margaret Workman
 Robert & Esther Wright
 Charles Yockey
 Ben & Edith Zeldes

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 34th BGA

Dear 34th Bomb Group,

As I reflect on the 34th bomb group reunion in Des Moines, so many thoughts crowd in and out of my mind. The first is how welcoming you all were to me - how special you made me feel. In reality, you all were the special ones. I have never been surrounded by a finer group in my life. Honor, bravery, valor, patriot, pride, charisma are all words that describe you unassuming guys. Not another generation in the world has as many of those qualities as you humble men of WWII. I only wish my generation (and my children's) would truly recognize this.

Every man I met at your reunion had a quality aura about him. It is inconceivable to really understand how you endured the ravages of war, performed unbelievable tasks, sustained incomprehensible personal losses, and yet rose to the demands put upon you - not to mention how young you all were. Think what you were doing in your early 20's compared to most young men today. There is no comparison! It is no secret how Great Britain won the war with you on her side. Actually, you saved the world!!! I only hope and pray all who are reaping the benefits of your gallant efforts and selfless sacrifices will honor, applaud, and remember forever what you gave to the USA and the world.

As a teacher I will always paint your picture, toot your horn, raise your flag, and enlighten the newest generations to your honor. I am so blessed to have my Dad and Mom come each year to my school's 5th grade classes and share their stories about WWII. Dad tells about his missions, his horrific experience when shot down, how difficult it was to lose three of his crew, and his rescue by a wonderful Englishman, Andrew Kerr. My students are always wide eyed with

mouths hanging open when they hear his stories. Mom comes later in the year and tells how it was to be a young child growing up in a country at war. Students are again "gobstruck" to hear what life was like - unimaginable food rations, bombing of neighbors and friends' homes, and everybody lost someone dear. My

parents have been speaking to my classes every year for five years. I am so fortunate to have them willing and able. So are my students! Therefore, I encourage you guys to share your experiences, help educate other generations in hopes they won't have to experience what you did. If only record some of your experiences privately on video or tape, your important story will never die. (Like Nike says, "Just Do It"! - and do it NOW!)



CARROLL FORISTER, and daughter VIVIENNE

Meeting all of you and your wives was such an honor, plus just plain fun. Those very special ladies in your lives are proud of you, too. It showed in their faces. They were such a delight to meet and also made me feel welcome.

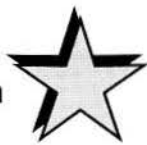
So, a big thank you to all for letting me "tag along for the ride". Buffalo next year, eh? I'll do my best to be there. . . until then, take care of your dear selves.

Vivienne (Forister) Kueneke
(Daughter of Carroll & Sylvia Forister)
553 Villa Gardens Dr.
Kirkwood, MO 63122-2571
vkueneke@brentwood.k12.mo.us

P.S. Congratulations reunion committee on an excellent job. Everything was so organized and well planned. You made everything look so easy, but I'm sure it was not! Way to go Harold, Bob, and Bruce.



HIGHLIGHTS
of the 15th Annual Reunion
of the 34th BGA.
Des Moines, IA

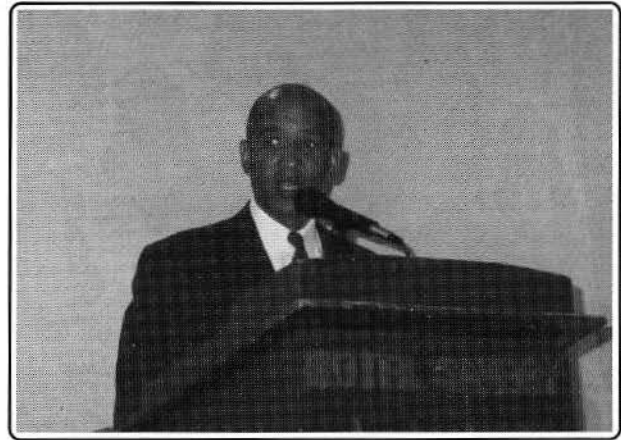


PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Out going president John Doronsky
passes the reins of office to newly
elected President Norman Mayer.

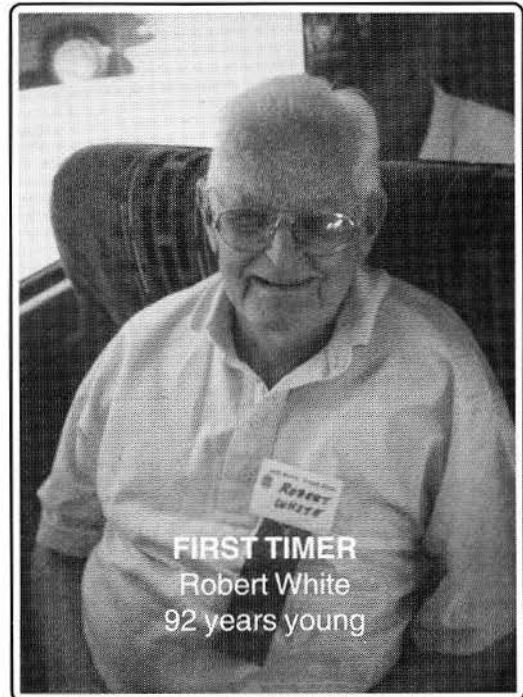
HEADQUARTERS

The Savery Hotel made the members
of the 34th feel at home with their
congenial staff, excellent accommodations
and good food.



PRESTON DANIELS

The honorable mayor of Des Moines
welcomes the 34th BGA
to his city



FIRST TIMER

Robert White
92 years young

ENTERTAINMENT

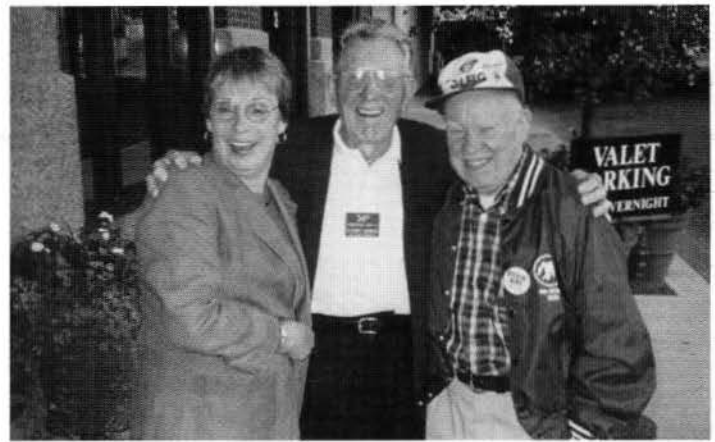
At the Gala Banquet was provided by
PEGI JOHNS
song stylist.



HOTEL AREA



Des Moines Capital Building



Marci Campbell, Ralph "Pappy" Lundeen, Willis Griffis



Lunch in the Park



Savery Hotel

A DEDICATED STAFF



Genevieve Rutka & Esther Wright



Bob & Esther Wright - Gen & Harold Rutka



Bob Wright & Bruce Sothern

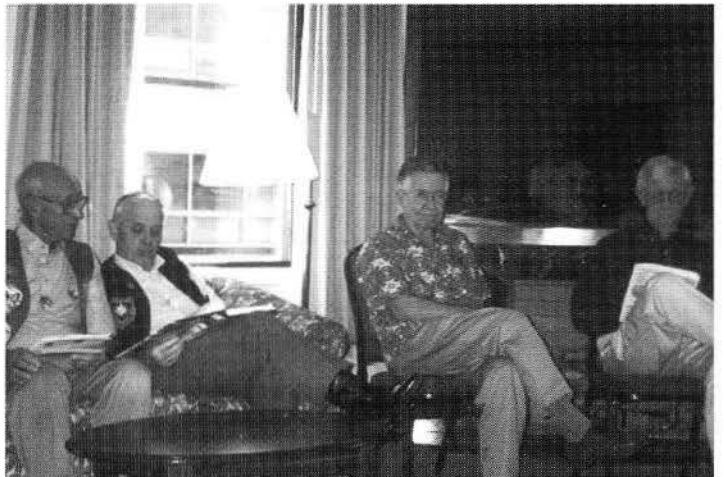


Ken Paxton in PX

BOARD MEETING



John Doronsky, Ambers Hanson,
Hal Province & John Feda



Bruce Sothern, Claude Conklin,
Al Isrealson & Ambers Hanson



President calling
Harold Rutka & Bob Wright

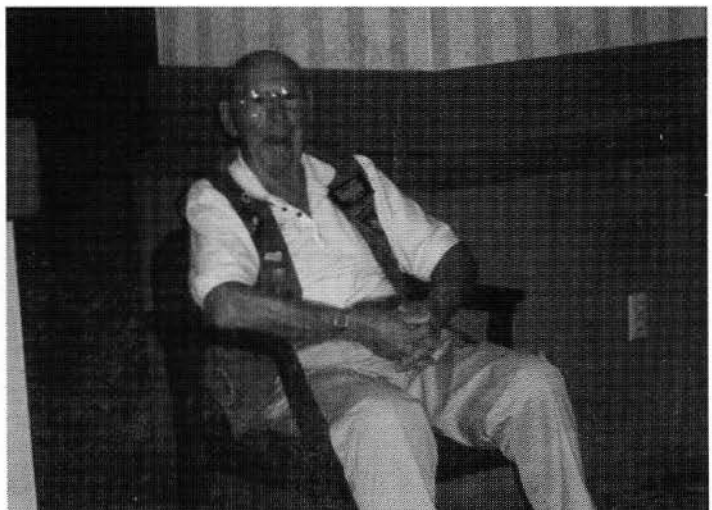


Through these portals...

THE BREAKFAST SCENE



The Breakfast Gang



Show us the way, Bob

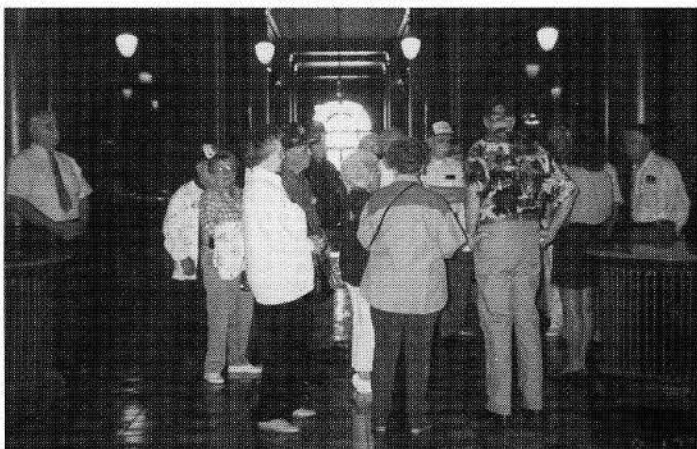
THE CITY TOUR



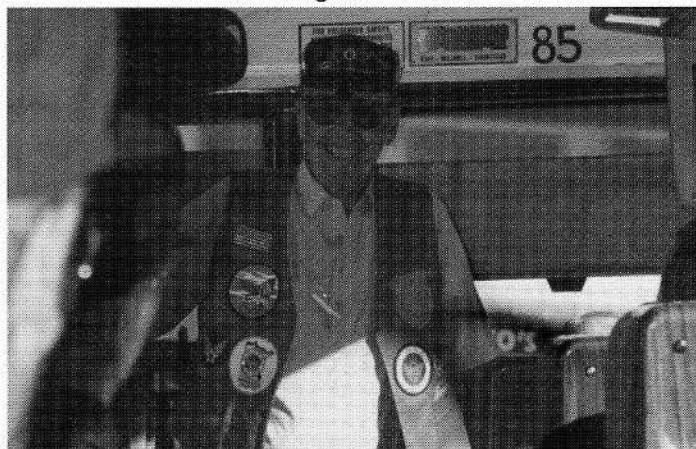
On The Move



Waiting for the Bus



The Iowa State Capital



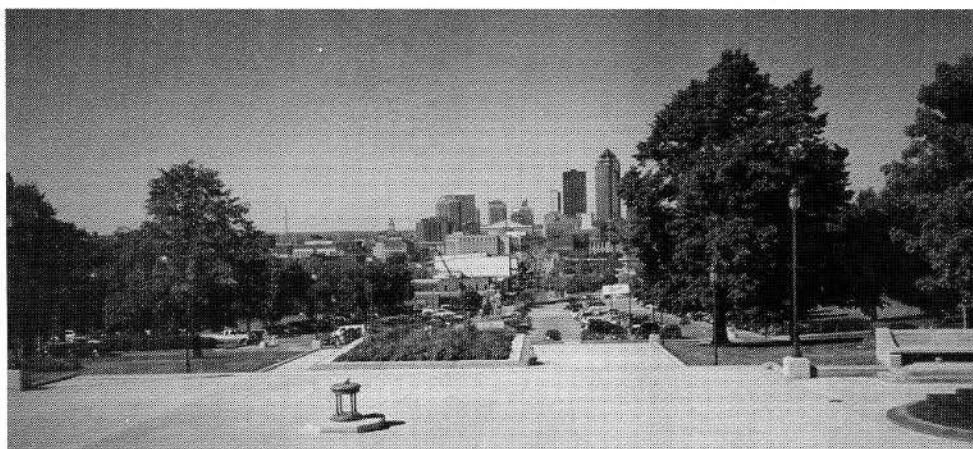
Everyone Ready?



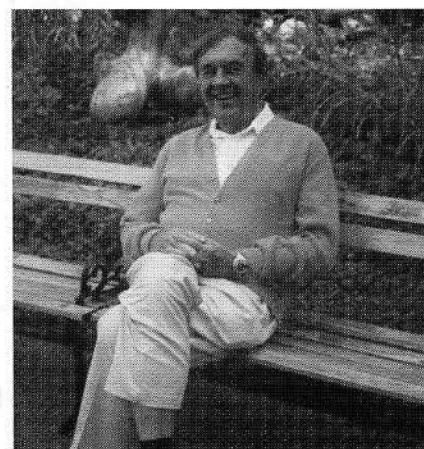
Iowa National Guard Museum



Claude & Gen Conklin



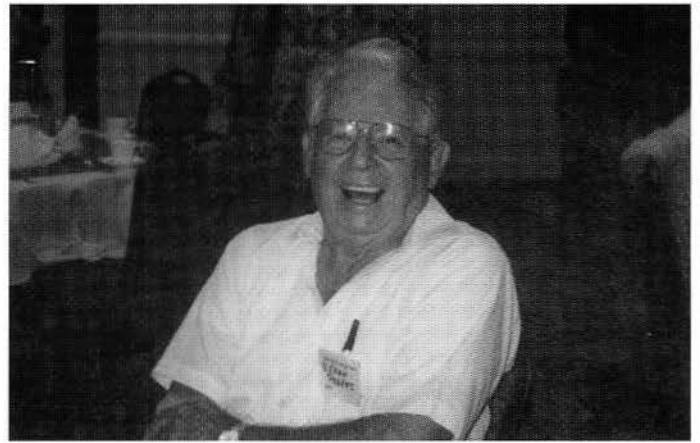
View From the Capital - Des Moines 1999



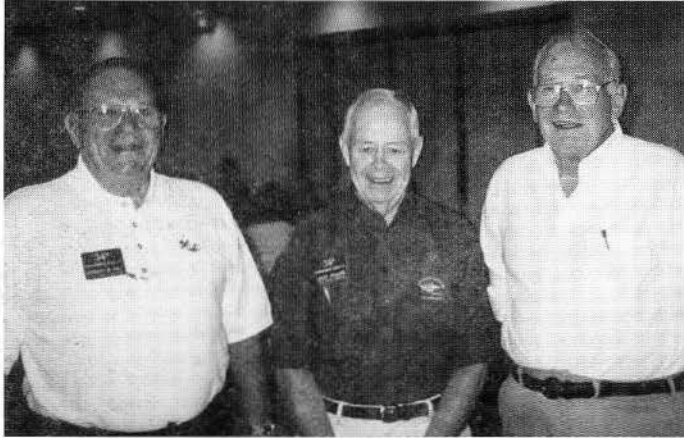
John Doronsky in Botanical Garden



Bob & Esther Wright



Evan Rogers



Herb Hall, Jack Share & Ben Workman



Tony & JoAnn Habiger



Lois & Walter Sturdivan



Wayne & Laverne Howarter



Hal & Jan Province

F
R
I
D
A
Y

N
I
G
H
T



Walter & Ruby McAllister



Cleveland & Henrietta Romero



Henry & Audrey Tobiason



Betty Lampey & Son Todd



Paul & Beryl Anderson



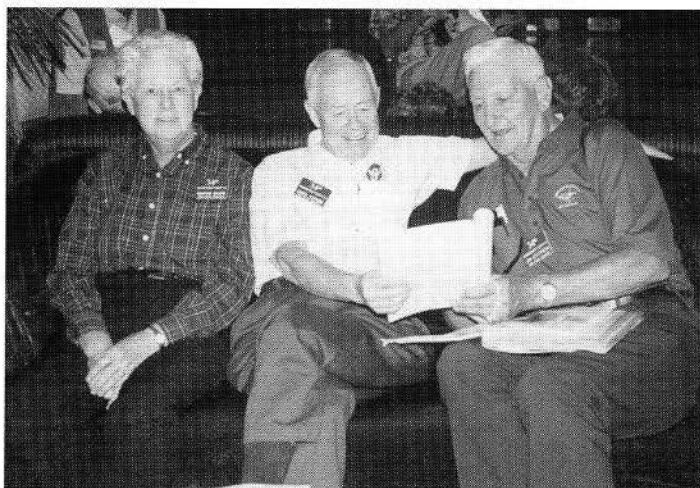
Bev Stearns & John Doronsky



Pauline & Paul Shull



At the Farmer's Market - Betty Lampey, Gen Conklin,
Marian & Jack Share and Claude Conklin



Marian & Jack Share & Jim Stuthers

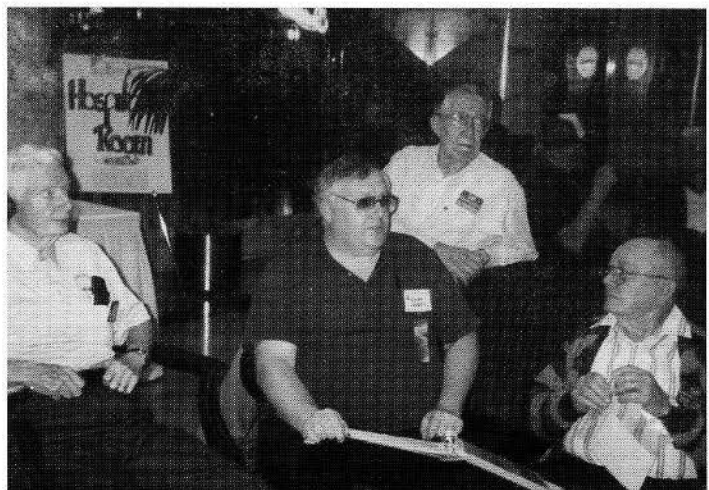


The PX Staff - Past & Present - L to R
Ken & Katheen Paxton, Paul & Beryl Anderson,
Paul & Pauline Shull



Hal Province & John Feda

H
A
N
G
I
N
G



Rev. Gary Ferrell - Our computer archivist



Harold Rutka, Wayne Howarter, Claude Conklin



At Ease



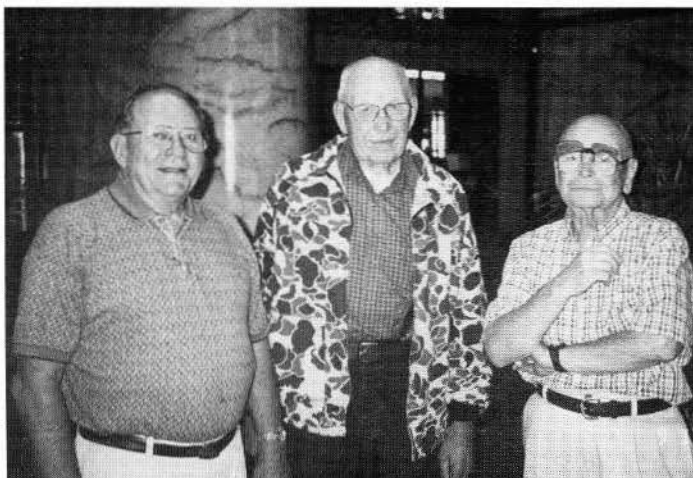
John - At the Piano



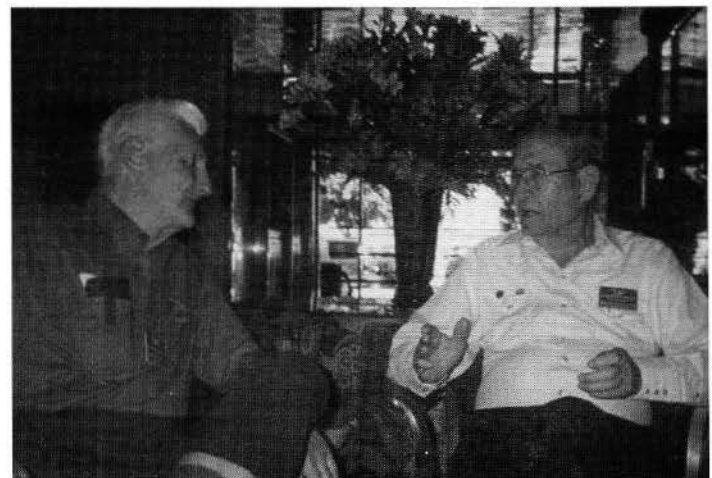
Carl Freysinger, Claude & Audrey Gibbs



Bill Brown, Carroll Forister & Leon Salveson



Herb Hall, Ed Hiltner & J.C Smith



Jim Stuthers & Walt McAllister



Chit-Chat



Service with a smile - Harold Rutka & Bob Wright



Marian share, Audrey Tobiason, Vivienne Kuenek & Sylvia Forster



Nancy & Herman Fieber, Hal Province



Kathleen Paxton, Sam & Peggy Wolstencroft & Audrey Gibbs



What'll you have?



A good bartender listens...



...and listens

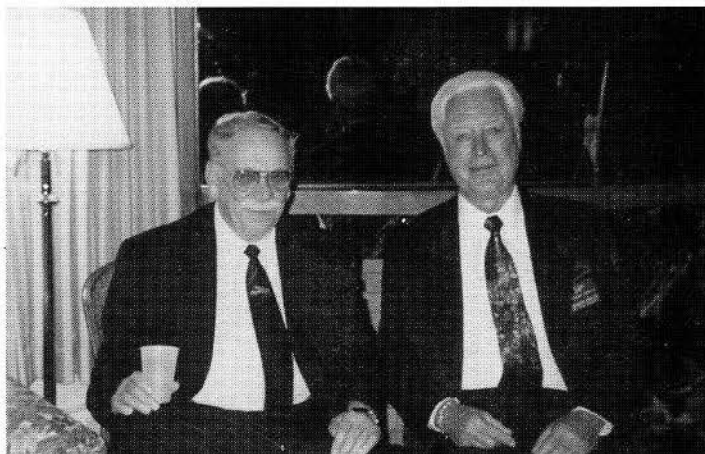
H
O
S
P
I
T
A
L
I
T
Y



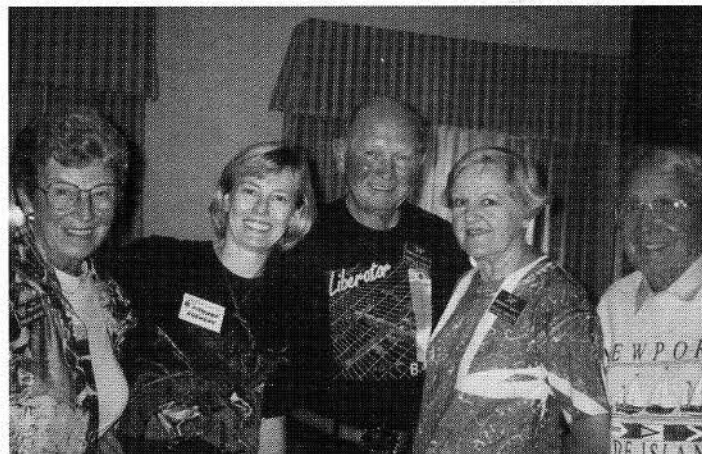
Nice looking bunch of guys!



Jack Share, Herman Fieber, Ken Paxton



Hal Province, Norman Mayer



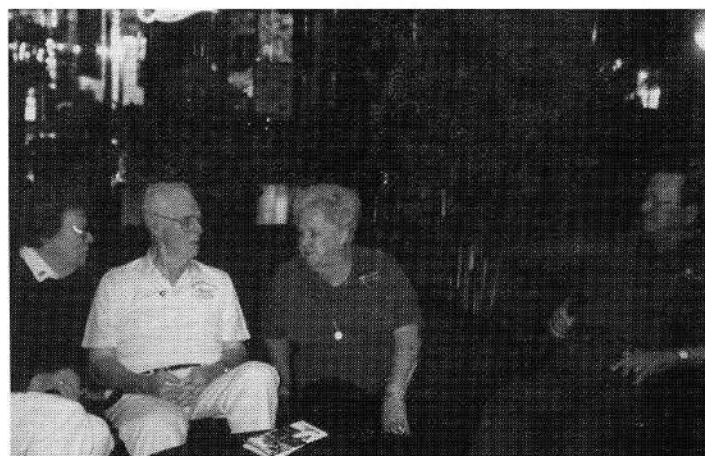
Ginny Muent, Vivienne Kueneker, Carroll Forster, Sylvia Forster, Fred Muent



Fred's serving



Hal Province, Norm Mayer, Marian Share, Bob Wright



Peggy & Sam Wolstencroft, Henrietta & Cleveland Romero



Some serious discussion

DIGNITARIES



Incoming President - Norman Mayer



Thanks, Bob



Past Presidents

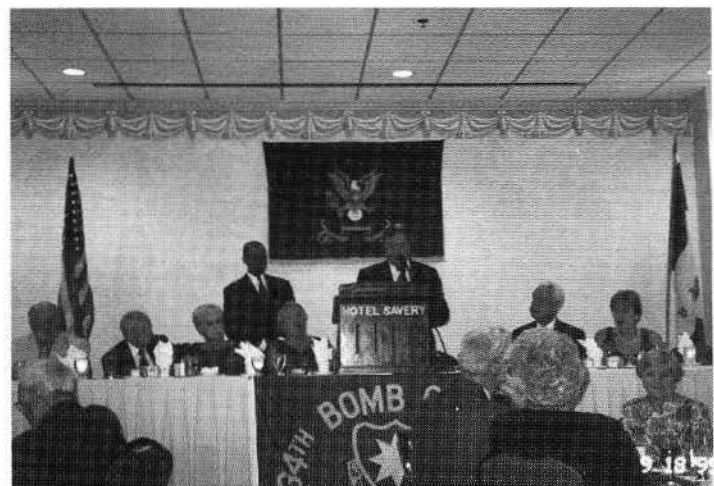
Front - Walt Mcallister, Al Isrealsen & Ambers Hanson
Rear - Harold Rutka, Sam Wolstencroft,
Wally Brauks, Jim Martin & Bruce Sothern



The Past President's gift



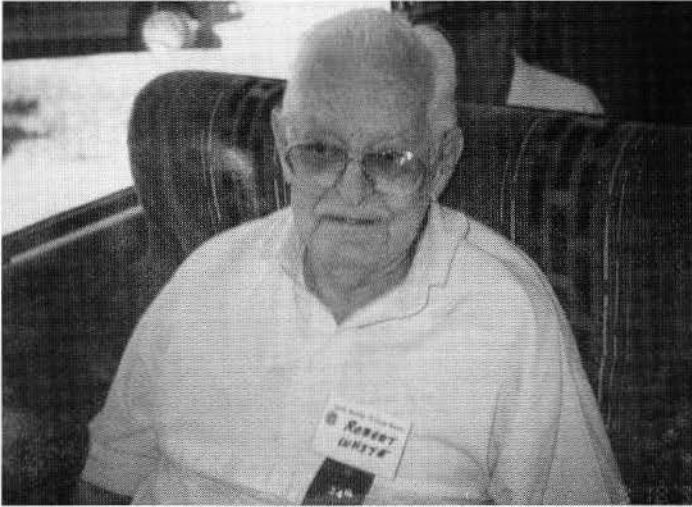
Outgoing President - John Doronsky



Head Table

G
A
L
A

FIRST TIMERS



Robert White



Carolyn Guertin

BANQUET



Aubrey Smith



Gary Farrell

HONORED CREWS



Ralph Bush Crew

L - R Conrad Ricker, John Uronz, Ben Buckley,
Evan Rogers & Ralph Bush



Jim Glass Crew

L - R: Chas Herget, Chas Conway (a passenger back
to the states in 1945) Chas R. Yockey, Benjamin
Zeldes, Herb Roy & Don Shee



Jack & Bonnie Hood



Carwin & Marlene Baxter



Philip Podulka & George Newbauer



Jim & Kay Stuthers



Bennett & Miriam Richmond



Hal & Jan Province



Fred & Ginny Muento



Marge & Ralph Bush, Mary & Ben Buckley Patricia & Conrad Ricker, Evan Rogers & John Vronz

G
A
L
A



Dale & Esther Frank



Dottie & Herb Roy



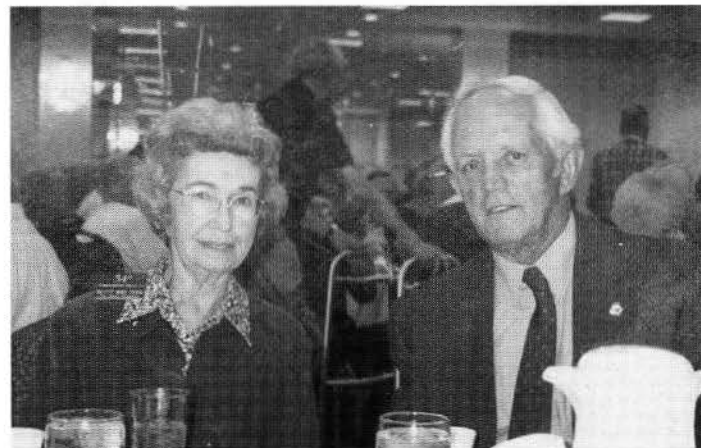
Bruce Sothern, Bob & Esther Wright, Gen & Harold Rutka



Dexter & Beulah Jordan



Verb & Betty Holcomb



Betty Mae & John Feda



Bobb & Ginny Pacholski



Ben & Margaret Workman



Birgit Lonergan, Claude & Gen Conklin, Jim Lonergan



Jim & Natalie Troup



Herb & Doris Hall



Aubrey & Chris Smith



Lucille Worst



Charles & Lorraine Conway



Eileen & Charles Herget

G
A
L
A



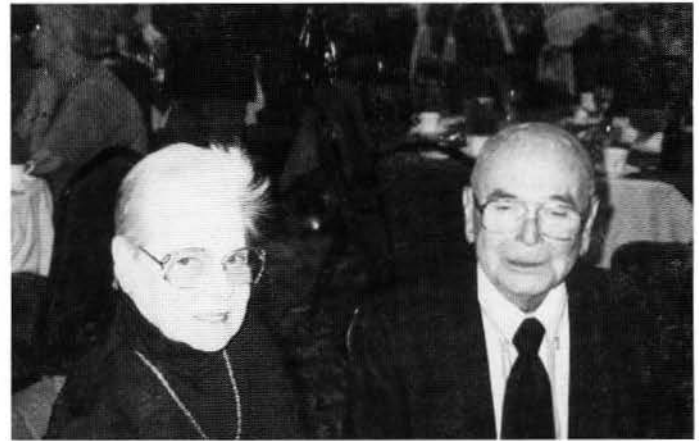
Allen & Agnes Isrealson and Roberta & Charles Barclay



Gary Ferrell, Beulah & Dexter Jordan



Fred & Rachel Waltz



J. C. & Jane Smith



Paul & Pauline Shull, Beryl Anderson



Ray (Jim) Hinchee, Linda Zaino, Charles Deming



First Timer Carolyn Guertin, Sylvia Forister, Carroll Forister & daughter Vivienne Kueneke



Sam & Peggy Wolstencroft



Jan Province, Audrey & Claude Gibbs



Charles R. Yockey



Dale Frank & William Orton



Bonnie & Don Shee



Edith & Benjamin Zeldes



Helen & Eugene James



Mary & Bill Burnell



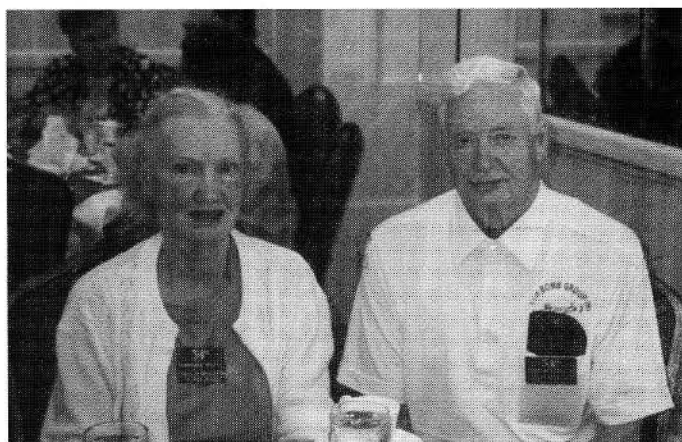
Ken & Kathleen Paxton, Herman & Nancy Fieber



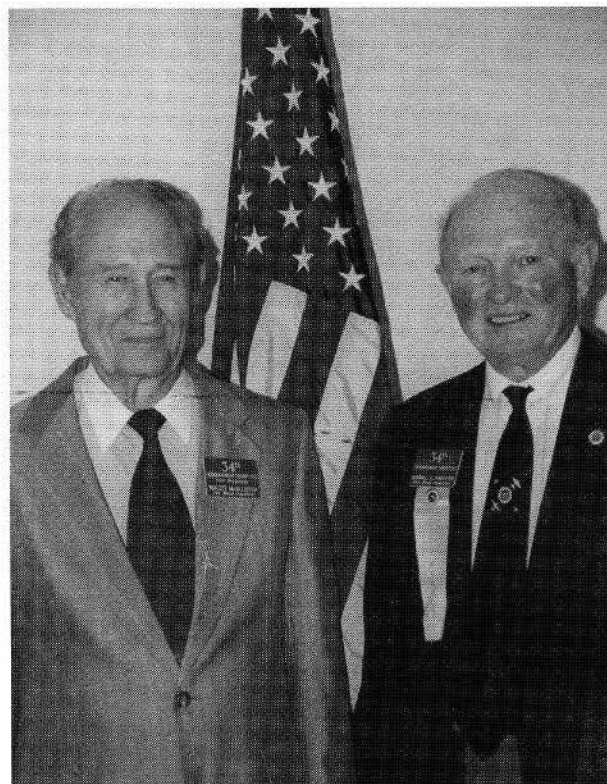
Donald & Evely Stufflebeam



Beryl & Paul Anderson



Paul & Twyla Meeder



Walt McAllister & Carroll Forister



L to R Standing: Ambers Hanson, Verb Holcomb, Betty Halcomb, Henry Liabiason and John Feta
Seated: Jean Hanson, Audrey Labiason and Bettymae Feta



Virginia & Hugh Goerner

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The WWII memorial will be located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, at the east end of the Reflecting Pool, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. It will be a place to reflect on the sacrifices made by a special generation of Americans.

It will be the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II and will honor all military veterans of the War, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms.

Primary funding for the \$100 million Memorial must be raised from private contributions. All Americans can help build the Memorial by becoming Charter Members of the World War II Memorial Society and generously contributing \$20, \$30, \$100 or more - all tax deductible.

Information concerning the Memorial and how to contribute may be obtained from:

AMERICAN BATTLE
MONUMENTS COMMISSION,
PO Box 96766
Washington, DC 20090 - 6766
Tel: 1-800-4WW2
e-mail <http://www.wwiimemorial.com>

34th. BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

1981 - Grady Deatherage
82 - Malcolm Corum
83 - Robert Wright
84 - Gerald Pine
85 - Harold Rutka
86 - James Martin
87 - Alfred DiNenno
88 - Edward Lawlor
89 - George Ritchie
90 - Walter McAllister
91 - Wallace Brauks
92 - Fred Schoch
93 - Bruce Southern
94 - Sam Wolstencroft
95 - Eli Baldea
96 - Ambers Hanson
97 - Raymond Palmer
98 - Allen Israelsen
99 - John Doronsky
2000 - Norman Mayer

MINI RE-UNION IN DES MOINES

Seems like there's always a new story to relate on the B-24 "Near Sighted Robin". The original J.C. Smith crew flew the plane from Blyth and continued flying it on their missions with the 34th bomb group. On August 24th, 1944 the crew got a day off and another crew flew the plane, which was to be it's last mission, as it was severely damaged by flak over Kiel and headed to Sweden for internment for the duration. (See story by Ingemar Melin on p. 19 in Sept. '99 issue of MM) This mission ended the 34th's association with the B-24 when the group switched to B-17's.

The original J.C. Smith crew, along with their crew chief, rendezvoused in Des Moines, IA at the annual reunion of the 34th bomb group association in September. One of the crew members, the ball turret gunner, could not make it and two are deceased, but seven of the original crew were there.

They met, with their wives, in their own mini-reunion on Friday night at a catered dinner in a reserved room at the Savary Hotel. Not much information has come out of the meeting but at breakfast the next morning, Fred Muent, the bombardier, sported a nasty looking eye. Perhaps Ginny, his wife, will fill us in on the details sometime.

This crew meeting was indeed spectacular. I understand Herb Hall made the arrangements and Bobb Pacholski provided a lot of support. To get 7 crew members together after 55 years is amazing. Congratulations, to all of the crew, we enjoyed your company.

It is not difficult to see why they were so successful as a crew, since their closeness, even today, is much in evidence. A great bunch of guys and fun to be around. Thanks for coming to the reunion, good luck and we hope to see you next year in Buffalo.

Original crew of "Near Sighted Robin" at their mini-reunion in Des Moines.



Back L to R:
Dexter Jordan, crew chief - JC Smith, pilot - Jim Troup, top turret -
Robt. Pacholski, navigator - Fred Muent, bombardier
Front L to R:
Ed Hiltner, flt engr - Ben Workman, radio - Herb Hall, tail gunner

PX ORDER FORM

REPRINT OF 34TH B.G. HISTORY BOOK, 1947 edition, EDWIN S. SMITH.....	\$37.50ea.
LATEST 34TH B.G. HISTORY BOOK, 1999 edition.....	\$49.95ea.
PERMANENT NAME TAGS (First and last names & Sqdn. No).....	\$ 7.00ea.
LICENSE PLATE (34th Bomb Group).....	\$ 4.00ea.
LICENSE PLATE HOLDER (2 for \$5.00).....	\$ 3.00ea.
PATCHES - 8TH AIR FORCE OR 34TH BOMB GROUP.....	\$ 5.00ea.
PATCHES - 8TH AIR FORCE (Gold & Silver Bullion Thread).....	\$ 9.95ea.
PATCHES - SQUADRON - 4th - 7th - 18th - 391st.....	\$ 5.00ea.
DECAL - VALOR TO VICTORY - 5" X 5".....	\$ 1.50ea.
BUMPER STICKER - 34TH B.G. - 3" X 12".....	\$ 1.50ea.
BELT BUCKLES - 34TH B.G. (VALOR TO VICTORY) OR B-17.....	\$ 8.50ea.
BOLO TIES - 8TH AIR FORCE - 34TH B. G. - B-17 - B24.....	\$ 6.00ea.
KEY RINGS - 8TH AIR FORCE - B-17 - B-24.....	\$ 4.00ea.
HAT PINS (FOR DECOR) B-24 - B-17 or POW.....	\$ 3.50ea.
VALOR TO VICTORY (LADY'S STICK PIN).....	\$ 3.50ea.
WINGS - 2 3/4" - PILOT - BOMBARDIER - NAVIGATOR - GUNNER.....	\$ 4.00ea.
WINGS - 2" CREW.....	\$ 4.00ea.
WINGS - 1" - PILOT - BOMBARDIER - NAVIGATOR - ENG - GUNNER.....	\$ 3.50ea.
TIE TACK - 8TH A.F. - 4TH - 7TH - 18TH - 391ST SQDNS.....	\$ 4.00ea.
BALL PEN (retractable) W/REPLACEABLE CARTRIDGE, DK. BLUE W/GOLD LETTERS (34TH BOMB GROUP, 8TH AIR FORCE) AND GOLD TRIM.....	\$ 1.49ea.
TOTE BAG - CANVAS - 34TH B.G. DESIGN.....	\$ 6.00ea.
CAPS - SOLID ROYAL BLUE (New 34th B.G. Design).....	\$ 7.00ea.
CAPS - 34TH. B.G. (Mesh back).....	\$ 6.00ea.
CAPS - 50TH ANNIVERSARY - 8TH A.F (Royal Blue).....	\$ 5.00ea.
V.C.R. TAPE 58 mins. (" Start Your Engines + 50 Years").....	\$27.95ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT W/ POCKET AND 34TH B.G. EMBLEM (Hunter Green - beautiful) Large or X Large.....	\$24.50ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT (Cobblestone beige) W/34TH B.G. EMBLEM and LOGO (no pocket) Med. or XX Large.....	\$24.50ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT (White W/ Emblem - no pocket) Large or XX Large.....	\$ 27.00ea.
LADIES POLO SHIRT (White W/ Emblem - no pocket) Large or XX Large.....	\$27.00ea.
JACKET - ROYAL BLUE (W/Emblem) - Med. - Large - X Large.....	\$39.00ea.
SPORTS BAG - WHITE - W/Emblem.....	\$10.00ea.
NEW!! WRIST WATCH - 34TH B.G. Face W/Alarm.....	\$27.95ea.
RUBBER STAMPS (3 B-17'S IN FORMATION).....	\$ 7.95ea.
BOOK " Prescription For Nutritional Healing".....	\$19.95ea.

PLEASE CIRCLE ITEMS DESIRED
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Please add \$1.00 postage for orders under \$10.00 and \$2.00 postage for orders over &10.00

Send check or money order to: 34th B.G. PX
Ken Paxton
6402 E. 11th St.
Wichita, KS 67206
Tel: (316) 683 - 2900

Friends Write

SYLVIA COHEN - DALLAS, TX

I am writing you in regard to my husband, Norman Cohen. He was in the 34th bomb group. For the past ten months he has been in a nursing home (Golden Arm). The place is nice and clean, the meals are great, as nursing homes go, this one is the best of the worst.

Norman has Alzheimer's, it's so sad. He is such a wonderful person, good husband, father, and grandfather.

I am so lucky to have such wonderful children. We see that one of us is there for his lunch and dinner. Norman has never complained, not even now!

We tried to keep him home, but when he was in the hospital the doctor said he needed to go to a nursing home.

It surely was hard for us to take, we celebrated our 56th anniversary last September - (I try to remember all the good years).

Norman had often spoken about all the nice guys in his group. On several occasions we had planned to make one of the reunions, but we never made it, Norman seemed to be always working.

Just sent for the second Mendlesham Memories - I'll be anxious to receive it so I can show it to Norman.

Wishing you and the 34th BGA family good health and good luck.

THE FAMILY OF LLOYD AND BOBBIE BOREEN

As a son in law who was present at Omaha, Neb. Reunion in 1997. It is with the deepest regret to inform you of the passing of Lloyd Boreen of Winlock, WA. on August 23, 1999. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bobbie on Jan. 30, 1999. He put up a valiant fight against cancer but after Bobbie died his heart just wasn't in it. He is at rest now with his wife and looking down at your group that he loved so much. They are sorely missed but at least together again.

Lloyd was buried at the Olequa Cemetery in Winlock, WA on August 28th and was honored by a wonderful military funeral given by the chapter of the

VFW. As a family, we extend our best wishes for your continued meetings and togetherness as long as the Lord is willing. It is wonderful that such old and renewed friendships continue in such a manner as your group. You are all wonderful people and showed us a warm welcome. God bless you all.

Ed: The 34th BGA sends it's sincerest sympathies to the family of Lloyd and Bobbie. We always enjoyed their presence at the reunions and they will be missed.

KIVETT IVEY - LAGRANGE, NC

As you guys wind up another reunion I am rolling my pant legs up because of all the water "FLOYD" dumped on my part of the country!! Today I am just about surrounded by water and as fast as it's rising I will soon have to get a boat. Fortunately I am on high ground, so don't expect it to get in my house, but hundreds are looking for a dry bed!! Sorry I couldn't make the reunion, hopefully next time we will be there. If any of you need some water, come get it. Hurry!!

WALTER R. BATCHELLER - MARGATE, FL

My father would have really enjoyed attending the reunion that you are having in a few days. However, he passed away in 1984. I remember, as a boy, coming across a box that contained service ribbons, photos, and a couple of books, When I asked dad about them, he told some stories about the airships and the men. Sadly, however, they have been forgotten.

My mother passed away in 1960. After mom's passing, dad had a difficult time readjusting. He remarried within 11 months, I went into the Navy. His second marriage ended and my stepmother disposed of most of his memorabilia.

My brother, sister and myself would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone that could tell us about places, men and events along with dates that our dad was involved in.

I realized that you will not have time to read this letter aloud at your September meeting. Maybe you could post this on a bulletin board and some of the men that knew my father would drop me a line or contact me on the Internet.

Thank you in advance for any information that you or the men of the 34th can provide us with.

Ed: If any members would like to help, his name and address is:

Walter R. Batcheller
5180 SW 6th St.
Margate, FL 33068
e-mail — ba1ch@aol.com

JANE M. HALL - OCEANSIDE, CA

Re: 1st Lt. Marcus E. Hall

About a week ago there was a message on my answering machine from a man trying to locate my husband. He said he was part of his crew flying B-17's out of Mendlesham, England. Unfortunately, the man left only part of his phone number (661-926-____). I am hoping you will publish this so he can get in touch again.

Unfortunately, Marcus passed away on October 18, 1997. I apologize for not informing Mendlesham Memories. He was sick a long time and I miss him very much. Enclosed is a poem written by his granddaughter that you might want to publish. If any of this is published, please send me a copy.

Ed: Mrs. Hall's address is:

3625 - 10 Vista Oceana
Oceanside, CA 92057
Phone - 760 - 439-3823

In honor of Marcus E. Hall 1st Lt. - B-17 pilot.

GRANDPA

I miss my grandpa so much
He taught me a lot of things I know
He had pride and honor
He was a very good father
He was a pilot in the war
He always had enough of everything
And never asked for any more.
His war buddies called him grumpy
I thought that was kind of funny
He sometimes took us to the beach
But then he got very weak.
Two years ago he passed away
And it happened to be my birthday
Why did he have to go,
The one I loved so.

Kirsten Johnson

IAN HAWKINS - STOWMARKET, ENGLAND

Thank you very much for the Mendlesham Memories newsletters. I receive newsletters from several bomb groups, among them the 385th, 379th, 91st, 392nd, 95th, 100th, 390th, and the 361st. I send all of them to the Percy Kimbrel Memorial Library and Archives Dept. at the 390th Bomb Group Memorial Museum at Parnam Airfield, Framlingham, Suffolk so they can be seen and read by researchers of the 1939-1945 air war. The various newsletters reveal many rare and unique aspects of the people involved and their

experiences.

For example, your ditching, rescue and subsequent heart-warming reunion years later with your rescuer cannot be found in any official history book, etc. Incidentally, the majority of the various news letters are sent to me from the USA via surface mail and take 3 or 4 weeks, but that does not matter - as long as they get here and are passed on to the library for the researchers, that's the important thing! It was the major worldwide war and will be written about and discussed for the foreseeable future.

PAUL GUSTAFSON - WOOSTER, OH

I have a feeling that most of us from the Eight Air Force know little about the R.A.F. (Royal Air Force), but have a vague feeling of camaraderie.

We did discover a book (and my wife gave it to me as a Christmas gift) which gives the reader knowledge of the far ranging activity of the RAF. It is a good read, opens eyes to the breadth of the activities across the whole geographic expanse of the British WWII experience.

The title of the book is:

"MEN BEHIND THE MEDALS"

the incredible endeavors of 21 air crew whose stories deserve to be told by Graham Pitchfork. The publisher is Lee Cooper of London and is dated 1998.

MARGARET RUSSELL BRUNDISH - MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND

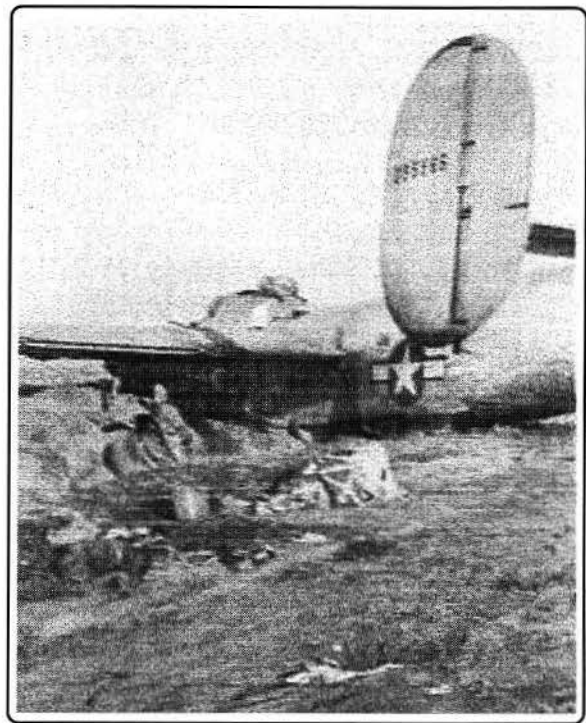
Just to let you know that I received the extra copies of Mendlesham Memories on Sept. 4th, 1999 and you only posted them on Aug. 30th, so they arrived very quickly. I have heard from Mr. Rutka that you were going to send them. I shall pass them on to the ladies who do the memorial to read.

Best wishes for the future. We have met Harold and Gen Rutka several times now when they have returned to Mendlesham. Kind regards.

DR. HORST WILHELM - SCHIFFWEILER, GR.

Hi friends: Today we had some of the most impressive hours in our lives. At about eleven thirty you could see the moon slowly moving in front of the sun. Then big dark clouds came and covered the sun until the total solar eclipse. The sun was totally black, you could see only the corona with its blue and red flickering. We could observe it completely because we had glasses special made for the solar eclipse.

Suddenly within a few minutes it grew dark. It was high noon but it became dark as midnight within seconds. No birds were flying, nearly no sound. Turning to the nearby woods and the street we saw them completely getting dark, street lanterns and the movement-reacting lights at our house switched on. Our dog Tina began to bark. This lasted some seconds when peace fell on earth and darkness and silence. We felt a light and cool wind. The heating system in our house turned on. And then it was gone and the dark clouds around the sun changed to pale and then to white and gray. Sun was shining again and birds started to sing again. While this period we found the atmosphere was somehow weird. Not frightening, but weird. It was so impressive that I forgot to shoot photos. I will wait for the next total eclipse in our area in the summer of 2135AD. Greetings from Germany where the sun is shining again like before. Horst and Margot.



END OF THE LINE

BOB FOX - INDIANAPOLIS, IN

I received my copy of the June issue of MM and read the article by Blomquist on his crash during a training flight, (Trouble over Tacoma). I was a crewmember on that flight and have some pictures of the



plane before after. My wife and I re-visited the site last year after the Boise reunion, and the ditch is still there, including where we tore up it up after crashing into it. The weeds have all grown up around it, but it's basically the same. We talked to some of the locals and none of them remembered anything about it. We also stopped at the newspaper office and the editor didn't believe there had ever been a crash but after looking up the old editions found the articles. Eddie Mink had a dislocated shoulder, Lt. Gulley had a concussion, which resulted in his losing flying status after we got overseas. I had a cut on the top of my head requiring 10 stitches but other than that no one was injured. From the looks of the plane that was hard to believe. After reading your article, I thought you might like the additional information and pictures.

BONNIE SHEE - DOWNERS GROVE, IL

Enclosed are pictures from the Des Moines banquet. We hope that you'll be able to use them in the next MM, but we'd like them returned once you're finished with them. It was a great reunion and we look forward to Buffalo. See you then ——— and thanks to you for the great job you're doing.

KIVET IVEY - LAGRANGE, NC

Lucille and I always look forward and eagerly await the next copy of the Mendlesham Memories, such interesting stories! I can certainly "relate" to many of them! Funny how during that time I was too tied up with my own aircrew family and didn't realize that others were going through the same "trials and tribulations" as we were. Now that time is catching up with us we have more time to look back and wonder how we "made" it. We were just a bunch of "young squirts"! Surely, that tells us this "younger" generation today might just be a lot better than we think!

I regret that we will not make the reunion this year. Lucille's health is not good, the trip would be too strenuous for her. So to all who will be able to make it I hope it is a good one! Next time!

ED: Kivet has written a book on his army career, excerpts from which will be in the March issue of MM. The front cover underlay was his B-24, "TIGER RAG" on which he flew 23 missions prior to transition to the B-17.

PAUL ANDERSON - EVERETT, WA

Beryl and I enjoyed the reunion in Des Moines very much. The weather was great and our accommodations nice. When we signed up for the city tour of Des Moines, I didn't know we would be going to Camp Dodge, where I enlisted in the Army Air Corps back in September of 1942. Since I have a brother and sister in towns nearby, we got to do some visiting before heading home. We are now beginning to get ready for our yearly trip to Arizona.

I am enclosing some pictures we took at the Gala Banquet. If you can use any of them feel free to do so.

AL SADOWSKY - BOCA RATON, FL.

I am enclosing some incidents that occurred with the 34th bomb group that I hope you will find interesting.

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the wonderful job the officers are doing in bringing back the most gratifying time in my life.

I will truly plan on making next years' reunion so that I can thank you all in person.

DALE FRANK - WINTERSET, IA

Again, a wonderful reunion!! So well planned - the Savery Hotel, such a stately grand hotel.

It was great to visit with both Wanda Pine and Birgit Lonergon.

See everyone next September in Buffalo, N.Y.

HERB ROY - ST. LOUIS, MO

Enjoyed spending time with you at the reunion and I hope you can use some of enclosed photos.

At the reunion we had the distinct pleasure of meeting Charles Conway after 55 years. He was one the ground crew (Radar Repair) who we ferried home when the base was closed. We were flying an old wreck called "The Ghost" and still painted black, blue and assorted camouflage colors. Charley said that when he rode out to the revetment he couldn't believe his eyes. He said he thought all those old dogs had long ago been shot down or wrecked. He got on board with some trepidation and was not relieved when we took off for Prestwick, Scotland. Jimmy Glass, our pilot and Charles Yockey, copilot flew our B-17 like it was just a large fighter plane

As usual, we were flying through soup above and below and when I told the pilot we were over Prestwick he just looked for a hole in the layer, threw a wing over and slipped down to the airfield. Charles Conway said he had never flown like that before, but I told him that was how we always flew. We believed in Jimmy and Chuck and they believed in the Navigator and crew.

Good luck and hope to see you at he next reunion.

Herb leaves us with a little joke:

The man was going to church and as he mounted the front steps the people came running out of the church and obviously afraid. Nonetheless, the man entered and found only one pew occupied so he sat down next to the other person who turned to him and looked him in the eye.

"Do you know who I am?" said this other person.

"Yes, your Satan." replied the man.

"Aren't you afraid of me?", he asked

"No, why should I be, I've been married to your sister for 30 years.

WANDA PINE - WAUNAKEE, WI

Had a great time in Des Moines. Met so many friends and also missed so many. So glad to see Mrs. Lonergan and her sons, also Mrs. Lampey and her son.

CLAUDE GIBBS - CATAWISSA, MO

I am enclosing pictures of our table at the banquet on Saturday night. The reunion in Des Moines was, as usual, enjoyable and I was favorably impressed by the courtesy and helpfulness of the Savery hotel employees.

We are already looking forward to Buffalo, N.Y. and hope attendance will be better.

To those who guide our organization - my congratulations for the superb job they are doing.

WILLIAM J. ORTON - CASCADE, ID

Enclosed are a couple of pictures I took at the Gala Banquet. Hope they are good enough to use. I really enjoyed the reunion in Des Moines. The golf game was great as well as the tour of the town.

Sure wish I could find some more of the 1446 Ord. S&M Co. survivors and get them interested in the association.

I should have some more pictures to send for the next issue.

IMOGENE FREYSINGER - CABLE, OH

Another great reunion, come & gone, so fast. We really enjoyed seeing our 34th family again. I don't know how long we will be able to keep going. The Taps list is getting longer all the time! I hope if, and when, my turn comes to spend the rest of my life alone, I can be as strong and brave as many of the wives of the 34th who were recently widowed.

I would like to thank all the sons and daughters of the 34th who came with their remaining parent. You must know how much the reunions mean to all of us! (I hope Sylvia's lovely daughter, Vivienne, gets that jacket)!!!

We missed some of our friends who couldn't come. The Stemen's, Finley's, Schroder's; we heard that Jack Farley was under the weather. Doesn't he know you can't keep a 34th'er down?

Hope to see you all in Buffalo!! Love.

BERNIE FARLEY - VERONA, NJ

During the 1988 reunion in Boise, we happily celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. This year we were not able to attend the reunion because of Jack's illness. Jack was diagnosed with bladder cancer in March and in July underwent surgery for removal at Sloan-Kettering Memorial Cancer Center in New York City. Complications followed and continue to plague him. His tough, fighting Irish spirit brought him back from renal failure the end of September. Since the surgery on July 27th he's been in and out of the hospital and is still hospitalized as of this date, 10/15, but he's very much with it, off the morphine and - Jacks back! Many thanks for the card signed by so many of our friends at the reunion.

Ed: All your 34th friends missed you at Des Moines, you were in our thoughts and in our prayers. We are much relieved to hear you are doing better and wish you a speedy recovery.

Jack's area code has been changed, his new number is: (973) 239-2940.

E-mail Address Changes

Hanson, Amber & Jean....jahanson@mindspring.com
Hensler, Robert L.....baron1@michiana.org
Holcomb, Verbal.....Vol735006@aol

THE NIGHT BEFORE Y2K

'Twas the night before Y2K, and all through the nation
We awaited the Bug, the Millennium sensation.
The chips were replaced in computers with care,
In hopes that 'ol Bugsy wouldn't stop there.
While folks could think they were snug in their beds,
Others had visions of dread in their heads.
And Ma with her PC, and I with my Mac,
Had just logged on the Net and kicked back with a snack.
When over the server, there arose such a clatter,
I called Mr. Gates to see what was the matter.
But he was away, so I flew like a flash,
Off to my bank to withdraw my cash.
When what with my wandering eyes should I see?
My good old Mac looked sick to me.
The hack of all hackers was looking so smug,
I knew that it must be the Y2K bug.
His image downloaded in no time at all,
He whistled and shouted, let all systems fall;
Go Intel! Go Gateway! Now HP! Big Blue!
Everything Compaq, and Pentium too!
All processors big, all processors small,
Crash away! crash away! crash away all.
All the controls that planes need for flights,
All microwaves, trains and all traffic lights.
As I drew in my breath and was turning around,
Out through the modem, he came with a bound.
He was covered with fur, and slung on his back,
Was a sack full of virus, set for attack.
His eyes - how they twinkled! His dimples - how merry,
As midnight approached though things soon became scary.
He had a broad little face and a round little belly,
And his sack, filled with virus, quivered like jelly.
He was chubby and plump, perpetually grinning,
And I laughed when I saw him,
Though my hard drive stopped spinning.
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know a new feeling of dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
He changed all the clocks, then turned with a jerk
With a twitch of his nose, and a quick little wink,
All things electronic soon went on the blink.
He zoomed from my system, to the next folks on line,
He caused such a disruption, could this be a sign?
Then I heard him exclaim, with a loud, hearty shout,
Happy Y2K to you all, and the lights all went out.

(Author unknown)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ACKERMAN	HARRY	HDQLM	655 N PARK APT198	GRAPEVINE	TX	76051
ARNOLD	HARRY, C.	18LM	524 ANCHORAGE DR	NORTH PALM BEACH	FL	33408
ATTRIDGE	CHARLES A.	18LM	8202 WHITBURN CIR	HUNTINGTON BEACH	CA	92646
BARRON	WILLIAM M.	7	1072 S. PLYMOUTH CT	CHICAGO	IL	60605
BERRY	BOB	7A	3010 QUAIL DR	JONESBORO	AR	72404
BERRY	EDWARD G.	7	3614 LAFAYETTE LN	JONESBORO	AR	72404
FRANCO	GEORGE A.	18 4	108 EAGLE LN	HAMPSTEAD	NC	28443
GALLOWAY	JOHN H.	4	PO BOX 1585	MARS HILL	NC	28754
GERLACH	GEORGE A.	18LM	806 GASPARILLA DR	ST. PETERSBURG	FL	33702
HAVRON	WILLIAM A.	?	121 DRY BRANCH RD	BLUE RIDGE	GA	30513
NIATAS	STEPHEN	18	1 HUBER COURT	HIGHTSTOWN	NJ	08520
PARSONS	HARRISON, M	391LM	329-4 LAMAR AVE	SHELBY	NC	28150
SUMMA	HANNAH		2736 EAST 22ND ST	ANDERSON	IN	46012
THAETE	EDWARD H. III	18	23951 VIA MARAGALL	MISSION VIEJO	CA	92692
VANBUSKIRK	WILLIAM, F.	4	128510 PARKVIEW APT322	SURPRISE	AZ	85374

LOST SHEEP

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BOLDUC	NORMAN, H.		2552 GREENLEAF APT. 2083144	ANAHEIM	CA	92804
DANIEL	STANLEY	7	9792 SAGEBRUSH DR	PRESCOTT VALLEY	AZ	86314
WANFRIED	HAROLD		9141 SPRING BRANCH CT.	CHARLESON	SC	29406
HEID	MARVIN, E	GUNRY	1940 NE 2ND AVE J-101 OFF	WILTON MANNERS	FL	33305

NEW LIFE ASSOCIATE MEMBER

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
GUERTIN	CAROLYN (Widow of Don)	6200 NICOLET RD.	RICHMOND	VA	23225

TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BOREEN	LLOYD	18LM	08-23-99	BOX 203	WINLOCK	WA	98596
HALL	MARCUS E.	4	10-18-97	3625-10 VISTA OCEANA	OCEANSIDE	CA	92057
JOHNSON	WILLIAM R.	18	08-20-99	3139B STONY POINT RD	RICHMOND	VA	23235
LARMORE	CHARLES, W	HDQLM	07-06-99	720 E. DUSTMAN RD	BLUFFTON	IN	46714
NAVARRE	DONALD, G.	7	? 99	P O BOX 5244	TOLEDO	OH	43611
SHERMAN	WILLIAM V.	1239QM	08-21-99	7030 SW 64TH COURT	MIAMI	FL	33143

DONATION TO THE RAY SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
MRS JEAN BARR	GLEN D. BARR
EARL PARENTEAU	RAY SUMMA
CHARLES SAKAL	
ALFRED DINENNO	

1999 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

1ST - ALEXANDER WISNER GROSS-----	SPONSOR - ROBERT H. GROSS, 7TH SQND
2ND - APRIL LANGHAMMER-----	SPONSOR - PETER GARCIA, 7TH SQDN
3RD - MEREDITH CORD-----	SPONSOR - CHARLES SAKAL, 7TH SQDN

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS FOR YEAR 2000 WILL BE IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF
MENDLESHAM MEMORIES**

Season's Greetings and a Happy, Healthful & Prosperous New Year to All!

Jack Share
22 So. Avonlea Cir.,
The Woodlands, TX 77382
(409) 273-3561

34th Bomb. Group



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THE MAILING
HOUSE



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

Address Service Requested