

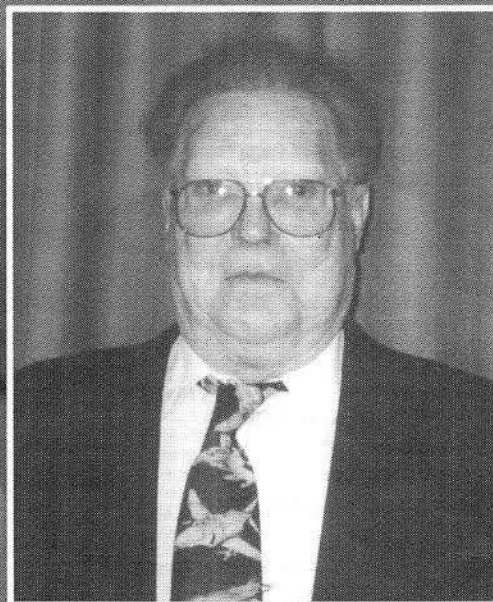


# ENDLESHAM EMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)

## Claude Gibbs



## President 2000-2001



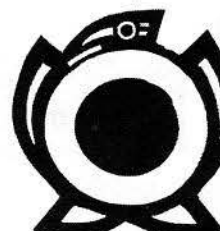
4TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON

# MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of  
*The 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, Inc.*  
[www.excel-tech.com/34th/](http://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:

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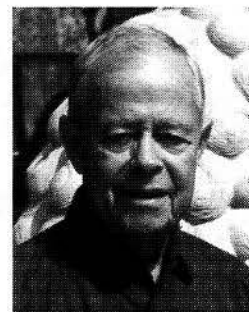
PX—Kenneth Paxton  
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Wichita, KS 67206  
(316) 685-4376

## DEADLINE

All material and items for the March issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before January 20th 2001. That is the date our final copy will go to the printer.

Jack Share, editor

## share— a thought.



The officers, directors and committee-men of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group are a most dedicated and responsible collection of individuals with one goal in mind to keep the organization alive and well. Through the years they have demonstrated their loyalty and commitment to an association which has endured for over 50 years. There is little to be gained, personally, by serving in these non-compensable positions, perhaps only a feeling of satisfaction that contributing to it's continued existence can bring. Another, often overlooked, but an important part of the group's well being is the duty performed by the ever faithful nominating committee of one, Bruce Southern. Bruce has more or less taken this task upon himself as one of his many contributions to the group. When it seems impossible to fill a certain position, he always seems to come up with a well-qualified candidate.

While handing out plaudits, how could we not mention the work and dedication of our ex-presidents. It is a difficult job in that most of the decisions have to be made from long distance. One of his duties is planning the ceremony, acquiring entertainment and a featured speaker for the Gala Banquet. How difficult would this be if the president lived in California and the reunion was in New York, as was the case this year. Norm Mayer, this years president, handled the situation very well and the program went on without a hitch.

Our newly elected president, Claude Gibbs has been involved in a variety of positions in the group, through the years, as board member and filling the vice presidents chairs. He has earned the respect and gratitude of all members. We are honored to have him represent the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group for year 2001.

Find enclosed, the minutes of the Board of Director's and the General Meeting in this edition of Mendlesham Memories as presented by our recording secretary, John Feda. Also find treasurer, Hal Province's annual financial report. These reports describe the condition of the organization and should be of interest to all members. Of special importance is the paragraph, **in bold type**, in the General Membership minutes. This is the proposal to amend the by-laws to accept associate members as regular members and will be voted on at next year's reunion in Savannah, Georgia.

Season's Greeting  
and a Happy New Year to all.

Jack Share, Editor



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It will be a privilege to serve as president of the 34th Bomb Group Association for the year 2001. Thank you for giving me the opportunity. I'm sure it will be a good year since we have, in place, experienced members in key positions that have shown their worth through the years.



Our increased attendance at Buffalo was very encouraging. I particularly want to mention the large number of First Timers. I hope they will continue joining us in future reunions. There were a number of faces missing because of illness. They have my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

I was especially impressed with the hospitality and service of the staff at the Adam's Mark Hotel. The food was great too.

The turnout for the bus tour to Canada and Niagara Falls was so good it required three buses this year. Everyone seemed to enjoy the tour, notwithstanding the day's overcast. The Buffalo statues, situated through out the city, were a big attraction.

It was a great personal pleasure to have my two daughters, Beverly and Betty, and son-in-law Charles, in attendance at the banquet. I noticed there were others whose sons and daughters were in attendance also.

I would like to request that each member give serious thought to the proposed change in our by-laws, allowing associate members voting privileges. This matter will be voted on at our next General Membership meeting in Savannah.

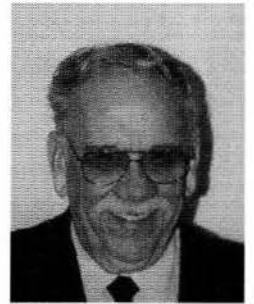
We're looking forward to seeing all of you in Savannah, Georgia in 2001. Hopefully the 8th Air Force Museum will contribute to a large turnout.

With the Holiday Season just around the corner, Audrey and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year in 2001. Thanks again to all involved in making the Buffalo reunion memorable. What a job! See you in Savannah next September.

Claude Gibbs

## TREASURER'S REPORT

WOW! What a REUNION!! Some immediate thoughts as I write this just 3 days after it was over: great hotel, a fine tour of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, good food, an excellent talk at the Gala banquet, wonderful fellowship with old and new friends! All of this will be covered in the December MM, I am sure. Who would have believed that we had 32 first-timers at a 34<sup>th</sup> BG reunion 55 years after we left Mendlesham? Some were sons, daughters, nephews, etc. but we were especially thankful and welcomed all who chose to spend the early days of September with us. We sincerely hope that they will be with us again at Savannah next September.



I need YOUR HELP! We are planning on publishing a 2001 roster of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and I need verification of your data. So many have had area and zip codes changed that I feel I'm out of date with correct telephone numbers. So, if you have changed your address, I need to update your record. Please drop me a post card (or send an email) so your data will be OK on the roster. Our last roster was published in 1998 and we have need for a new one.

Frequently, I get an early call, or request, for a scholarship form. The forms will be in the March 2001 issue of MM. If you require more than one form, please have it copied.

Please be aware that the 2001 34<sup>th</sup> BG reunion will be from Wednesday to Sunday, September 4-9 at the DeSoto Hilton Hotel in historic Savannah, GA. Make your plans to attend, NOW!

It is that time of year again – annual dues are DUE! If you pay annual dues, please send your check for \$10.00 to me (you could up-date your data at the same time). Have you noticed that we again list the year of your membership with your address? To beat the Y2K problem I have to use A0, A1, etc.

I trust that y'all had a friendly Halloween, didn't eat too much for Thanksgiving, and that all will enjoy the coming Holidays! The best of health and prosperity in the new Millennium! May God abundantly bless.

Hal



## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (H) is now a part of our history. We had a block of 90 rooms and we reached that number prior to our cut off date. The Adam's Mark Hotel personnel contacted those that were over our block of rooms and offered them a choice of another hotel. Some of our members accepted the offer, while others chose not to attend. When we sign the hotel contract for the block of rooms we are liable for any rooms not used, and our organization cannot afford that! At our 15<sup>th</sup> reunion we had an attendance of 183, this year we had 200. We did receive a letter from a member who could not get a room at the hotel, finally canceling his reservation, suggesting that we look into having an outside company handle the reunions. He also said, "Who cares for tours?" This was presented to the Board of Directors and it was decided to continue our reunions as in the past.

The reports we received on the hotel, the meals and the tour were excellent. The tour busses and guides were "extra special". We had too many for three busses and, so that no one was too crowded, brought in a fourth one; all had lavatories. The trip to Niagara Falls included a brief tour of the city, a stop at a mall for lunch and shopping, then on to the Canadian side of the Falls, then to the American side before returning to the hotel. The cost of the tour was \$22.00 compared to the regular tour group price at the hotel of \$59.95.

The reunion for September 2001 will be in Savannah, Georgia and the hotel will be the Savannah DeSoto Hilton. The contract with the hotel is for 89 rooms at a cost of \$99.00 per night. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MAILED ON OR BEFORE 5 AUGUST 2001. Any reservations received after this date will be on a "Space Available" basis. The rates in Savannah are higher than what we have been paying but the next lowest quote is \$123.00 per night.

Savannah, Georgia is a beautiful historic city originally founded as England's 13<sup>th</sup> colony in February 1773. The Hilton is about four blocks from the riverfront and is within walking distance. There is a complimentary city CAT shuttle that runs through the area on a regular schedule. The Mighty Eighth Museum can be visited by car or taxi or when we have our tour bus scheduled.

Now is the time to start thinking about our "2001 REUNION VISIT TO SAVANNAH" and to the 8<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM.

The Reunion Committee:  
Harold G. Rutka  
Robert H. Wright  
Bruce Sothern

## 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

## MISSION # 64 SEPTEMBER 17, 1945 (FIRST B-17 MISSION OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP)

A Mr. Phillip Reinders from the Netherlands is doing historical research on the activity of the 8th Air Force in World War II. He is especially interested in the September 17, 1945 raid on tactical targets around the Wolfheze area in support of our ground troops. This was the 34th bomb groups mission #64 and the first mission after the transition from B-24's to B-17's.

Mr. Reinders intends to establish an exhibit about the air force's part in this battle in which the 34th took part. He is especially interested in collecting any information, documentation, personal accounts, photos, pieces of equipment or any memorabilia from members of the 7th and 391st squadrons who participated in this mission.

He is also contemplating doing an English version of an existing piece of Dutch literature on this subject. For anyone who might have some thing of interest to add to this important venture, Mr. Reinders can be reached at this address:

Mr. Phillip Reinders  
Margrietstraat 4  
6991XH Rheden  
Netherlands

e-mail - abrg.reinders@12move.nl





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Carroll Forister (02) 515 So Geyser Rd.  
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(314) 822-1056
- Franklin Sivret (02) 18 Melvin Ave.  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
(508) 753-1772
- James Clemins (03) 2820 Norwood Drive  
Racine, WI 53403
- Anthony Coutros (03) 11 Carriage Place  
Edison, N.J. 08820

## REUNION COMMITTEE

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(218) 724-1667
- Robert Wright 411 Parkavash Ave.  
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(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](http://www.mighty8thmuseum.com)  
[www.air-museum.org/b17.htm](http://www.air-museum.org/b17.htm)  
[http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th\\_Bomb](http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb)

### Thought for today:

**"It's what you learn after you know it all  
that counts."**

**- Earl Weaver,  
baseball  
manager**

## OOPS

It seems that a young man volunteered for Navy service during World War II. He had such a high aptitude for aviation that he was sent right to Pensacola - skipping boot camp. The very first day at Pensacola he solos and is the best flier on the base. All they could do was give him his gold wings and assign him immediately to an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. On his first day aboard, he took off and single-handedly shot down 6 Japanese Zeros. Then climbing up to 20,000 feet, he found 9 more Japanese planes shooting them all down too. Noting that his fuel was getting low, he descended, circled the carrier and came in for a perfect landing on the deck. He threw back the canopy, climbed out and jogged over to the captain, Saluting smartly, he said, "Well sir, how did I do on my first day?" The captain turned around, bowed, smiled and replied,

"You make one velly impoltand mistake!"

## DUES

**DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1st, 2001  
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 annu-  
ally, 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.**

# **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, SEPTEMBER 7, 2000**

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by President Norman Mayer at 1500 on Sept. 7, 2000, in the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Doronsky. Chaplain James Martin gave the invocation.

Pres. Mayer asked for a roll call. Present were: Pres. Norman Mayer, 1st VP Claude Gibbs, Rec. Sect. John Feda, Treas. Harold Province, MM Editor Jack Share, Past Pres. John Doronsky, Chaplain James Martin, PX Manager Ken Paxton, Board Members James Stuthers, Claude Conklin, Everett Rose, Franklin Sivret, and Reunion Committee Members Harold Rutka, Robert Wright and Bruce Sothem. Members absent- 2nd VP Wayne Howarter, Archivist Wallace Brauks, Directors Paul Shull and Carroll Forister.

Motion by Province, second by Sothem to accept the 1999 minutes as printed in the Mendlesham Memories of Dec. 19, 1999, Motion carried.

Treasurer's report by Harold Province-

The 1999 and 2000 finances of the 34th Bomb Group and its various funds are represented in the following tables:

	1999	2000
General fund in England	\$ 380.29	\$ 380.29 Lloyds Bank
Checking account	82.35	431.92 Hancock Bank
Money Market account	1,157.99	1,517.51 " "
In Certificate of Deposit	742.58	0.00
Sub total	\$ 2,363.21	\$ 2,329.72
Life membership fund	\$ 25,759.66	\$ 22,063.44
Scholarship fund	12,832.70	13,135.57
Memorial fund	1,055.89	1,055.89
Widows, MM fund (new)		1,000.00
General funds	2,363.21	2,329.72
Grand total	\$ 42,011.46	\$ 39,584.62
NM funds at Edw. Jones		\$ 2,254.90
CD Acct at Edw. Jones		30,000.00
CD Acct 6.4% (Oct 2000 due)		5,000.00
Gen fund Lloyds and Hancock		2,329.72
Grand total:		\$ 39,584.62

Permission was given at Omaha by the BOD to utilize Life Membership money whenever the General Fund was depleted. In the past I have had to withdraw money from Money Market fund at Edw. Jones to pay our bill for Mendlesham Memories. There are no outstanding bills to be paid.

Respectfully submitted by Harold Province,  
Treasurer

The bill for the September Mendlesham Memories has been paid. In June the NM was sent to 1400 members. Motion by Stuthers, second by Conklin to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pres. Mayer appointed an audit committee of Ambers Hanson, Jim Stuthers and Allen Israelsen.

PX report by Ken Paxton. There was an increase in shipped orders this year. The total was about \$1400. A bank account was opened in Ken's name to avoid a commercial rate charge. The bank balance is \$700 with all bills paid except one for postage of \$168.02. Ken requested that all orders include your phone number for easier clarification when necessary. He also requested authority to use the same postage shipping rates that are used by the 8th AF Museum. Motion by Conklin, second by Gibbs to approve the PX report. Motion carried.

M.M. Page 6

Reunion committee report by Harold Rutka and Bob Wright. This year's registration is 202. Currently there is \$17,000 in the bank. However, the current reunion bills are still to be paid, They made a plea for earlier reservations and registrations to make better guarantees for rooms, meals and buses. Discussion followed on which hotel to select in Savannah for the 2001 reunion. Recommended choices are the Hilton DeSoto Hotel in downtown Savannah or the Country Inn near the AF Museum. Where we go is the Board's decision. Pres. Mayer surveyed the Board members and the consensus was to use the Hilton DeSoto in Savannah on Sept. 4 - 8, 2001. Motion by Rose, second by Stuthers to approve Savannah, GA, for the 2001 reunion. Motion carried.

Motion by Gibbs, second by Conklin to approve the report of the reunion committee. Motion carried.

Scholarship report by Harold Province. There were eight excellent applications to be considered by the committee of Province, Hanson, Vaughan and Feda. First place of \$1000 went to Lindsey Stark of Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Second place of \$750 went to Anne Martin of Medford, @. Third place of \$500 went to Andrew Mills of Coopersville, MI. Harold called the grandparents of the respective winners to notify the winners of their scholarship awards. A gift of \$ 100 was received. \$5000 was willed to the scholarship fund this year. Also \$5 from each registration for this reunion goes to the scholarship fund.

Motion by Sivret, second by Rose to approve the scholarship committee report. Motion carried.

**Report on Constitution changes by Allen Israelsen. The changes would allow associate members (we have about 25 now) to be full voting members with the right to hold office after two years of membership. The membership secretary will forward all applications for full memberships he receives, from associate members, each calendar quarter to the members of the Board of Directors for a vote by mail ballot. Motion by Mayer, second by Conklin to approve this change and notify all members that a vote on the required by-law changes will be taken at our annual meeting in 2001. All voted "yes" except Harold Province who voted "no".**

Mendlesham Memories report by Editor Jack Share. He has a concern about the rising cost of publishing. The Sept. issue was about \$1900 Dec. and June are the two big issues each year. The cost of publishing a new roster would be about \$1100. Motion by Rose, second by Sivret to accept the report and commend Jack for a good job as editor. Motion carried.

Harold Rutka presented a bill for \$584.91 for the costs associated with the Mendlesham Memorial visit and upkeep (a meal, a wreath and a medallion). Motion by Gibbs, second by Stuthers to approve. Motion carried.

Motion by Stuthers, second by Gibbs to raise the mileage allowance to 24 cents per mile for the reunion committee when acting on the Association's behalf. Motion carried.

Randall Martin sent the Association a check for \$ 1 000 as a memorial to Pete Gray. The discussion that followed suggested using it to send the MM to all widows of members to keep them in touch. Harold Province reported that we have about 1 00 widows and all but 35 have paid as associate members and are thus entitled to receive all issues. Harold will survey the 35 to find out if they do want to continue receiving the MM. Harold will keep Randall Martin informed.



It was announced that James Martin's son-in-law has a web page on Internet covering the 34th Bomb Group. Pres. Mayer also has the tapes on "The Greatest Blunders of WWII" which includes the daylight bombing by the 8th AF.

Nominating report by Bruce Sothem. He solicited volunteer candidates for offices to be filled. He suggested that individuals should contact any committee member, namely, James Martin, Claude Conklin or himself. Jack Share, Ken Paxton, Wallace Brauks, Harold Province, James Martin and John Feda will continue in their respective offices.

Pres. Mayer announced that we WILL sing the Army Air Corps song at the banquet.

Motion by Province, second by Conklin to adjourn at 1702. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, John J. Feda.

#### **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2000**

The annual meeting of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by Pres. Norman Mayer at 0900 on Sept. 9, 2000, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rev. Gary Ferrell. The invocation was given by Chaplain James Martin.

Motion by Province, second by Sothem to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as published in the Dec. 1999 issue of Mendlesham Memories. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Harold Province. (Refer to the BOD meeting of Sept. 7, 2000, for the complete report.) Motion by Rutka, second by Simpson to accept the report. Motion carried.

Scholarship report by Ambers Hanson. Eight excellent applications were received this year. (Refer to the BOD meeting of Sept. 7, 2000, for the complete report.) Motion by Gibbs, second by Sothem to approve the report. Motion Carried.

Reunion committee report by Harold Rutka. There are 202 registrations for this year. For 2001 the reunion will be held in Savannah, GA, at the Hilton DeSoto Hotel on Sept. 6-9.

Nominating committee report by Bruce Sothem. Nominations presented were: Carl Stemen for 2nd VP, James Clemins for Board (2003) and Anthony Coutros for Board (2003). Pres. Mayer called for nominations from the floor. None were made. Motion by Martin, second by Doronsky to close the nominations and instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented. Motion carried.

Audit committee report by Ambers Hanson. The committee examined the financial records of the PX fund, the scholarship fund, the reunion fund and the general fund. All records were found in order. Motion by Conklin, second by Israelsen to approve the report. Motion carried.

PX report by Ken Paxton. He recommended keeping the PX in operation. Mail orders have increased about 50% over last year, thanks to the Internet listing by Harold Province. The 1947 History of the 34th is still available. The 1988 History is out of print.

Volume 11 of the 1988 History has been reordered. Bob Vaughan's individual history is on sale for \$25. Jackets are being reordered. Postage charges will be the same as those used by the 8th AF Museum. Motion by Martin, second by Province to approve the report Motion carried.

Mendlesham Memories report by Editor Jack Share. Good material has been sent in by the members. The mailing and printing of the NM is being done by two separate firms. Feedback to him indicates that we are reaching many young readers. Pictures (with names) taken at the reunion must be in Jack's hands by Oct. 15 to make the December issue.

Pres. Mayer announced that the constitution changes needed to allow associate members the right to vote and to hold office will be voted on at our next meeting in 2001. Applications for associate membership are accepted currently under our existing constitution language.

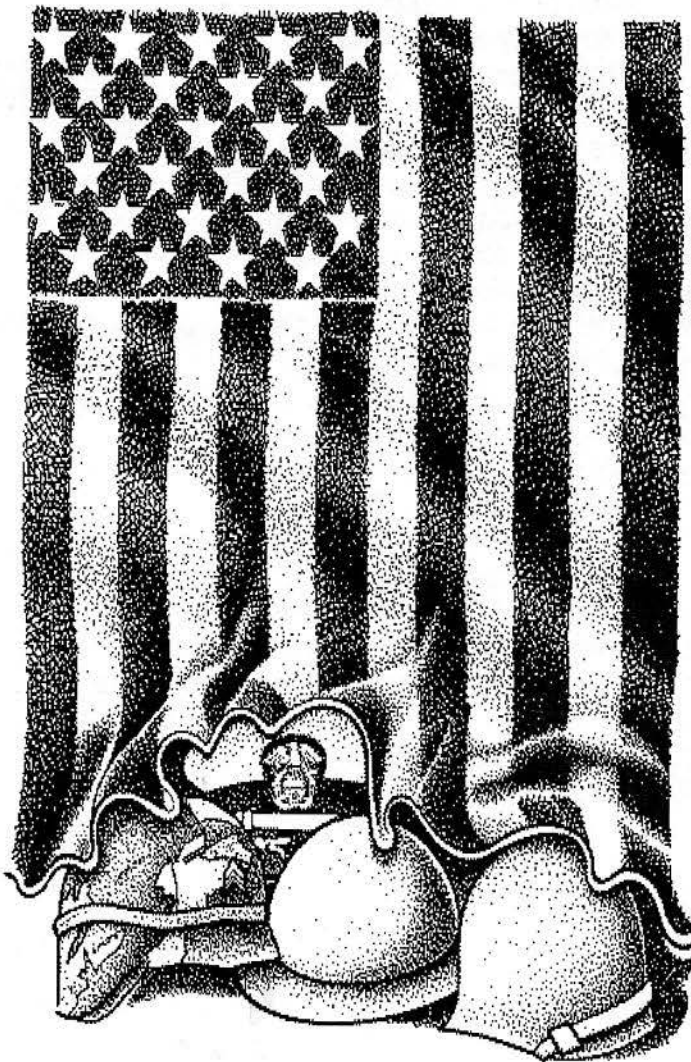
Pres. Mayer announced the banquet speaker will be Col. Robert Gay.

Pres. Mayer thanked the registration desk attendants, the PX helpers and all the officers and directors for their help during the past year.

Incoming President Claude Gibbs asked all former POWs to meet with him after this meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Pres. Mayer at 1015.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary John J. Feda



## REUNION HIGHLIGHT

The featured speaker at our Saturday evening Gala Banquet was Robert Gay the Executive Officer of the 34th Bomb Group during World War II. He was called back into service during the Korean War with the rank of Colonel. He presented us with some little known facts that perhaps only the administrative staff was familiar with. Of most interest, and certainly the most amusing was the breakdown of the various organizations within the bomb group. Some of them we remember well.

- 1 - 34th Headquarters
- 2 - 4th Squadron
- 3 - 7th Squadron
- 4 - 18th Squadron
- 5 - 391st Squadron
- 6 - 279th Medical Disd AUW
- 7 - 83rd Station Complement Squadron
- 8 - 475th Sub Depot
- 9 - 1276th MP Co
- 10 - 1446th Ordinance Co
- 11 - 93rd Combat Wing
- 12 - 871st Chemical Co
- 13 - 1239th Quartermaster Co
- 14 - 2115th Engineers Squadron
- 15 - 434th Recon Squadron

We are all somewhat familiar with the workings of the first 14 but Bob went on to explain that the 15th, or 434th Recon, was a phantom squadron made up to secure supplies for the group but was staffed only on paper. The duties of this squadron was never question by the higher authorities but provided the Group with more supplies including food, whiskey, everything. And the powers that be never knew. I guess we all benefited from that bit of deception.

Bill Creer, being unable to attend the reunion, wrote the following letter which Bob read:

*I regret not being able to attend the reunion at Buffalo this year. Fortunately, Bob Gay has agreed to pass on my respects and a few words.*

*I am happy to report that Vivienne and I are still on the right side of the grass. However, at 88 years of age, I must admit that the light at the end of the tunnel seems to get a little brighter.*

*I have reflected on our wartime days at Mendlesham and concluded that we can stand high in the saddle and be proud of the 34th Bomb Group's contribution to our victory over the Axis Powers in World War II. I have thought about the contribution we made and the accumulated performances of each member of the*

*group, whether his task was facing the enemy in combat, day after day, or performing the vital support tasks on the base that kept those B-17's in the air.*

*A man's pride in his organization is an integral part of the esprit de corp necessary in each individual if that organization is to perform successfully in the combat environment. It goes without saying, that the 34th's personnel certainly demonstrated those critical characteristics essential to meet the challenges that confronted us each day in World War II.*

*May I also say, that without a doubt, it was an honor for me to command the 34th Bomb Group at Mendlesham, England during this Great War.*

*I would be delinquent if I failed to recognize the contribution made by our wives, families and loved ones that sweated us out back in the USA. Accordingly, please continue to treat them with respect they have earned.*

*To all of you: Keep in touch, have a great reunion, and as the British say, "Carry on Smartly".*

*Bill Creer*



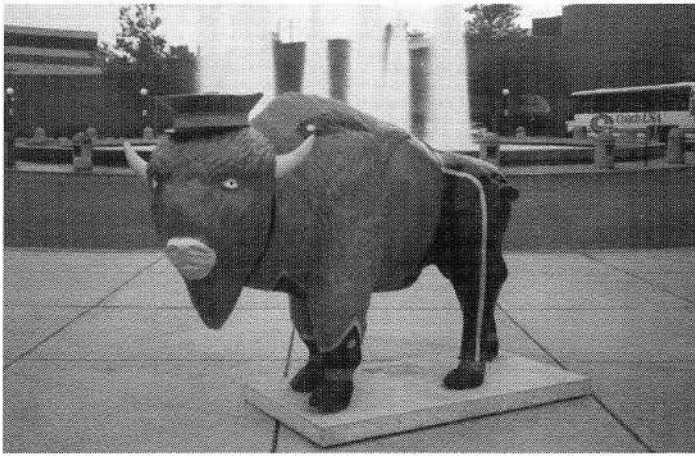
BOB GAY  
FEATURED SPEAKER AT THE BANQUET

### KIN?

A couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither wanted to concede to their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the husband sarcastically asked, "Relatives of yours?" "Yep," the wife replied, "In laws."



## HEADQUARTERS

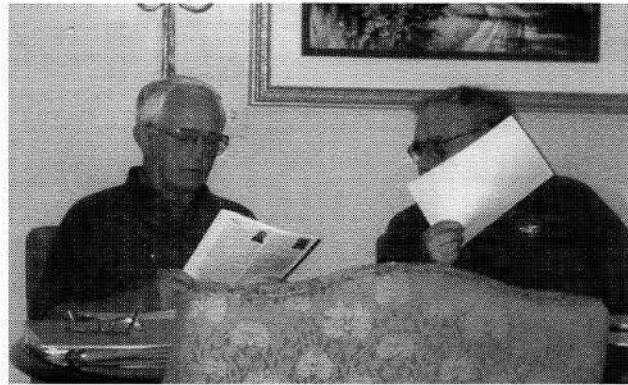


Bell Captain (No tipping please)



Adams Mark Hotel

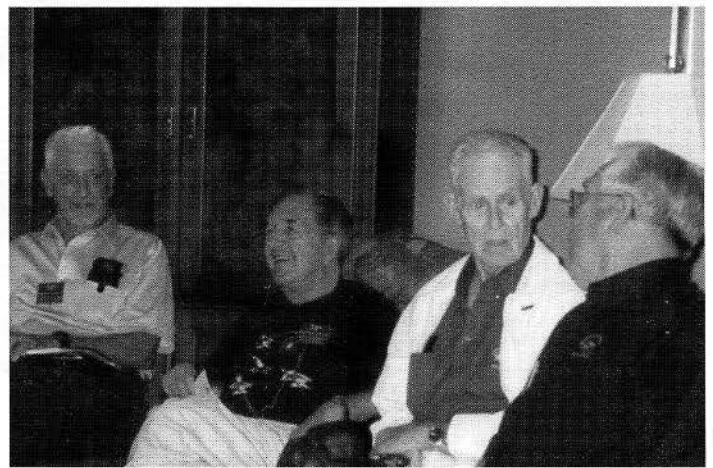
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John Feda & Hal Province



L to R Harold Rutka, Bob Wright, Jim Martin,  
Norm Mayer



L to R Jim Stuthers, John Doronsky, Sam  
Wolstencroft, Everett Rose



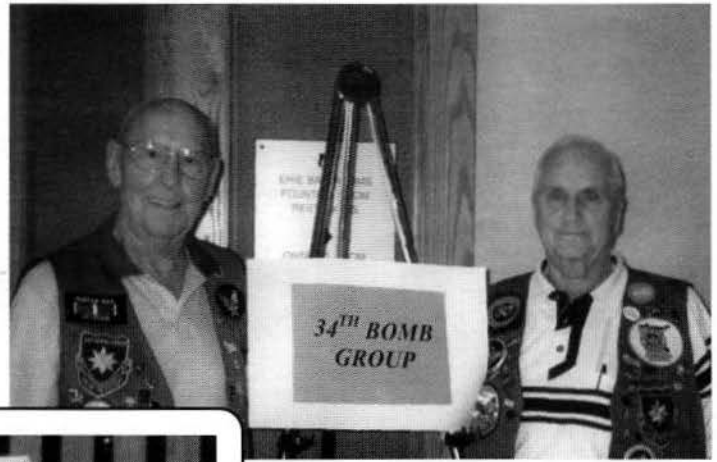
## PASSING THE GAVEL



## THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT GO

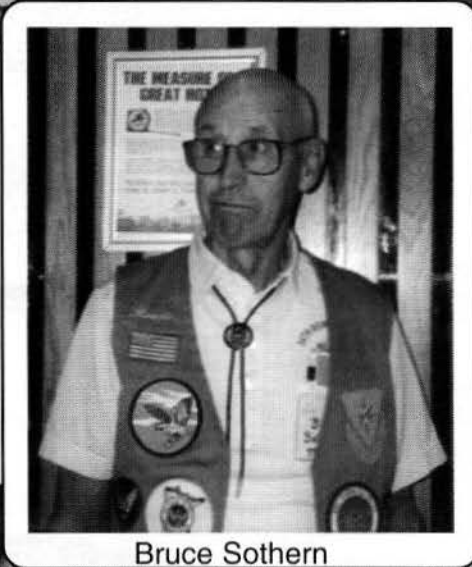


Check in



Bob Wright & Harold Rutka

Ken & Kathleen Paxton



Bruce Sothern

Esther Wright & Gen Rutka





## FIRST TIMERS



Jacob & Sylvia Greenspan



First Timers



Edward & Phyllis Munk



L to R Gregory Torre, Michael Torre, Michel Torre



Dave Cole, Charlotte, Joseph, Jack, Joanne & Don Ardo,  
Lindsey & Dee Lipscomb



L to R Chuck, McIntyre, Vito Violante, Bill Violante

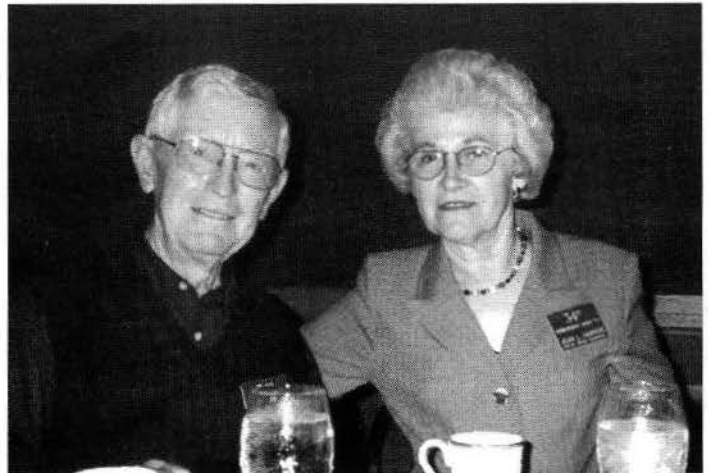


Jack & Linda Steffan

## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER



Juanita & Verne Santos



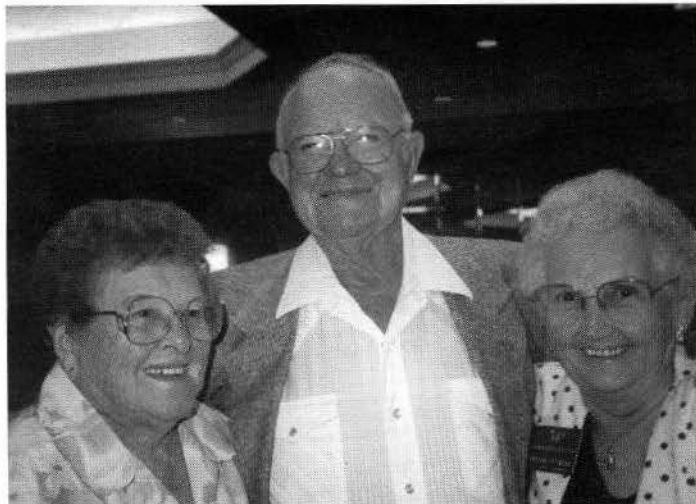
Ambers & Jean Hanson



Heinz Kath & Lorraine Hartwick



L to R Fred & Rachel Waltz, Eileen Kaufman



(R) Thelma Warfield Bennett & Miriam Richmond



Nancy & Herman Fieber



## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER CONTINUED



Back Row: Marilyn Wong, Tony Coutros, Mary Coutros,  
Richard Simpson, Joe Wong.  
Front Row: Hal province, Jan Province, Martina Simpson



L to R Dorothy & Charles Morgan, William Kaufman



Kay & Jim Stuthers



Clarence & Rita Arand

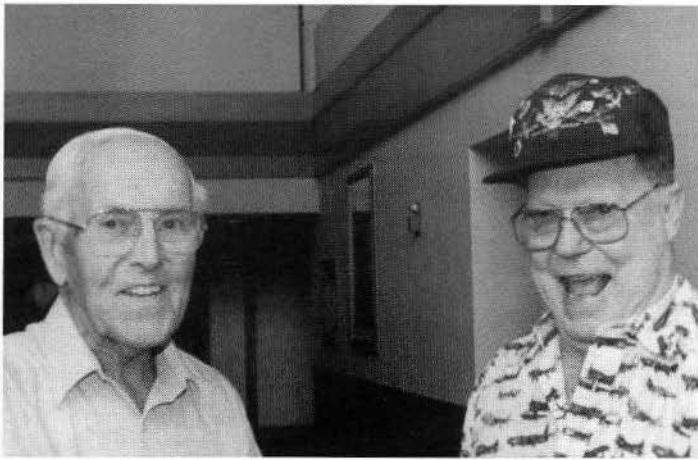


Standing: Jack & Marion Share, Betty Lampey,  
Gen Conklin  
Sitting: Joel Friedman, Peg & Carl Stemen,  
Claude Conklin



Millie Ames, David Ames (son)  
Linda Ames, Vern Ames

# HANG TIME



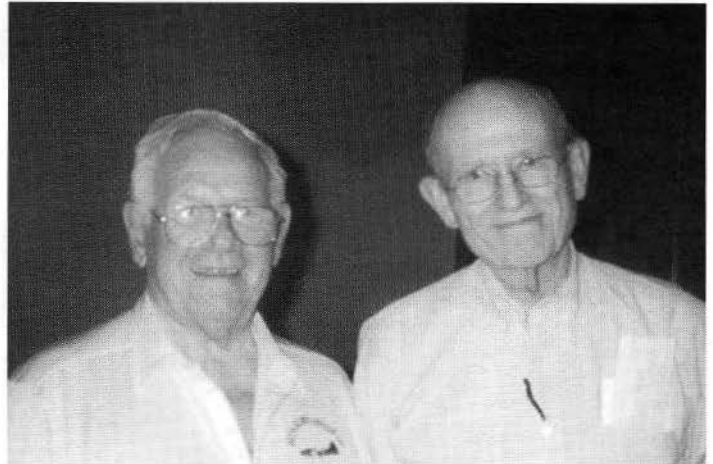
Dexter Jordan, Claude Gibbs



Henry Tobiason, Bonnie Powers



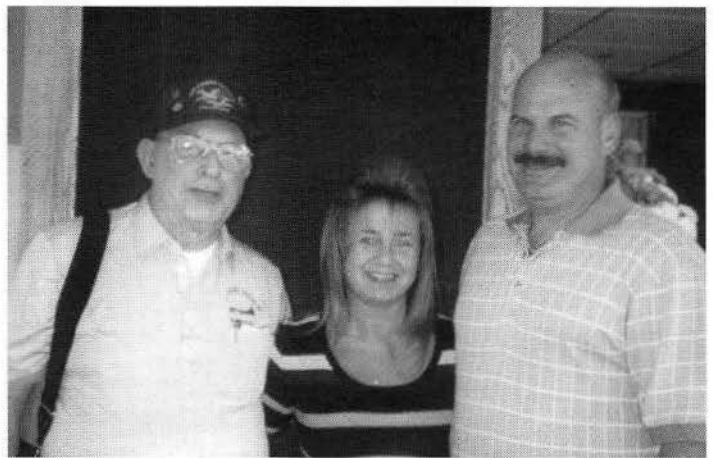
Jim Martin, Marci Campbell



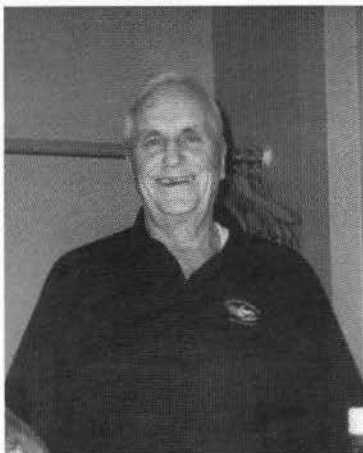
Fred Waltz, Ken Paxton



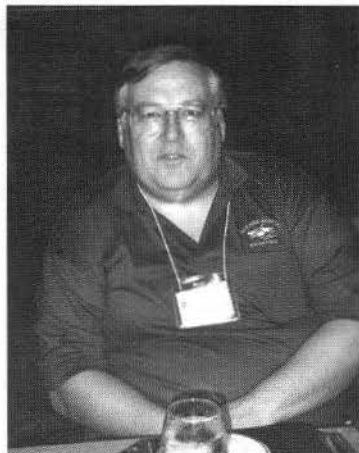
Jan & Hal Province



L to R Marcus Dieterle Karen & Curt Dieterle (son)



Harold Rutka



Rev. Gary Farell

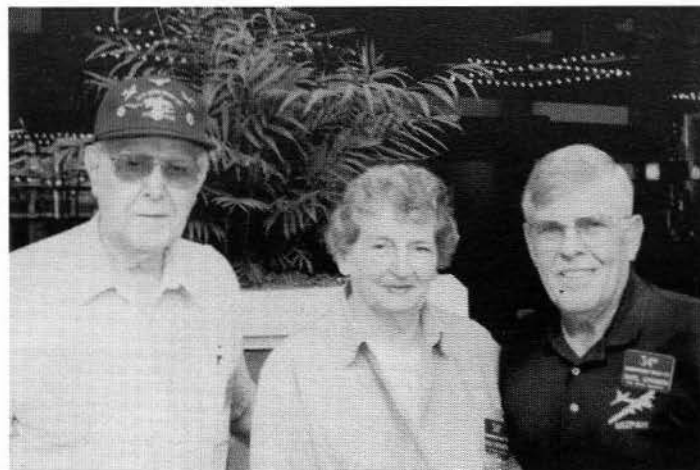


Pamela Mink





James Martin, Robert Gay, Kenneth Paxton



Dwight Kelly, Peg Stemen, Carl Stemen



Norman Mayer, John Doronsky



Joe Wong, Marilyn Wong



L to R Lois Sturdivan, Water Sturdivan, Marilyn Wong



June & George Ritchie



Ralph "Pappy" Lundeen, Willis Griffis, Harry Crawford, Marci Campbell, Lois Johnson, Norman Mayer, Bonnie Powers



Dale & Esther Frank

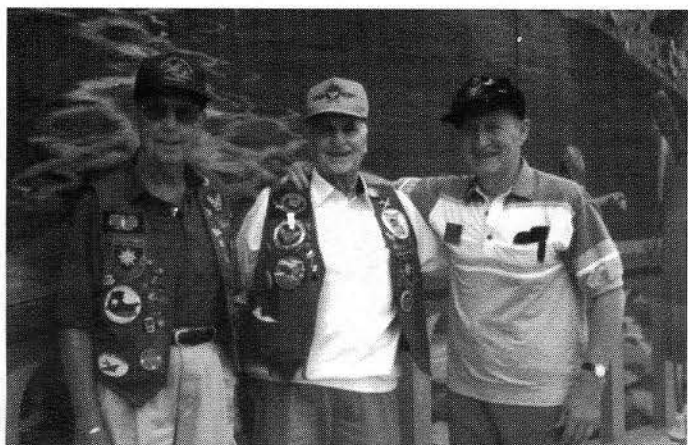
# THE TOUR



Let's Go



Guide & Bus Driver



Bob Wright, Harold Rutka



Lunch at the Mall



The Horseshoe Falls



Jack Share, Claude & Gen Conklin, Gen Rutka



Buelah and Dexter Jordan



Margaret and Ben Workman





Margo & Everett Rose



Joe & Marilyn Wong



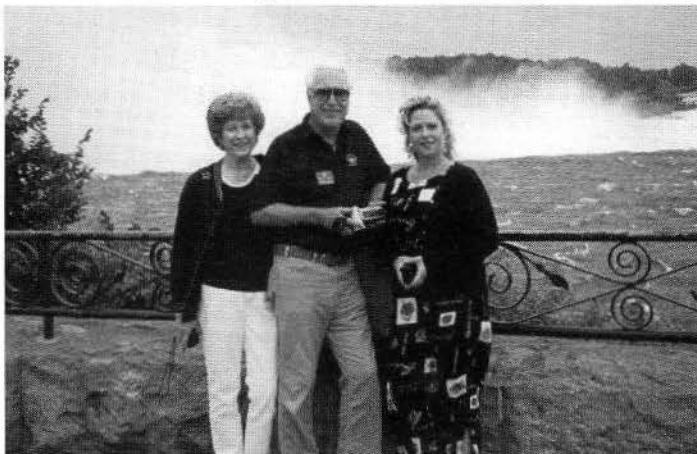
Ginny & Fred Muentz



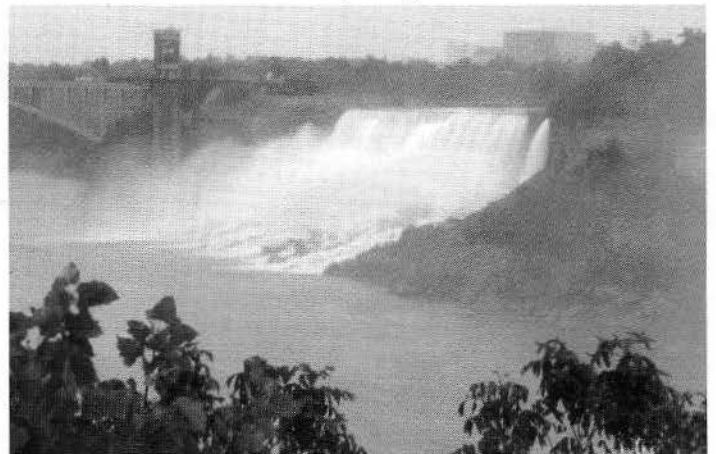
Peg & Carl Stemen



Floral Clock, Niagara Falls



Lois Johnson, Norman Mayer, Bonnie Powers



The American Falls



Kay & Joe Marks



Ralph "Pappy" Lundeen, Willis Griffis, Norman Mayer, Harry Crawford



New President Claude Gibbs

G  
A  
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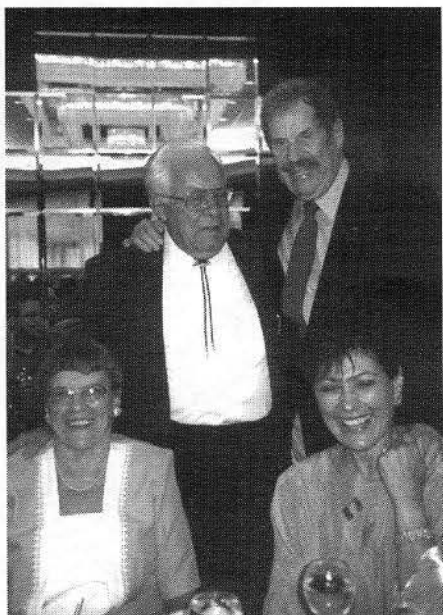
Outgoing President Norm Mayer



Head Table: Jim Martin, Marci Campell, Norm Mayer, Claude Gibbs



Sitting: Marla Inman, Bob & Jenny Schroeder, Rhonda Ranstrom, Ruth Ann Adams.  
Standing: Lloyd Inman, Stella & Jim Stivender, Baily Adams



John & Esther Demko, Bill Browne, Pegi Johns

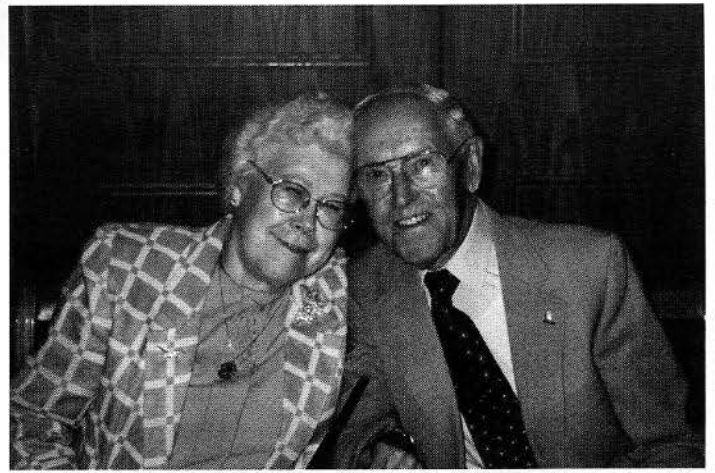


Audrey & Claude Gibbs





Betty Miller, Beverly Puffer, Charles Puffer



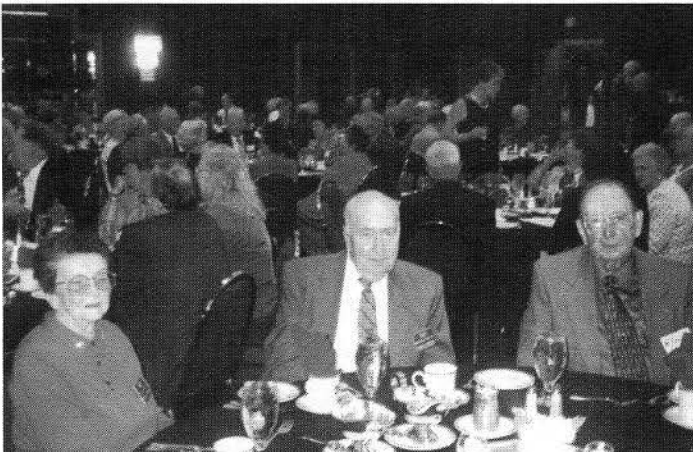
Buelah & Dexter Jordan



Vern & Millie Ames



Jack & Marian Share



L to R Martha & Ronald Simpson, Basil Gaumer



Robert & Betty Simpson



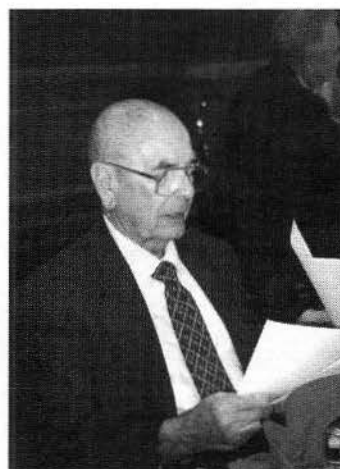
L to R William Kaufman, Eileen Kaufman,  
Lorene Gaumer



L to R Margaret Workman, Beulah Jordan, Ginny  
Muente, Doris Hall, Helen Mink



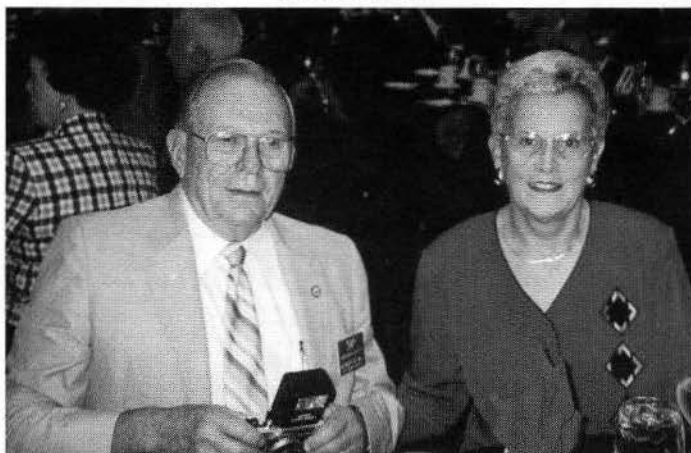
Jim Troup



J.C. Smith



Helen & Clayton Mink



Bud & Doris Hall



Bob & Ginny Pacholski



Fred & Ginny Muent

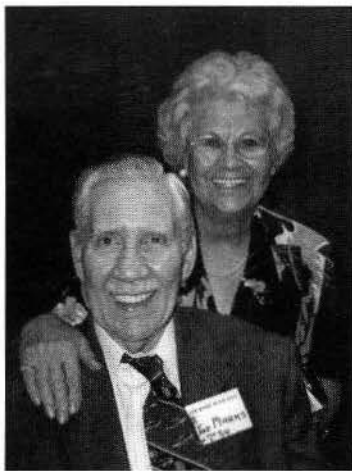


L to R Nancy & Bob Ham, John Feda, Marcus,  
Karen & Curt Dieterle



Fred & Blanche Voss





Joe & Kay Marks



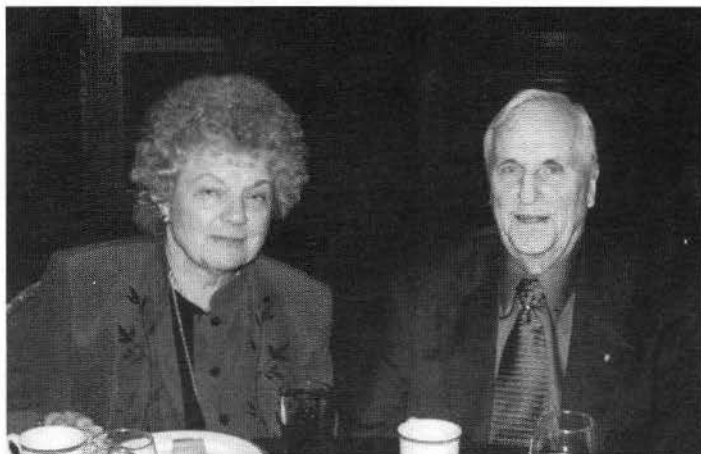
Carolyn Gwertin



Margaret & Ben Workman



Peggy & Sam Wolstencroft



Harold & Gen Rutka



Rose & Charles Sakal



Front Row: Fred Muent, Bob Pacholski, J.C. Smith, Bud Hall  
Back Row: Ben Workman, Dexter Jordan, Jim Troup, Clayton Mink



Hy & Ruth Chausow



Fred & Rachel Waltz, Dale & Esther Frank



Jan & Hal Province



Kay & Jim Stuthers



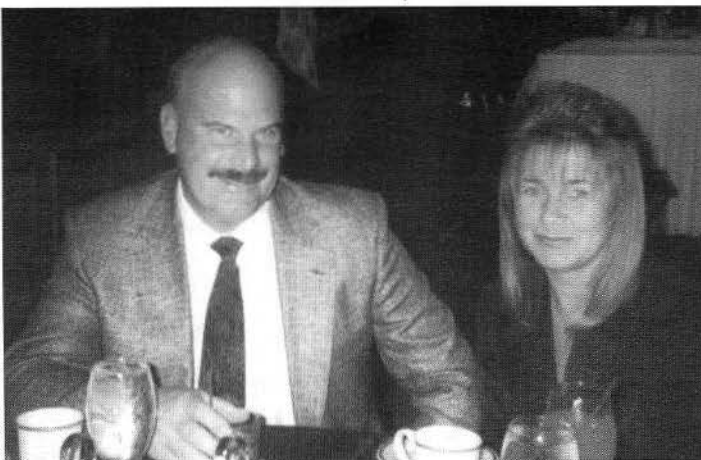
Walter & Dorothy Grimes



Paul Bourquin



Jacob & Sylvia Greenspan



Curt & Karen Dieterle



Peg & Carl Stemen, Joel Friedman





Twyla & Paul Meeder



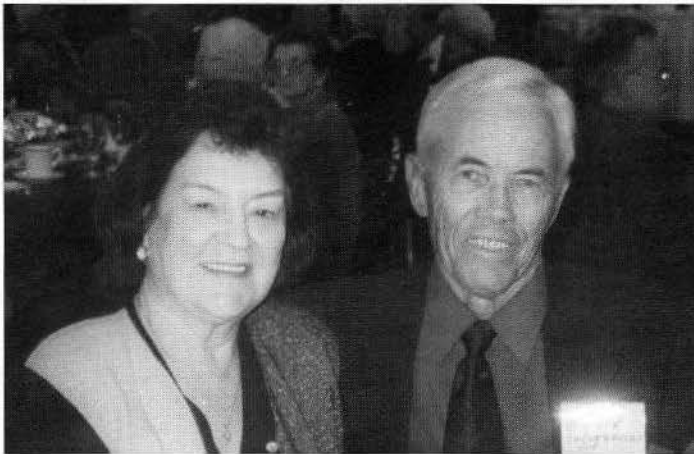
Betty Lampey, Lynn Bachouros



Walter & Lois Sturdivan



Helen & Clayton Mink



Margie & Mike Jacobbauski



Joe & Marilyn Wong



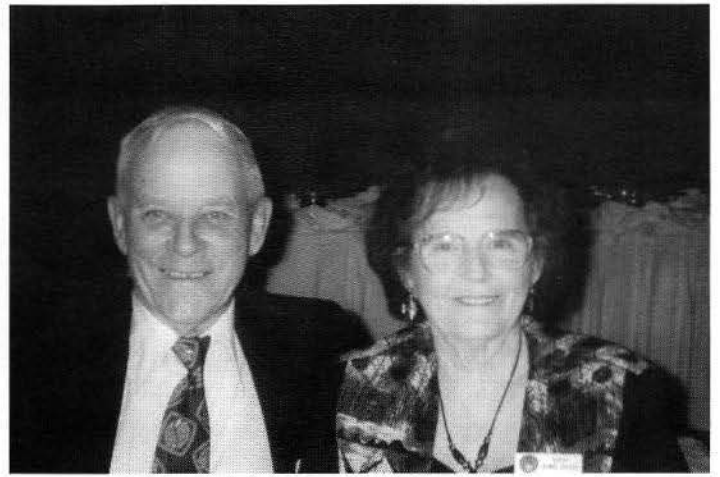
Al & Agnes Isrealsen



Peg & Carl Stemen



Robert & Betty Simpson



Claude & Gen Conklin



Audrey & Henry Tobiason



Phyllis & Bob Gay



Peg & Carl Stemen



Ken & Kathleen Paxton





Lois Johnson, Marci Campbell, Bonnie Powers,  
Norm Mayer



Thelma Warfield, Jim Clemens, Bennett Richman,  
Miriam Richman



Madelaine & Tom Belleau



Kal & Evelyn Schonthaler



Phyllis & Ed Munk



John Doronsky & Bev Stearns

## 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.
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CAPS - 50TH ANNIVERSARY - 8TH A.F (Royal Blue).....	\$ 5.00ea.
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RUBBER STAMPS ( 3 B-17'S IN FORMATION).....	\$ 7.95ea.
BOOK " Prescription For Nutritional Healing".....	\$19.95ea.

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

Continue sending in your orders!!! These items make wonderful gifts!!

Thanks for your support of the 34th BGA. We wish all of you good health and much happiness!



# **"DANK U, DANK U, DANK U"** **THE NETHERLANDERS SAY** **"THANK YOU" FIFTY FIVE YEARS LATER**

From April 27th, 2000 to May 6th, 2000, the Food and Freedom Foundation of the Netherlands was host to 40 Royal Air Force veterans plus 30 Eighth Air Force veterans and their spouses. The British and Americans dropped food to the Dutch 55 years ago, before the end of World War II. Because the Germans had broken the dikes to slow the allied advance, much of Holland was flooded and food was scarce and unavailable. The average Hollander was trying to exist on about 500 calories a day. A good share of that came from ground up tulip bulbs.

The British operation was called "Manna" and crewmen from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Poland, who had flown with the RAF, were represented in the group. The American operation was called "Chowhound" and crewmen from the ten bomb groups, that dropped food, were represented in the group. The 34th Bomb Group was represented by Harold Province, Anthony Coutros, Randall Martin and John Feda. In 1945, forty-four American bomb groups were stationed in England. The U.S. Air Force selected ten to be a part of operation "Chowhound".

The Food and Freedom Foundation used Rotterdam as the hub from which the group went to community celebrations in five different communities. These communities were recipients of food drops 55 years ago. The reception of the group by the Dutch people was unbelievable. All of us found it to be a very emotional experience. In each community we presented a plaque, a replica of that which is on display in the Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia, to the Burgermeister, to commemorate the event. In two of the communities the U.S. Air Force staged a food drop of hamburger buns in plastic bags. These drops were in the same place where parts of the 11,000 tons of food had been dropped in May of 1945. The Colonel in charge of the drops said this was practice for the drops to be made in Africa within a month.

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands had been instrumental in arranging the food drops with the German military, which still controlled that part of the country in 1945. We passed in review for him at his residence, the Soestdijk Palace. Yes, our formation was very respectable and we marched - smartly.

Our visits included two memorial services conducted in churches. We also had wreath-laying ceremonies in two other communities. One was held at the Duindigt Race Track (a drop site in 1945) with the American, New Zealand and Canadian ambassadors all taking part.

The Food and Freedom Foundation conducted similar commemorations for the RAF and US Air Force veterans in 1983, 1990, and 1995. This event in year 2000 will be the last one. Needless to say, the Netherlands really appreciated what we did for them in 1945 to save thousands of lives before the war ended.

This report was submitted by John J. Feda, a navigator in the 7th squadron, 34th Bomb Group and a participant in four food drop missions.

After all these years, many letters are still being received from people of The Netherlands who still remember the food drops. They express their thanks in many ways. One letter in particular says it all:

From Piet and Riad Toet, Vlaardingen, Rotterdamsweg 162

*Thanks for the Manna given 30 April 1945. Thank you liberators for the peace in The Netherlands, 1945  
A letter from thankfulness to you, the men from operatie Manna and the Allies.*

*55 years ago on Sunday 30 or 29 April, I'm 7 years old, who used to live in The Hague, with my parents. Whe came from Scheveningen an den Sea Coast, but the Germans say, you family and other families, you must move, to the Atlantic Wall! So whe came in a old house in the city The Hague. It was terrible time. I was a young child but I was fearful.*

*I had one brother and tree sisters, I was the youngest, my brother and one sister brought my mother to a farmer 1943 to end 1944. Whe for no food, almost nothing, my mother say mayby the Tommies come to us for freedom! (Allies)*

*Than! 29 April, on Sunday the food came to us from Heaven! You saved us lives.*

*Thank, thank you and your friends!!*

**\*\*From Bob Cooperman to the members of the International Manna/Chowhound Brotherhood.**

(The English in this letter is not important. Just think of what this person is conveying to you. Whatever we have done in our lives, nothing we have been involved in can match these sentiments.)



## Whew, Close Call!

### **Mendlesham Air Force Base, England**

June, 19<sup>th</sup>, 1945

We've been sweating this day out for along time. For the past two weeks we've been all ready to leave and out around the planes, just as we are now, only to see the tower shoot up that double red flare scrubbing the takeoff. Today we're going to actually get off though – one of the planes is going down the runway now; it's a 391<sup>st</sup>! they're going to buzz – boy he sure did a good job. I'll bet that doesn't keep up long. Here comes another one. There it is, over the command set, from the tower, "no more buzzing". The old B-17's are taking off one right after the other but there is no more buzzing – are they shooting out the flares though – wow!

Here we go. Kelly, our pilot has told us to climb aboard. I'm up front with the navigator, supposed to work the Loran but I don't have much faith in it. I'll take a Gee Box anyway. The engines sound pretty good but #3 is coughing a bit when they throttle it down. We're taxiing up to take off position and taking a last look at our radar shop on the way out. Out of England and on the first day of our journey home.

Kelly's giving it the gun and we're picking up speed rather slowly but we have a big load. Twenty guys, water, rations and baggage, that's a lot to fly the ocean with, but then we're going home so what the hell. There goes the runway dropping down and we're off the ground, right on time.

We're heading for Valley, Wales – our first stop. Everything is going just as it should and we'll be landing in a couple of hours. Probably have noon chow there and take right off – there's the field now. We're in plenty of time for chow. Kelly's circling the field awaiting landing instructions from the tower. The field is right on the water's edge. It must be a lot warmer here than England because people are in swimming down there in one of the coves. Here we go down; we're coming into the last leg and approaching the runway. We're down, Kelly's a good pilot, or else lucky, we didn't even take a bounce.

Well we've piled out and the officers have gone off to briefing on weather, etc. Some of our passengers are cooks and they've brought along some loaves of bread, spam and pineapple juice. We

are going to eat that instead of sweating out the line to the mess hall. Some guys from the ship next to us have already been to chow and they say the lines a mile long. None of that for us – who's better than we? We'll just spread out a blanket and eat right here under the wing. Chow's done and were waiting for the take off word. There's a Red Cross donut wagon for coffee and donuts – well, if that wasn't typical – we

really should have known. They wanted to take some pictures of themselves giving out stuff to men going home. They only needed a dozen or so of donuts for this so after they gave them out they left. The Red Cross really has a bunch of SNAFU'S mixed up with the good they do.

The crew chief is working on #3 engine, He's changed something but I don't know what. Here comes the officers back. They say there's nothing but clear weather all the way to Iceland. That's a good break, because from the way the crew chief talks #3 isn't in too good shape.

We're all in the plane again and taxiing up to take-off position and here we go – off to Iceland. A couple of hours have gone by and we haven't seen anything but water and a few scattered clouds for quite awhile. Our altitude is about 7,000 ft and we're cruising right along. Oh! there it goes. #3 engine is quitting – no – it's not #3 it's #4, on the same side as #3 but it's #4. Kelly's feathered the prop on it and rev'd up the other engines a bit to

make up the difference.

These clouds are getting a little thicker now and I've put on my flying jacket - we must be getting around a cold front or something. We're right on course. The navigator has figured out our estimated time of arrival at Iceland to be 8:40 this evening. The Loran isn't working.

I must have gone to sleep for awhile. The navigator just woke me up and pointed to #3. It's finally quitting too. That means we only have two engines left, #1 and #2, both on the same side. That isn't good. Fog is coming in now and we're starting to ice up. Kelly's put #1 and #2 on overboost and they're really roaring. I can hardly hear my self think. The ice is getting thicker all the time.

I smell smoke. Those engines must be getting awfully hot. Here comes the engineer – he's got a fire extinguisher. The windshield wiper motor is on fire and we have to rip the flak curtain off to get to it – it's out now but the plane is full of smoke and the windshield wipers won't work anymore. I can see from the astradome that the windshield is all fogged up and Kelly can't see out. Of all things to happen now – our radio equipment is dead. The electrical system must be out.

All we have to go on now is our mag. comp. heading and our ETA, The fog is so thick I can't even see the wing tips. We're losing altitude all the time and the ice is still getting thicker. We've dropped down to about 4000 feet now and it's starting to rain. We're getting a lucky break – the rain is warm and is knocking our ice off. Kelly doesn't seem to be able to gain any altitude though on two engines.

It's 8:40 now so we must be just about over Iceland.



Kelly has started to circle, waiting for a break in the clouds so he can go down. We still can barely see our wingtips.

*We have been circling for hours now. I wonder if Kelly is just going to keep this up 'til we run out of gas, then bail out, I hope not, I'd rather ride the plane down, that water's too cold and Iceland is too sparsely populated to suit me. Well, we're letting down at last. I hope we don't stay in the fog all the way down or we will be on our last flight right now. WOW! we just pulled out in time we're over water and the fog is about 60ft —*

This chronicle was written by Bruce Bleeker, a ground radar technician assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> squadron of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, as he was on his trip back to the United States after VE Day.

*The account ends abruptly but his recollection is that they spotted another B-17 and followed it to the airbase at Reykjavik, Iceland. He recalls that they made a safe landing but while taxiing to the terminal a third engine quit and they completed the trip to the States on military transport. He assumes the old war-weary B-17 was retired.*

In a letter accompanying the account, Bruce writes:

Recent issues of "Mendlesham Memories" have mentioned contributions of the ground crews. Being a ground crew member, I much appreciated this effort to bring out the activities that we engaged in, pretty much behind the scenes, and often at night after our planes had come back and before the next mission had been called.

In 1943, fresh out of several radio and radar repair schools, I was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> squadron of the 34<sup>th</sup>

Bomb Group, then located in Blythe, California. My job was to help maintain the navigational radar equipment. I remember the weather being very hot and the inside of the planes being even hotter after sitting in the blazing sun with their olive drab coats of paint.

After a short time, orders came for the Group to ship out. Our POE was on the East Coast. The ground troops boarded a troop train and soon, although we did not know it at the time, we were headed for Liverpool, England and thence to Mendlesham. Our troop ship was very fast and was not assigned an escort for protection from submarines. The voyage was smooth and uneventful; had our quarters not been so crowded it might have been enjoyable.

We were quickly organized with radar technicians from the other squadrons of the 34<sup>th</sup> and started to work under an officer whose name was Lt. Kurtz. I believe he may have been from New York City. He, however, was soon transferred and a new officer was placed in charge. I do not recall his name.

I remember the evening some of our planes were shot down over our base by German planes which opened fire just as our planes were about to land after returning from a bombing mission, as has been reported in previous issues of MM. One of our planes crashed into the building where we stored the radar jamming chaff.

In going through some old papers, I discovered a picture of at least some of the crew that maintained the navigational radars in the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. I remember some of the names; perhaps our readers can help out with the others.

### 34<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP'S NAVIGATIONAL RADAR GROUND CREW



**FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT**  
UNKNOWN, ZIMMERMAN, UNKNOWN, BRUCE BLEEKER,  
JOE RAPISARDA, BURT NEWELL(?)

**BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT**  
UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, MILLER (?) UNKNOWN

# Friends Write

**RAYMOND MACHALZ - HARWOOD HEIGHTS, ILL**

I am sending you a check for \$10.00. Let me know what else I owe. I always wait for my Mendlesham Memories and don't want to miss any issue.

Thank you and am sorry I didn't pay on time. Sorry about the handwriting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BARBARA HARTMAN - BALLSTON LAKE, NY**

Can't wait to thank the writers in the June 2000 issue for such a meaningful collection of stories and poems.

My husband, Ralph, who died in 1990, was a tail gunner with the 391st. The descriptions and stories help to give an appreciation to family and friends of the reality faced by our veterans.

I continue to attend the Ralph Hartman Race each year at Windham in the Catskills.

Sorry for delay in dues.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WENSEY MARSH - SPRINGFIELD, MO**

Enclosed is check for current dues period. I have enjoyed the annual newsletter freebies over the years and look forward to future issues.

I am curious about the re-deployment article by unknown author, so the comments below are offered:

I went to England with the 34th. 18th sqd. on the SS American. I came home on the Queen Elizabeth which was in mid-Atlantic when the first A-bomb was dropped on Japan. We did not land in Virginia. We sailed past the Statue of Liberty into New York harbor sometime around the first week in August 1945.

I had a curious record with the 34th. I joined the group as a washed out cadet private - I also came out a private; enjoyed every day of it - with a few exceptions.

Very surprised to learn Norman Mayer is taking part in the association. Makes me wonder where that mess Captain is at. He just could never find out where those extra pies and stuffed porkchops went to. I never did

believe his 1st Sgt. could read the morning report I prepared. Guess he didn't much care, since it was the permanent K.P. detachment - a fine group when all dressed. Last I heard the Capt. was a school administrator somewhere in Kentucky, nice man.

Have a great time in Buffalo. I continue to believe I should receive a copy of the 1947 34th history book, since I paid for it before we left England. SASE enclosed for membership card. I still have my first card pinned up in the hobby shop room.

\*\*\*\*\*

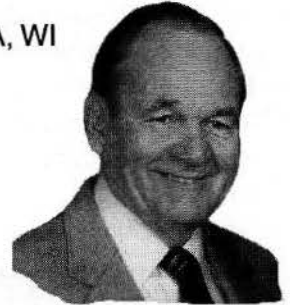
**BETTY INGROUILLE - KENOSHA, WI**

It is with great sadness that I write of the death of my husband, Robert L. Ingrouille on July 31st, 2000.

He was with the 34th BG.

He battled leukemia for 44 months. The last week in the hospital, when he knew he

couldn't stand anymore chemo and death would come soon, he told the doctor he wouldn't go until after the 28th of July, our 55th anniversary. True to his word, he quit fighting on July 31st. He will be missed by all who knew him.



\*\*\*\*\*

**RITA HIRSCH - FLORAL PARK, NY**

With a sad heart, and with time belated, I'm informing you of the death of my beloved husband, Andrew Hirsch. He passed away after a most valiant battle with cancer and heart disease. He was born in New York City October 9, 1923 and died on May 26, 1999.

Andy was a charismatic person, extremely proud of his service during World War II as a gunner with the 34th Bomb Group. He enjoyed telling his family and friends of his wartime experiences, as only he could tell a story.

Andy was a man of many interests. He loved tennis, golf, boating, fishing and his beloved New York Yankees, to whom he was devoted from birth. He also dabbled in both collecting and trying to repair and maintain old clocks and watches.

Andrew is survived by his wife Rita, two children, Joan and Ronald, four grandchildren, Lora, Steven, Blayne and Evan - all of whom will never stop missing him and his unusual sense of humor.

\*\*\*\*\*



**CARL & IMOGENE FREYSINGER - CABLE, OH**

Sorry we are not going to make it to Buffalo. Too much is going against us. Carl has just had surgery - I have to have a laser treatment on my eyes in early September. Sure hate to miss but maybe we can make it to Savannah! Tell everyone "Hello".

\*\*\*\*\*

**VERNE SANTAS - DUNEDIN, FL**

It was good talking with you and your wife, Marian at the reunion in Buffalo.

My wife and I had a great time meeting old friends and new. The Adam's Mark Hotel was bright and spacious, so the four days we spent there were very enjoyable. The bus trip to Niagara Falls made a nice day for everyone. Take care and keep well.

\*\*\*\*\*

**H.R. McNEILL - NAPA, CA**

Thanks for including my note regarding the crew of the "UNINVITED" in the September issue of Mendlesham Memories. Please note; LeRoy Robinson was co-pilot and I was bombardier. Roy had 33 missions. Also the tail gunner was Burnett with 26 missions.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BASIL GAUMER - GREENVILLE, IL**

Enclosed are the pictures I took at the reunion. Hope you can use them,

We had a great time at the reunion. It was the first time that I met someone that I had worked with. We had a great time. We sure hope to be able to make the reunion in Savannah next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WALTER STURDIVAN - STOCKTON, CA**

I have finished revising my book THE RED-TAILED DEVILS FROM MENDLESHAM. I have added a number of pages, from 85 to 146. Some of the new material was sent to me too late for the first edition and some is newly gathered. There are some new photos and additional information about the June 7, 1944 attack over the base at Mendlesham. The book will be priced now at \$17, postpaid.

I still have some copies of my former book SHAKE HANDS WITH A SOLDIER. The price is the same for it. (To order the books, contact Walter at his home address: Mr. Walter Sturdivant

5901 N. El Dorado St.  
Stockton, CA 95207

**CAROL ELLIOT - OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

Received the last "MM" and on page 16 was the article by Bret Gustafson of Wooster, OH. This was about the last crew of "Flying Dutchman" and the Bret website. What a thrill it was to pull this up on the computer. Lloyd Elliott was on the original crew - there are only two left. Claire Zarfoss was the pilot and he was the one who named the plane, did the nose art, did the leather jacket artwork. It is my thought that not only the men who flew on the planes but also their HOME which was the plane itself should get some big recognition. Since reading this article, we want to trace the "Flying Dutchman" as far as we can Lloyd said "the plane not only carried us to our targets but brought us home safely". Guess he and his men looked to their plane as a safe haven.

\*\*\*\*\*

**VERN AMES - TONAWANDA, NY**

Thanks "34th Bomb Group" for coming to Buffalo and Niagara Falls for your annual reunion. Millie and I enjoyed seeing friends - both old and new. The Rutkas, Wrights and Sothers work very hard to assure the rest of us a good time.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRED & CLARA SCHOCH - SPOKANE, WA**

We are sorry that we did not make the reunion at Buffalo. We have been having some health problems and didn't feel we could make the trip.

Our James crew also has a plaque in the memorial garden at Savannah.



This was put down and dedicated in November 1999.

We have only 5 living members. Our deceased comrades are Tom Wright, John Ashburn, Bill Crook, and Henry Cross. Our remaining crewmembers are close with phone calls and letters.

Hope we can make the 2001 reunion in Savannah.

**HERMAN FIEBER - BAKERSFIELD, CA**

Having served in World War II as a tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress attached to the 8th Air Force, 34th Bombardment Group stationed in Mendlesham England, I have a special license plate that was made for the front of my automobiles. The plates read "8th Air Force - 34th Bomb Group" and display replicated pictures of the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-24 Liberator bombers. One day after shopping at a local establishment, I encountered a young man standing in front of my car looking at my license plate. As I approached and started to enter my automobile, he said, "Sir, I just want to thank you for serving our country and I salute you".

At that he promptly gave me a snappy salute, which I returned to him, bringing tears to the eyes of this old soldier.

**NANCY FIEBER - BAKERSFIELD, CA**

The story you just read is a notably memorable incident experienced by my husband. After church one Sunday afternoon as I was entering my automobile with a matching license plate, I found a note on the windshield saying, "We want to thank you for all the things you have done for this great country of ours!"

My husband has carried wounds for fifty years as a result of his plane crashing. Sentiments such as this note are a constant reminder of his sacrifice and bring tears to my eyes each time.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DALE FRANK - WINTERSET, IA**

Our thanks to Harold Rutka, Bob Wright, Bruce Sothorn, and their wives for all their work and planning. The hotel accommodations, food and Buffalo's town - all just great!! We are glad the attendance was up - - we'd certainly hate to have to miss a reunion.

As always, we are looking forward to the next MM issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRIS SMITH - MARIETTA, GA**

I guess all of you have had a good time in Buffalo and returning home. We could not make it this year but we were looking forward to Savannah next year, it being so close to home, but my husband passed away on 9-6-00.

We really enjoyed the Mendlesham Memories every 3 months. I want to continue receiving them and will pay the dues.

Our last reunion was Raleigh, NC and had so many crew members there, the first time James had seen some of his crew.

**MARY CHEVALIER - JOAQUIN, TX**

I am writing for my husband, Robert Aubrey Chevalier. He is in the latter stages of Alzheimer's and is unable to handle this. He is 76 years of age.

We receive MM and although he is unable to remember but very little, I read the news to him. He especially enjoyed the June 2000 issue. His crew photo, with their names, was printed. I'm sure the photo was submitted by Winfield K. Reynolds who had written by husband some time back and had included a photo of the same group

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARCUS DIETERLE - FOREST HILL, MD**

It was great getting together again in Buffalo. God willing, I hope to see everybody at Savannah, GA. I thought this reunion was the best so far. I wish more time could have been spent at the falls in lieu of the shopping time spent at the mall. See you in Savannah!

\*\*\*\*\*

**BETTY & VERBAL HOLCOMB - SAN BERNARDINO, CA**

We sure enjoyed the reunion this year. We had been in NY several times but not that far North and always wanted to see Niagara Falls. We had a safe trip home but were in the air for nine and half hours getting back to CA, good thing we always take a good book along. We will look forward to seeing you all in Savannah next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**AL ISRAELSEN - BALTIMORE, MD**

I was fascinated by the plastic Buffaloes, there were 154 around town to be auctioned off.

Enroute home Agnes and I went to an Elderhostel at Williams Lake Resort near Kingston, NY. Also saw West Point and did a windshield tour of Manhattan. Was surprised to see an aircraft carrier docked at about Pier 48, right in the center of NYC. The sailors were surely close to the shore leave entertainment.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GEORGE RITCHIE - SWANSBORO, NC**

June and I want to apologize to leaving early. We wanted to come to see Claude Gibbs take his oath of office. He was the radio operator with Gerald Holmes (Tiger Rag), the original crew I was assigned to in Blythe

The reunions have renewed our associations and helped bring many crews together.



DARLENE SKINNER - EAU CLAIRE, MI

Larry had surgery and we couldn't make the reunion this year, he has been real sick since. We hope to go the Savannah reunion. Will read of the details in the newsletter when and where things will be.

\*\*\*\*\*

CHARLIE CONWAY - METUCHEN, NJ

My wife, Lorraine, her sister, Lucille Worst and I thoroughly enjoyed the reunion; the days flew by. The trip to Niagara Falls was wonderful. No matter how many times you see them, the majesty of the Falls is awesome. They are an integral part of the natural beauty of the country that we are all fortunate enough to live in and to have served.

\*\*\*\*\*

JIM STUTHERS - NOKOMIS, FL

It was, as usual, a nice reunion in Buffalo, NY, with some great people again. We were on our Buffalo trip for exactly 30 days and enjoyed every bit of it.

"Kudos" to all the Reunion Committee of doing it again - a super job in setting up the Buffalo trip. Hope everyone enjoyed it as much as Kay and I. Thanks again for everyone's warm hospitality all along the way.

## SENIOR MOMENTS

You're in church, all dressed up, and as you bow your head you see that your socks don't match. One is blue and one brown. You didn't even come close.

You're standing in the bathroom with nothing on, not sure what you're supposed to do next. Either you're about to have a shower or you've just had one. So you go and feel your towel to see if it's wet or dry.

You're friendly neighbors invite you for supper because your wife's away, so you ring the doorbell promptly at 6 o'clock, only to find out it's for tomorrow, not tonight.

These are Senior Moments. When they happen to you, you know your not getting old, you are old. If you are in your 60's or 70's, Senior Moments are a strain on both you and them. Family and friends get exasperated and impatient; they look at each other knowingly, shake their heads. They follow you around to see if you've turned off all the burners.

In growing old, the magic number is said to be 80. This is pure hearsay, of course, but I choose to believe it wholeheartedly, because it sounds good.

At 80, they tell me, the rules change. Attitudes change. From 80 on, you're home free. The pressure is off. You can just relax and let it all hang out.

Why? Because after you reach 80, people expect you to do dumb things. To goof. To mess up. Socks that don't match become socially acceptable because now (in their eyes) you have reached your second childhood; you're being judged as a 4-year-old would be judged.

I'm about to turn 80, and I can hardly wait to get there. The idea of sitting around all day worry-free, stress-free, nothing to bother me, no expectations on me - this has terrific appeal.

So at 80, relaxed and smiling, what'll I be doing all day? Mostly what I'm doing now. There's very little time for anything else. Mostly I'll be sitting, hour after hour, in doctors' waiting rooms, thumbing through last year's issues of People magazines. Sitting out my golden years waiting for doctors, waiting for God. There is only one God, but every year my list of doctors gets longer:

I have a special doctor for my eyes.

A special doctor for my ears.

A special doctor for my skin.

A special doctor for my sinuses.

A special doctor for my teeth.

A special doctor for my gums.

A special doctor for my heart.

A special doctor for my stomach.

A special doctor for my intestinal tract.

And a special doctor for my feet.

They are, of course, in addition to my regular doctor.

In between waiting rooms (and sometimes in the waiting rooms) are all the necessary naps. The days fly by at incredible speed. You know what they say, "Time flies when you're having fun."

(By Whit Hobbs, a retired advertising executive and consultant living in Bradenton, FL.)

## THE AMERICAN CENTURY

Only the Soviet Union allowed women to actually fight in World War II, but American women did almost everything else. The 1200 WASPS - Women's Air Force Service Pilots - flew every kind of plane there was, ferrying them from the factories, testing repaired planes, towing targets, teaching strafing and bombing. Their accident record was better than that of male pilots, but 38 died. Altogether, some 200,000 women served in the auxiliary services of the Army and Navy - The WACS and the WAVES.

And 7 million female war workers joined the 12 million already at work in 1941

## THEN AND NOW



1944

### WINFIELD REYNOLDS, PINEFIELD, NC

Back in the 50's, in England, being with American Express, I headed up about 20 banking offices on the American Air bases; such as Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Sculthorpe, Bentwaters, etc. I made frequent trips to Norfolk and Suffolk and visited Mendlesham, the American Cemetery at Cambridge, etc. Accordingly, I was not far from the Air Force. I'm certain a number of men of the 34<sup>th</sup>. continued in service, had fine careers, and spent time back in the U.K. We perhaps crossed paths and did not know it.

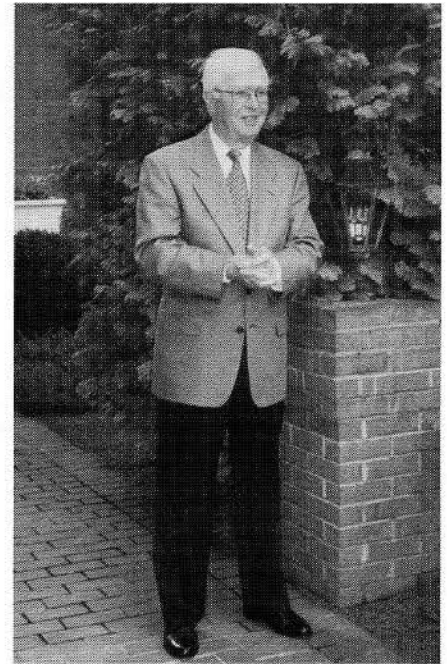
### DALE GRANGER – GOSHEN, IN

I went to England with the fourth squadron as a photographer. We had 16 members in the Photo section and a few of us were on flying status. When a photographer flew, he replaced one of the waist gunners. Taking photos and manning the gun, when necessary, were our duties.

Enclosed please find photos of Picadilly Circus, the Windmill Theater and the Red Lion pub. I took the first picture in 1944 and it was published in Mendlesham Memories several years back. My granddaughter took the most recent one in June, 2000. The resemblance is amazing, having been taken from nearly the same vantagepoint. Before my granddaughter, Tracy, left for England, I asked her to look up the old Red Lion pub, which she did, and had a pint of warm beer, just the way we used to drink it in 1944.

I am now 77 years old and have had 5 heart by passes, 3 cancer surgeries and am now on chemo. God, who has given me some extra years, has blessed me. I feel quite well much of the time and praise God each day. I have been a multiple sclerosis victim for 38 years so my typing is not what it used to be, but I work as a Walmart greeter one day a week.

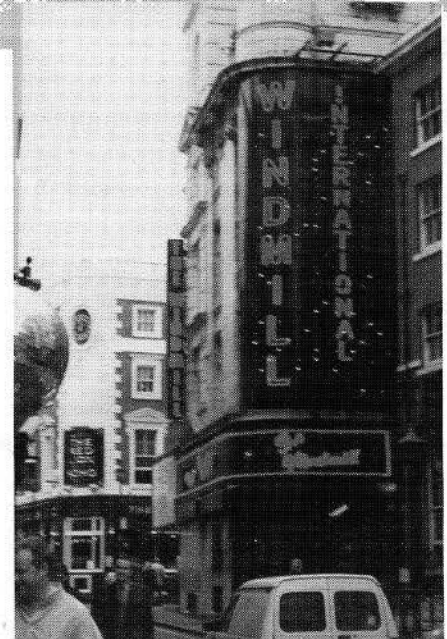
Please continue the good work you are doing for the vets of the old 34<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for all the energy you have put forth each month. We all know the workload is much heavier than any of us realize. Thank you again.



2000



1944



2000



## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ALBERT	EUGENE, J	391LM	2128 HARLEQUIN CT	KALLISPELL	MT	59901
BAILLEY	JAMES, A	7	8511 LOST VALLEY DR	MARS	PA	16046
CARTER	PAUL, W	391LM	106 COVENANT WOODS	SALISBURY	NC	28144
CHEVALIER	ROBERT, A	18	2884 - FM 139	JOAQUIN	TX	75954
CLARKSON	DOROTHY, L	391LM	724 GREENE ST APT 1502	AUGUSTA	GA	30901
COLE	SANFORD	7	P.O. BOX 501	SIMSBORO	LA	71275
EVANS	STEWART, P	FOTE	C/O 634 NACTON RD	IPSWITCH	SUFFOLK	IP3 9QE
FELTOVICH	STEPHEN	18	2255 PAR LN APT 318	WILLOUGHBY	OH	44094
GALLOWAY	JOHN, R	4	P.O. BOX 1637	ONECO	FL	34264
GARDNER	MARVIN, I	18LM	413 MALABAR ST	AUSTIN	TX	78734
HANRIHAN	JOY	7A	PO BOX 5993	AUBURN	CA	95604
MORTON	ROBERT, J	391	OHIO VETERAN'S HOME 3416 COLUMBUS AVE	SANDUSKY	OH	44870
ROCKMULLER	SYDNEY, M	SPSERLM	245 W 107TH ST APT 13B	NEW YORK	NY	10025
ROY	HERBERT, D	391 4LM	2115 CLAYTON RD	NAPLES	FL	34102
SHULL	PAUL A	391LM	2329 NORTH SALEM ST	MESA	AZ	85215
STARR	JOHN, J	391	SMUGGLERS LANDING 101 4003 129TH ST, WEST	CORTEZ	FL	34215
VAN BUSKIRK	PHYLLIS	4	5818 GLEN HEATHER DR	DALLAS	TX	75252
YOUNG	BLANCHE	18A	77 PLAINS RD RM221	MILFORD	CT	06460

## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BRADY	HOMER, L						
DEMPSEY	WILLIAM, F	391	08-07-00	8071 WARREN RD	CENTER LINE	MI	48105
DORRANCE	WILLIAM, H	391LM	03-28-00	385 KAELEPULU DR. APT G	KAILUA	HI	96734
HIRSCH	ANDREW	4	05-26-99	270-240 GRAND CENTRAL PK	FLORAL PARK	NY	11005
INGROUILLE	ROBERT, L	391-LM	07-31-00	4731 4TH ST	KENOSHA	WI	53144
JANUSZ	THEODORE	391	07-27-00	21 OLD FREMONT RD	RAYMOND	NH	03077
MORRISON	DONALD	HDQ	10-21-00	3150 CHANNEL BLVD RR1	CHEMAINUS,	BC CANADA	
MCINTIRE	JAMES, E.	18	04-04-00	2521 W. MARION AVE UNIT 1011	PUNTA GORDA	FL	33850
SMITH	JAMES, H.	391	09-06-00	2530 STONEY BROOK LANE	MARIETTA	GA	30062
VANBUSKIRK	WILLIAM, V	4	08-10-00	128510 PARKVIEW APT 322	SURPRISE	AZ	85374
WEBSTER	GEORGE, C	7	11-03-00	11566 SANDPIPER WAY	PENN VALLEY	CA	95946

## NEW FOUND MEMBER

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
OYSTER	JOHN (JACK)	18	4551 PARKWOOD COURT	NICEVILLE	FL	32578

## NEW E MAIL ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	E-MAIL ADDRESS
GARFINKEL	BERNARD	391LM	Salcberng@aol.com
STONEHAM	ROBERT, A	391	msrs@bright.net

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GARLAND A. DUNCAN  
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ROBERT AND MARY CHEVALIER	54 YEARS	06 - 28 - 1946
BETTY AND VERBAL HOLCOMB	60 YEARS	12 - 24 - 1940

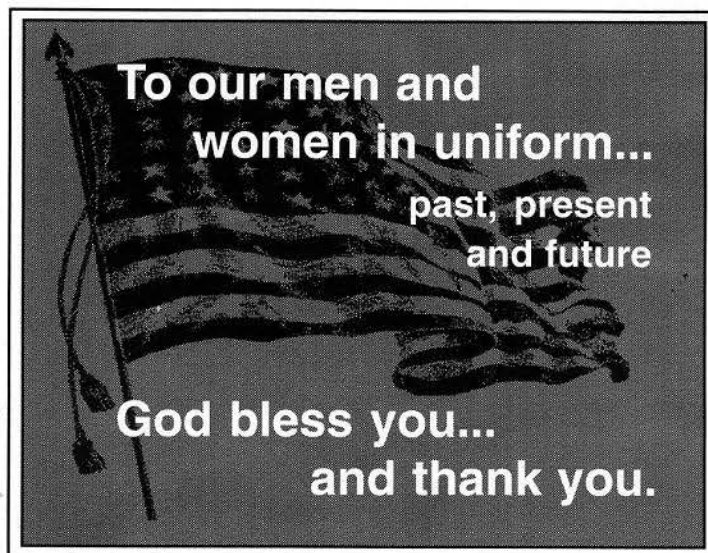
## 2000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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2ND - ANNE MARTIN	SPONSOR - RANDALL MARTIN	7TH SQUADRON
3RD - ANDREW MILLS	SPONSOR - MARVIN JALVING	7TH SQUADRON

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS FOR YEAR 2001 WILL BE IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF MENDLESAHM MEMORIES



*Let us NEVER forget who protects the freedom  
we cherish so much. And especially remember  
those men and women this holiday season who  
are away from their families and friends  
so that we can be with ours.*



*And, may you ALL have a Happy Holiday Season  
And a very prosperous and peaceful New Year.*

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*34th Bomb. Group*



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