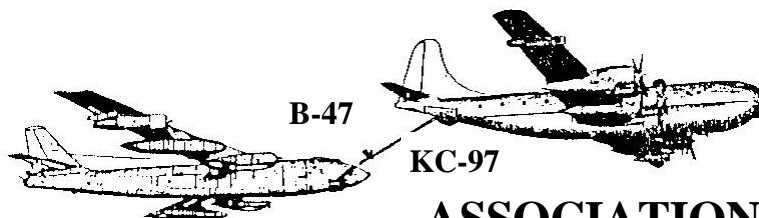


307TH BOMB WING



ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 36

For all former members of the 307th Bomb Wing at Lincoln AFB, Nebraska

MARCH 2002

Thanks for the Memories

The Chairman's Column

This will be my last cover for our Newsletter, as my days as chairman (1992 - 2002) will soon come to an end. A new chairman is to be elected in May. We have a great many people to thank for their assistance these past years. First, we need to again thank Betty Pelletier and Billy Williams for getting us started as a reunion group. After much hard work, it all came together in 1988, when we (315 of us) had our first full blown 307th Bomb Wing (Lincoln) reunion in Las Vegas. It was fantastic to say the least. Betty Pelletier chaired this first reunion.

We had a meeting and the following decisions were made. Vern Biaett would be the Committee Chairman and Lincoln was chosen as the site for the 1990 Reunion with Tony Minnick as Chairman. Committees appointed: By-Laws: Pete Reed, Al Stewart, Vernon Biaett . Finance: Betty Pelletier, Mike Gingrich. Newsletter: Helen Ecelbarger.

Discussions in Las Vegas set the tone for our By-Laws, which established us as a Non-Profit Veterans organization, to be known as The 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association, members to have been assigned at Lincoln between 1954 & 1965. Dues not required. Our operations would be supported by donations only and they would not be tax deductible. This is still true today. If

you haven't contributed lately, Think About It - Maybe - Today's The Day!

Others deserve our recognition and thanks. Vern was not only the first chair-



man, but has served as Secretary to this day. Al Stewart served as Chairman for the years 1990 - 1992. Treasurers have been: Betty Pelletier 1988 - 1990, Ethel Dodge 1990 - 1996, and Sue Jacob 1996 - 2002. Sue is resigning and a new treasurer will need to be appointed in Ft Worth. Our Historians are Robert Loffredo and Ernie Pence; incidentally, they are asking all of us to look through our memorabilia, maybe there are things we could donate (send to Loffredo) in Des Moines.

Reunion Chairmen over the years were: Hank Grogan - 1992 Orlando / Robert King - 1994 Seattle/ Mike Gingrich -

1996 Dayton / Robert Schultz - 1998 Colorado Springs / Tony Minnick - 2000 Lincoln/ R T Boykin - 2002 Fort Worth/ and ????? in 2004. There are of course, many more who have helped through the years. Each chairman has a committee, they too deserve thanks.

Tracking addresses, zip codes, telephone numbers and E-mail is a most difficult task. Doing a great job have been Vern Biaett, Mike Gingrich, Bev Minnick and more recently Jan Boggess.

The things I'm most proud of these last 10 years are the three memorials we have placed in memory of our 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association and the thousands of men and women who served at Lincoln. TR Taylor started us thinking about a memorial at the Air Force Museum in the early 90's. We were slow to start but with much help from Bud Flanik and Mike Gingrich, we did place a bench in the Air Force Museum Memorial Park during our 1996 Dayton Reunion. Then, with the wind at our backs (donations) and at Don Hesse's urging, we went on to Colorado Springs in 1998, installing a Plaque in the Memorial Garden at the Air Force Academy. Robert Schultz and Pete Todd were most helpful in our obtaining a very nice location for our plaque.

We did then, with the help of Tom Mills, Bud Ostgaard and Bill Williams at the Lincoln Reunion in 2000, place a 2nd bench in the Veterans Memorial Park

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

near 33rd and A. All three sites are indeed beautiful. If you haven't seen all of them, make every effort to do so anytime you come close to their locations.

Last but not least - I think our Commander in Chief is doing a great job for all of us. We should continue our prayers for our military and also for all of us - our whole nation could be in jeopardy. The endeavors we've undertaken will

307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association

Chairman: Tony Minnick, 5920 Robin Court, Lincoln, NE 68516. Phone 402-423-6848. Email: tonym@inetnebr.com

Chairman's Committee

Secretary: Vern Biaett, 10201B West Coggins Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. Phone 623-972-7328. Email: Vbiaett@aol.com.

Membership: Jan Boggess, 4304 Ridgecrest Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Phone 719-548-8024. Email: larryjan@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer: Sue Jacob, 4420 N 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68521. Phone 402-477-6842. Email: vjacob@neb.rr.com

Newsletter: Mike Gingrich, 1525 Edenwood Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45434. Phone 937-426-5675. Email: mikegingri@cs.com

Co-Historian: Robert Loffredo, 6004 SW 2nd St, Des Moines, IA 50315. Phone 515-285-3445. Email: mustang51m@juno.com

Co-Historian: Ernie Pence, 2001 A St, Schuyler, NE 68661. Phone 402-352-3311. Email: Ernie_Pence@cargill.com

Co-Founder: Billy Williams, PO Box 29223, 5141 N 72nd St, Lincoln, NE 68529-0223. Phone 402-466-9301. Email: wjwbdw@juno.com

Co-Founder: Betty Pelletier, 205 W Palma Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Phone 520-625-2936.

Ft Worth 2002 Reunion Chairman: R T Boykin, Jr, 832 Shady Glen, Bedford, TX 76021-4335. Phone 817-571-0356. Email: RTB832@email.msn.com

The Association is a non-profit Veterans Organization. All contributions to the organization are gratefully received, but are not deductible under IRS Code. The Chairman is elected by majority vote of all members at each business meeting. The Chairman's Committee serves at the pleasure of the Chairman.

not be resolved quickly. Be prayerful and God Bless America!!

Tony Minnick

Where For in 2004?

Many of our members have repeatedly asked "When are we going to have a reunion in California or another in Las Vegas?" That's a good question, and our failure to do so thus far has not been to a lack of organizational desire, but to a lack of volunteers! To put a reunion together we need a chairman and volunteers who live close to the scene to step up, plan, and put it together. So, here's a challenge to you Californians and South Westerners...start talking to each other, see if you can assemble a critical mass, and let us know at the Fort Worth Reunion. Here's to ya!

BYLAWS OF THE 307TH BOMB WING B-47/KC-97 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 camaraderie of its members and support of the U.S. Air Force.

MEMBERSHIPS: 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 way 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 reimburse-

ment 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 grade 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.

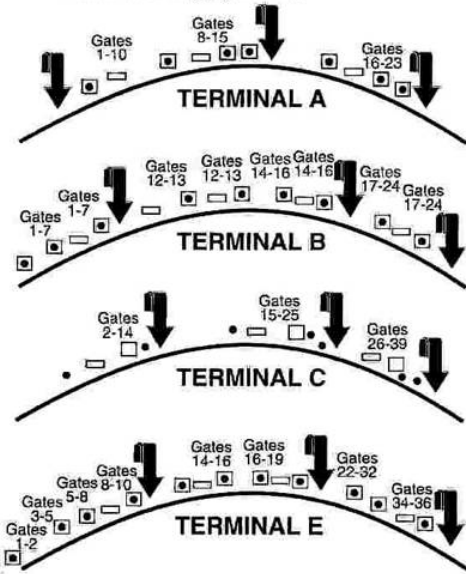
DUES, DONATIONS, FEES: The Association shall not levy annual or periodic dues upon the membership. Donations to the Association and reunion registration fees shall be used only to maintain a central locator, to publish and distribute correspondence and newsletters and to plan and activate the program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




Where To Board The Airporter On The Lower Level At DFW

- ↓ Airporter Bus Pickup Points (signs say "Scheduled Transport")
- Gate Entrance/Exit to upper levels
- Ground Transportation Telephone Kiosk
- Curbside Baggage Check



WHERE TO GO AT DFW AIRPORT

All buses load and unload on the lower level of each terminal. Wait near the purple sign marked "Scheduled Transport" and look for this symbol.  The buses will stop in each area.



Newsletter Schedule

The 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association Newsletter is published for the benefit of all former members of the 307th Bomb Wing of Lincoln AFB, Nebraska. It is expected to be published three times a year in March, July, and November.

Contributions for publication in the newsletter are encouraged, and are essential for the success of this newsletter.



Welcome to Texas

By Woodrow Fail

We would like to extend a hearty "Welcome" to the Lone Star State.

Whether you come from the East or West or from the North for that matter, I'm sure you'll enjoy the splendor that is Texas. No other state in the lower 48 has more to offer. Great Golf, Hunting, Fishing, the Arts, Shopping and much, much more.

The climate, as you will notice, will suit everyone. All you have to do is wait a few moments and I'm sure your kind of weather will pop right up. The weather provides us Texans with hours and hours of conversational material. Last year was easily been one of the wettest in recent memory. The year before last was the driest. Who knows what this year will bring?

Texas has over 300,000 miles of roadways and nearly all are under some sort of construction...especially around the larger cities, such as the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Enjoy, but be careful and drive safely.

On a serious note, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the members of the 307th Bomb Wing and other visitors. Our Reunion Chairman and his Committee have many excellent activities planned for your enjoyment. I invite you to take advantage of the warm hospitality of Fort Worth and the surrounding area, have fun, drive carefully and enjoy your Reunion.

If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to ask any of the Reunion Staff for help. Our goal is to make this the best Reunion yet.

Really? =>



**307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association
Reunion Activity Schedule May 1 - 5, 2002
Radisson Plaza Hotel, 815 Main Street
Fort Worth, Texas**

Wednesday, May 1, 2002:

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM: Hospitality suite on 2nd floor. Sign in, pick up reunion packages, mingle with friends, and view 307th memorabilia, artifacts and history.

5:00 PM: Group Get-together 4 blocks from hotel at CITY STREETS, an extraordinary multi-venue nightclub with five clubs under one roof. An adult version of a giant amusement park. All you can eat Italian Buffet. Wednesday is ladies night. Cash Bar Drinks \$1.75 U-Call-Its All Night Long!

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM: All you can eat Italian Buffet

Atlantis: opens at 5:00 PM with the Buffet and converts to a nautical theme dance hall at 8:00PM.

Blue Monkey: opens at 5:00 PM and after the buffet you can take the stage solo or with a group of friends & be the star of this Karaoke showcase.

Stray Cats: opens at 8:00 PM where Keyboard Comedians duel in a way that encourages the audience to participate in this interactive sing-a-long.

Cages: opens at 9:00 PM where you can enjoy the best of current Top 40 contemporary dance music coupled with a multi-level dance floor.

Thursday, May 2, 2002:

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM: Hospitality suite on 2nd floor.

GOLF: At the Lockheed Golf Course.

Tarantula Train - The Chisholm Trail Route & Stockyards Stroll:

10:45 AM: Board Bus

11:00 AM: Bus Departs Hotel

11:15 AM: Arrive Stockyards Station

11:30 AM: Board Tarantula Train.

12:00 Noon: Tarantula Train Departs Stockyards Station for a 10-mile trek along the famous Chisholm Trail. Snacks and refreshments are available on board.

1:00 PM: Arrive Stockyards and detrain. Visit shops, enjoy a snack on your own at one of the Stockyards excellent restaurants or saloons.

2:00 PM: Guided Walking Tour (includes 12 minute historical film) departs Visitors Center. After the tour stroll around on your own, visit the shops or drop into a saloon for a refreshing libation of your choice.

4:00 PM: Cattle Drive from the Trinity River to the Stockyards.

4:15 PM: Board Bus

4:30 PM: Arrive Hotel

Friday, May 3, 2002:

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM: Hospitality suite on 2nd floor.

American Airlines C. R. Smith Museum:

9:15 AM: Board Bus

9:30 AM: Depart Hotel

(Continued from page 4)

10:00 AM: Arrive C R Smith Museum

12:00 Noon: Depart C R Smith Museum

12:30 PM: Arrive Hotel

307th Boot Scoot at Billy Bob's:

5:30 PM: Board Bus

6:00 PM: Arrive Billy Bob's - CASH BAR

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM: Dinner - Risky's Oak Smoked Texas Bar-B-Que Two Meat Buffet. Sliced Smoked Brisket, Smoked Turkey Breast served with Seasoned Pinto Beans, BBQ Sauce, Homemade Potato Salad, Fresh Cole Slaw, Rolls, Relish Tray, Iced Tea, Coffee, and Dessert

9:00 PM & 10:00 PM: Live Bull Riding Performances

10:30 PM - 12:30 AM: Reserved seats for floor show featuring a celebrity entertainer.

After eating you may leave Billy Bob's and stroll through the stockyards and return for the floor show, or remain & dance to live band music until the floor show begins.

Our buses will be standing by as a Billy Bob's to Hotel shuttle. Should you not wish to stay for the entire "shindig" you can return to the hotel early.

Saturday, May 4, 2002:

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Hospitality suite on 2nd floor

10:00 AM: Business Meeting & Squadron Pictures

4:00 PM - 6:45 PM: START of Couples' Pictures & Cocktails (CASH Bar)

6:50 PM: Entertainment - THE TEXAS BOY'S CHOIR

7:30 PM: BANQUET Prime Rib or Pecan Chicken Brest with the trimmings

8:30 PM-11:30 PM: Dancing to the tunes of the GLEN DORSEY 5-PIECE BAND & CONTINUATION of Couples' Pictures

Sunday, May 5, 2002:

6:30 AM - 11:00 AM: BREAKFAST - "Soooo Long until 2004"

Our Reunion Activities in this schedule received the TOP 5 scores on the Reunion Questionnaire that you so graciously completed and returned. Plus Golf, of course.

Lockheed & NAS Fort Worth JRB ranked 6th. Due to security considerations the Joint Reserve Base is not allowing tours.

Are You Ready For Reunion? Fort Worth Is!

Fort Worth, TX May 1-5, 2002: The 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association is holding its 2002 Bi-annual Reunion. The city is bracing for our members' arrival. A gala time will be had by all. **The Radisson Plaza Hotel**, 815 Main Street, is Reunion Headquarters. **Reservations must be made before April 1, 2002 to get the group rate.** Call the Central Reservation Office at **800-333-3333** or the Reservation Department of the Radisson Plaza Hotel at **817-870-2100** and request the 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association group rate. The 307th group rates are:

Single	\$90.00	Triple	\$100.00
Double	\$90.00	Quad	\$100.00

The reunion activity schedule and registration form is in-

cluded in this newsletter. Now is the time to make travel reservations, hotel reservations, fill out the registration form, and mail it with your check to our Reunion Chairman at the address on the form.

The Fort Worth Trolleys made their last run on New Years Eve 2001. The City Fathers sent the Trolleys and their Day Passes to permanent pasture on January 1, 2002. **City Buses now cover the Trolley Routes.** A City Bus ride is 50 cents and transfers are available. R. T., our Reunion Chairman, had a heart to heart talk with the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau about how much crow that he would be forced to eat as a result of the City Fathers action. R. T. asked for a free parking pass that is good at any Fort Worth meter for each

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

307th member that may need it. R T is keeping his fingers crossed in hopes that he will not eat more crows should the parking passes not fly.

Events that are walking distance or a short city bus ride from our Hotel.

“Fort Worth Bullovarths”: A herd of larger-than-life whimsical, painted and embellished fiberglass longhorns will adorn areas of the city during our reunion.

Mayfest in Trinity Park: Family Festival featuring food, arts, crafts, and live performances held on the banks of the Trinity River.

“Stamp of Impulse: Abstract Expressionist Prints” Exhibition at Amon Carter Museum.

“The Artist and the American West: A Century of Western Art” Exhibition at Amon Carter Museum.

“Global Shoes” Exhibition. Take a look at the world through its shoes at this special exhibition at Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. While there you can check out the **Omni Theater**.

“Murillo in America” Exhibition at Kimbell Art Museum.

“RISK” A special exhibit that explores the risks and decisions we make in every day life at Fort Worth Science and History Museum.

We are looking forward to visiting with Bette & Robert Ace, Clara & Joseph Anthony, Nancy & Sandor Babos, Gertrude Barth, Jan & Larry Boggess, Dru & R. T. Boykin, Helen & Gordon Brekken, Janet Campbell, Grace & William Carrier, Joan & Johnny Clark, Barbara & James Cone, Julie & Dallas Crosby, Phyllis & Donald Daley, Rita & George Davis, Elaine & H. J. Deines, Millie & Virgil Domino, Lynda & LeRoy McMath, Donna Gerstenschlarger, Jan & Mike Gingrich, Merle Hahn, Betty Jean & Russell Heiler, Peggy & Robert Jorgensen, Jean & Jim Kent, Sharon & Elwood Leonard, Laree & Billy Lyons, Dorothy & Stephen Mattick, Cathrine & Roy Miller, Beverly & Tony Minnick, Adam Mizinski, Wauneta & George Nigh III, Angie & Don Nigro, Bonnie Jean & Dean Roelle, Kathern & Peter Shaughnessy, Judy & James Shelton, Jr., Lola & Lester Shobe, Dee & Harold Strumpler, Wendy & Pete Todd, Wilma Jean & Billy D. Williams, Diane & “Butch” Nolenberg, Diana & Bill Heald, Dee & Charles Sweeney, Ida & Earl Buys, Kathy & Woody Fail, Betty & Gene Aenchbacher, Vern Biaett, Joan & Donald Gillette, Wilda & Sedge D. Hill, Lawrence H. “Harvey” Hollis, Elizabeth & Robert Loffredo, Marve R. Lundgren, Al Masserini, Andrea & Tom Mills, Melba Mills, Michael Mills, Jim & Dottie Myers, Betty Pelletier, Margot Berkovitz, Ted Roszkowicz, Lois & Gerry Rotter, Jeanette & William Schwob, Charlotte & Clarence Southerland, Irene & Standly States, Marty & John B. Taylor, Jo Tuin, Dorothy Veiluva, Elizabeth & Robert H. Walker, Oleita & Merle Young, Janie Marvel, Dennis Fox, Darleen & Jim Lancaster, and many many more. There is just not enough room to list everybody that will be at the reunion in the newsletter.

Fort Worth Area Campgrounds & RV Parks

There are 19 Campgrounds & RV Parks listed in The Fort Worth Yellow Pages. Some are an awfully long ways from our reunion hotel. Five have been selected for this newsletter that are close or an easy drive to the hotel. These places were selected from the Fort Worth Yellow Pages and have not been visited by the 307th Reunion Committee.

2 Miles from hotel Fort Worth Midtown RV Park 2906 W. 6 th Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817 – 332 – 5607	4.2 miles from hotel Green Acres Mobil Home & RV Park 321 Isbell Road Fort Worth, TX 76117 817 – 737 – 7542	5 miles from hotel Sunset RV Park 5017 White Settlement Rd Fort Worth, TX 76114 817 – 738 – 0567
21 miles from Hotel Cowntown RV Park 7000 I-20 Aledo, TX 76008 817 – 441 – 7878	23 miles from hotel Eaton Estate Camp Grounds 1961 Lone Star Rd Mansfield, TX 76063 817 – 473 - 1666	

Old Pilots

Three old pilots, each with the usual hearing loss, were taking a walk one fine November day.

One remarked to the others, "Windy, ain't it?"

"No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday."

And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's go get a beer."



Around the Wing

Being thoroughly modern creatures, we all object strenuously to pollution and other politically incorrect happenings. The paradox is, most of us still enjoy seeing B-47 ATO takeoffs as the birds spew their noxious effluents behind them as they grab for altitude. **Bud Flanik**, erstwhile web explorer, uncovered the nearby ATO photo during one of his exhaustive internet searches.

Billy & Jean Williams write that once again "The Enlisted Invaded Branson." Somewhere between the 6th and 10th of November members of the 307th began to "besiege" Branson by ground and air. Those who made the "trek" to Branson were Elmo & Pat Hills, TR & Eunice Taylor, Tom & Andie Mills, Joe & Caroyln Fuqua, Gene & Thelma Lee, George & Wauneta Nigh, Alton & Shelly Ostgaard, Don & Ginny Johnson, Ernie & Genell Pence, Mike & Judy DeCarlo, Merrill & Loneta Olvey, Jerry & Helen Otten, Jim & Darleen Lancaster, Charles & Peggy Baker, Clarence & Joyce Padgett, Dorothy Hill, Roger & Mary Cronk, Elwood & Sharon Leonard and Gaylen & Betty Brocka.

We found out later that Lou and Vicky Mercier were also there but none of us knew about it. ANYWAY, we had a great time. We all managed to attend one show together, The Baldknobbers, and got together one night for dinner at Mesquite Charlie's. We knew Ernie Pence was flying his plane down so we alerted the necessary officials to be prepared as a "Big Red Bird" was coming in from Nebraska! We went down during Veterans Homecoming Week and believe me, the folks in Branson still treat veterans with respect. If you ever get the chance to go, you should try to go during that week, if you can get a room. It's also the beginning of the Christmas shows, which are fabulous. We hope those who went had a good time and hopefully we'll see you in Ft Worth.

Words for the Enlisted Maintenance troops from Billy: Hey Guys, it's getting close to the next reunion, have you made your Hotel reservations & etc.? If you haven't you'd better get with it. R.T Boykin has set up Wednesday night for the enlisted so be sure to check that box on your registration form. Boykin has been very helpful to me in arranging this, so I hope we have a decent turnout.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll read that **Maynard M Reece** has taken his Last Flight. His passing was extremely tragic as he was killed by an estranged son-in-law. One of his closest friends from Lincoln days is Billy Williams, who reminisces about their friendship: "It seems like in each newsletter we read where someone from the outfit has passed on that has

somehow touched our lives, but I don't think the news about Maynard Reece's tragic death will ever stop hurting. But, they say time heals all wounds. Maynard was a friend of ours for 46 years and we can recall so many wonderful and funny memories of our time spent with him and Ella at Lincoln. Some of those times were not so funny then, but are now, as we think back on them. Like, pooling our money to fix pizza or to buy a 6 pack of beer or to even scrounge up enough money to put gas in a car so you could go fishing. Playing pinochle to all hours of the night because you sure couldn't afford to do anything else when you had kids in those days and there wasn't much on TV, even if you could afford one. I'm so thankful for the week they spent with us at the 2000 reunion and for the oil painting Maynard let us choose from his collection. Painting was something he had taken up several years ago and he had started teaching art classes for seniors at the Western Piedmont Community College in his hometown. Maynard died December 5, 2001. He is survived by his wife Ella, daughters Kim and Karen, and son Kelly, and grandchildren. Cards may be sent to Box 216, Drexel, North Carolina 28619."



Several times this newsletter has mentioned the passing of the Society of the Strategic Air Command, and the subsequent renaming of the SAC Museum. Two of the outstanding features of the SAC Society were their biannual reunions and their outstanding newsletter/journal, the *Klaxon*. The Museum, after absorbing the membership of the Society, declined to support the continuation of the reunions as well as continuing the *Klaxon*. Well, several hardy individuals have banded together in order to keep the reunion tradition from

going down the tube. They are working from the membership list of the former Society, and hope they might be able to formulate some sort of follow-on organization and newsletter. Best of all, with their efforts, the SAC reunion tradition lives on! The **SAC 2002** Reunion will be held 15 to 18 May 2002 in Savannah, Georgia at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. For further info visit the web site at www.mightyeighth.org or write to SAC 2002 Reunion, The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, PO Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402-1992. Arrangements have been made for airline, car rental and hotel discounts.

Those of you who were with us at the Colorado Springs reunion remember the magnificent 1/6th scale bronze sculptured memorials of the B-24, B-29, etc, on the plaza overlook at the Air Force Academy. A movement has just started with the initiation of a subscription campaign to similarly memorialize the B-47, led by the B-47 Stratojet Association. For more information or to send a tax deductible donation, contact Col Don Cassidy, Chairman, 1402 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506. Checks should be made payable to "B-47 Stratojet Association Memorial Fund".

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Ernie Pence describes the 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor: Hello Troops, for all you really “Old Dudes” I ran into one of the Pacific Bomb Wings from WW-2. I was in Honolulu December 7th this year staying at the Pacific Beach hotel. The Grey Geese of the 11th Bomb Wing were having a reunion in our hotel. I dropped in to their hospitality room and introduced them to a member of the “Famous 307th”. They were nice folks but not as prone to party as the “SAC Rats” I am accustomed to rubbing shoulders with.

They did their whole tour in B-17's. I talked to one crewmember that didn't make it back to the war until 43. After the raid on Pearl, their Squadron only had 5 planes. They sent them home to the states to get the new version of the 17, and wait for crew generation and training before they could return to the Pacific as a unit.

I always wanted to board a Battleship so Genelle and I went to Pearl to tour the Missouri. We were fortunate to run into Mr. and Mrs. Larson who had the same intentions. He was on the Nevada on Dec. 7th and she was tied up next to the Arizona. A 1760-pound armor-piercing bomb went through the Arizona's front deck penetrating the magazine, which held a million pounds of powder. The aircraft that dropped the bomb was a Kawanechee Val. It amazed me that that bucket could get off of an aircraft carrier with no catapult carrying a weapon that size.

The Nevada went unscathed in the first attack, had gotten up enough steam to get under way and maintain steerage just prior to the second attack. Mr. Larson said the Arizona was burning so badly by the time they steamed by that the heat set their ship on fire. Before they could get out of the harbor the second wave struck. The Nevada took 6 to 7 bombs and 2 torpedoes. The Captain had to beach her to keep from blocking the harbor.

I looked at the casualty lists for all of the ships and the airfield. The personnel onboard really took it in the shorts. Many of the ship's officers were off-duty and not on station. The Captain died on the bridge and joined all of those fine men who went down with her.

All of the Pearl survivors were treated like royalty and received standing ovations wherever they went, even at the airport. All of the ones I met, I shook their hand and told them I knew they had no choice, but that I wanted to thank them for all they and their comrades did for us.

I also met a crewmember that was on Ford Island with the Navy's Catalina's. He told me their combat sorties were normally about 17 hours. They used them as scout planes and also armed them with bombs, depth charges and torpedoes for interdiction work. Imagine attacking an armed vessel in a power dive at maybe a 120 knots, more guts than sense. He also said the flight from San Francisco to Pearl was 18 hours. That's a tough mission profile!

While there I dove on an old Navy yard oiler that had been sunk in a 110 feet of water. Was standing on the deck when a tourist submarine went by about 2 ½ feet from me. The oiler had been put in service in 45 and seen service in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq. After Iraq the Navy used it for rocket practice; I found no holes in the deck or side plates. The Navy must be some missiliers! The next day I dove on an F4U Corsair in 100 feet of water about a mile and a half off the coast. She was sitting nose down in white sand and in pretty good condition considering she's been there since 1945. The pilot swam to shore and hitchhiked to the base and told them he was down.

My next adventure is in January; I'm going skiing with my surrogate grand children in Colorado. I think it's safer dodging submarines in the ocean at over 18 fathoms!

For all you folks who spent days...weeks...months at good old **Greenham Common** in the UK, **Richard Roberts** has sent a website address dedicated to the now closed base. Go to www.megspace.com/politics/greenham/index.htm, and enjoy the history, anecdotes, and all the rest.

Several years ago, we all enjoyed reading “The Ten Reasons Why I was Never Promoted” as told by our 307th humorist and wit, **Bruce Mills**. Well, now the World War II diaries of our old friend have been turned into a short book by the Mills family. “**1944 Diary of a Bomber Pilot**”, recently published, it will be for sale at our Fort Worth reunion. The paperback sells for \$8.95, and can also be bought over the phone with a credit card. Call 1-800-882-3273 and ask for ISBN # 0-5033-13875-2. Melba Mills and son Michael will hold book signings in the Hospitality Room from 9AM to Noon on both Thursday and Saturday. So, stop by and say hello to the Mills, and let's all look forward to a good read!

Darleen Lancaster writes : Jim & I are now living full time in our motorhome. We returned home in November, decided to sell our home and travel. The house sold the following week and closed on Dec. 28th. We are remaining in Tucson until the end of March and then planning to head east to Oklahoma and Texas for the reunion. ...Hope to see you in Fort Worth.

From Bud Timmons: ...it's so good to find out what people have been doing over the years... I really appreciate what you do with the newsletter... I live on the Oregon coast in a very small town called Brookings. I retired in Austin, Texas in 1972, and went to Massage Therapy school (4 years); practiced there for several years then moved to Klamath Falls, OR in 1981. Opened up a practice there, plus did some work as a River Guide on the Rogue River, lots of salmon and steelhead and lots of fun...Moved to Brookings in 1999.

The other folks we've heard from over the last four months are: Roger Beamer, Burt Vorchheimer, Bill Bathurst, Bill Novetzke, Al Kulokowski, Joe Phelan, Dick Amenell, Ken Fisher, Glen Hesler, Charlie Bird, Bill Schwob, Ed Godec, Jim Evans, Ken Mathew, Pete Shaughnessy, Don Fraker, Joe Rosario, &

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)
Sig Faber.

Email Changes

The following changes to the email list have occurred since the last issue of the newsletter. We now number about 270!

Additions

Jim Evans: Eevansjamesa@aol.com
Dennis Fox: DSC8414@aol.com
Merle Young: moty-
oung@motyoung.com

Changes/Corrections:

Charlie Bird: charlie-b@cox.net
Sig Faber: fabersm@aol.com
Don Fraker: frakerdd@nbt.com
Ed Godec: hawkhill@chorus.net
Glen Hessler: glenlucy@cox.net
Brett Horn: bhorn@planetkc.com
Bill Johnson: bill.johnson@prodigy.net
Harry Jones: huthutharry@yahoo.com
Jim Lancaster: jimdartuc@earthlink.net
Ken Mathew:
kmathew@houston.rr.com
Bill Novetzke:
bnovetz@eudoramail.com
Joe Rosario: RsrJsph@aol.com
Bill Schwob: wschwob@earthlink.net
Bud Timmons: hammer11@uci.net
John Traeger: Tsawadee@aol.com
Norm Weinlein: cigar596@earthlink.net

Some recent attempts by RT Boykin to email information on the pending reunion have failed due to a large number of no longer valid email addresses. The individuals for whom we need updated addresses are:

Sandor Babos
Gerry Bachner
Dick Baran
Jim Chittendon
Dale Christians

Neil Cosentino
Art Craft
Don Daley
Mike DeCarlo
Lillian Fowler
Jim Foster
Terry Harpster
Harold Herdt
Jane Judds
Bob King
Jim Kingsley
Jerry Lanning
Flip Latham
Max Marsh
Sam Martin
James McKee
F C McMillin
Robert Mulleins
Chuck Norby
John Quirk
Pete Rawlins
John T Reeves
Walter Robbins
Joe Rogers
Don Salmonson
Lee Shubert
Jerry Sparks
Lila Timmons
Noble Timmons
JoAnn Tuin
Don Watts
Roy Wilson
Jim Yandle
Gordon Ziegler

Send your email address in and if you would like to have a current list of 307th Email addresses emailed to you, drop a note to "mikegingri@cs.com".

Donations

We wish to acknowledge the generosity of those who have recently made donations to the Association's General Fund.

Dorothy Veiluva
Richard "Doug" Valen
Larry Garrett
Donald Gillette
Thomas Mazuzan
William Johnson
Earl Buys
Karol Franzyszen
Robert C. Weidner
Robert McDonald

A Sincere and Humble Apology for Faux Pax I have made By Ernie Pence

There was the time I was in a Blackjack game in the service and Blackjacked. I was the only enlisted swine in the game, everyone else were from Major on down. I honestly stated I couldn't afford the deal, my Aircraft Commander (a captain at the time) said, Pence, let's partner up, I'll deal and you handle the bets, I like a fast game. We made the deal, fast is not the word I would use; it was a hyper light shearing of the sheep. I was hard pressed to keep up with the table bets, six in the game. I glanced down at the table after about 15 minutes of the blood letting and noticed a 25-cent bet. You know me, mouth was engaged before I could get brain to function. "Who's the cheap penny anti dude with two dimes and 5 pennies" I spouted out. Raising my head I am face to face with a short stout Cuban cigar chomping, heavy set Major, with blood in his eyes. The 5 players are grinning, my A/C is cracking up, I'm sweating and the Major is emitting daggers from those black Italian eyes. My boss fleeces them all, deals one more hand and allows someone to Blackjack and we leave the room to divvy up the swag.

I told my boss I was raised around the racetrack and have seen a lot of gambling since I was four years old. Sir, you are one of the best dealers I have seen and one of the best card sliders ever. You really hit those guys hard, weren't you afraid someone might think you were a sharp or a cheat? The Captain smiled and said, "Pence, by act of Congress, I am and Officer and a Gentleman, they dare not make such an inference!" And that's how we SAC rats passed our time in the 370th Bomb Squadron, while waiting to see if we would scramble to our bombers and attack the Chinese during the Quemoy Matsu crisis of 1958. I spent the rest of that year trying to avoid a short Italian Major. Major Mattioli, if you're still out there and see this, I apologize, ..."You penny anti Dude!"

Smile!





The Last Flight

The verse on the SAC Chapel Memorial Window says it best...

James G Blain, ARS, Montgomery AL, 17 April 2001.

Gerald Clements, Salt Lake City UT, 7 March 2000.

Jerry H Dove, 424th BS, Bossier City LA, 2001.

John Elliot, ARS, Bonaire GA, 14 April 2000.

William L Evans, OMS, North Mankato MN, 16 March 2000.

William J Holden, 372nd BS, Melbourne FL, 14 December 2001.

Maynard M Reece, OMS, Drexel NC, 5 December 2001.

Joseph N Steil, ARS, Esterville IA, 13 November 1995.

Don "Rocky" Stone, ARS, Davenport WA, 10 November 2001.

And God said who shall we send. I answered I am here, send me." Isaiah 6:8

Lord, Guard And Guide The Men Who Fly

Official Hymn of the United States Air Force

Music by Henry Baker (1854)

Words by Mary C. D. Hamilton (1915)

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces of the sky;
Be with them traversing the air
In darkening storms or sunshine fair.

Thou who dost keep with tender might
The balanced birds in all their flight,
Thou of the tempered winds, be near,
That, having Thee, they know no fear.

Control their minds with instinct fit
What time, adventuring, they quit
The firm security of land;
Grant steadfast eye and skillful hand.

Aloft in solitudes of space,
Uphold them with Thy saving grace.
O God, protect the men who fly
Thru lonely ways beneath the sky.
Amen.

Henry Baker (1835-1910), an English civil engineer, wrote the music to "Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly." Though he earned a music degree, he considered himself an amateur. Mary C. D. Hamilton, about whom little is known, wrote the words to this inspiring

hymn. The text appears in the American Student Hymnal of 1928 with a tune adapted from Mozart. The association with the present tune, "Hesperus," began with the Armed Forces Hymnal of the 1950s.

In the process of finding the verses to the Air Force Hymn, one finds an intriguing evolution involving different melodies and verses, going back to what we know as the Navy Hymn.

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save": The Navy Hymn

Extracted from a publication of the Bureau of Naval Personnel:

The song known to United States Navy men and women as the "Navy Hymn," is a musical benediction that long has had a special appeal to seafaring men, particularly in the American Navy and the Royal Navies of the British Commonwealth and which, in more recent years, has become a part of French naval tradition.

The original words were written as a hymn by a schoolmaster and clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. William Whiting. Rev. Whiting (1825-1878) resided on the English coast near the sea and had once survived a furious storm in the Mediterranean. His experiences inspired him to pen the ode, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." In the following year, 1861, the words were adapted to music by another English clergyman, the Rev. John B. Dykes (1823-1876),

(Continued on page 11)

Back In Touch

307th members for whom we have obtained addresses since our last newsletter.

Donald D. Gillette, 11001 Moshie Lane, San Antonio, FL 33576.

Rev. Donald R. Alford Sr, 323 Byrd Circle, Karnack, Texas 75661.

Harvey Hollis, 6278 Oakview Lane, Higginsville, MO 64037

We're happy to have finally found you!

Treasurer's Report			
307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association			
Ending Balance from last report October 15, 2001:		\$3,325.10	
	Expenses	Deposits	
General Fund Balance			\$3,325.10
Expenses:			
Postage	258.57		
Supplies	15.95		
Admin Expense	52.00		
Printing	636.87		
	963.39		-963.39
			2361.71
Income:			
Donations		335.00	
Interest on account		11.74	
		346.74	+ 346.74
Ending Balance October 15, 2001			2,708.45
Sue Jacob, Treasurer			

(Continued from page 10)

who had originally written the music as "Melita" (ancient name for the Mediterranean island of Malta). Rev. Dykes' name may be recognized as that of the composer given credit for the music to many other well-known hymns, including "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Lead, Kindly Light," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and "Nearer, My God to Thee."

In the United States, in 1879 the late Rear Adm. Charles Jackson Train, an 1865 graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis was a lieutenant commander stationed at the Academy in charge of the Midshipman Choir. In that year, Lt. Comdr. Train inaugurated the present practice of concluding each Sunday's Divine Services at the Academy with the singing of the first verse of this hymn.

The hymn, entitled "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," is found in most Protestant Hymnals. The words have been changed several times since the original hymn by Rev. Whiting was first published in 1860-61. One will find that the verses as now published differ from the original primarily in the choice of one or two words in several lines of each verse. The original first verse is given below:

Eternal Father, Strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bid'st the mighty Ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee,
for those in peril on the sea.

The Presbyterian Church, USA, added a new verse that recognized the advent of the field of aviation. The best information available indicates that this new verse to "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" appeared in 1943 in a little booklet then entitled, "A book of Worship and Devotion for the Armed Forces," published by the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church, USA. All indications are that this new verse can be traced back to a completely separate hymn, "Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly," written by Mary C.D. Hamilton in 1915, during the First World War. From this hymn, the first verse and the last two lines to the fourth verse were taken to form this new verse, to "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." This new verse, as appearing in the little Presbyterian booklet, is as follows:

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly,
Through the great spaces of the sky;
Be with them traversing the air,
In darkening storms or sunshine fair.
O God, protect the men who fly,
Through lonely ways beneath the sky.

Apparently, during or shortly after World War 11, someone in the Navy familiar with the words above adapted this verse for choral rendition. The adaptation changed a word or two here and there and substituted two new fifth and six lines. What some might call the "Naval Aviation version" is as follows:

Lord, guard and guide
the men who fly
Through the great
spaces in the sky,
Be with them always in
the air,
In dark'ning storms or
sunlight fair.
O, Hear us when we lift
our prayer,
For those in peril in the
air.

This version, together with the original first verse are the verses sung by the men and women of the Navy, particularly those in Naval Aviation.

This hymn is often used at funerals for personnel who served in or were associated with the Navy. Eternal Father was the favorite hymn of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was sung at his funeral at Hyde Park, New York in April 1945. Roosevelt had served as Secretary of the Navy. This hymn was also played as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the Capitol to lie in state.

For those who are musically inclined, the score of both the Navy and the Air Force Hymn are reproduced here from the Book of Worship, US Armed Forces, 1974. High quality MP3 recordings of these hymns can be downloaded from several web sites that can be found by searching for either the Navy Hymn or the Air Force Hymn.

196

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Sts. 1-3, William Whiting, 1825-1878, cento, alt.
St. 4, Mary C. D. Hamilton

Melita & R. & R. & R. & R.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
2. O Christ! whose voice the wa - ters heard And hushed their rag - ing
3. Most Ho - ly Spir - it! who didst brood Up - on the cha - os
4. Lord, guard and guide the men who fly Through the great spac - es

rest - less wave, Who bid'st the might - y o - cean deep
at thy word, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep,
dark and rude, And bid its an - gry tu - mult cease,
in the sky. Be with them al - ways in the air,

Its own ap - point - ed lim - its keep, O hear us when we
And calm a - midst its rage didst sleep, O hear us when we
And give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace, O hear us when we
In dark - ening storms or sun - light fair. O hear us when we

cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
lift our prayer For those in per - il in the air! A - men.

Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly 192

Mary C. D. Hamilton, alt.

Quebec L. M.
Henry Baker, 1835-1911

1. Lord, guard and guide the men who fly Through the great spac - es of the sky;
2. You who sup - port with ten - der might The bal - anced birds in all their flight,
3. Con - trol their minds with in - stinct fit When - e'er, ad - ven - tur - ing, they quit
4. A - loft in sol - i - tudes of space, Up - hold them with your sav - ing grace.

Be with them tra - vers - ing the air In dark - ening storms or sun - shine fair.
Lord of the tem - pered winds, be near, That, hav - ing you, they know no fear.
The firm se - cur - i - ty of land; Grant stead - fast eye and skill - ful hand.
O God, pro - tect the men who fly Through lone - ly ways be - neath the sky. A - men.

Flying West

I hope there's a place, way up in the sky,
Where pilots can go, when they have to die.

A place where a guy can buy a cold beer,
For a friend and a comrade, whose memory is dear;

A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread,
Nor a management type would ere be caught dead;
Just a quaint little place, kind of dark, full of smoke,
Where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke;

The kind of a place where a lady could go
And feel safe and protected, by the men she would
know.

There must be a place where old pilots go,
When their pain is finished, and their airspeed gets
low,

Where the whiskey is old, and the women are young,
And songs about flying and dying are sung,
Where you'd see all the fellows who'd flown west be-
fore,

And they'd call out your name, as you came through the
door.

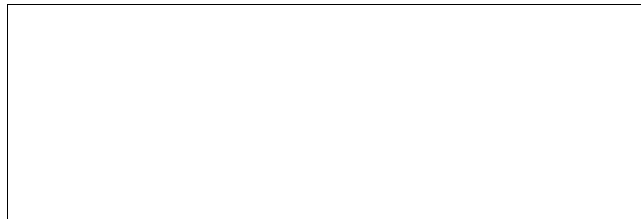
Who would buy you a drink, if your thirst should be
bad,

And relate to the others, "He was quite a good lad!"

And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy
You had not seen in years, though he taught you to fly.
He'd nod his old head, and grin ear to ear,
And say, "Welcome, my son, I'm pleased that you're
here."

"For this is the place where true flyers come,"
"When their journey is over, and the war has been won."
"They've come here at last to be safe and alone"
"From the government clerks and the management clone,"
"Politicians and lawyers, the Feds and the noise,"
"Where all hours are happy, and these good ole boys"
"Can relax with a cool one, and a well deserved rest,"
"This is heaven, my son.... You've passed you last test!"

Cap-
tain E.
Hamil
ton
Lee



**Dated Material
Return Service Requested**

**307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association
5920 Robin Court
Lincoln, NE 68516**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lincoln, NE
PERMIT NO. 700**