

NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY:
THE 307TH BOMB WING B47/KC97 ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1711 SUN CITY, AZ 85372

Number 1 Date: July 1988 Editor: Ecelbarger

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

My first, and hopefully only, proclamation as the Committee Chairman is to declare the April '88 reunion in Las Vegas a resounding success. All of those who worked many hours to organize the reunion are to be congratulated.

The "307th Bomb Wing B47/KC97 Association" was officially founded on May 5, 1988, with Betty C. Pelletier as the founder. A copy of the by-laws appear on the last page.

The centerfold is an application for membership in the new Association. We need a copy on file from everyone. Please tear it out -- fill it out -- then send it out -- in the mail.

Forms to confirm our non-profit, tax exempt status have been forwarded to the IRS.

The remarks at the Reunion Banquet by General Randolph bringing us up to date on the 1988 Air Force Personnel and Systems was indeed encouraging and most enlightening.

Let's make the 1990 Reunion in Lincoln, Nebraska an even more successful event.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Route 3, Box 960
San Antonio, Tx 78218
27 April 1988

Dear Helen,

Wanda and I are still basking in the warmth of our 307BW reunion. As you can imagine, we were almost overcome by it all and, particularly, by the reception we got at that final night's dinner. Wanda jokingly suggested that somebody must have had his finger on the electric seat shocking button but I know that she was as proud as I was. I cannot think of any moment in my life equal to that ovation and no group of friends from whom I would rather have received it. Someone mentioned that we are a family and I can't put it any better than that. Wanda and I will never miss one of our reunions as long as we can put one foot in front of the other.

We got home in one piece. Wanda has one arm about six inches longer than the other from pulling those handles out there but she claims it was worth it. If anybody ever legalizes slot machines in Texas, I'm moving her to the north pole. Fortunately, we have three small grandchildren living within a stone's throw so Wanda has plenty to fill in the gap. I stay in hot pursuit of a golf game that always seems one jump ahead and joins a lot of other non-profitable hobbies that keep me gainfully unemployed. We plan to spend the month of August in Red River, New Mexico, our second home after Texas.

Helen, All of us owe you and Betty and Mike a great debt of gratitude for the inspiration and perspiration that led to our first big reunion. It is probable that we would never have gotten together except for your joint efforts and we would have missed the opportunity of a lifetime. Thank you for your part in the Las Vegas happening and for the incentive to carry it forward in the years to come. We were so delighted to see you and so many of the rest of our family from Lincoln days.

Love,

Wanda & Pete

THANKS:

It was gratifying to see 315 members attending the first ever full contingency of the 307th Bomb Group.

Randy Randolph came to Lincoln as a Lt. and is now a Four-Star General! We all are very proud of him and were pleased that he was our featured speaker. It was a pleasure seeing him and his wife Lucille, and we hope that they will always be present at our future re-unions.

Some of the program was cancelled due to picture taking. At the time, pictures seemed more important however, we regret that we failed to hear from Gerry Post - Raleigh Smith - Billy D. Williams. Again our apologies!

Our thanks to Pete Read, Pete Rawlins and Pat Hall for their inspiring words to our group.

Our appreciation also to Helen Ecelbarger and Ruth Hibdon for manning the registration desks and the doors to the dining room.

Finally thanks to Marilyn Stewart and Mike Gingrich for retaining our membership list and to Helen for the deceased list.

Betty Pelletier

BARGAINS GALORE:

Complete Roster, as of 15 Mar 88.....	\$5.50
Souvenir Parker Pens	5.50
Souvenir Beer Mugs	1.25

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WRITE AND GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS WHICH WILL BE SHARED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS. SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, HELEN ECELBARGER OR TO VERNON BIAETT, CHAIRMAN.

NOW YOU KNOW:

For: B-47, B-52, KC-135

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Available:.

Pacific Miniatures Telephone: 213-721-4790

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Approximate Cost: \$100.00

A free guide to Military Lodging Facilities is available from AT&T Communications by calling 1-800-551-3131 extension 660. The guide includes area codes and phone numbers for Billeting Offices.

National Convention 1988

The 43rd National Convention of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. will be held in Seattle Washington, July 12-14. Chairman for the Convention is Pat Barcafer, 3043 NE 44 Ave., Tacoma, Wa. Tele. 206-952-5631

JUST REMEMBER.....

Members attending the first re-union paid \$30.00 each for registration. That's because we had zero monies to work with. (we are solvent at the moment!). It is expensive mailing and keeping you abreast of what is happening. We will include a current financial report each time you receive a newsletter.

Remember your donations are the only income we have since we do not charge dues. It is difficult to keep track of all of you because many changes can take place in two-year's time. Please keep us informed by sending changes to the Chairman, Vernon Blaett (PO Box 1711, Sun City, Az 85372 and also remember us with your donations.

TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE 307TH BOMB WING

If you would like to join our Association, to receive our newsletter and attend our reunions, would you please complete the questionnaire and return it to us yesterday.

MEMBER PROFILE

Carole and Cliff Bilek

Cliff was born in Casper, Wyoming; he attended the University of Wyoming for 2 years prior to enlisting in the Army Air Corp. He graduated from Navigator training April 1943, Mather Field, CA. He was fortunate when he was sent back to his home town (Casper Army Air Base) as an instructor for 19 months. His job was checking out crews for overseas duty. He and another buddy were able to get a crew together and ended up in Italy in November 1944. (B24's, 98th Bomb Group at Leace, Italy).

Cliff was shot down over Yugoslavia (8th mission) and got to the Island of Vis where he was repatriated. On his 17th mission he was shot down over Brenner Pass, Italy. He tried to make it to France but was forced by the Swiss to land at Dubendorf Field near Zurich. The crew was interned at Adelboden, Switzerland until the war was over in Europe.

From this experience he was given a 90 day leave. While in Casper, he met his beautiful wife Carole.

After being discharged, he and Carole were married. Number 1 & 2 sons were born in Casper and number 3 son at Carswell AFB in Texas.

Like so many, Cliff returned to active duty October 1950 and was assigned to B-36's for three years. He was sent to AOB school and upon graduation was sent to Lincoln AFB, Dec '55.

Can you recall the "ice boxes" in Lincoln?. The tents in Italy were better than that. Cliff soon became a seven level painter, carpenter and general handy-man and eventually got almost warm. Can you remember the fine mechanical condition of the aircraft we had? Hoo Boy!! Those old dogs scattered pieces taxiing to the end of the runway.

In 1973 the Bileks moved to Canon City, Colorado, where Cliff dabbled in real estate and Carole managed the Goodwill store where she received many awards for her managerial ability.

Eight years ago, they built their retirement home. It's not large or pretentious but most comfortable and has twice made the parade of homes. Cliff spends his time golfing, fishing and hunting. Carole spends her time golfing, bowling and bridge. They both love to travel.

The invitation is out to stop in and see them if you're in the area.

ELECTIONS HELD:

The following persons were elected at the 1988 Reunion Business Meeting:

Vernon Biaett, Committee Chairman

Tony Minnick, 1990 Lincoln, Nebraska
Reunion Chairman, assisted by those residing in Lincoln.
The Stewarts (Al and Marilyn) and Ruth Hibdon.

The following committees were appointed by the Chairman, Vernon Biaett.

By-Laws:

Pete Read
Al Stewart
Vernon Biaett

Newsletter:

Helen Ecelbarger
assisted by:
Jimmie Putnam Williams
Sue Goodrich

Finance:

Betty Pelletier
Mike Gingrich

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Cash in the Bank as of June 6, 1988.....\$6,118.00

Planned expenditures for this next month:

Newsletter.....	450.00
IRS Non-Profit Filing Fee	150.00
Post Office Box	45.00
Labels, Office Supplies	100.00
Telephone (Long Distance).....	75.00
TOTAL.....	820.00

Balance on Hand

.....\$5,298.00

BYLAWS

BYLAWS OF THE 307TH BOMB WING B47/KC97 ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE: The 307th Bomb Wing B47/KC97 Association, hereinafter referred to as the "Association" is a worldwide association of current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces assigned to the 307th Bombardment Wing (M), SAC, at Lincoln AFB, Nebraska. The purpose is comaraderie of its members and support of the U.S. Air Force.

MEMBERSHIP: The Association shall accept membership from those who qualify by definition and widows/widowers of those who qualify without regard to grade or rank. Ethnic background, race, national origin or religious belief shall never be a condition for membership.

OPERATIONS: The Association shall operate as a non-profit veterans organization. It may or may not be endorsed by the U.S. Air Force. The Association shall be apolitical and support no candidate or party for election to public office. No member shall receive compensation except for reimbursement of expenses in behalf of the Association.

MEETINGS: From time to time the Association may conduct reunions for the enjoyment of its members and their guests. Such gatherings shall not exclude any category of members. As an all ranks and grades veterans organization, no reunion, convention or conference shall be conducted solely for a restrictive class of the membership. Nor shall any group of its veterans use the name "307th Bomb Wing B47/KC97 Association" to advertise a gathering that excludes any person eligible for membership.

GOVERNING: The Association shall have no officers. The Association will be governed by the Committee Chairperson chosen by affirmation at the Reunion Business Meeting to serve through the next reunion. The Committee Chairperson shall function as the Executive Officer of the Association and shall be responsible to the membership for the conduct of the Association. The Committee Chairperson shall appoint appropriate committees to serve as Trust Fund trustees, to make arrangements for the next reunion and to publish a periodic newsletter.

DUES, DONATIONS, FEES: The Association shall not levy annual or periodic dues upon the membership. Donations to the Association and reunion registration fees shall be used only to maintain a central locator, to publish and distribute correspondence and newsletters and to plan and activate the program for future reunions.

AMENDMENT & PERPETUITY: These Bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of 51% of the membership present at a Reunion Business Meeting, provided that the purpose of the Association and its class of membership shall be inviolate. The Association shall continue in perpetuity until dissolved by a majority vote of the membership.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE APPROVED: 5 MAY 1988