

82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 11

AUGUST 1988

FRONT & CENTER

The P R I M A R Y purpose of this issue of the Newsletter is to wake up those of you out there who have not yet sent in your dough to Dixie and to get off your duffs and get with the program! HEAR?

Look, pal, we all of us know how hard it is to roll out of the sack in the morning, warm up our engines to full idle, and then try to get through the day to bedtime. RIGHT?

But Life, at times, can be beautiful -- and one of these very special times is a reunion with your old buddies. Harley, Jerry, Jorgie, Will, Ralph and old fumble fangers here can tell you about all the letters we have received over the years from members who have offered all sorts of excuses for not getting to a reunion -- and they all are so so sorry. Don't let poor excuses, you guys, ace you out of a matchless experience in Dayton.

Hey! We got a guy who comes to every reunion standing on his head! He has a real bad case of gout, see. He really enjoys meeting all the guys, "Hi Harley, Hi Jerry, Hi Charlie, Hi Willie, Hi Monty, Hi Dickie." It's really wierd shaking hands with him. We've heard that "Upside Down Dewey" was a good pilot, though.

Joking (?) aside, your Dayton trip will be one of the most enjoyable, most significant and most important ones you will ever take.

SO, DO US BOTH A FAVOR (we really want to see you) AND COMPLETE THE FORM ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND SEND IN TO DIXIE ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$94* (\$188 with spouse) -- A.S.A.P. And don't forget, either, to call the STOUFFER PLAZA HOTEL (call collect -- 1 - (513) 224-0800) to get the special rate (for the 82nd) for your reservation.

* This may change either way according to your needs, but adjustments can be made at the Registration Desk when you arrive.

* ** *** ** *

HEY LADIES

YOU GET TO SAIL ON THE QUEEN NEXT YEAR!

John Hendrix has been working his stern off making arrangements for the successful launching of the 82nd Fighter Group Association's 13th Annual Reunion. Rooms and meetings will be on the Queen Mary from Wed. Oct. 4 to Sunday AM, Oct. 8, 1989.

For a while, there was a bit of confusion about the site of our '89 meeting as some folks understood we were headed to Colorado Springs next year. However, at the business meeting in Boise, the membership voted to go to So. Calif. and, preferably, to the Mary in '89.

One of the fears for So. Calif. was costs. Ladies & gentlemen the cost of hotel accommodations have been skyrocketing all over the country. Rooms at the Red Lion here in Boise have almost doubled since our reunion. Would you believe that the Ramada Inn in San Francisco will charge you 160 bucks a night -- and that's just for a large closet and a pot!

John has signed a contract with the Mary for three types of accommodations: 1) Inside rooms - \$71/night; 2) Portside rooms - \$83/night and 3) Starboard rooms - \$93/night. These are double occupancy rates and they do not include a 10% tax.

These rates are comparable to those of most other convention type hotels in the area which could meet our needs. Costs for excursions from these facilities to various places of interest -- including the Mary -- would almost be prohibitive. This makes the Mary a comparative "Bargain Basement".

According to John, the basic Reunion registration fees will NOT exceed \$100. John will have time at the Dayton meeting to give us more in-depth information about his program.

* ** *** ** *

-OFFICERS-

HARLEY C. VAUGHN
President
4702 Congressional Drive
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78413
(512) 854-3552

WILL HATTENDORF
Vice President
Sunset Drive, Rt. 6
CANTON, GEORGIA 30114
(414) 479-4043

JERRY LOEWENBERG
Secretary/Treasurer
4917 Ravenswood Drive #1719
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78227

* * *

-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-

JERRY LOEWENBERG - HQ

RALPH "Monty" POWERS - 95th Ftr. Sq.
202 Hillcrest Court
JONESVILLE, MICHIGAN 48250
(517) 849-9114

WALTER CARLSON - 96th Ftr. Sq.
Route 1, Box 33
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
(217) 328-1894

JACK DUNCAN - 97th Ftr. Sq.
309 Pecan Drive
SCHERTZ, TEXAS 78154
(512) 658-6007

* * *

-NEWSLETTER EDITOR-

DICK LINGENFELTER
P.O. Box 5541
BOISE, IDAHO 83705
(208) 344-7742

* * *

-1988 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN-

W.J. "Dixie" SLOAN
3301 U.S. 35E
XENIA, OHIO 45385
(419) 268-2255

* * *

-OFFICIAL PIN-UP GIRL-

Jackie Brundage Gardner

* * *

The PREXY

NOW IS THE TIME, IF YOU
HAVEN'T DONE SO, TO MAKE
FINAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ATTEND
OUR REUNION IN DAYTON,
OHIO. DIXIE'S PROGRAM
LOOKS GREAT! WE WILL HAVE
A LOT TO DO.

THE FOCUS OF THIS CONVENTION
IS THE DEDICATION OF OUR
GROUP MEMORIAL. EACH OF
US, IN HIS OWN WAY, HAS
MADE THIS POSSIBLE. MANY
OF OUR MEMBERS GAVE THEIR
LIVES WHILE OTHERS OF US
WORKED TIRELESSLY TO ACCOM-
PLISH OUR MISSION. WE
ARE ALL PROUD OF THE RECORDS
WE MADE AND OF THE AWARDS
WE RECEIVED.

THE LARGER THE MEMBERSHIP
IN ATTENDANCE, THE GREATER
THE PRIDE SHOWN FOR THE
82ND. I LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU IN SEPTEMBER.
COME TO BE RECOGNIZED AND
TO REMEMBER MISSIONS WELL
DONE.



HARLEY

For Us To Remember

Our Thoughts, Concerns and Prayers go out to the Spouses, Families and Special Friends of Those who have left us.

We know that the World is a Better Place because of the Lives They have lived in it.

WILSON ROSCOE BOYD

Wilson died on March 25, 1988 in Shattuck, Oklahoma. Regrettably, we have no information regarding the nature of his death.

Wilson, a member of the 95th, was 67 and left his wife, Hazel, one daughter and three sons.

If any of his friends will furnish us with more information we promise to bring Wilson up to date in the Nov. Newsletter.

JOHN R. BROOKS

John, a 96th Crew Chief, was killed in an automobile accident in April.

John, and his wife Ginny, had been visiting friends in Rogers, Arkansas when a drunken driver plowed head-on into John's van on a curve. Ginny sustained a broken arm and knee.

JULIAN "Pappy" DEMERS

A pilot in the 95th, died May 24 in Reno, Nevada of kidney and liver failure. He was 70 and had made his home in Fallon, Nevada after retiring from the U.S. Postal Service.

"Pappy" received his nickname "as a result of his age" when he joined the Group in June of '43. Demers was awarded the DFC after he had been given credit for one plane shot down and for four others damaged during a bomber escort on Mar. 30, '44.

Julian remained in the Air Force until '67 when he moved his family to San Jose, CA.

Julian and his wife Louella had a daughter, two sons and five grandchildren.

We had just learned about Demers and his affiliation with the 82nd (through the P-38 Association Roster) when we learned of his death.

LUCY LEE HALLOCK

Lucy, the wife of Judson Hallock of 82nd HQ, died March 1 in Sun City, Arizona.

The following is Judson's note to Jerry Loewenberg:

"This lets you know about Lucy. It's hard for me to fly this mission but when the Chief calls, that's it.

"Lucy had lymphoma and gave it all she had with chemotherapy - but to no avail.

Love, Judd"

GUY J. PARKER

Guy, a Crew Chief in the 96th, died May 26 of pancreatic cancer.

Guy was able to make it to the Atlanta Reunion but his illness prevented him from getting to Boise. In her note to us, Guy's wife, Lillian, said Guy was always anxious to hear from his 82nd friends.

LET US ALSO NEVER FORGET

ALL THOSE OTHERS
WHO HAVE GONE
BEFORE US!

MAIL BAG

Though no poll has been taken, indications are that the "MAIL BAG" is the most important part of the Newsletter. Given this, it will be this editor's policy to include a reasonable portion of each letter that comes in that is judged to be of interest to the members.

Inevitably, there will be portions of letters included that shouldn't have been; conversely, (and lamentably), some things will have been left out for no good reason. If you have a beef, you have recourse -- write a letter to the President!

FROM VIRGINIA "Ginny" BROOKS

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the kind expressions of sympathy my family & I received from so many members of the 96th Fighter Squadron who had heard of the death of my dear husband, Johnny Brooks.

The tragic accident which took John's life was such a wrongful death. The person that hit us head-on had a blood alcohol level of .22% and caused three people to lose their lives. Such a terrible happening and tremendous loss to so many families - due to a drunk driver.

My broken knee and arm are mending slowly - but I'm still not quite navigating on my own yet.

I feel I must let you know, Dick, just how impressed John & I were with the friendly, lovely people we came to know in Boise. The entire 82nd Fighter Group Association is a beautiful "family" experience. Boise was our first Reunion and I thank the Lord for allowing John to see his "Muroc to Italy" buddies once again.

John was proud of his involvement with the 96th Fighter Squadron, as was evidenced by the "Sluggin' Jackrabbit" he painted on the van's spare tire cover. The van was totalled but our daughter retrieved the cover because she knew her dad would not have wanted it destroyed. The cover will be added to the hoards of memories and memorabilia John has left us with.

A marriage of 47 years provided many loving memories as well as our two lovely daughters and their husbands, six grandchildren and

eight great grandchildren. He will be missed - he was this family's guiding hand.

Thank you all again, for your thoughtfulness and concern.

* * *

FROM ROBERT O. BROWER

From the Frozen Ice Cube State (WI):
Here, it's Easter, April 2, and the robins have fur coats on!!

Dear Ling,

Been so busy I haven't had time to sleep at night.

Sorry for the delay on payment for the "Slugging Desert Jackrabbit". I remember when it was designed but I can't remember the name of the artist. I would sure like to have one to put on my A-2 jacket (R.O.! -- write to Ted Kaufman) I wear in memory of the Fighting 96th of the 82nd Group.

Just got out of the hospital in which I had to stay because of a stroke. I thank God each and every day He has let me get up.

My wife wants me to put what I did in my life on paper. HA! Who the hell cares what I did in WWII? I might just make a tape of my history for my wife -- it would take her two years to listen to it.

Well, I've got to go now and take my pills -- I feel like a walking drugstore.

See you in Dayton, I hope. (note: R.O. was a Crew Chief)

* * *

FROM CHARLIE CHARLTON

Enclosed find a check for a jacket and some goblets. The jacket is for my daughter, Libby Young.

As you know, another daughter, Patti Romine, from Portland, OR, joined us in Boise. She made a hit with Dixie - but Dixie - beware! - Patti will join us in Dayton, too. Libby, who lives in Dayton, will also be at the Reunion. D O U B L E Trouble!!!

* * *

FROM ROBERT P. COWIE

Dear Jerry,

Thank you for your letter of April 23; however, I was not a member of the 82nd Fighter Group. You had my address correct but I was a member of the 14th FG - the 48th Sq.

Good luck with your Reunion.

(note: We picked up several new 82nd names by way of the P-38 Association's Roster. Bob was erroneously listed as being in the 82nd. Too bad, Bob)

* * *

FROM TOMMY AND RUTH DONOHOO

We hope to see Chuck and Dorothy Adams at the 95th's Reunion at Tyndall Field to which the old timers have been invited.

We had a call from Bette Pinson and Charlie had become ill while they were staying in Ft. Myers, Florida. He went to two VA hospitals neither of which could help him and so he wound up at Vanderbilt University Hospital where his nephew is a doctor. As a consequence, Charlie lost 18" of his small intestine. They are now back in St. Louis and Bette says Charlie is talking about hitting the road again.

Tommy has been in the hospital again. He is back home now and seems to be getting along OK. We are hoping for Dayton but we are taking it day by day and are thankful for each new one.

* * *

FROM BILL GLOWACKI

Dear Jerry,

Somewhat belated but thank you for the piece in the Newsletter - and right under the picture of our illustrious pilots. I have been on "Cloud Nine" ever since. See you in Dayton.

(Bill, this is why we're here)

* * *

FROM JUD HALLOCK

Dear Jerry,

Thanks for the nice letter and for advising Harley and Vi.

Time has made things a little easier and am planning to go to Dayton. So I'll see you there.

* * *

FROM ARNIE GROVER

Dear Jerry,

In the latest 82nd Newsletter I saw that two of my old roommates have now joined the Association. I have been looking for one of these men for some time. Would you please send the addresses of Gustafson and Norris. These two and Jack Baas built our house just across from the 96th officers club at Foggia in 1944. I have no news of Baas.

* * *

FROM ROS HARDING

It was good to hear Marvin Garrett was OK. Hope he makes it to the Reunion but I'm going to try to see him before then. When I talked to him on the phone it was about a week over 43 years that I'd last heard from him.

Too bad about Johnny Brooks. When I saw him in Boise I asked him what he was doing with his time. He said he sits on his front porch and watches the grass grow. When it gets high enough, he said, he goes out and mows it -- then back to the porch again. Evidently, he was doing more than watching the grass as he traveled a lot in his van.

* * *

FROM DEXTER HENDERSON

Dear Jerry,

I have not made the last two Reunions after making three in a row, but hope to make the one in Dayton in September.

I get the 1st Ftr. Grp. Assn. Newsletter, also, and had noted they were planning a Dayton Reunion at the same time as the 82nd. I was a member of the 27th Squadron and was transferred to the 95th when it was formed.

I recall the day - 4/22/42 - when M/Sgt "Pappy" Wadsworth, 27th L/Chief, called about 15 of us to the hanger and told us to "pack our toothbrushes" for T/D at Muroc. This was about the same day that most of us were promoted to Sgt. We were flown to Muroc in a Douglas B-23 and after a couple of days we learned we were one of the cadres that was to form the 82nd. We became the 1st crew chiefs in the Group.

If the information is readily available, I would like to have a list of the members of the group that was transferred from the 27th to the 95th. I enjoy the newsletters very much and think everyone is doing a great job.

* * *

FROM ALYCE M. JOHNSON

Dear Jerry,

I'm sorry we didn't return the attached card ages ago. We were talking to Dick Lingenfelter and he told us we should send Clyde's membership to you.

Clyde thoroughly enjoys the newsletters but his eyesight isn't worth a darn so I read all the news to him. He also has problems walking and doesn't get around too well.

Thanks a million for being there.

* * *

FROM TED KAUFMAN

Enclosed is a newspaper clipping (from the San Jose Mercury News) of Julian "Pappy" Demers' death. (thanks, Ted, for your thoughtfulness)

By the way, I wonder if you remember the notice of a meeting that was called one day by Major "Mac". (I'm sorry I don't, Ted, but I can use my imagination) Apparently the Major was conducting a tour of our 96th depressed area for some visiting "brass" when an enlisted man was encountered who was processing a rather indelicate biological function (questionable but very commonplace). The "brass" (undoubtedly cityfied) was quite taken aback.

Actually, the matter would have been dismissed out of hand, had not our GI waved and hollared, "HI, MAJOR MAC!"

* * *

WANT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH OLD DIXIE!
SHAKE HANDS WITH ME. YOU MAY EVEN
TO COME TO DAYTON IN SEPTEMBER AND
DEWEY AND I'M CHALLENGING ALL OF YOU
MY NAME IS WOODY "UPSIDE DOWN"

HEY, THERE
ALL YOU UPSTANDERS!

FROM ALLEN R. "Bob" KENNEDY

Dear Jerry,

My memory being what it is, my dues are woefully delinquent. I hope the enclosed will make me a Life Member. Betty and I will be at Dayton and will expect to see you there. We are coming by travel trailer and staying close by. Afterwards our travels will take us through Michigan and then home by way of Washington, D.C. and Florida.

* * *

FROM RICHARD W. KERLEY

Enclosed please find my check for member ship dues. We are new members from the 97th and would appreciate any additional information you can send to us.

* * *

FROM HUBERT L. KRUG

Received the 82nd Newsletter after a dry spell of a year or two. Can't make it to Dayton this year but would like to be reinstated in the Association. I was with the 96th when it was first formed.

* * *

FROM TED & DOROTHY LATTA

(ed's note: I receive a lot of incidental mail that is newsy and friendly from many of you folks out there in the great 82nd family. Jerry & Harley get their share, too, and appreciate it. I would like to print all of it and I would if I were rich and if I owned the newsletter. However, I ain't rich [except in memories] and the newsletter belongs to all you beautiful people out there -- so I have to draw the line someplace and leave out too much good stuff.

So, Dorothy, I'm not going to tell the troops that you are starting to learn to quilt or that Ted "heard some cardinals this morning" as exciting as it all is.

Don't let this discourage any of you from writing to Jo Ann and me. I'm going to do my darndest to hang on to this newsletter job just because of all the great letters we get. Remember, too, that each letter is read at least twice - to guard against missing some request - before it is filed in my expanding 82nd FG drawer.

Thanks Dorothy & Ted -- and all the rest of you who write such neat letters)

* * *

Oops, We Goofed



Romeo J. Routhier
Panama Canal

We inadvertently ran the wrong photo over Romeo J. Routhier's name in the January National Executive Committeemen '86-'87 lineup. Here is the correct photo. We apologize for the error.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Jim Sumner sent this in last year.

It was in the April issue of the A.L. magazine.

FROM CHARLES P. "Mac" McCABE

I just received Newsletter #10 and they just keep getting better and better. Many thanks for all your time, skill and efforts.

I noticed under your "Mess Hall" column that copies of the "Slugging Desert Jackrabbit" were available. Would you please send me some.

(ed's note: "Mac" -- I hope I filled your request -- did you receive them?)

* * *

FROM LOUIS PAPE

Dear Jerry,

We spend our winters in New Braunfels, TX and I planned on looking you up this year but somehow never got around to it. Tried to contact Jack Duncan in Schertz but he was not at home.

I dropped a line to Dick about my wife's name -- it is Virginia, not Margaret. We plan to be in Dayton in Sept.

I was able to spend a short time with Harley this winter and we also stopped in Memphis to visit with an old tentmate that I hadn't seen since Sept. 2, of '43 -- Bill Holeman - what a visit we had!

(in his letter to me, Louis wrote that the Newsletter & Roster were of great service to the 82nd as he was able to locate his former Crew Chief, Meredith Kingery -- and his lovely wife, June -- in Indiana. In addition he said he left Africa in Sept. 2, '42 "to become the guest of the Germans until the end of the war")

* * *

FROM IRV STYER

Dick,

Long overdue and I apologize. I don't have to tell YOU how busy a guy can be when he's trying to get an issue of "The News" out.

I've enjoyed your issues of the "Sluggin' Rabbit" and the 82nd FG Assoc. Newsletters.

Thanks for mentioning "Bob & Irv" in your March Newsletter.

(note: To refresh your memories, Irv Styer is the Editor of the 1st Fighter Group's Newsletter)

* * *

FROM BOB SCHULTZ

Dear Jerry,

I really enjoy the 82nd Newsletter and hope to attend a Reunion one of these years. (be careful, Bob, it's a communicable disease)

* * *

FROM LEE THOMPSON

Sure sorry to have missed the Boise meeting, but family health problems kept me in Illinois all that month. I did receive the 95th jacket I ordered.

After reading all your newsletters, I must say that you put out a grade double A, top drawer publication. You had sent me a copy of "The Sluggin' Desert Jackrabbit" also and at the risk of sounding blasphemous, I almost wish I had been in the 96th.

Perhaps more of us are "maudlin" than you think. Your story of the the white crosses outside Rome and your loss of friends brought tears to my eyes. I have four friends that I grew up with buried there.

Although the 82nd Association was initiated by Harley and others, holding it together and fostering its growth are due to great newsletters like yours. I like your composition and your style. Don't be embarrassed by compliments -- they are really sincere thanks for a job superbly done.

Hope to see you in Dayton.

(Ed's note: Gosh! Do any of you out there understand now why I want to hang on to this job? If one of the nominees for President of the U.S. loses heart and throws in the

(continued on the next page)

towel before the Nov. election and the national committee decides to draw names out the hat to take over and they draw mine -- I want Lee Thompson for my running mate)

* * *

FROM ED TINKER

Dear Jerry,

I'm sorry that you were re-saddled with the duty. I know how much you wanted to give it to someone else. If you hadn't done such a good job, you might be a free man. C'est la vie! (Hey Ed -- did you and Lee Thompson go to the same school?)

Dayton is out of the question for me because of health problems. Not mine, though. Friends and relatives close to me are source of concern and it seems that Bea & I stay poised for travel at a moments's notice. I guess that we are at the age where we can expect these things to come more and more frequently.

Best to all -- and have a Dilly in Dayton!

* * *

FROM ED "Shorty" WATERS

Dear Jerry,

Sorry I have been remiss in not answering your letter. I was really thrilled to hear from Harley since I knew he was from Sapulpa, OK. I tried to find him when I moved to Tulsa with American Airlines -- but no luck.

I retired from American in '83. I negotiated and administered all of American's contracts for aircraft maintenance, engine overhaul and component overhaul with other domestic and foreign airlines. I did a lot of traveling -- in the U.S. as well as overseas.

I met my dearest wife, Beth, in Portland OR where she was a stewardess for United. She is presently a remedial reading teacher.

I just got out of a quadruple by-pass surgery on my heart. I am doing real well and am gaining strength each day.

Just sent off my registration to my old buddy Dixie Sloan for the Reunion in Sept. Both Beth and I hope to be there.

Congratulations on the outstanding job you are doing with the newsletter. I read it avidly.

* * *

FROM JACK WATSON

Dear Jerry,

At long last here is my check for my "87 dues plus another one for "Life Membership".

I also got into the same kind of a jam with the IRS. I was so tied up getting my house built I forgot three of last year's quarterly taxes. They weren't nearly as nice about it as the 82nd was.

* * *

FROM R.D. TUCK

HI Dick!

Was glad you sent me the form.

The only thing I have been called since I entered the Service is "Tuck". Never was called by my first name. In school I had a nickname but only the people that I was raised with and my family still call me that.

I look back now and I don't believe very many of us realized what a Beautiful Ship we had in the P-38. What a beauty she was!

* * *

FROM WALTER E. ZURNEY

Dear Jerry,

I have located another pilot who was a member of the 97th during the time we were located at Vincenzo (Foggia #11). He was one of a group of eight pilots that reported to the 82nd on Oct. 2, '44. His name is Pren Hollingsworth -- please send him the necessary forms to become a member of the Association.

* * *

ROUGH AIR from the "LINK"



Sorry guys, but my proof reader and chief editorial writer flew off to England with her boy friends (the pilot, co-pilot and co co-pilot). I had to stay here to water her plants. One of the things she wanted me to mention was the proper identification of the man at the far left in the picture on page 13 of the last Newsletter. The gentleman is Fred Wolfe of the 96th FS.

Jo Ann also said she expects to see all of you in Dayton.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP

Here are the names of new Life Members which have not yet been published:

1. Robert O. Brower (96th)
2. Dexter G. Henderson (95th)
3. Allen R. Kennedy (96th)
4. Louis E. Pape (96th)
5. John Richardson (97th)
6. Ralph W. Simpson (95th)
7. Richard D. Tuck (97th)
8. Jack J. Watson (97th)
9. Calvert W. Wilson (97th)

Here are the names of New Members which have not yet been published:

1. Aido A. Buonaguidi (97th)
2. George Feagin (?)
3. Pren Hollingsworth (97th)
4. Richard W. Kerley (97th)
5. Earl W. Michael (96th)
6. Rudy W. Mueller (96th)
7. Glenn W. Stere (96th)

Here are the names of Reinstatements:

1. Frank W. McCoy (96th)
2. Richard Rodgers (96th)
3. William T. Vantrease (96th)

To all of these we say, "Jolly Good!"

* * *

SPEAKING OF WHICH

According to the By-Laws of the 82nd Fighter Group Association, every member in good standing (or in good sitting - or perhaps even in good lying down) is supposed to receive a copy of the Association Roster once every 100 years - AND THIS IS THE YEAR!!

Ralph Embrey is the person who is doing the job for us and he told me that he will be mailing some time in August.

If you don't get your Roster by the end of the first week in September, call the Denver Police Department and they will put Ralph in irons.

Joking (what - again?) aside, Ralph and Jerry Loewenberg have been working diligently to put together the most complete and the most accurate 82nd FG Association Roster yet.

* * *



Whatever else the 82nd FG Association might be I have found it to be a caring organization. For this reason I'm initiating this column to give you members the opportunity to find out about those former comrades of yours who may need a card or a phone call from you. Only those who find themselves in the grip of debilitating injuries or illnesses can know how a note or a word from a friend can help counter despair and depression which are the handmaidens of failing health and physical capabilities.

The people listed below are mostly from the 96th because I hear about them through the Slugging Rabbit Telegraph System. You can notify your Squadron Reps of your own or another's miseries and they can notify the proper folks in their squadrons and then relay the info to the Newsletter Editor.

Robert O. Brower is fighting to regain his health after some hospital stays. R.O. is in a wheel chair but plans to make it to Dayton. Incidentally, I received a phone call one day from R.O.'s nephew who lives here in Boise. It was pleasant to chat with him.

C.O. Johnson has been having vision problems. See Alyce's letter.

Tommy Donohoo has been experiencing some health set-backs this year. See Ruth's letter.

Margaret Kaufman would like to accompany Ted to the Reunions but severe and painful arthritis makes travel exceedingly difficult.

Jerry Loewenberg is fearful that he might not be able to get to Dayton as he has recently been laid up with various aches and pains. You recall that Jerry sustained minor injuries as a result of an auto accident while returning to the U.S. from Mexico. Well there was an insult to those injuries when, in March, he was struck

(continued on the next page)

by a woman driver who thought she should be driving where Jerry thought he should be walking (which happened to be on a sidewalk). The results were more contusions and abrasions -- which probably led to his current discomfort. Jerry, which most of you are probably not aware of, is in his 82nd or 83rd year and therefore needs that much more cheering up than the rest of us youngsters.

Tom Montgomery, son of Fred & Ethel, is recovering from a serious boating accident on the Colorado River. It was touch and go for a while, but he is now on the mend.

John Perrone lives in Vacaville, CA just a short distance from I-80 as it travels between Sacramento and Frisco. I travel that route frequently and it is always a pleasure for me to get off the freeway and have a short visit with John and Betty.

John has been beset the last few years with a pesky illness. It was not pesky enough, though, to keep him and Betty from the Boise Reunion.

The first of this month, on the way back to Boise from San Jose, Jo Ann and I stopped to see the Perrones only to find that John had just recently had a month-long hospital bout with sciatica. We're happy to report here that John said, "Things are now under control."

Charlie Pinson was lollygaggin around in Ft. Myers, FL when all of a sudden he started having labor pains -- at least they were in that general area. (See Ruth Donohoo's letter for the gruesome details) I just now dialed Charlie's number in St. Louis and had to settle for his answering machine so I guess the old rascal is out running around in his RV someplace. You can if you want to but I ain't going to worry about him.

Ellis P. Roy had a scare earlier this year when routine prostate surgery revealed a tumor. So it was hand-wringing time for Jeanne. Just last week, however, I had a report from Jeanne that everything was fine and that the Sarge was back to his old crabby self. Apparently the doctors were surprised at his rapid recovery as were all the nurses and the Mississippi Air National Guard!

Harley Vaughn is now rapidly recovering from a serious disease commonly known as Teen-ager-itis. The disease was contracted while he and Vi were visiting

their daughter and her family in Sacramento. This is really true and it happens to all grandpas sometime or other.

Actually, Harley did have a slight scare earlier in the year with a malfunction of his food processing machinery but all is well now.

Well, this is it for the BAND AID DRILL. Give me some feed back -- let me know if you want this department continued. Please!

* * *

Mess Hall Chatter

A COUPLE OF GREAT STORIES

Ten days ago, while I was returning to Boise from Seattle (where I had put Jo Ann on a plane for London and) I stopped to visit two old warriors. One of these, George Stout, (a 96th armorer), lives on the outskirts of Olympia, WA; while the other, Carl Wood (who started out in the 97th as a S/Sgt. pilot), lives in a pretty white house high on a hill overlooking the Columbia River. This is in a picturesque little town in Oregon with the unlikely name "The Dalles".

I hadn't seen George for 41 years and whereas, when I knew as a laid-back, studious bookworm, now he's just an old, laid-back, red-necked farmer.

George recalled the days at Glendale when the GIs found it more convenient to use a latrine belonging to an adjacent group of civilian workers. The feather merchants didn't like this so they put their potty off limits. To counter this an armed guard was posted at the GI's outhouse to keep the sigh-villains away.

George said he was assigned to that guard duty with full combat gear - including a bayonet. "I joined the Army to fight the Germans and not the Lockheed employees -- so I split. Wendell Stoltz did the same thing. I was called before the C.O., Capt. Vaughn, and he asked me why I went AWOL. When I told him, he blew his stack and immediately cancelled the potty guard. I went back to my old job as a private and Wendy was promoted to corporal. Such is life."

Carl told me his class had just finished Basic at Muskogee, OK and they were told to report immediately to their next field in Texas. "Well," he said, "we hadn't been paid and hadn't had any time off so some of us got together and decided to 'delay' reporting to the next base but to all arrive at the same time - and we did. We reasoned that they wouldn't court martial a whole bunch of guys. They didn't but we did get 48 hours of ramp time and while the others were going to town on the weekends we were doing close order drill on the hard stand."

Before the 82nd went overseas, Carl was reassigned to Wright-Pat to work with a P-51 test team. He kept trying to get back into fighters but kept getting aced out. He even got to visit his old outfit in the Mediterranean for four days, once, but he wasn't allowed to fly a mission. Carl eventually wound up flying Fords over Europe, pulled some hitches after the war and then finished up his career by working for Lockheed for 24 years. He and Dorothy have a whole squadron of children and GKs.

* * *

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MISSING BUDDIES?

There are some official directions one can go but I wouldn't recommend them because I've received no response from the three attempts I've made.

There are three other ways that have been successful for me. For all three you need to have a fairly good idea where (Joe?) went to high school (in which case write to the principal or district superintendent) as most keep track of their alumni (George Stout's didn't); or, in what state he might now be living; or, even in what city he may be living. Finally, it helps if you can narrow him down to an area code or even a metropolitan area. I found many Directory Assistance operators to be extremely helpful.

If you're reasonably sure about the state then you can write to its Motor Vehicle or Transportation Department. Your own department may be able to give you info regarding fees.

Good Hunting!

- 11 - * * *

* * *

cut along this line

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

TWELFTH REUNION + + + 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION

DAYTON, OHIO

SEPT. 14,15,16,17 & 18, 1988

Your name _____ (we have your address on the back) Ph # () ____ - ____

I plan to attend ____ with spouse ____ and/or guests (no.) _____

I will ____ will not ____ stay at the Stouffer Dayton Plaza Hotel

My arrival date and time will be _____ Departure _____

My probability of attending is: A) Almost certain ____; B) 50/50 ____; and C) There may be some unavoidable circumstances _____. It is highly important for us to know your hard plans because we must make certain financial commitments so please if there are changes in your plans by Sept. 1, let me (Dixie) know right away.

For those of you who do not drive, arrangements have been made with the Beaver Travel Bureau, Inc. using Delta Airlines as far as possible. For those of you that are not served by Delta, Beaver will obtain the best rate possible for you. Contact Beaver Travel Bureau agents Mary Lee Huffman or Sharon Stebbins at 1-800-227-6156.

All Reunion Chairmen come up short of volunteers so please indicate here how you would like to help us run the smoothest reunion yet: Bar _____, Registration _____, Message Center _____, Memento Room _____, Auto errands _____, Pickup errands _____, Body Guard for Harley _____, Other _____.

Send this, without delay, to DIXIE SLOAN, 3301 US 35 East, XENIA, OH 45384.